

Weaving Modernist and Postmodernist Intertextual Narrative

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Abstract

The relationship of modernism to postmodernism is an ongoing debate. Both modernist and postmodernist authors have valued formal innovation. The first postmodernists adapted and extended the narrative strategies of the modernists but engaged the postmodern issues regarding the meaning and representation. Postmodernists like the modernists believed that narrative form implicitly speaks of "reality" and "how it is experienced". Postmodern narratives emerge in the intersection between the old and the new texts as they play off one another in the mind of the reader. Postmodern narratives embody the openness of the text through different forms of inter-textuality, the explicit relationships of a text to other texts. Inter-textual weaving has a life of its own because cultural life is viewed as series of texts intersecting with one another. Thus, the major aim in this paper is to inter-textually analyze Thomas Pynchon's novel, "The Crying of Lot 49" (1966), and discuss the relation between modernist and postmodernist terms by weaving modernist and postmodernist inter-textual narrative.