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**Analyzing the Contemporary Rudiments in Jorge Luis Borges'
Short Story "The Other Death"**



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Abstract

The research examines the Postmodernism aspects of the short story “The Other Death” by one of the eminent postmodernist writers Jorge Luis Borges. The research is exploratory in nature and it entails the application of the qualitative approach. Besides, the research has been conducted and examined through the prism of Postmodernism. To this end, content analysis is employed in this study on the Jorge Luis Borges short story “the Other Death”. In the present research, the authors have appealed to the theory of postmodern fiction referred to in the Cambridge Introduction to Postmodern. Fiction by Bran Nicol. The interpretative method has been utilized in the current research study of the text of “The Other Death”. It is through the prism of content analysis which has gained popularity to literary texts postmodernism. The results of the research have demonstrated that the narration is full of numerous postmodern aspects yet the key aspects examined by scholars include: Intertextuality, Metafiction, and Magical Realism. Different assorted things are interwoven into the short story. The text carries literary references and the praise of the writer as well along with the aspects of magical realism.

Keywords: Fiction, Intertextuality, Jorge Luis Borges, Magical Realism, Metafiction, Postmodernism.

Introduction

The world of literature has constantly been undergoing numerous alterations and revolutions that have consequently impacted the literature content. On the same note, other trends in literature have caused more changes in its content and subject-matter. One of those movements is postmodernism that has had an ultimate influence on all genres of literature. According to Hootie (2014) postmodernism is a philosophical movement to an extent that it will always attach question marks before human dogmas, philosophical beliefs, and rationale doctrines such that all homogenous ideas are united. According to Al-Shalabi (2015), the very word postmodernism remains a highly controversial issue of discussion in the literary academia these days. He tells that it was Nichol Contents who coined the term. This to him has been a movement that has continued to respond to the values of modernism. He also writes that

postmodernism traces its origin to architecture and was a response to modern architecture initiated in the territory of America which diffused to the rest of the world within a brief period of time. According to Hooti (2011), postmodernism is heralding of a new era where all undertakings are unclear, evident-mystery and difficult to understand. This period is characterized by the fact that no meaning and implication can be understood. Further Sheeba (2017) points out that the postmodern literature tends to include a wide range of characteristics of stylistics and ideology. It demonstrates that the whole concentration is on the main characteristics such as distortion of reality, the elements of fragmentation, unreliability of the narrator, plots of both nonlinear types with the elements of paranoia, black humor, and doubts concerning the status of the author (Ahmed, Lashari and Golo, 2023).

Ashraf (1991) supports the idea that postmodernism as a phenomenon kills out any truth and provides no definite answers. He also explains that postmodernism is not that new and it can be traced back to 1947 when Arnold Toynbee published *A Study of History*. He also contends that this postmodernism movement is correlated with modernism and tends to challenge, question, and is skeptical of the discourse of metanarratives concerning modernism. Khan (2017) documents the story that Postmodernism is a deliberate trend that was propagated by such great scholars and philosophers as Jacques Derrida, Jean-Francois Lyotard, Richard Rorty, and Michel Foucault. The postmodernists acknowledge that Western civilizations in their illusion of supremacy have misplaced their domination (Ahmed, Lashari and Golo, 2023). It has somewhat introduced the concept of truth, and reality and has frequently disfigured both truth and reality, including knowledge that was later to become the object of study by the postmodernists (Lashari et al., 2023). The postmodernists show interest in exploring the traditional, false beliefs and they do not like to repair things. He (Khan) once again continues to argue that postmodernists are largely the ones opposed to these traditional beliefs, and they have anti-reality as opposed to defining reality based on the plurality of notions and beliefs (Lashari and Umarani, 2023). Last but not least, they believe that the world is as diverse as people think and can perceive and be psyched (Khan, 2017).

Postmodernism in Literature

Postmodernism fiction is highly founded in the analysis of modern ideologies, political. Evolution, and societal cultural transformation. This postmodern philosophy has been popular in the recent literature. And most importantly a postmodern theory have held a pre-eminent role in the art world, history, literature and architecture. It has not an exception to culture, intellectual growth to aesthetic pleasure in the society. This term, postmodernism itself, first came out in the. Since then it has literature discourses of the Latin American writers of the 1930s and 1940s. Is a highly controversial issue in literature and academia (Preda, 2015)? In her work, Sheeba (2017) describes the main features of postmodern literature. Are largely affected by the power of modernity and without comprehension. Modernity; postmodern thought is not easily conceived. These features are the ambiguity of the literature and ambiguousness in nature of the postmodern texts is one of the characteristics. In addition to the rejection of religious dogmas, there is individual reality; anti-positivity and validity. Are even the subject matter of postmodern literature? The postmodern literature is difficult to read and comprehend due to its. Diverse outlook. Such postmodernism in literature emphasizes hard language, different. Souls, and hard words and languages. Additionally the manner of delivery of literary works in the whole shape of ambiguity and the readers struggle to extract the meaning of the texts. Not only it, but Postmodernism does not use simple language as well. Prefer simplicity and instead makes the texts disorienting, obscure, and vague. Even this postmodern theory distortions and mar the identity hence identity crises can be once more. He is researched within the strata of postmodernism.

Nevertheless, the postmodernism term in literature is applied to provide the various shades of. Context and meaning. Even the postmodern literature is not able to give solutions to the problems. And issues only complicate and render them more difficult. This is the very reason that most critics believe that postmodernism is merely an ideology that is rather distant to the reality. According to Shaikh (2009), postmodernism is characterized by a period of pessimism, hopelessness. And subjectivity instead of hopefulness and brightness. The issues that are discussed by postmodernist critics in the literary world revolve around. Modern society and

eventually the modern life. They depict society and culture. It is mostly the deviated life that is exposed in the postmodernist literature. The Centre. Postmodernism does not consider any arts and discipline as autonomous but on the contrary it. Studies things and their connection with the center regardless of isolation (Sharma and). Chaudhary, 2011). The opponents of postmodernism are involved in experimentation of the. The previous productions and never are averse to alter the tone of narration and form of the text. These critics are used to demolishing the old and traditional forms of all works. And attempting to rebrand and re-contextualize them to suit the requirements and necessities of the readers. "Even in when they are, they are always pluralist in their nature and relativist in their outlook. Directly reject and refute the ideas of united and personal truth and reality." (Crews, 1999). All postmodernists have a huge probability of being skeptical and that is the reason why they are skeptical about all things including the times they live in. These postmodernists never cease to shout about all life spheres of politics, social, and religious matters that touch on the present day life and are the subject matters of literature. (Barret, 1997).

Literature Review

The intellectual movement known as postmodernism has influenced various people in a very immense way. Sectors, such as education in the world. This is since the beginning of the late 20th century. School of thought is prevalent in the world. This intellectual movement has not been left behind. Permeated the Muslim nations. Postmodernism is not as the intellectual movement. It is not only a significant problem in the sciences, but also in a plurality of political, social, educational, and other professions. This is not however a methodical movement. Whose logical pre-eminence and instructive implications can be precisely and definite; moderately, the method of this school of thought requires the renovation of the form and full of a variety of inclinations, it integrates. As a result, the explanation is discussed. Of postmodernism and its connection with modernism and the explicit identification. Of its predecessors and its pedagogic aftermath. In his work, Aydin (2006) notes that we can accept the concept of postmodernism as one. Postponement of modernism. Postmodernism was however, a response to the. Globalization of modernism in both terms of information, concentration and ideals and the emergence of humanist

philosophical values. The researcher also confesses that Postmodernism follows the realist objective approach and cultural values of the society. Principles. Consequently, postmodernism is seen to be in opposition to any ideals that are based on. Ontology, epistemology and rationality. It is in a position that is diametrically opposite to. All-inclusive human strategies and humanist principles. Gandy (1997) reported that postmodernism is being researched differently. To begin with, one can study various types of art and architecture. Secondly, it can be studied as a period largely since about the end of the 20th century. Furthermore, it is an era in that information is perceived as basic epistemological. The researcher further asserts that the era of postmodernism has been historical and severe. Conundrum.

In their research study, Forghani et al (2015) argue that Postmodernism emerged soaring in. Western consumeristic environment. It places emphasis primarily on heterogeneity and contingency and negligently flings aside any unqualified trust or value. But then is anti-essentialist, and meditates. Human individuality a paradigm in society. Furthermore it gets rid of the idea that human values are also constructed largely on changing authenticities and junk the same too. Necessary impact of human activities upon their fate. Aker (2018) states that a variety of diversity is highly promoted in postmodernism. Perceptions that enhances our inference and understanding of each other. It's a good concept to tear all those aspects down in the contemporary rational, imaginative, and enlightening. Procedures. The researcher also supports the view that the contemporary ideologies, the existence of de-realization, and the final reality are obvious features of postmodernism. In the same manner, in his study, Kahraman (2014) acknowledges that the concept of Postmodernism is characterized as being a. form and reaction to modernism. Modernism that occurs in the form of postmodernism is identified as postmodernism. Struggles and makes peace with constructions of impossibilities that are in and of life. Moreover, it is a separation of modernity too. According to Abdullah (2013), his research study supports the view that this school of thought is. The main interest about the subjectivity and malleability of values in human life. It clearly infects every sphere of life. It has been a break with modernism which acknowledged human. The ability of beings to create, evolve and shape their own atmosphere by use of logic,

experimentation, and technical information. Nevertheless, there were adverse impacts of World Wars. And imperialism brought vast anguish to humanity in the long-run. As a result, a new worldview was formed, abandoning the supremacy of rationalism, the reign of realism. And proclaim the preeminence of truth, all of them symbols of postmodernism. In his work Ghunshyam (2009) goes into greater details about postmodernism and its opponents. Theory consider it highly controversial and even find it a phenomenon to argue with this. Theory renders interrogation marks before each concept of the modern era. Further, it is founded on everything. Inconsistent ideas and principles within politics, art, culture and literature. He further reproduces the words used by Hutcheon as the manner in which postmodern critics and postmodern. Writings are marked by writings of people who voluntarily pervert history and are. In the practice of self-reflexivity. Sharma (2011) is arguing that Literature and works which are written by postmodern writers. Represents the main characteristics of a period that has passed after World War -II. These writers mainly involve using some elements such as paradox, fragmentation, and multi-voices and multi-narrators. Their works. Moreover, they have no other interest but opposition to the ideas of. Modernism and enlightenment. The postmodernism theory in literature is in totality. Undefined and very complicated. But postmodern authors deduce numerous meanings. And chiefly postmodern novels have been characterized by the trends of the quest after. Identity and reality. As Maule (2018) says, it is an anti-modernist critique. The difficulty with it was its postulation of universality, and its claims of transparency. The reason why postmodern distinction is mostly a failure is the inability to integrate the fundamental. Evaluation of modern, and its inability to reach such transparency.

It also has rejection towards all terms of the modernist like logic, authenticity, objectivity and truth. The researcher also concedes that postmodernism as a literary movement has been extremely high. Intruded into every social structure and brought about change of culture. According to Kahraman (2014), postmodernism is a conglomeration of societies that has established its life processes. However, not only do postmodern societal values anticipate the freedom of mind but they preserve the one as well local ethos.

Research Questions

How has Jorge Luis Borges projected postmodern elements and themes in his Short Story "The Other Death"

Material and Methods

The research is qualitative in nature and present study has adopted the qualitative approach. To Flick (2009) an appropriate method of studying the non-numerical data to investigate the notions or to develop new ideas. This tactic is also supported by Gay (2009) and he adds that in this kind of research, this is done in a natural environment in which the information is gathered and the thoughts are also examined in the same original state.

Interpretative Method

The texts are studied using various methods, but this research study does not exclude them. Appraises the text of The Other Death by Louis Borges using the interpretative technique. This approach is suggested to be adopted by many scholars to analyze the texts. Bryman (2004) gives this approach to discover fresh meanings in the writings. Similarly, Silverman (2005) also promulgated this tendency and named it hermeneutics. "This is a common technique that has been used the textual analysis." (Lashari et al., 2018)

Theoretical Framework

The primary goal of the research study is to discuss the postmodern features in. The short story by Borges "The Other Death". The researchers have used the in this respect. Theory of postmodern fiction referred to in The Cambridge Introduction to Postmodern Fiction by Bran Nicol. According to Nicol (2009), the following were the elements of the postmodern fiction.

Inter-textuality

Intertextuality is the trick whereby a literature text, either directly or indirectly cites other works or types and derives thoughts or direct quotes out of them. Among the places in the text of the Other Death, there are places that allude to other texts. Drawn from other texts. As a prelude to this story, the narrator mentions the essay that was a text by Ralph Waldo Emerson and was titled The Past. The narrator states "About two years ago, I think it was (I have lost the letter) Gannon wrote me at Gualeguaychu. To

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inform me that he was translating a book, a book, perhaps the only one, into Spanish. Argue of the poem of Ralph Waldo Emerson called *The Past* (p. 223). In this line, we can see that the central concept of the novel is founded on an essay of Emerson called *The Past*. It is this thought that this tale is connected with history, war, and the death of one of the characters whose name is Pedro Damian. Further, it also reports about the theological concept of whether God has powers to take away the past or not. An allusion to the *sound and fury* by William Faulkner is present also. But this is not made to point back to the text itself of the novel but to the title of the novel. According to it, the noise and the clatter of Mesoller were all the content of this tale (p. 223). Also, this application of the *sound and fury* can also be used to refer to William Shakespeare's *The Tempest*. There is no demon part here which cannot be found elsewhere; however, here the passage is: *Tempest*, where it reads: "It is a tale Told by an idle, full of sound and fury, Signifying nothing" (Shakespeare, 2008). But there is the same significance or these two references, meaning because both allusions are to the chaos of the city.

The plot of this story is based on the enigma of the death of the character whose name is. Pedro Damian. This title Damian can as well be used to refer to the individual whose name was Robert Francois Damiens and who was cruelly put to death under the regime of the French King Louis XV (Foucault, 1995). This individual is referred to elaborately by Foucault. "Discipline and Punish". This writing can be used in reference to French Damiens since both characters are known for their death. The enigma of the demise of Damian can be also directed to this manner the actual-life Damiens who were set to die horribly in France. Although this may be an indirect reference this can be a reference to this historical individual who left his mark in capital punishment history. Additionally, one can also mention this story in relation to Joseph Conrad and his *Lord Jim* the same name (Conrad, 2000). The narrator says *Fierro*, the gaucho Martin Fierro, I thought it is not so memorable as *Lord Jim* or *Razumov*" (p. 224-225). On the same line there is one more also refer to a different text. It is directed at the main character Kyrilo Sidorovitch Razumov of the Joseph Conrad book about *Western Eyes* (Conrad, 1996). The reference to an American short story writer Edgar is also present in this story. Allan Poe. In this tale Edgar Allen Poe

is called as an accomplished and complex man remarkable writer. In this respect, the storyteller of the story makes a brief commendation "With the first signs of a feeling of horror I noticed that he was observing me in an odd fashion, and therefore I lied my path into a literary point on behalf of the kind of man who had the nerve to criticize Emerson-a poet more intricate, more successful, and more certainly more extraordinary, I argued, than poor Edgar Allan Poe" (p. 226).

This story makes a direct reference to the part III of Dante in *The Divine Comedy*. (Alighieri, 2010). The narrator says about some lines of the text that I found it nearly magically in the treatise of Pier Damiani, under the title of *De omnipotent*, which I sought out on account of two lines of Canto XXI of the *Paradiso*-two lines which refer to an identity difficulty (p. 227). The same thing happens with the Greek philosopher Aristotle who is also mentioned in this story. The narrator gives the thought of Aristotle which is that in the fifth book of his work, Pier Damiani asserts, against Aristotle and Fredegarius of Tours that God has the power to create that which previously existed never to have been" (p. 227). Another work is the *Summa Theological* of Thomas Aquinas. That is the one that is mentioned in this story. This book refutes that, and that is what the narrator quotes in this text. It is possible that God can decompose, destroy what has already been created (p. 227). So is the great Roman poet Virgil referred to in this story. The narrator says I will have narrated a real life story of an event in. to a great extent just like one hundred years ago, naive Virgil believed he was foreshadowing the birth of man although he had predicted the birth of God" (p. 228). All these citations help one realize that the postmodern aspect of intertextuality is plentiful in this story and this text makes reference, both directly and indirectly, to different events in history and. is famous and makes conclusions on the basis of it.

Meta-Fiction

The postmodern method of referring to the text itself is called metafiction realizes that it is fictional and does not insist that it is a fact. In this respect, *The Other Death* does not claim that it is true or that whatever is narrated took place somewhere. The narrator of the story has different locations admits that the events narrated in this story have more than one side. The narrator explains that the story of the events given by

Col. Tabares was embarrassing to me, as an Absurd idea (p. 224). This demonstrates that the narrator takes this text as a fiction and can be narrated in a number of ways. The narrator makes one more confession in which she agrees with the functionality of the story. In this confession the narrator tells about that winter that the absence of one or two things made me come back to my tale of fantasy (which was so obstinately resisting to take its right form) to Col. Tabares' house" (p. 225). With this line, it is apparent that the narrator accepts that this story is the story of illusion which is the genesis of his genius. And there is another point where he acknowledges the fact that this is a fiction story and is not based on truth. The narrator admits that he is not sure that he has always written the truth. I have guessed I had a few false recollections in my story" (p. 228). This line shows that the narrative is the conception of memory or recollections. These memories can be fiction recollections. With this respect, one can say that the story embraces its functionality and does not claim to be true.

Magical Fiction

Magical realism is the combination of fantastic and realist. It involves the utilization of such events breaking the physical laws and making a magic of this situation. Another postmodern aspect that may be discussed in the story is magical realism. We will discover that in this tale the deceased man returns to his motherland. This event violates the laws of nature and establishes a fairly magic-like scenario. The best illustration of magic realism in this story comes the time when the narrator informs us that Pedro Damian, the one Ulrike is hinting at, was killed in the battle and in the time of his death made his supplication to God to bring him back to Entre Rios. God hesitated but a moment prior to concession of that boon, and the man who had solicited it was already dead, and some men had seen him killed. God is unable to change the past, though he can change the pictures of the past, transformed the picture of death into the picture of unconsciousness, and the shade of the man from Entre Rios had come back to his home country. Returned, but we should remember that he was a shade, a ghost" (p. 226-227). It is through this that we can come to an understanding that the man returns to his home country as a ghost which is the best example of magical realism.

Discussion

Following the analysis, this research study arrives at the findings that the first One such postmodern aspect of the story of *The Other Death* by Borges is intertextuality. In this regard, this story mentions different texts and derives ideas of them. The readings, which this tale alludes to, to append *The Past*, an essay by Ralph Waldo Emerson, *The Sound*, by William Faulkner and *Fury* Shakespeare, *The Tempest*, Conrad, *Lord Jim* and *Under Western. Eyes*, *Summa Theological* of Thomas Aquinas and the *Divine Comedy* of Dante. Further, it also indirectly mentions Damians, who is talked of in Foucault, in *Discipline and Punish*. Apart textually, it is also used in reference to Aristotle and Edgar Allen Poe with whom the narrator claims that he shares the same name was a convoluted and exceptionally extraordinary writer.

Conclusion

This research study will conclude at the end of the analysis and findings that the short by Borges is a well presented work a short story *The Other Death* is a classic representation of a postmodern story. It has the element of intertextuality whereby it directly or indirectly alludes to other texts, thinkers or philosophers. Numerous books are referred to in this tale. The ideas that are also used in this story include drawn from other texts. It also applied the indirect quotes of other philosophers like Aristotle founds its arguments on those quotes. Moreover, another element found in this story is the elements of metafiction in which it cautions the readers that this text can be approached as a work of fiction and does not pretend that everything that is told in this narrative is founded on truth. In addition to this, the magical realism technique is also employed in these stories that makes it a thing. It is a good postmodern story because it has fantastic touch.

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