

Symbolism as a Modernist Feature in a Passage to India

Suhair S.Al-Faris

Abstract

A passage to India by E.M. Forster is a modern novel ➤
written in 1924. -

- It describes the modern movement in that period

Forester's novel has its own features which recognize it from other ages in English literature.

- affected by Modernism which is the movement of that period

It influences the life style and literature.

Research's main idea

- ▶ It shows the reflection of modernist feature in a passage to India through reading and analyzing the novel
- ▶ It sheds the light on *symbolism*, *metaphor* and *personification* as literary devices
- ▶ It focuses on how E.M Forster uses the modernist features in his novel.
- ▶ It also proves that Forster as a modernist novelist.

Main Terms' Rerence

-*Modernism* is widely used to identify new and distinctive features in the century. ►

Modernism refers to the modern age in English literature which starts from the beginning of twentieth century and it follows the Victorian Age. It begins with the last decade of the nineteenth century. ►

It is a combination of traditional and the experimental. ►

Characteristics of the Modernism

- ▶ The modern age in English literature starts from the beginning of twentieth century and it follows the Victorian Age.
- ▶ In fact the modern Age really begins with the last decade of the nineteenth century.
- ▶ These writers revolved against the Victorian ideas.
- ▶ This period of English literature is a combination of traditional and the experimental.
- ▶ Symbolism is a main feature of the modernist writers; the writers of this period have used different symbols and images to recognize their works

Main contribution of Modernist

- ▶ The Modernist writers pervaded objects, people, places and events with significant meanings.
- ▶ They fictionalize a reality with multiple layers, many of them hidden or in a sort of code.
- ▶ Experimentation and individualism become virtues, where in the past they were often enthusiastically disheartened.
- ▶ New images from the developing fields of psychology, political, religious, sciences and sociology have been appeared. New theories of electromagnetism and significant physics have used by modernist authors.
- ▶ A growing critique of British imperialism and the ideology of empire can be reflected in their works. They have reflected the development of new technologies and the rise of mass communication in their works. The extraordinary growing of industrial, technological, scientific, social, and cultural change that arose during the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries led to the breakdown of previously held systems of belief and produced an image of experimental reflection of the society. .

Examples of Utilizing of Symbolism

- The most important symbols in Forster's novel is the Cave (Marber Cave). It portrays the **nature and alien images of the earth**, **presents the oldest place in that period**.

Forster using of these symbols is to show the nature of India as well as the aliens of some characters gives the **darkness part of the humanity**. It also shows the **fear of the future**.

- Mrs. Moore and Adela **challenge parts of themselves** or the universe that they have not recognized before.
- The echo of the caves reasons Mrs. Moore **to see the darker side of her spirituality**.
- Adela **confronts the embarrassment of her realization** that she and Ronny are not actually attracted to each other.
- Hence, **the cave** in a passage to India has different explanations; it interprets **the silence** aspects of the universe, it also interprets **the destroy meaning** when the visitors sound the same sounds.

Conclusion

- ▶ It could be concluded that Forster is a **modernist novelist**. He has reflected the features of modernism in his works in general and a passage to India in particular. A passage to India is not exceptional of using modernist literary devices.
- ▶ The symbolism in modernism **is different from other periods**; the symbols in this novel are **multi-dimensional**, rather ambiguous and meant to be in accordance with its **philosophical theme**.
- ▶ Forster uses **different figures of speech** to give a clear and additional meaning to his work. His using of **symbolism, metaphor, alliteration, simile, personification** and **images** prove that he is a modernist novelist.
- ▶ The symbolism in a passage to India **gives deep meaning** to the reader to understand the literary work from different point of view.
- ▶ Each symbol in the **novel represents and stands for another meaning**. Like the **Cave, the green bird, echo, sky, wasp**.
- ▶ Forster has used those symbols to give a **clear and deep meaning through objects**, so it could be said that E.M .Forster as modernist writer, he has proved his modernist style in his novel a **passage to India** by using such **figures of speech**. By using these kinds of figures of speech, features of modernism, an experimental style and symbols, Forster is considered as a modernist novelist.

References:

A Passage to India by E. M. Forster. ►

E.M.Forster's A passage to India, India by Rama Kunda 2007 ►

E. M. Forster's A passage to India, India by Sunil Kumar Sarker 2007 ►

E. M.Forster A passage to India New York: Harcourt Brace, 1984 ►

A Passage to India: A Reader's Guide to Essential Criticism, Betty Jay 1998 ►

Place, Race, and Modernism in the Works of E.M. Forster and Eudora Welty by
Marny H. Borchardt ►

Davidis, Maria M. "Forster's Imperial Romance: Chivalry, Motherhood, and
Questing in A Passage to India." Journal of Modern Literature 2000. ►

Bradbury, Malcolm, and James Walter McFarlane. "The Name and Nature of
Modernism." Modernism: 1890-1930. Harmondsworth: Penguin, 1976. ►

Thank You