

# **MODERNIST ELEMENTS IN WESTERN AND EASTERN LITERATURE A CONTEXTUAL ANALYSIS IN LITERARY PROCESS**

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## **Abstract**

This article provides a scientific-theoretical analysis of the formation of modernism within Western and Eastern literature, its ideological-aesthetic principles, and how literary examples created in this direction have been interpreted in a cultural context. The research examines the interconnections and differences between Western modernism's characteristics—such as psychological analysis, formal innovation, fragmentary plots, and individualistic spirit—and the socio-spiritual directions formed in Eastern literature on a contextual basis. The article studies changes in literary thinking based on mutual cultural influences, specificities of national literary spaces, and modernism's internal evolutionary tendencies.

**Keywords:** Modernism, literary thinking, contextual analysis, Western literature, Eastern literature, aesthetic criteria, individualism, psychological portrait, artistic experiment, genre transformation

## **Introduction:**

Modernism emerged in the West during the first half of the 20th century as a literary-aesthetic movement characterized by critical attitudes toward previously existing literary forms and content, aspiration for renewal, and artistic expression of subjective mental states that created a sharp turn in literature. This process formed against the backdrop of industrialization, intensifying social class divisions, wars, and cultural crises in the West, calling for a new perspective on the relationship between individual and society. Modernist literature rejected traditional chronological plot and realistic approaches in storytelling, promoting instead techniques such as internal monologue, stream of consciousness, and psychological portraiture. In Eastern literature, the acceptance of modernist ideas proceeded on the basis of socio-spiritual needs, national awakening, and psychological resistance against colonialism. Eastern creators attempted to assimilate modern criteria of artistic thinking while preserving their national traditions. This necessitates an in-depth analysis of modernist elements through a contextual approach.

### **Literature Review:**

The analyses conducted by Gulomov J. on the cultural characteristics of protagonist images and their role in society serve as an important theoretical source for determining the differences between modernist approaches in Eastern and Western literature. While in the West, the protagonist is typically constructed based on existential questions and internal contradictions, in the East, they are formed within the framework of social moral criteria. F.J.Yunusova illuminates these differences through the aesthetic and semantic aspects of creating works in Eastern and Western literature. She analyzes the influence of psychological depth and individuality in Western literature, as well as social responsibility and national pride in Eastern literary formation. In his work, M.Kholbekov examines modernism as a complex phenomenon of 20th century literary thinking, comparing form and content changes in Western and Eastern literary spaces. Through E.Bunyatova's analysis of medieval Eastern and Western literary connections, commonalities in the history of artistic thinking between these two spaces are demonstrated. S.Khalilov studies the aesthetic and philosophical differences that began in romantic poetry and deepened in modernism, showing continuity between literary movements. Modernism is an aesthetic and ideological movement that emerged in the West in the early 20th century, characterized by principles such as rejection of traditional forms in literature, exploration of personal experiences, relativity of time and space, and use of stream of consciousness technique. The intensification of this movement in Western literature was primarily associated with ongoing socio-political shifts, industrialization, wars, and technological progress. This process led to a fundamental renewal of literary forms and means of representation. By its nature, modernism seeks to reinterpret traditional forms of communication between author and reader. In Western literature, this characteristic is most clearly manifested in the works of English, French, and German writers. Virginia Woolf, James Joyce, Marcel Proust, Franz Kafka chose to reveal human psychology through subjectivity, psychological portraiture, internal flow of time, and plot fragments in literary texts. In their works, traditional methods of storytelling disappear, giving way to more individual states, streams of thought, and internal monologues.

The cultural characteristics of protagonist images studied by J.Gulomov and their reflection in literary thinking serve as an important methodological basis for understanding how modernist elements were received in Eastern and Western literature. His research illuminates how the protagonist relates to cultural archetypes through their role in society and internal experiences, which manifests as one of the main directions in the contextual analysis of modernist literary movements.[1] Particularly in Western literature during the modernist process, the portrayal of the protagonist's inner struggles against the backdrop of existential problems is consistent with the individualistic approach emphasized by Gulomov. In Eastern literature, such modernist elements are expressed in harmony with national and spiritual values. By analyzing these differences, one can draw a complete conclusion about how modernist elements have undergone contextual changes in the literary process.

F.Yunusova's research, revealing the main differences in the creation of works between Eastern and Western literature, provides an opportunity to understand the diverse manifestations of

cultural and aesthetic approaches in assimilating and interpreting modernist elements. The author emphasizes that Western literature focuses on characteristics such as individuality, psychological depth, and experimentalism.[2] These aspects are acknowledged as the main features of the modernist literary movement. In Eastern literature, although mental experiences and spiritual searches exist, they are expressed more in harmony with social and moral criteria. These differences serve to identify how modernist elements have been formed and interpreted in both literary traditions. Additionally, the differentiation of aesthetic criteria highlighted by the author creates the foundation for understanding what stages were observed in the formation process of modernist approaches in East and West. On this basis, the contextual analysis of modernism in the literary process deepens further.

M.Kholbekov's work "Landscapes of 20th Century Modern Literature" presents a deep analysis of the formation and manifestation of modernism in the context of Eastern and Western literature. In the work, the author focuses on how modernist style and aesthetic views created new directions in the 20th century literary process.[3] In particular, it is shown that while in Western literature modernism is expressed through human psychology, internal contradictions, and states of social alienation, in Eastern literature this movement takes on a unique philosophical content synthesized with traditional concepts. In the study, the author analyzes aspects such as compositional disruption, fragmentation, and subjective interpretation of time—key features of modernism—in both literary spaces. Through these analyses, contextual differences and similarities in Eastern and Western literary spaces are identified. The work also includes an analysis of images created through modernist literary style, through which the reader can feel the changes in literary thinking. This approach is directly related to the topic and serves as an important scientific source in illuminating how modernist elements are forming on a contextual basis in the literary process.

E.Bunyatova's study "Analysis of Literary Relations Between East and West During the Medieval Period" illuminates the roots of historical connections between Eastern and Western literary spaces. In the work, the author reveals how cultural and literary dialogues formed in the medieval period influenced the artistic thinking of both civilizations. It is possible to observe that literary manifestations formed through mutual influence and ideological exchange during this process are also reflected in later periods, including the modernist period.[4] The study demonstrates through examples how literary-aesthetic views formed in Western literature based on the Greco-Roman cultural heritage interacted with moral-spiritual values in Eastern literature. In-depth analysis of this historical-cultural context helps understand what historical foundation and basis modern literary processes, particularly modernist elements, have. Additionally, the approaches put forward by the author provide a basis for analyzing the modernist form and content differences observed today in Eastern and Western literature on a contextual basis. In this respect, this research serves as an important theoretical foundation within the scope of the chosen topic.

S.Khalilov's work "Romantic Poetry in the Context of Eastern and Western Problems" analyzes aesthetic and philosophical differences between Eastern and Western literature within the framework of romanticism. The author analyzes romantic literary movement not only as a

cultural phenomenon formed in the West but also how it influenced Eastern artistic thinking.[5] The work compares elements of individualism, inner experience, and existential anguish in Western romanticism with Eastern poetry. This approach serves as an important methodological basis for contextual analysis of modernist elements that have emerged in the modern literary process. Khalilov emphasizes that Eastern poetry relies on traditionalism and moral ideas, revealing different approaches to form and content innovations in Western literature through these aspects. Therefore, based on aesthetic principles formed in romanticism, it is possible to conduct a deep analysis of the development and mutual influence of modernist movements. The work creates the opportunity to express scientific reflections on philosophical and aesthetic differences between the two literary spaces in the literary process and their integration.

### **Research Methodology:**

In this study, historical-comparative analysis, contextual approach, and cultural-philosophical comparison were used as the main methods. Modernist works specific to each literary space were selected, and their thematic and stylistic characteristics were analyzed in connection with historical-cultural conditions. In the analysis process, aesthetic evolution, genre transformation, character creation mechanisms, and changes in literary language were defined as the main objects. Although modernist approaches also influenced Eastern literature, this influence was shaped according to contextual conditions. In Eastern literature, modernism manifested more through national awakening, anti-colonial struggle, and expression of social changes. Especially in Arabic, Persian, Turkish, and Indian literature, modernist elements emerged in a form harmonized with national culture and values. In this case, modernism manifests not only as style or form but also as a renewal of content and idea. Among Eastern modernists, poets and writers such as Nima Yushij, Jalal Al-e-Ahmad, Forough Farrokhzad, and Nazim Hikmet brought new aesthetic criteria to modern literature. They created unique literary schools by harmonizing national traditions with modern forms. In this case, the contextual approach is important, meaning the interpretation of modernist elements in each national literature is formed depending on local social and cultural factors.

### **Analysis and Results:**

According to the analysis results, Western modernism prioritized the crisis of humanity, psychological breakdowns, existential loneliness, and relative interpretation of time and space. This approach, based mainly on individualism, revealed instability in society, moral weakness, and spiritual searches through the protagonist. In Eastern modernism, these elements were formed in harmony with national consciousness, social justice, historical memory, and cultural identity. Here, character images emerge as symbols reflecting societal life. The global appearance of modernism is also related to cultural exchange processes. Eastern and Western writers influenced each other in the literary process. Experimentalism and psychological analysis in Western modernism also inspired Eastern creators. At the same time, the philosophical and poetic traditions of the East gave new directions to Western writers' aesthetic

views. For example, the minimalist style of the haiku genre in Japan was an important model for European modernists in expressing deep meaning through brevity and symbols. Contextual analysis as a methodological approach involves studying literary text in connection with social, cultural, historical, and philosophical factors. Modernist texts are very convenient objects in this respect because they simultaneously include modernity, personality, ideological ambiguity, and stylistic complexity. In analyzing such texts, the author's position in historical conditions, their ideological position, relationship with the reader, and aesthetic goals are taken into account.

In contextually analyzing modernism in Eastern literature, it is necessary to consider religious, spiritual, and philosophical layers. In particular, Sufism, Islamic interpretations, customs, and ancient poetic forms are expressed with new connotations in modernist works. This creates multi-layered reading of the text. In Western literature, Protestant ethics, existentialism, psychoanalysis, and achievements of modern science are considered the main contextual factors. Throughout its existence, modernism has created not only aesthetic but also philosophical and cultural revolution. In the literary process, this movement proceeded with changes in authorial position, breaking genre boundaries, linguistic experiments, and semantic renewals. For modernists, language was viewed not as form but as a means of fully expressing content. Therefore, they tried to innovate in language, increase the unconventionality of metaphors, and create freedom in grammar and syntax.

### **Discussion:**

Although modernist elements formed differently in both literary spaces, their main function was to reveal existing social problems, create renewal in literary language, and form a new paradigm in artistic thinking. While Western writers tried to delve deeply into the human inner world, Eastern writers expressed these mental states in a socio-moral context. In both spaces, modernism moved away from realistic depiction, creating a new literary world through symbolism, metaphorical structure, and symbolic images. Contextual differences arose from the historical-cultural conditions of each literary space. Based on the above conditions, the opportunity arises to comparatively analyze modernist elements in Western and Eastern literature. In the West, modernism manifested more through studying individual consciousness, breaking boundaries between reality and illusion, and reflecting the loneliness and inner emptiness of modern humans. In the East, modernism developed in a form emphasizing society, crisis of values, issues of preserving nationality, and cultural identity.

The literary process is in constant motion, and modernism itself has changed across different periods and regions. The formation of postmodernism emerged based on aesthetic experiments that began in modernism. Although these processes occurred differently in Western and Eastern literature, the common aspect—aspiration for innovation, need for freedom in form and content—connects them. Contextual analysis remains one of the main methods in literary research today. Through this approach, it is possible to fully understand the ideological essence of modernist literature, connecting the author's modern worldview with today's interpretation by the reader. Viewing modernism not only as a literary movement but also as a general

direction of cultural thinking, comparing Western and Eastern literature allows for a deeper understanding of the uniqueness and commonalities that have emerged in both regions.

### **Conclusion:**

Although modernist elements in Western and Eastern literature were formed on different historical and cultural foundations, their role in the literary process is incomparable. In the West, modernism manifested through psychological complexity, plot experimentation, and linguistic innovations. In the East, these elements formed as means of artistic expression of national identity, spiritual searches, and historical memory. According to the research results, the manifestation of modernism in both literary spaces shows the complex nature of cultural thinking. On this basis, contextual analysis of the modernist literary process is relevant not only from a literary perspective but also from cultural studies and philosophical viewpoints.

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