

## MODERNIST FEATURES IN THE WORKS OF T. S. ELIOT

Mokhinur Alisherovna Radzhabova  
Bukhara State University, Master's Degree

M. K. Bakaeva  
Academic Supervisor, Professor

### Abstract

This article examines the key features of modernism in the works of T. S. Eliot, one of the leading poets and theorists of 20th-century English literature. It analyzes the artistic and philosophical characteristics of his poetry, including fragmentary composition, intertextuality, mythological method, the problem of personal alienation, and the crisis of spiritual values. Using examples from works such as "The Love Song of J. Alfred Prufrock," "The Waste Land," and "Four Quartets," the specifics of Eliot's modernist worldview and his contribution to the development of world literature are revealed.

**Keywords:** T. S. Eliot, modernism, 20th-century English literature, fragmentary composition, intertextuality, mythological method, alienation, spiritual crisis.

### Introduction

#### Аннотация:

В данной статье рассматриваются основные черты модернизма в творчестве Томаса Стернза Элиота, одного из ведущих поэтов и теоретиков англоязычной литературы XX века. Анализируются художественные и философские особенности его поэзии, такие как фрагментарность композиции, интертекстуальность, мифологический метод, проблема отчуждения личности и кризис духовных ценностей. На примере произведений *The Love Song of J. Alfred Prufrock*, *The Waste Land* и *Four Quartets* раскрывается специфика модернистского мировоззрения Элиота и его вклад в развитие мировой литературы.

**Ключевые слова:** Томас Стернз Элиот, модернизм, английская литература XX века, фрагментарность, интертекстуальность, мифологический метод, отчуждение, духовный кризис.

**Annotatsiya:**

Ushbu maqolada XX asr ingliz va jahon adabiyotida modernizm oqimining yetakchi namoyandaligidan biri bo'lgan Tomas Stearns Eliot ijodi tahlil qilinadi. Tadqiqotda Eliot asarlarida modernizmga xos bo'lgan asosiy badiiy-estetik xususiyatlar, xususan parchalangan kompozitsiya, intertekstuallik, mifologik usul, zamonaviy insonning ma'naviy inqirozi va begonalashuv muammolari yoritiladi. Shoirning *The Love Song of J. Alfred Prufrock*, *The Waste Land* va *Four Quartets* kabi asarlari misolida modernistik tafakkur va poetik yangilanish masalalari ochib beriladi. Maqola Eliot ijodining adabiyotshunoslikdagi ahamiyatini aniqlashga xizmat qiladi.

**Kalit so'zlar:** Tomas Stearns Eliot, modernizm, ingliz adabiyoti, parchalangan ong, intertekstuallik, mifologik usul, ma'naviy inqiroz.

There are over one hundred critical and textual studies devoted to the work of T. S. Eliot (1888–1965). According to the American critic Irwin Ehrenpreis (1920–1985), “Eliot’s poetry penetrates the depths of human consciousness, to the deepest moral and spiritual layers. Eliot understood the changeable, contradictory nature of our hidden, secret feelings and thoughts and sought to express this paradox in his own style. Eliot’s style is characterized by distortions of syntax and meaning, thereby attracting the reader’s attention, prompting him to take a fresh look at the tasks and values of artistic creation.” Despite all the controversial and contradictory aspects of his work, Eliot proved himself to be the most unique talent among his contemporaries. He was convinced that the word, or rather the materiality of the word, is the creator. He is a poet who believes in the reality of classical poetry, in its perfection and exemplary nature. These traits not only brought Eliot closer to the supporters of symbolism, but also prompted him to persistently defend the idea of the existence and superiority of poetic taste and industrial elegance at a time when the prevailing methodological principle metaphysically absolutized the relativity of all knowledge and denied the possibility of objective knowledge of reality.

Modernism as a literary movement emerged in the early 20th century amid profound social and cultural upheaval. The First World War, the crisis of traditional values, the accelerated pace of life, and the loss of stable ideological guidelines led to a rethinking of the role of art and the artist. Modernist literature rejected the realistic tradition of the 19th century and focused on conveying the human inner world, their psychological and spiritual experiences. T. S. Eliot occupies a special place among modernists, as his work combines poetic experimentation with profound philosophical reflection and a theoretical understanding of art.

One of the key characteristics of Eliot's modernism is its fragmented composition. His works lack a linear plot, and the text is constructed as a collection of disparate fragments linked by associations. This principle is most vividly realized in the poem "The Waste Land," where the shifting voices, images, and cultural allusions create a sense of chaos and

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the fragmentation of existence. This structure reflects the inner state of a person of the modern era, who has lost a holistic perception of the world.

Key Features of Modernism in the Works of T.S. Eliot.

### **1. Fragmented Composition**

Eliot's works break with traditional narrative coherence. The texts are constructed from disparate episodes, images, and voices. This structure reflects the fragmented consciousness of 20th-century man and the sense of crisis in the modern world.

### **2. Intertextuality and Cultural Memory**

Eliot actively uses references to ancient, medieval, and classical literature, as well as religious and philosophical texts. The works of Dante, Shakespeare, the Bible, and Eastern philosophy become part of the poetic fabric of his poems, imbuing them with multilayered meaning.

### **3. Mythological Method**

Myths and archetypal themes are used to understand contemporary reality. Through myth, Eliot seeks to bring order to a chaotic reality and reveal the spiritual devastation of modern society.

### **4. The Theme of Modern Alienation**

Eliot's characters feel lonely and isolated from society. They are incapable of meaningful communication and suffer from inner emptiness, doubt, and a loss of direction in life.

### **5. Philosophical and Intellectual Focus**

Eliot's poetry is replete with philosophical reflections on time, death, faith, the meaning of life, and spiritual renewal. His works demand the reader's intellectual engagement.

### **6. Symbolism and Polysemantic Imagery**

The images in Eliot's poetry are symbolic and open to various interpretations. A single image can convey multiple layers of meaning, which is characteristic of modernist aesthetics.

### **7. Rejection of Traditional Lyricism**

Eliot avoids direct expression of personal emotions. His poetics are characterized by restraint, distance, and an objectified view of the reality he depicts.

### **8. Experimentation with Language and Style**

The poet uses a mixture of styles, registers, and languages, introducing colloquial speech, quotations, and fragments in various languages. This emphasizes the complexity and fragmentation of contemporary culture.

These characteristics allow us to consider the work of T. S. Eliot as one of the most striking embodiments of modernism in world literature. Thus, the work of T. S. Eliot represents one of the most significant phenomena of literary modernism. His poetry is distinguished by its complex form, intellectual richness, and profound philosophical content. Fragmentation, intertextuality, mythological method, and the theme of alienation allow Eliot to express the drama of modern human existence. The poet's contribution to the development of modernist aesthetics had a significant influence on the subsequent development of world literature and remains relevant in contemporary literary studies.

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