

THE CONFLICT OF TRADITION AND MODERNITY IN CONTEMPORARY LITERARY WORKS

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Annotation

This article explores the conflict between tradition and modernity in contemporary literary works. It analyzes how writers represent the tension between inherited cultural values and modern social changes. The study highlights themes such as identity, generational differences, and cultural transformation, and demonstrates how literature reflects and interprets these processes.

Keywords: tradition, modernity, literature, cultural identity, social change, contemporary fiction

In recent years, the conflict between tradition and modernity has become a central theme in contemporary literature. As societies undergo rapid transformation due to globalization, technological advancement, and cultural exchange, individuals often find themselves navigating between preserving traditional values and adapting to modern lifestyles. Literature serves as a mirror of these changes, offering insights into the complexities of cultural and social development. [1;2]

In literary works, tradition is often associated with stability, heritage, and continuity, while modernity represents change, innovation, and individual freedom. The interaction between these two forces creates tension that is reflected in characters, plot development, and thematic structures. Understanding this conflict allows readers to better interpret the cultural and psychological dimensions of literary texts.

This study is based on qualitative literary analysis, drawing on contemporary novels, short stories, and critical studies. The research examines how authors construct narratives that reflect the struggle between traditional norms and modern perspectives. Data were collected from selected literary texts and scholarly sources focusing on cultural identity and social transformation in literature. The analysis aims to identify recurring patterns and thematic representations of this conflict. [3]

The analysis reveals several key aspects of the conflict between tradition and modernity in contemporary literary works.

First, the theme of identity crisis is frequently portrayed. Characters often experience internal conflict as they attempt to reconcile traditional expectations with modern aspirations. This struggle is particularly evident in younger generations who seek independence while remaining connected to their cultural roots.

Second, generational conflict plays a significant role in illustrating this tension. Older characters typically represent tradition, emphasizing values such as family loyalty, social

norms, and cultural continuity, whereas younger characters tend to challenge these values in pursuit of personal freedom and self-expression.

Third, cultural transformation is depicted as both a challenge and an opportunity. While modernity can lead to the erosion of traditional values, it also opens new possibilities for growth, innovation, and intercultural understanding. Writers often use symbolism, setting, and dialogue to highlight these contrasting perspectives. [4]

The findings suggest that contemporary literature does not present tradition and modernity as mutually exclusive concepts but rather as interconnected and evolving forces. Authors emphasize the importance of balance, showing that individuals and societies must negotiate between preserving cultural heritage and embracing change.

One important implication of this study is that literature can serve as a powerful tool for developing critical thinking and cultural awareness. By engaging with literary texts, readers can reflect on their own values and better understand the dynamics of social change.

Conclusion

The conflict between tradition and modernity remains a significant theme in contemporary literary works. Through the portrayal of characters and narratives, literature explores the complexities of identity, cultural transformation, and social development. The study concludes that understanding this conflict is essential for interpreting modern literary texts and for appreciating the broader cultural processes that shape human experience.

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