

Paper - (XIV) PG-16 [61.4016]

Literary Theories (Application)

* → What is Formalist Approach?

The Formalist Approach emphasizes the manner of reading literature that was given its special dimensions and emphasis by English and American critics in the first two-thirds of the twentieth century. Formalist Approach is a way of looking at a literary work regardless of generally established terms such as: - The name of the authors, the authors background, or any biographical details.

This approach expanded after 1930 especially with English and American critics, who therefore are called formalists.

In formalist approach the author arranges the words, the images and symbols, details of plot and action and then achieves the accomplishment. By arranging all these, the author wants to make us see that internal relationships gradually reveal a form, a principle by which all subordinate patterns can be accommodated and accounted for. When all the words, phrases, metaphors, images are examined in terms of each other and of the whole, any literary text worth our efforts will display its own internal logic.

In the last third of the century, the new criticism came to be called by other name. The new critics taught us to look at the individual work of literary art as an organic form. There is a consistency and internal utility in an organic form.

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Formalist Criticism emphasizes the form of a literary work to determine its meaning, focusing on literary elements and how they work to create meaning.

- * Examines a text as independent from its time period, social setting, and author's background. A Text is an independent entity. (संज्ञा)
- * Focuses on close readings of texts and analysis of the effects of literary elements and techniques on the text.

Formalist Criticism breaks down

different types of literature into component parts. It is the most straightforward approach to literary analysis, and most textbooks are chaptered by formalist elements to introduce concepts to students more effectively.