**Who is afraid of realist fiction? Realist fiction after postpositivism**

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**Abstract**

Realist fiction is widely considered an outdated mode in contemporary literary scene as modernism, postmodernism and poststructuralism have raised some serious challenges against it, advocating experimentalism in fiction, instead. Still, in our age, when globalization and capitalism breed different forms of marginalizations and injustices in societies, it is the realist fiction that better than any other form can depict the struggles of these marginalized lives. Thus, realist fiction, due to its significant political role, deserves to be considered a major genre of our time rather than the second-rater that it is. This paper attempts to investigate into the present state of realist fiction in the literary scene and argues that with some important theoretical backing that realist fiction has recently received, especially from the postpositivist realist critics, it can move toward reclaiming its position in literature today. Postpositivist realists particularly focus on the representation of reality, identity and experience in realist fiction and argue that although, as poststructuralists also contend, they are affected by discourses and ideologies, their representation is possible, and they are, in some sense, real, and valuable for being real. The paper maintains that the postpositivist support can, to a great extent, improve, the present status of realist fiction; however, the rightful realist fiction of our time, in tune with the developments in theory and fiction, has patches of experimentalism, including stream of consciousness and magic realism, while keeping its realistic ethos.

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