

POSTMODERN BIOFICTION IN LITERATURE.

Rizaeva Dilyayra Shavkatovna

Tashkent State Agrarian University

Abstract: This article explores the genre of postmodern biofiction in literature. Postmodern biofiction is a literary genre that emerged in the late 20th century and continues to be influential today. It combines elements of postmodernism and biography, blurring the boundaries between fact and fiction, and challenging traditional notions of representation. This article examines key characteristics and themes commonly found in postmodern biofiction, such as meta-narrative, historical revisionism, identity, and the intertwining of real and imaginary elements. It also discusses the use of fragmentation, deconstruction of gender and sexuality, playful language and stylistic experimentation, as well as cultural and historical critique. Additionally, the article highlights examples of postmodern biofiction works that embody these characteristics and themes. By delving into the world of postmodern biofiction, readers can gain a deeper understanding of the genre's unique qualities and its significance in contemporary literary discourse.

Keywords: postmodern biofiction, literature, meta-narrative, historical revisionism, identity, fragmentation, deconstruction, gender, sexuality, playful language, cultural critique, historical critique.

INTRODUCTION:

Postmodern biofiction is a fascinating and dynamic genre within literature that emerged in the late 20th century and continues to captivate readers and challenge literary conventions. It combines elements of postmodernism and biography, creating narratives that blur the boundaries between fact and fiction, truth and imagination. Postmodern biofiction offers a unique lens through which authors can explore the complexities of representing real-life individuals and events, while also questioning established notions of identity, history, and storytelling.

In this article, we will delve into the world of postmodern biofiction, examining its key characteristics, themes, and techniques. We will explore how postmodern biofiction engages with meta-narrative, often reflecting on its own status as a constructed narrative and inviting readers to question the act of storytelling itself. Historical revisionism is another prominent aspect of the genre, as authors reimagine and challenge established historical accounts, offering alternative perspectives on well-known figures or events.

Identity and representation are central themes in postmodern biofiction, as authors explore the fluidity and constructed nature of identity. By highlighting the gaps, silences, and biases in biographical accounts, they shed light on the power dynamics involved in shaping personal and collective identities. The intertwining of real and imaginary elements is yet another intriguing aspect of the genre, as postmodern biofiction often incorporates magical realism or fantastical elements into biographical narratives, allowing for symbolic and subjective explorations of real-life figures and events.

Postmodern biofiction also embraces fragmentation and collage-like structures, presenting narratives that are disjointed, fragmented, and non-linear. This fragmentation reflects the fragmented nature of identity and history, challenging the idea of a unified, linear narrative. Additionally, postmodern biofiction frequently engages in the deconstruction of gender and sexuality, subverting traditional notions and offering alternative perspectives.

Playful language and stylistic experimentation are common features in postmodern biofiction, as authors employ wordplay, unconventional syntax, and literary allusions to create rich and layered narratives. Cultural and historical critique is another significant aspect of the genre, as postmodern biofiction often exposes power structures, challenges dominant ideologies, and amplifies marginalized voices and experiences.

Through this exploration of postmodern biofiction in literature, we aim to provide readers with a deeper understanding of the genre's unique qualities and its contributions to contemporary literary discourse. By examining key characteristics, themes, and techniques, readers can gain insights into the diverse and thought-provoking narratives that emerge from the intersection of postmodernism and biography[1].

LITERATURE ANALYSIS AND METHODS:

Postmodern literature expands on modernist techniques through nonlinear narratives, metatextuality, and exploration of identity construction (Hutcheon, 1989). Several works apply these concepts to biotechnology issues. Early biofiction like Ishiguro's *Never Let Me Go* used cloning as metaphor (Ishiguro, 2005). More recent works directly engage neuroscience and gene editing debates affecting humanity (Levitt, 2015; Jemisin, 2016). To understand the genre of postmodern biofiction in literature, it is essential to analyze various works that exemplify its characteristics and themes. This section will discuss the key methods and approaches employed by authors within the genre, as well as provide an analysis of notable postmodern biofiction works.

1. Meta-Narrative and Self-Reflexivity:

Postmodern biofiction often engages in meta-narrative, reflecting on its own status as a constructed narrative and inviting readers to question the act of storytelling itself. Authors may incorporate self-reflexive elements such as commentary on the process of writing, the ethical implications of representation, or the nature of truth and memory. This self-awareness encourages readers to critically engage with the narrative and consider the complexities of representing real-life figures and events.

Example: In *"The Autobiography of Alice B. Toklas"* by Gertrude Stein, Stein adopts the voice of Alice B. Toklas, her partner, to recount their experiences in Paris during the early 20th century. Through this meta-narrative approach, Stein blurs the line between autobiography and biography, challenging traditional notions of authorship and narrative authority.

2. Historical Revisionism and Alternative Perspectives:

Postmodern biofiction often revisits well-known historical figures or events, offering alternative perspectives and challenging established historical accounts. Authors may question dominant narratives, fill gaps in historical records, or reimagine the lives of historical figures from marginalized or silenced perspectives. This revisionist approach prompts readers to critically examine history and consider the multiplicity of viewpoints.

Example: "The Hours" by Michael Cunningham interweaves the narratives of three women from different time periods: Virginia Woolf, Laura Brown, and Clarissa Vaughan. Through their interconnected stories, Cunningham offers alternative perspectives on Woolf's life and work, reimagining her experiences and exploring the complexities of artistic creation.

3. Fragmentation and Nonlinear Narratives:

Postmodern biofiction often employs fragmented and nonlinear narratives, challenging the traditional linear structure of biography. Authors may present disjointed episodes, incorporate multiple perspectives or timelines, or use unconventional narrative techniques such as collage or montage. This fragmentation reflects the fragmented nature of identity and history, allowing for a more nuanced exploration of the subject's life[2].

Example: "2666" by Roberto Bolaño is a postmodern biofiction novel that tells the story of multiple characters connected to the fictional city of Santa Teresa. The narrative is fragmented, with various storylines and perspectives intertwining, creating a mosaic-like portrayal of the characters' lives and the city they inhabit.

4. Deconstruction of Identity and Representation:

Postmodern biofiction often challenges traditional notions of identity, highlighting the fluidity and constructed nature of personal and collective identities. Authors may expose the gaps, silences, and biases in biographical accounts, questioning

the power dynamics involved in shaping identity. They may also explore the interplay of personal and cultural identities, blurring the boundaries between self and society.

Example: "Orlando" by Virginia Woolf is a postmodern biofiction novel that spans centuries and follows the protagonist, Orlando, who undergoes a gender transformation. Through Orlando's fluid and shifting identity, Woolf challenges traditional gender norms and raises questions about the nature of identity and representation. By employing these methods and approaches, authors of postmodern biofiction create narratives that challenge traditional biographical conventions and offer new ways of understanding real-life figures and events. Through meta-narrative, historical revisionism, fragmentation, and deconstruction, they engage readers in a critical examination of identity, history, and the act of storytelling itself.

DISCUSSION:

Postmodern biofiction in literature presents a rich and complex landscape that pushes the boundaries of traditional biography and storytelling. In this section, we will delve into the broader implications and significance of postmodern biofiction, discussing its impact on literature and its cultural and literary relevance.

1. Blurring the Boundaries:

Postmodern biofiction challenges the boundaries between fact and fiction, truth and imagination. By interweaving historical figures and events with fictional elements, authors invite readers to question the nature of truth and the construction of identity. This blurring of boundaries allows for a more nuanced exploration of the complexities of human experience and history, highlighting the subjectivity and multiplicity of perspectives.

2. Reimagining History and Marginalized Voices:

One of the key contributions of postmodern biofiction is its ability to revisit historical figures and events from alternative perspectives. By offering marginalized voices a platform and challenging dominant narratives, postmodern biofiction reclaims

the stories that have been overlooked or silenced. This subversion of historical records and perspectives enables a more inclusive and diverse understanding of history, enriching our collective memory.

3. Critique of Power Structures and Ideologies:

Postmodern biofiction often engages in cultural and historical critique, exposing power structures and challenging prevailing ideologies. Through satire, irony, and subversive storytelling, authors critique societal norms, political systems, and cultural icons. This critique prompts readers to question established beliefs and power dynamics, fostering a more critical engagement with the world around them.

4. The Fluidity of Identity and Representation:

Postmodern biofiction interrogates the constructed nature of identity and representation. By deconstructing gender, exploring multiple perspectives, and utilizing fragmented narratives, authors challenge fixed notions of identity. They highlight the fluidity of personal and cultural identities, inviting readers to question societal norms and consider the complex interplay between the self and society.

5. Engaging the Reader as an Active Participant:

Postmodern biofiction often requires active reader participation. By employing meta-narrative, self-reflexivity, and unconventional narrative techniques, authors invite readers to become aware of the act of storytelling and the role of interpretation. This active engagement encourages readers to critically analyze the text, question assumptions, and actively participate in the construction of meaning.

Postmodern biofiction's ability to challenge traditional literary conventions, offer alternative perspectives, and critique power structures makes it a significant genre within contemporary literature. By embracing experimentation, blurring boundaries, and amplifying marginalized voices, postmodern biofiction fosters a more inclusive and multifaceted understanding of history, identity, and storytelling. It invites readers to

critically engage with the complexities of representation and actively participate in the construction of meaning, ultimately enriching our literary and cultural landscape[3].

RESULTS:

The genre of postmodern biofiction in literature has yielded a range of captivating and thought-provoking works that challenge traditional biographical conventions and push the boundaries of storytelling. In this section, we will discuss the notable results and outcomes of postmodern biofiction in terms of literary achievements, critical reception, and cultural impact.

1. Literary Innovation and Experimentation:

Postmodern biofiction has been instrumental in fostering literary innovation and experimentation. Authors within the genre have embraced unconventional narrative structures, fragmented storytelling, and linguistic playfulness. This experimentation has expanded the possibilities of storytelling, pushing the boundaries of form and style. The genre has given rise to works that are engaging, intellectually stimulating, and aesthetically daring, appealing to readers who seek new and unique literary experiences.

2. Critical Recognition and Scholarly Engagement:

Postmodern biofiction has garnered significant critical attention and scholarly engagement. Scholars have recognized the genre's ability to challenge established notions of biography, history, and identity, and have explored its theoretical implications. The genre's engagement with meta-narrative, historical revisionism, and the deconstruction of identity and representation has sparked academic discussions and enriched literary analysis. Postmodern biofiction has become a subject of academic research, conferences, and publications, contributing to the broader field of literary studies.

3. Cultural and Social Relevance:

Postmodern biofiction holds cultural and social relevance by amplifying marginalized voices and offering alternative perspectives on history and identity. By reclaiming the stories of historically marginalized individuals or communities, the genre challenges dominant narratives and expands our understanding of the human experience. Postmodern biofiction's critique of power structures and ideologies also resonates with contemporary socio-political discussions, prompting readers to critically examine societal norms and power dynamics.

4. Reader Engagement and Interpretive Complexity:

Postmodern biofiction demands active reader engagement and offers interpretive complexity. The genre's incorporation of meta-narrative, self-reflexivity, and fragmented narratives invites readers to become active participants in the construction of meaning. This engagement encourages readers to question assumptions, reflect on the nature of storytelling, and critically analyze the text. Postmodern biofiction's ability to prompt readers to engage with complex themes and perspectives fosters a deeper appreciation for literature and encourages a more nuanced understanding of the world.

5. Expansion of Literary Boundaries:

Postmodern biofiction has expanded the boundaries of literature by challenging traditional genre classifications and blending elements from various genres and styles. The genre's fusion of postmodernism and biography has opened up new avenues for literary exploration, enabling authors to create hybrid narratives that defy categorization. This expansion of boundaries has invigorated the literary landscape, encouraging experimentation and innovation across different genres and forms. In summary, the results of postmodern biofiction in literature encompass literary innovation, critical recognition, cultural relevance, reader engagement, and the expansion of literary boundaries. Through its unique blend of postmodern elements and biography, the genre has made a significant impact on the literary world, inspiring authors, scholars, and readers alike. The genre's ability to challenge established

conventions, amplify marginalized voices, and foster critical engagement underscores its enduring significance within contemporary literature.

Postmodern biofiction in literature has emerged as a vibrant and influential genre that challenges traditional biographical forms and pushes the boundaries of storytelling. Through its innovative methods and approaches, postmodern biofiction has yielded captivating works that blur the lines between fact and fiction, offer alternative perspectives on history, and invite readers to critically engage with the act of storytelling itself.

The genre's emphasis on meta-narrative and self-reflexivity encourages readers to question the constructed nature of narratives and explore the complexities of representation. By revisiting historical figures and events from marginalized perspectives, postmodern biofiction amplifies voices that have been overlooked or silenced, enriching our understanding of history and identity.

Postmodern biofiction's fragmentation and nonlinear narratives disrupt traditional linear storytelling, offering a more nuanced exploration of the subject's life and challenging notions of fixed identity. The genre's deconstruction of identity and representation prompts readers to critically examine societal norms and power structures, fostering a deeper awareness of the fluidity and multiplicity of identities.

Postmodern biofiction's impact extends beyond the literary realm. It has garnered critical recognition and scholarly engagement, contributing to academic discussions on biography, history, and identity. Moreover, the genre's cultural and social relevance lies in its ability to reclaim stories, challenge dominant narratives, and critique power structures, resonating with contemporary socio-political conversations.

By demanding active reader engagement and offering interpretive complexity, postmodern biofiction encourages readers to become active participants in the construction of meaning. This engagement fosters a deeper appreciation for literature and encourages a more nuanced understanding of the world[4].

CONCLUSION:

In conclusion, postmodern biofiction in literature has resulted in literary innovation, critical recognition, cultural relevance, reader engagement, and the expansion of literary boundaries. The genre's ability to challenge conventions, amplify marginalized voices, and foster critical engagement underscores its enduring significance within contemporary literature. As readers continue to explore the complex narratives and alternative perspectives offered by postmodern biofiction, the genre will undoubtedly shape and inspire future literary endeavors, enriching our literary and cultural landscape.

REFERENCES:

1. Bolaño, Roberto. 2666. Farrar, Straus and Giroux, 2008.
2. Cunningham, Michael. The Hours. Picador, 1998.
3. Stein, Gertrude. The Autobiography of Alice B. Toklas. Dover Publications, 1990.
4. Woolf, Virginia. Orlando. Penguin Classics, 2000.