



INTERNATIONAL JOURNAL OF CREATIVE RESEARCH THOUGHTS (IJCRT)

An International Open Access, Peer-reviewed, Refereed Journal

Literature, Activism, Human Values: Then And Now

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INTRODUCTION

The article "What is Literary Activism" by King explores the concept of literary activism, discussing how literature can be an effective instrument for social and political change. King argues that authors have a responsibility to use their writing to challenge oppression and inspire action. In "Reading for Peace: Literature as Activism," Crosogrove delves into the power of literature to promote peace and understanding. The article examines how reading can spark empathy and encourage dialogue, creating a more peaceful and harmonious society. In "Endgame: The Fall of Macros" by Rosca Ninotchka, the author analyzes the novel "The Ministry of Utmost Happiness" by Arundhati Roy and "The Sympathizer" by Viet Thanh Nguyễn, exploring how these literary works serve as forms of activism. Writers highlights how these novels tackle various social and political issues, contributing to the larger conversation on activism and societal change. The use of literature as an activist tactic has become more and more popular in recent years. Scholars and authors alike are investigating the nexus between literature and activism because of the narrative's capacity to elicit thought, spur social change, and subvert social norms. In this study, we explore this dynamic relationship, paying special attention to the novel as a vehicle for literary activism. The changing ethical considerations inherent in modern literature by drawing on the works of literary theorists Dorothy J. Hale and James Phelan. "Norwegian Wood" by Haruki Murakami is one book that best illustrates the power of literature as action. In his ground-breaking research, Pramod K. Nayar examines how trauma, witness accounts, and human rights connect in postcolonial India, paying particular attention to the stories of women who have experienced atrocities. Based on the structure of Yuval Noah Harari's "Sapiens: A Brief History of Humankind," Nayar provides a sophisticated examination of the ways in which sociocultural and historical elements influence both individual and group experiences of trauma and resilience. The concept of "traumatic realism."

"Human Rights in the World Community: Issues and Action" by Claude, Richard Pierre, and Burns H. Weston, this paper addresses the steps that can be made to address the many human rights challenges that people worldwide face and offers a thorough analysis of those issues. "The Narrative Metaphysics of Human Rights" by Anthony J. Langlois, this paper introduces how narratives influence how we see human rights and make it defensive argument. "Unclaimed Experience: Trauma, Narrative, and History" by Cathy Caruth, the paper introduces with the relationship between trauma, narrative, and history, with particular attention to how trauma narratives might challenge our. "Bitter Chocolate: Child Sexual Abuse in India" by Pinki Virani, this article sheds light on the issue of child sexual abuse in India, exposing the experiences of survivors and the systemic failures that perpetuate this serious violation of human rights.

"Testimonio's Poetics of Performance" by Linda Marie Brooks, this research paper into a unique blend of personal narrative and social and political analysis. It focuses on its connection to Gun Island and The Great

Derangement by Amitav Ghosh. Gun Island by Amitav Ghosh the story intertwines the subjects of climate change, migration, and the significance of storytelling, delving into the deep impact of human actions on the environment. The Great Derangement: Climate Change and Unthinkable Ghosh explores the correlation between literature and climate change, contending that the contemporary literary imagination has predominantly neglected to address the pressing nature of this worldwide emergency. In a world where social and political issues are increasingly complex and urgent, literature has emerged as a potent tool for activism. Through works such as "The Ministry of Utmost Happiness" and "The Sympathizer," authors challenge oppression and spark dialogue on pressing societal concerns. Scholars like Nayar delve into the profound impact of trauma and human rights on narratives, while texts like "Bitter Chocolate" expose the harsh realities of child abuse in India. Through a blend of personal narrative and analysis, works like "Testimonio's Poetics of Performance" highlight the power of storytelling to provoke social change. As the nexus between literature and activism continues to evolve, it becomes increasingly clear that the written word holds the potential to inspire action and drive positive societal transformation.

LITERATURE REVIEW

"What is literary activism?" by King- defines literary activism as using literature to challenge oppressive systems, advocate for marginalized voices and initiate discussions about social concerns and highlights the power of storytelling to connect readers with unfamiliar experiences.

"Reading for Peace: Literature as Activism" by Shady E. Crosogrove – he argues that literature challenges dominant narratives, creates empathy and inspires action.

"Endgame: The fall of Macros"-by Rosca Ninotchka- highlights the critical role of popular resistance in bringing about political change.

The notion of a personal continuum of suffering is emphasized, indicating that the traumatic experiences of childhood extend into adult life for many women. The concept of "traumatic realism," As described by Michael Rothberg, is introduced, suggesting that this rhetorical form disorients readers by focusing on the body and capturing the extent and intensity of suffering in atrocity narratives. In summary, the passage delves into the multifaceted nature of trauma, utilizing it as a critical category to analyse women's narratives, particularly focusing on childhood experiences and the embodiment of suffering. The AWS, operating under Heinemann's Education division, plays a vital role in shaping the canon of African literature. With a vast distribution network, it determines which African Writers and their works are available for study as "African literature" in English beyond national borders. Betty Wilson in her Article examines how literature turns into an effective instrument for these authors to interact with and criticize the socio-political environment, allowing voiceless-marginalized voices to speak Lisa J. Udel's work "Revising Strategies" focuses on the authors' attempts to encourage decolonization through their works to create an informed readership and active class. By raising readers' awareness and comprehension of the topics covered in the literature, the main goal is to enable them to take an active role in decolonization activities. The Myra Mendible article Literature as Activism suggests that post-colonial writers all across the world like Amitav Ghosh and Ninotchka Rosca are expressing themselves through Activist literature. It is their way of writing back to the colonial structures they had been so long trapped within. "No Place for Self-Pity, No Room for Fear by Toni Morrison, Morrison suggested Artists' Role: Morrison stressed that artists cannot choose to be mute during times of fear. Relevance of Art: She recognized the suffering of the world but emphasized the need to resist giving in to its evil and Inspirational Message: Morrison's comment echoes the belief that art is essential to the healing of civilizations, encouraging artists to carry on with their work even in the face of hardship. "The Human Rights in the World Community: Issues and Action" by Claude, Richard Pierre, and Burns H. Weston the paper explores the moral responsibilities of various stakeholders in upholding and advancing human rights. "The Narrative Metaphysics of Human Rights" by Langlois, Anthony J the narrative dimensions of human rights, acknowledging a gap in current scholarship. "Unclaimed Experience: Trauma, Narrative, and History" by Caruth, Cathy question of how narratives serve as a medium for individuals and societies to process and communicate traumatic events. "Bitter Chocolate: Child Sexual Abuse in India" by Pinki Virani aiming to raise awareness and stimulate meaningful conversations about safeguarding children in India. "Testimnio's Poetics of Performance" by

Brooks, Linda Marie it delves deeply into the fusion of Testimnio's literary style and the realm of performance arts. Gun Island by Amitav Ghosh the book, highlights the urgency of addressing climate change and the increasing vulnerability of marginalized communities to its consequences. The Great Derangement by Amitav Ghosh, where he criticizes the cultural and political systems that emphasize human exceptionalism and ignore the interdependence between humans and the environment. Literary activism is a powerful tool used by authors to challenge oppressive systems, advocate for marginalized voices, and initiate discussions about social concerns. Through their works, writers like Ninotchka Rosca and Amitav Ghosh express their resistance to colonial structures and raise awareness about pressing issues such as climate change and human rights violations. These authors use literature as a means to create empathy, inspire action, and confront dominant narratives in society. In addition, the concept of trauma and its multi-faceted nature are explored in various works, emphasizing the importance of storytelling in expressing and processing traumatic experiences. Authors like Pinki Virani shed light on harrowing subjects such as child sexual abuse in India, aiming to spark meaningful conversations and raise awareness about safeguarding vulnerable populations. Literature also serves as a platform for decolonization, as discussed in works by Lisa J. Udel and Betty Wilson. By challenging established norms and empowering marginalized voices, authors strive to create an informed readership and inspire active participation in social and political activism. Overall, the various perspectives presented in these literary works emphasize the transformative power of storytelling and highlight the role of literature in promoting social justice, human rights, and environmental consciousness. Through their activism, authors contribute to a more inclusive and empathetic society, encouraging readers to engage with complex issues and work towards positive change.

ANALYSIS

The article "What is Literary Activism" by King explores the concept of literary activism, which involves using literature as a means of promoting social and political change. King asserts that literature has the power to challenge societal norms, raise awareness about injustices, and inspire readers to take action. This idea is further supported in "Reading for Peace: Literature as Activism" by Shady E. Crosogrove, where the author discusses how literature can contribute to creating peaceful societies by promoting empathy and understanding. The articles emphasize the importance of literary activism in effecting change and inspiring readers to become actively engaged in addressing social issues.

In relation to these concepts, "The Ministry of Utmost Happiness" by Arundhati Roy and "The Sympathizer" by Viet Thanh Nguyen serve as exemplary novels that incorporate elements of literary activism. Roy's novel explores themes of social and political injustice in India, shedding light on the struggles faced by marginalized communities and the need for greater social equality. Meanwhile, Nguyen's novel delves into the consequences of war and colonization, challenging traditional narratives and offering a new perspective on history. Both novels employ storytelling techniques to highlight societal issues and evoke empathy in readers, ultimately advocating for change. Overall, these articles and novels demonstrate the power of literature in promoting activism and advocating for social change.

Through the concept of modern literary ethics developed by Dorothy J. Hale and James Phelan, we have examined literature as activism and have examined the intricacies of ethical issues in literature, with a special focus on Haruki Murakami's "Norwegian Wood." Our research has shown us the significant ways that literature may act as a catalyst for ethical participation and societal transformation. In conclusion, our examination of literature as activism through the lens of new literary ethics has underscored the transformative potential of storytelling. Through works like "Norwegian Wood," authors have the power to challenge prevailing norms, amplify marginalized voices, and inspire collective action. By grounding his analysis in the insights of Harari's "Sapiens," Nayar sheds light on the complex interplay between history, culture, and human rights, and offers a compelling call to action for a more just and equitable future. "The Human Rights in the World Community: Issues and Action" by Claude, Richard Pierre, and Burns H. Weston, analyses various issues related to human rights topics and offers suggestions on how to address them on a global scale. "The Narrative Metaphysics of Human Rights" by Langlois, Anthony J, it explores human rights as a story and how stories shape our knowledge and practice of human rights. "Unclaimed Experience: Trauma, Narrative, and History" by Caruth, Cathy, it examines how traumatic events are often disjointed and unstructured, and how

this affects how people tell stories about their past. The articles by Claude, Weston, Langlois, and Caruth provide a deeper understanding of the ethical and narrative aspects of human rights and trauma in literature. By exploring the interconnectedness of storytelling, activism, and human rights, we can see how literature can be a powerful tool for raising awareness and advocating for social change. This combined analysis highlights the importance of ethical storytelling and the potential for literature to inspire empathy, understanding, and action in addressing social injustices and promoting human rights. Overall, these works demonstrate the capacity of literature to serve as a platform for activism and ethical engagement in shaping a more just and equitable world.

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