

A postmodernist reading of the Epic Sci-Fi poetry, *Adventures of Two captains*

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Article Detail:	Abstract
<p>Received: 01 Sep 2024; Received in revised form: 02 Oct 2024; Accepted: 08 Oct 2024; Available online: 14 Oct 2024</p> <p>©2024 The Author(s). Published by International Journal of English Language, Education and Literature Studies (IJEEL). This is an open access article under the CC BY license (https://creativecommons.org/licenses/by/4.0/).</p> <p>Keywords— Literature, English Literature, American Literature, Interdisciplinary studies, Adventures of two captains, post-modernism studies</p>	<p><i>Among the works that consider political and social narratives, one can refer to the book "The Adventures of Two Captains," which also represents a kind of postmodern exploration. This work is intertwined with literary techniques, which is one of its prominent features, and serves as a bridge between science fiction stories, utopianism, and critical theories of international relations. However, it should be stated that the mentioned book aims at deconstructing modernist approaches to literature and the power structures that are used while defining global politics. The authors of this work, Elias Aghili and Paul John Amrod, while using epic storytelling intertwined with dystopian and utopian elements, have also used rich literary traditions from both Eastern and Western cultures in this direction. In this regard, this review analyzes the impact of the book on postmodernist discourse, exploring its noted literary techniques and broader thematic issues, especially its critique of power, identity, and narrative in terms of international relations.</i></p>

I. INTRODUCTION

Also, this book pursues an ambitious objective which is significant in this regard: to employ literature as a medium that facilitates the convergence of international relations and postmodernism. The authors' approach is to dissect and reframe epic narratives within a postmodern context, examining how power is constructed, subverted, and deconstructed across literary and political spaces. The central narrative of *Adventures of Two Captains* follows two characters navigating a complex web of moral, political, and social dilemmas, set against a backdrop

of intergalactic exploration and cultural exchanges between East and West.

One of the defining features of the book is its engagement with the dialectic between utopian and dystopian visions of the future. This narrative book is considered as a tool that can be used to easily research in theories of international relations. In addition, the work of these two authors reflects the postmodern rejection of great narratives, such as Enlightenment rationalism and Marxism in this regard. In addition, in this book, an attempt has been made to consider reality and its scattered, fluid, and contradictory

nature, and to highlight the multiplicity of viewpoints that form both literary and political discourses.

II. LITERATURE

The "Adventures of Two Captains" emerges as an important literary work that employs postmodernist strategies to explore complex issues of international relations, power dynamics, and narrative structures. In their epic sci-fi narrative, Aghili and Amrod weave together utopian and dystopian themes to create a space where traditional power constructs are questioned and reimagined. This echoes many of the core tenets of postmodernism, which challenges grand narratives and embraces multiplicity and ambiguity(1-3). The work positions itself within the critical frameworks of international relations, offering a deconstruction of modernist approaches, much like postmodern theorists such as Foucault and Derrida critique power, identity, and meaning in social and political contexts(4, 5). This critique becomes evident when the narrative juxtaposes characters and their evolving dilemmas, questioning how power operates across galactic and cultural boundaries(2, 6-8).

The rejection of overarching narratives is a critical element in both the postmodern discourse and the literary construct of the "Adventures of Two Captains." The text resists the deterministic and linear trajectories that often underpin Enlightenment rationalism, Marxism, and other modernist frameworks, emphasizing instead the fluidity and fragmentation of reality. This perspective is particularly relevant when analyzing U.S. exceptionalism in foreign policy, a theme explored in the article *Adventures of Two Captains' Trilogy and U.S. Exceptionalism in Their Foreign Policy: Manifestation of Think Tanks in a Literary Work*. The article highlights how the literary narrative questions dominant ideological paradigms, specifically critiquing the way power structures are framed and legitimized through political discourse, much as postmodernism critiques totalizing ideologies in literary theory(1, 3, 4, 9, 10).

In addition to its postmodern critique, the book bridges Eastern and Western traditions in a unique cultural exchange, which further complicates the text's exploration of identity and power.(2, 4) This cross-cultural dynamic reflects a broader engagement with the idea that narratives are constructed differently depending on cultural and political contexts(2). The

intergalactic exploration serves as a metaphor for the tension between these diverse global perspectives, much as the article on U.S. foreign policy explores how American exceptionalism is rooted in a Western-centric worldview that is challenged in this work. The book thus becomes a medium through which the authors explore the intersection of literature, politics, and culture, all under the postmodern lens of subverting established ideologies(5, 7, 10).

Ultimately, *The Adventures of Two Captains* employs epic storytelling not just to entertain but to provoke critical thought on international relations, narrative power, and the multiplicity of realities that define both personal and political landscapes(2-4, 7, 8). By combining rich traditions from both Eastern and Western literary histories with contemporary postmodern critiques, the authors create a compelling commentary on the fragmented nature of truth and power in the modern world(1, 3, 7, 9, 10). This approach aligns with discussions in international relations about how power is constructed and maintained, drawing connections between literary form and the political realities that shape global dynamics.

Theoretical Foundations

The main focus of this book is on the field of criticism raised in relation to postmodernist theory. In this context, the authors of the book have challenged the traditional concepts of power, identity and truth and have benefited from thinkers such as Foucault, Lyotard and Derrida in this way. The structure of the book which is characterized by a fragmented and multi-perspective narrative, exemplifies the rejection of grand narratives, reflecting both the postmodernist critique of Enlightenment universalism and the Marxist emphasis on class struggle. On the other hand, this valuable work emphasizes the politics of specificity and mentions the importance of marginalized voices that are effective in presenting a frame work for global narratives.

In relation to the concepts mentioned in the book, one of the key concepts of postmodernism can be mentioned, which is examined in this work, and it is called the idea of perspectivism, that is, the concept that all knowledge is situational and subjective. The two mentioned authors have used this concept both in literature and in international relations, and they have

proposed that no single point of view can claim the monopoly of truth. This issue is clearly seen in the context of the critique of book about Western imperialism and is also evident in alternative political and social orders, such as those found in Eastern and Near Eastern traditions.

Utopianism and Dystopianism

The focus of the book on two factors, utopian and dystopian, also shows the characteristic of the book based on the critique of modernist and postmodernist political projects. In addition, the authors of this book have used classical utopian traditions to examine and analyze the place of a just and harmonious world order. The classical utopian traditions used in this book are those found in the works of Plato, Thomas More, and Francis Bacon. On the other hand, in this book, dystopian views of the future have been used to criticize the failures of the political systems of the West and the East. The dystopian visions used in this regard are similar to those found in works such as George Orwell and Aldous Huxley.

What is important about utopia and dystopia is their mutual influence, which plays an essential role in the field of research and book review in the field of international relations. These two captains somehow had an exploration journey among different political systems and cultures, which is referred to as a metaphor for the complexities of world politics. The authors of the book have examined the various aspects of building a perfect society and in this context, they have emphasized the contradictions and tensions inherent in any effort in this regard. In addition, they emphasized the need for a comprehensive approach approved by the majority for global governance. This is most evident in the book's critique of neoliberalism, which emphasizes the need for a fairer distribution of power and resources.

Literary Techniques and Structure

The book's postmodernist sensibilities are reflected in its literary techniques. In this regard, it is necessary to know that these literary techniques include pastiche, intertextuality and metafiction. In order to challenge the reader's assumptions about power, identity, and truth, the authors of the book have used a tool called literary traditions, which include a wide range, from classic epics to modern science fiction. This allowed

authors to build a story with multiple layers. As a result, this method is a critique of the conventional lines between high and low culture in addition to being a postmodernist rejection of linear storytelling.

Another feature that differentiates this special book is the use of intertextuality. In this way, many references from a wide range of related literary works have been given in different parts of the book, which has led to the creation of a meaningful content of cultural and political interpretations. The importance of this issue is so great that it makes this book different from other works. In addition, this feature is not only a tool for the purpose of highlighting the universality of certain issues, such as the struggle for justice and equality, but also made it possible for the authors to use it to emphasize the importance of cultural exchange in shaping global narratives.

The use of metafiction, on the other hand, is another evident and noteworthy aspect of the book that can be discussed in light of the postmodernist approach it takes. Here, the writers have gone to great extent to speak directly to the reader and highlight the story's fictitious nature. Thus, the use of this technique has finally provided the possibility for the writers to properly emphasize the subjective and fragmented nature of literary and political discourses.

Overall, this book has unique qualities that set it apart from other works and make it one of the best works. In addition, understanding these distinctive features requires special attention to all the contents presented in this work from different aspects.

Themes of Power and Identity

In general, it can be pointed out that the book "Adventures of Two Captains" examines power and identity in the postmodern era. In different parts of the book, how to create it and ways to preserve it are discussed, and for this purpose, the authors have used narratives, both literary and political. In addition, how these narratives shape our understanding of the world is one of the other topics raised in this valuable work. Different approaches to power and government are shown in the book by these two captains who play their role as archetypal figures in this regard. In addition, the criticism of Western imperialism and Eastern authoritarianism in the form of the journey of these two among different political systems and

cultures has been discussed and analyzed, which is considered an important part of the book.

The mentioned book also uses the issue of identity in the field of power, which has a fundamental role in this regard. However, a challenge is raised in the field of traditional concepts of fixed and essential identities, which emphasizes the fluid and constructed nature of identity in the postmodern world and expresses the dimensions of this importance. The authors argue for an approach to identity politics that is more intersectional and nuanced, one that acknowledges the various types of oppression that overlap and impact how we comprehend the world and its events.

III. CONCLUSION

As a result, it can be concluded that *Adventures of Two Captains* is a significant and ambitious work referred by many readers. The authors of this book seek to fill the gap between literature and international relations, but they do so through a postmodernist view. In this regard, the authors have used epic and dystopian storytelling effectively and have created a rich and complex narrative through the viewpoint of postmodernism theory. Moreover, the mentioned narrative challenges the traditional concepts of power, identity and truth in an interesting way. Therefore, a new and critical approach about the challenges of the world society in the 21st century has been proposed, which is the special feature of this work, and in order to do so, the authors have used a wide range of literary traditions and political theories.

In conclusion, this book is one of the works that has significantly contributed to postmodernist literature and international relations theory by expressing valuable contents. Furthermore, its investigations into power, identity and narrative provide important insights into the complexities of global politics and readers' perception about it. Also, this valuable work emphasizes the politics of specificity and mentions the importance of marginalized voices that are effective in presenting a frame work for global narratives.

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