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ARTISTIC PSYCHOLOGISM AS A COMPONENT HARMONIZING PLOT AND COMPOSITION

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ABSTRACT

Artistic psychologism serves as a crucial mechanism in harmonizing the plot and composition of a literary work. By delving into the inner experiences, emotions, and psychological depth of characters, artistic psychologism provides a cohesive framework that aligns the narrative's structural and thematic elements. This article explores the theoretical foundations of artistic psychologism, its function in creating a seamless interaction between plot and composition, and its application in diverse literary genres.

KEYWORDS

Artistic psychologism, plot, composition, psychological realism, narrative techniques, thematic integration, literary harmony.

INTRODUCTION

In literature, the interplay between the external plot and the internal dynamics of characters forms the cornerstone of narrative coherence. A vital element in achieving this harmony is artistic psychologism, a technique that delves into the inner world of characters, exploring their emotions, thoughts, and

psychological depth. By focusing on the nuanced interplay of human experiences, artistic psychologism transforms a simple sequence of events into a profound exploration of the human condition.

The concept of artistic psychologism transcends mere character development; it shapes the plot and



composition, ensuring that every twist and turn in the story resonates with the underlying emotional and psychological realities. This approach is particularly effective in literature where the emotional or moral dilemmas of characters drive the narrative, creating a seamless connection between the thematic core and the structural framework.

This article investigates the role of artistic psychologism as a harmonizing component between plot and composition. It explores its theoretical underpinnings, narrative techniques, and its application in various genres and literary traditions. The central premise is that artistic psychologism not only enhances character authenticity but also aligns the progression of the story with the emotional and psychological undertones, resulting in a cohesive and impactful narrative.

By examining the integration of artistic psychologism in classical and modern literature, this study aims to highlight its indispensable role in enriching both the structural and thematic aspects of storytelling. This exploration also provides insights into how this technique can be adapted for contemporary storytelling mediums, ensuring its continued relevance and evolution in the literary arts.

Literature Review

Artistic psychologism, as a literary device, has been extensively analyzed in both classical and

contemporary critical studies. It is recognized as a mechanism that integrates the psychological depth of characters with the structural elements of narrative storytelling. This section reviews the theoretical and practical studies on artistic psychologism, highlighting its role in harmonizing plot and composition.

Theoretical Foundations of Artistic Psychologism

The concept of artistic psychologism has its roots in psychological realism, a literary movement that emphasizes the authentic portrayal of human emotions and psychological states. Scholars such as Mikhail Bakhtin and Lev Vygotsky have contributed to the understanding of how internal dialogues and psychological depth shape narrative structures. Bakhtin's notion of polyphony in literature underlines the importance of diverse inner voices, which enhances the multidimensionality of both characters and plots.

Friedrich Nietzsche and Sigmund Freud have also indirectly influenced the development of artistic psychologism, as their philosophical and psychoanalytic theories provided frameworks for exploring the complexities of human behavior in literature. Freud's exploration of the unconscious mind is particularly relevant, as it offers a foundation for understanding how literary characters' internal struggles mirror broader existential or societal themes.

Artistic Psychologism in Classical Literature



In classical works, artistic psychology is often the driving force behind narrative depth. Authors such as Fyodor Dostoevsky, Leo Tolstoy, and Marcel Proust are celebrated for their ability to depict the psychological intricacies of their characters. For instance, Dostoevsky's *Crime and Punishment* exemplifies how the protagonist's psychological turmoil not only shapes the plot but also provides the structural framework for the novel. Similarly, Tolstoy's *Anna Karenina* uses psychological insight to explore themes of love, betrayal, and morality, weaving the characters' internal struggles into the broader narrative.

In Western literature, Virginia Woolf and James Joyce employed stream-of-consciousness techniques to integrate artistic psychology into their modernist works. Woolf's *Mrs. Dalloway* and Joyce's *Ulysses* demonstrate how inner monologues and fragmented narratives create an intimate portrayal of characters while aligning the plot with the composition.

Artistic Psychology in Contemporary Contexts

Contemporary literature continues to employ artistic psychology as a means of deepening narrative complexity. Postmodern authors such as Haruki Murakami and Toni Morrison use this technique to explore fragmented identities and social issues. Morrison's *Beloved* exemplifies how psychology intertwines personal trauma with collective historical memory, making the psychological reality of

characters a central component of the narrative structure.

In genre fiction, artistic psychology is utilized to humanize characters in science fiction, fantasy, and mystery genres. For instance, in Margaret Atwood's *The Handmaid's Tale*, the protagonist's psychological narrative underpins the dystopian plot, aligning the structural and emotional elements of the story.

Narrative Techniques Supporting Artistic Psychology

Studies on narrative techniques emphasize the role of stream of consciousness, interior monologue, and focalization in implementing artistic psychology. Shlomith Rimmon-Kenan's work on narrative fiction highlights how shifts in narrative perspective allow readers to engage with the psychological dimensions of characters. Additionally, Wayne C. Booth discusses the importance of the implied author in shaping the psychological realism of a story.

Challenges and Critiques

While artistic psychology enhances narrative depth, it has also been critiqued for potentially overshadowing external plot development. Tzvetan Todorov argues that an overemphasis on psychological detail can disrupt the balance between plot progression and thematic exploration. Similarly, some postmodern critics view artistic psychology as a

constraint on experimental narrative forms, favoring fragmented or nonlinear structures over cohesive psychological narratives.

The scholarly exploration of artistic psychologism underscores its pivotal role in harmonizing plot and composition. Classical and contemporary studies reveal its adaptability across genres and narrative techniques, ensuring its enduring relevance in literature. However, the balance between psychological depth and external plot development remains a challenge, inviting further exploration into how artistic psychologism can evolve in modern storytelling mediums, including digital and interactive formats.

Theoretical Framework of Artistic Psychologism

Artistic psychologism is deeply rooted in psychological realism, where literary works emphasize authenticity in representing human emotions and thoughts. Key theoretical perspectives include:

1. **Psychological Depth in Literature-**Psychologism allows authors to delve into a character's motivations, dilemmas, and existential questions, creating a layered narrative structure.
2. **Narrative Techniques-**Techniques such as interior monologues, stream of consciousness, and focalization are instrumental in embedding psychologism into the narrative.

3. **Integration with Plot and Composition-**The psychological dimension is not merely descriptive but actively shapes the plot's progression and influences the structural arrangement of the composition.

Artistic Psychologism and Plot Development

1. **Motivating Actions and Decisions-**Psychologism enriches the plot by providing characters with nuanced motivations, making their decisions and actions resonate with readers.
2. **Conflict and Resolution-**Internal conflicts often mirror external plotlines, creating a dual-layered narrative. This interweaving of internal and external conflicts enhances the plot's complexity and depth.
3. **Temporal Dynamics-**The psychological states of characters often dictate the pacing and sequencing of events, ensuring that the plot unfolds in alignment with emotional and thematic needs.

Artistic Psychologism and Composition

1. **Structural Coherence-**Psychologism aligns the narrative's structural elements by ensuring that each component, from exposition to climax, reflects the psychological journey of characters.
2. **Thematic Integration-**Themes such as love, alienation, and identity find a natural expression in the psychological layers of the narrative, enriching the composition's overall impact.



3. Symbolism and Imagery-The use of symbols and imagery often stems from the psychological landscape, bridging abstract ideas with tangible narrative elements.

Case Studies

1. Psychologism in Classic Literature-In works such as Dostoevsky's Crime and Punishment, psychologism is central to harmonizing the protagonist's inner turmoil with the overarching narrative structure.

2. Modern Applications-Contemporary authors utilize psychologism to navigate complex themes like mental health and societal expectations, creating multifaceted compositions.

CONCLUSION

Artistic psychologism is a vital literary device that harmonizes the internal world of characters with the external structure of a narrative. By offering a deep psychological perspective, it bridges the plot and composition, ensuring that events and actions resonate with the emotional and thematic fabric of the story. This technique enriches storytelling by allowing readers to explore the complexities of human experience, making narratives not only engaging but also profoundly relatable.

Through the integration of artistic psychologism, plots gain depth and authenticity, as characters' inner

conflicts, motivations, and transformations align seamlessly with the storyline. Similarly, composition benefits from the structural coherence brought about by the psychological dimensions of the narrative, where each element—from imagery to pacing—reflects and reinforces the characters' internal journeys.

In classical literature, artistic psychologism has demonstrated its capacity to elevate narratives into timeless explorations of the human condition, as seen in the works of Dostoevsky, Tolstoy, and Woolf. In contemporary contexts, it continues to adapt, shaping narratives in modern genres and media while preserving its core function: harmonizing the structural and emotional elements of a story.

As storytelling evolves in the digital age, artistic psychologism remains a cornerstone of narrative artistry, capable of enriching experiences across traditional and emerging platforms. Its ability to align the emotional and intellectual components of a story ensures its enduring relevance in literature and beyond, promising new possibilities for engaging and meaningful storytelling.

Future studies could explore how artistic psychologism is applied in interactive media, digital narratives, and transmedia storytelling, providing further insights into its transformative potential in modern literary and cultural contexts.



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