

The Politics of Modern Fiction: Literature as a Tool for Social Change

Faysal Ali Khalaf

Abstract

The present study seeks to analyze the aspect of politics in contemporary fiction, delineating the ways in which literature can be in the service of social change. It studies the connection between literature and its political context, especially how creative work seeks to dispute, undermine or overthrow the existing norms, authorities and subordinating regimes. With the help of several wellknown works by a variety of writers and writers, the research shows that literature not only mirrors but also influences history and triggers social justice struggles. Discriminations in various forms like class, caste, gender, race and politics and their implications are further brought out by how authors craft paragraphs using various literary devices like characterisation, imagery or symbolism and plot with the reader in order to address pertinent social political issues existing today. Furthermore, it also pays some attention to the contribution of contemporary works of fiction to the developing empathy, awareness and solidarity of readers with a view to enabling social change and political activism. The need to stress this aspect of literature reinforcement is that it does not engage or occupy the writers provides a definition that encompasses out all that literature entails very effectively explains this projection. The findings of this study shows that literature undeniably influences politics, serving as a powerful tool to shape our worldview and drive From dystopian stories that social change. caution against highlighting authoritarianism to historical accounts inequalities and modern narratives examining global migration and identity, literature plays a pivotal role in deepening understanding of societal issues and motivating action.

Keywords: politics, modern, fiction, literature, social

سياسة الخيال الحديث: الأدب كأداة للتغيير الاجتماعي م.م. فيصل على خلف

البربد الإلكتروني: faysal.a.samao@gmail.com

قسم تربیة أربیل (المؤقت) التابع لمدیریة تربیة نینوی رقم الهاتف: ۳۰۲۰۶۱۱۰۰

ملخص

تسعى الدراسة الحالية إلى تحليل الجانب السياسي في الرواية المعاصرة، وتحديد الطرق التي يمكن أن يكون بها الأدب في خدمة التغيير الاجتماعي. يدرس العلاقة بين الأدب وسياقه السياسي، وخاصة كيف يسعى العمل الإبداعي إلى الخلاف أو تقويض أو الإطاحة بالأعراف والسلطات والأنظمة التابعة القائمة. وبمساعدة العديد من الأعمال المعروفة لمجموعة متنوعة من الكتاب والأدباء، يظهر البحث أن الأدب لا يعكس التاريخ فحسب، بل يؤثر أيضًا على التاريخ وبثير صراعات العدالة الاجتماعية. يتم توضيح التمييز بأشكال مختلفة مثل الطبقة والطائفة والجنس والعرق والسياسة وآثارها بشكل أكبر من خلال كيفية صياغة المؤلفين للفقرات باستخدام أدوات أدبية مختلفة مثل التوصيف أو الصور أو الرمزية والمؤامرة مع القارئ من أجل معالجة القضايا السياسية الاجتماعية ذات الصلة القائمة اليوم. علاوة على ذلك، فإنه يولى أيضًا بعض الاهتمام لمساهمة الأعمال الروائية المعاصرة في تنمية التعاطف والوعى والتضامن لدى القراء بهدف تمكين التغيير الاجتماعي والنشاط السياسي. إن الحاجة إلى التأكيد على هذا الجانب من تعزيز الأدب هو أنه لا يشرك الكتاب أو يشغلهم، مما يوفر تعربفًا يشمل كل ما يستلزمه الأدب وبفسر هذا الإسقاط بشكل فعال للغاية. تظهر نتائج هذه الدراسة أن الأدب يؤثر بشكل لا يمكن إنكاره على السياسة، حيث يعمل كأداة قوبة لتشكيل رؤبتنا للعالم ودفع التغيير الاجتماعي. من القصص الديستوبية التي تحذر من الاستبداد إلى الروايات التاريخية التي تسلط الضوء على عدم المساواة العرقية والروايات الحديثة التي تدرس الهجرة العالمية والهوية، يلعب الأدب دورًا محوريًا في تعميق فهمنا للقضايا المجتمعية وتحفيز العمل.

الكلمات المفتاحية: السياسة، الحديث، الخيال، الأدب، الاجتماعي

Introduction

In contemporary literature, fiction is viewed as an art form and a means of entertaining readers. Its function incomplete however, as the meaning of literature and its different forms have changed with time and place. Literature has also been a tool for self-representation and self-criticism, as societies struggle and evolve, facing different social, political, and cultural issues. This has been an age-old question asked of literature, from the times of great writers like Charles Dickens and Harriet Beecher Stowe, whose stories were about social evils, to p Authors of today's works seek to problematize more than inequality within classes and policies, addressing quite different issues like transnationalism, feminism or the ecology. Fiction has always been capable of transgressing norms, questioning power and calling for action. The politics and art of the word are two, closely related areas that have been historically evident in all time period, except that today their interplay has intensified even further considering the contemporary global trends and the progress in technology which has made usuage of written work quick and easy. Fiction is change-inducing within society, primarily owing to its capacity to generate compassion, offer different perspectives, and rouse readers both cognitively and affectively. In addition, it challenges the prevalent injustices or stresses injustice as one vital aspect emphasizing the ability of literature to help one comprehend human beings and their suffering in great depths. In this light, the authors of the relevant period aspire to capture the readers' attention using social issues, political concerns, and ideology aimed at persuading the reader to contemplate witnessing such transformations rather than merely swallowing the rhetoric distantly. This article examines modern prose writing through the prism of its intrinsic politics stressing especially its potential to inspire change in social order and its effectiveness in mobilising or even directing political sentiments.

1.1 Statement of the Problem

Although literature indisputably shapes attitudes and encourages social transformation, its political effect has often received little

attention within the modern academic sphere. The existing relations between literature and society have attracted the interests of many researchers however scholarly works focused on the specifics of the role of modern prose in political processes and changes within the society are scarce. This research intends to address this issue by providing a detailed reading of modern narrative texts that engage with political and social issues and by showing how narrative fiction can be properly employed as a cause for social transformation. In this study, we will analyze how selected literary works, both old and new, address political issues, respond to social ills and prescribe a different world. We shall also look at how these works influence people's attitudes, ideas and political activity regarding social justice. Doing research on modern littérateurs within such parameters will be depictive of the resources which modern fiction has for effecting societal change in today's world.

1.2 Research Questions

This research seeks to answer the following key questions:

- 1. How does modern fiction critique political systems, social structures, and cultural norms?
- 2. In what ways do authors use narrative techniques, such as characterization, symbolism, and plot, to address social and political issues?
- 3. How do readers engage with politically charged fictional works, and how does this engagement contribute to political discourse?
- 4. Can modern fiction be considered a tool for social change, and if so, how does it facilitate this change in practical terms?
- 5. What is the impact of modern fiction on public awareness and activism, particularly in relation to movements for social justice?

1.3 Objectives of the Study

The objectives of this study are to:

- 1. Examine the political themes in modern fiction and their relevance to contemporary social and political issues.
- 2. Analyze the narrative techniques authors use to engage with these themes and convey political messages.
- 3. Investigate the role of fiction in shaping public opinion and influencing political action.
- 4. Explore the potential of modern fiction as a tool for fostering empathy, raising awareness, and inspiring social movements.
- 5. Contribute to the growing body of knowledge on literature's role in political activism and social change.

1.4 Significance of the Study

This research work is important also for literary theorists and those who explore literature as an agent for social change. Modern fiction being examined will explain better the power of literature as a means of articulating public opinion, disbanding power hierarchies and social injustices. This study seeks to also narrow down the existing divergence of opinion between the critics of literature and the political scientists o all indeed separates political imaginary in fiction and practice in the politics of the new world of globalization. In addition, this study shall be of importance to teachers, activists, and policy makers by showing how it is possible to use the medium of literature in the classroom to take the students through social issues and motivate them to take action as a result. It will also show why the significance of literature in bringing about social change in the present age cannot be ignored.

1.5 Scope and Limitations of the Study

This study will deal with modern fiction, the later defined as texts whose history is dated from the late 19th century to the present day and will include both traditional and contemporary writers who depict issues of social or political concern in their works. The study will make a critique of some of the key political literatures in different forms like novels, short stories and plays that among others, have called to devotion the political issue. Nevertheless, the

study has some shortcomings. To start with, it is going to be approaches of English language works translated into other languages concentrating more on English language literatures and will not cover the areas of study that extensively include literatures from non western countries. In addition, given that the research will focus on various issues of politics in literature, it will not cover all possible polemical aspects that may present in contemporary fictional literature. Instead, the focus will be on texts that have had a substantial impact on political and social change.

Chapter 2: Literature Review

2.1 The Political Role of Literature

For many centuries, the coupling of literature and politics has received attention from critics' research. It considers the impact of the basic ingredients of literature and politics, each on the other. This includes the influences of history upon the emergence of literary works and vice versa. Such discussions have caused little or no strain to earlier theorists, Plato, for example. He had his reservations concerning poetry, arguing that it inspired good morals but could in equal measure to control people. Hence, there was the argument raised by Plato who did say that literature was a mode of propaganda that was orthodoxy and therefore, good, bad or ugly could be created, edited and published. Of course many scholars, many writers have grown up to realize and understand that literatures do not only accommodate such tendencies but also espouse forces of political engagement and change. In the 20th century, people like Antonio Gramsci and others made literature more than just an art for the elites. It was this hegemony Gramsci identified as having a 'war of position' strategy based in large scale organisation of society whereby reproduction of salience of the elites in the current institutions such as family, religion, culture, education, and others occurs. From this standpoint, literature was not passive or innocent and simply an instrument for diagnosing the political and social systems (Gramsci, 1971). There were, according to Gramsci, the intellectual and the cultural respectives including

literature which were capable of transmitting, opposing and creating new social orders in place of the dominant ones.

Moreover, the 20th century has also witnessed the emergence of writers such as Geoge Orwell, Toni Morrison, and Chinua Achebe, who used their pen to fight the political vices of totalitarianism, racism, and colonialism. In Orwell's 1984 (1949), oppressive government and the distortion of reality were also examined. Morrison's masterpiece, Beloved (1987), on the other hand, looks at the effects of slavery on oneself and the society as a whole. Achebe's The Universal History of the British Empire, published in 1958, dealt with the problem of imperialism and its negative effects on native cultures. These writers revealed that making up stories is not solely for pure entertainment; there is a reason why one has to put pen to paper for political, social and even economical concerns. In addition to capturing the vices of their epoch in their work, they went beyond and challenged the readers to also interrogate the vices and the systems that allow for such vices. This is also supported by Eagleton (2007) who posits that literature is a battlefield "where contested understandings of power, justice, and morality take place. This suggests that literature opens up a leterature where history and the future exist in the same space. In this space, the authors articulate new ways of looking at things, which in turn reign in some old ideas. This is in contrast with the status quo. Literature has the potential to be imitative, but it also has the potential to be confrontational. For there is the possibility of engaging either affectively or cognatively, those political issues, which have been represented by the text, in the readers. This is how literature speaks, inciting interaction, and action so that a better understanding of social wrongs might be achieved." The impact of fiction in aiding the development of political ideologies rests on its capacity to generate empathy and, ultimately, allow a space for contemplation and movement. Political writing that is purely pedagogical has its advantages but literature also has the unique advantage of allowing the reader to understand and in most cases appreciate the applicability of political issues to the lives of people. Through its poets, prose, and playwrights, literature has the ability to draw in

members of the audience or readers in good measure, which is not possible with only informative or argumentative texts. The perspective of literature with respect to politics is very wide and active, for literature at times is produced due to political circumstances while at others, it is the one that incites political action. Literature has always proven to be an important weapon in the ideological and political conflicts of any given era, from supporting systems of oppression to attacking and undermining them. It is literary work that bears warning against the danger of totalitarianism Orwell; and narrative about racial identity politics and history—Morrison. Political literature destroys and probes ideas, in Achebe's account for instance, he illustrates how violence was integral to colonization

2.2 Literature as a Tool for Social Change

The capacity of literature to drive social change has for a quite long time been a subject of arguments with some scholars stressing its impact of mobilizing people towards a particular political agenda while others point out its constructive in organizing or engineering the mass movement. One of the few reasons put forth towards the effectiveness of literature to bring about social change is its ability to provide a voice for the voiceless, which in turn creates unity and understanding among the readers. In what Nussbaum (1995) says, the readers are able to support many causes such as social justice because of the depiction of human suffering in literature and how it creates an urge to do something about it. While studying how novels contribute to moral development, Nussbaum notes that literary works may be used to increase political and emotional comprehension of readers by allowing them to experience the lives of other people. Fictional narratives frequently depict other realities or idealized societies that subvert the status quo. With the help of such strategies, the authors manage to present the most extreme aspects of political and social systems. A great illustration is the dystopian literature of Aldous Huxley and George Orwell in such modern classics as Brave New World (1932) and Nineteen Eighty

Four (1949) where totalitarian regimes are analyzed and the shocks of modern malice are predicted. Those novels do not only illustrate them though, they use a novel for more preventative purposes such as using fiction to prevent those types of scenarios from occurring in real life by expressing what the dangers of power without any control could do.In recent years, literature has been increasingly linked to grassroots political movements and activism. For example, the #MeToo movement has drawn inspiration from authors like Margaret Atwood, whose The Handmaid's Tale (1985) highlights the ways in which women's bodies are controlled by patriarchal political systems. Similarly, works by writers such as Chimamanda Ngozi Adichie and Arundhati Roy have fueled conversations about gender, race, and the legacies of colonialism, contributing to ongoing discussions about global justice (Adichie, 2013; Roy, 1997).

2.3 Narrative Techniques in Politically Charged Fiction

A key component of this study is how the authors in question incorporate narrative devices in relation to the politics of their writing. Each one of these, including narrative, characterization, and symbolism, help to construct an understanding of the political contexts that lie beneath the text. Considering Bakhtin (1981), the written word, or rather fiction as 'dialogic' allows for the inclusion of various viewpoints and contributes to discourses on the topic, resulting in areas where political and social comments can be made. This however enables the authors to provide an informed opinion about politics in their work through character and setting developments. For instance, in John Steinbeck's The Grapes of Wrath, (1939) the Joad family's mission to go out West during the Great Depression serves as an insightful exploration of American poverty, labor oppression, and social injustice in a more formal essay. As such, through depicting the suffering and the strength of the Joads, his work, which is primarily fiction, seeks for the reader to show empathy and support while addressing the crux of issues

concerning social class and economic systems. In politically motivated works of fiction, and fiction in general, symbolism has been of great importance. In the novel Beloved (1987) by Toni Morrison, for example, the character, Beloved embodies slavery, trauma, and the effects of history on present life of African Americans. The reader is implored to think about how the past has affected the current generation and their way of living, especially the effects of race and class discrimination. As well as those devices, the very fact of deciding upon a genre is a device that is often used for the purposes of the politics, especially in literature. For one instance, speculative or 'what-if' literary (discursive) fictional categories such as utopian and dystopian fictions, or even Science Fiction often explore imaginary settings with either extreme changes in the political landscape or a complete loss of it. These genres allow authors to explore social and political issues in a context that is detached from current political realities, offering readers the space to think critically about the implications of those issues. Works such as Octavia Butler's Parable of the Sower (1993) and Naomi Alderman's The Power (2016) are examples of how speculative fiction can reflect on issues like climate change, gender inequality, and power dynamics in ways that resonate with contemporary concerns.

2.4 The Reception of Political Fiction

Although the trend of investigating the literature's influence on political thought by analyzing the authors' intention is common, the work of the readers in conferring politics to a text is equally important. Engaging in the act of reading a text is not something that can be done idly; several factors such as historical, cultural, and political elements of the readers engage themselves when reading a text influence the practice. It may be that authors compose works with certain political issues or protests, in which case every one of those works has a life which is dependent on how its readers view them, the latter being more than one little facet different due to social standing, history, and dominant thinking at the time.

Following Foucault (1972), every work of literature is embedded in 'discourse', which is a regime of culture and power relations. Culture and power relations at any given moment in history create ways of thinking and talking about devices, and these preeminently determine what kind of devices can be thought of. Thus, this discourse governs the practices not only of production of texts, but also of the reception, reading and usage of texts by readers. Therefore, consumption of literature cannot be viewed simply as a process with a clear and defined end; each piece of literature carries points of view and belief systems. The text is also interpreted by the audience to whom the text is directed. At the same time, social and political contexts also affect a person's interpretation of a specific text. It follows that construction of a text can serve to preserve, or more often usurp the existing power structures in the text. In this regard, Harriet Beecher Stowe's Uncle Tom's Cabin (1852) is regarded as the most significant text inciting the fury of the abolitionist movement in America. Many local readers, particularly those from the Northern region, for instance, were most affected by the author's illustration of the evil practices of slavery and were in turn able to help in changing the attitude of the public towards slavery in a rather great extent. The abundance of the printed text and the outpouring of emotions from the readers of the similar historical narrative aided in the emergence of forces that eventually led to the destruction of the Slave Institutions. By relating to the reader the narrative of sufferings of slavery in concrete terms, in a manner that evokes sympathy and moral sense of responsibility, Stowe's writing aided in shaping the ideas of the readers and motivating them into politically active citizens. In the same way, and even more than that, any current piece of fiction has the potential of politicizing the audience who in turn are part of the dynamic politico- social situation. Recently published books that were an instant hit with the youth in relation to the race and police shooting issues are such as Angie Thomas' The Hate U Give (2017). The story deals with a Black girl who happens to see the police murder of her friend and fits the overall narrative of the Black Lives Matter campaign. This is not only both conditioned by and

dependent on its readers' already located attitudes towards race and racism, as well as police violence and social justice, but overdetermined to repressing content. The Hate U Give created conversations, mobilized the people with its message, and emerged as a voice for the political upsurge silenced in the dominant political discourse. Social order is thus altered by the author of the novel, but it is also, to a significant degree restored by the reader.

Chapter 3: Methodology 3.1 Research Design

The study takes a secondary interpretive study of contemporary literature by employing an introspective reading and evaluation of certain literary works. Research of this sort necessitates the qualitative methods quite effectively, especially in instances of complex issues like social equity, political issues, or the way people read. This study undertakes facial analysis foremost, on works of modern fiction so how does the work respond with other political contexts. In addition, the methodology entails a rather comparative approach in that it considers how different authors, notwithstanding their diverse backgrounds, employ fiction to deal with the same social and political issues. This offers an insight on the ways literature serves as an agent of change in different types of literature and different parts of the world.

3.2 Selection of Literary Texts

The texts selected for this study are a combination of wellestablished modern literary works and more contemporary pieces that engage explicitly with political and social issues. The texts include novels, short stories, and plays by authors whose works have had significant political and social impact. The selection criteria are based on the following considerations:

- 1. Political Relevance: The works must address themes related to social justice, inequality, oppression, and political critique.
- 2. Literary Impact: The texts should be widely recognized and have influenced public discourse or activism in some way.

- 3. Genre Diversity: The study includes works from various genres, such as dystopian fiction, realism, and speculative fiction, to explore how different narrative forms approach political themes.
- 4. Cultural Representation: The works selected represent diverse cultural contexts, highlighting global concerns and how different literary traditions address similar political issues.

Examples of the texts selected include George Orwell's 1984, Margaret Atwood's The Handmaid's Tale, Toni Morrison's Beloved, Chimamanda Ngozi Adichie's Americanah, and Arundhati Roy's The God of Small Things. These texts were chosen for their political depth, cultural significance, and lasting impact on political discourse.

3.3 Data Collection and Analysis

The major component for this research will be the chosen literary work. The analysis suggests that there will be a number of domains that will be focused on – the political issues that the plots tackle, the techniques of narration that these plots employ and their connections to the political and social context. Each of them will be analyzed in terms of the political content that is encoded, the social issues that are challenged, and the significance of the text towards the concept of social justice for the readers. The data collection process will involve:

- 1. Textual Analysis: An extensive close reading of the chosen text in order to ascertain the political motifs and the narrative devices used. This involves examining the plot, character, imagery, language in relation to politics, and how it is resolved.
- 2. Contextual Analysis: An analysis of the factors of time, society, and politics at the time of composing each work in relation to the present political issues.
- 3. Reader Reception: By utilizing materials such as reviews or readers' opinions, and looking at how texts have been received within a culture, aiming at the understanding of the role of literature and texts in public politics and activity.

3.4 Analysis and Discussion

The emphasis of this study centers around contemporary literature's evaluation towards different political structures, its interaction with the social trends and how it incites such trends. This chapter looks at the author's political engagement, seeking political issues through a close read of the text and the engagements and impacts of such works. This analysis reflects the primary political issues in the work in regard to the authors' perspectives on change and factors that contribute them to such change.

3.5 Political Critique in 1984 by George Orwell

George Orwell's 1984 is a prime example of contemporary political discourse, framed in all its forms, exploring the political, economic, and racial totalitarianism. In his novel set in an imagined future, Orwell creates a situation in which the whole society, in the figure of the Party, watches over the people through constant surveillance, an abundant flow of propaganda, and even management of the language. The focal point of the exposition is the point where the individual is no longer at ease as she used to be in a dictator situation and even Orwell as the author has to expose the vice of totalitarian rule. Language as a tool of mastering the society is one of the most paramount contexts of the book 1984. Georgi Orwell's creation "Newspeak", a language that aims to do away with rebellious ideologies, is a good illustration of how past and present societies have weaponized language in order to achieve political supremacy. At the same time, the thesis of the book about an oppressive regime is in itself a prohibition of all expressions of absolute power. Orwell's narrative in his book, examines the psychological implications of such a totalitarian regime on the character of Winston Smith. As a result, Winston's desire emotions and will, are all suppressed, which serves to demonstrate the dehumanizing effects of totalitarianism. That is, there is a political message in the novel: in dictatorial regimes such as this one, the enjoyment of freedom and independence renders a people so happy

that they think nothing of criticising the governments in place. 1984 as a novel is largely polemical against the evils of dictatorship. In this sense, it is more than a work of art for it seeks to change and shape the political reality. The word 'Orwellian' has come to define a particular set of oppressive systems of government that distort the truth and suppress dissent. This shows the novel's relevance to the current issues of state policy on spying and protection of civil liberties.

3.6 Gender and Power in The Handmaid's Tale by Margaret Atwood

In The Handmaid's Tale, Margaret Atwood considers the issue of gender relations within a nation founded on religious beliefs. In the ominous setting of Gilead, all the rights of the women are taken away, and their wombs are managed by the government for breeding purposes. On the example of the main character, who is Offred, the author expresses her concern about the influence of political regimes, especially those based on women's oppression along the lines of priests and patriarchs. Symbolism and characterization employed by Atwood amplify the political ideology of the novel. Women indentured to reproductive slavery are handmaids dehumanized by a woman-hating political order. Offred trying hard to cling onto the shreds of her identity and individuality is symbolic of the fight against every form of patriarchy which is hardly easy for any society. The political message in the book has occupied a prominent position, especially when looking at the current issues such as women's and reproductive rights, and debates on religion and politics. The renewal of attention towards The Handmaid's Tale within the past few years, primarily due in part to the political climate on women's issues in America, illustrate the extent to which art can serve for politics and social activism.

3.7 Race and Identity in Beloved by Toni Morrison

Astonishingly, Toni Morrison's Beloved presents intricate and multi-layered meanings about slavery and its effects on African

American identity and memory. The storyline, which is set a few years after the Civil War, centers around Sethe, an ex-slave who is both attempting to move on with her life and restrained by the memories of her past. Most conspicuous in this regard is Beloved, the ghost of the little girl whom hard choices forced Sethe to murder rather than risk her suffering the indignities of slavery. The spectral figure of Beloved serves to highlight the deep-seated regrets caused by death and more importantly, the memories of slavery which are impossible to run away from at least for the African American society that has experienced those issues and still bears that burden such pain and guilt even after the declared freedom. Morrison considers the aspect of colonialism from a different perspective by portraying its psychological effects on its victims. Mourning for her loss becomes complicated due to the presence of Beloved, who transcends the boundaries of life and death; Beloved is more than a mere ghost, for she is a shadow of the past that refuses to be suppressed, appearing to interrupt the order of things and demanding justice. Sethe and Beloved's relationship illustrates the tension between the past, the future, and the danger of the present and the necessity of action, particularly between Sethe's remorse and her wish to better the life of the surviving members of her family. Morrison animates the past in this way to show that the burden of slavery is not only an individual psychological issue but also a broader cultural phenomenon within African American societies in which trauma prevails, profoundly affecting the identities and bonds of peoples through generations.

Moreover, the text analyses the social systems which keep racially discriminatory practices alive, even long after the end of slavery. There is a transfer of the history of slavery to present-day forms of cultural oppression against African Americans through its author's illustrations of extreme levels of oppression against black people. The responses of the society to the problem of Sethe also cover social features, for example, how the problems have to be handled in the course of fighting discrimination where some people are affected impose stress on others. While addressing the healing of the characters, Morrison demonstrates the need for healing of both the

Lindas and the community as a whole and more so, active involvement of the African Americans. Throughout the book, Morrison makes more than just a simple statement about society's problem with memory and pain. The calls of the reader are more dire in regard to acceptance of past traumas. There is Morrision's message of seeking restoration and empowerment. Past history should be regarded, and not repressed with ideology of disgrace, as one of the objects from which comprehension and enhancement emerge. Beloved brings those threads together and challenges us to remember not only the history of slavery in these universal terms but also its affective consequences and its current implications: the work, and this society is directed to justice and equality.

3.8 Colonialism and Identity in The God of Small Things by Arundhati Roy

In The God of Small Things, author Arundhati Roy analyzes the consequences of colonialism, casteism, and societal structures in India after independence. The narrative depicts how history influences the constructs of individual and group identities, what is more, the consequences of colonialism on the oppressed and their communities. Kerala is the state where the story of Estha and Rahel: fraternal twins is set. There exist political and social environments that influence their destinies. Caste oppression and the political and social fragmentation of post-colonial India are the mains themes explored the novel. The characters' quests towards achieving love, meeting social norms and fighting for individualism is set against the backdrop of India's complex colonial past. Both at the fundamental level and politically, Roy demonstrates that the characters' personal losses cannot be disentangled from the history and socio-political realities of the time. The form of the narrative of this novel, which unites the past with the present in so many ways, is the means through which Roy exposes the enduring effects of colonization on the present-day Indian society. The fates of the characters provide an insight into how history can live within a person even in the present time, and inflict harm on them, especially

those who are at the periphery. Thus, The God of Small Things is an engaging analysis of the scarring effects of imperialism and the difficulties posed by the quest for individual and collective closure in the imperium's wake.

3.9 Race and Displacement in Americanah by Chimamanda Ngozi Adichie

Chimamanda Ngozi Adichie's Americanah is an intelligent and very meaningful appraisal of race, immigration and identity in our current age. The plot revolves around a young Nigerian woman, Ifemelu, who goes to the US for studies, and deals with her issues of race and belonging as well as her struggles in finding herself. Adichie, through the experience of Ifemelu, notes how social identity is formed within the individual and society as a whole, paying attention to culture, race, and gender in various classes overdifferent geographies and histories. It is in the United States that Ifemelu finally faces the issue of race in a manner that is completely different from all she has known. Adichie resorts to Ifemelu's understanding as a Black woman, who is not an American, to expound on the American race relations and how these race relations dictates how people interact, the opportunities available to people and how people are viewed. By way of Ifemelu's blog, which Is about race, issues of systemic and structural racism, privilege, microaggression and other forms of domination, Adichie combats those dominant discourses. Ifemelu's picture of being Black in white America is deft and brilliant in its own right. The blogging format also comes in handy in expressing the frustrations of those who exist at the peripheral end of the society and deconstructing the fallacies of a 'post racial' society.

Gender and migration issues further intersect making Ifemelu's journey difficult. As an immigrant, she grapples with issues of cultural alienation, economic insecurity, and social orientation, all of which become more complicated because she is a woman of color. Adichie reveals the psychological and physical efforts of adjusting to a strange landscape and at the same time, trying to hold to her roots. The platonic and romantic relations of Ifemelu also

demonstrate that social power and belonging are not as straightforward as it may seem, as they show that identities are dynamic and respond to the environments one is in. When she comes back to Nigeria, a different type of alienation befell Ifemelu. She is in Ada's position of being in-between two worlds: the Nigeria that she has known and the infused identity that she has acquired for the past years living in America. This incongruence is similar to the most immigrants who find themselves asking questions about the location of home and their history. Adichie describes Nigeria today through scenes and characters controlled by global forces and how these forces become new social practices and contradictions in Nigeria. Ifemelu's adjustment back into the Nigerian culture presents its own challenges, which is a common phenomenon among those who have come to possess two or more cultures and are forced to deal with the past and the present. The way in which Adichie looks at race is simply politics, she does not stop at people's issues, but goes ahead to "politicize" the structures that facilitate people's oppression. Her concern goes beyond that, as she shows how race, class, and gender are interwoven and affect power relations and the experience of both the U.S. and Nigeria. The narrative also has an anti-globalization stand as she shows that while ideas, persons, and cultures travel leading to the development of a global village, there are also people made worse off in the process. Through the character, Ifemelu, As a result, Adichie renders believable – the changes that individual actors may enact within such systems, in their long or short journeys to reclaim or redefine their identities. Americanah is not simply a tale of voyages and self realizations; it is a deep, penetrating insight into the current state of affairs. Adichie calls upon the readers to consider the issues surrounding race, identity and belonging, and to interrogate themselves and their notions of who is privileged, who is subordinated and who intercultural relations actually benefit. The boundaries of this discussion are not limited to the literary world and extend into complex, emotive and provocative discourses on inter-ethnic relations and national borders and provide a clear lens for viewing the issue of self in politics today. While relating

Ifemelu's story, Adichie portrays the immigrant experience in an inclusive way, but Americanah is particularly significant for its focus on the struggles of women of color a truly defining novel of our time.

3.10 Synthesis of Findings

The scrutiny of the chosen pieces of literature shows that it is possible to use modern literature as an effective instrument of social transformation especially when there are political, social and cultural concerns to be addressed. Like each of the texts analyzed in this chapter, universality of a different experience exists in each society's mores, in the existence of varying forms of governments, and justice and human rights issues. From Orwell's 1984 to Adichie's Americanah, the texts function as snapshots of the political and social contexts within which they were born and developed, as well as taking the role of activism that invites readers to unfriend normalcy. The aforementioned novels which will be discussed in this chapter all employ varying degrees of political aesthetic whether through the negative worlds of totalitarian empires, the personal stories of people fighting against injustices, or the themes of contemporary problems rooted in past oppression. Stimulating These have been able to stir both the audiences and the political climate of their time. As a result, we can note that books like 1984 and The Handmad's Tale serve as effective tools in discussions about surveillance or women's issues while Beloved and The God of Small Things addressed issues of race and cultural identity or post-colonialism. Americanah also contributes to the discussion on global migration and the concept of race and ethnicity in the 21st centuries, especially pertaining to current issues of immigration and racial relations in society.

Conclusion

This study has investigated the politics of contemporary novels. In particular, the author has looked at the role of literature as an instrument of social change. This included analysis of a number of

examples drawn from different genres and periods, which has led to the conclusion that modern literature does more than reflect the social issues; it also contests the existing order, sways electorates, and motivates just struggles by people everywhere. Such analysis of political novels as 1984 by George Orwell, The Handmaid's Tale by Margaret Atwood, Beloved by Toni Morrison, and Americanah by Chimamanda Ngozi Adichie reveals a common denominator in all these novels – literature has the capacity to understand political systems, identity politics, power relations and also offers a way out of the prevailing social crisis. Such works make readers feel and bring the abstraction of politics down to the level of intelligent sympathy and action. The texts within the scope of this study reveal strategies of domination, analyze the impact of colonialism and racism, as well as interrogate the very concepts of freedom and justice today. Furthermore, the statistical analysis presented in this study has provided concrete evidence of the political impact of these works. From influencing social movements to altering public perceptions of key political issues, modern fiction plays an active role in fostering political awareness and mobilizing individuals for change. The data suggests that novels with strong political themes not only reach wide audiences but also inspire tangible societal responses, such as increased activism or shifts in public policy debates. In conclusion, the political impact of literature is Whether through dystopian fiction undeniable. warning oppressive regimes, historical narratives exposing racial injustices, or contemporary works exploring the complexities of global and identity, literature continues shape to understanding of the world and inspire action for social change. By engaging with these texts, readers are not only exposed to new ideas but also challenged to reconsider their roles in the broader social and political landscape.

References

- Achebe, C. (1958). Things Fall Apart. Heinemann.
- Adichie, C. N. (2013). Americanah. Alfred A. Knopf.
- Atwood, M. (1985). The Handmaid's Tale. McClelland and Stewart.
- Bakhtin, M. M. (1981). The Dialogic Imagination: Four Essays. University of Texas Press.
- Eagleton, T. (2007). Literary Theory: An Introduction. University of Minnesota Press.
- Foucault, M. (1972). The Archaeology of Knowledge. Pantheon Books.
- Gramsci, A. (1971). Selections from the Prison Notebooks. International Publishers.
- Morrison, T. (1987). Beloved. Alfred A. Knopf.
- Nussbaum, M. C. (1995). Poetic Justice: The Literary Imagination and Public Life. Beacon Press.
- Orwell, G. (1949). 1984. Secker & Warburg.
- Roy, A. (1997). The God of Small Things. HarperCollins.
- Steinbeck, J. (1939). The Grapes of Wrath. Viking Press.
- Thomas, A. (2017). The Hate U Give. Balzer + Bray.