



An Analysis of Literary Studies; As Post Structural

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ABSTRAK

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This paper aims study literature through poststructural studies. This research is a type of library research, namely research whose object of study uses library data in the form of books as data sources, methods/approaches and previous research results. Post-structural is a contemporary social theory that emerged as a reaction to French structuralism which was considered to have failed to understand the existence of the subject and misunderstood the relationship between language and power. Post structural has the concept in various fields such as In Architecture and Civil Engineering, Philosophy and Social Theory, linguistics and literature, dan technology and Information Systems.

1. Background

Post-structural is a significant intellectual movement that emerged in the mid-20th century, primarily in France, as a critique and extension of structural. It developed within the disciplines of philosophy, linguistics, literary theory, and social sciences, offering a new way of understanding language, culture, and meaning. Structural, the precursor to post-structural, is based on the idea that human culture and thought can be understood through the study of underlying structures, such as language. Ferdinand de Saussure, a Swiss linguist, laid the foundation for structural by proposing that language is a system of signs, consisting of the "signifier" (the form of a word or expression) and the "signified" (its concept or meaning). Saussure's work emphasized that the relationship between signifier and signified is arbitrary and that meaning arises from differences within the system of signs.

Structural was further developed by scholars like Claude Lévi-Strauss in anthropology and Roland Barthes in literary theory. Lévi-Strauss argued that myths, kinship, and other cultural phenomena could be analyzed as systems of relations governed by universal structures. Barthes extended structural principles to the study of texts, suggesting that cultural products could be "read" as sign systems. By the 1960s and 1970s, thinkers began to challenge the assumptions of structural. They argued that structural focus on stable systems and universal structures overlooked the complexities, ambiguities, and fluidity of meaning. Post-structural emerged as a response to these perceived limitations, emphasizing the instability of meaning and the role of power, context, and subjectivity in shaping interpretation. Key figures in the post-structural movement include Jacques Derrida, Michel Foucault, Julia Kristeva, Gilles Deleuze, and Jean Baudrillard. These thinkers, while diverse in their approaches, share a skepticism toward fixed meanings and totalizing theories.



Post-structural has had a profound impact on various fields, including literary criticism, cultural studies, philosophy, and political theory. It has encouraged scholars to question traditional hierarchies, binaries, and assumptions about truth and objectivity. However, post-structural has also faced criticism. Some argue that its emphasis on ambiguity and relativism leads to intellectual paralysis, as it undermines the possibility of definitive knowledge or ethical action. Others contend that its dense and abstract language makes it inaccessible to non-specialists.

2. Methode

This research is a type of library research, which is a research whose object of study uses library data in the form of books as its data source. This research was conducted by reading, reviewing, and analyzing various existing literature.

3. Results and Discussion

Post structural In general, "post-structure" refers to something that develops or exists after a certain structure, whether in a physical, conceptual or theoretical sense. The term is often used to describe the stages, conditions, or approaches that arise after the existence of a particular structure, either as a continuation, response, or criticism of that structure. In academic, social, or technical discussions, "post-structure" usually marks a shift from the traditional focus on organized Order toward something more flexible, dynamic, or contextual. Post-structural is a contemporary social theory that emerged as a reaction to French structuralism which was considered to have failed to understand the existence of the subject and misunderstood the relationship between language and power. In contrast to structural theory which believes that meaning is fixed or absolute and that there is a structure followed by language, post-structural theory actually eliminates the influence of structure and believes that meaning is not absolute and structure is not constant. Several well-known post-structuralist theorists discussed in this book, including Derrida, Foucault and Bordieau, generally believe that meaning is always changing. Meaning is not a point, but is always a comma that continues to roll to give birth to new meanings. Structuralism tends to believe that everything has a structure, and there is a relationship between the signifier and the signified. On the other hand, post-structural theorists state that there is no constant relationship between signifier and signified.

There is no fixed structure and meaning is constantly changing. This is an interesting side of the thinking of post-structural theorists. The theory of post-structural has recently been "on the rise" because it is often used to explain problematic situations that arise in the era of postmodern society which is being pushed by the increasingly massive forces of global capitalism. As we enter the post-modern era, truth is no longer single and universalistic. Social reality, in a post-structuralist perspective, is varied and allows individuals to develop their own social constructions. Post-structural, like Jacques Derrida, Michel Foucault, and Roland Barthes, believe that language and meaning are not fixed or objective but rather are constructed through a complex interplay of power, discourse, and social context. They employ the technique of deconstruction to expose the inherent contradictions and ambiguities within seemingly stable structures.



For example, Derrida's concept of difference highlights how meaning is always deferred, never fully present. Words always refer to other words, creating an endless chain of signification. This means that meaning is never fixed but is constantly being negotiated and redefined through the process of interpretation.

a. The concept of Post Structural in various fields

i. In Architecture and Civil Engineering

Post-structural often refers to a supporting structure (such as poles or columns) that is built after the main elements are completed. This includes additional construction, renovation, or reinforcement needed to maintain stability or meet new needs. An example is the installation of additional poles in buildings to improve resistance to earthquakes or changes in the function of space.

a. Challenging the "Form Follows Function" Paradigm:

- **Meaning and Interpretation:** Post-structural emphasizes the subjective nature of meaning, suggesting that form and function are not inherently connected. A building's meaning is not solely determined by its purpose but also by its context, cultural significance, and how it is interpreted by users.

- **Beyond Utilitarianism:** This perspective moves beyond the strict focus on purely functional requirements, allowing for a more nuanced understanding of architectural design. Buildings can be seen as expressions of ideas, social values, and cultural identities, rather than just utilitarian structures.

b. Exploring the Relationship Between Architecture and Society:

- **Power and Discourse:** Post-structural highlights the influence of power dynamics on architectural design. Buildings can be seen as products of social and political forces, reflecting the values and hierarchies of the societies they inhabit.

- **Deconstructing Architectural Language:** Post-structural encourages a critical examination of the language of architecture, questioning the assumptions and conventions that shape design decisions. This can lead to innovative and unconventional approaches to architectural form and expression.

c. Embracing Complexity and Ambiguity:

- **Challenging the "Grand Narrative":** Post-structural rejects the idea of a single, unifying architectural theory or style. It encourages architects to embrace complexity, ambiguity, and multiple interpretations in their designs.

- **Creating Spaces for Dialogue:** Post-structural architecture aims to create spaces that encourage dialogue, debate, and the exploration of diverse perspectives, rather than imposing a single, predetermined meaning.

d. Examples in Architecture and Civil Engineering:

- **Deconstructivism:** This architectural movement, influenced by post-structural thought, challenges traditional notions of form and function, creating buildings with fragmented, non-linear geometries. Examples include the Guggenheim Museum Bilbao by Frank Gehry.



- Critical Regionalism: This approach emphasizes the specific context and cultural identity of a place, incorporating local materials and vernacular architectural styles, while also challenging traditional forms.
- Sustainable Design: Post-structural ideas can be applied to sustainable design practices, questioning the dominance of purely functional considerations and emphasizing the importance of social and environmental impacts in architectural decisions.

ii. In Philosophy and Social Theory

Particularly in relation to post-structural, the term refers to the theoretical approaches that emerged after structural. Post-structural rejects the idea that meaning and reality can be determined entirely by fixed structures. Rather, it emphasizes the fluidity of meaning, the importance of context, and the role of the reader or interpreter in creating meaning. Figures such as Jacques Derrida, Michel Foucault, and Roland Barthes were pioneers of this thought, with concepts such as deconstruction and power as the main focus.

a. Deconstructing Meaning and Knowledge:

- Challenging the "Center": Post-structural rejects the idea of a fixed, objective "center" of meaning or knowledge. This "center" could be a grand narrative, a universal truth, or a fixed system of interpretation.
- Language as a Construct: It emphasizes the role of language in shaping our understanding of reality. Language is not a neutral tool but a system of signs and symbols that carries inherent biases and assumptions.
- Subjectivity of Meaning: Post-structural argue that meaning is not inherent in objects or concepts but is constructed through interpretation. Different individuals and groups will interpret the same thing differently, leading to multiple, potentially conflicting meanings.

b. Power and Discourse:

- Power is Everywhere: Post-structural views power not as a fixed entity held by certain institutions or individuals but as a dynamic force operating through systems of knowledge, language, and social practices.
- Discourse as a Tool of Power: It emphasizes how discourse, or systems of knowledge, shapes our understanding of the world and reinforces existing power structures. Discourse determines what is considered "normal," "acceptable," and "true," often marginalizing or silencing alternative perspectives.
- Challenging Binary Oppositions: Post-structural challenge traditional binary oppositions (e.g., male/female, mind/body, reason/emotion) that often serve to maintain power imbalances. They argue that these binaries are socially constructed and not inherently natural.

c. Implications for Social Theory:

- Challenging Grand Narratives: Post-structural critiques grand narratives like Marxism or Freudianism, arguing that they are based on arbitrary assumptions and fail to acknowledge the complexity and fluidity of social reality.



- Focus on Difference: It emphasizes the importance of understanding social phenomena through the lens of difference, recognizing the multiplicity of experiences, identities, and perspectives within society.
- The Importance of Interpretation: Post-structural highlights the role of interpretation in shaping our understanding of social phenomena. It encourages a critical examination of the assumptions and biases embedded within social theories and research methods.

iii. In linguistics and literature

In linguistics and literary analysis, post structural refers to a shift from classical structural analysis to a more open approach. This approach examines how the structure of a text can change depending on the reader's interpretation, cultural context, or underlying ideology.

a. Deconstructing Language and Meaning:

- Language as a System of Signs: Post-structural views language not as a transparent tool for representing reality but as a complex system of signs that are inherently arbitrary and subject to interpretation.
- Challenging the "Signifier/Signified" Relationship: Traditional structural views language as a system where a signifier (word or symbol) directly corresponds to a signified (the concept or object it represents). Post-structuralism challenges this, arguing that the relationship is not fixed but fluid and constantly shifting.
- Deconstruction: This technique, popularized by Jacques Derrida, aims to dismantle the perceived stability of meaning by revealing the inherent contradictions and ambiguities within language and text.

b. The Instability of Meaning in Literature:

- Authorial Intent: Post-structural challenges the idea that the author's intention is the sole source of meaning in a text. Instead, it emphasizes the role of interpretation, recognizing that different readers will bring their own perspectives and experiences to the text, leading to multiple, potentially conflicting interpretations.
- The Reader's Role: Post-structural highlights the reader's active role in constructing meaning. The text itself is not a closed system but an open field of possibilities, inviting the reader to engage in a dynamic process of interpretation.
- Challenging the "Grand Narrative": Post-structural literary criticism rejects the idea that literature reflects a unified, objective truth or a universal human experience. It embraces the multiplicity of perspectives and the complexity of meaning within literary texts.

c. Key Concepts and Figures:

- Jacques Derrida: Deconstruction, difference (the idea that meaning is always deferred and never fully present), logocentrism (the belief in a central, absolute source of meaning).
- Roland Barthes: Semiotics (the study of signs and symbols), myth (how cultural codes and ideologies are embedded in everyday language and objects), deconstruction of cultural codes.



- Michel Foucault: Discourse analysis (how power operates through systems of knowledge and language), the archaeology of knowledge (exploring how knowledge is produced and shaped by historical and social forces).

iv. In technology and Information Systems

Post-structural can refer to the development of a data structure or system architecture after the initial planning stage is completed. This includes adaptation and optimization based on user needs or technological changes. In software development, for example, iterations and revisions after the initial prototype are part of the post-structure process.

a. Deconstructing the Digital Divide:

- Challenging Binary Thinking: Post-structural encourages us to move beyond the binary thinking often associated with technology (e.g., 0/1, on/off, user/developer). It encourages us to consider the complex social and cultural implications of technology, recognizing that it is not a neutral tool but a product of human choices and power dynamics.

- Recognizing the Social Context: Post-structural reminds us that technology is not just about code but about its impact on society. It challenges us to examine how technology reinforces existing power structures, creates new forms of inequality, and shapes our interactions with the world.

b. Rethinking Information Systems and Design:

- Beyond Functionality: Post-structural thinking encourages us to move beyond a purely functional approach to information systems design. It prompts us to consider the social, cultural, and ethical dimensions of technology, designing systems that are inclusive, accessible, and transparent.

- User-Centered Design: Post-structural aligns with user-centered design principles, emphasizing the importance of understanding the diverse needs, perspectives, and experiences of users when designing technology.

c. Exploring the Power Dynamics of Information:

- Discourse and Data: Post-structural highlights how information systems are not neutral repositories of data but are shaped by power dynamics and social structures. It encourages us to critically examine the algorithms, data sets, and platforms that shape our understanding of the world.

- Challenging Algorithmic Bias: Post-structuralism encourages us to question the inherent biases embedded within algorithms and data sets. It prompts us to develop more ethical and inclusive approaches to AI and data analysis.

b. Main Characteristics of Post-Structural

i. Rejection of Fixed Structures

One of the central characteristics of post-structural is its rejection of fixed structures. This idea challenges the foundational principles of structural, which posits that human culture, language, and social phenomena can be understood through stable and universal structures. Post-structuralism, in contrast, argues that such structures



are not as solid or permanent as they appear and that meaning and interpretation are always fluid, dynamic, and context-dependent.

a) Origins in Structural

Structural is an intellectual framework that emerged in the early 20th century, rooted in the works of Ferdinand de Saussure, Claude Lévi-Strauss, and others. Structuralists believe that human culture and language operate within fixed systems or structures. For example, Saussure proposed that language functions as a system of signs, where each sign consists of a "signifier" (the word or symbol) and a "signified" (the concept or meaning). Structural assumes that these relationships are stable and universal, making it possible to analyze cultural phenomena through their underlying structures.

However, post-structural, including thinkers like Jacques Derrida, Michel Foucault, and Julia Kristeva, questioned these assumptions. They argued that meaning is never fixed or stable and that structures are subject to change, reinterpretation, and disruption.

b) Instability of Structures

The rejection of fixed structures begins with the idea that no system of meaning—whether linguistic, cultural, or social—is entirely self-contained or immutable. Derrida's concept of *difference* illustrates this point. He argued that the meaning of a word or symbol is always deferred, as it depends on its relationship to other words within an endless chain of signification. In this sense, structures cannot be fixed because they are always in flux, shaped by context, interpretation, and the interplay of differences.

For example, consider the binary opposition of "good" and "evil." Structuralists might see this as a stable framework for understanding moral concepts. Post-structural, however, would deconstruct this binary to reveal its instability. They would argue that "good" and "evil" derive their meanings from each other and from broader cultural, historical, and social contexts. These meanings are therefore contingent and open to reinterpretation.

c) Dynamic and Contextual Nature of Meaning

Post-structural emphasizes that meaning is not universal but is instead shaped by historical, cultural, and social contexts. This perspective rejects the structuralist notion that there are universal patterns underlying all human behavior and language. Instead, post-structuralists argue that structures are created by people and institutions and are thus subject to change over time.

For instance, Michel Foucault examined how systems of knowledge and power construct "truths" that seem natural or fixed. He demonstrated that what is considered true or normal in one era may be entirely different in another, highlighting the instability of structures that govern knowledge and society.

d) Implications of Rejecting Fixed Structures

The rejection of fixed structures has profound implications for how we understand language, culture, and identity. It challenges traditional ideas of certainty, objectivity, and universality, encouraging a more nuanced and flexible approach to



interpretation. This perspective allows for the acknowledgment of diversity, multiplicity, and the influence of power and context in shaping meaning.

c. Deconstruction

Deconstruction is a critical approach developed by French philosopher Jacques Derrida in the 1960s. It is not merely a method of analysis but a way of questioning and understanding texts, concepts, and systems by uncovering their inherent contradictions, ambiguities, and instabilities. Deconstruction challenges traditional ideas of meaning, coherence, and fixed interpretations, offering a dynamic way of engaging with language and thought.

At its heart, deconstruction seeks to reveal how texts and ideas undermine their own claims to stability and meaning. It emphasizes that language, which we use to create meaning, is inherently unstable. Words and concepts are defined not by their intrinsic essence but through their relationship to other words in a system of differences. Derrida referred to this concept as *difference*, highlighting that meaning is always deferred and never fully present.

For example, consider the word "tree." Its meaning arises not from an inherent connection to the object it represents but from its difference from other words like "bush," "plant," or "forest." This reliance on context and relational meaning makes language fluid and open to multiple interpretations. Deconstruction explores this instability, showing that any attempt to fix meaning is ultimately incomplete.

4. Conclusion

Post-structural is a significant intellectual movement that emerged in the mid-20th century, primarily in France, as a critique and extension of structural. It developed within the disciplines of philosophy, linguistics, literary theory, and social sciences, offering a new way of understanding language, culture, and meaning. Post structural is a term that can have various meanings depending on the context. In general, "post-structure" refers to something that develops or exists after a certain structure, whether in a physical, conceptual or theoretical sense. Post-structural is a contemporary social theory that emerged as a reaction to French structuralism which was considered to have failed to understand the existence of the subject and misunderstood the relationship between language and power. Post structural has the concept in various fields such as In Architecture and Civil Engineering, Philosophy and Social Theory, linguistics and literature, dan technology and Information Systems.

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