OR!ENT: Journal of Islamic Studies & Culture
Volume 1, Number 01, 2025 pp. 23 - 28
P-ISSN:
SK ISSN :
Open Access:



Post Structural In Literary

Reza Aulia
UNIVERSITAS QAMARUL HUDA BADARUDDIN, NUSA TENGGARA BARAT - INDONESIA
padli@qmail.com, aulia@qmail.com

ARTICLEINFO

Article history:
Received September 19, 2024
Revised November 12, 2024
Accepted Januari 1, 2025
Available online 1 Januari, 2025

Kata Kunci: Poscolonialisme; literary

This is an open access article under the CC BY-SA license. Copyright © 2023 by Author. Published by Universitas Pendidikan Ganesha.

ABSTRAK

This article aims to explain how postcolonial theory works in analyzing literary works. This research is a type of library research, namely research whose object of study uses library data in the form of books as a data source, methods/approaches and results of previous research. 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.

1. INTRODUCTION

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

OR!ENT: Journal of Islamic Studies & Culture
Volume 1, Number 01, 2025 pp. 23 - 28
P-ISSN:
SK ISSN :
Open Access:



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. 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.

OR!ENT: Journal of Islamic Studies & Culture
Volume 1, Number 01, 2025 pp. 23 - 28
P-ISSN:
SK ISSN :
Open Access:



2. METHODE

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

3. RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

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:
   i. 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.
   ii. 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:
   i. 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.
   ii. 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:
   i. 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.
   ii. 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:
   i. 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.
   ii. 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.

OR!ENT: Journal of Islamic Studies & Culture
Volume 1, Number 01, 2025 pp. 23 - 28
P-ISSN:
SK ISSN :
Open Access:



iii. 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.

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:
   i. 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.
   ii. 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.
   iii. 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:
   i. Poweris 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.
   ii. 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.
   iii. 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:
   i. 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.
   ii. 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.
   iii. 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.

OR!ENT: Journal of Islamic Studies & Culture
Volume 1, Number 01, 2025 pp. 23 - 28
P-ISSN:
SK ISSN :
Open Access:



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:
   i. 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.
   ii. 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.
   iii. 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:
   i. 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.
   ii. 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.
   iii. 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:
   i. 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).
   ii. 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.
   iii. 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).
d. Examples in Literary Analysis:
   i. Analyzing Narrative Structure: Post-structuralist literary criticism explores how narrative structures, such as plot, character, and setting, contribute to the creation of meaning and how they can be deconstructed to reveal underlying assumptions and power dynamics.
   ii. Examining Intertextuality: Post-structuralist criticism recognizes the interconnectedness of texts, exploring how literary works engage in dialogue with other texts, cultural contexts, and historical events.

OR!ENT: Journal of Islamic Studies & Culture
Volume 1, Number 01, 2025 pp. 23 - 28
P-ISSN:
SK ISSN :
Open Access:



iii. Challenging Authorial Authority: Post-structural literary criticism questions the traditional notion of the author as a singular, authoritative voice, recognizing the influence of social and cultural forces on the creation and reception of literary works.

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.

a. Core Idea of Deconstruction

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.

b. Key Features of Deconstruction

Critique of binary oppositions

Deconstruction challenges binary oppositions—pairs of concepts traditionally seen as opposites, such as male/female, good/evil, or reason/emotion. These binaries often privilege one term over the other, creating hierarchies that reinforce power structures. Deconstruction reveals how these oppositions are interdependent and unstable, breaking down the apparent simplicity of such relationships. For instance, in the male/female binary, the concept of "male" is defined in relation to "female," and vice versa. Deconstruction would examine how these terms rely on and disrupt each other, revealing that neither is fully autonomous or absolute.

Interrogation of textual coherence

Deconstruction examines how texts strive for coherence and logical consistency while simultaneously harboring contradictions, ambiguities, and gaps. Derrida argued that no text can fully control its meaning because it is influenced by the broader context, reader interpretations, and the instability of language itself. For example, a political speech might present itself as a clear and unified argument, but a deconstructive reading would uncover contradictions, implicit assumptions, and unintended meanings within the speech.

The role of the reader

Deconstruction shifts focus from the author's intent to the reader's role in creating meaning. Since language is open to interpretation, readers inevitably bring their perspectives, contexts, and assumptions to a text, contributing to its multiplicity of meanings.

c. Applications of Deconstruction

OR!ENT: Journal of Islamic Studies & Culture
Volume 1, Number 01, 2025 pp. 23 - 28
P-ISSN:
SK ISSN :
Open Access:



Deconstruction is widely applied in fields such as literary criticism, philosophy, and cultural studies. In literature, it involves analyzing texts to uncover hidden tensions and challenge dominant interpretations. In philosophy, it questions foundational concepts and critiques the limits of traditional metaphysical thinking. For example, in literary criticism, a deconstructionist might analyze a novel that portrays love as pure and ideal, revealing how the text simultaneously exposes love's flaws, contradictions, and complexities.

4. CONCLUTION

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.

REFERENCE

Barthes, R. (1977). *Image, music, text* (S. Heath, Trans.). Fontana Press. *"The Death of the Author.*

Derrida, J. (1976). *Of grammatology* (G. C. Spivak, Trans.). Johns Hopkins University Press.

Foucault, M. (1972). *The archaeology of knowledge* (A. M. Sheridan Smith, Trans.). Routledge.

Foucault, M. (1977). *Discipline and punish: The birth of the prison* (A. Sheridan, Trans.). *Pantheon* Books.

Kristeva, J. (1980). *Desire in language: A semiotic approach to literature and art* (T. Gora, A. Jardine, & L. S. Roudiez, Trans.). Columbia University Press.

Lyotard, J.-F. (1984). *The postmodern condition: A report on knowledge* (G. Bennington & B. Massumi, Trans.). University of Minnesota Press.