

Representation of Trauma and Memory in Postmodern Literature

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Abstract: *Postmodern literature frequently explores themes of trauma and memory to represent the fragmented realities of individuals and societies after major historical events such as wars, colonialism, and displacement. Unlike traditional literature, postmodern texts often reject linear narratives and stable identities, instead presenting memory as fragmented, subjective, and unreliable. Writers employ narrative experimentation, shifting perspectives, and metafiction to portray the psychological effects of trauma. Authors such as Toni Morrison, Kurt Vonnegut, and Salman Rushdie demonstrate how trauma shapes personal and collective memory. Their works reveal how historical violence and social upheaval influence identity formation and cultural consciousness. This research paper examines how postmodern literature represents trauma and memory through narrative fragmentation, non-linear storytelling, and multiple perspectives. It also explores the relationship between memory, identity, and historical representation in postmodern texts. By analyzing selected works, the paper argues that postmodern literature challenges traditional historical narratives and emphasizes the complexity of remembering traumatic experiences.*

Keywords: Postmodern literature, trauma, memory, narrative fragmentation, identity, historical trauma, postmodern narrative