

O. Babelyuk

Lviv State University of Life Safety

O. Koliasa

Drohobych Ivan Franko State Pedagogical University

WAR AND LITERATURE: CREATING HYPERREALITY IN AMERICAN POSTMODERN WAR NOVELS

War and literature have had a long and complex relationship throughout history. American postmodern war novels, in particular, have employed innovative narrative techniques to create hyperreality, blurring the lines between fiction and reality. In this linguistic research, we will explore the ways in which postmodern war novels engage with the concept of hyperreality, discussing the themes, narrative techniques, and cultural significance of this literary genre [1].

Hyperreality, a concept popularized by French theorist Jean Baudrillard, refers to a state in which reality and simulation become indistinguishable. Postmodern war novels often employ this concept to challenge traditional war narratives and create immersive experiences for the reader [2].

The postmodern war novel is deeply influenced by the historical context in which it is written, reflecting the ever-changing nature of warfare, the impact of technology, and the shifting societal values during and after the wars in question [3].

Postmodern war novels often disrupt linear narratives, mimicking the fragmented nature of memory and the disorienting experience of war. This technique reinforces the concept of hyperreality by making it challenging to differentiate between past and present [3].

Authors often incorporate multiple perspectives and unreliable narrators to portray the subjective realities of war. This approach adds layers of complexity to the narrative and invites readers to question the authenticity of the text.

Postmodern war novels frequently employ metafiction, where the text acknowledges its status as a work of fiction, further blurring the lines between reality and simulation.

Authors often blur the boundaries between fact and fiction, incorporating historical documents, interviews, and real-life events into the narrative, contributing to the creation of a hyperreal war experience.

These novels explore themes like the dehumanizing effects of war, moral ambiguity, and the disintegration of traditional heroism, challenging conventional war literature that romanticizes combat.

Graphic depictions of violence and the visceral experience of war are common in postmodern war novels, contributing to the hyperreality of the narrative by immersing the reader in the gruesome details.

These novels often reference other literary works, historical events, or popular culture, creating a web of intertextual connections that enhances the reader's engagement with the text.

Some postmodern war novels engage in a meta-narrative, not only portraying the war itself but also commenting on the act of storytelling, memory, and representation.

The impact of technology on contemporary warfare is a recurring theme, as authors explore how modern weaponry and communication tools have changed the nature of combat and the perception of reality.

Postmodern war novels frequently critique the culture that surrounds war, challenging jingoism, propaganda, and political manipulation, which contributes to the hyperreality of the narrative.

Authors delve into the psychological and emotional aftermath of war, portraying the trauma experienced by soldiers and civilians, pushing the boundaries of realism to depict the intensity of suffering.

Character development in these novels often involves identity crises and self-reflection, mirroring the search for identity in a world that has become increasingly complex and unstable.

While war is often portrayed on a grand scale, postmodern war novels frequently focus on intimate and personal narratives, emphasizing the individual's experience within the larger context of conflict.

Many postmodern war novels engage with postcolonial theory, addressing the impact of imperialism and colonialism on contemporary conflicts, which adds depth and complexity to the narrative.

These novels often emerge as responses to the limitations and biases of traditional war literature, presenting alternative narratives that challenge dominant cultural discourses.

The hyperreality of postmodern war novels raises ethical questions about the portrayal of war, especially when it comes to potentially desensitizing readers to violence or capitalizing on real-life suffering for artistic purposes.

These novels have a significant impact on readers and critics, fostering discussions on the nature of truth, representation, and the role of literature in understanding and processing war.

American postmodern war novels are a rich and complex literary genre that engages with the concept of hyperreality in profound ways. They challenge traditional narratives, explore the human experience within the context of war, and offer an opportunity for readers to critically engage with the blurred lines between reality and fiction. In doing so, they contribute to our understanding of the multifaceted nature of war and its representation in literature.

References

1. Romel M. The seer of unreality: The hyperreality wars the seer of unreality: The hyperreality wars. 2019.
2. Smith R. G., & Clarke D. B. Jean baudrillard: From hyperreality to disappearance: Uncollected interviews. Edinburgh University Press, 2015.
3. Babelyuk O., Koliasa O., Matsevko-Bekerska L., Matuzkova O. & Pavlenko N. The Interaction of Possible Worlds through the Prism of Cognitive Narratology. *Arab World English Journal*. 2021. Vol. 12 (2) 364–376. DOI: <https://dx.doi.org/10.24093/awej/vol12no2.25> (дата звернення: 30.10.2023).