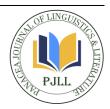


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Truth and Values: A Postmodern Study of Michael Joyce's Digital Story Twelve Blue

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Article History:			Digital stories are an emerging phenomenon to present the realities and the
Received:	September	15,2023	elements of truth and values in the digital story of Michael Joyce's Twelve Blu (1996). The study is qualitative and is conducted based on the textual analysis of
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Available Online:	December	31,2023	digital story is analyzed. The findings of the study show that the life of a female i presented beyond the truth in the stories where the truths and the values are no
			presented. Humans are presented as free from all forces and powers, and then
Keywords:			they have to come under the unseen powers and forces. Knowledge and cultural values can be challenged under Postmodernism and the truth comes to know when a person is exercising terror and is unable to rewind the real truths of life.



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INTRODUCTION

The creation of hypertext fiction is associated with Michael Joyce who is a renowned teacher and theorist and Twelve Blue is his recent composition which expresses the strength of Story Space in the authoring environment for the web. It has also some limitations. Its suggestive strength is showing the creativity of power and writing craft of Joyce.

Technologies such as hypermedia and hypertext have been produced in the present era which has been revolutionized in the twenty-first century with the boom of the internet and electronic media. It has either affected the preferences of reading and writing of the present generation or

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these are experimental tools for digital literature in the hands of creators. Twelve Blue (1996) was the first web hypertext written by Michael Joyce, who also wrote the first piece of hypertext literature, afternoon, a story, in 1996. An HTML hypertext called Twelve Blue uses frames and image mappings. Technically straightforward, the piece portrays an intricate and intriguing tale of memory, desire, lust, truth, and repercussions (Joyce). Ideas such as non-linearity, surrealism, and decentering become challenges for writers of print and are central motifs for writers to hypertext and deal also with the representational demands of this globalized time.

Michael Joyce posted a digital story of *Twelve Blue* (1996) in which he presents the color "blue" as the stream of life. This is a hypertext story telling about the life of Samantha who is imaginatively told a story of life by her mother and then she goes into the dreams and the scenario runs before her eyes. Ups and downs, pains and sorrows, happiness and joys, living relationships, and marital assets all are discussed in the story. *Twelve Blue* investigates how the patterns of our life's interconnected, many, and recurring surfaces are similar to those of the web, a year, a day, a memory, or a river (Joyce).

The theory of Postmodernism gave birth to reevaluating the existing truths of realities and raising questions on the fluctuation of power. Lyotard (1979) presented the theory of Postmodernism in metanarrative perspectives, also calling it the grand narrative of the events presenting and explaining the experience and knowledge beyond the truths (Lyotard 9). Nealon (2012) suggests that post-modernism expresses "the never-ending of everything". He further elucidates that the prefix "post" advocates towards infinite addition.

Konstantin (2016) has said that "Postmodernism" is a set of theoretical claims in literary style and socioeconomic phenomenon that is impossible to sidestep or evade away. It offers a set of values that expresses authenticity and its interest lies in experiment, subversion, and irony. It exposes the manipulation of real or diversion that is authenticity central. The words irony and sincerity are the core values of postmodernism which is related to congruence and feelings (Trilling,1972).

The present study is conducted to understand the metanarrative, making the truths lose the factors of the story *Twelve Blue* by Michael Joyce (1996) in the sense that postmodernism is an intellectual stance or a mode of discourse where the worldwide association of rationality is challenged with the rationality of enlightenment. Further, postmodernism is linked with relativism which goes back to the 17th century by focusing on ideology. It also goes for economic growth and maintenance of power. In the school of postmodernism, reality is considered a mental construct that rejects the objectivity of rational knowledge and unmediated legality.

Postmodernist thinkers associate themselves with the knowledge of thoughts and socially conditioned value systems by penetrating the political system, historical scenario, and cultural descriptions. Tendencies like epistemology, pluralism, moral relativism, and self-referentiality are also characterized by post-modernism. There is also the association of post-modernism with deconstruction and post-structuralism. Further, post-modernism depends on critical theory which helps see the effects of history, ideology, and society on culture. Essentially, post-modernism is a strategy of discourse in literature and literary criticism that describes the nature of the literary text, meanings, and background of the author. Across many scholarly disciplines, postmodernism emerged in the middle of the late 20th century as a departure from modernism (Wikipedia).

Statement of the Problem:

Truth and values are not mostly narrated in digital stories yet these are explored by applying critical theories. Though the knowledge and the values are presented in the text as truth, many times, and this truth is the final reality rather than it has to be explored.

Delimitation of the Study:

The study is confined to the textual analysis and is limited to the following piece of work:

- Michael Joyce's *Twelve Blue* (1996)
- Postmodern theory by Lyotard (1979) and the significance of postmodernism.

Objective of the Study:

• To explore truth and values in the digital story *Twelve Blue* (1996) under postmodern perspectives.

Research Question:

1. How truth and values can be understood in William Glass's digital story *Twelve Blue* (1996) under postmodern perspectives?

Significance of the Study

The present study is descriptive and based on the textual analysis of a digital story. The study helps to understand the knowledge, values, and truth of life beyond the text. This metanarrative analysis of the text helps to reveal the hidden truth and values that are not presented without applying critical theory. Second, this research study is an attempt to elucidate the understanding and significance of postmodernism theory which is a direction toward intellectualism, sense, and ideology. Postmodernism advocates that language culture and society have arbitrary relations and the limitations of people are accepted by these constructs in indeterminacy, disparate views, and fragmentation (Nandy et al. 2018). Postmodernism also introduces a concept known as a productive difference which is known as a mechanism of production instead of a negation of identity(Gary,2015). There is also a touch of Nietzsche's philosophy which determines the thinking against reason. It also creates the self-justifying authority of reason(Stephen,2004). So, this study is very significant in that it touches the two schools of thoughts which are confirmed in structuralism and poststructuralism in the sense that both are being dealt by postmodernism.

LITERATURE REVIEW

In the year of 1979 "postmodernism" made its direction towards the philosophical lexicon with the publication of Jean-Francois Lyotard. According to Lyotard post-modernism is considered "as incredulity toward meta-narratives" (Lyotard) (Nandy et al. 2018). The model of language game given by Wittgenstein to show the exchanges between expert and philosopher was also used by Lyotard because it is a mixture of philosophy with concepts and methods obtained from other disciplines that are fundamental traits of post-modernism in the sense of broadcast.

Postmodernism is known as incredulity towards meta-narratives. The key elements are discussed by Lyotard for example digital technology, and science dissolution of epistemic coherence, knowledge of conceptualization, aesthetic judgment, and loss of narrative coherence (Gary,2015). Postmodernism gives the sense of a new aesthetic period, a new epistemology, a theory and philosophy, and a structure of feelings. It also advocates domination in the cultural logic of late capitalism, and fragmented consciousness. Postmodernism is a unique and outstanding way which is helpful to perceive the world as a whole. It is a tool for using a set of philosophical ideas to support aesthetic values and to study the late capitalist condition of postmodernity (Christopher,2002). It is also an immediate follower of Modernism and there are the tracks where both have been found co-existing.

Critique of Postmodernism, like any other cultural phenomenon or theory, as well as the rest of the literary criticism curriculum, has advantages and disadvantages. As a result, it is impossible to discuss and imperfect in the humanities at all; the advantage it is a liberation movement aimed at releasing man from the world of illusions and myths, as well as from mythology's dominance. By undermining, questioning, dispersion, auditing, and demolition, Postmodernist philosophers are likewise aiming to undermine the core arguments of Western thought and re-examine the constants. And the objective is to create new values. On the other hand, it combats elite status culture (examples: Margin and Popular Culture), and then dismantles, criticizes, and analyses Orientalist discourses with a colonial flavor. Pluralism, variety, multiple identities theory, and reconsideration of the context of the referral, the author, and the recipient were all values held by Postmodernism. Intertextuality, chromatography differences, gender, and ethnicity are all wellcared for. And it gave in to fragmentation, disintegration, and disordered language. It also condemned the principles of repression and power authority. As a result, Postmodernism used its method to draw attention to unjust preconceptions without taking a moral, political, or social stance. "Because of the anarchist, nihilist, and ludicrous nature of postmodern philosophy, it has been remarked that it undermines itself. Both favorable and negative criticism has been leveled at postmodernism. Editors are destabilizing preconceived conceptions about language and its relationship to the world, and undermining all self-languages that refer to history and society, which may be considered as a beneficial force. Also argues that the Postmodernist age leads to its assumptions and trumps all other interpretations. Many people are ineffective and uninterested in politics" (Carter 123). Ramzan et al. (2023) have explained that in the ESL domain motivation determines the priority of second language learning. Further, Ramzan et al. (2023) elucidate in the sense of oral proficiency that entertainment mostly operates in English. So Ramzan et al. (2023) have suggested that the incorporation of authentic language use can be helpful in this aspect. Furthermore, Ramzan et al. (2023) that for the enhancement of oral proficiency in the ESL domain, the use of social media is a dynamic educational tool. Finally, Ramzan et al. (2023) suggested imperative aspects are useful in academic writing. Ramzan et al. (2023) have also indicated that cultural elements are style-oriented and these are the cause of shifting style from native to non-native ways.

Postmodernism is a distinguished movement as it has a multifarious personality. Further, it is a set of rhetorical, critical, and strategic practices that observes certain aspects like deconstruction, repetition, and hyperreality. Man is de-centered by postmodernism and it claims that "self is merely an effect of language, social relations, and the unconscious" (Terry,1997). The idea of individuality is undermined in postmodernism which expresses cultural construction in feminism (Heartney,1987). Structuralism and poststructuralism are two intellectual movements

that format postmodernism thought by attaining and attempting objectivity and coherence based on scientific theories (Terry,1997). Finally, in the present situation, individual and institutional traits are very vital to consider. Further, there is a moral demand for development on the part of people (Robert,2013).

Difference between Modernism and post-modernism

These are two literary movements that started in the 19th and 20th centuries and modernism was a deliberate diversion from poetic and prose traditional forms. Postmodernism started in the 20th century and generally, it is known as a literary reaction against modernism. The authority of man is identified in modernism. Modernism advocates the capability of knowledge, liberty creation, and intellectualism (Michel,1977). Extravagant expectations circled in modernism are arts and science which control the force of nature by aiming to develop new representations of style in modern life (Nandyet al, 2018). The main difference characterized by modernism and postmodernism is the use of self-consciousness and conventions, however following constructs differentiate these from each other. See Table 1

	Modernism	Postmodernism
Metaphysics	Realism, Naturalism	Anti Realism
Epistemology	Objectivism, Experience, and Reason	Social Subjectivism
Human Nature	Tabula Rasa and Autonomy	Social Construction
Ethics	Individualism	Collectivism
Politics Economic	Liberal Capitalism	Socialism
When and where	Enlightenment, 20 th	Late twenty century humanities
	century sciences, business,	a related profession.
	and technical fields	

RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

The preset study is qualitative based on the textual analysis of *Twelve Blue* (1996) under the Postmodern theory of Lyotard (1979). Qualitative research is the type of research that is conducted on the text and mostly is under some social theory (Gay, Mills and Airasian 7).

Theoretical Framework

Lyotard's Metanarratives: In postmodernism, the Metanarrative or grand narrative is a global and totalizing cultural narrative representation that explains experience and knowledge. What it means is the prefix Meta means "beyond" and used to mean "about" and narrative means a story. A Metanarrative is a story about a story encircling other 'little stories' within a totalizing representation. Lyotard used this term in *The Postmodern Condition: Report on Knowledge* (1979). He referred to Metanarratives as *postmodern conditions*. By postmodern condition he simply means, increasing skepticism toward totalizing nature:

"Narratives are firmly established in postmodern condition and the 'narratives' are 'stories' that make available all the values. These narratives are provided with chains of

events, giving explanations and identity causes. The 'Grand narratives' are the 'big theories' whose purpose is to unfold historical movements as well as advise people how to live lives, how to think and what to think' (Lyotard 6).

Lyotard also gave his assumptions on the postmodern knowledge it concerns with undecidable and conflicts which are characterized by incomplete information, "fracta", of which he means portions, sections, and local issues. According to his assumptions knowledge in the postmodern world cannot be legitimated and operated according to 'Metanarratives'. Instead, local narratives of knowledge can be utilized to represent things because knowledge can be fragmented, partial, and incomplete. This is totally against the supremacy of overarching patterns as it is regarded as the new type of epistemological liberty that makes sense of the world in a grand style. Lyotard is suspicious of all claims of truths of knowledge (Lyotard 9).

Power is another fundamental term related to the Lyotard postmodern world. He is skeptical towards the truth of instruments that are purchased not to find a certain truth, but to supplement powerwhose hidden objective and purpose is 'the exercise of terror'. So according to him legitimating anything valuable is always a matter of power and might is right. Those who have wealth and power are always right and obliged everywhere in society while less obliged are those whose hands are empty and who cannot offer any kind of profit to the high-ups. Nations do not make war instruments, weapons, and atom bombs to become rich, rather these things are invented to exert power and terror over other nations. Every notion and action of superpower is accepted as 'the truth' and no nation less privileged can challenge that 'truth'.

Critical Discussion

"A girl will leave stale candy for a hard man running a whirly ride or slip out of her arabesques for a priestly man with gray flecked temples. See him swirl Petite Syrah in a crystal globe before a candle, the wine's leggy shadows dancing garnet on the dark blue veins of his manicured fingers, each nail square and white as the sail of a Dutch schooner. Even here and after so long she can still smell oil and the burnt sugar of the midway, the sweet dazzle of aftershave" (Joyce).

The lines present the early young age time of Samantha and she is like a merrymaking female and intended to enjoy life in a luxurious and artificial style. She is not limited to any boundaries in her lifestyle and all the luxuries are there for her. There is a depiction of young agein which the lights of joy, dancing of happiness, shadows of decoration, glimpses of make-up, and the parting. Lyotard (1979) says that the stories have meanings beyond the narrative and there is knowledge of culture and sense in the stories. This experience presents the lovemaking and merrymaking process of Samantha who is newly young and it seems that all the water is blue and there is no change in stress and anxiety. In parallel way, her textual story as lines moves where the feelings of the person are portrayed. The line "A girl will leave stale candy for a hard man running a whirly ride" presents the truth that there is no need for marriage when a girl in the West is accompanied by a wealthy man. The meaning of the "hard" man can be that the person is aged and he is wealthy and intends to spend the days and nights with the youngness of females. Here the grand narrative illustrates that the story has a historical evaluation presenting the life of a Western lady where the totalization of nature is a challenge. The young aged girl is captivated by the wealthy person and here the power is presented as the scenario-changing phenomena

when "See him swirl Petite Sirah in a crystal globe before a candle, the wine's leggy shadows dancing garnet on the dark blue veins of his manicured fingers, each nail square and white as the sail of a Dutch schooner" and the girls' whole life spam turns into the hands of a powerful person. Postmodern theory similarly illustrates that the truth is challenged as freedom is captivated in the hands of the wealthy person and the whole life seems to be in the lap of the wealthy males.

"There were so many ways from her house out to Route 9 that it sometimes seemed a labyrinth. In mid-summer, each road tunneled through a canyon of impenetrable green, a jungle of wild grape and loosestrife. By November the hardwood was no longer festive and the woods showed their bones like the skeletons of Dia de losMuertos. In another month you would be able to see the forest floor" (Joyce).

The digital story is running with the color changing when the blue color turns into the other yellow and red color. It presented the downfall of life, sufferings, and pains receiving movements. In the present story, Samantha is seen as having lost her boyfriends, lovers, and husbands, and lost her son too who has died. Lyotard (1979) says that the local narrative can be represented under the theoretical framework of Postmodernism. Knowledge is challenged and life issues seem to be turning where the power of youngness, beauty and wealth is abandoned. Here the power of the soul remains in the body which makes a person live. As Samantha has lost all of her things so her life is presented as "There were so many ways from her house out to Route 9 that it sometimes seemed a labyrinth". This line can explore that the life of Samantha is fully lost. Here the sequence of the past events which can happen with any person are presented. This denotes that there is an exercise of terror which is unseen power before the eyes of Samantha and she has to face it after everything is looted. Representations of such elements as "By November the hardwood was no longer festive and the woods showed their bones like the skeletons of dia de losmuertos" show that happiness and the joys are not long-lasting yet these have certain types of limits. If this European culture could be represented in Eastern illustration as Postmodernism says, then the same feelings and pains can happen with an Eastern girl as well. Truth is the feelings of "lifelessness" while the truth presented in the text is the end of feelings. The end of feelings catches the sign of life but the lifelessness can take a person towards selftranscendence when there can be no revival. Here the cultural power is unseen and seems dominant in the persons.

"Somehow her scuba gear tangled and she wasn't able to free herself. The scientist himself joined the police divers. They found her rather easily, she shone like a goddess. He said she was perfectly framed by the ropes of seaweed, herself cruciform, calm at the end, caught like a bright moth in the drab web and the blue sea, the spiny creatures still alive in the mesh bag at her waist" (Joyce).

The pains and sorrows of Samantha are presented in the line when she has been divided in the water and the police divers make her live by taking her out. Lyotard (1979) says that the narratives can be beyond the meaning and knowledge is beyond the realities present lines are describing the situation of a female who in the attempt to die where has seen all the happiness, sorrows, and pains and has come to be dead but the police divers saved her. Under postmodern theory by Lyotard (1979), it can be said that knowledge is appealing and questioning. There is knowledge beyond the realities. In the line "He said she was perfectly framed by the ropes of

seaweed, herself cruciform, calm at the last, caught like a bright moth in the drab web and the blue sea, the spiny creatures still alive in the mesh bag at her waist" show that the knowledge of her diving in the sea. Applying the skeptic approach, it can be said that she was unable to rewind her past and past life so that she could regain the happiness of her young age. Here the metanarrative of the storytelling process can propose that the life of the young girl can be at risk and it can make an attempt at self-finishing when the past life could not be retrieved. It can also be said that the local culture can be presented when the same stories can happen with the females of Eastern society. This can lead towards the aspects of self-transcendence and self-finishing where the feelings of agony come to mind and life seems lifeless. Power is another element through which the aspects of life can be portrayed in a way that life is under the control of unseen powers and these powers can lead towards the exercise of happiness or terror.

CONCLUSION AND FINDINGS

It can be said that Postmodernism theory by Lyotard (1979) can enable a researcher to understand the complex phenomenon of narrative. It helps to present and represent the told stories in the local and reader's culture as well. Knowledge beyond the narrated stories can be extracted through mining analysis under Postmodernism. The epistemological liberty, power orientation actions and effects, values, and truth presentation other than the text, can only be possible when the text is studied under the Postmodernism theory of Lyotard (1979).

- It can also be asserted that the life of Samantha is beyond the realities and the truth is not the sequence of the events yet it is the enrollment by unseen powers.
- Power is exercised by external factors, especially around females, and the exercise of terror and agony is put on behalf of the females.
- Though the events are presented in the Western perspectives when the same culture and the actions will be adopted in Eastern culture the results could be the same as well as the Postmodernism believes that truth is everywhere truth.
- Characters would accept the supremacy of the unseen powers over them and it would be accepted that the life of a female is under the power of the male and surrounding culture.

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