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Literary trends and currents in the transition to postmodernism in Haruki Murakami's creativity

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Murakami's works, which are considered important examples in postmodern literature, are also characterized by the presence of elements of cosmopolitanism, realism, surrealism, magical realism, detective, science fiction, shamanism, existentialism. Researcher T.A. Midori echoed the same sentiments by writing: "Murakami is a cultural provocateur in the way that he prompts discussions over the definition of 'isms' such as modernism, postmodernism, globalism and nationalism through his writings that seem to defy being pigeonholed into any one category" (Tanaka 2012, 11-12).

Postmodernism is a combination of different literary currents and trends, that contains a complete uncertainty with features such acceptance of pluralism and fragmentation in language games, emphasis on differences and diversity, realization of language transformations leading to discussion of concepts of reality, truth, truthfulness, not to be afraid to face possibilities instead of absolute values, not to be afraid, not to trust, instead of using the words of time and space, understanding in its integrity and autonomy, resistance to the domination of one and absolute feeling, and so on. "Postmodernism is a literary period of avant-garde that eclectically combines the features of the previous artistic directions and trends that emerged after the Second World War" (Quliyev 2019, 243). H. Murakami's stylistic eclecticism is one of the most criticized features, along with being one of the main elements.

One of the most important aspects of the language and style of Haruki Murakami's works is the cosmopolitan behavior

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of the heroes and its sharp reflection in the minds and imaginations of the heroes. Being his first literary work, 「風の歌を聴け」 – “Hear the Wind Sing” (1979), is one of the best examples of Haruki Murakami cosmopolitanism. Non-traditional style – products of global culture, reference to consumer goods, non-nationalist, self-fighting heroes are the signs of Haruki Murakami's completely unique sense of identity. The language, rhythm, and tone of “Hear the Wind Sing” help to reveal the extent to which cosmopolitanism played a role in the minds and personalities of the writer's heroes. The protagonists of the work are Japanese, and the place is Japan, but these heroes listen to Western music, read Western literature, use Western brands. The author has eliminated all the symbols that reveal the regionalism and culture of Japan. In the novel, not only cultural and consumer goods, but also the recollection of the time in connection with historical events, the analogy of appearance are all products of the West.

Murakami's novel 「ノルウェイの森」 – “Norwegian Wood” (1987) is an exception. His works reflect the objective and realistic view of life and the world in the debut novel of the writer, who is not in this world, far from reality, preferring fiction. With the novel “Norwegian Wood”, the writer made a strategic choice, wrote a book in a realistic style to enter the dominant literary movement in Japan, and became a bestseller. In the novel, H. Murakami describes the real Japan of the time, the real life of Japanese youth, the socio-political processes that took place in Japan in the 60s such as the student movements and the rise of sexual freedom. The novel is also very important in terms of the interpretation of important issues such as the fluctuations between the external and internal world of an individual, the comparison of life and death, society and personality.

According to the principle of pluralism of postmodernism, H. Murakami's novel 「海辺のカフカ」 – “Kafka on the Shore” (2002), which is considered one of the best postmodern works, clearly follows the surrealist views of the writer's aesthetic attitude to the world. In this work, the author gives a wide coverage to the nightmares, dreams, and hallucinations to which a person is constantly exposed and which cannot be controlled by cognition. Surrealism, which accepts the incomprehensibility of man and the world, seeks to understand the supernatural through nightmares and dreams.

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The heroes who try to comprehend the world of dreams in a world where cognition is incapable of comprehending are an integral part of Haruki Murakami's works.

The pursuit of different literary trends in Murakami's work contains the pluralistic nature of postmodernism. Postmodernism, distinguished by its diversity and versatility, is based on previous cultures, literary trends, ways of thinking and expression.

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