Formalism

Formalism is a critical approach that emerged in the early 20th century. primarily focusing on the formal elements of a literary work. This theory posits that the structure, style, and language of a test are crucial to understanding its meaning. The roots of Formalism can be traced back to the Russion Formalists, who sought to analyze literature or biographical amest

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Main principles.

Textual Autonomy: Formalism asserts that the text should be views as an independent entity. The meaning of a literary work is derived solely from the text itself, without considering external influences such as the anthor's biography or historical context.

2. Close Reading: This method involves a meticulous and detailed analysis of the text. Critics focus on specific language choices, literary devices and structural elements to uncover deeper meanings and aesthetic qualities.

3. Emphasis on Literary Devices,

Formalists pay close attention to elements such as imagery, symbolism, and narratives structure. They analyze how these components work together to create on overall effect, enchaneig the reader's experience.

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 \_Methodology: Formalists employ various techniques staring their analysis, including:

\_Defumiliarzation. By invests presenting Familiar concepts in unfamiliar ways. literature can reshape perceptions and provoke new insights.

\_Foregrounding: This involves highlighting unusual or striking aspects of the text to draw attention to its artistic qualities and meaning.

\_In fluence and Legacy: Formalism has had a lasting impact on literary criticism, laying the groundwork for movements like Mewcriticism and Structuralism. It's focus on the text itself encourages a more objective analysis, allowing cvitics to engage deeply with the work without the interference of subjective interpretations.

\_Criticism and Limitations. Despite its contributions, Formalism has faced criticism for neglecting the social, cultural, and historical conteats that inform literary works Critics argues that this approach can lead to a reductionist view, oversimplifying the complexities of literature by focusing solely on form.
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Russian Formalism

Features of Formatism.

Formalist critics evaluate a text regardless of its time Period, social, Political, religious connotations, and author's background. They believe that true meaning of the text lies only in the text. Other issues lead to interpretation. They advise the critics not to become the victim of four major evrors or fallacies while criticizing a work of art. Their main arguments are as follows:

1. Affective Fallacy: A text should not be interpreted based on a reader's response to it.

2. Intentional Fallacy? The author's direct or indirect intention must also be ignored.

3. Biographical Fallacy: The author's life and his biographical details have nothing to do with the text.

Lin, Contextual Fallacy. The author's historical, religious and social background too must not be considered white examining his Works

According to the followers of formalism, these fallacies are the subjective biases and a text should be analyzed objectively to derive its tree meaning. Formation emphasizes close readings of the text to analyze the deeper meanings of the words individually and collectively. A text is literary work which is a finished product and nothing can change its meaning and form. The formalists focus on the formal structure of the work of out which includes the following things.

1\_wrds (meaning of the words)

2\_ Forms of poetry (sonnet, ballad, ode, elegy etc)

3\_Shape/structure of poetry.

4\_Harmony of the words.

5\_ The rhythm of the sentences or lines

6\_ Rhyming of the words and lines

7\_Meter used in lines

8\_ Meaning of the text as a whole.
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Defive Russian Fomalism , who are the prominent scholar in this critical theary?

\_A critical theory was first propounded by a group of scholars in Russia who founded 'society for the Study of poetic Language in 1916. This society was led by a Russian critic Viktor Shklovsky the major exponen of this Russian Formalism more V. Sh, Vladimir Propp, Romun Juckbson and so on. They adopted Scientific and objective approach to literature. They opposed social and cultural criticism.