

## **JOHN FOWLES: EXPERIMENTATION AND INNOVATION IN HIS NOVEL *THE COLLECTOR***

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### **Abstract**

John Fowles' novel *The Collector* has been classified as an experimental novel with distinct elements of postmodernism. A number of scholars have classified his novel as a paradigmatic postmodern text and Fowles as a postmodernist experimenter. Another important feature of John Fowles' novel is his use of multiple forms of art to comprehend reality. Thus in his novels we find different fictional and non-fictional elements which often blur the genre distinction. He tries to go deeper and beyond the surface of the social life and humans personality. This search has often dictated him the need to challenge the conventions of traditional realism and fiction in all his novels. The aim of this paper is to focus in the experimental elements that are present in his novels *The Collector* and to present that Fowles experimentation is based on traditional realism with the use of reflexive elements. Furthermore the paper will focus even in the Freudian imprints on this novel's plot. Fowles analyses the psychology of the “everyday man”: a man who is emotionally primitive, intellectually undeveloped but extremely aggressive and self-centered. The title of the novel is not only the first Freudian element, but it also foreshadows the tragic ending of the “butterflies” being collected. The paper will analyse thoroughly these two main aspects in the novel.

**Keywords:** *experimental, traditional, innovation, metafiction.*