

**MODERNIST FEATURES IN CONTEMPORARY ALBANIAN
LITERATURE.
(THE LACK OF CHARACTER DESCRIPTION AND A HEAVY
RELIANCE UPON INTERNAL MONOLOGUE IN THE NOVEL THE
GENERAL OF THE DEAD ARMY BY ISMAIL KADARE)**

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Abstract

The term modernism is defined in different ways, but they all contain the essence of modernity and the features that comprise it. Modernity has to do with the contemporary, new ideas, new features and that in itself is opposed to the past. When we say modern literature we distinguish between a contemporary way of writing and a traditional way of writing. Thus, reality is seen differently from what was prevailing before and displays new aesthetics and sensitivity. The modern literature expresses the essential directions of today's literary development. This paper aims to present a theoretical approach to some of the features within modernist contemporary Albanian literature by making a comparison between it and the development of modernism in foreign literature. Also, this paper focuses on two of the features of modernism: a heavy reliance upon internal monologue and the lack of character description found in the novel *The general of the dead army* by Ismail Kadare. Modernist writers proclaimed a new "subject matter" for literature. They felt that their new way of looking at life required a new form, a new way of writing. Writers of this period tended to pursue usually more highly individualistic forms of writing. Some manifestations of these new approaches in modernist writing can be found in the characters as there was a disappearance of character summaries as well as characters being given little or no physical description. In terms of style, there was a strong leaning towards "stream of consciousness" writing, as well as utilizing interior monologue. Modernity shapes and directly influences his work as evidenced by the following traits: usage of a stripped down description of the character, interior monologue, stream of consciousness, intertextuality etc. These central features of modernist literature have been accepted into Albanian literature and have been modified to fit Albanian culture and this literary stylistic direction.

Keywords: *modernist featured, literature, character, interior monologue, The general of the dead army.*