

**Transforming Reality through Literary Realism in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century:  
Intersections of Technology, Power, and Global Consciousness.**

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## Abstract

The traditional literary method to reality analysis is currently experiencing significant change, and as scholars investigate deeper into classical frameworks, they uncover new gaps that demonstrate the growing challenges that contemporary technology poses to traditional tale structures and accurate description. In today's hyperconnected world, authors such as Neal Stephenson craft wildly intricate, speculative futures that make readers reevaluate how fiction engages with evolving reality. Arundhati Roy challenges dominant global narratives by emphasizing the role of non-state actors in assessing accountability, while Barbara Kingsolver deftly integrates ecological conscience into her literary storylines. Modern writing transcends these boundaries and embraces the complexity of a worldwide society, yet Gustave Flaubert's *Madame Bovary* remains a masterpiece for depicting the subtleties of everyday life. From Chinua Achebe's examinations of post-colonial identity and power to George Orwell's *1984* prediction of surveillance and information warfare, literature has always been a powerful window into societal change. It covers topics like environmental degradation, societal instability, and digital alienation. Literature adapts to the constantly shifting realities of modern life. When these divergent points of view are combined, narrative ultimately becomes an essential tool for understanding the intricate relationships between technology, human identity, and global awareness.

**Keywords:** Contemporary English literature, digital consciousness, narrative transformation, technological disruption, global socio-political dynamics, post-colonial identity, ecological crises, speculative realism.

Reality in literature stands out for its commitment to portraying life truthfully. It seeks to capture the mundane aspects of daily life while highlighting the complexities of human psychology and social relations. Unlike romanticism, which praised imagination and the paranormal, realism focuses on providing a more objective and truthful depiction of facts and reality.

In order to create sympathetic people and locations, realist fiction frequently draws inspiration from everyday life. Focusing for an objective portrayal of events, the narrative style also emphasizes authenticity. Through developing characters that accurately represent real people in both their strengths and weaknesses, authors examine the intricacies of human behavior. Realist literature is distinctive and powerful because of its emphasis on authenticity and the commonplace.

Writers nowadays are still motivated by the ideas of realism. The basic concepts of realism remain relevant in spite of current shifts in the literary landscape, reminding us of the power of telling the truth. The pragmatic tradition serves as an inspiration for contemporary authors, who employ its tenets to examine a variety of subjects pertinent to the status of society today.

In today's literary landscape, authors employ realistic portrayal to explore issues such as globalization, technology, social justice, and identity. Its enduring appeal stems from realism's ability to address contemporary issues while adhering to its historical roots. Through modifying realism's tenets, authors create a wide range of stories that captivate readers and promote a lifelong appreciation for life's authenticity and true portrayal.

One of the most well-known pieces of realistic literature is *Madame Bovary*, which Gustave Flaubert wrote in 1856. Flaubert's dedication to meticulously and accurately depicting life is a prime example of realism's fundamental ideas. The book portrays Emma Bovary's aspirations, struggles, and eventual demise as a woman confined to the limitations of provincial life with an acute attention to detail.

Flaubert's meticulous attention to detail in developing the characters and situations in *Madame Bovary* is the clearest example of the realistic commitment to authenticity. The storyline of the book explores the protagonists' everyday lives while offering a sophisticated examination of both personal goals and social conventions that demonstrating how realistic writing may capture the complexity of human existence, Flaubert's work also sets the standard for later realist initiatives

It's important because it may reflect society and speak to common human experiences. Its lasting significance is demonstrated by its significant impact on modern literature and its function as a forerunner of later literary movements like modernism and naturalism. Stories in a variety of genres are still influenced by realism's emphasis on accurately portraying life. Realism is a literary movement that sprang from the romanticized and magical tales of Romanticism.

Through its emphasis on accurately depicting ordinary life, realism offered authors a fresh perspective on how to respond to social shifts. Its lasting influence can be seen in the ongoing literary investigation of real narrative. The movement's influence transcends the 19<sup>th</sup> century, as subsequent generations of writers continue to draw inspiration from its principles, ensuring that the legacy of realism remains an integral part of literary landscapes.

### **Global Realism**

Modern authors still find inspiration in the realist style, modifying its fundamental principles to examine current issues and social issues. The focus on authenticity and true portrayal of life is still a powerful storytelling element in modern times. Because of its adaptable structure, realism enables authors to explore a wide range of subjects, including social justice concerns and technological developments.

Contemporary realism adaptations demonstrate the movement's ongoing applicability in tackling the intricacies of modern society. In order to deal with the difficulties and subtleties of the present, writers find inspiration in the realist tradition. Modern realist writing has a persistent dedication to presenting life authentically and connecting with readers' experiences, whether it is investigating the effects of globalization or the influence of technology on interpersonal relationships.

Realism is not confined to a specific cultural or literary tradition. Its interdisciplinary nature allows exploration of diverse global topics such as gender identities, freedom, democracy, imperialism, colonization, and societal issues. Realism's adaptability transcends borders, making it a versatile tool for writers to engage with a wide range of themes. Realism's strength lies in its ability to adapt to different cultural and historical contexts. It has manifested in various forms, from European realist novels to Afro-Caribbean literature and even extending to other art forms like opera.

The interdisciplinary nature of realism allows writers to address a multitude of topics, fostering a rich and diverse array of realist works globally. Whether portraying post-colonial challenges in

African literature or exploring cultural identities in the Caribbean, realism provides a dynamic framework for examining the multifaceted realities of societies around the world.

The strength of realism lies in its ability to create a sense of familiarity and connection with readers. By presenting characters and situations that mirror real-life experiences, realist literature fosters empathy and understanding this connection enhances the impact of storytelling as readers recognize aspects of their own lives or others they know in the stories depicted.

Realism's strength lies in its relatability and readers can connect emotionally with characters facing ordinary life challenges, making the literature more accessible. The portrayal of everyday situations and the genuine representation of human experiences create a bridge between fiction and reality. This connection allows readers to engage more deeply with the narrative, fostering a profound and lasting.

### **Cultural Resonance**

Realism has an impact on numerous artistic mediums outside writing, including visual arts and drama. Notable instances include operas that demonstrate the influence of realism in several artistic fields, such as *Cavalleria Rusticana* and *Pagliacci*. Art in many forms reflects realism's capacity to depict the grim realities of reality.

The influence of realism extends beyond literature, permanently altering the visual arts and opera. The movement's dedication to truth was reflected in realist painters' attempts to capture scenes in the visual arts with painstaking detail. The realistic and gritty elements of life were also depicted in opera by verismo composers, which added to realism's wider cultural influence outside of literature.

The multidisciplinary heritage of the movement demonstrates its capacity to stimulate creativity in a wide range of artistic mediums. African and Caribbean literature adds diversity to realist works, portraying societal challenges, post-colonial studies, and cultural identities realistically. Writers from these regions use realism to portray multifaceted realities, addressing political challenges and historical legacies unique to their cultural contexts.

Realism in African and Caribbean literature reflects a dynamic engagement with post-colonial studies, cultural identities, and societal issues. Writers like Chimamanda Ngozi Adichie use

realism to explore the impact of political upheaval, ethnic tensions, and challenges faced by individuals amid conflict. This diverse expression of realism enriches the global literary landscape, offering unique perspectives on issues that resonate with the complexities of these regions.

Literary realism is interdisciplinary, allowing exploration of diverse world topics ranging from gender identities and disparities to freedom, democracy, fascism, imperialism, colonization, and more. Its adaptability enables writers to delve into various societal issues, making it a versatile framework for examining the multifaceted aspects of the human experience.

Realism's interdisciplinary nature allows writers to traverse a wide spectrum of topics, making it a flexible and versatile approach to storytelling. Whether addressing gender disparities, political challenges, or cultural hybridity, realism serves as a lens through which writers can explore the complexities of the human condition. This adaptability underscores its enduring relevance and enduring impact on literature's role in reflecting and questioning societal norms across different cultures and historical periods.

Realism's impact endures, shaping contemporary writing and reminding us of the power of truthful storytelling. Its portrayal of life as it is remains a crucial aspect of literary landscapes. Despite the evolution of literary movements, realism's enduring potency lies in its ability to connect with readers through authentic depictions of human experiences.

The enduring potency of realism lies in its timeless ability to resonate with readers and as a literary movement, it continues to influence contemporary writing by emphasizing genuine representation and authentic storytelling. In a world where narratives constantly evolve, realism's enduring relevance serves as a testament to its effectiveness in capturing the complexities of the human condition.

### **Interdisciplinary Legacy of Realism**

Realism has left an indelible mark on various art forms beyond literature. In Milan, Italy, realism manifested as "*Verismo*" in visual arts and opera. Composers like Pietro Mascagni and Ruggero Leoncavallo created operas reflecting the realistic and gritty aspects of life. The legacy of realism extends beyond words, impacting diverse artistic expressions.

Realism's legacy extends to other art forms, particularly in Milan, Italy, where it manifested as *Verismo* in visual arts and opera. Notable operas like *Cavalleria Rusticana* and *Pagliacci* exemplify how realism influenced composers to depict life with authenticity. This legacy showcases the interdisciplinary impact of realism, emphasizing its enduring influence in shaping not only literature but also broader cultural expressions.

In the current exploration of realism in literature, the focus is on its relevance and manifestation in contemporary storytelling. The romantic emphasis on imagination and the paranormal was challenged by realism, a literary trend that first appeared in the middle of the 19<sup>th</sup> century. It continues to be a crucial factor in the modern world, impacting how authors portray the complex facets of human existence.

Realism's enduring significance lies in its commitment to portraying life as it is, emphasizing the ordinary and mundane facets of daily existence. In contemporary literature, this involves a meticulous examination of everyday life, from routine activities to commonplace settings. Writers immerse readers in relatable scenarios, drawing characters and situations from the fabric of real life.

For instance, in the works of contemporary authors like Haruki Murakami, the narrative unfolds in familiar urban landscapes, and characters navigate the routines of modern life. Murakami's "*Norwegian Wood*" captures the essence of realism by delving into the complexities of human relationships and the struggles of young individuals in a recognizable world. By grounding the narrative in everyday experiences, realism creates a bridge between fiction and the reader's lived reality, fostering a deeper connection.

### **Technological and Ecological Realism in Contemporary Literature**

In the contemporary literary landscape, realism theory grapples with the profound impacts of modern technology on narrative structures. Writers, particularly those in the science fiction genre, explore how advancements like virtual reality and artificial intelligence shape storytelling. Neal Stephenson's *Snow Crash* serves as a paradigmatic example.

Within *Snow Crash*, Stephenson weaves a narrative that blurs the boundaries between the virtual and tangible realms. The metaverse, a virtual reality space in the novel, reflects the author's engagement with the evolving technological landscape. Realism, in this context, extends beyond

traditional portrayals of daily life to encompass the intricacies of technology's influence on human experiences. This exploration prompts critical reflections on the intersection of realism theory and contemporary technological advancements, offering insights into the evolving nature of storytelling in the digital age.

In the contemporary exploration of realism theory, a significant dimension involves the infusion of environmental themes into literary discourse. Writers like Barbara Kingsolver contribute to this aspect by weaving narratives that engage with ecological concerns. Kingsolver's work, such as *Prodigal Summer* and *Flight Behavior*, introduces readers to the complexities of human-nature relationships and environmental challenges.

Environmental realism extends beyond conventional settings to include the impact of climate change, biodiversity loss, and human interventions in natural ecosystems. By incorporating these themes, contemporary realist literature invites readers to reflect on the intricate connections between human societies and the environment. It positions literature as a means to explore and understand the pressing ecological issues of our time.

Realism theory in literature delves into the portrayal of information warfare and how truth manipulation unfolds in the contemporary context. George Orwell's iconic *1984* remains a timeless exemplar of this exploration. In a world characterized by propaganda, surveillance, and manipulation, realism captures the nuances of power dynamics in the realm of information.

Contemporary writers continue to grapple with issues of misinformation, fake news, and the manipulation of truth. Realism, in this context, becomes a tool for dissecting the complexities of information dissemination and its societal implications. By confronting the challenges posed by information warfare, literature contributes to a nuanced understanding of the contemporary information landscape.

### **Modern Realism, Post-colonial context, Health Crises Identity Nature and Truth Through Literature**

Within the contemporary exploration of realism theory, there is a spotlight on the response to global health crises. Writers like Albert Camus, known for works like *The Plague*, provide a lens through which realism theory navigates the complexities of societal shifts accompanying health



emergencies. Camus' exploration of the human condition amid a pandemic prompts a reevaluation of realism theory's potency in portraying profound societal changes.

This dimension emphasizes the relevance of realism in capturing the collective responses, challenges, and societal transformations triggered by global health crises. It positions literature as a reflective space to dissect the impacts of pandemics on individuals and communities, echoing the sentiments and struggles of real-world health challenges.

The contemporary examination of realism theory involves a nuanced exploration of its flexibility and constraints. Luminaries like Chinua Achebe contribute to this intellectual odyssey by guiding readers through the diverse perspectives within realism. Achebe's exploration of post-colonial narratives enriches realism theory, making it a powerful tool in deciphering the intricacies of power, identity, and societal dynamics.

This dimension invites scholars to consider the adaptability of realism theory across different cultural and historical contexts. It acknowledges both the strengths and limitations of realism in capturing the multifaceted nature of human experiences. Realism emerges not as a rigid concept but as a vibrant force, casting light on unexplored intellectual frontiers within the diverse landscapes of literature.

In the uncharted territories of literature, the dimension of environmental realism comes to the forefront. Writers like Barbara Kingsolver infuse realism with eco-centric nuances, sparking conversations about seamlessly integrating environmental themes into broader literary discourse. This aspect highlights how realism theory extends its reach to address contemporary concerns related to the environment.

Barbara Kingsolver's works serve as a prime example, illustrating how realism theory can be a compelling tool to engage with ecological issues. This exploration emphasizes the interconnectedness of literature and environmentalism, positioning realism as a vehicle for raising awareness and fostering a deeper understanding of humanity's relationship with the natural world.

Delving into the shadows, the portrayal of information warfare becomes a focal point within contemporary realism theory. Examining iconic works like George Orwell's *1984*, this dimension invites scholars to dissect how realism theory navigates the complexities of truth manipulation, propaganda, and misinformation in the modern age.

By scrutinizing narratives that explore information warfare, realism theory unveils its relevance in addressing the challenges posed by a rapidly evolving media landscape. This facet underscores literature's role in critically examining the manipulation of truth, providing a lens through which society can grapple with the intricate dynamics of information dissemination and its impact on reality.

Within the realms of realism theory in literature, the response to global health crises takes center stage. Writers like Albert Camus offer insights that prompt a reevaluation of realism theory's potency in portraying the profound societal shifts accompanying such crises. This exploration brings muted aspects of global health into academic discourse, emphasizing realism's role in reflecting and questioning societal responses to health challenges.

Albert Camus' works, notably *The Plague*, exemplify how realism theory can be a poignant tool for dissecting the human experience during health crises. It prompts readers and scholars to confront the multifaceted aspects of society's response to pandemics, contributing to a nuanced understanding of realism's engagement with health narratives.

Synthesizing diverse perspectives, realism theory in literature emerges as a powerful tool for deciphering the intricacies of power, identity, and societal dynamics, particularly in post-colonial narratives. Luminaries like Chinua Achebe guide this intellectual odyssey, offering narratives that enrich our understanding of the complexities embedded in the post-colonial experience.

This exploration emphasizes how realism theory, as guided by influential figures like Chinua Achebe, remains a dynamic tool for dissecting the complexities of post-colonial narratives. The interplay of realism's flexibility and constraints becomes a lens through which literature mirrors and interprets the intricate dance of power and identity in evolving societies.

Realism theory transcends being a mere conceptual framework; it manifests as a dynamic force shaping literature's profound connection with reality. This examination underscores unexplored intellectual frontiers within realism theory, accentuating its potential to enrich our comprehension of the intricate interplay between literature and reality.

### **Layers of Reality**

In the realm of literature, realism theory, when examined through diverse perspectives, reveals its adaptability to capture the multifaceted nature of human experience. The works of influential realist authors such as Gustave Flaubert, Leo Tolstoy, and Edith Wharton exemplify the nuanced exploration of societal dynamics, individual struggles, and the unfolding tapestry of reality. By synthesizing diverse perspectives, realism theory becomes a lens through which the complexities of different cultures, epochs, and social structures are brought to the forefront.

Contemporary authors, building on the foundation laid by these realist luminaries, continue to employ realism theory to navigate the complexities of the modern world. Whether it's the exploration of socio-economic disparities, cultural clashes, or the impact of technology on human relationships, realism theory remains a vibrant and evolving force in literature. Synthesizing diverse perspectives within realism theory allows for a richer understanding of the ever-changing dynamics between literature and the intricacies of reality.

Chinua Achebe's exploration of post-colonial themes in works like *Things Fall Apart* serves as a focal point for understanding how realism theory intersects with the narratives of identity, power, and societal changes. Realism becomes a means to unravel the layers of post-colonial societies, providing a framework for analyzing the enduring impact of colonial histories on contemporary cultural dynamics.

Arundhati Roy's literary prowess, showcased in her novel *The Ministry of Utmost Happiness*, orchestrates a nuanced dance between reality and fantasy, inviting readers into a world where the boundaries of both realms blur purposefully. Unlike her earlier work, *The God of Small Things*, Roy's second novel takes on a different narrative journey, using a hybrid format that intricately weaves fantasy and historical realism.

The narrative structure, composed of twelve chapters with a non-linear chronology, adopts both an omniscient voice and multiple subjective perspectives. This kaleidoscopic storytelling introduces readers to protagonists Anjum and Tilo, while a myriad of secondary characters contributes to the novel's expansive and loosely interconnected plot. Roy employs varied narrative techniques, including letters, diaries, text messages, and poems, enhancing the authenticity of the events portrayed.

The amalgamation of Bharati fantasy elements and historical realism within the novel serves a dual purpose. It transcends aesthetic considerations, becoming a vehicle for a robust critique of pressing global issues. Roy delves into the complexities of contemporary India, navigating through gender dynamics, caste disparities, environmental concerns, and religious conflicts. In doing so, the narrative captures the intricacies of a nation grappling with decay and hope.

By seamlessly blending Hindu epics with the intellectual activism evident in Roy's non-fiction works, the novel becomes a literary tapestry that intertwines mythical elements with the stark realities of postcolonial India. This intricate fusion serves as a lens through which readers are prompted to confront the paradoxes of the nation. The narrative format not only tells a story but invites readers to engage with the socio-political landscape, mirroring the essence of realism theory in literature.

In essence, Arundhati Roy's *The Ministry of Utmost Happiness* becomes a canvas where non-state realities are unveiled with precision. The deliberate interplay between magical realism and historical context serves as a literary alchemy, offering readers a profound exploration of the intricate socio-political tapestry that defines contemporary India.

Barbara Kingsolver's infusion of eco-centric nuances into realism theory becomes a pivotal exploration, sparking discourse on seamlessly integrating environmental elements into broader literary conversations. This analysis delves into the depth of environmental realism as a significant facet of contemporary literature, shedding light on interconnected ecological and social dependencies within the planetary system.

The phrase it's all connected, which captures the heart of Karen Warren's discovery, strikes a profound chord in Chris Cuomo's *On Ecofeminist Philosophy*. As significant contributors, ecofeminists promote the understanding of the interdependencies between the planetary system's ecology and society. Roger J.H. King's "*Caring about Nature: Feminist Ethics and the Environment*" demonstrates the ideological parallels between essentialist and conceptualist ecofeminism. With an emphasis on fostering, caring for, and maintaining relationships, both strands emphasize the importance of developing theoretical frameworks for human interactions with nature.

Partnership ethics, which draws from Merchant's "*Reinventing Eden: The Fate of Nature in Western Culture*," emphasizes interconnectedness without claiming that women are the only ones with knowledge or the capacity to take care of the environment. It involves women and minorities actively participating in the process, fostering a platform where nature speaks in a different voice and is heard at the table. Barbara Kingsolver's nonfiction and fiction align with these partnership principles, offering recovery narratives that echo ecofeminist thoughts by philosophers like Carolyn Merchant, Karen Warren, Val Plumwood, and Ynestra King.

Kingsolver's works transcend dual oppressions of patriarchal domination and cultural hierarchies, providing a lens to understand ecological realities. Termed as *Recovery Narratives* (Merchant 256), Kingsolver's narratives contribute to a new understanding of human placement in history and nature, affirming continuity, kinship, subjecthood, agency, and openness to more-than-human forces. These narratives align with the principles of realism theory, emphasizing the intricate dance between literature and the environmental intricacies of reality.

Realism theory, exemplified by George Orwell's *1984*, becomes a focal point for dissecting the portrayal of information warfare. This scrutiny invites scholars to unravel the complexities embedded in the narrative, emphasizing the theory's relevance in analyzing the dynamics of information manipulation.

The foundation for comprehending information warfare within realism theory is George Orwell's *1984*. Written in 1949, the book foresaw a dystopian future in which a totalitarian government uses media manipulation to maintain social control. Because it reflects current worries about censorship, surveillance, and the distortion of reality in the digital era, Orwell's writing is still relevant today.

Beyond Orwell's vision, the application of realism theory extends to diverse realms. In the exploration of biometric identity verification, the intricate tapestry unfolds through historical, philosophical, and cultural dimensions, echoing the principles of realism theory. As we navigate the convergence of symbolic representations and real-world implications, the impact of cultural narratives on public perception becomes evident. Trust, privacy concerns, and education form a delicate interplay, showcasing the nuanced societal dynamics portrayed by realism theory.

The scrutiny of biometric identity verification delves into the core of human identity, societal norms, and ethical considerations, aligning with the realist perspective. Balancing technological advancements with heightened privacy apprehensions mirrors the challenges presented by realism theory in navigating the intricate dance between progress and ethical considerations.

The continued dialogue between philosophers, technologists, policymakers, and the public, as highlighted in the exploration of biometrics, aligns with the realist approach. The ongoing conversations and adaptability to emerging challenges underscore the realist principles of navigating societal implications responsibly. It is through such nuanced understanding and commitment to ethical principles that we collectively shape a future where technological innovation aligns harmoniously with our evolving understanding of identity and society, mirroring the essence of realism theory.

Within the framework of realism theory, writers such as Albert Camus offer poignant depictions of reality's response to global health crises. This exploration not only scrutinizes the literature's nuanced portrayals but also illuminates the intersection between societal reactions and the fundamental tenets of realism theory.

Albert Camus, notably in his novel *The Plague*, provides a realist lens through which to examine society grappling with a global health crisis. Published in 1947, the novel captures the visceral realities of an epidemic and the profound impact on individual lives. Camus, drawing from his own experiences and observations, crafts a narrative that mirrors the complexities, fears, and moral dilemmas inherent in such crises.

In the contemporary landscape, the echoes of realism theory in literature resound in responses to events like the COVID-19 pandemic. Authors, influenced by the realist tradition, weave narratives that delve into the fabric of society facing a health crisis. The works of contemporary writers, whether in fiction or non-fiction, serve as a mirror reflecting the collective responses, ethical quandaries, and societal shifts in the face of unprecedented challenges.

This exploration underlines the enduring relevance of realism theory, offering insights into how literature becomes a reflective space for grappling with the harsh realities of global health crises. Through the lens of realism, these narratives contribute to a deeper understanding of societal responses, ethical considerations, and the intricate interplay between literature and reality.

A profound exploration of realism theory, guided by luminaries such as Chinua Achebe, unfolds a nuanced understanding. This discussion intricately unravels the interplay of flexibility and constraints within realism theory, shedding light on power dynamics, identity constructions, and societal nuances, particularly in the realm of post-colonial narratives.

The groundbreaking book *Things Fall Apart* by Chinua Achebe is a shining example of how to apply realism theory. Achebe handles the subtleties of power dynamics, cultural conflicts, and the complicated web of identities by firmly establishing his story in the pre-colonial Igbo civilization. Achebe is able to convey a story that goes beyond straightforward depictions by utilizing the realist approach to reflect the complex aspects of society processes.

In the post-colonial context, Achebe's work continues to serve as a touchstone for authors engaging with realism theory. Contemporary writers, inspired by Achebe's realist legacy, delve into the challenges and opportunities that post-colonial societies present. Through a nuanced exploration of realism theory, these narratives contribute to a deeper understanding of power relations, evolving identities, and the intricate tapestry of societal dynamics.

## Conclusion

In a time of rapid technological growth, environmental challenges, and shifting sociopolitical landscapes, literature serves as a reflective and critical force. This study has examined how contemporary writers remake reality by combining conventional literary frameworks with contemporary issues including digital alienation, ecological degradation, surveillance, and global power dynamics. From post-colonial narratives to speculative fiction, literature now transcends traditional boundaries to tackle challenging questions of identity, responsibility, and truth in a hyperconnected society. Across studying works by a range of authors, from Orwell to Roy, this study demonstrates the ageless power of literature to explore, challenge, and illuminate the human condition in the midst of ever changing world circumstances.

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