
Reading Literature through Marxist Criticism: A Critical Inquiry

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Abstract:

Marxist criticism is one of the most influential approaches in modern literary theory. It studies literature in relation to social class, economic systems, and power relations. The present article explores the principles of Marxist criticism and examines how literature reflects and challenges class structures and social inequality. Based on the ideas of Karl Marx and Friedrich Engels, Marxist literary criticism focuses on the relationship between literature and the material conditions of society. This article explains the key concepts of Marxism such as class struggle, ideology, base and superstructure, and alienation, and discusses

how these concepts help readers understand literary texts more deeply. It also analyzes selected literary examples to demonstrate how Marxist criticism reveals hidden economic and social conflicts within literature. The article argues that literature is not created in isolation but is deeply influenced by the social and economic realities of its time. Through Marxist criticism, readers can better understand how literature reflects power relations, oppression, and resistance within society.

Keywords: *Marxist criticism, class struggle, ideology, base and superstructure, alienation, literature and society*