

Modernist Features in

A Selection of Modern Literary Fiction

Graduate Institute of Taiwan Literature, National Taiwan University,
Professor Kuo Yuh-wen 2009.7.1 10 : 30-11 : 45

Abstract

A Selection of Modern Literary Fiction is made up of a selection of thirty three short stories chosen by Ou Yangzi, a major figure in the publication of the Taiwanese publication *Modern Literature*, from the first issue to the fiftieth issue of the aforementioned publication from 1960-1973 in all 206 short stories. All the selected pieces were selected to conform to the concept of Modernism, and each piece has an attached foreword by Ou Yangzi in the New Criticism style. Most of the works selected can be considered to be more progressive than *Literary Review* (1956-1960) in its founding years of modern literature, their spirit of innovation and experimentation can also be seen as perhaps even more intense than the works printed in the resumed publication of *Modern Literature* after 1977. He chose only one piece from each writer, which although may not do justice to those writers with a greater output, can certainly be considered as a paradigm of Literary Modernism in the short story genre, with the strong modernist features manifested within the works. This thesis attempts to discuss the modernist features of this selection with regard to three aspects: the first aspect is the echoes of existentialism found in many of the pieces, the second is the emphasis on psychological description of the characters, and the third takes into account the particularity of the appearance of language within the selection.

Key Words: Modern Literature, Modernism, Existentialism, Psychoanalysis, Satire