#### Lesson 09 :****Method Types in**** Literary ****Research****

#### Part 03

**13-ICT:**  
 It discusses the issues involved in creating digital archives of manuscript sources and proves  
information about some of the most interesting literature digitization projects and what these  
involve. Computers as medium change human relations to texts and the implications it has  
for literary criticism, for theories of texts, and for interactions with texts.  
 Research methodologies are concerned with the perspectives researchers bring to bear  
on their work such as a feminist or postcolonial one. The many different critical readings of  
diverse literary texts are possible because different readers bring different perspectives to  
bear on their analyses of a given text. Literary theories are the different versions of post-  
structuralism. They are also known as methodologies or theories of reading. Some of them are deconstruction, modernism & post-modernism, psychoanalysis, feminism, Marxism, new historicism & cultural materialism, and postcolonialism. Some salient features of each  
methodology are essentialized below: [[1]](#footnote-2)

**Deconstruction:**• reading against the grain  
• reading against the text itself  
• uncovers the unconscious dimension of the text; aporia, contradictions,inconsistencies  
• textual harassment or oppositional reading  
• texts is at war with itself/divided house  
Modernism vs. Postmodernism  
These two are not two successive stages, but two opposed moods or attitudes. [[2]](#footnote-3)

**Modernism:**• Rejection of traditional realism (chronological plots, continuous narratives relayed by  
omniscient narrators, closed endings)  
• A new emphasis on impressionism & subjectivity: how we see rather than what we  
see  
• A movement away from the apparent objectivity provided by omniscient external narration, fixed narrative points of view, clear-cut moral positions  
• A blurring of distinctions between genres  
• A new liking for fragmented forms, discontinuous narrative reflecting pessimism & despair, yearning for organic society, regretting about lost sense of purpose, a lost coherence, a lost system of values  
• A tendency toward ‘reflexivity’  
• Fierce asceticism “decoration is a crime” “less is more”; minimalism (Samuel Beckett’s dramas’ running time of 13 minutes). [[3]](#footnote-4)   
**Postmodernism:**• rejection of the divine pretensions of authorship in favour of parody & pastiche (blending)  
• fragmentation is liberating & exhilarating, symptomatic of escape from fixed systems of belief; celebrated  
• Believes in excess, gaudiness; surface without the depths of significance  
• Deconstructs the ideals of Enlightenment project: reason, clarity, truth, and progress  
• Advocated the questioning of meta-narratives/grand-narratives in favour of mini-  
narratives that are provisional, temporary, contingent, relative  
• Believes in the ‘loss of the real’ and a culture of ‘hyperreality’[[4]](#footnote-5)  
**Psychoanalysis:**• The unconscious, like lit cannot speak directly and explicitly but does so through  
images, symbols, emblems and metaphors  
• Lit is not involved with making direct explicit statements about life  
• Reversal of “I think, therefore I am” to “I am where I think not”  
• Self is deconstructed to be merely a linguistic effect, not an essential entity: liberal  
humanist notion of unique, individual selfhood is deconstructed; no traditional characterization (the subject as a stable amalgam of conscious). [[5]](#footnote-6)

**Feminism**:  
• Rediscovering the texts written by women  
• Revalue women’s experience  
• Examine representations of women in lit by men and women  
• Challenge representations of women as Other or Lack  
• Examining power relations in terms of patriarchy  
• Recognizing the role of language in making what is social and constructed  
• Raising the questions if men and women are essentially different biologically or socially constructed as different  
• Exploring if there is a female language and if it is available to men  
• Re-reading psychoanalysis to further explore the issue of female and male identity. [[6]](#footnote-7)  
**Marxism:**• Marxism is a material philosophy vs. idealist philosophy: explains things without  
assuming the existing of a world/forces beyond the natural world  
• Looks for concrete, scientific; logical explanations of the world of observable facts  
• While other philosophies seek to understand the world, Marxism seeks to change it  
• Society is constructed by a BASE (the material means of production, distribution, &  
exchange) and a SUPERSTRUCTURE (cultural world of ideals, art, religion, law…)  
& the latter are determined by the economic base  
• A writer is not autonomous inspired individuals whose genius & imagination enables  
him to create original, timeless works of art; he is formed by social contexts  
New Historicism & Cultural Materialism  
• Parallel study of literary and non-literary texts  
• There is nothing outside the text: everything about the past is only available to us in  
textualised forms: thrice-processed (through ideology/discursive practices of its own  
time, through those of readers, & through the distorting web of language itself)  
• Culture includes television, popular fiction, music  
• Materialism signifies the opposite of idealism: idealist belief is that culture represents  
the free & independent play of the talented individual mind; materialist belief is that  
culture cannot transcend the material forces & relations of production. [[7]](#footnote-8)  
**Postcolonialism:**• Questions the humanists’ understanding of lit as constituting fundamental, universal aspects of the human condition.

• Reclaiming the past  
• Examine the representation of other cultures in lit  
• Lit is often evasively and crucially silent on matters concerned with colonization and  
imperialism  
• Foreground questions of cultural difference and diversity  
• Celebrate hybridity & polyvalency (simultaneously belonging to more cultures). [[8]](#footnote-9)  
**14-PSYCHOLOGICAL APPROACH:**

Rene Wellek and Austin Waren in Nyoman Kutha Ratna states that there are four models in psychological approach, they are :author, creative process, a literary work, reader.When it deals with the author, the approach used is expressive When it deals with the text of a literary work, the approach used is objective.

**STEPS IN PSYCHOLOGICAL APPROACH:**  
 Analyzing the intrinsic and extrinsic elements Intrinsically it focuses on character, like motive, ambition, and everything relate with his/her behavior Analysis on conflict relate with typified and developing of character Analysis on psychological aspects experienced by character like, depression, phobia, personality structure, libido etc.  
Analysis on the main theme of a literary work Extrinsically it discusses the author’s psychological condition Analysis on the influence of the literary work to the reader.Research report. [[9]](#footnote-10)

1. J. JOHN SEKAR : **Is there a Method/Methodology for Literary Research?** Research Centre in English, The American College   
   Dean, INDIA [↑](#footnote-ref-2)
2. ibid [↑](#footnote-ref-3)
3. J. JOHN SEKAR : **Is there a Method/Methodology for Literary Research?** Research Centre in English, The American College   
   Dean, INDIA [↑](#footnote-ref-4)
4. ibid [↑](#footnote-ref-5)
5. J. JOHN SEKAR : **Is there a Method/Methodology for Literary Research?** Research Centre in English, The American College   
   Dean, INDIA [↑](#footnote-ref-6)
6. ibid [↑](#footnote-ref-7)
7. J. JOHN SEKAR : **Is there a Method/Methodology for Literary Research?** Research Centre in English, The American College   
   Dean, INDIA [↑](#footnote-ref-8)
8. ibid [↑](#footnote-ref-9)
9. Haryati Sulistyorini: **RESEARCH METHOD IN LITERATURE ,**Faculty of Languages and LettersDian Nuswantoro UniversityIntroduction to Literary Studies [↑](#footnote-ref-10)