Thirteenth Lecture:

Realism:

Realism is used by literary critics in two chief ways: (1) to identify a literary movement of the nineteenth century, especially in prose fiction (beginning with Balzac in France, George Eliot in England, and William Dean Howells in America); and (2) to designate a recurrent mode, in various eras, of representing human life and experience in literature, which was especially exemplified by the writers of this historical movement. Realistic fiction is often opposed to romantic fiction: the romance is said to present life as we would have it be, more picturesque, more adventurous, more heroic than the actual; realism, to present an accurate imitation of life as it is. This distinction is not invalid, but it is inadequate. Casanova, T. E. Lawrence, and Winston Churchill were people in real life, but their histories, as related by themselves or others, demonstrate that truth can be stranger than literary realism. The typical realist sets out to write a fiction which will give the illusion that it reflects life and the social world as it seems to the common reader. To achieve this effect the author prefers as protagonist an ordinary citizen of Middletown, living on Main Street, perhaps, and engaged in the real estate business. The realist, in other words, is deliberately selective in material and prefers the average, the commonplace, and the everyday over the rarer aspects of the social....etc

Characteristics

1- Renders reality closely and in comprehensive detail. Selective presentation of reality with an emphasis on verisimilitude, even at the expense of a well-made plot
2- The characters are human and behave in realistic ways. They are more important than action and plot.
3- In the literary work there is more is more interest on middle class.
4-The problems are everyday problems; relationships with family, friends, growing up, death, and dealing with survival .
5-The themes reflect realistic human experiences, messages about people .
6- The is more objectivity .

Similarities between Naturalism and Realism:

1) Both " avoid artificial, fantasy, or supernatural elements.
2) Both of these pessimistic views emerged in the 19th century.
3) God is absent from most of the writing …etc
The Difference between Realism and Naturalism:

1) Realism is a faithful representation of life, while naturalism was exaggerated form of realism; it shows humans as being controlled by environment and social conditions human is helpless.

2) In realism the main focus was on the middle class and its problems, naturalism often focused on poorly lower-class characters, and on themes involving violence and taboo activities…etc