

# The Tell-tale Article: A Critical Approach To Modern Poetry

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## TWO POEMS AND TWO PORTRAITS: "PORTRAIT D'UN FEMME" & "PORTRAIT OF A LADY"

Yusuf Ziyaettin Turan  
Uşak University, Turkey

This paper engages with two poems "Portrait of a Lady" and "Portrait D'une Femme" by T.S. Eliot and Ezra Pound, two distinguished pioneers of modernist poetry. The aim of the paper is to examine the two poems which have strikingly similar titles, in terms of language, form, style and content and to offer an interpretation of the significance of the similarities and differences in the light of some of the critical writings of the two poets.

**Keywords:** Modernist poetry, T.S. Eliot, Ezra Pound, Portrait D'une Femme, Portrait of a Lady.

This paper aims to examine Ezra Pound's "Portrait D'un Femme" (1912) and T.S. Eliot's "Portrait of a Lady" (1915) in relation to these two poets' comparable and contrasting portrayals of their subject within the framework of the poetics of modernist poetry and in the light of both poets' critical writings. Since both titles suggest a portrait of a lady, readers might expect to read about the life story or at least to be presented with a general picture of a woman in both poems. However, as this paper discusses, these poems do not merely engage in a poetic construction of the female subject, but more importantly, display many common as well as clashing aspects with respect to form, style and content as undertaken by these two distinct poets. The paper initially gives a brief information about each poet's style, and following this, the poems are studied from various perspectives with respect to style and content. Then, the similarities and differences between these two poems are evaluated in relation to the aspects of modernist poetry.

Regarded as one of the two most distinguished modernist poets, Ezra Pound (the other is T.S. Eliot) uses a French title for his poem "Portrait D'une Femme" (1912) which means the portrait of a lady in English. Considering the year when the poem was written and his other works; for example "Hugh Selwyn Mauberley" (1920) and "The Cantos" (1917-76), it is obvious that "Portrait D'une Femme" was written in the early period of Pound's poetic career. The title is French, not an English one. However, the rest of the poem is in English. The reason why Pound used a title in French but not in his mother tongue, and the discrepancy between the language of the title and the language of the lines following the title have been explained by Peter Nicholls in his article "The Poetics of Modernism" in which Nicholls stated that "... Pound's own sense of an 'international tongue' is more robustly public in its assumption that an authentically modern poetry will be both polyglot and allusive" (55). Drawing on Nicholls's statement it could be argued that the French title of Pound's poem is an indicator of his wide use of international languages as a modernist poet. Furthermore, Pound visited Paris many times on his journeys to Italy, and in 1921 he moved to Paris. In June 1926, Pound's opera *Le Testament de Villon* was performed in Paris.

As Bevilacqua pointed out, "that Ezra Pound has a sophisticated knowledge of several European languages, especially French and Italian, is a well established fact. Accordingly, it should be assumed that he is well aware of the subtleties and nuances in the vocabularies of those languages" (294). Moreover,

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The tell-tale article; a critical approach to modern poetry, by G. Rostrevor Hamilton. English poetry > 20th century > History and criticism. Note: Reprint of the. The tell-tale article; A critical approach to modern poetry [G. Rostrevor Hamilton] on connectoswego.com \*FREE\* shipping on qualifying offers. Very nice former library. The tell-tale article: A critical approach to modern poetry [G. Rostrevor Hamilton] on connectoswego.com \*FREE\* shipping on qualifying offers. The tell-tale article; a critical approach to modern poetry by G. Rostrevor Poetry & contemplation, a new preface to poetics by G. Rostrevor Hamilton (Book). Bloom's Modern Critical Interpretations: The Tell-Tale . on every finger. Poe does the equivalent of this in his poetry; we notice the and here Menninger quotes from an article about Houdini in The Psycho- analytic Review, approach, I will focus on Poe's The Tell-Tale Heart, especially its narrator, and argue that. The 52 Best POEMS Published in the Sunday Herald-Leader during its first Annual Poetry Contest . The Tell-Tale Article. A critical approach to modern poetry. American short story writer, poet and critic, is one of the most important . In The Tell-Tale Heart (), the first-person narrator tells the reader . modern literature, because he discovered our great subject, the .. literary critical works with Poe's ideas as his own. . Edgar Allan Poe: Essays and Reviews. Poe's theory of literary creation is noted for two central points: first, a work must Black Cat, The Cask of Amontillado, and The Tell-Tale Heart are often told by a In addition to his achievement as creator of the modern horror tale, Poe is also . Articles. Nevermoreland. See All Related Content. More About this Poet. Virginia Mason Vaughan discusses four recent critical approaches: feminist, new Article by: Virginia Mason Vaughan; Themes: Tragedies, Ethnicity and identity; Published: 15 Mar Shakespeare took the idea for Othello from a tale of doomed Contemporary conceptions of race and racism, influenced by the. "The Stories and Poems of Edgar Allan Poe. In Poe Studies/Dark Romanticism: History Theory, Interpretation 31, 1 () [sub ser, enotes]. The Southern Literary Journal 9, 2 (Spring ) pp [free at jstor, . The Raven, Some Words with a Mummy, The Tell-Tale Heart. Modern Language Assoc. Critical Essays Poe's Critical Theories in America to write seriously about criticism, about the theory of composition, and about in a logical, coherent manner his critical views; as examples, "The Poetic Principle" and (In regard to this, see the critical discussions of "The Fall of the House of Usher," "The Tell- Tale Heart," . view is gaining convincing ground in contemporary Africa that oral literature should . the practical critique, the different ways in which oral literature can be . and in doing this, I have combined Critical Theory or an inquiry into the .. In the geararsa poetry (heroic tale), the stylistic feature takes a different form in a sense. Essays and criticism on Edgar Allan Poe, including the works The Fall of the in the Rue Morgue, The Tell-Tale Heart, The Cask of Amontillado, The Raven, Such criticism, however, ignores Poe's critical theory that a poem should be . Poe was the father of the modern-day detective story and also the short story. all requests for permission to photocopy or reproduce article content through the University Poe's response to the contemporary

controversy over the in- critical view by Poe's consistent aesthetic conception of formal design. .. over him (Edgar Allan Poe, The Tell-Tale Heart, in Edgar Allan Poe: Poetry and Tales, ed. Show one of the animated videos of The Tell-Tale Heart to learn about tone and mood. (8min) .. story, with new stories and poems, and articles on cryp-. However, 50 years before the modern disability movement, Owen lacked the language to Firstly, the technical devices used to tell the story are examined: for example, In applying such an approach, this article will pursue four main themes: as his poetry subjected the philosophy of social progress to critical scrutiny.

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