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# DEPICTING THE CONCEPT OF THE MODERN VISION OF POST-MODERN URBAN LIFE AND EMBODYING IT THROUGH A COMPARATIVE ANALYTICAL STUDY OF A CLOCKWORK ORANGE AND HIGH-RISE



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## ABSTRACT

### ANTHONY BURGESS'S AND J. G. BALLARD'S VISIONS OF POSTMODERN URBAN LIFE: A COMPARATIVE STUDY OF *A CLOCKWORK ORANGE* AND *HIGH-RISE*

The books examine Anthony Burgess's and J. G. Ballard's visions of postmodern urban life through their novels, *A Clockwork Orange* and *High-Rise*. These novels portray the societal conditions which lead to ultimate destruction through various disturbing occurrences. Anthony Burgess' and J. G. Ballard's postmodern works provide opposing perspectives of urban living that transcend banal concepts of everyday life. The novels *A Clockwork Orange* and *High-Rise* are examined critically in the study. The protagonists of the novels face different struggles and experience changes that will ultimately construct their destinies. The research finding shows how Burgess and Ballard build their characters, settings, or fictional worlds to portray their views of the postmodern era. The density of urban life and its alteration of scale has an impact on one another. The concentration topic in Ballard's discourse is depicted in The Concentration City, which presents a dystopia that "posits an infinitely stretched metropolis" that is "subject to economic laws, urban expansion, and the price of the machinery." Ballard's works extensively emphasise the concept of urban density. The protagonist of this narrative, Franz, a physics student, believes that a wall surrounds the city and that the world beyond that wall is free. This vision can help us understand the impact of dense population on the postmodern period.

Additionally, the research examines the role of violence in contemporary society and robust societal structures' oppression of innocent persons. The paper also discusses the importance of social order and standards in enacting positive social change. Both of these works do an excellent job of reflecting contemporary society. The research article also investigates how both novels criticize urban society and portray a dystopia that leads to social doom.

Sawsan AL-NAQEEB, 2021

**Keywords:** Postmodern, Societal Condition, Violence, Social Order, Dystopia, Urban Society, Anthony Burgess, J. G. Ballard

## INTRODUCTION

The postmodern novels by Anthony Burgess and J. G. Ballard present conflicting views of urban life that transcend the mundane ideas of everyday life. The novels *A Clockwork Orange* and *High-Rise* are critically analyzed in the paper. These two novels present the reader with an alternate, postmodern portrayal of an urban society in which the characters face a unique dilemma of their own. *A Clockwork Orange* represents a fictional, dystopian England where the fabric of urban society is questioned concerning the individuality of human beings. The satiric tone found in the novel criticizes the political structure of postmodern urban society and points towards political domination that can ensure that individual is psychologically altered to preserve the supposed justice within the society.

The psychological rehabilitation of the protagonist, Alex, a violent criminal, raises the question of the individual rights of human beings to decide their fates within a politically dominated society. In *A Clockwork Orange*, the portrayal of urban life centres on perfection within human beings. The portrayal of the fundamental tenets of a totalitarian society reflects the extent of the dominance exercised by its political powers upon its citizens. The aversion therapy used on Alex to cure him of his violent urges leaves him defenceless within a society that preys on his weakness. The transformation of Alex from a violent criminal to a timid, frightened, and confused individual calls into question the reality of humans' free will. The urban life envisioned by Burgess exposes the superficiality of political systems that construct a society that forces individuals to forget their individuality. As seen in the novel, all of Alex's previous preferences, such as love for classical music, vanish, and his character is constructed according to the preference of the political powers that require citizens to



remain docile and oppressed. In essence, the novel satirizes the modern societal structure and its aim to attain forced and manipulated perfection.

The novel by J. G. Ballard, *High-Rise*, presents another face of a postmodern dystopian society that portrays the violent roles human beings unhesitatingly assume to protect their own space. Lines between a primitive and postmodern society are somewhat blurred, while a distinct subversion of the predictable urban society is dissolved. The high-rise building takes the shape of a battleground that consumes the lives of all the residents, including that of the protagonist, Robert Laing. Interestingly, the portrayal of the urban society differs significantly from what an urban society is imagined to be while simultaneously providing a picture of the primitiveness that can consume those high-class residents who belong to the upper strata of the society.

This particular novel is part of a trilogy by Ballard that includes *The Atrocity*, *Concrete Island*, and *High-Rise*. A common theme in all these novels is Ballard's representation of a darker side of humanity, driven by the intense desire to survive and protect their territory. In essence, the portrayal of urban life reflects the author's vision, which seeks to merge primitiveness and modernism. The coexistence of violence and gentleness within human beings, as represented in the novel, indicates the inherent duality of human beings. Laing and all the other residents participate in a three-month-long war that tests their fear, capability of committing violence, and willingness to harm each other to protect their territory.

The high-rise apartment complex serves as a metaphor for the postmodern urban society in which these built environments become an integral part of the characters. The novel also stands as a testament to the discovery of all the hidden dark desires and brutality within the inhabitants of the apartment complex. The portrayal of

a dystopian and chaotic urban life stands in stark opposition to the traditional idea of urban life. The sense of self is at risk of fragmentation as apprehensions about losing the apartment complex's small territory torture Laing's psyche. At the end of the novel, as Laing finally reflects upon his experiences while sitting on his balcony, the readers are acquainted with his feeling of inner peace rather than guilt, remorse, or fear at the horrendous events that have taken place.

Both these novels are analyzed in a comparative light to reflect upon the authors' postmodern visions, which are presented in a manner that reflects extraordinary situations within a postmodern society. These novels are built around elements of chaos that are hidden under the shadow. In the case of Laing in *High-Rise*, the primitive instincts of survival and violence have come out to protect personal space. This personal space, though artificial, is considered to be an integral part of him. It creates a complicated situation that intertwines the self with the built, artificial environment and further fuels the artificial nature of human beings within an urban society. The contrast in the postmodern vision discussed in this paper arises due to the reversal of violent instincts, as seen in *A Clockwork Orange*. Burgess presents the nuances of a human life that is devoid of any defensive or violent instincts. Alex stands as the prime example of a man who cannot survive within a society that perpetuates violence. In essence, it satirizes the inability of human beings to survive without any wrong instincts and advocates for a necessary balance. Striving to attain perfection in society is a futile aim of the dominating political system. Yet to attain such unattainable goals, the dominating power of the society does not shy away from stripping individuals of their rights and power of choice. However, the political powers do not consider the consequences of this forceful manipulation through psychological

means. Hence, Alex suffers as he loses his identity and his sense of belonging within the society. The transformation of Alex into an empty shell of his previous self critically highlights the injustice that an individual is forced to suffer within a postmodern urban society.

Anthony Burgess emerged as an author prior to the peak of modernism, and the era influenced much of his music and writing. As a young writer, he was inspired by T. S. Eliot and James Joyce. His sharp social satire writing gives a new dimension to the postmodern age, though his description's core notion is pessimistic. The style of Burgess's description of the postmodern era is generally comic. Extraordinary engagement with the society of the era is represented in *Time for a Tiger* (1956), *The Enemy in the Blanket* (1958), *Beds in the East* (1959), *The Right to an Answer* (1960), and *Devil of a State* (1961). Another novel by Anthony Burgess depicting postmodern life is *A Clockwork Orange*, published in 1980. Aversion therapy and chemical persuasion are central to the plot, and a brainwashing process is implemented. The apocalyptic fantasy regarding the world's end is depicted in *Puma* (1976).

On the other hand, J. G. Ballard's works address modernism's constitutive impossibilities, intensifying the autolytic dimension. His novel *The Drowned World* (1962) defines itself as the fruit of modernism and is associated with typical features of late modernism. In Ballard's novels, the description of modernism does not include any particular moment of the cultural history of Europe or any specific artistic canon. Still, also it has provided a more radical session of the postmodern era. A ground polishing hostile production has developed the literary edge in postmodernism. Modernist repetition of the postmodern era provides a unique perspective in the works of J.G. Ballard.

This book focuses on the comparative analysis of these two well-known literary persons. The rationale of this study is constituted with the impeccable value with the auto crafting description of urban life.

Post-structuralist Theory fundamentally relies upon the structure of signs, symbols, and language representing complex arguments with arbitrariness meaningfulness. It is justified through worldly phenomena. The theory of post-structuralism is developed here in the works of these novelists. Predominant social, cultural, or political are given meaningfulness in the literary context. 'Notions of truth' become complex and multidimensional in *High-Rise* and *A Clockwork Orange* by J. G. Ballard and Anthony Burgess, respectively. Both novels are notable for their capacity to pinpoint the essence of postmodernism. Predominant frameworks may be questioned, exhibiting the otherness, uncertainties, or differences with diverse levels of subjective meaning. Concrete and stable definition connects the symbols and signs accordingly. The illusion is popularized through structural dominance in the works of these novelists.

*A Clockwork Orange* (1962) has earned Burgess the reputation of a great novelist with mordant and comic power. It is plotted in the teenage argot that Burgess investigated, combining ingredients of American and British slang. As an examination of the postmodern era, it includes the unsuccessful attempt of society to rehabilitate violent delinquents psychologically. Other essential novels depicting postmodern urban life are *The Eve of Saint Venus* (1964) and *Enderby Outside* (1968). In literary works, postmodernism denotes the strong reaction against modernism. It is addressed as a cohesive movement instead of an attitude towards the art. Major characteristics include the authoritarianism view.

The density of urban life and its transformation of scale affect each other. The density theme in Ballard's discourse is depicted in *The Concentration City*, a dystopia that 'posits an infinitely extended metropolis' as 'subject to economic laws, urban development and the price of mechanism'. The concept of urban density is heavily posturized in the works of Ballard. The lead character in this story, Franz, a physics student, thinks that a wall surrounds the city and the world is free beyond that wall. The effect of dense population on the postmodern era can be understood through this imagination.

A decentralized emphasis on the bodily foundation and projection of the postmodern society offers the threshold of human belief constituted with limited ideologies. Moreover, these significant ideologies are apparent, and numerous versions of the postmodern truth may be perceived upon closer inspection. In the chosen novels of Ballard and Burgess, post-structuralism provides the roadmap shaping the individual identity. These novels have become essential in uncovering the multidimensional truth of postmodern life. The significant purpose of this study is to examine the diverse perspectives of postmodern urban life in *A Clockwork Orange* and *High-Rise* and analyze the different visions of the postmodern truth; the paper will place great significance on these novels.

The imagination of free land indicates the strong desire to be free from this chaotic world. Franz comes to be convinced that the truth is the eternity of the urban life is parallel to the eternity of time. The changing time is reflected in the work of J. G. Ballard, such as in the description of city density and Franz's desire. This description signifies Ballard's view of the chronology of a dystopia. The enforcement of time expresses limited solutions; hence, it expresses the truth that there is no way to

escape from the chaotic zigzag of the modern era. Also, the inclusion of thousands of clocks around the city describes the affinities of urban life.

In this study, the comparative analysis of postmodern urban life in J. G. Ballard's and Anthony Burgess's novels opens different windows of the same room. The postmodern picture is sketched as hazier, time-driven, and complex, where little escapism of the human mind can be observed. These vibrant symbols form the basis of a significant comparative description. The postmodern novels written by Anthony Burgess and J. G. Ballard reflect ideas of everyday urban life that transcend beyond the mundane. The paper critically analyses the apparent utopian vision and the underlying dystopian tendencies of postmodern urban life as seen in *A Clockwork Orange* and *High-Rise*. The novels *A Clockwork Orange* and *High-Rise* show a postmodern portrait of urban society, with the characters facing unique dilemmas. The novel *A Clockwork Orange* shows a fictional England and urban society while reflecting the relationship while reflecting relationships among individuals. The novel reflects an image of the dystopian society and its impact on urban society. Alex is an evil character who commits heinous crimes. His mental condition after the aversion therapy is highly fragile; this leads to a dark future for the protagonist within an inherently dystopian society.

The aversion therapy used for behavioural punishment for criminals may also reduce criminal activities and addiction. The therapy used on Alex aims to eliminate undesirable behaviours. The character of Alex reflects immorality and one who commits criminal activities that merit punishment by law. The narrative proceeds to show that he exhibits mental issues as a confused and unstable individual after facing aversion therapy. Alex has gone through therapy, which leads to his downfall and

experience of helplessness. He is faced with the cruel reality that the operant power can dominate individual experiences in society. The narrative reflects the government's lack of sympathy towards Alex, a criminal and a victim of society. The aversion therapy renders the protagonist a defenceless victim who suffers from the effects of violence, ultimately driving him to attempt suicide.

Aversion therapy is applied to Alex to reduce his violent urges and leaves him defenceless in society. The novel reflects the postmodern societal structure that promotes perfection and uses manipulative means to attain it. However, such perfection may only be attained on a surface level; the author highlights the importance of balance. The urban life was constructed by those dominating societal powers which force individuals to forget individuality.

The novel *High-Rise*, written by J. G. Ballard, reflects the face of a postmodern and dystopian society in its portrayal of the violent role human beings unhesitatingly assume to protect their space. The dividing lines between the primitive and postmodern societies may also point towards a possible subversion predicted by the author. The novel reflects a picture of primitiveness, creating division among the resident belonging to the high society. On the other hand, the view of the social system as portrayed in the novel critically questions the predominant structure of postmodern society. The novels include elements of chaos that are hidden under the shadow. In the case of Laing in the novel, survival instincts and violence protect personal space. The environment stands for postmodern urban society, which is the essential part of this character. The novel stands as a testament to the discovery of hidden dark desire and brutality within the inhabitants of the apartment complex. The dystopian concepts in

urban life reflect the stark opposition between traditional urban life and the urban life surrounded by primitiveness.

A sense of fragmentation in the psyche of Laing is portrayed as he succumbs to the apprehension of losing his territory. On the other hand, the relationship of Laing with his apartment transcends mere material ownership. In essence, the apartment becomes an inseparable part of Laing. At the end of the novel, Laing finally reflects on his experience while sitting on the balcony. The reader is also acquainted with his feelings, as inner peace is reflected as opposed to guilt. Both novels reflect the postmodern vision, which refers to extraordinary situations within postmodern society. The urban life also reflects the authors' vision to merge modernism along with primitiveness.

The dystopian society also reflects society's tendency toward fighting and disorder. The dystopian society concept has developed along with constructs for the utopian society. The portrait of a dystopian society in literature is often related to the future. Humanity reflects those human beings are also required to survive along with struggling with political powers. The predominant structure of urban society also requires the economic structure that ensures economic activities.

On the other hand, the description of postmodern urban life is closely related to the concept of a dystopia. The novel also questions the predominant structure of urban society. The author's vision describes the dystopian structure in the background, which represents the world. The author's vision also highlights signs of primitiveness in society through its violence. The postmodern literature reflects the various aspects of individuality and also includes the communal space in the city.



The selected novels, *A Clockwork Orange* and *High-Rise*, are also associated with these factors. The futuristic, postmodern approach to urban society also impacts the lives of the protagonists. The structure of signs includes urban life and society reflecting individual experiences, which the novels' characters also evaluate. The imagination also indicates the strong desire to be free along with the chaotic world. *A Clockwork Orange* and *High-Rise* reflect different visions of postmodern truth, which are essential in these novels' significance. The study shows that the postmodern picture is hazy and complex, with little escapism in the human mind. The rationale driving this study is the immense value of descriptions of urban life crafted by these authors. This information is also associated with comparative analysis by well-known literacy figures. It is apparent in the novel's storyline that the protagonist attempted to cause grievous harm to people. Still, in the end, a kind of motivational thought changed the protagonist's perspective.

This research study aims to analyze the perspective toward postmodern urban life in *A Clockwork Orange* by Anthony Burgess and analyze the vision of postmodern urban life in *High-Rise* by J. G. Ballard.

- To analyze the vision of postmodern urban life that Anthony Burgess and J. G. Ballard express in *A Clockwork Orange* and *High-Rise*, respectively.
- To describe the characters in the specified novels in connection with the 'postmodern dystopian urban life'.
- To analyze the 'predominant structure' of urban life addressed in Burgess and Ballard's novels.

Research questions are the fundamental questions of a research study that help the researcher understand the study's concept. A study's research questions are based on its objectives. Thus, the research questions of this particular research study are:

- How did Anthony Burgess and J. G. Ballard express their visions of postmodern urban life in *A Clockwork Orange* and *High-Rise*, respectively?
- How are the characters of the selected novels connected with 'postmodern dystopian urban life'?
- How did Burgess and Ballard analyze the 'predominant structure' of urban life in their novels?

## **1. FIRST CHAPTER**

### **1. POST-STRUCTURALIST THEORY AND ITS DEVELOPMENT**

Anthony Burgess and J. G. Ballard are extraordinarily famous and recognized writers of the 21<sup>st</sup> century. Both writers' novels are illustrated after publishing, and they are also made into films that closely resemble the novels. Many people in that generation liked the novels and writings of both writers, as they do in this generation. It is well known that writers always express their feelings towards something in their writing. Similarly, Anthony Burgess and J. G. Ballard express their perspectives on society and other essential topics in their novels.

Furthermore, there are many novels written by both writers that help readers gain knowledge about the society of that time. Thus, this particular research study is based on the perspectives of Anthony Burgess and J. G. Ballard towards postmodern urban life. Apart from that, many novels written by J. G. Ballard are also illustrated, and the movies are also famous among the people of the USA.

Therefore, the perspective towards postmodern urban life in the 21<sup>th</sup> century that J. G. Ballard expresses in his novels will be analyzed briefly in this research study. Theoretical research is used to understand and analyze the concepts discussed in this article. Many theories help explain concepts in literature, and among all of them, the researcher has adopted the Post-structuralist Theory. The theory helps understanding the perspectives Anthony Burgess and J. G. Ballard express in their novels. After that, the mentioned theory is analyzed in this research study, and along with that, the historical development of the theory is also analyzed.

### 1.1. Background of the Study

Apart from that, *A Clockwork Orange* is a black comedy novel that explains the dystopian urban society. The novel was published in 1962 and was the most famous novel by Anthony Burgess. Anthony Burgess was a comedy writer and famous for his writings, but *A Clockwork Orange* made him famous. This novel is based on utopian ideals, dark comedy, urban society, science fiction, and dystopian fiction (Irwin, 2021, p. 3). Apart from that, Burgess portrays five significant characters in this specific novel: Georgie, Pete, Dim, Alex, and Deltoid. In addition, Burgess analyzes the complicated relationship between the state and individuals. Apart from that, the description of young criminals and the punishment of young criminals in postmodern urban society are also analyzed in this novel.

Furthermore, Anthony Burgess often expressed his perspectives on postmodern urban life in the 21<sup>st</sup> century. Therefore, those novels by Anthony Burgess, such as *A Clockwork Orange* and *Napoleon Symphony*, that express such perspectives will be analyzed in this research study. J. G. Ballard was another recognized English writer in the 21<sup>st</sup> century, and people loved many of his writings. Therefore, J. G. Ballard was a novelist, short-story writer, essayist, and satirist. Apart from that, J. G. Ballard was the first novelist who used the new wave of science fiction in his novels (Jeroni, 2018, p. 10). For example, a novel based on the theme of science fiction is *The Drowned World*, written by J. G. Ballard. In addition, J. G. Ballard was born on 15 November 1930 and died on 19 April 2009. Some of his short stories are the voices of the millennium.

Anthony Burgess's most famous and recognized writings are *Earthly Powers*, *The Wanting Seed*, 1985, *Napoleon Symphony*, *The Doctor Is Sick*, *Inside Mr Enderby*, and others. Anthony Burgess was one of the most recognized English writers of the

21<sup>st</sup> century, and a novel called *A Clockwork Orange* is his most famous novel during that time (Smyslova, 2019, p. 83). Anthony Burgess was born on 25 February 1917 and died on 22 November 1993. He was not only a writer but also a composer. In addition, the mentioned writer was mainly known as a comic writer, and people loved his books because of his comic sense. In addition, *High-Rise* is also analyzed in this research study. *High-Rise*, published in 1975, is one of J. G. Ballard's most significant works. The story of this particular novel analyzes the picture of postmodern urban society. The writer used luxury high-rise buildings to describe postmodern urban society (Rafiei, 2017, p. 10).

Furthermore, the author's terminology contributes to his analysis of living in a postmodern urban society. The research study is based on the perspectives of postmodern urban life that are analyzed in the two novels. J. G. Ballard expressed his perspective on the postmodern society of postmodern life by using the term 'luxury high-rise buildings'. On the other hand, the purpose of this specific novel was to analyze the ways of leaving that the post-modern urban society was using that day. In the postmodern urban society depicted in Ballard's novel, technology has increased, and many luxury buildings have been identified (Javanroodi, 2019, pp. 1-40). Apart from that, *High-Rise* helps readers gain knowledge about the society of that time. It is also helpful as a source of information about the lifestyles of postmodern urban society at that time.

The theory of post-structuralism is primarily based upon questioning the predominant structures of language, symbols, and signs. The theory in itself presents a complex argument that is based upon the arbitrariness of meaning. The meanings attributed to each sign, symbol, and worldly phenomenon are only meaningful

concerning other symbols. Post-structuralism and deconstruction theory are thus often mentioned together, as both seek to question and examine the true nature of meaning. Stoltz (2021, p. 99) mentions that the meaning attributed to a specific sign, language structures, and symbols could not survive independently. This particular assertion by De Saussure in linguistics has been further examined by Derrida, pointing towards the inherent instability of meaning itself. In essence, a sign or symbol is only meaningful because of the importance or value attributed to it by an individual, influenced by the predominant social, cultural, and political structures. The development of this complex theory has been used extensively by various critical theorists, writers, and philosophers to uncover the meanings within meanings. In a literary text, the meaning of each word may differ from one author to the other and from one reader to the other.

The notion of truth has become complex and multidimensional. In *A Clockwork Orange* and *High-Rise*, by Anthony Burgess and J. G. Ballard, respectively, the true face of society is questioned extensively through the implementation of various symbols. Hence, this particular theory simultaneously offers multiple layers of truth based upon a single structure. The essence of post-structuralism lies in its capacity to hold up the structures in the preceding movement of structuralism to constant questioning. Instead of offering a concrete foundation to uncover a stable and structured truth, the theory offers layer after layer of meanings and alternate truths. Therefore, post-structuralism, in a sense, unravels a text and leaves the discovery of meaning to individual readers.

The notion of objectivity in truth is also questioned in post-structuralist theory. As exhibited by post-structuralist thinkers such as Lacan, Derrida, and Foucault, objectivity is a relative concept. Even in science, there is no concrete objectivity. Truth

is essentially subjective and depends wholly upon the grasp of the perceiver. However, individuals in this regard are also influenced by cultural dynamics: personal experiences, social structures, and political power struggles. As exhibited in the works of Burgess and Ballard, a man holds power to attributing a specific meaning to his experiences, which are shaped by some form of an external factor. As Remling (2018, p. 12) explained, the post-structuralist approach to reading a text denotes a sort of unravelling of the text. Each component of the text can be taken out and evaluated to perceive a separate meaning. However, Burgess (2018, p. 161) also articulates his belief that the separateness components of meaning cannot be fathomed without being examined concerning the whole structure.

This theory has a complex discrepancy that promotes the view that meaning and objectivity are inherently unstable. It is often used to dissect the text and uncover truths naturally hidden within the narrative. The author provides his characters with a specific identity through the use of language. Yet, the arbitrariness of the nature of language makes this identity complex and unstable. In *A Clockwork Orange*, the protagonist, Alex, can be perceived as suffering justice as he had committed heinous crimes in his life. Yet, it may seem like an unjust approach to reduce a person to an experimental subject to preserve the societal structure. Multiple layers of identity and characteristics can be portrayed through language, as one layer's relative and subjective meaning may differ from the previous one. The significance of each symbol and sign is ever-changing with the passage of time, political conditions, and cultural and social implications.

## **1.2. Implementation of Post-Structuralism**

The implementation of post-structuralism as a critical theory criticizes the text and other theories such as psychoanalysis, feminism, and the preceding structuralism. Jacobs (2019, p. 386) mentions that considering differences and otherness in literature brings forth uncertainties. These uncertainties are further focused upon the development of multiple layers of subjective meaning. In essence, alternate possibilities for meaning are created without taking a position on the importance of one over the other. The nature of the theory, anti-essentialist and anti-foundationalist, disrupts the textual meanings present based on predominant significations. The application of post-structuralist theory to investigate social, political, and cultural meanings provides scope for generating infinite possibilities. The complex arbitrariness of the theory is most prominent in the work of Derrida, specifically in his arguments about 'difference' and 'deferment'. Hence, similarities in appearance can often be deceiving.

The predominant structures can be questioned to uncover differences, otherness, uncertainties, and multiple layers of subjective meanings. An inability to provide a stable and concrete definition of meanings related to signs and symbols is often attributed to this theory. However, this particular complexity can be used to analyze specific postmodern texts, as these texts aim to exhibit the instability of social, cultural, and political structures. As seen in the selected novels by Burgess and Ballard, the presence of multiple themes within a single narrative makes these texts excellent samples for analysis with the use of this theory. Post-structuralist Theory unearths the multiple layers of meanings hidden beneath a layer of illusion popularised by dominant structures of society. In the works by Burgess and Ballard, the tendency to portray the



urban social structure as a dystopia that is hidden under the illusions of ordered social structure exhibits multiple possibilities, which are of equal importance when examined through the lens post-structuralism. The decentralization of the narrative can be seen as the postmodern world of literature embodying the critical stance of coexistence. The coexistence of evil and good, order and chaos, modernism and primitiveness create a novel structure that further enhances its complexity.

Reality is branched out, each branch representing a different dimension of meaning where the origin of the truth is uncertain. The capacity of human beings to perceive the genuine truth is limited by the degree of personal experience and influenced by external factors. Chaos and dystopia are also part of those truths the theory seeks to uncover instead of relegating them to the shadows. As Jacobs (2018, p. 299) mentions, post-structuralism states that the truth is essentially absent, and the concept of a foundation is but an abyss. Following the theory, it can be stated that truth is the subjective projection of relative meanings that are arbitrary and subject to constant change. In *High-Rise* by Ballard, the building residents accept the value attributed to the savageness of primitive times. The fabric of civilized society has disintegrated in the novel. The novel's view of post-structuralism presents the critical conditions for rejecting the predominant social foundation. Therefore, the theory of post-structuralism can be used to question how the novel uses these characters' behaviour to portray the instability of meaning attributed to specific practices in modern urban society.

Established structures of history perceived as the final truth by human beings are resisted in a post-structuralist approach to literary criticism. The theory has also resisted the concrete concepts of truth from a historical point of view. The theory, in

essence, tends to consider the differences between various variables of truths and meaning, generating a narrative infused with multidimensional possibilities of meaning. Foucault stressed the mutable nature of reality, persisting in the school of thought popularized by Nietzsche. Thus, the social fabric of urban life that the paper aims to investigate is surrounded by uncertain and arbitrary meanings. The theory examines the intrinsic nature of uncertainties as the popular discourses tend to shape the identity of texts based upon a somewhat flawed logic. Acceptance of one meaning and rejection of the rest by the famous social and political power structures are argued against radically. As Nikisianis et al., (2019, p. 287) mentioned, post-structural criticism enhances subjective perception. In essence, the structures of popular ideas, ideologies, and truths shaped by dominant power structures limit the potential of freedom of individual perception.

A decentralized approach towards the existing foundation of society and the projection of the society through a text provides a threshold for discovering beliefs limited by the construction of limited ideologies. However, these limits are only apparent, and upon closer inspection, various versions of the truth can be perceived. In Burgess and Ballard's selected novels, applying the Post-structuralist Theory provides scope for uncovering the symbols of urban life, society, and dominant power structures that shape the identities of individuals. Therefore, utilizing the arbitrary nature of this particular theory, the paper addresses the visions of dystopia and chaotic urban life portrayed by Burgess and Ballard in the selected novels.

### **1.3. Post-Structuralist Theory**

The use of appropriate theory helps the researcher understand the concept of the research topic. It is also helpful to analyze the research topic briefly in the research study. Many theories are associated with literature that is useful for understanding and analyzing the research topic critically. Among all the theories, the researchers have adopted the Post-structuralist Theory, one of the most efficient and influential theories of literature. Apart from that, the Post-structuralist Theory helps researchers look at society or the world innovatively. That encourages researchers to accept the challenges that may come (Berbary, 2017, p. 720). In addition to that, according to the Post-structuralist Theory, researchers should always accept challenges like knowledge and truth. The challenges will not remain challenging for the researchers but rather help enhance the researchers' knowledge skills.

On the other hand, the Post-structuralist Theory helps us to understand the differences between facts and beliefs, which is essential for a researcher to analyze a research study with valuable facts and information. Furthermore, the mentioned theory helps analyze literary texts systematically, which helps to create a compelling research study. Apart from that, the Post-structuralist Theory helps enhance researchers' thinking skills and helps analyze the concept of the research topic critically. In addition, 'sign critique', absence of 'transcendental signified', multiple meanings, and singular meaning are some notable characteristics of this Post-structuralist Theory (Crilley, 2019, p. 167). Other characteristics include: focusing on the reader, intertextuality, different interpretations, breadth analysis, multivocal language, history, and lack of hierarchies.

Furthermore, Post-structuralist Theory is helpful for researchers in understanding the perspective of postmodern urban life described in the novels of Burgess and Ballard. The theory helps researchers understand the concepts in the specific novels that were selected (Alkvik, 2017, p. 3). Therefore, these are the researchers' reasons for adopting the Post-structuralist Theory for this particular research study. The features of the theory are very efficient and effective for understanding the concepts of different kinds of literature. Next, the features of post-structuralism are analyzed below:

- The theory of post-structuralism helps to analyze the concept of the fictional construct.
- The specific theory allows the researcher to create a 'multifaceted interpretation' of the text.

Therefore, Post-structuralist Theory helps analyze the research topic as a fictional contrast and helps make the study more readable and engaging. Apart from that, by using the theory, the researcher can analyze the concept of the research study as a singular entity. This is one of the essential features of this particular theory. After that, by using the singular entity in the research studies, the researcher can analyze his/her perspectives or vision through the research study (Peters, 2020, p. 2). In addition to that, the use of singular entities in the studies helps gain the readers' attention. The readers can connect the characters with themselves, making the study more enjoyable. On the other hand, this theory also allows the researchers to draw their conclusions about the significance of the study for the studies according to their perspectives.

Furthermore, the Post-structuralist Theory helps create a more generalizable study that is important to attract readers. Enhancing reader satisfaction is one of the primary purposes of any researcher, and by using this specific theory, the researcher can satisfy readers. Furthermore, the theory helps create multifaceted interpretations and makes the researchers create those interpretations of the texts. Post-structuralist Theory is efficient and effective in analyzing the relationships among several variables of the research study (Khan, 2021, p. 5). Therefore, analysis of the relationships among several study variations helps to make a more significant research study. Thus, it can be said that the use of Post-structuralist Theory in this particular research was beneficial for the researcher. The background of this theory and its historical development are analyzed in this research study.

Post-structuralism began to develop during the second half of the 20<sup>th</sup> century. Post-structuralism is an anti-foundationalism theory that promotes alternatives to the predominant structures of linguistics, texts, and worldly phenomena. Evangelou (2017, p. 237) mentioned that post-structuralist thinkers question the historical and philosophical concerns raised centuries ago, such as the true nature of enlightenment, genealogical discussion of truth, and the meanings attributed to the arbitrariness of the entire linguistic structure. In essence, the theory promotes recognizing multiple relative meanings within a narrative, increasing confusion, arguments, and counter-arguments. As a diverse body of thoughts and principles, the theory provides a complex and unique perspective on the true meaning of history and the role of human perception within history.

The foundational philosophical questions are reviewed with a revived perspective that entertains all possible branches of reality. Cambre and Lawrence

(2018, p. 191) state that the post-structuralist theory considers identity and true meaning to be affected of external factors. A radical shift in approach is evident in the perception of subjectiveness and objectiveness. The relation of abstract terms to identity and meaning, as stated by Nietzsche, essentially constitutes the critical aspects of post-structuralism philosophy. According to Nietzsche's thoughts, identity and meaning in history are complicated due to mutability. Meanings are ever-changing; hence, identities are also ever-changing. Concreteness is an illusion that the dominant social structures cannot prove; it can only be implemented through ideological reshaping. As Borg (2018, p. 46) suggests, truth becomes the possession of an individual with time. The explanation of a predominant structure is essentially impossible as individuals' perspectives are subject to external influences. In a postmodern society, reality, identity, and meanings are malleable.

Individual identities are constantly shifting at an insidious pace that cannot be grasped or explained in absolute terms. Post-structuralism questions the nature of enlightenment, existence and transcendence. The theory argues against the structures of genealogy. The binaries created by human beings are perceived as neither right nor wrong. Each binary meaning is valid, interrelated, and malleable. Concreteness is somewhat lost, and to an extent, chaos is invited into the post-structuralist arguments. The conflict between each binary creates an unstable meaning, portraying the significant implications of differences and otherness. The existence of truth, goodness, and reality are meaningless without the underlying opposition from their binary opposites. Foucault also follows the same line of thought and argues against genealogically perceived meanings and identities. The theory of post-structuralism can be applied to linguistic theory. Literary works, philosophical thoughts, political power

structures, cultural dynamics, and, in essence, any possible structure related to a binary identity have been presented theoretically. Foucault's approach to punishment, sexuality, and subjectivity questions the authenticity of both history and philosophy.

An investigation into historical authenticity must evaluate the origins of a particular understanding of historical truth. It has also been argued that the discovery of origins in history is flawed. It is a one-dimensional perception of meanings and identities supported by most people residing at the top of the power structure. As Gregg et al. (2021, p. 13) mentions, the dispersal of truth should be understood to generate new identities. Adherence to the old structures stunts the natural growth process, leading to silent acceptance of imposed truth. The body of language and self-imposed by the burden of history can be uncovered through this theoretical approach that destroys the true growth potential.

The theory deals with critical questions and conducts arguments. The rise of grand narratives influenced by powerful social and political institutions shapes the identity of individuals and moulds them within a class. Individuality or subjectivity is lost in these historical structures that the theory seeks to uncover. The fundamental truth is absent. Foucault challenges these social and political institutions that form a structure of power that suppresses the versatility of identity and meaning. This specific approach to linguistic study contradicts the notion that meaning is solid and stable. Instead, it argues against the illusion of a universal structure of language. Obeyd (2021) suggests that language is only meaningful in a specific social, cultural, political, and historical context. The meaning of a text is dependent on the subject. A text may mean different things in different social, cultural, political, and historical contexts. The meaning attributed by the author himself is also subject to varied interpretations

depending upon the reader. Regarding fundamental truth and meaning, critics have argued that post-structuralist theory points to an understanding that because language carries varied and diverse meanings, it can attribute multiple layers of meanings, signs, and symbols to the characters within a text.

Post-structuralist thinkers have investigated the preconditioning of the perception of truth as this preconditioning hinders the creation of new identities within a text. The arguments presented by these thinkers, such as Derrida, Foucault, and Nietzsche, have provided a complicated route that can be interpreted and presented in many ways. Various possibilities arising from the comparative evaluation of the arbitrariness of meaning within the text enable readers to choose multiple meanings. In essence, the symbols and signs within a text can be interpreted in contradictory ways, yet each interpretation is valid. Morris (2019, p. 190) stated that contradictions between presence and absence, subjectivity and objectivity, and high-priority and low-priority are represented by post-structuralism. Therefore, a valid critical theory communicates multiple branches of truth while rejecting the predominantly perceived truth and providing ample opportunities for new identities to coexist in a societal structure.

By promoting the creation of new identities, the theory is simultaneously in opposition to and concerned with the predominant structures of language and history. Society endorses chaos within these predominant structures. The duality, in theory, is still critically evaluated and understood, paving the path for forging new meanings within an interwoven system. As Poster (2019, p. 110) mentions, Foucault's rejection of the Post-structuralist Theory was initially aimed at the structural linguistics system. The meanings attributed to various signs and symbols in a permanent and



acknowledged structure are meaningless due to the changing nature of linguistic structures. The generation of new words, signs, and symbols within a language system is directly or indirectly related to the human subject. In essence, this theory stresses subjective perception of meaning instead of meaning that arises from the structure of language. Foucault's stance favouring post-structuralism is to transcend the concept of a sovereign subject, acknowledged universally as rational and correct.

The cause and effect of identity creation, meaning generation, and unravelling of the text can be analyzed with this theory. In essence, structural linguists gave rise to the concept of arbitrary meanings concerning individual identities (Baring, 2021, p. 120). These structures influence the human subject, which is influenced by political, historical, cultural, and social powers. There is no solid and stable meaning but layers of multiple meanings that shape the individual identity. The language system cannot be escaped, even within the mind itself, and thoughts are generated with the help of language. Each abstract thought is provided with an understandable shape with the help of language. The identity of an individual is created through the use and perception of language. Thus, linguistic structures become the cornerstone of logic, formulating the idea of individual and universal meanings. The synchronic analysis of society from a post-structuralist perspective seeks to uncover the relations between the elements of society. There is a vehement rejection of any form or rule. The theory essentially promotes the rejection of rules, demonstrating the true nature of appearance and the actual layers of reality.

According to Wongyannava (2018, p. 130), the system of universal laws creates a history that is devoid of subjective perspectives. Despite the notion of objectivity concerning the formation of truth, it has been indicated that subjectivity

plays a vital role in the formation of truth as there can be no absolutes. The post-structuralist theory allows the notion of diversity and contends that the meaning of a sign or symbol is subject to change through history and cultural differences. The meaning attributed to a sign or symbol is particular and limited to a particular place and time in history. Thus, the development of this particular theory has helped to promote multiple layers of meanings and identities spanning across different epochs. In essence, it describes the multidimensional nature of truths that indicates the flaws in the philosophical idea of stability in meaning creation.

#### **1.4. Historical Development of the Theory**

The theory of post-structuralism is prevalent within the academic sphere due to its radical rejection of predominant structures. The post-structuralist theory that developed in the 1950s in France soon spread across Europe (Ferretti, 2017, p. 902). However, after the 1980s, the theory's popularity diminished considerably; it lost its radical features and became considered part of the mainstream of other critical disciplines. This particular theory's emergence can be considered a reaction or argument against the primary structuralist school of thought, as it strived to develop a retrospective view of structuralist principles. During its development, European society faced certain existential events such as the Second World War, the Holocaust, and other political conflicts that required the analysis of societal structures to entertain multiple layers of truth. Additionally, the technological advancement of the age affected individual lives and thought processes, changing the cultural dynamics of the Western world.

The thought generated by Nietzsche, Foucault, and Derrida endorsed the deconstructive view of the predominant structure of philosophical thoughts, social powers, and linguistic systems. As Dillet (2017, p. 520) mentioned, Derrida vehemently sought to promote a deconstructive perspective on worldly phenomena and indicated the futility of seeking the origin of truth within a stable system. In essence, a stable system can only analyze the surface meanings or appearances while the other meanings are hidden on a deeper level. Derrida first initiated his post-structuralist debates in his paper “Structure, Sign, and Play in the Discourse of Human Science” in 1966. His ideas had been influenced significantly by Nietzsche, Marx, and Freud.

The development of the theory also paved the way for analyzing individual thoughts concerning language structure and the historical development of social structures. The development of the theory for the analysis of semiotics, significance and language has established its presence in the critical world as a radical theory that can question the predominant structures. The theory has spread across various topics, such as a social critique of contemporary times, leading to new ideologies. As stated by Rashidpour et al. (2019, p. 420), critical thinkers such as Lacan, Barthes, and Foucault, have also exercised the theory of decentralizing predominant structures. In a way, the development of the theory, from a historical perspective, can be traced to Marx or Nietzsche. Their ideas were later modified to apply to various topics beyond philosophical critiques. There has been specific diversity in its decentralizing text, language systems, and social structure. As suggested by Nikisianis et al. (2019, p. 270), a trace of radical decentralization can also be found in the critical works of Althusser, Cixous, Kristeva, and Greenblatt.

Even though these thinkers belonged to various critical movements, such as feminism, Marxism, and new historicism, they share the central tenet of an anti-foundationalist approach. The argument presented in theory for analyzing polysemic semiotic codes and arbitrariness in knowledge has been developed in theory. As Cap (2019, p. 111) stated, later diverse post-structuralist thinkers also included arguments for ethical issues within the social context concerning the determination of truth. Thinkers such as Helen Cixous and Judith Butler utilized the post-structuralist approach to decode prevalent notions of masculinity and femininity. They also evaluated the notion of subjective truth, as a truth perceived by an oppressed female is radically different from that of a truth perceived by a privileged male within Western society.

Among the prominent thinkers of this school of thought, the works of Lacan have often been described as confusing, as they have been subjected to various revisions. His works oscillate between structuralist and post-structuralist theory, giving them a dual nature. Additionally, in the works of Umberto Eco, Julia Kristeva, Jacques Derrida, and Gilles Deleuze, the influence of the post-structural school of thought is clear. Kuecker (2021, p. 551) described how the theory of post-structuralism places particular emphasis on subjectivity and the notion of authorship evaluated from various scopes of ethical questions. In essence, the generation of new identities has been promoted in theory. It seeks to discover and re-discover various modes of related significance, subject to modification during various periods of history.

Structuralism theory had focused upon the analysis of fixed, stable structures that had marked the importance of objectivity. With the advent of post-structuralist theory, the shift from objectivity to subjectivity created scope for retrospection from a

diverse range of perspectives, which had not been conducted before the latter half of the 20th century. Hayles (2018, p. 206) suggested that the concept of chaos, as described in post-structuralism, had created multiple branches of practice among post-structuralist thinkers. However, the main principles of truth creation and seeking a deeper understanding of the significance of semiotics and philosophy have remained the same among the prominent thinkers. The accommodation of chaos, frustration, and anger of individual subjects within the social structure was realized by modifying the post-structural approach to generate truths within multiple layers of reality.

The theory is essentially rooted in the negation of predominant thought patterns, considered radical among contemporary critical theories. The issues of meaning generation from a subjective perspective and the limitations of objectivity were considered theoretically in the works of Derrida and Foucault. It was also closely related to deconstruction, as it attempted to deconstruct or unravel the predominant structures within a supposedly stable system. This school of thought provided the foundation for ceaseless questioning of every element within the structures perceivable by human beings. The development of post-structuralism in history has been diverse.

## 2. SECOND CHAPTER

### 2. THE CONCEPT OF VISIONS OF POSTMODERN URBAN LIFE RELATED TO HIS NOVEL

#### 2.1. The Novel *A Clockwork Orange*

The novel *A Clockwork Orange* (Burgess, 2021) is set in the bleak dystopia of England, in which a criminal child is psychologically rehabilitated for his antisocial and abnormal behaviour. Moreover, Anthony Burgess's novel satirizes the extreme and unique political systems based on a framework that considers the concepts of humanity's incorrigibility or perfectibility in opposition to one another. Moreover, the novel begins in a totalitarian society in which the violent youths are trapped. In this novel, Alex, the protagonist, is passionate about classical music and is also involved in a vicious teenage group or gang (Schirmacher, 2019). Alex and his friends have engaged in drug orgies, described as milk laced with narcotics and other random acts of brutality.

On the other hand, the novel portrays violence against defenceless people and is detailed with the enjoyment of Burgess's slang, Nadsat. Furthermore, at one point, the group or gang breaks into a cabin where the gang endures and fights with a young writer, and the gang rapes the writer's wife. Furthermore, the writer's wife later dies due to being raped by this group of people. A robbery is attempted, and Alex attempts to murder a woman who is older than him. For the attempted murder, Alex has to remain in prison for 14 years (Servitje, 2018). In addition to this, Alex has made gradual attempts in life in the prison, and Alex and his friends beat up a new prisoner one night, who dies from the beating.

After this incident, Alex is selected to through a programme known as Ludovico's Technique. The technique is a form of the brutal technique of aversion therapy, in which Alex watches films about Nazi atrocities. Furthermore, the therapy treatment causes Alex to become ill when he even wants to commit a crime or thinks of committing it. The treatment also causes Alex's interest in classical music to change into dislike (Irwin, 2017). The government has also developed a successful procedure. The prison chaplain, who has become Alex's friend, describes the criteria that define free will and the relevant ethical considerations. According to the chaplain, good and decent behaviour can be a choice. After Alex is released from prison, his attitude and behaviour become defenceless and harmless.

Moreover, the members of the former group have become policemen. In addition, the badly beaten Alex ends up in the cabin because of the latest bout of drooping, but the writer cannot identify Alex. Nevertheless, the writer becomes sympathetic when he learns about aversion therapy for teenagers. The writer also wants to publish Alex's story for educational purposes to influence public opinion against the government. However, after he becomes suspicious that Alex was involved in the brutal assault on his wife, the author tries to drive Alex to attempt suicide, which allows him to blame the government for Alex's suicide attempt. In this situation, Alex is locked in a room and forced to listen to Beethoven music. Alex then jumps out of the window, but he survives.

By jumping out of the window, Alex injures himself and is taken to the hospital for treatment, where the doctors check his condition. After that, Alex returns to his former behaviour (Franco-Torres, 2020). Moreover, Alex has grown up and tried violence. After seeking out a childhood friend who left Alex's group earlier, he reflects

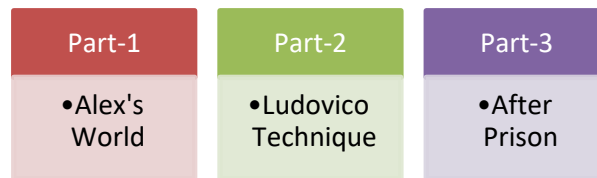
on his amoral past. The novel *A Clockwork Orange* has been critically acclaimed for the dystopian and satirical approaches in the novel's structure. In addition, the dystopian feel comes from an excellent narrative that depicts the evil and dark life and the bleak future of Alex, who has undergone aversion therapy for mental conditioning. According to Pusparini (2018), aversion therapy was used to punish criminals to change their behaviour or attitude and reduce their aggressive and deviant sexual behaviour and addictions.

This type of therapy involves various mental techniques and stimuli to eliminate or reduce unwanted thoughts and behaviours. In this novel, the character of Alex is said to be an immoral person who has committed heinous crimes, which leads to him being punished according to the various laws. The entire narrative has taken time as Alex has undergone aversion therapy, making him confused and mentally unstable. This means that Alex's negative thoughts and behaviours in the postmodern dystopia are eliminated and reduced. According to Portillo (2019), the choices were dictated by others and create conflicting themes or scenarios in the novel. The novel portrays the constant conflicts between organized society and free will and the forced decrease of human evil to make the ideal citizen.

Alex undergoes prolonged aversion therapy that leads to his downfall, and the experiential property has become helpless for Alex when operant power has become dominant in society. In addition, the depiction of a dystopia becomes clear and compelling as the narrative progresses. The author also points out that Alex is the victim of the oppressive society due to the lack of sympathy and empathy (Madsen, 2020). The portrayal of Alex's life after the aversion therapy puts the protagonist in a defenceless victim who suffers from violence and therefore commits suicide (Botero-



Camacho, 2018). Thus, the novel's key theme is the portrayal of a dystopian society in which the individual's free will no longer play a role and which strives for a society which strives for a society that appears orderly from the outside.



**Figure 1: Parts of the Novel *A Clockwork Orange***

(Source: Self-Developed)

Alex is the protagonist and narrator of *A Clockwork Orange*. In the beginning, Alex seems to be no more than a robot programmed for violence (Shi, 2019). In addition, the world of novels and youth violence has become the most common and important topic or problem. In this novel, Alex represents a thriving teenager. He dresses according to the 'highest fashion' standard in all popular hangouts and is the undisputed leader of the group or gang (Vincent & Clarke, 2017). Of all the teenagers in the novel *A Clockwork Orange*, Alex is the most likely to speak in the highbrow and stylized language Nadsat. Furthermore, Alex seems unique in his commitment to violent ideals and aesthetic pleasure in committing crimes.

Alex has elevated the behaviour or attitude of evil to the status of art. Alex also loves the various arts, especially classical music. He mainly listens to Mozart, Beethoven, and many other composers and is a big fan (Sugihartati, 2019). Alex has always experienced religious joy and feelings of happiness when listening to classical music. In addition, the pleasure and happiness Alex feel or experiences when listening to classical music can be primarily associated with the ecstasy of violent activities. For example, when Alex listens to the recording, he thinks that the whole face screamed

worldly with the help of cut-throat or can be called a razor (Reisel, 2021). Throughout the novel, Alex emphasizes the relationship between violence and music by reserving the most endearing music to describe the most brutal crimes in musical language.

In addition, throughout the novel, Alex experiences the pleasures of brutality and music sensually and directly. Alex does not need medication or meditation to become happy through the combination of crime and music. Moreover, Alex is always completely uninterested in describing situations or actions in theoretical and abstract terms. Apart from that, Alex rarely considers the essential social context. Furthermore, Alex has grappled with the various hypotheses about the origin or origins of depravity. Alex's answers are consistently illogical and anti-intellectual. Alex has always believed that evil is the natural position of man and is also a state of man that resembles good. In line with this reasoning, Alex believes that the government officials' desire to deprive him of his ability to choose to be cruel restricts his freedom and interests.

So, in the state of choosing someone from music and violence, Alex always listens to his mind and eventually affirms him. The abomination of Alex in the novel *A Clockwork Orange* describes the scenario or theme that no matter how depressed people are, they should not be deprived of the self-determination of individual freedom (King, 2017). Moreover, the state of destruction always illustrates the ability of Alex. It makes the low mortal selection in representing the greater evil in the various crimes committed by Alex (Livazović & Bojčić, 2020). The transformation of a man into an automaton ultimately sanctions the idea that human nature is often expendable.

Furthermore, in the novel's final chapter, Alex only grows once he assumes he is human. When the government removes the mental conditioning through aversion

therapy, Alex can see the crimes and mistakes. Alex has managed to cope with his life without the external forces of control.

## **2.2. The Postmodern Perspectives on Urban Life related to *A Clockwork Orange***

Postmodernism seems to be a loaded word and even more controversial, generating many heterogeneous thoughts and ideas, names, theories, and works in all scientific and intellectual disciplines. Moreover, there is a significant difference between postmodernism and poststructuralism (Dryden & Dryden, 2020). The phenomenon of postmodernism began around the second half of the 20<sup>th</sup> century in response to the profound changes in society's cultural, historical, and political situation during this period. The ideas of postmodernism and poststructuralism attracted more attention in the early era of 1960 - in anthropology, philosophy, literary criticism, historiography, politics, sociology, theatre studies, etc. In general, postmodernism and poststructuralism are associated with the historical period in which the political, social, cultural and social organizations created the incentive conditions and artistic trends in society.

On the other hand, despite efforts to explain the nature of postmodernism, it remains unclear. The concept of postmodernism consistently aims to place the changes in society after the end of the world wars in a broader context. In addition, the concept of postmodernism became visible to society after The Second World War. Dystopian society can be described as a particular social situation that is disordered, dehumanizing, and burdensome. According to Smyslova and Khabibullina (2019), the concept of a dystopian society was developed to compare and contrast with a utopian society. The description of a dystopian society in literature has become typical and is

always associated with the future. In most postmodern literature, authors use dystopian society and depict the survival of people struggling against oppressive social and political powers.

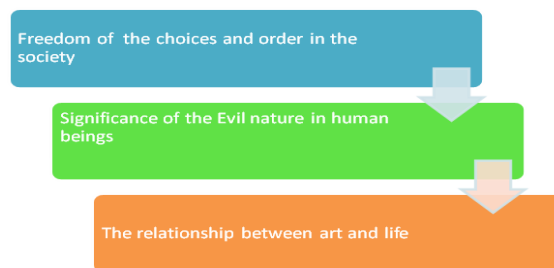
These authors' overall design of the future urban society can be described as a balanced and ordered structure. As Mahal and Bura (2021) mention, middle- to high-income individuals or citizens living in a particular geographical area participate in various economic activities that constitute urban society. In the literature, urban society is mainly described as a society characterized by various prevailing political, economic and social structures and concepts. It also ensures that individuals can inhabit or integrate into the urban society with mutual harmony, respect and discipline (Eren, 2018). The concept of postmodern urban society can be described as a dystopia.

Along with that, in literature and other media, postmodern urban life is described with a sense of uncertainty and unreliability. Per Smyslova and Khabibullina (2017), the complexity of urban life and urban society is described, and the postmodern era illustrates the communal space and area within the urban society. However, under the communal space or area, the postmodern literature represents tones of individuality. Anthony Burgess's novel *A Clockwork Orange* describes the postmodern concept and the society of urban life. In the modern world, most criminals are struggling to improve their lives and disavow the attitude and behaviour of the criminal (Lázaro, 2017). Additionally, the novel includes fragmentation, dystopia, and contradictions, which satirize the impacts of technological advancements on the free will after the postmodern urban society.

The novel's postmodernism is also apparent in its description of the decline of society in the 20<sup>th</sup> century after the world wars. In addition to this, other important

themes include the cold war, nationalism, decolonization, the spread of atomic weapons throughout the world, and the development and birth of various human rights (Nadeau, 2018). In Alex's case, the strongest impact of being distanced from the urban society is that he does not think about the influence and impact his brutal behaviours will have on others. Along with that, the postmodern concept of urban society is also linked to Alex's situation in the novel. Alex is not impacted or influenced by the urban society. He does not consider the potential consequences of the experimental technique.

This novel depicts many aspects of urban society, such as the freedom to make choices and decisions in the modern world, the importance of evil in human beings, and many others.



**Figure 2: Postmodern aspects of urban life**

(Source: Self-Developed)

### **2.3. Freedom of Choice and Order in Society**

The various choices individuals make become problematic when the choices undermine the stability and safety of urban society. In the novel *A Clockwork Orange*, the state of willingness is to protect. It prevents society from revoking the freedom or independence to make choices and decisions and replacing this independence with the prescribed positive and good behaviour in human beings. In the world of Alex, the

protagonist of the novel, the unfettered individual power and the unfettered power of the state determine the dangerousness in the novel. In addition to this, in the entire novel, Alex is a person who rapes, murders, and steals freely because he feels it is good and natural. On the other hand, if the power of raping, stealing, and murder has been taken away, its outcome becomes dangerous (Reisel, 2021). The dangerous result of taking away the freedom of decision and choices and the essential element of humanity impacted Alex most.

Moreover, suppose the analysis of the novel is thematic. In that case, it describes that the state's interior minister stands along with Alex, supporting an urban ordered society and the jail chaplain. Mr Alexander stands on the other side. In addition to this, Mr Alexander supports the freedom of making choices even with the negative points and consequences which go with the freedom. According to Shi (2019), the state's interior minister argues that the government must implement and bring necessary laws and order to the streets because the government has the power and authority. The individual's questions and issues of liberty are of little importance compared to the urban society's values of order and safety. The writer determines that Alex is suffering from various therapies and feels that the victims of these therapies give merit to arguments against the government. In contrast, the minister misuses power and authority by defrauding the people and making them into thugs.

The minister also supports the policemen and various political opponents, such as imprisonment for various crimes, undermining the argument. On the other hand, Mr Alexander also argues with the government for the safety and protection of individual liberty. Still, Mr Alexander has his weak points: his willingness to sacrifice Alex's life and liberty to fulfil the party's requirements on schedule (Gravalos et al., 2018). In

addition to this, the jail chaplain looks more disciplined and sincere in defending the rights and safety of the individuals to make practical and moral decisions and choices in their life. The chaplain also supports the individuals in equating the abilities of the human being in the right way. Still, the chaplain's ignorance of Alex's destructive potential makes him always seems naive.

The novel *A Clockwork Orange* forces the population to understand and weigh the dangers and values of state control and individual liberty. In addition to this, a key theme in the novel is the extent to which the population is willing to sacrifice liberty for order and the degree of order the people give up in the name of liberty.

#### **2.4. Significance of an Evil Nature in Human Beings**

This novel treats mainly Alex's evil nature and the importance of this evil nature. Moreover, human beings' good and evil nature are the primary themes or scenarios in the entire novel *A Clockwork Orange*. Alex is dishonourable, gives in to his violent impulses, and commits crimes (Melia, 2017). In addition to this, a sense of independence and freedom is also present, which makes Alex an ideal human being. In the novel, there are various adult characters and scenes. Some of them are stealing, raping women as a gang, and so on. These crimes cause Alex to feel exuberantly alive. Furthermore, Ludovico's technique or method, when it eliminates or removes the attitudes and aspects of evil from Alex's personality, reduces the threats and power to the society; the novel also suggests humanity.

According to the reviews of Trimarchi and Sabatini (2020), Alex never seems good in the novel because he does not want to become a good person, and the freedom of making decisions and choices is crucial to becoming a good human being. Alex is

a person who has committed many crimes and evil deeds; this does not make Alex a traditional hero in the novel. In this novel, Anthony Burgess also implies that dark impulses are the basic and essential part of human life. With the proper conditioning with various therapies such as aversion therapy, the power and destructiveness do not go away from the human mind. In addition, extreme conditioning can change people from human to inhuman (Petraaru, 2021). Despite these considerations, the people decide how to control this impulse towards unrestricted freedom and forcefully suppress it. This novel describes the extremes of oppression and freedom both.

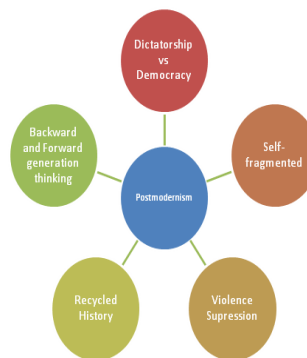
The novel's characters use and view the art in their life in various ways, such as creating a conflicted and complex image of real-life through art. Alex always expresses his feelings and experiences through art, film, and music. He mainly likes classical music and listens to many other kinds of music. At one point, Alex jumps from the window, gets injured, and is admitted to the hospital for necessary treatment. The hospital doctors show Alex reel after reel of violence, crimes, and intimate scenes. Alex is amazed and wonders if real life and the world seem more realistic on television (Mendes, 2017). Along with that, Alex and his friends decide to detach from the groups and use the power of art in their life.

On the other hand, Alex beats Mr Alexander and becomes ready to get physically close to the wife of Mr Alexander; Alex dances just like Gene Kelly and sings 'Singing in Rain' in the musical sounds (Kim, 2017). Before doing violent acts in dance and song, Alex distances himself from the victims' suffering and his brutality. Alex makes paintings on the walls of the cat lady whom he murdered. Per the views of Franco-Torres et al. (2020), the novel's characters vary in their responses and utilize many forms of art, suggesting that art has the potential for both evil and good. Art can



express feelings and experiences, channel human life's impulses, and may deaden or enhance human life. In addition to this, it can make people come closer to the real world or distance them from each other.

Apart from this, the novel *A Clockwork Orange* also describes the themes of postmodernism. Some of the main themes of postmodernism have been described below:



**Figure 3: Themes of Postmodernism**

(Source: Self-Developed)

### 2.5. Dictatorship versus Democracy

In the first part of the novel, chapter V describes how Alex challenges Georgie to increase the level of democracy in the group or gang, which causes Alex to kill Georgie by 'shutting down his mouth' with a knife. Alex has murdered Georgie, but he retains the style and attitude of a dictatorship. Per Awadelkarim (2019), this can be described by the back and forward movement categorized by the postmodern movement. It has been the push or force for increment in the freedom by the party with a crackdown. Along with that, democracy does not have a significant part in the era of postmodernism, and it shows that the authorities have less effective management of the population. Furthermore, Alex's management of the droogs represents the style

and attitude of a dictatorship, which seems to be similar to the regime of Hitler in the Second World War.

On the other hand, Alex always wants to rule the gang decisively and does not care for the opinions and thoughts of other group members. Under Alex's leadership, all other opinions have been suppressed (Franco-Torres et al., 2020). It represents the tiny scale of the regime of Alex which feels that Alex has owned an extensive regime; Alex has been oppressed, so that is the reason that he oppresses other people.

### **2.5.1. The Fragmentation of the Self**

Alex never cares about other people or their opinions; it does not matter who gets hurt when Alex wishes for something. For example, If Alex wishes for physical pleasure, he goes for it with drunken girls. He takes advantage of the girls' vulnerability. In addition to this, if Alex wishes, he starts fighting with any people on the road and does not care when someone gets seriously injured. On the other hand, if Alex does not wish to go to school, he goes back to sleep (Calvo-Sotelo, 2019). This clearly shows that Alex only does what he wants to not care about the results. This kind of thought and mindset makes Alex different from society and never allows him to become a part of urban society.

It determines the fragmentation of Alex's sense of self, which lands Alex in prison, and later, an experiment in brainwashing is conducted on him. In the case of Alex, the result of being different and alienated from society is that his actions impact the rest of the population and never cares about how the actions of society impact Alex (Lukes, 2020).

### **2.5.2. Suppression of Violence**

The critical point of the experiments made on Alex is to manage the desire for, or thoughts about, violence. It means forcibly taking away Alex's ability to commit violence, but Alex's ability to choose has also been taken away, with the result that he becomes sick. Therefore, Alex often thinks before throwing a punch at anyone because the desire has been eliminated (Petraru, 2021). The government uses this technique to reduce the number of criminals and delinquents that cause violence by brainwashing them. Additionally, freedom of choice can be defined as the ability or strength to make correct and sound decisions.

### **2.5.3. Recycled History**

In addition to this, the recycling of history may be visible that the eyes of Alex remain open in the experiment of Ludovico's technique, to watch the reels of film taken in the Second World War. Alex has seen the horrific pictures of torture, war, and death repeatedly every day for a fortnight. Recycling history reflects that a historical event's emotional and psychological effects linger long after the event is over (Canepari, 2018).

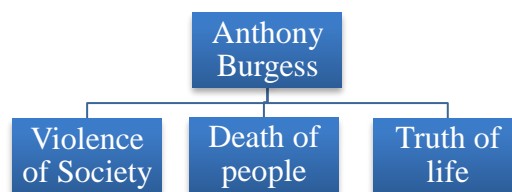
### **2.5.4. Backward and Forward-Generation Thinking**

Furthermore, the backward and forward idea states that each new generation's right way of doing things is mentioned. In the novel, there is a continuous clash between the younger generation and the older generation. In addition to this, older generations always try to force their thoughts and morals on new generations, and the new generations push back. In the early part of the novel, Alex and the group of friends

find a drunken older man on the road with whom the group talk about the good life. According to Rajest and Suresh (2018), the old drunk man cites successful moon landings as examples of ‘the good life in the past. The reference given by the older man shows a contrast between the deterioration of the social order and the hope for advanced technologies.

### 3. The Contribution of Anthony Burgess’s Vision of Postmodern Urban Life

According to Riquelme (2017), Burgess reads Joyce’s book called *A Portrait of the Artist as a Young Man*, and from this time, he thought about modernism and urbanism in the world. He portrayed modernism, urbanism, changes in human beings’ characteristics, and truth in his novels. Every novel by Anthony Burgess focuses on the truth of life and describes his perspective. He attempts to educate people about the truth of the incidents he describes and present the reader with a critical analysis. He wrote many novels that focused on the Second World War, the death of people, violent tendencies, etc.

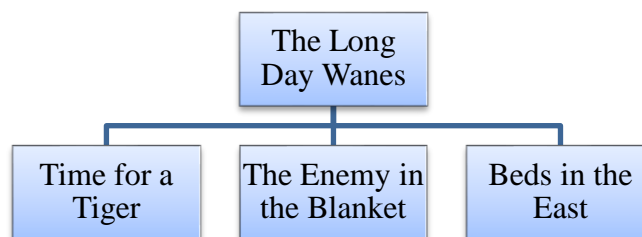


**Figure 4: Contents of Anthony Burgess Novels**

(Source: Self-Developed)

Anthony Burgess’s first novel is *The Long Day Wanes*, and it portrays the truth of human life about secret affairs. This novel opened many people’s eyes to their lifestyle and helped them to be honest about it. This novel is about betrayal and

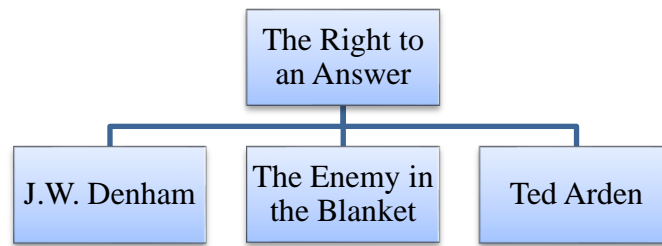
struggles in married life. Through this novel, Anthony Burgess provides knowledge about modernism and urban life. Per the view of De (2017), in postmodern urban life, a phenomenon exists where people betray each other in married life, and honesty is absent. Because of this, divorce cases are increasing in the countries, and trust and belief are not valued in urban life. *Time for a Tiger* is his first book, which tells the story of a man who his wife betrays.



**Figure 5: Editions of *The Long Day Wanes***

(Source: Self-Developed)

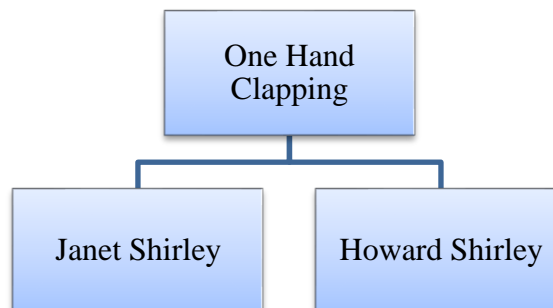
*The Enemy in the Blanket* is the story of intimacy with another person, which sheds light on betrayal in married life. Anthony Burgess displays bitter truth through his poems and novels. *The Right to an Answer* is another novel by Anthony Burgess published in 1960. The theme of the novel is the disillusionment of the returning exile. Through this novel, the comic writer intends to discuss feelings of illusion and loneliness after the death of a father or other person. The characters in the novel provide insight into loneliness, and the novel helps readers understand modern life. Per the view of Akbar et al. (2019), in the postmodern urban life, life is lonely after a specific age, and after parents' death, people get extremely lonely in their lives. It increases the illusion of problems and psychological issues in people's lives.



**Figure 6: Characters of *The Right to an Answer***

(Source: Self-Developed)

Anthony Burgess is an excellent and sensible author, and his novels always try to improve the reader's understanding of society. He intends to display the bitter truth of life and improve people's thinking in a way that could increase modernism. The author tries to develop people's thoughts and broaden their minds. According to Pratt (2018), *One Hand Clapping*, another novel by Anthony Burgess, is about Western culture and education. This novel displays the sound of two hands clapping, but what is one hand clapping. The author illustrates that culture can destroy people's lives through this novel. The novel ironically states that culture and society could disgust people and take their lives. This novel also portrays corruption, and it provides insight into civilization.



**Figure 7: Characters of the novel *One Hand Clapping***

(Source: Self-Developed)

In modern urban life, civilization cannot hammer the life of people, and Anthony Burgess attempts to portray the violence in society and culture. The author focuses on Western cultures and the idea of people's ability to destroy one another. Per the view of Silver (2017), violent society and some rules of culture can increase violence in the community. Modern urban life shattered the humanity of people, and killing, corruption, betrayal, and so on have increased. On the other hand, Anthony Burgess points out that people can save lives by using humanity and upgraded technology without taking life or demolishing others' lives in modernity. As mentioned by Singh (2019), modernism increased individualism, experimentation, formalism, and symbolism. Individualism is when people isolate themselves from others and stay within their limits without interfering with others' problems or happiness. Focusing on the First and Second World Wars, the author's message is that humanity was killed through modernism and violence increased. *A Clockwork Orange* is another novel by Anthony Burgess, and the Second World War inspires the novel. This novel provides insight into the culture and humanity of people. At the time of the Second World War, people of the world forgot the limits of humanity. Per Servitje's (2018) view, the novel *A Clockwork Orange*, published in 1962, is a dystopian satirical black comedy. This novel portrays a foul society and filthy characters. This novel describes violence, unwanted intimacy, obscenity, and boorishness. In this novel, Anthony Burgess depicts a swinish mentality and characters influenced by Western culture and modernism. He attempts to make a point about modern society through this novel where violence and absurdity are more important than humanity.

Modernism is not about isolation, experimentation, and technology; it also needs to focus on humanity and happiness. Modernism means a broad mind and critical

thinking; modernization has increased violence, slang, rapes, and unholy works in Western society. Anthony Burgess makes a significant contribution to urban life development and contributes to humanity through his novels. According to Bogdanova (2017), violence and unwanted intimacy are increasing in today's society. Through these novels and poems, people increase their understanding of humanity. The novel portrays violence in society and people's psychological issues and depression in modern society. This novel portrays the robbery, theft, gang-rape of a wife, and miscreant with a boy. Through the novel *A Clockwork Orange*, the author wanted to tell people about corruption, violence, revenge, rape, slang, and robbery – in short, society's inhumanity.

The novel also focuses on modernism, such as technology for behavioural treatment, displaying the terrific culture and society. The author's contribution to urban life is that he tried to provide insight into humanity through a comparison with inhumanity. He tries to understand the mistakes of society and change people's thoughts. He continues to receive awards for his novels and his ability to illustrate bitter truths. According to the view of Corradi & Popham (2021), modern urban life is too sheeny, but people's internal beliefs and thoughts are too disturbing and violent. Anthony Burgess has provided insight into the truth of modern Western culture, where love and happiness are absent, and violence and immorality are present. Per the novel *A Clockwork Orange*, modernism increased the experimental and isolated culture and reduced the community's sense of humanity. The novel also focuses on aversion therapy, which is a psychological treatment.

*The Worm and The Ring* is another novel by Anthony Burgess. According to the view of Dryden & Dryden (2020), this novel depicts the English Libel Laws. The



book was published in 1961. Through this novel, the author wanted to illustrate the reality of society and the English Libel laws. This novel portrays unhappily-married couples' stories. The author wanted to represent society's rules and legislation and focused on the lifestyle of unhappily-married couples. This novel focuses on politics and corruption. Through this novel, Anthony Burgess tried to focus on these themes and increase readers' understanding of the religious system and its disadvantages in people's personal lives. Financial troubles, corruption, betrayal, violence, politics, and these kinds of horrible atmospheres are displayed in his novel because of the distribution of knowledge about modernism.

In the novel *A Vision of Battlement*, the author seeks to illustrate the state of the Second World War and the inhumanity in this situation. Anthony Burgess wrote novels, comics, and poetry based on his experiences that made these experiences available to others. The novel, based on a battle, provides insight into human culture and a battle culture. At the battle, the novel describes how people forget about their traditions and show off their heroism. It helps people to gain knowledge of inhumanity because, in a war, a person never forgives others. After winning a battle, the winning people destroy and get a power of attorney in the place of losers. This novel presents a picture of the battle and a picture of the defamation of women. Per the view of Deans-Smith (2020), the picture of modern society presented in the novel is characterized by dishonour and violation.

The novels *Tremor of Intent: An Eschatological Spy Novel* and *Earthly Powers* are tremendous and attractive novels by Anthony Burgess. He wanted to focus on the conflicts of human culture and rules. *The Clockwork Testament or Enderby's End* is another novel by Anthony Burgess. This novel is about the lives of some people who

live in their ways. The story focuses on unwanted public recognition and also the life of a typical person. This novel provides an excellent example of what modern society needs to be and focuses on the issues in society that need to stop. Anthony Burgess wanted to tell people that the community, culture, religious system, race, and so on are not life, and technology is not life. Through his novels, he wanted to tell people that life is humanity and honesty.

Anthony Burgess represents the cultural issues, barriers, and the nature of humans through his novels and comics. His realization helps people to improve their thoughts and increase humanity in some people. He makes contributions to the culture of the Malayan community, as well as to other communities. Per the view of Bergen et al. (2021), not all people can tolerate bitter truth, which is why many novels were banned. Nonetheless, Burgess's messages are distributed throughout society. Anthony Burgess helps people to recognize the problems with the culture and with the religious system. Depravity had increased in modern society, and he tries to improve society's thought process.

In the present society, equality is most important; this started in the 21<sup>st</sup> century. According to the view of Irwin (2021), Burgess's novels are motivated by a desire to change modern society and make society easy and increase its humanity. He wants to show people the power of humanity and honesty and the bitter truth of Western culture and postmodern urban life. Anthony Burgess wants to tell people that life can be improved by improving the thinking style and removing the absurd. He portrays world news through his novels and focused on the truth of society. His novel describes the importance of faith and humanity, and he wants to improve people's

knowledge of technology and modern life. Anthony Burgess writes many novels, and some novels are more helpful for people to improve their thoughts and behaviour.

### 3. THIRD CHAPTER

#### 3. J. G. Ballard's Visions of Postmodern Urban Life related to his Novel

##### 3.1. The Novel *High-Rise*

*High-Rise*, published in 1975, is one of J. G. Ballard's most significant works. Therefore, this particular study is based on the postmodern urban society in the 21<sup>st</sup> century describes in J. G. Ballard's novels. *High-Rise* is selected from among the many novels J. G. Ballard writes because its central theme is postmodern urban society (Bradshaw, 2018). The writer also uses different genres in this novel, such as thriller and dystopian, to make it catchier and more exciting. The story of *High-Rise* is based on the division within a high-rise luxury building.

On the other hand, the writer illustrates the situation of society at the time the novel was written. Therefore, the novel is an essential and efficient way for the reader to gain knowledge of the condition of society and the economic condition of people at that time. Apart from that, the separation of people into higher and lower classes is analyzed in this novel. Business owners and the ruling classes belong to the higher classes of people (Rahman, 2017). On the other hand, the lower classes are comprised of the working classes or hard workers. While describing postmodern urban society in the 21<sup>st</sup> century, the writer describes how higher classes dominate lower classes. Therefore, at some point, the people of the lower classes use their powers and rise to initiate a rebellion against the people of the ruling classes.

The novel *High-Rise* (Ballard, 2012) is based on the concept of social criticism. Many people love the story of the novel, and the story is illustrated after some time. Along with that, the people of this generation also like the unique concept of this novel.

In addition, this novel belongs to the thriller genre, and it is well known that people always love to read thrilling stories (Kearns, 2019). At first, the author describes the people of the lower classes as weak people. However, there is a turning point in the novel where the lower classes use all their powers to instigate a rebellion against the violence of the ruling classes. This complete novel describes and is a means of understanding postmodern urban society. The novel depicts working people as weak, but the sudden rebellion from the working class provides this story with an exciting twist. Therefore, the writer describes the people of society and their functions in the community in this novel.

There are different characters in this novel, and among all of them, the character of Dr Robert Laing is one of the most essential. Therefore, Dr Robert Laing is one of the last residents to shift into an expensive 40-storey luxury tower block containing 1,000 apartments, two swimming pools, a cinema, primary schools, shopping centres, and much more. These facilities are available on the 10th and 35th floors. In addition, the people living on those building floors are wealthy professionals (Yusuf, 2021). All of them are members of prominent professions, including lawyers, doctors, TV producers, publishers, and actors. Therefore, these people are called the higher classes or the "liberal chattering" classes.

On the other hand, the writer in a particular novel describes different classes and the life of the people in those classes. As the lives of the higher classes are analyzed in the last part of this study, the lives of the lower-class people will be described in this section. Therefore, some squabbles and little tiffs are separated from the lower classes, and nearly 2,000 inhabitants in the society are considered members of the lower classes (Suárez et al., 2020). According to the novel, the lower classes have to tolerate the

shoves and pushes of the people of higher classes. Along with that, the people of the lower classes have to tolerate acts of revenge and violence from the people of the ruling classes. Nobody is aware of why the ruling classes rule and behave like this toward the lower classes.

Thus, due to the behaviour of the ruling classes, society descended into barbarism and violence. Apart from that, the author describes a total of three phases in this novel. The first phase is based on the description of postmodern urban society and the differentiation of the classes in society (Abu, 2017). In addition, the condition of the people of the lower or working classes in the society is also described in the first phase of the novel. Along with that, in the second phase of the novel, the rebellion of the people of the lower classes against the violence of the ruling classes. Therefore, this was the turning point of the study of the novel. Furthermore, the third phase of the novel is based on the people's lives in society after the rebellion. The synopsis of the selected novel and the themes it contains are analyzed below.

In the novel, the people of the working or lower classes do not like the ruling classes, and they do several things to disturb the people of the higher classes. Therefore, the people of higher classes used to throw ice creams and bottles off to the balconies of the people of lower classes (Shimron, 2018). They do this to deface and damage the cars of the ruling classes, and according to the novel's story, the people of the ruling classes park in a separate section of the building. The lower classes do many more things to make difficulties for the people of the higher classes. The electricity of the building switches off suddenly, and the air conditioning machines of the higher classes become sporadic.

It is found that this begins to spread the dust of cement into the apartments of the people of the ruling classes. In addition to that, the lobbies and hallways of the specific building are covered with kind of signs, graffiti, legible and some indecipherable codes designed to make the people of the higher classes uncomfortable. Thus, there is a turning point in the story when a wealthy jeweller falls from a penthouse to his death (Bahmad, 2020). A character named Richard Wilder learns that no one from the building has reported the death to the police. Thus, the building people know that things are going very poorly and that something strange is happening. In addition to that, the author analyses different types of characters in this novel. In the following part of this study, the most important characters are described thoroughly.

The critical characters in this novel are Dr Laing, Richard Wilder, and Anthony Royal. These three characters have different occupations, but they all live in the same building and play significant roles in the novel. Dr Driving is a man rebounding from a divorce from his wife. He wants to marry again and looks for eligible divorced women in the same building. Another character, Richard Wilder, is a TV producer who lives on the bottom floor of the building.

As the mayhem caused by the people of the lower classes starts to increase, Richard Wilder settles on the irrational goal of fighting his way to the top of the building. In addition to that, Anthony Royal is an architect, and he is relatively famous in society at the time (Xu et al., 2018). Along with that, Anthony Royal was the designer of the building that is the focus of the novel and lives on the top floor of the building. Furthermore, he has a loyal Alsatian dog who accompanies him wherever he goes. Besides that, Royal Anthony always dresses in a white suit, and he was injured in a car accident.

Apart from that, it is becoming difficult for the people of the higher classes to live in the building because different tantrums of the people of the lower classes are increasing day by day. Therefore, Dr Laing and Richard Wilder are only the two people who realize that it was difficult to leave the building and then it was more difficult to report to their jobs. Apart from that, the two inhabitants of the building also realize that the increment of difficulties is unreal for them (Alves et al., 2020). Therefore, there is no way for them to do anything against the people of lower classes instead of returning to the building with garbage bags, bottles, and others. In the first section of this study, it is concluded that J. G. Ballard's novel is called *High-Rise* based on the correct separation.

There is one building, but the building is divided into two classes, and the lower classes are not allowed to go on the floors of the building that the people of higher classes blocked. In addition, the author analyses the paradox between the people of the higher or ruling classes and the people of the lower or working classes in the novel *High-Rise* (Ren, 2018). Furthermore, the strange things done by the lower classes to disturb and take revenge on the higher classes are also analyzed. It is proven that the lower classes also have the power to fight back against the people of the ruling classes. Therefore, it can be said that through his description of the different classes in society at the time, the author describes the postmodern society in the 21<sup>st</sup> century and the life of people in that society in his novel.

On the other hand, although J. G. Ballard first wrote science fiction novels, his work in this genre was not well-received at the time of publication. Therefore, he was dismissed as a science fiction writer by readers. Then he wrote the novel *High-Rise*. The author analyzed a turning point in this novel that attracted readers, and similarly,



the publication of this novel was the turning point in his career (Hua et al., 2017). The author wrote about society and the life of the people in the postmodern urban era. Postmodern urban society started in the 21<sup>st</sup> century, and people's lives started to change. Along with that, people's perspective was also starting to change, and these changes are all described in J. G. Ballard's novel. Therefore, this study analyses J. G. Ballard's perspective towards postmodern urban society.

### **3.2. Postmodern Perspectives on Urban Life related to *High-Rise***

Postmodernity has had a significant influence on human culture. It focuses on the geographic discipline for a better understanding of the spatial distribution and spatial expression worldwide. According to *High-Rise*, spatial analysis and positivism help to interpret the subject. The postmodern period has been introduced with radical configuration and innovative cultural logic. However, increasing diversity in modern culture involves categorical thinking and paradigmatic disclosure. The combination of creativity is considered impossible and antithetical. As seen in this novel, postmodernity was introduced in 1960, and it has restructured the geographical differences in the urban area, such as post historicism, post-Fordism and postmodernization.

In the case of postmodernization, the ideological and cultural configuration has led to severe changes in urban life. According to Chakraborty et al. (2019), the multi-layered system has made severe changes in urbanization. According to the selected novel, urban dystopia has made urban development with the help of social, cultural, and economic development for acquiring knowledge on late capitalism. Enhancement of urban locality and explosion of urbanization is significant for continuous growth.

Many philosophers and filmmakers shed light on the impact of urban social, economic, and cultural diversity on urban development. Ballard's and Burgess's novels, *High-Rise* and *A Clockwork Orange* explore the idea that establishing a matriarchy leads to restored order, as in the case of the high-rise apartment. The authors critically discuss gynocritic uprising in this novel to enhance knowledge of urbanization.

The novel is considered a “classic tale of urbanization” to explore tremendous urbanization knowledge. Burgess and Ballard have focused on urban disasters for disclosing the consequences of citizens' activities. Apart from these, the authors successfully describe the consequences of effective urban planning. According to Yu et al. (2020), acquiring natural advantages and promoting physical geography facilitate the transport system for economic development. Increased discrimination among people can be attributed to a desire to increase land values in the urban area. Implementation of postmodernization increased economic necessity; rivalry and influenced sympathy is beneficial to restrict population distribution.

In addition to this, developments in manufacturing and increased demand lead businesses to seek additional land. However, it was essential to meet economic demand in an urban locality. According to the selected novels, the characterization of the urban novel and urban discipline took the accountability for determining the environmental population. According to Jain (2017), the distribution of the urban population has affected sentimental interest and economic standards in urban areas. Increasing vocation, race and sentimental interest were responsible for comparative growth.

On the other hand, enhancement of economic demand, such as increasing land values and socio-economic values, influenced the growing urbanization. A comparative analysis of population growth rates requires isolating death, birth,

divorce, and marriage rates. These interrelated factors determine the urban population rate.

Apart from urbanization's numerous advantages, it has been determined that it causes neighbours to suffer from isolation. Eventually, it negatively impacts human psychology and gives rise to a society with different cultural values. Postmodernization has increased land values. However, it increased land values in an urban locality. Many local communities took on the responsibility for reconstructing urban areas. According to Western and Lanyon (2019), many European cities took the initiative to make significant changes in the urban plan. The municipal authority helped develop the model buildings and gardens to reduce the unhealthy atmosphere in urban areas. Improvement of transport and communication systems helped to reduce isolation. Apart from these, it was significant to decrease class interest and racial antagonism from urban localities. In addition to urbanization, postmodernization affected modern thinking. It introduced subjectivity, creativity, and freedom to make several changes to the urban plans. Most postmodern literature has focused on urban geographic territories and populations to elaborate on the relationship between spatial segregation and poverty.

On the other hand, it has been recognized that increasing postmodern isolation was responsible for a rise in socio-political critiques of late capitalism and complex economic stability. The construction of an effective social system is essential to eradicate the chances of an unexamined community plan in an urban locality. Increasing consciousness among local governments, city residents, and landowners are accountable for implementing a progressive atmosphere in the metropolitan city. Moreover, it is essential to identify political, social, and cultural issues to adopt

appropriate strategies for the development of urban life. Eradication of these problems is beneficial to bring positive change to the local community, government, and diverse groups of people in urban localities.

This novel observes the positive and negative impact of urbanization on people's well-being. Focusing on the cultural, social, and economic history helps to enhance knowledge of urban space. Recognition of geographic territories and urban population helped to identify the cause of increasing poverty. According to Hayir-Kanat (2017), urban planners used city centres, landmarks, and meeting places to ensure urban space continuity. The development of urban capital helps to enrich the transport system. The development of an effective transport system is necessary to ensure the economic growth of the nation.

The construction of postmodern society, or postmodernization, is accountable for increasing fragmentation, diversity, individualism, and consumerism to get more freedom than the previous urban society. Postmodernization made numerous changes to the education system. The education system became more individualized for the improvement of learners' skills and pathways. According to Kwawuvi et al. (2019), an individualized education system is introduced with different learning approaches to deliver lessons to the people. It has been found that understanding different learning styles enables students to increase their productivity. Moreover, postmodernization has been introduced with Frye Festivals for consumerism meetings; this festival has enhanced the capability of advertising to influence people. Influencing people increased the demand for postmodernization for economic development and personal growth.

### **3.3. Contribution of J. G. Ballard's Vision of Postmodern Urban Life**

In the postmodern era, the enhancement of mapping, spatiality, deterritorialization, and topography made significant changes in cultural studies and literature. One of the marvellous British writers, J. G. Ballard, has focused on postmodern urbanization to recognize the impact of postmodernization on inhabitants. After the Second World War, critical theories such as spatial turn were established in the modern era (Castillo-Contreras et al., 2021). These transformations made a significant impact on information technologies and globalization to identify the differences from different sections. J. G. Ballard decided to introduce a geocentric approach in the postmodern era in *High-Rise*. He believed that there are numerous constraints associated with living in an urban area.

Eventually, postmodernism identified many critical factors necessary for living a healthy life in an urban locality. Moreover, it is helped to explore innovative ideas on heterotopic. According to this novel, geotropic observation helps to explore appropriate strategies for eradicating unnecessary chaos and violence critically. According to Sultana (2020), postmodernization is responsible for making massive changes in the human psychological state. The critical concept helps to identify the effect of modern judgement strategies on human psychology. The fundamental contrast between rural and modern life has distinct effects on people's lifestyle, culture, and thinking process. Fictional media and literature have focused on the consequences of postmodernization. Modern architecture and planners have discriminated against the impact of modernization on people.

After the industrial revolution, urbanization became one of the fascinations of modern writers. J. G. Ballard introduces his viewpoint on postmodern urbanization in

*High-Rise*. Postmodernization is introduced with advantages and disadvantages simultaneously. The author argues that postmodernization is responsible for increasing dominant personalities, violence, entrapment and death, discrimination, and poverty. It is responsible for creating a paradoxical place for the identification of happiness, fortunes, and experiences. Per the author's vision, the postmodern urban atmosphere has gone through the same experiences as the protagonist. Moreover, he feels unfortunate due to the unsustainability and chaotic atmosphere in an urban locality. Ballard's novel allows for an improved understanding of postmodernization.

Implementation of ecocriticism theory helps to identify the influential nature of postmodernization in urban localities. This novel elaborates on the effects of spatial turn to enhance knowledge of interdisciplinary methods, surveys, and imagination to maintain accuracy in this method. According to this model, the evaluation of postmodern urban cities helps identify the psychological effects of these environments on inhabitants. According to Lin and Omoju (2017), postmodernization created a diabolized environment in the urban locality. The development of morbid conditions helps growing industries to enhance economic statistics.

The creation of an artificial atmosphere helps to promote technological development in urban areas. The municipal authority and urban planners constructed a garden city and a 'secular vertical house' during the 20<sup>th</sup> century. This innovative concept helped to eradicate diversification between rural and urban atmospheres. In addition to this, the modern and pre-modern eras have seen numerous changes to provide higher-quality facilities to the people.

Implementation of the garden city helps to eradicate the negative impact of social individualism among people. The author describes the impact of technological

innovation on enhancing the postmodern urban process. Eventually, it helped to develop a system of capitalism that enhanced the consumption and production rate in an urban area. According to this novel, the development of internal and external space influences people's psychological behaviour. Moreover, it helps to eradicate discrimination among the people. The maintenance of diversity helps in developing positive relationships. Moreover, it helps to resolve differences among the rich and poor.

Proper utilization of urban plans was required for people's well-being. Apart from these, the author has described the impact of the physical environment influencing people's psychological behaviour (Colozza & Avendano, 2019). The development of the garden city makes a positive impact on people's psychology. Per the author's point of view, being isolated negatively impacts people's nature—lack of cooperation and collaboration among neighbours' accounts for the retardation of people's psychological development.

Moreover, it is responsible for increasing criminal activity among the people. Maintenance of technological discipline is essential to develop a protected community in the urban area. The author focuses on the impact of human psychology on the eradication of complexities among people. The development of the concentration city helped to eradicate the negative impact of the industrial revolution.

After the industrial revolution, the entire world suffered from economic losses. Eventually, it decreased the quality of people's lifestyles. On the other hand, urbanization promotes innovative strategies to enhance the economic statistics for gaining more opportunities. According to this novel, post urbanization has both positive and negative impacts. It helps to enhance the land values by developing

industries that secure a high economic standard. Economic growth influenced the local community and government authority to support modernization (Aithal et al., 2017).

On the other hand, it deteriorates people's mental stability. Significantly, children are easily affected by these new urban plans. Introducing the garden city helped to enhance diversity among the people. Per the author's point of view, modern urbanization has resulted in enormous differences between urban and rural cultures. The development of confined urban plans helped to explain people's psychological states to determine the effect of urbanization.

In modern literature, the postmodernization of urbanization has become the dominant topic for authors and philosophers. Influences of an ominous atmosphere increased poverty, crime and isolation. Per the author's opinion, it is essential to determine post-urbanization's positive and negative impacts. Identifying the postmodern literature concept helped identify the impact of an unsettled environment in urban localities (Inostroza & de la Barrera, 2019). It has been shown that the inhabitants of the smart city were seeking happiness and fortune. However, social individualism decreased the positive impact of post-urbanization among people.

#### **3.4. Perspective on Postmodern Urban Life in J. G. Ballard's *High Rise***

Much of it is related to postmodern urban life, such as *Hello America*, *Crash*, and *The Atrocity Exhibition*. J. G. Ballard's novels show the contrast between the postmodern urban lifestyle and the classical utopian lifestyle. In the recent development world, the demand and interest to know the matter of studies related to postmodern urban life. The most remarkable of J. G. Ballard's novels survey elements of the postmodern lifestyle.



To understand the consequences of modernism, fictional media focuses on constructive debate. J. G. Ballard always tries to include a rich dystopian element in his writing. Bowyer (2020) opines that discrimination of modern architecture in urban concentration had been found. Ballard's new-wave novel focused on the innovation of modern lifestyles, and he attempts to incorporate different aspects of postmodern urban life. To invent prevailing themes, the writer shifts the principle of modernist urbanism. J. G. Ballard's novels elaborate on the consequences of modernism and its impact on the urban lifestyle. In his novels, density can be recognized in two contrasting ways: the number of citizens a city holds compared to other cities and the subsequent number of multi-floor apartment blocks. He thus believes that the cities of urban people have boundaries, but there is free space somewhere behind them.

On the other hand, the writer analyzes the people's situations and the phases they had to face in postmodern urban society. According to Burgess's novel, there are two groups in postmodern society: the ruling class and the working class. Moreover, all the decisions for society were made by the ruling classes in the society, and the working classes had to maintain the decision (Mathai, 2017). Furthermore, violence toward people of the working classes was increasing day by day, and Anthony Burgess portrays the situation of the society at that time in his novel *A Clockwork Orange*. The writer also demonstrates that the working classes or lower classes could also fight back against the violence. However, they do not do anything to regain their rights and tolerate the violence for a long time.

In addition, Anthony Burgess describes his anger on behalf of the defenceless people in society at that time. The writer explained that a gang raped his wife, resulting in her death and that no one, including the writer, could do anything for her. In addition

to that, the writer related that a criminal named Alex attempted to murder a woman, and because of that, he had to be in jail. However, the jail laws could not change Alex's mindset, and he murdered a prisoner by beating him to death one night.

Furthermore, the novel depicts a dystopian environment, and its plot focuses on Alex's life. In addition to that, the writer has written the novel in three parts that correspond to the three phases of society (Kuruducu, 2019). The three phases of the society are violence, then the rebellion of the lower classes, and finally life after the rebellion. Similarly, the three parts of the novel are Alex's world; then the techniques of Ludovico, which Alex uses to escape from the prison, and then the part after prison. In this way, Anthony Burgess thus analyzes his perspectives towards postmodern urban life in *A Clockwork Orange*.

### **3.5. The Use of Post-Structuralist Theory to Analyze Perspectives on Postmodern Urban Life:**

Many theories can help the researcher understand and analyze the concept of postmodern urban society and the people's lives. Therefore, adopting an accurate theory for the research study helps the researcher create a readable and reliable study. Post-structuralist Theory is one of the most significant theories for understanding the concept of postmodern urban society (Kairienė, 2020). Many aspects of this theory help to explain the writers' perspectives towards postmodern urban life. In addition to that, the sense of fictional construct can be noticed in the novels that are selected for this research study. Therefore, the mentioned theory is helpful for the researcher to understand and analyze the concept of fictional construct in the research study. This is

one of the main reasons the researcher chose this particular theory to base this research study.

On the other hand, the mentioned theory is helpful for the researcher to understand the dependent and independent variables of the selected novels. Therefore, if the researcher can understand all the concepts of the selected novel, the researcher will be able to analyze all the concepts in the research study (Çalkıvık, 2017). This theory aids in comprehension, which allows for the correct analysis of the concepts and themes in the selected novels. Along with that, analyzing the concepts of the topic as a singular entity helps to create a more attractive, readable, and exciting study for the reader. Therefore, the mentioned theory is capable of helping the researcher to analyze the concepts of the research study as a singular entity which makes the study more satisfying for the readers. Thus, it can be said that the use of the mentioned theory helped the researcher significantly with the analysis of the concept of postmodern urban society and urban life.

Apart from that, creating an individual purpose of the research studies according to the readers' perspectives helps to get the readers' satisfaction. Therefore, the poststructuralism theory is helpful to create the individual purpose of all the readers. Thus, using the mentioned theory will be impactful and efficient, resulting in greater reader satisfaction (Rashidpour et al., 2019). In addition to that, the mentioned theory was helpful to the researcher in understanding the relationship between the different variables addressed in this research study. After that, they understood that the relationship between different variables of the selected novels is also helpful for the researcher to analyze the concepts in the research study properly.

### 3.6. Analysis of Dystopian Societies that are Described in the Novels

Anthony Burgess and J. G. Ballard are quite famous for their writings and the different exciting concepts. One of the most different and exciting concepts in their novels is postmodern urban life in a dystopian society. Thus, both writers analyze the situation of a dystopian society in their novels, and people loved these concepts at the time of the novels' release (Iseni et al., 2019). Furthermore, the novels are based on the dark experiences of that society, and the writers describe their anger. In addition to analyzing the two selected novels, this study discusses the writers' perspectives towards postmodern life. Both *A Clockwork Orange* and *High-Rise* focus on the concept of postmodern urban society and the people's lives in that society.

On the other hand, Anthony Burgess analyzes the sense of dystopia by analyzing Alex's experiences in the novel. According to the novel, Alex was punished by aversion therapy for doing such crimes. The mentioned therapy is a process for evaluating the behaviours of the criminals, and this therapy is used as a punishment (Altaç, 2020). The novel writer describes how Alex raped his wife and tried to murder a woman. However, the writer portrays Alex as a victim of the oppressed society. Furthermore, Alex also suffers from violence, and after that, he tries to commit suicide and suffers from mental distress. Apart from that, the themes of the novel reflect Burgess's perspectives toward a dystopian society.

In addition, J. G. Ballard also portrays his perspectives on a dystopian society in his novels. *High-Rise* is one of the writer's best novels, and he analyzes the postmodern urban life and the dystopian society of that time. Furthermore, the story of the novel *High-Rise* analyzes the situation of postmodern urban society, where there were two different classes (Cojocar, 2020). Therefore, the lower classes had to face

worse phases of their lives, and they tolerated all the violence but did not raise their voices against it. Apart from that, the story of *High-Rise* is based on the separation of a high-rise building. Thus, J. G. Ballard analyzes the perspectives of a dystopian society in his novel, and the researcher has adopted the poststructuralism theory to understand the concepts of the novel.

## CONCLUSION AND RESULTS

Based on Anthony Burgess's and J. G. Ballard's visions of postmodern urban life, it can be stated that both novelists represent conflict beyond the mundane ideas of everyday life. Thus, the entire structure of this study has opened a high-risk assessment regarding the original work. Both are pioneers of postmodernist fiction, so a direct comparison of the different views is not possible. In this study, *A Clockwork Orange* and *High-Rise* have been used as the basis for a comparative analysis of urban life. As these two novels depict a subverted, postmodern portrayal of urban society, unique dilemmas can be found in every aspect. Regarding contemporary dystopian England, the objectives have been described in the novel *A Clockwork Orange*. The lifestyle, the contemporary human mind, and the relationship between human beings are all concepts that have been appropriately elaborated in Anthony Burgess's novel.

The political structure of postmodern urban society is repeatedly highlighted in Anthony Burgess's novels to show the current societal status of the contemporary age. The novel *A Clockwork Orange*, set in a dismal dystopian England, a youth subculture is based on extreme violence. The supposed justice factor has been highlighted in the novels. This novel repetitively highlights a perfect portrayal of urban life and its conflict within modern society to recognize the need for psychological rehabilitation. Anthony Burgess was inspired to write this novel as he was one of the contemporary writers interested in urban lifestyle and societal norms. According to his novels, he wanted to convey to all human beings that peace can be restored at any stage of life.

Violence, anger, happiness, upset, sadness, prejudice, and fear all are human emotions. The novel reveals that these emotions can be restored to a person's life depending on the situation. Depending on the aberrant behaviour of human beings,

psychological rehabilitation can be structured effectively. Thus, the novel *A Clockwork Orange* shows an extreme political system that completely contrasts humanity's incorrigibility. The power of politics and its effects on urban life has been identified as fundamental tenets of a totalitarian society. The novel *A Clockwork Orange* introduces a totalitarian society where violent youth abound. The main character, Alex, is a member of a teen gang and a violent youth who experiences aversion therapy to repress violent urges. A complete transformation can be found in the character of Alex as he was converted from a violent man to a timid fellow. Many different scenarios are depicted in the novel, such as the main character's behaviour and actions. At first, the main protagonist's perspective is harmful to the environment because he plans to harm people severely. After this, the main protagonist kills a total of three innocent people. Based on this scenario, it can be stated that his motivations and perspective were to kill or harm people considerably. After some days, the protagonist faces an accident, whereby he learns how much damage he has caused to the locals. However, the situation makes him change his motivations and action-taking plans to hurt people. Moreover, he plans to clear his crimes logically because he has learned that environmental care is one of the most important objectives to keep him clean.

In his novel, Anthony Burgess depicts the reality of urban life and the tragic context of transformation. He repeatedly mentions that all the lifestyle and political power are responsible for the transformation activity. The urban life envisioned by Anthony Burgess has a total superficiality of political systems to form a new structure in the society to make it a better place to live. As urban people cannot get appropriate advantages in life, Alex loves classical music in the novel. Still, due to the leading time

and political approach, he is converted into a timid fellow. The changing behaviour and lifestyle have changed Alex into a different person who is badly beaten by society. At different times, the track of his life has been changed and turned by the influence of the external world. In contrast to the government approach, Anthony Burgess repeatedly tries to influence public opinion toward his viewpoint.

On the contrary, *High-Rise* by J. G. Ballard has highlighted the face of postmodernism to show his opinion regarding urban lifestyles. In *High-Rise*, like Anthony Burgess, the writer discusses dystopian society to make a contrastive study. The novel highlights the gradual descent into violent chaos and the dissolution of society as a result of the urban lifestyle. In this novel, due to a distinct subversion, the connection between a primitive society and the postmodern society has been appropriately recognized based on the viewpoint of J. G. Ballard. Thus, J. G. Ballard has taken an enormous risk in introducing a dystopian society compared to many contemporary writers. A new level of transformation and change can be found in this novel by J. G. Ballard. The step-by-step approach shows how Robert Laing, the protagonist, has converted into a high-class resident who belongs to the upper strata of society.

A darker side of humanity is repeatedly seen in several of J. G. Ballard's novels in contemporary society. At various times and in various ways, J. G. Ballard has introduced the cruelty of society, and its effect on urban lifestyle has been found. In addition, the coexistences of both violence and gentleness portrayed in his novel highlight the two contrasting sides of humanity and contemporary urban society. Thus, in most cases, J. G. Ballard elaborates on the brutal environments of contemporary society. He repeatedly focuses on the inner space rather than the outer space to describe



the reality of society. The complex metaphor of the high-rise apartment environment is highlighted in *High-Rise* based on the postmodernist urban society. Both integrated and distinctive imaginations can also be found in *High-Rise*, which indicates an enormous, mysterious context.

Moreover, the comparative study of Anthony Burgess's and J. G. Ballard's visions of postmodern urban life helps to uncover the reality of the contemporary urban lifestyle and its impact on human emotion. Thus, although both writers depict dismal dystopian England, they arrive at different conclusions regarding the meaning of life. The transformation and political impact are successfully highlighted in the novels of Anthony Burgess and J. G. Ballard. Selecting *A Clockwork Orange* and *High-Rise* as a basis for the study was found to help giving it direction and make it more effective and valuable.

To conclude, through his novel, *A Clockwork Orange*, Anthony Burgess presents the unpleasant reality of the state of postmodern society. Many critics misunderstood Burgess, believing him to be cherishing the ugly truth about society; however, he acts as a mirror to reflect reality through his novel. In his novel, *A Clockwork Orange*, Burgess constructs the narrative and incorporates a fictional reality to portray the truth about postmodern society from his perspective. His main concerns in his novel are the state of individuality and the role of individuality in contemporary society. The theme of freedom of individuality is portrayed through his novel.

Burgess believes that even though democracy existed in the Western regions, the condition of society was deteriorating. People were losing their freedom, equal rights, and identities and becoming a powerless unnamed mass of supposedly liberated

individuals. His novel perfectly portrays how contemporary society treats an individual. Burgess and a significant number of postmodern writers emphasize that the contemporary political, social, and traditional society was going down a path that may lead to dystopia. Burgess emphasizes that this dystopia can cause the abolishment of the identity of a human being. Identity and freedom are the essences of a liberated human being. Lack of liberation and equal rights can bring about destruction to society.

In the novel, *A Clockwork Orange*, Burgess incorporates the cyclic theory, which functions as a narrative tool to portray the sorry state of a human being in the postmodern urban society. In this novel, the characters are the essential means of representing postmodern society. Through the portrayal of the character Alex, Burgess successfully executes his literary intention.

The primary character, Alex, symbolizes the concept of what defines an individual. The story of the novel is the protagonist's struggle against society. Alex is portrayed as a strong individual whose struggle is to build an identity in society. The secondary characters in the novel are Alex's companions. Burgess represents the corruption of society through the way they treat and impact the protagonist.

Other characters such as Dr Branom and the post-corrective advisor represent society's wrongness, mischief, and decadence. Even though he is involved in violence, Alex is still struggling against society to keep his liberty and rights; thus, he is challenged to either continue with wrongdoing like his peers or fight to become a good person. Throughout the novel, Alex constantly deals with a moral dilemma, and the urban society is associated with wrong rather than right. Another character in the novel that represents right, goodness, and reality is the prison chaplain.

For him, goodness is the choice of a human being, and when a person no longer has the option to choose, 'he ceases to be a man'. Flat characterization is a common feature of postmodern literature. The characters in *A Clockwork Orange* are also somewhat flat. This is a deliberate choice of the author to make readers focus on contemporary society rather than on the characters' lives. Generally, postmodernist novels portray a conflict between the protagonist and a solid social institution or influential members of society. Similarly, in this novel, the protagonist Alex is arrested and is sent to prison because his peers betray him. It is also worthy of mention that the relationship between the protagonist and the represented society is always lopsided; the main character is destined to lose and suffer.

Society plays an essential role in the novel. Burgess's novel's literary intention is not to predict the condition of the future world and society but to construct a fictional world in the novel that portrays his vision. In this novel, society is doomed because of the constant attacks of violent youths. Even though the higher authorities of the society try their best to repress the violent and aggressive attitudes of the youths – for example, through techniques like the "Reclamation Treatment" – they fail to do so. Alex undergoes such treatment, too. This highlights the condition of the postmodern era, depicting the ways a homogenizing majority represses an individual. Other than this, Burgess also portrays a conflict between the younger and the older generation. The young generation is presented as being violent, having no aim, and consuming drugs. Most readers still favour such characters because the older generation has more experience and is mature yet fails to be a role model for youth to follow. Therefore, the powerful government or the authorities of the social institution cannot repress the aggressive youth or the insensible old.

In a single sentence, the plot of the novel is that the protagonist's intention and actions are continuously repressed by a vital political and social institution through interference with the lives of the individuals. The plot of the novel can be divided into two sections. In the first section, Alex attacks innocent people for mere entertainment, feels dominance over naive people, is a rebel destroying all social norms and order, and ignores the government authorities. In the second section, Alex is in the reverse position, transforming from a so-called rebel to a patient treated and repressed by the government authorities. Eventually, when he finally gets the chance to be free from all this, he faces various threats and ultimately learns his lesson. In other words, the condition completely changes from the protagonist being free to do anything to show his dominance and superiority to the government authorities being free to repress the individuals to show their dominance.

In the novel, the dominance level of the government increases over time, and the protagonist eventually loses. In a traditional Aristotelian manner, the novel eventually results in a happy ending. Alex is completely transformed from an aggressive immature youth to a mature person. The government authorities and the political system remain the same. However, the protagonist's hope and love may still make the social institution consider a change for the betterment of the individuals living in that society.

J. G. Ballard's novel *High-Rise* deals with the impact of the violation on the lives of individuals. The protagonist, Dr Robert Laing, was struggling against society and the apartment, where he faced some unusual incidents that led to his disillusionment. The novel examines the aspects and variations of a social division of middle-class people wholly isolated from the rest of the world. The residents of that

tower have their own rules and constitution, ignoring the social norms of the outside world. Like Anthony Burgess's novel, this novel also focuses on the incidents and nuances of the residents rather than on one particular character. The tower is filled with residents and reaches its capacity as the fictional society, and as their norms disintegrate, the tower becomes engulfed in warfare.

By incorporating this modernist architecture, Ballard portrays what happens when human beings are placed in an isolated area or a utopian setting. Laing chooses to stay in the tower for peace, which later becomes warfare due to a dystopian society. Both novels deal with a doomed society by portraying different experiences faced by different individuals. The residents' involvement in illogical behaviour and violence is the result of living in isolation. The most surprising part is that both the protagonist and the secondary characters begin to support and adopt irrational behaviour. By portraying a postmodern urban life, Ballard tries to represent the social disintegration and fall of human beings. Here the author has connected the relationship between corrupted society and its impact on the characters' psychology.

The setting plays an essential role in portraying the state of destruction in postmodern society. According to the novel, it can be stated that the tower is in a different timeline, presenting opportunities for violence and warfare to occur. The fictional world in the novel presents a utopian concept that leads to social destruction. In the tower, as Laing describes, one can feel the absence of history, as the future seems to have been exhausted long ago. Unlike Burgess's novel, where the author created the fictional world to support his perspective on contemporary society, Ballard adopted *High-Rise's* social realities during the 1960s and 1970s to represent his view of the postmodern era. Issues such as vandalism, communal violence, and areas where

families can no longer live are the sources from which the author took his ideas and made them a reality in his novel.

He exaggerates and makes it more extreme to portray alternative possibilities and how the future would look if societal corruption and barbarity remained unchanged. In other words, through this novel, the author portrays his fear of a catastrophic world. The author also portrays urban modern life's impact on individuals by showing the relationship between technology and society. The technology here is represented by the tower's architecture and society by the psychological state of the residents. The building eventually starts to crumble, and the psychological state of the residents also starts to disintegrate. In Anthony Burgess's novels, there was hope for change, but in *High-Rise*, there was no hope for change, no new social order that would come and lead to positive change in societal conditions. Alex in Anthony Burgess's novel goes through a change as he is repressed by the powerful social institutions which are against his will. Still, in J. G. Ballard's novel, the tower residents go through a change as they are involved in irrational behaviour, which is a wilful decision of the residents.

The characters' names are also crucial for the representation of the dystopian concept. Royal is associated with a higher state or authority here as he is in charge of the tower. His defeat also comes from the rebellion of the tower house. The name Wilder, as it sounds, represents an individual who adores animalistic behaviour and looks like a cave dweller. R. D. Laing, who was a notorious psychoanalyst, inspired the name Laing in the novel. Laing believes that schizophrenia can be a practical survival skill to deal with any problem. He believes that the irrational behaviour of the residents is quite normal as he starts to embrace it. At the end of the novel, the

disturbing result makes him believe that everything is going back to normal. While the story of *A Clockwork Orange* leads to a happy ending, *High Rise* has a disturbing ending.

In the chapter 'Final Triumph', Royal understands that no social order will occur, and the present condition will never change. The residents of the tower will remain involved in animalistic behaviour. Both novels deal with the fall of the human psychological state and represent postmodern society and urban life. Both novels successfully represent the reality of a doomed society that leads to an exhausted future.

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