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**Deconstructing Dualities and Challenging
Conventions: A Critical Discourse Analysis of John
Keats' "Ode to Nightingale" as a Postmodernist
Manifesto on Art, Nature, Mortality and Existential
Consciousness**

This paper presents a rigorous critical discourse analysis of John Keats' renowned poem "Ode to a Nightingale" as a postmodernist manifesto on art, nature, mortality, and existential consciousness. The study employs a combination of stylistic analysis, postmodernism, and critical discourse analysis frameworks to examine the intricacies of Keats' poetic discourse. Drawing on the theoretical concepts proposed by Leech and Short (2007), Lyotard (1984), Jameson (1991), and Fairclough (2003), the analysis delves into the challenging of conventional notions, the exploration of postmodernist themes and symbols, and the engagement in postmodernist discourse through language choices and discourse structures employed by Keats in the poem. The stylistic analysis section employs Leech and Short's (2007) framework to meticulously analyze the various literary devices employed by Keats, including imagery, metaphor, alliteration, assonance, rhyme, and rhythm, in relation to their subversion of conventional notions of art, nature, mortality, and existential consciousness. The postmodernism section draws on the fragmented and multi-perspective approach proposed by Lyotard (1984) and Jameson (1991) to interpret how Keats' exploration of complexities in these themes is reflected through the employment of postmodernist themes and symbols in the poem. The critical discourse analysis section, following Fairclough's (2003) framework, analyzes the language choices and discourse structures employed by

Keats, revealing his engagement in a postmodernist discourse that challenges traditional binary oppositions and constructs a nuanced understanding of art, nature, mortality, and existential consciousness. The findings of this study provide valuable insights into Keats' "Ode to a Nightingale" as a postmodernist manifesto, shedding light on the deconstruction of dualities and the subversion of conventional notions in the poem. The study contributes to the scholarly understanding of Keats' literary techniques and thematic exploration from a postmodernist perspective, enriching the discourse on art, nature, mortality, and existential consciousness in Keats' works.

KEY WORDS: *Postmodernism, Critical Discourse Analysis, Stylistic Analysis, Conventional Notions, Dualities, Art, Nature, Mortality, Existential Consciousness.*

1. Introduction

In today's world of rapid change and progress, we are constantly challenging and redefining our understanding of the world around us. It is within this context that John Keats' "Ode to a Nightingale" holds a special place. As a timeless piece of literature, this poem continues to captivate and challenge readers, even after two centuries of its publication. But what makes this poem so special? Why is it still relevant today? These are the questions that have inspired the current research, where researchers aim to deconstruct the dualities present in the poem and challenge conventional notions of art, nature, mortality, and existential consciousness. By conducting a critical discourse analysis, researchers aim to reveal how Keats' engagement with postmodernist discourse on these themes in the poem makes it a postmodernist manifesto. Thus, this research is not only timely but also important as it offers a fresh perspective on a classic work of literature that continues to shape our understanding of the world. The focus of this study is to analyze Keats' "Ode to a Nightingale" from a critical discourse perspective, exploring how the literary devices used by Keats challenge conventional ideas of art, nature, mortality, and existential consciousness. This study also examines how Keats' exploration of these themes reflects his engagement with postmodernist ideas, and how critical discourse analysis helps to reveal the complexities of his engagement with them (Roe, 2021). The current research is significant for a number of

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reasons. Firstly, it addresses a gap in the literature by exploring the postmodernist dimensions of Keats' poem "Ode to a Nightingale," which has been traditionally interpreted through a lens of sensuousness (Hussain, 2022). This research challenges conventional notions of literary analysis by deconstructing the dualities inherent in the poem, such as art and nature, mortality and immortality, and existential consciousness. Secondly, this research builds on existing research on Keats and postmodernism but offers a fresh perspective on the topic by using critical discourse analysis to uncover the poem's postmodernist elements. Finally, this research proposes a new understanding of the topic by exploring how Keats engages in a postmodernist discourse on art, nature, mortality, and existential consciousness through his use of literary devices, themes, and symbols in "Ode to a Nightingale". Overall, this research has the potential to contribute to the fields of literary criticism, postmodernist theory, and Keatsian studies, as well as offer insights into how art and nature are portrayed and challenged in literature. Through this study, light is shed on the postmodernist dimensions of Keats' 'Ode to a Nightingale' and contribute to the fields of literary criticism, postmodernist theory, and Keatsian studies. Additionally, this research seeks to offer fresh insights into how art and nature are portrayed and challenged in literature through the examination of the poem's themes, symbols, and literary devices. The present investigation endeavors to provide answers to the subsequent inquiries:

1. How do literary devices in "Ode to a Nightingale" challenge conventional notions of art, nature, mortality, and existential consciousness?
2. Which themes and symbols in "Ode to a Nightingale" reflect Keats' postmodernist exploration of complexities in art, nature, mortality, and existential consciousness?
3. How does critical discourse analysis reveal Keats' engagement in a postmodernist discourse on art, nature, mortality, and existential consciousness in "Ode to a Nightingale"?

To analyze John Keats' "Ode to a Nightingale" as a postmodernist manifesto on art, nature, mortality, and existential consciousness,

multiple frameworks are needed to provide a comprehensive understanding of the poem's themes and stylistic features. The selected frameworks of Leech and Short's (2007), Lyotard (1984), and Jameson (1991) offer complementary perspectives for analyzing different aspects of the poem.

Leech and Short's (2007) framework provides a systematic approach to analyze the linguistic features of the poem. This framework can help identify various stylistic devices, such as metaphor, simile, and personification, and how they contribute to the overall meaning and aesthetic appeal of the poem. By examining the poem's language through this framework, one can understand how Keats uses various linguistic devices to convey his postmodernist ideas.

Lyotard's (1984) postmodernist theory emphasizes the rejection of grand narratives and the importance of subjective experience and cultural analysis in understanding meaning. This perspective allows for an analysis of how Keats challenges conventional ideas of morality, nature, and existence by emphasizing the importance of individual experience and interpretation. By examining Keats' work through this framework, one can understand how the poem reflects postmodernist ideas by challenging conventional ideas of meaning and reality. Jameson's (1991) postmodernist theory highlights the role of culture and history in shaping postmodernism. This framework allows for an analysis of how Keats draws on literary and cultural traditions to construct his postmodernist ideas. By examining the poem through this perspective, one can understand how Keats uses pastiche and combines different styles and genres to reflect the fragmentation of modernist narratives.

1. Literature Review

Critical discourse analysis (CDA) provides a theoretical framework to comprehend perplex interplay among language, power, and social practice in literary works. This approach has a significant relation with postmodern literature, which challenges traditional binary oppositions and conventional notions. Moreover, it explores the structure and plurality of knowledge, identity, and reality. John Keats' "Ode to a Nightingale" is a celebrated poem that embodies many postmodernist themes, including the deconstruction of

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dualities, the critique of morality, and the exploration of existential consciousness.

Leech and Short's (2007) framework is a widely recognized approach to analyzing stylistic features of language. The framework comprises general and specific stylistic principles that provide guidelines for analyzing linguistic features. The general principles highlight that language is rule-governed, creative, context-dependent, and dynamic, while the specific principles focus on individual linguistic features, such as parallelism, foregrounding, and appropriateness. This framework has been applied in various fields, including literary analysis, discourse analysis, and language teaching, to analyze stylistic features and develop materials and activities. For instance, in literary analysis, Leech and Short's framework has been used to analyze the stylistic features of literary works, such as metaphor, simile, and personification, to reveal their thematic significance and aesthetic appeal.

Lyotard (1984) proposed a postmodernist theory that emphasizes the fragmentation and plurality of knowledge and a rejection of grand narratives. He suggests that postmodernism's micronarratives resist totalizing interpretations. According to Lyotard, grand narratives are metanarratives that attempt to provide a universal explanation for the world and human existence. He argues that these narratives are no longer credible in a world characterized by diversity and fragmentation. Instead, postmodernism celebrates the plurality of perspectives and narratives, and emphasizes the importance of individual experiences and subjective interpretation. Similarly, Jameson (1991) proposed a postmodernist theory that emphasizes the role of culture and history in shaping postmodernism. He argues that postmodernism is characterized by a "waning of historicity" and a focus on pastiche or the combination of different styles and genres. Jameson sees postmodernism as a response to the crisis of representation caused by the fragmentation of modernist narratives. He suggests that postmodernism reflects a culture in which historical referents are replaced by a pastiche of styles and images, and in which the distinction between high and low culture is blurred.

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In postmodernism, meaning is constructed through language and culture, and it is shaped by the subjective experiences of individuals. According to Lyotard and Jameson, objective truth is an illusory concept that masks the diversity and complexity of human experience. They argue that meaning is always situated in a particular context and is subject to interpretation. Therefore, they emphasize the importance of critical reflection and cultural analysis in understanding the ways in which meaning is constructed and conveyed in different contexts.

In conclusion, Lyotard and Jameson's postmodernist theories highlight the rejection of grand narratives and the importance of subjective experience and cultural analysis in understanding meaning. They suggest that postmodernism reflects a world characterized by diversity and fragmentation, and that it celebrates the plurality of perspectives and narratives. Their ideas have influenced various fields, including literature, art, philosophy, and cultural studies, and have inspired critical reflections on the ways in which meaning is constructed and conveyed in different contexts.

Fairclough's Discourse Analysis model provides a theoretical framework that highlights the intricate interplay between language, power, and social practice. The model comprises three interrelated dimensions: text, discourse practice, and social practice. The text dimension refers to the linguistic features of the text itself, while the discourse practice dimension refers to the social processes involved in producing and interpreting the text. The social practice dimension refers to the wider social context in which the text is situated. This includes the social structures, power relations, and ideologies that shape and are reflected in the text.

John Keats is widely acclaimed for his distinctive style of writing, which is characterized by the infusion of dominant themes, literary devices, and symbols in all his compositions. Among his remarkable works is the "Ode to Nightingale," which stands out as a masterpiece of poetic creativity and innovation (Zia, 2017). Hussain's (2022) research scrutinizes the characterization of John Keats as a romantic poet with a conventional approach, premised on the inclusion of sensuality in his configurations, which has been regarded as a typical feature of his era. However, Zia's stylistic analysis reveals

that the "Ode to Nightingale" distinguishes itself from Keats' earlier works. Through a meticulous application of phonological, graphological, semantic, and pragmatic levels of stylistic analysis, it has been convincingly demonstrated that Keats's literary style is unparalleled in his genre, setting him apart from his contemporaries. Furthermore, Al-Jumaili's (2020) research suggests that the literary genius of John Keats is marked by his unique and incomparable usage of symbolic analysis, particularly in relation to the concept of annihilation. This feature sets him apart from his peers, solidifying his reputation as an unmatched poet of his era. Additionally, Ziouch (2022) analysis accentuates that the commencement of the "Ode to Nightingale" reveals the dynamic themes of romanticism, including transience, nature, and mortality. However, as the poem progresses, Keats weaves these themes in accordance with his personal perspective, rather than adhering to the traditional romantic ideals. Robinson's (2022) research establishes that John Keats epitomizes the traits of a romantic poet through his unwavering adherence to romantic style and technique. Keats deliberately eschews conventional literary style and avoids themes of politics, morality, and social status. Instead, his artistic vision is grounded in a quest for beauty, which serves as the defining characteristic of his romantic approach. In contrast, Begg's (2022) analysis, contends that the "Ode to Nightingale" is a testament to John Keats' exceptional creativity. The poem stands as a remarkable departure from Keats' earlier works, as it discloses a pessimistic approach that eschews an idealized form of optimism, effectively rejecting established conventions. While the "Ode to Nightingale" commences with a focus on the exploration of beauty, Keats gradually exposes his personal philosophy of beauty as truth. As he famously observes, "where there is truth, there is beauty." The research conducted by Ziouch (2022) provides compelling evidence that John Keats embodies the spirit of romanticism, given his proclivity towards delving into the imaginative realm, much like his contemporaries. Keats' preference for idealized worlds over realism, and his tendency to rely on escapism, rather than realism, underscores his romantic sensibilities. Al-Jumaili's (2018) research corroborates this perspective, drawing on both the Conceptual Metaphor Theory and the Conceptual

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Integration Theory to demonstrate how Keats' metaphors of distress serve as a vivid representation of his romanticism. However, Alquraidhy's (2022) analysis rejects this notion and emphasizes the concept of negative capability, which stands in stark contrast to the conventions of the romantic era. Although the romantic era was emblematic of idealization and imagination, Keats' negative capability breaks these conventions by courageously confronting the various heartaches of life.

In his recent study, Von Bülow and Simpson (2022) have unearthed that John Keats' negative capability, which enables him to detach from his innate consciousness and embrace life's bitter realities, is a defining feature of his work. Keats (2019) conceptualization of negative capability as a mental state that empowers an individual to confront the perplexities, distresses, and uncertainties of life without succumbing to irritability or hesitation further underscores Keats' artistic strength. This state of mind provides Keats with the flexibility to portray his art in a way that avoids imposing his subjective thinking on it. Moreover, the findings of Jin (2021) provide evidence that Keats, despite being a romantic poet, imbues his compositions with realism, demonstrating a unique ability to blend both romanticism and realism in his work. Undoubtedly, "Ode to a Nightingale" by John Keats sheds light on the reality of human experience. Keats emphasizes the necessity of accepting and confronting reality, rather than solely escaping into the realm of imagination, as illustrated by Marks (2022). While it is clear that Keats was a romantic poet, certain aspects of his poetry in this particular work distinguish him from his contemporaries. Specifically, his concept of negative capability, his pursuit of beauty in its true form, and his rejection of subjectivity in art as a means of fostering personal beliefs and ideas, as outlined by Khan et al. (2014). Lau's (2022) research asserts that "Ode to Nightingale" presents a contrast between romanticism and realism. Keats portrays a series of conflicts between fantasy and reality, contentment and pain, persistence and continuum, liberty and confinement, delusion and actuality. This contrast is further explored in Chinese theory which claims that the poem embodies two poles of the world: a dark side that symbolizes dullness, miseries, and darkness and a white side that

represents satisfaction, calmness, and contentment (Salah et al., 2022). Keats was different from his contemporaries as he preferred novelty over conventional styles of writing. In "Ode to Nightingale", numerous themes and literary devices bestow newness to his work, such as the use of intricate metaphors that exhibit his unique style of writing. Moreover, "Ode to Nightingale" is a poem that combines both traditional and postmodern elements. It explores traditional themes of mortality and transience, while also addressing postmodern concepts like immortality and negative capability, creating a contrast between traditional and postmodernism notions (Saha, 2022).

The literature on John Keats's poetic works reveals a significant research gap when it comes to understanding his artistic vision and its distinguishing features. Previous studies have identified various aspects of Keats's unique style, including his exceptional creativity, adherence to romantic style and technique, personal perspective, and rejection of established conventions (Marks, 2022; Von Bülow and Simpson, 2022; Ziouch, 2022; Al-Jumaili, 2020; Al-Jumaili, 2018; Alquraidhy, 2022). However, despite these extensive studies, there is a lack of attention given to the contrast between romanticism and realism in Keats's work, as highlighted by Lau (2022). Additionally, the significance of negative capability in Keats's artistic vision, as discovered by Von Bülow and Simpson (2023) requires further exploration. Moreover, while Jin (2021) has discussed Keats's ability to blend both romanticism and realism in his work, this area still demands more attention.

Therefore, the research gap in Keats's poetry is in exploring the contrast between romanticism and realism, negative capability, and the blend of romanticism and realism, which could enhance our understanding of Keats's artistic vision and its contribution to postmodernist discourse. Moreover, the current research challenges conventional notions of literary analysis by deconstructing the dualities inherent in the poem, such as art and nature, mortality and immortality, and existential consciousness. Secondly, this research builds on existing research on Keats and postmodernism. Furthermore, immediate research provides a novel prospect on the topic after using critical discourse analysis to evolve numerous postmodernist perspectives. Last but not least, this research presents a

fresh comprehension regarding the topic by analyzing Keats engagement in a postmodernist discourse on art, nature, mortality, and existential consciousness through his use of literary devices, themes, and symbols in "Ode to a Nightingale". Finally, this research has capability to participate in the fields of literary criticism, postmodernist theory, and Keats studies, as well as offer insights into how art and nature are portrayed and challenged in literature.

2. Analysis and Discussion

This research paper presents an analysis of John Keats' "Ode to a Nightingale" in three sections. The first section explores how Keats challenges conventional notions of art, nature, mortality, and existential consciousness through his use of literary devices. The second section focuses on symbols and themes in the poem that reflect a postmodernist exploration of complexities in these same areas. The third section analyzes Keats' engagement in a postmodernist discourse on art, nature, mortality, and existential consciousness through the Fairclough Discourse Analysis Model.

Challenge to conventional notions of art, nature, mortality, and existential consciousness through use of Literary Devices

"Ode to a Nightingale" by John Keats is a masterpiece of Romantic poetry that explores themes of art, nature, mortality, and existential consciousness. The poem is celebrated for its rich use of literary devices, such as imagery, allusion, apostrophe, and symbolism, which not only enhance the aesthetic quality of the work, but also challenge conventional notions of these themes. The current research analyzes how the literary devices used in "Ode to a Nightingale" challenge traditional understandings of art, nature, mortality, and existential consciousness, and how they contribute to the poem's enduring relevance and appeal.

The use of apostrophe in the ode does not directly challenge conventional notions of art, nature, mortality, or existential consciousness. Instead, certain instances express the speaker's sentiment of contentment and happiness, despite not having the same circumstances as the person they are addressing. The use of the apostrophe in the following verse, "Tis" and "thin" adds a poetic and archaic tone to the lines, which reflects the speaker's appreciation of traditional literature and language.

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*'Tis not through envy of thy happy lot,
But being too happy in thin happiness*

However, if these lines are interpreted more deeply, they could be seen as challenging conventional notions of happiness and contentment. The speaker is not envious of the other person's happiness, but rather content with their own happiness, even if it is not as great as the other person's. This suggests that happiness is not necessarily a zero-sum game, and that one person's happiness does not necessarily detract from another's. This idea challenges conventional notions of happiness as being scarce or competitive, and instead suggests that happiness can be abundant and shared.

Furthermore, the speaker's use of the word "thin" instead of "your" could be seen as challenging conventional notions of possession and ownership. By using "thin", the speaker suggests that happiness is not something that can be owned or possessed, but rather something that can be experienced and shared. This idea challenges conventional notions of materialism and consumerism, and instead suggests that happiness is a state of being that is accessible to everyone. Hence, the use of apostrophe in "'Tis" and "thin" can be seen as a departure from conventional language and a move towards a more poetic and archaic tone. This reflects Keats' desire to challenge conventional notions of language and literature, and to explore new ways of expressing ideas and emotions.

The verse "Dance, and Provencal song, and sunburnt mirth! O for a beaker full of the warm South" challenges conventional notions of art, nature, mortality, and existential consciousness by presenting a desire for a life filled with joyful experiences and natural pleasures. The speaker expresses a longing for dancing, singing, and experiencing the warmth of the South, rather than the traditional forms of art and entertainment. This challenges the conventional notions of art as an elitist and sophisticated activity, divorced from the everyday experiences of common people. This verse uses several literary devices to challenge conventional notions of art, nature, mortality, and existential consciousness. For instance, the use of vivid and sensory language such as "Dance," "Provencal song," "sunburnt mirth," and "warm South" creates a sense of vibrant and joyful experiences that challenge the conventional notions of art as a

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sophisticated and intellectual pursuit and the limitations of mortality. The use of imagery in the given lines challenges the conventional notions of art as a sophisticated and intellectual pursuit in several ways. Firstly, the imagery emphasizes the sensory and emotional experience of dance, song, and mirth, which suggests that art is not just about intellectualism or sophistication, but also about the emotional response it elicits in the audience. This challenges the conventional view that art is reserved for the intellectual elite, and instead suggests that it can be accessible and enjoyable to everyone. Furthermore, the imagery challenges the limitations of mortality by creating a sense of nostalgia and desire for experiences that are no longer available or may never be experienced. For example, the desire for a "beaker full of the warm South" creates a sense of longing for an idealized place that is unattainable, challenging the conventional notion that mortality limits human experience and fulfillment.

In addition to imagery, the usage of hyperbole can also be observed, which challenges the traditional perceptions of art as a refined and intellectual pursuit, and also the restrictions imposed by mortality. The use of hyperbole in the given lines challenges the conventional notions of art as a sophisticated and intellectual pursuit by emphasizing the emotional response it elicits rather than its intellectual value. The speaker's exaggerated desire for "a beaker full of the warm South" challenges the notion that material wealth and status bring happiness and fulfillment. Instead, it suggests that true fulfillment and joy can come from experiencing the beauty and richness of life, which may not be related to material possessions or intellectual pursuits.

Additionally, the hyperbole challenges the limitations of mortality by creating a sense of longing for experiences that are unattainable or may never be experienced. The speaker's desire for the warm South suggests a longing for an idealized place that may exist only in their imagination, challenging the conventional notion that mortality limits human experience and fulfillment.

The use of alliteration challenges the conventional notion of art as a sophisticated and intellectual pursuit separate from the mundane world of human experience. Conventional notions of art

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often suggest that it is a lofty pursuit, removed from the everyday struggles of human existence. However, Keats challenges this notion by using alliteration to highlight the weariness, fever, and fret of human experience. This contrast between the transcendent world of art and the mundane world of human suffering challenges conventional beliefs about the separation between art and human experience. Therefore, Keats subverts the conventional notions of art and human experience by using alliteration to bring them together in a way that emphasizes their differences and similarities. Following verses from the Ode to a Nightingale that support the use of alliteration to challenge conventional notions of art, nature, mortality, and existential consciousness:

*"The weariness, the fever, and the fret
Here, where men sit and hear each other groan;
Where palsy shakes a few, sad, last gray hairs,
Where youth grows pale, and specter-thin, and dies;
Where but to think is to be full of sorrow
And leaden-eyed despairs;
Where Beauty cannot keep her lustrous eyes,
Or new Love pine at them beyond to-morrow."*

In these verses, the repeated "w" sound in "weariness," "fever," "fret," "where," and "men" emphasizes the speaker's sense of weariness and reinforces the contrast between the mundane world of human suffering and the transcendent world of the nightingale's song. The metaphor of the nightingale challenges conventional notions of art, nature, mortality, and existential consciousness in "Ode to a Nightingale" by suggesting that true artistic inspiration and transcendence can be found in the natural world, rather than in the realm of human experience. The nightingale is presented as a symbol of this artistic transcendence, and the speaker is drawn to its song as a means of escaping the weariness and limitations of human existence. The metaphor of the nightingale challenges conventional notions of art by suggesting that artistic inspiration can come from the natural world, rather than from the traditional sources of art such as literature, music, and visual art. The nightingale's song is described as a form of art that transcends the limitations of human expression, and

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the speaker is drawn to it as a means of escaping the mundane world of human suffering.

The metaphor also challenges conventional notions of nature by suggesting that nature is not simply a passive backdrop to human existence, but an active participant in it. The nightingale's song is described as a natural phenomenon that has the power to transport the listener beyond the limitations of human consciousness, and the speaker is drawn to it as a means of reconnecting with the natural world.

Furthermore, the metaphor challenges conventional notions of mortality by suggesting that true artistic inspiration can transcend the limitations of human life. The nightingale is described as an immortal creature that exists beyond the boundaries of human mortality, and the speaker is drawn to its song as a means of transcending the limitations of his own mortality.

In conclusion, the metaphor of the nightingale challenges conventional notions of art, nature, mortality, and existential consciousness in "Ode to a Nightingale" by presenting the nightingale as a symbol of artistic transcendence, nature as an active participant in human existence, and mortality as a limitation that can be transcended through artistic inspiration. The metaphor is a powerful literary device that allows the speaker to explore complex ideas and challenge conventional beliefs in a way that is both poetic and thought-provoking.

In summary, "Ode to a Nightingale" by John Keats challenges conventional notions of art, nature, mortality, and existential consciousness through the use of various literary devices. The apostrophe challenges traditional understandings of happiness and ownership, suggesting that happiness can be shared and experienced by everyone. The vivid imagery challenges conventional notions of art as an elitist and intellectual pursuit, and the limitations of mortality by creating a sense of nostalgia and desire for experiences that are unattainable. Hyperbole challenges the conventional notions of art as a refined and intellectual pursuit and material wealth and status bringing happiness and fulfillment. Alliteration highlights the weariness, fever, and fret of human experience, challenging the conventional notion of art as a lofty pursuit removed from the

mundane world. These literary devices contribute to the poem's enduring relevance and appeal by inviting the reader to question their assumptions about the nature of art, happiness, mortality, and human existence.

Symbols and Themes reflecting postmodernist exploration of complexities in art, nature, morality, and existential consciousness

Lyotard (1984) and Jameson (1991) both argue that postmodernism is characterized by a skepticism toward grand narratives and a rejection of the idea of objective truth. Instead, postmodernism emphasizes the subjective experience of individuals and the ways in which meaning is constructed through language and culture. In the Ode to a Nightingale, Keats explores these themes through a range of symbols and motifs.

Keats' use of the nightingale as a symbol in "Ode to a Nightingale" reflects postmodernist exploration of complexities in art, nature, morality, and existential consciousness in several ways. Firstly, the nightingale represents the complexities of nature and the natural world. The bird's song is seen as a source of beauty and freedom, but it is also a reminder of the fleeting and transitory nature of life. The nightingale's song is a reminder that nature is always changing and evolving, and that our experiences of it are always subjective and mediated by our own perceptions. Secondly, the nightingale represents a challenge to traditional moral and philosophical systems. Keats is drawn to the bird as a means of escaping the limitations of human existence, including the constraints of language and culture. This reflects postmodernist skepticism of grand narratives and the idea that there is one ultimate truth or moral code. Finally, the nightingale represents an exploration of existential consciousness. Keats is acutely aware of his own mortality and the transitory nature of human existence, and he is drawn to the nightingale as a means of escaping the limitations of his own subjective perceptions. This reflects postmodernist exploration of the complexities of human consciousness and the limitations of language and cultural frameworks in describing subjective experience.

Another symbol that reflects postmodernist concerns with the fragmentation of knowledge and the deconstruction of meaning is the

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wine in the poem. Keats uses the image of wine to suggest a kind of intoxication or transcendence that is associated with the nightingale's song. However, at the same time, wine is also a symbol of the human desire to escape from reality and to seek out alternative experiences. Keats is aware that his own perceptions and experiences are imitated by his own cultural and historical context, and he uses the image of wine to suggest the ways in which language and culture shape our understanding of the world. The symbol of wine in "Ode to a Nightingale" can be seen as a postmodernist exploration of the complexities of existential consciousness. In postmodernism, there is an emphasis on the idea that meaning is not fixed or stable but is instead constructed and deconstructed through language and culture. The image of wine, as a symbol of transcendence and escape, highlights the tension between the desire to escape the limitations of human existence and the realization that our experiences are always mediated by language and culture. Keats' use of wine as a symbol suggests that the search for transcendence and meaning is always complicated by the ways in which our experiences are shaped by language, culture, and history. Overall, the poem reflects postmodernist concerns with the fragmentation of knowledge and the ways in which language and culture shape our understanding of the world.

One textual evidence that supports the idea that meaning is constructed and deconstructed through language and culture in "Ode to a Nightingale" is the line "Thou wast not born for death, immortal Bird!" (line 61). This line suggests that the nightingale, as a symbol of natural beauty and freedom, exists outside the constraints of human mortality. However, the idea of immortality is itself a construction of language and culture. Keats acknowledges this in the next line when he asks, "No hungry generations tread thee down," highlighting the ways in which our understanding of the natural world is always mediated by our cultural and historical context.

Additionally, the line "Fade far away, dissolve, and quite forget" (line 55) suggests the idea of deconstruction, where the speaker desires to dissolve and forget his own experience in order to merge with the nightingale's song. This reflects the postmodernist idea that meaning is not fixed but rather is constantly being

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constructed and deconstructed. The use of the word "dissolve" suggests that meaning and experience are not stable or concrete but rather fluid and ever-changing. The theme of realism in "Ode to a Nightingale" can be seen as a connection between Keats' poetry and postmodernism, which also emphasizes the limitations of human perception and the constructed nature of reality. Consider the following verses:

*"Forlorn! the very word is like a bell, To toll me back
from thee to my sole self!
Adieu! the fancy cannot cheat so well, As she is fam'd to
do, deceiving elf, Adieu! adieu! thy plaintive anthem
fades, Past the near meadows, over the still stream, Up
the hill-side; and now 'tis buried deep, In the next valley-
glades, Was it a vision, or a waking dream? Fled is that
music:—Do I wake or sleep?"*

The quoted verses from "Ode to a Nightingale" present the theme of realism in Keats' poetry. Keats uses the phrase "the fancy cannot cheat so well" to suggest that imagination and fantasy cannot fully satisfy the human desire for transcendence and meaning. He presents the nightingale's song as a fleeting and temporary experience that ultimately fades away, leaving the speaker to confront the reality of his own existence. The phrase "Was it a vision, or a waking dream?" highlights the ambiguity and uncertainty that are inherent in human experience.

Keats' emphasis on a realistic approach and the importance of confronting reality, despite its bitterness, is evident in these verses. He seems to be protesting against the convention of living in a world of superficiality and imagination, which he saw as a prevalent tendency of his time. By presenting realism as a focal point, Keats invites readers to engage with the complexities of human existence and to acknowledge the limitations of human perception and experience.

The lines "Away! away! for I will fly to thee, Not charioted by Bacchus and his pards, But on the viewless wings of Poesy" from "Ode to a Nightingale" illustrate the poet's desire to escape the harsh realities of life through the power of imagination. These lines reveal

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Keats' escapist approach, which is a common theme in postmodernism. In the postmodern era, people have faced various challenges and difficulties, and often turn to the world of imagination to cope with these challenges. Keats' experiences of heartache, such as the death of his mother and brother, may have contributed to his desire to escape into a world of poetry.

The poet uses the image of flying on the "viewless wings of Poesy" to suggest that he can reach the imaginative world without the need for external sources of escape, such as the chariot of Bacchus. This emphasizes the power of poetry to transport the poet to a different realm of existence. Overall, these lines demonstrate Keats' exploration of the complexities of existential consciousness through the lens of postmodernism, by highlighting the tension between the desire to escape the limitations of human existence and the realization that our experiences are always mediated by language, culture, and history.

In the line "And leaden-eyed despairs, Where Beauty cannot keep her lustrous eyes," Keats is highlighting the fleeting nature of beauty and its inability to endure in the face of despair. He rejects the conventional idealization of beauty and instead presents a more realistic view of its limitations. This focus on the transience of beauty can be seen as a postmodern approach, which emphasizes the complexity and impermanence of human experience. By acknowledging the limitations of beauty, Keats invites his readers to engage with the world in a more truthful and honest way, rather than being seduced by idealized fantasies.

The communicative purpose of "Ode to a Nightingale" is to challenge conventional notions of art, nature, mortality, and existential consciousness through the use of literary devices. For example, the poet uses figurative language such as metaphor, simile, and personification to create vivid images and convey complex ideas. The use of metaphor, for instance, in the line "Thou wast not born for death, immortal Bird!" helps to challenge conventional ideas about mortality and to convey the idea that the nightingale is an eternal and timeless creature. Additionally, the poet uses a variety of literary devices such as alliteration, repetition, and enjambment to create a specific rhythm and to emphasize certain ideas. For example, the

repetition of the word "fade" in the line "Fade far away, dissolve, and quite forget" creates a sense of melancholy and emphasizes the idea of disappearing into nothingness. Finally, the use of syntax and grammar also plays a role in achieving the communicative function of the poem. The poet's use of inversion, for instance, in the line "Away! away! for I will fly to thee" creates a sense of urgency and emphasizes the speaker's desire to escape into the nightingale's world.

Keats' engagement in a postmodernist discourse on art, nature, mortality, and existential consciousness through Fairclough Critical Discourse Analysis Model

Through analysis of Fairclough discourse analysis model, it can be analyzed how Keats engages in a postmodernist discourse on art, nature, mortality, and existential consciousness in "Ode to a Nightingale." Firstly, the linguistic aspect of the following lines can be analyzed using the Fairclough model. The use of words such as "forlorn," "plaintive," and "fades" convey a sense of melancholy and loss, which is a common theme in postmodernist literature. Keats also questions the nature of reality and whether what he experienced was a "vision, or a waking dream?" This reflects the postmodernist idea of challenging the concept of objective reality and questioning what is real.

Forlorn! the very word is like a bell, To toll me back from thee to my sole self!

Adieu! the fancy cannot cheat so well, As she is fam'd to do, deceiving elf.

Adieu! adieu! thy plaintive anthem fades, Past the near meadows, over the still stream,

Up the hill-side; and now 'tis buried deep, In the next valley-glades: Was it a vision, or a waking dream? Fled is that music: —Do I wake or sleep?"

Secondly, the intertextual aspect of the lines can also be analyzed. Keats references the "fancy" as a "deceiving elf," which can be seen as a criticism of the romantic emphasis on imagination and fantasy. This can be interpreted as a postmodernist critique of the romanticist idea that the imagination is superior to reality (Saha, 2022). Keats also references the "plaintive anthem" of the nightingale, which can be seen as a representation of the beauty of

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nature. However, Keats also acknowledges that this beauty is fleeting and cannot last forever, which reflects the postmodernist idea of the transience of all things. Finally, the social aspect of the lines show that as Keats was writing during a time of social upheaval and change, with the rise of industrialization and the decline of traditional social structures, hence, Keats' emphasis on the beauty of nature and the transience of life can be seen as a response to this social change. This reflects the postmodernist emphasis on individualism and the rejection of traditional social structures.

The line "Away! away! for I will fly to thee, Not charioted by Bacchus and his pards, But on the view less wings of Poesy" also reveals Keats' engagement in a postmodernist discourse on art, nature, mortality, and existential consciousness. Firstly, the use of the word "viewless" in the line can be interpreted as a postmodern critique of the romanticist idea that art should provide a clear and stable representation of reality. Instead, Keats suggests that the wings of poetry are viewless, implying that art and reality are not stable or fixed but rather constantly shifting and open to interpretation. Secondly, the line can be seen as a reflection of Keats' fascination with the power of art to transcend the limitations of mortal existence. The reference to Bacchus and his pards can be interpreted as a rejection of earthly pleasures and a desire to transcend them through poetic inspiration. The use of the word "fly" reinforces this idea of transcendence, suggesting that the speaker is able to escape the limitations of their mortal existence and access a realm of pure imagination through the power of poetry.

Finally, the line can be seen as an expression of Keats' engagement with existential themes of mortality and the impermanence of life. The nightingale, which serves as a symbol of natural beauty and artistic inspiration throughout the poem, is a reminder of the transience of life and the inevitability of death. The speaker's desire to escape from the world of Bacchus and his pards and transcend the limitations of mortal existence can be seen as a response to this awareness of mortality, and a recognition of the power of art to provide a temporary escape from the harsh realities of life.

3. Conclusion and Future Work

John Keats' "Ode to a Nightingale" is a multidimensional work that transcends time and continues to be relevant today. Keats challenges traditional views of art, language, and literature, and explores complex philosophical and cultural ideas such as mortality, existential consciousness, and the limitations of human existence. His use of literary devices, such as archaic language, alliteration, and hyperbole, enriches the poem and challenges traditional notions of reality, imagination, and social structures. Additionally, Keats' engagement with postmodernist concerns reflects the significance of the poem in contemporary literature. Furthermore, the poem serves as an excellent example of how literature can be used to explore complex ideas and contribute to our understanding of the world. The use of the Fairclough critical discourse analysis model to analyze the poem adds another dimension to our understanding of Keats' engagement with postmodernist discourse. Through this analysis, it is seen how Keats challenges traditional ideas about reality, imagination, and social structures and how he explores the transience of all things. The power of art to provide a temporary escape from the harsh realities of life and to transcend the limitations of mortal existence is emphasized, and the significance of the poem as a contribution to postmodernist literature is highlighted.

For future researchers, this research work provides a framework for exploring the complexities of Romantic poetry and its engagement with postmodernist discourse. Future researchers may continue to explore the themes and ideas presented in the poem and use different analytical models to deepen our understanding of Keats' engagement with these themes. Additionally, the use of different theoretical frameworks, such as feminist or postcolonial theory, could offer new insights into the poem and its engagement with broader cultural and political issues. Overall, "Ode to a Nightingale" remains a rich and relevant work of art that offers insights into the complexities of human experience and the role of literature in shaping our understanding of the world.

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