

Literary Criticism and New Historicism

ادبي کره کتنه او نوې تاريخولي

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Abstract:

This article seeks to address a crisis in the literary criticism in Pashto language through an attempt to highlight the importance of the study of literary texts within their historical contexts. It begins with a critical overview of current critical trends in Pashto literature, asking how Pashto literary critics are predominantly stuck on the primacy of literary texts and why they have hardly ever attempted to consider the non-literary texts as a historical context for the study of literary texts. It would be important for our literary critics and historians to develop a scholarly sense and use of the theory of new historicism and its applications because the deconstructing capacity of this theory promises to provide a much better theoretical and methodological premise for bridging the gap between ethnic Pashtuns and their cultural and intellectual past. New historicism discursively confronts the very underpinnings of new criticism and its alternative formalism that persistently assert the idea to regard the study of literature as literature and text as self-contained and self-explanatory.

Key words: literary criticism, new historicism, Pashto, historical context deconstructing.