

FACULTY OF LETTERS AND LANGUAGES

DEPARTMENT OF ENGLISH LANGUAGE

LEVEL: M.A.1

MODULE/ LITERARY THEORY TUTOR: MS. SOUFLI HASSIBA

The Correction of Second Semester Exam

Question One:(10pts)

1. In his *Writing and Difference*(1967), Jacque Derrida strongly criticizes structuralism arguing that the notions of **system** and **structure** whether linguistic, cultural, or social, that presuppose the idea of a “**centre**” **around which everything is structured**. They, in turn, **tend to escape structurality**. (4pts)
2. The Metaphysics of presence emphasizes the fact that **presence is preferred over absence**. (2pts)
3. Negating the Western thinking that emphasizes the metaphysics of presence, Derrida claims that **meaning is always deferred or postponed**. (2pts)
4. In his essay “The Death of the Author” (1968), Roland Barthes proclaims that the author is **not the originator or the determiner of meaning of a text**. (2pts)

Question Two: in a well-structured paragraph explain the following using some examples to back your answer: (10pts)

Though both Modernism and Postmodernism employ fragmentation, discontinuity and decentredness in theme and technique, the basic dissimilarity between the two schools is hidden in this very aspect.

Introduction: 2pts/ conclusion: 2pts

Form and Content: 6pts

- Modernism projects the fragmentation and decentredness of contemporary world as tragic. It laments the loss of the unity and centre of life and suggests that works of art can provide the unity, coherence; continuity and meaning that are lost in modern life. Thus Eliot laments that the modern world is an infertile wasteland, and the fragmentation, incoherence, of this world is effected in the structure of the poem. However, *The Waste Land* tries to recapture the lost meaning and organic unity by turning to Eastern cultures, and in the use of Tiresias as protagonist
- In Postmodernism, fragmentation and disorientation is no longer tragic. Postmodernism on the other hand celebrates fragmentation. It considers fragmentation and decentredness as the only possible way of existence, and does not try to escape from these conditions.