**Dr. S. CHOUCHANE**

**3rd Year Literature Module**

**Academic Year: 2024/2025**

**Lesson 1**

**Characteristics of Modernist literature**

Modernist literature, which emerged in the late 19th and early 20th centuries, is characterized by several key features:

1. Break with Tradition: Modernist writers sought to break away from traditional forms and conventions in literature, including strict rhyme schemes and linear narratives. They experimented with new narrative structures and styles.
2. Fragmentation: Modernist works often feature fragmented narratives, disjointed timelines, and broken plot structures to reflect the chaotic, fragmented nature of modern life.
3. Stream of Consciousness: This technique involves depicting a character’s inner thoughts and feelings directly, without filtering or organizing them logically, to capture the complexity of human consciousness.
4. Alienation and Isolation: Modernist works frequently explore the themes of disconnection and loneliness, reflecting the alienation felt in rapidly changing societies.
5. Rejection of Tradition: Modernist writers rejected traditional forms, embracing experimentation with language, structure, and style. They sought to break free from conventional rules of writing.
6. Pessimism and Disillusionment: Many modernist texts express a sense of disillusionment, often in response to the chaos and destruction caused by World War I, leading to themes of despair and the breakdown of societal norms.
7. Symbolism and Imagery: Modernist literature often relies on dense symbolism and vivid imagery to convey meaning, rather than relying on explicit descriptions or narratives.
8. Subjectivity: Modernist literature emphasizes personal perception and experience, exploring individual consciousness and subjective realities over objective truths.
9. Intertextuality: Modernist writers often reference other literary works, myths, or cultural texts, creating a web of connections that encourage deeper analysis.