# CURRENT ISSUES OF SCIENTIFIC AND THEORETICAL RESEARCH IN MODERN LITERARY STUDIES

**Raximova Kamilla Erkinovna**
The teacher of Gulistan State of Pedagogical Institute
kamillarakhimova595@icloud.com
**Mendoza Jennifer**
The teacher at school number 1

**Annotation:** Modern literary studies are experiencing profound methodological, epistemological, and technological transformations. In the face of globalisation, digitalisation, and the rise of transdisciplinary approaches, the field is undergoing a rethinking of its

theoretical and scientific foundations. This paper explores some of the most urgent and complex issues currently confronting literary studies: the shift from “grand theory” to methodological pluralism, the growing role of digital humanities and computational tools, the intersection with cognitive and empirical sciences, and the challenges of transnational literary research. We argue that the future of literary scholarship lies in a dynamic synthesis of hermeneutics, data-driven methods, and global perspectives, where theory is not abandoned but reimagined.

**Keywords:** literary theory, digital humanities, interdisciplinary, cognitive poetics, post-theory, world literature, methodology

In recent decades, the landscape of literary studies has undergone rapid and multidirectional changes. Once dominated by strong theoretical schools-structuralism, Marxist criticism, psychoanalysis, post structuralism-contemporary literary research is now characterized by a plurality of approaches, fragmented theoretical discourses, and a methodological openness unprecedented in the field’s history.

At the same time, the emergence of digital technologies, global literary markets, and cognitive-scientific approaches has significantly reshaped both the object of literary studies and its methods of inquiry. These developments have opened new possibilities but also raised profound questions: How should we read in the digital age? What is the role of theory in an era of algorithmic analysis? Can we study global literatures without reproducing cultural hierarchies? Is interpretation still the core of our discipline?

This paper aims to explore these and related questions, identifying the most pressing scientific and theoretical challenges in modern literary studies and proposing directions for their critical resolution.

The latter half of the twentieth century saw literary studies governed by powerful theoretical paradigms. Whether it was the structuralism pursuit of deep linguistic systems, the Marxist emphasis on ideology and class, or the poststructuralist celebration of textual instability, each movement offered a totalising framework for reading and interpreting literature. However, by the early 2000s, these paradigms began to fracture. Literary critics such as Rita Felski, in works like The Limits of Critique (2015), called for a move beyond the “hermeneutics of suspicion” toward more generous, affective, and non-reductive reading practices. Scholars began speaking of a “post-theoretical” or “post-critical” era-not meaning the abandonment of theory, but a shift toward pragmatic, pluralistic, and locally grounded methodologies.

Today’s literary research often blends tools from multiple traditions-combining feminist theory with cognitive science, close reading with corpus linguistics, Eco criticism with postcolonial analysis. While this pluralism enriches the field, it also demands a renewed attention to methodological coherence and theoretical transparency.

Perhaps the most dramatic shift in recent literary research has come from the development of digital humanities (DH). Under this broad term, scholars explore ways to apply computational tools-such as natural language processing, stylometry, machine learning, and network analysis-to literary texts. Franco Moretti’s notion of “distant reading” (2013) set the stage for many of these innovations. Rather than close-read a single novel, Moretti proposed examining thousands of texts to uncover macroscopic patterns-in genre, narrative structure, intertextuality, and reception.

Recent works exemplify the power of these approaches: Barré (2024) analyzed over 12,000 French literary texts using embedding models, revealing the latent intertextual structures of 19th and 20th-century fiction.

One of the most significant issues is the globalisation of literary studies. The growing interest in world literature, translation studies, and transnational networks reflects a need to study literature beyond national canons and linguistic borders. Scholars like David Damrosch define world literature as a mode of circulation and reading rather than a canon. This perspective allows for a fluid, processual understanding of how texts move, are translated, and gain meaning in different cultural contexts.

The task before scholars is to build bridges between methodologies, between local and global literatures, between humanistic insight and scientific precision. In doing so, we affirm the enduring relevance of literary studies in making sense of texts-and of the world they reflect and transform.

**References:**


1. Eve, M. P. (2022). The Digital Humanities and Literary Studies. Oxford University Press.
2. Salgaro, M. (2018). "The Digital Humanities as a Toolkit for Literary Theory: Three Case Studies of the Operationalization of the Concepts of 'Late Style,' 'Authorship Attribution,' and 'Literary Movement'." Iperstoria.
3. Culler, J. (2006). The Literary in Theory. Stanford University Press.
4. Ciotti, F. (2022). "Digital Literary and Cultural Studies: State of the Art and Perspectives." Between, (issue). Waugh, P. & Rice, P. (Eds.) (2001). Modern Literary Theory: A Reader. Bloomsbury Academic.
5. Habib, M. A. R. (2007). Modern Literary Criticism and Theory: A History. Wiley & Sons.