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English Written Test III
Second Period
CORRECTION

Marjorie, Gretta and Molly are three different women, but very similar in characterisation, that perfectly shows Postmodernist and Modernist visions about the female character.

David Lodge and James Joyce provide a full description and a vivid interest in the study of the female figure.
Here the use of external omniscient intrusive narrator and interior monologue to create Marjorie’s, Gretta’s and Molly’s characterisation perfectly show a very similar vision of women despite the different techniques used.

There are a lot of points in common in the characters. One of them is the evident use of realism and the language of sense impression to best show their characterisation. The novelists are interested in female conscience and psychology and that is what they want to show to the intelligent reader. Joyce’s flux of conscience and Lodge’s association of words and use of language perfectly underline the point.

All characters are indeed middle aged women. This is a clear expedient to describe their past experiences as something natural and give cohesion to the text. They were falling asleep and this is a realistic element. The use of words is very important and provides the clear and recurrent vision of women as something “full” and “fertile”.
But women’s mind is what really interests the novelists. It is described as confused and full of doubts. The memories of the past caused by a particular event in the present is also a main point: “The Angelus, the book that falls from the bed, …”

In Molly Bloom’s characterisation, but also in both the other two, the female figure plays an effect on man’s mind and decision evident. Molly leads Leopold to ask her to marry him as Marjorie tries to seduce Vic. But Molly also says it was the same for her to marry Leopold or another of her old lovers. So here the word “Yes” and also the past and the present love take a new position about female’s characterisation. Also Gretta reminds her old love for Michael and as a consequence her distraction and absence will cause Gabriel’s epiphanic revelation.