

## **A Postmodernist Reading of Anne Tyler's *Breathing Lessons*, Jean Rhys's *Wide Sargasso Sea* and Kurt Vonnegut's *Breakfast of Champions***

**Nazmi Tawfiq Al-Shalabi**

Department of English Language and Literature  
Faculty of Arts, the Hashemite University  
Zarqa, Jordan

### **Abstract**

This study offers a postmodernist reading of Tyler's *Breathing Lessons*, Jean Rhys's *Wide Sargasso Sea* and Kurt Vonnegut's *Breakfast of Champions*. Using argumentation as a method, it comprises an original work devoted to demonstrating that these novels are postmodern. While Tyler's novel exemplifies postmodernism, a twentieth-century movement in art and literature, in its indirect narrative method, focus on ordinary humans, highlighting family disintegration, and demonstrating that marriage is no longer a safe anchor in life, Rhys's emphasizes Antoinette's struggle for independence, uses irony, and is open-ended. Vonnegut's novel, similarly, makes use of intertextuality, depicts characters lacking free will, employs collage, and selects a content and style that are both skeptical. Obviously, each one of these novels reflects postmodernism in its own way.

**Key Words:** polar opposites, postmodernism, reaction, reference, self-reflexivity