

The Study of Postmodernism Tendency in Flowers for Algernon

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Abstract: Flowers for Algernon is a story about Charlie Gordon, a 32-year-old mentally challenged, who happens to have the opportunity to undergo a surgical procedure that will increase his mental capabilities. After the surgery, he has to face many great changes, like getting used to his high IQ. At the end of the story, the surgery reverses, and Charlie's intelligence returns to its original level. Though it's science fiction by Daniel Keyes, it has some postmodernism tendencies if judged from this perspective. To analyze the postmodernism tendencies in this book, the basic information of the book and postmodernism should be given. So, the first part introduces the summary of this book and its general information. Then lists some of the important features of postmodernism and postmodernism in literature, namely the loss of grand narrative, simulacrum, and language features. The next part acts on a detailed analysis based on the original text from the above-mentioned perspective. First, the disappearance of grand narratives, which in this book is the disbelief in religion and science. The grand narrative in other words is mini-narratives, so this task then introduces three essential themes of this novel, that is the circle of life, the ethical problem of medical uses for intelligence surgery, and the psychoanalysis of the subconscious through dreams. All these aspects show diversity as a feature of postmodernism. Next, this task introduces the simulacrum in this novel, which is the distinction between authority and reality. Lastly, this task analyzes the language features of this novel.

Keywords: Flowers for Algernon; Postmodernism; Incredulity Towards Grand Narratives; Simulacrum.

1. Introduction

To better analyze the postmodernism in Flowers for Algernon, this part will briefly introduce this novel, including the book's basic information, the plot summary, the author, and then the features of postmodernism theories.

1.1. Introduction of the Novel

As a short story by American author Daniel Keyes in the first place, Flowers for Algernon was later expanded by him into a novel and subsequently adapted for film and TV series. First written in 1958 and first published in 1959 in The Magazine of Fantasy & Science Fiction, this first edition won the Hugo Award for Best Short Story in 1960. Then, the edited novel was published in 1966 and was the joint winner of that year's Nebula Award for Best Novel. Winning two famous awards for science fiction, this novel is no doubt in the same category. Defining this book as science fiction only is not fair, since it discusses many aspects like the use of science, the pursuit of knowledge, and the discussions about ethical problems in the plot.

Flowers for Algernon is a story about Charlie Gordon, a 32-year-old mentally challenged, who happens to have the opportunity to undergo a surgical procedure that will dramatically increase his mental capabilities. This procedure had already been performed on a laboratory mouse, Algernon, with remarkable results. Charlie will be the first human subject. In a series of progress reports, Charlie writes everything that happens to him. As Charlie's intelligence increases to a genius level, readers not only read about the changes from Charlie's viewpoint but also see the change evidenced in Charlie's writing ability. This jump in intelligence is not necessarily a good thing, however. Charlie is now able to recall past events that shaped his life and analyze past friendships for what they were or weren't. He also has difficulty establishing new friendships and

relationships due to a lack of social intelligence that the surgery could neither correct nor anticipate. And, finally, because of his increased intelligence, Charlie can discover the experiment's fatal flaw, which is the fast degeneration of his intelligence, and is reduced to watching the end for both Algernon and him, hoping to salvage something for the future from his brief experience of genius.

1.2. Introduction of Postmodernism

Postmodernism is hard to define as a philosophical and cultural movement in the 20th century, yet it has its reasons to rise, features, and some leading scholars, all of which will be introduced compared with modernism in the following.

As for how postmodernism appears, it is generally believed that it appeared in the middle of the 20th century, after World War Two, the time when people had been through started to have skepticism towards some totalitarianism like fascism, political ideology, and the power of science. So, it is this atmosphere of skepticism that generates postmodernism theory.

Then next are the leading scholars and features. First appeared as a philosophical terminology in the French philosopher Jean-François Lyotard's book The Postmodern Condition in 1979, postmodernism in Lyotard's eye symbolized the end of metanarratives, which also called the ground narratives, meaning the descriptions that brought people believing in some beliefs like all kinds of ideology, beliefs in religion and science, and so on. He also discusses another important point of postmodernism is the loss of real, which according to him named simulacrum. This illustrates that the actual truth exists no more, since as the media intermediaries develop, the truth, real history, and information will hide behind the news reports, TV series, movies, and all the pan-entertainment business. So, the truth that people see is the truth after coloring and editing.

Besides the point of view from Lyotard, comparing

postmodernism with modernism can also be a way to comprehend the features. As for the similarities between these two, both are known for their attitudes of rebellion, a form of fragmentation. Though both of them are against tradition, they revolt against different things. Modernism rebels the tradition and believes in rationalism, which is the thing that postmodernism fights against. As for their differences postmodernism compared with modernism has a cline to popular art instead of the high one, which is to say that compared with modernism, postmodernism is easier for readers to understand in writing style, form, and rhetorical devices. That is the difference between modernism and postmodernism.

Then postmodernism in literature subverts the traditional aesthetic concepts, eliminates the ideological meaning of the depth of the text, and blurs the boundaries of different literary forms, seeking a literary structure that is both open and uncertain. It is anti-tradition, opposes the traditional Western culture and the modernist literary elite consciousness, dissolves the deep meaning expression of the text, and questions the literary value. Postmodernism makes literature no longer for life but for the pure joy of writing itself, denying authority and classics, pursuing the complete liberation of language, resisting the traditional culture represented by rational tradition, emancipating the mind, and refusing serious themes. Late postmodernism literature is influenced by existentialism and structuralism. As for the representative genres of postmodernism literature, there are a few, consisting of Existential Literature like the works of Sartre, Absurd Theatre *Says Waiting for Godot* by Samuel Beckett, Anti-roman that rises in France, Beat Generation Literature of American, and Magic Realism Literature of Latin American.

2. Features of Postmodernism in this novel

Though *Flower for Algernon* does not belong to the categories of postmodernism literature, it shows some postmodernism tendencies. So, in this part, combined with the postmodernism theory mentioned above, the plot of this story will be analyzed to prove the postmodernism tendencies in this novel by giving detailed examples.

2.1. Incredulity Towards Grand Narratives

The ground narrative, as the former part illustrates, refers to the beliefs only in one thing, like religion, science, and ideology orientation. The background of this book is set in New York City, yet it neither mentions the exact time nor the big trend of that period in this book, which meets the characteristic of postmodernism that the grand narrative is lost. The incredulity attitude towards ground narrative in this novel to be specific is the distrust tendency in religion and science.

As for religion, throughout the whole story, there's no obvious belief in religion, but an indifferent attitude towards religion can be seen in the novel. Like when Charlie is traveling by plane when the plane is about to take off, he thinks about the airbrush and gets scared, his reaction shows his attitude towards religion.

"A cold feeling, and the thought that I don't want to die. Bringing to mind those discussions about God. I've thought about death often in recent weeks, but not really about God. My mother took me to church occasionally—but I don't recall ever connecting that up with the thought of God. She

mentioned Him quite often, and I had to pray to Him at night, but I never thought much about it. I remember Him as a distant uncle with a long beard on a throne (like Santa Claus in the department store on his big chair, who picks you up on his knee and asks you if you've been good, and what would you like him to give you?). She was afraid of Him but asked favors anyway. My father never mentioned Him—it was as if God was one of Rose's relatives he'd rather not get involved with." (Keyes, 2004, p.133)

When he thinks that he might be in a disaster, instead of praying for God, he questions the very existence of God. This paragraph is mainly about his attendee before he gets smart, but after he becomes an intelligent man, he still questions the existence of God. When he goes to college, he starts to wonder that is God exists.

"And they talked about politics and art and God. I had never before heard anyone say that there might not be a God. That frightened me because, for the first time, I began to think about what God meant.

Now I understand one of the important reasons for going to college and getting an education is to learn that the things you've believed in all your life aren't true and that nothing is what it appears to be." (Keyes, 2004, p.72)

All these prove that this novel holds a suspicious attitude toward the existence of God and religions.

As the summary mentioned, the hero of this story, Charlie Gordon, is a man with a mental disability who then becomes smart through scientific measures but finally loses his intelligence. Science plays a key role in this process, it first gives Charlie a life of normal people, then a life of a genius. But as he becomes smart, he finds that all his connections with other people change a lot. First is that people he once thought were his friends were actually bullying him, and just saw him as a retarded person. Mr. Donner, Frank, and Gimpy are his old friends in the bakery. In the novel, these characters are essential to the theme of friendship. Mr. Donner's friendship with Charlie's Uncle Herman is the reason why Donner agrees to take care of Charlie after Charlie's family abandons him and gives him a job in the bakery. Frank and Gimpy frequently use Charlie as an object of fun, they nevertheless are kind to him and accept him before his surgery and after his regression. But after the surgery, Charlie finds that Gimpy has been stealing money from the bakery. Owing the kindness from Mr. Donner and the family condition Gimpy, for the first time, Charlie feels that being intelligent cannot solve everything, and even leads to more problems.

"May 9—I can't sleep. This has gotten to me. I owe Mr. Donner too much to stand by and see him robbed this way. I'd be as guilty as Gimpy by my silence. And yet, is it my place to inform him? The thing that bothers me most is that when he sent me on deliveries he used me to help him steal from Donner. Not knowing about it, I was outside it—not to blame. But now that I know, by my silence, I am as guilty as he is.

Yet, Gimpy is a co-worker. Three children. What will he do if Donner fires him? He might not be able to get another job—especially with his club foot.

Is that my worry?

What's right? Ironic that all my intelligence doesn't help me solve a problem like this." (Keyes, 2004, p.90)

As for his kinship, he recalls many of his sad memories, like being taken as a burden and ashamed by his original family and abandoned by his mother. All of these childhood miseries flashback to his eyes and make him suffer again, then Charlie writes down about the things and people that once

hurt him.

“As I see him now, he is not afraid, just withdrawing, as a bird or squirrel backs off from the brusque movements of the feeder—involuntary, instinctive. The light through that door ajar comes to me again in luminous vision. Seeing Charlie huddled beneath the covers I wish I could give him comfort, and explain to him that he has done nothing wrong and that it is beyond him to change his mother's attitude back to what it was before his sister came. There on the bed, Charlie did not understand what they were saying, but now it hurts. If I could reach out into the past of my memories, I would make her see how much she was hurting me.” (Keyes, 2004, p.169)

There are these memories that make him suffer from the pain that he forgot and put him into an awkward situation about whether he should reconcile with his family.

In his romantic relationship, there are two women around him, one is Alice Kinnian, and the other is Fay Tillman. As for Fay, the woman who lives across the door, who is the one who makes Charlie realize that the one he loves is Alice. Alice is the only person who recognizes and appreciates Charlie's true human worth before the surgery. She recommends him for surgery out of respect for his achievements and a desire to help him achieve his goals. She is patient with Charlie and helps him work through his emotional conflicts, even as she recognizes that she no longer can reach him intellectually and that his intellect has made it too difficult for her to be around him. She is always honest with Charlie and with herself. When she and Charlie separate, it's because he fails to meet her emotional needs since his high IQ of Charlie makes her feel that they are not the same kind of person anymore, and she no longer meets his intellectual needs since they have interests in different things after the surgery. But in the end, Alice grows to love Charlie truly, and she gives of herself to him completely, despite his intellectual regression. In the true sense of lovers and partners, she completes his development into an emotional and intellectual whole even as that fragile union is heading toward its downward slide. It can be argued that without Alice, Charlie would never have been complete as a person, since Alice is the only character who knows and loves both the old and the new Charlie and makes Charlie know what is love. Both of them drift far from Charlie because of Charlie's high IQ.

Then there is the relationship between Charlie and the doctor who makes him smart. This relationship can be regarded as the epitome of the relationship between Charlie and people whose intelligence is normal since almost everyone around him looks down upon him or bullies him. But after he gets smart, everyone is jealous of him and finally grows apart with him. Before the surgery, Charlie believes that the only issue between him and a normal person is the intelligence gap. When he is smart, he realizes that people close to him left him, and people with whom he wants to get along still isolate him. In the end, he is still a solitary man. So this brings up an argument, Does too much intelligence do people good?

As the introductions of postmodernism in the last part say, Postmodernism is a philosophical movement that was quite influential in the second half of the twentieth century. Notably, it started after the end of the Second World War. Postmodernism may be seen as a shift from the modern way of processing the world, which is mourning the loss while feeling the urge to set order in the world. So far, what is 'postmodern' is in direct rejection of all things 'modern'. The progressive emancipation of humanity and the triumph of

science were and still are seen as man-made myths, which had lost their credibility since the Second World War. Cultural or moral progress became meaningless after the Second World War which had proved, through the Holocaust and the nuclear weapons against Japan that human cruelty is capable of bringing destruction and even self-destruction if needed. Such incidents have changed the parameters of culture ever since. A great deal of postmodernist theory depends on the maintenance of a skeptical attitude or resisting “grand narratives.” As the Philosopher, Jean-François Lyotard argues that these grand narratives are in crisis and decline, he attacks the idea which argues that history is progressive and that knowledge can liberate us. The Second World War revealed that knowledge easily could be destructive and attributed to chaos. This idea could be found in many literary works even far older than postmodernism. For instance, Mary Shelley's *Frankenstein* or *-the Modern Prometheus* shows the dangerous consequences of excessive knowledge when supported by the scientific method, which results in catastrophic endings. Similarly, *Flowers for Algernon* deals with experimental scientific methodology. To certain readers, the novel could be seen as a celebration of technological and medical progress. However, a closer reading, through the lens of postmodernism, could prove that it serves as a warning against the pursuit of knowledge and science because the last few paragraphs of this part give examples to provide a ground of argument about whether high intelligence brings Charlie or humans as a whole a positive influence.

In conclusion, the loss of grand narratives in this novel is the distrust of science and suspicion toward religion, which can be proved by examples in the text.

2.2. Diversity

The loss of grand narrative leads to mini-narratives, which are narratives that combine diversified themes and provide the actions of specific groups in particular local circumstances. In this book, the themes are also diversified and can be analyzed from a different perspective. Besides the attitude towards religion and science and complicated and changing human relations that are mentioned in the last part, there are still many themes that are embodied in this book. In this part, there will be giving three themes from three different aspects to show the diversity of this novel.

Firstly, it is discussed that this book pictures a lifetime of people. The most obvious evidence lies in the text structure. For example, the novel's chronological timeline begins on March 3 and ends on November 21, which is also the spring and winter of the year. This seasonal interpretation is quite obvious. Charlie's surgery takes place in the spring, a time that symbolizes a new beginning, new growth, and rebirth. So at the beginning of spring, Charlie's intelligence starts to grow. The progress reports written by Charlie, end in autumn which is the season that symbolizes nature's decline. Though autumn isn't death as symbolized by winter, it is the loss of new growth and the beginning of regression. A synonym for autumn is "fall," and that word, in the verb form, is what we witness in Charlie's intelligence starting to fall. From March to November, Charlie's journey of becoming smart lasts a total of nine months, which is also what the human gestation period takes. The process of Charlie's intelligence change can also be seen as the development of a man's life. At first, Charlie is mentally challenged, and he can not even go to the toilet by himself in his childhood. So this period of life symbolizes human childhood, in which period, people have

to rely on others to survive. The time when Charlie's intelligence reaches the top is also the time that people peak in their lifetime, so this period symbolizes young adulthood and the Middle Ages when one's energy, knowledge, and learning ability are at their peak. Finally, when Charlie's intelligence starts to decline is like people in old age, beginning to show recessions in energy and memorial ability. All of these images of the circle of life in this book show that the argument about the people's lifetime is also one of the themes.

Secondly, the ethical problem of the use of medical measures is also discussed in this novel. Though the surgery that Charlie undergoes in *Flowers for Algernon* is purely fictional, the surgery of changing one's intelligence exists, being placed on real humans, and has brought wide discussion. Take frontal lobotomy surgery as an example it is performed by doctors who believe that removing the part of the brain thought to be associated with various types of mental illness would cure the mental disease. But surgeries of this kind face an issue that is who decides the degree of mental illness that is needed for medical interventions, who should be responsible for the outcome of the surgery, and how to define the independent will of the patient if the patient suffers from the mental illness. All these problems are waiting to be solved. Like in the book, there's no doubt that the scientists are responsible for Charlie's surgery and their original intentions are good. They want to fulfill the wish of Charlie's mother to remove the stigma from learning disabilities and mental disorders by eliminating the disorder — in effect, forcing Charlie through surgery to become like everyone else or better. They intend to not harm, but they have no appreciation of the value of Charlie before the surgery before they make him smarter. Do they cherish Charlie's old personality? As the text suggests, no, these scientists just see him as an experimental article like Algernon the white mouse. So, the argument lies in two aspects, one is whether the free will of the patient matters and the definition of the free will of the patient, and the other is to what degree intelligence influences one's personality and if one changes his or her character and intelligence, is him or her the same person he or she used to be? By analyzing the above-mentioned questions, it can be seen that the argument about medical measures for humans in changing one intelligence is essential to the whole story, so ethical thinking about this question can also be a theme of this novel.

Lastly is from the perspective of psychoanalysis. After Charlie becomes smart, every time he recalls his family, it is in his dreams. So that provides an angle to analyze this novel through Freud's psychoanalysis of conscious and subconscious. Charlie's dreams are sometimes memories from his past, including his childhood, adolescence, and all incidents up until the operation. But in another case, the dreams take the form of psychological relief. The character carries childhood traumas that had barricaded his emotional growth, as well as psychosexual development. His psyche tries to overcome such traumas through a series of compensations, most importantly, through dreams. After his date with Alice Kinnian Charlie has a nightmare: "I'm running down a long corridor, half blinded by the swirls of dust... I'm afraid because I'm hiding something in my pocket. I don't know what it is or where I got it, but I know they want to take it away from me and that frightens me" (Keyes, 2004, p.83). Freud's interpretation of running in dreams involves the wish to avoid an issue or a person, depending on what or who

is the chaser. Whilst if the identity of the chaser is not clear that could indicate the fear and avoidance of one's feelings or reality. "The wall breaks down and suddenly there is a red-haired girl with her arms outstretched to me—her face is a blank mask. She takes me into her arms, kisses and caresses me, and I want to hold her tightly but I'm afraid. The more she touches me, the more frightened I become because I know I must never touch a girl. Then, as her body rubs against mine, I feel a strange bubbling and throbbing inside me ... But when I look up I see a bloody knife in her hand." (Keyes, 2004, p.83) A knife, in the interpretation of dreams, symbolizes an instrument that can either do good or cause harm. It represents knowledge and talents, things we have a responsibility to use prudently. Dreams about piercing weapons are about acknowledging and accepting the transformation in one's waking life. Knives mean that changes are coming, but you're afraid of the outcome. Bloody knives could also symbolize guilt, heavy in conscience, and battling with oneself and emotions. "I try to scream as I run, but no sound comes out of my throat, and my pockets are empty. I search in my pockets, but I don't know what it is I've lost or why I was hiding it. I know only that it's gone, and there is blood on my hands too" (Keyes, 2004, p.83). Dreams about soundless screaming or the inability to speak or yell symbolize anger, frustration, fear, and helplessness. The thing that Charlie was trying to protect in the dream, despite not knowing anything about its nature, is his virginity. His sexual trauma causes him to feel guilt and panic every time he interacts with a female. This is confirmed in the next sentence when he confesses that thinking about Alice made him feel the same panic he had experienced in the dream. So, from this perspective, psychoanalysis can also be a major theme of this novel.

In a word, as the grand narrative disappears, mini-narrative rises in postmodernism literature, and tends to embrace multiple topics. Like in this book, themes are different seeing from different angles.

2.3. Simulacrum

Simulacrum refers to according to Baudrillard representations that have no link to the referent. But the distinctions between referent or the real word and representations or the sign have few degrees. Some signs misrepresent the real world, some signs disguise the real world, and some signs bear no relation to the real world. Reading through the whole novel, this kind of simulacrum can also be found in the text, namely, this book judges the distinctions between authority and reality.

The professor who operates the surgery and the entire program on Charlie is Professor Nemur, who though is an authority in psychology, achieves most of his successes through the influence of his father-in-law. And he has his wife to drive him into doing all his experiments. So, in this situation, professor Nemur is desperate to prove himself worth what he has. People in high positions like him are arrogant and egocentric and believe everything he says to be true. In the book, professor Nemur has to enter an international conference to show the fruit of his program, Charlie's growing intelligence. First, he is confident, showing off his successes, but when Charlie argues with him, his impatient and ignores other people's opinions.

"Just a minute, Professor Nemur," I said, interrupting him at the height of his peroration. "What about Rahajamati's work in that field?"

He looked at me blankly. "Who?"

'Rahajamati. His article attacks Tanida's theory of enzyme fusion—the concept of changing the chemical structure of the enzyme blocking the step in the metabolic pathway.'

He frowned. 'Where was that article translated?'

'It hasn't been translated yet. I read it in the Hindu Journal of Psychopathology just a few days ago.'

He looked at his audience and tried to shrug it off. 'Well, I don't think we have anything to worry about. Our results speak for themselves.'

'But Tanida himself first propounded the theory of blocking the maverick enzyme through combination, and now he points out that—'

'Oh, come now, Charlie. Just because a man is the first to come forth with a theory doesn't make him the final word on its experimental development. I think everyone here will agree that the research done in the United States and Britain far outshines the work done in India and Japan. We still have the best laboratories and the best equipment in the world.'

'But that doesn't answer Rahajamati's point that—'

'This is not the time or place to go into that. I'm certain all of these points will be adequately dealt with in tomorrow's session.' He turned to talk to someone about an old college friend, cutting me off completely, and I stood there dumbfounded.' (Keyes, 2004, p.147-148)

So seeing from this debate between Charlie and Professor Nemur, it can be seen that Professor Nemur at first wants to end this conversation badly, then he finds Charlie keeps bringing up this topic, so he tries to argue that the experiments done in India and Japan are not as good as those in the United States and Britain. This shows that Professor Nemur as an authority figure in an area is arrogant and has no humility to absorb other people's works in the same area. This behavior of a leading character in a certain area shows that the insight of the authority is not always right. And he also finds that people in high positions are unwilling to show their ignorance even in their professional areas. Like what Charlie finds in discussions at the university with other professors.

'People resent being shown that they don't approach the complexities of the problem—they don't know what exists beyond the surface ripples. It's just as bad on a higher level, and I've given up any attempt to discuss these things with the professors at Beekman.' (Keyes, 2004, p.149)

'The same thing happened when I tried to discuss Chaucer with an American literature specialist, questioned an Orientalist about the Trobriand Islanders, and tried to focus on the problems of automation-caused unemployment with a social psychologist who specialized in public opinion polls on adolescent behavior. They would always find excuses to slip away, afraid to reveal the narrowness of their knowledge.' (Keyes, 2004, p.150)

Though everyone has their limitations, the above-mentioned examples show that the authorities try to hide their limitations and remain their authority figure by avoiding questions they are not familiar with, so and so may neglect the real issue. For example, all the professors that are responsible for Charlie's surgery are so desperate to show their experiment's success, so they ignore other people's ideas, including Charlie's, and are not aware that this surgery is reversible, Charlie's intelligence at the end drops down to the former level. So owing to the behavior of the authority, Charlie draws a conclusion, which is as follows.

'I couldn't stay at the party. I slipped away to walk and think this out. Frauds—both of them. They had pretended to be geniuses. But they were just ordinary men working blindly,

pretending to be able to bring light into the darkness. Why is it that everyone lies? No one I know is what he appears to be. As I turned the corner I caught a glimpse of Burt coming after me.' (Keyes, 2004, p.149)

This paragraph points out the so-called geniuses are frauds with mediocre talents. But these people can be the leading characters in an area, which re-justified the degree of reality of the authority. Then the author illustrates the essence of knowledge through Charlie. It says:

"Strange about learning; the farther I go the more I see that I never knew even existed. A short while ago I foolishly thought I could learn everything—all the knowledge in the world. Now I hope only to be able to know of its existence, and to understand one grain of it." (Keyes, 2004, p.149)

This shows the opinion that the authority of all things requires judges with a suspicious attitude, though this knowledge or authority has existed for a long time. If not, the authorities themselves and their adherents keep reinforcing the opinion till it is unbreakable and unquestionable to everyone, then the simulacrum advents. So, the simulacrum in this case is the distinction between authority and reality.

2.4. Language Style

It is discussed that postmodernist literature tends to use language that is more acceptable to people, unlike modern literature, which belongs to high art. *Flowers for Algernon* is a science fiction, it is simple, planification, and colloquial since it adopts many dialogues in the original text. And also in postmodernism literature, patchwork is commonly seen. In this book, the patchwork should be the dreams and memories of Charlie, since every time he thinks about his original family, it is through means of narratives interspersed with flashbacks. Like when Charlie usually talks to other people his mind flies to an old memory he recently recalls, and sometimes it is his imagination. So, as his mind jumps, the patchwork of the novel includes the reality, that is what Charlie is undergoing, the past he once forgot, and his imagination. And one language feature of this book is that Charlie's writing is changing while his intelligence grows. Like before the surgery, he cannot spell right cannot use punctuation, and is wrong in grammar using. For example, he spells the word "should" like "should", and the word "relax" like "relax". All these examples make it easier for the reader to feel the intelligence change in Charlie.

3. Summary

Through *Flowers for Algernon* is science fiction, which is not commonly seen in the category of postmodernism literature, it has some postmodernism tendencies if judged from this certain perspective.

To analyze the postmodernism tendencies in this book, the basic information of the book and postmodernism should be given. So, the first part introduces the summary of this book and its general information. Then lists some of the important features of postmodernism and postmodernism in literature, namely the loss of grand narrative, simulacrum, and language features. The next part acts on a detailed analysis based on the original text from the above-mentioned perspective. First, the disappearance of grand narratives, which in this book is the disbelief in religion and science. The grand narrative in other words are mini-narratives, so this task then introduces three essential themes of this novel, that is the circle of life, the ethical problem of medical uses for intelligence surgery, and the psychoanalysis of the subconscious through dreams.

All these aspects show diversity as a feature of postmodernism. Next, this task introduces the simulacrum in this novel, which is the distinction between authority and reality. And last, this task analyzes the language features of this novel.

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