

Q. On what grounds do the New Historicists view history as Text.

Ans ----- New Historicism is a literary theory based on the idea that literature should be studied and interpreted within the context of both the history of the author and the history of the critic. Studying the history reveals more about the text; studying the text reveals more about the history.

The new historical approach emphasizes the cultural context in which text is produced, rather than focusing exclusively on the formal structure of the text itself. New Historicism posits that literary works are not singular or solitary forms, but, instead, a product of different networks of socio-material practices.

New Historicism is a literary critical movement, which first developed in the 1980s. The new historical approach emphasizes the cultural context in which text is produced, rather than focusing exclusively on the formal structure of the text itself. As such, literary works should be interpreted, not for their universal themes or historical content, but for their meaning as objects embedded in a certain socio-historical milieu. Thus, to understand a literary text, critics need to first understand the author's background and the cultural context in which the work was produced.

Stephen Greenblatt is credited with launching New Historicism. He first used the term 'new historicism' in his work, *The Power of Forms in the English Renaissance* (1982) to describe the permeability of literature and history. Discussing Queen Elizabeth's hostility towards Shakespeare's play, *Richard II*, Greenblatt argues that literary criticism is always historical in nature and that there is no such thing as pure aesthetic value. Fredric Jameson is another well-known New Historicist. Jameson is famous for his commanding literary critics to pay attention to the social and historical context in which a work was produced.

New Historicism is related to Cultural Studies, which is a broader movement in the humanities and social sciences that emphasizes that individual experience is culturally specific, rather than universal. Both New Historicism and Cultural Studies are indebted to the work of French philosopher Michel Foucault, who argued that knowledge is a product of vast network of systems that can be defined as much by ruptures as by cohesive themes. New historicism, thus seeks to unveil the ideological conditions that shape a given text.