

عنوان مقاله:

Symbolic Consumption and Media in Bret Easton Ellis's *Less than Zero*

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خلاصه مقاله:

The present paper seeks to argue that consumption and media wield an unparalleled influence over contemporary American society, in a way that these drives constitute the primary means through which identity is constituted. Closely referring to Jean Baudrillard's critical concepts, the present research contends that the fictional characters of Bret Easton Ellis, particularly in *Less Than Zero*, are prone to this postmodern world, where all experience via consumption has become fathomless, and traditional notions of identity have been changed. Ellis's characters oscillate between the extreme poles of violence and ennui as they do their best to prevent their psyches from collapse amidst the surrounding turmoil caused by excessive consumption. Neither one of these alternatives results in any relief. In this type of literature, the protagonists are immersed in the contemporary world of consumption and the mass media. The primary interest here is on the effects of this immersion in the world of commodities on the major characters (Clay and Blair), and their reactions in the selected novel. Accordingly, dependence on possessions by the characters of the novel in order to isolate themselves from the threatening disorder of the post-modern world is the major concern of present study of the novel.

کلمات کلیدی:

consumption, Media, Baudrillard, Identity, Bret Easton Ellis, Blank Fiction

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