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Chuck Palahniuk as a Versatile and Multifaceted Penman

Author

J. Monica Therese
Research Scholar
Research Department of English
St. Joseph's College (Autonomous)
Trichy.

Co-Author

Dr. M. Amutha
Assistant Professor
Department of English
St. Joseph's College (Autonomous)
Trichy.

Abstract

Chuck Palahniuk is the recent American novelist, journalist and essayist. He is known for his transgression fiction. Chuck Palahniuk's ideas have been described as nihilistic but he has declined this identity and he labeling himself as a romantic writer. His books often focused on temporal end and also include some similar plot twists. His writings mainly focused on the struggles which we faced nowadays due to this growth of techno culture. Palahniuk's concepts and themes are too strange to believe. He is the man of argument in which he argues the struggles between money and agony. There are some postmodern techniques and odd theories used by him. This article focused Palahniuk's writing style, techniques, and as well as thematical study of his novels.

Keywords: Absurd, Hyper Reality, Minimalism, Nihilism, Postmodernism.

Charles Michael "Chuck" Palahniuk is an American writer. He is a famous novelist, freelance journalist and born on February 21, 1962, in Pasco, Washington, the son of Carol Adele and Fred Palahniuk. He has French, Russian, and Ukrainian ancestry. At the age of twenty, he attended the Oregon University School of journalism, graduated in 1986. While he was studying in college, he worked as an intern for National Public Radio member station KLCC in Eugene, Oregon. Then he quitted his job as a journalist in 1988. He started writing fiction in his mid-30s. In addition to him, he started writing while attending workshops for writers that were hosted by Tom Span Bauer, which he attended to meet new friends. Palahniuk's minimalistic style was largely inspired by Span Bauer. He described his writings are

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"transgression" fiction. The award-winning novel Fight Club is his first and best novel, which also available in movie form of the same name.

He started his writing career when he was thirteen years old and he is forty now. He was a mail person through college. Then he has worked as a newspaper reporter for six months after college. Then he worked for the transport corporation for thirteen years working on Lorries. He left there in 1998 inorder to work as a writer for full time (he was a mechanic and then towards the end he was writing reminiscence instruction). The technical type of script is the type of direct address instruction and non-fiction that he still likely to put into his fiction. There are some important things like domestic hints in *survivor* or the bomb formulas in *Fight Club*. These are the things inspired by his technical writing.

Palahniuk's writing style is unique. He is well known for repeating words and sentences. He used some techniques in his works especially fight club and choke. Anotherimportant style is trouble-free language and theme, which can be found in all his novels. His works based on flashback technique, stream of consciousness and ludicrousness. Another aspect is to creating twist at the end of his novels, and there he using 'time' as a tool to reveal the secrets about 'x'. It helps the reader to understand the whole novel. He make readers to "think, analyze and find out' the story. All of these are to form a style which makes for a thrilling read.

In an interview he explained that he prefers to write in verbs instead of adjectives. He randomly repeats the rules of the club in his famous novel Fight Club. These types of simple repeated sentences are deeply important to the plot. It shows the hero's innermost longingness. This particular internal feeling creates a new character called Tyler Durden. At the end of the novel only, audience can guess who is the real hero? It is a great twist of Palahniuk and can say one of his writing styles which he follows in his works. The only novel that does not make use of his style is *Diary.* Because this whole novel is written from narrator's point of view.

Palahniuk also employed flashback techniques in his most of the novels. In *lullaby* and *Fight Club,* he used flashbacks and shifting time helps to create suspense among the readers, but it also provides a large twist at the end of his novels. The novel begins with the end scene of the book and he again comes back to the beginning. This novel is followed by chronological order. It

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is a casual book and the speaker talks to the audience as person he was telling a story to a child. This novel is written from first person point of view.

Invisible Monster is written as same as first person point of view. It is a common book. It has complicated themes. But it is quiet easy and understandable. Palahniuk uses shifting dialogues and non-linear plot. He jumps in and around a lot in this story which also contributes conversational style of the book. Because when someone is detail narrating a story, they suddenly recalled their past and tend to tell past stories. His themes are fabulous with fantasy. But he has a good sense of the absurd. Sometimes it cannot be readable. His writings serve to confound the issue further. At the end of the novel, he seemed to be moving into the realm of truth.

The characters of Palahniuk's novels are beyond belief. They used to carry some unique problems or diseases in their life. Palahniuk is a tricky pony. They are unreliable to their life and mostly they are in confused state of mind. They have leaded their life without any reasons. His ideas on the character development are raising a very specific body of knowledge for each character. The characters of the novel know well about the colors and the way they see the world. Beyond this, the character becomes the sets within the plot.

"The group I go to for brain parasites is called Above and Beyond" (FC 18).

Tyler said, "I want you to hit me as hard as you can" (46).

In his novel *Haunted* is a set of stories written from the perspective of nineteen different characters on a writer's retreat. This is an ambitious concept which frankly he doesn't pull off. The subject matter is in the main pretty puerile. He said that, *Lullaby* is his fantasy work if some leftover from a previous civilization could retain its power and they tried to use it to make goodwill.

Palahniuk comparisons are very difficult to discuss. Each comparison makes others to think and tempt to read the book. These descriptions are not normal which is deeply rooted with the characters. The dead jellyfish of a used condom bloating in the toilet. He compares condom with jelly fish. It is very odd thinking to create such comparison about others. He is a man of

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repetitions. In Fight Club he compares himself with a magazine more than two times. He uses the word 'Reader's Digest' more than five times within a two pages.

> "I bury myself in a Reader's Digest" (FC 61).
>
> "There was an owner who collects lifetime stacks of the National Geographic and Reader's Digest" (57).
>
> "I found stacks and stacks of Reader's Digest in the basement and there's a pile of Reader's Digest in every room" (58).
>
> "And this morning listening to Tyler, I present to read the Reader's Digest. A twisted bitch, I could've told you that, Reader's Digest" (59).

The style which he follows in his writing is called minimalism. For an example, In *Fight Club,* there is a character called recording angel and it is trying to file a scene physically without passing any findings or assessments or using any sizes such as miles, feets or pounds. Studying journalism is the some hunt for objectivity.

In the novel *Invisible Monsters* discussed the theme of frustration, feelings of model and rebellion. But in *Fight Club,* he talks about the violence and sex in unabashedly graphic terms. He is a man who writes about violence, love as well as frustration. He is testimony to the maxim that there is no such thing as bad publicity. Some novels are weird and funny. For an example *Lullaby* and *Choke.*

He often goes out and interacts with people in order to get difference feedback about his recent published books. He also added some experiences from his personal life to evoke stories from other people. From these hints, he frames a new story or novel. He didn't mentioned narrator's name in his most of the novels. It helps the reader as well as his fellow writers. Palahniuk's work always infused with personal experiences. He defines that he writes each chapter of his novels as a short story. Then he combined it.

In *Fight Club,* we find an unnamed narrator and at the beginning, *Invisible Monsters* also the author does not reveal narrator's name. He sends a dose of jilted beauty queens cluttered up, transsexual and turns on top of twists *Invisible Monsters* is only leaves 'wanting'.

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"Wanting what, I'm not sure, but you want something…" (IM 92).

Palahniuk mainly discussed the theme like wounds, blood, fire and sex. His novels mainly focused on 'identities'. Each and every novel there is a main character and this character always in the quest of power and new identity.

In *Fight Club* Palahniuk comically feels and provides thought provoking situations and ideas to the readers. There is a jaw-dropping twist at the conclusion of this novel. In Palahniuk's novel *Haunted,* each character tells their own story as they are instructed to compose the next great American novel during the three months of retreat.

It has an unusual construction and each has three parts,

i. They should write a story about the retreat and a specific writer.

ii. A poem by an nameless writer about each participant.

iii. A story which the writer's write should be a confessional and one of his darkest, funniest novels.

Chuck Palahniuk is also known for doing research extensive. Research is his favorite part of the writing practice and it is the fuel that derives his novels. His writings are described as transgression fiction which means a type of literature. It centers the character who feels restricted by the rules, norms and expectations of society and who breaks those confines in unusual or illicit ways and feels free. He makes us to feel that how far the people addicted to the technologies nowadays? Most of his novels interpret the importance of 'techno culture' through some characters. In *Lullaby,* we are in a generation of people who need their television or stereo playing all the time. The soundaholics and quietophobics are so scared of silence. He talks about the addiction of media and technology in this novel.

Though Palahniuk novels are playful, but he gives social messages to the readers. He gives importance to both positive and negative side of a person. It helps the readers to understand what are the things we Do and Don't do in their life. His content has been very useful to this current generation.

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