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BA English Honours | Semester VI | ENG6EJ308

Introduction to Disability Studies

Module 3: Representations in Literature and Film: Tropes vs. Lived Experience • Comprehensive Notes

Chapter 3: Literary Tropes, Ableist Stereotypes, and Authentic Voices

David Mitchell and Sharon Snyder's concept of **Narrative Prosthesis** reveals that literature has perpetually relied on disability as a quick metaphoric device (e.g., Captain Ahab's peg leg signifying obsessive vengeance, Richard III's hunchback signifying moral evil, Tiny Tim signifying pathetic innocence). Critical disability studies demands authentic representation that captures the complex, mundane lived realities of disabled individuals.

Advanced Critical Theory, Hermeneutics & Literary Praxis

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1. Hermeneutic Paradigms and Textual Mechanics

Critical inquiry into Module 3: Representations in Literature and Film: Tropes vs. Lived Experience reveals how textual forms construct meaning through complex aesthetic strategies and structural choices:

- **Structuralism and Semiotic Deconstruction:** The organization of signs, tropes, and syntactical structures establishes narrative authority while simultaneously revealing internal fissures. Binary oppositions embedded within the discourse—such as center versus margin, tradition versus modernity, and subjective interiority versus objective reality—are systematically problematized through textual slippages and ambiguous signifiers.
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2. Historiographical Context and Reception Theory

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3. Comparative Aesthetic and Thematic Matrix

The following analytical matrix summarizes key comparative dimensions across traditional interpretive paradigms and modern critical frameworks relevant to Module 3:

Critical Dimension	Traditional / Formalist Reading	Contemporary Critical Synthesis	Pedagogic & Interpretive Significance
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