

T.S. Eliot's works have been analyzed through various literary critical approaches. Here's an overview of key perspectives on his poetry, particularly *The Waste Land* and *The Love Song of J. Alfred Prufrock*:

### **1. Formalist/New Criticism Approach**

- Eliot's poetry is often analyzed using close reading, focusing on structure, imagery, and intertextuality.
- *The Waste Land* is seen as a fragmented modernist masterpiece, using allusions to classical and religious texts.
- Emphasis on Eliot's concept of the "objective correlative"—how emotions are expressed through external symbols.

### **2. Modernist Criticism**

- Eliot is central to modernism, with *The Waste Land* reflecting disillusionment after World War I.
- His poetry breaks with traditional forms, using free verse, multiple voices, and intertextual references.

### **3. Psychoanalytic Criticism**

- Prufrock is often examined through Freud's theories of repression and anxiety.
- Themes of alienation and indecision reflect the fragmented self.

### **4. Myth and Archetypal Criticism**

- Northrop Frye and others analyze *The Waste Land* as using mythic structures, such as the Fisher King legend and the quest motif.
- The poem's allusions to fertility myths and spiritual renewal are central to this reading.

### **5. Political and Ideological Criticism**

- Some Marxist critics see Eliot's later work as conservative, reflecting a nostalgia for order and tradition.
- His shift to Anglo-Catholicism and royalism in *Four Quartets* is viewed as a rejection of modern secularism.

### **6. Poststructuralist and Deconstructive Readings**

- Roland Barthes and Derridean critics examine how Eliot destabilizes meaning, emphasizing textual fragmentation.
- The multiplicity of voices in *The Waste Land* challenges the idea of a singular authoritative meaning.