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Elements of Post – Modernism in Wallace Stevens with Special Reference to ‘Peter Quince at Clavier’



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*For poetry makes nothing happen: It survives*

# In the valley of its making where executives

*Would never want to tamper*

*-W.H. Auden*

**Abstract :**

This paper critically examines the poetic art of Wallace Stevens in the light of post modern critical theories like intertextuality, deconstruction, metafiction and semiotics. The poem ‘Peter Quince at Clavier’ is subjected to a detailed analysis in the light these postmodern critical theories. The poetry of Stevens is essentially post-modern as it refuses to be tied down to a single teleological meaning. The sanctity and extra terrestrial dimension attached to poetic experience becomes a “calculated risk” for Stevens. Poetic experience thus becomes the down to earth business of recording what the “eye” can testify. The testimony of the eye may vary from person to person as it is dependent largely on the perceptive analysis of the receiving subject. The mutation of spatial-temporal dimension further enhances the multiplicity of meaning and the plurality of perception in Stevens.

**Key Words :**

Postmodern, Wallace Stevens, intertextuality, deconstruction, metafiction, semiotics.