

# *Eliot's concept of the Frontiers of Criticism*

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Eliot has made a remarkable contribution to the repertory of English criticism. He has thrown new light to modern criticism through his essays and book-reviews in which he has used certain catchwords which are invaluable treasures to the coffer of English criticism. In his essays he has thrown sufficient light on various aspects of criticism which include function of criticism, purpose of criticism, objectivity in criticism and his most sought after theory of impersonality. He was extremely critical of existing schools of criticism like impressionistic school of criticism pioneered by Middleton Murray, Archetypal school criticism propounded by Maud Baudkin, Verbal analysis school of criticism initiated by William Empson and Criticism of exploration introduced by Livingston Lowe. Even Eliot's own criticism private Workshop criticism suffers from certain obvious limitations. He insisted that his criticism is the by-product of his private poetry workshop. By-product means the material which is produced in the process of manufacture of something. For example, molasses is produced in the process of the manufacture of sugar. He insisted that the poets worth reading are those who practised and practised well the art of which they write. Although the workshop criticism has certain obvious limitations. Its foundation is very shaky. The critic can't give a sound judgement on the form of literature he is not concerned. His judgement too will be unsound on the subject which is

antipathetic to him. He has also rectified numerous shortcomings in verbal analysis school of criticism insisting that they counted every line and word to squeeze out the meaning of poetry to its last drop and ironically called it lemon squeezer school of criticism and further said that in order to count the trees they forgot the groove.

Eliot also took Livingston Lowe for task for intermingling scholarship into criticism. He jotted down various materials which help in the formation of the poetry of Coleridge The Ancient Mariner. Actually source hunting does not fall inside the arena of criticism .It will spoil the purpose of the reader to understand and enjoy a work of art. The upload of unnecessary details hampers the purpose of criticism. After all the library bills of Shakespeare don` t add anything substantial to the development of modern criticism. It on the contrary causes an irreparable damage to criticism which should be opposed tooth and nail.

In his essay, Frontiers of criticism Eliot has strictly maintained that the purpose of criticism is to promote the understanding and enjoyment of a work of art which is an extended version made in his essay function of criticism that the function of criticism is correction of taste and elucidation of a work of art.