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RECONSTRUCTING THE PAST BY MEANS OF SUBJECTIVITY AND FICTIONALITY IN LOVE, ETC BY JULIAN BARNES

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Abstract: *This paper aims at analyzing one of Julian Barnes’s novels (Love, etc) in order to illustrate his views on the recording of history. The approach starts with examining various theories on the writing of history. Subsequently, it moves on to narratology and devices used for the specific purpose of showing the relativity of all historical recording and the epistemological difficulty encountered in writing history. Here the emphasis falls on the analysis of polyphony and the unreliability of all witness accounts. Several key issues are taken into consideration with regards to the possibility of recovering the past, the nature of truth as well as memory. Overall, the analysis makes use of Hassan’s description of Postmodernism, White’s helpful input on discourse and history writing together with Barthes, also McHale’s theory on truth validity and Bakhtin’s narratological devices. The whole paper focuses on Barnes’s message as clearly foregrounding the Postmodern interpretation of history without suggesting giving up the attempt to recover the past and rather than looking for the ultimate truth, one should accept the existence of alternative, personal truths.*