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| Montage in Literature |
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| As a literary device practiced in avant-garde movements such as Cubism, Futurism, Dadaism, and Surrealism, montage refers to the conjoining of heterogeneous discourses in a given text. Within the frame of the literary artwork, montage provokes unmediated clashes between genres and styles, often featuring non-narrative fragments from various sources such as newspaper clippings, slogans (commercial, political, religious), or popular songs. Literary montage, moreover, favours disembodied discourses that are linked to the impact of modernity: the languages on which it draws are those of bureaucratisation, commercialisation, and serialisation, among others. Contrasted with more character driven narrative strands, these discursive montage elements question the agency of the modern subject. Montage literature also tends to playfully dissect language itself, breaking down traditional syntax and semantics in the process. It favours ambiguity, irony, and paradox over narrative unity or totality. |
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| Further reading:  (Aragon)  (Burroughs and Gysin)  (Möbius)  (Perloff)  (Zmegac) |