**Fredric Jameson**

Jameson argues that postmodernism emerged "as specific reactions against the established forms of post modernism" (543). Those art forms that were considered "scandalous or shocking" by previous generations were now considered to be "the establishment and the enemy - dead, stifling, canonical" (543)

Postmodernism also blurred the line between art forms considered to be high culture and pop culture.

Postmodernism expresses the inner truths of the new social order of late capitalism (post-60s) through two significant features, Pastiche and Schizophrenia.

Schizophrenia

Jameson links the idea of Schizophrenia to the idea of the way postmodernist texts have a "peculiar way with time" (548)

Usually, we experience time as a mixture of the "past, present, memory, the persistence of personal identity over months and years" (549). Yet, Jameson argues that a schizophrenic will have "a far more intense experience of any given present" (549) since they are disconnected from the past and memory.

Furthermore, the schizophrenic has a limited view on personal identity, since we perceive personal identity to be an accumulation of various feelings of "i" and "me" that persist over time.

Jameson also connects the idea of schizophrenia to language, particularly the relationship between the:

signifier - a word

signified - what the word means

referent - the real object in the real world to which the signifier refers to.

Whereas, we would rarely understand language by "translating the individual signifiers or words that make up a sentence back to their signifieds on a one-to-one basis" (549), a schizophrenic would.

"What the schizophrenic breakdown of language does to the individual words that remain behind is to reorient the subject or the speaker to a more liberalising attention towards those words" (550) This means that words are no longer perceived as the building blocks of a sentence but as more literal signifiers, losing its signified. "a signifier that has lost its signified has thereby been transformed into an image" (550)

The Lonely Londoners

The idea of schizophrenia can be applied to Selvon's novel, especially when it comes to the idea of time. Whilst the novel is set in the present, the characters all have past lives on a different continent leading to the expression of memory through nostalgia.

Tanty for example, translates her memory into the present through the introduction of credit schemes. Moses says "This is a lonely miserable city, if it was that we didn’t get together now and then to talk about things back home, we would suffer like hell". This leads to the questioning of personal identity for characters, since their perception of themselves changes in their new surroundings, much like the schizophrenic nature of personal identity that Jameson demonstrates.

Yet, other characters seem to try and distance themselves from their past lives, choosing to live permanently in the present. e.g.) Harris trying to adopt a lifestyle beyond the community of immigrants.

The idea of language is also important when considering the lonely londoners. The immigrants have their own distinct dialect, with signifiers having different signifieds and most certainly different referents from their experiences back in their original countries.