

Abstract

The objective of this dissertation is to explore the theme of memory and its impact on how we tend to re-create and perceive history, as reflected in the book *A History of the World in 10 and ½ Chapters*. The goal is to interpret each chapter and make a plausible inference as to what the author intended to communicate concerning the postmodernist view of history. The theoretical groundwork of the thesis draws primarily on Hayden White's *Metahistory*; Paul Ricœur's *La mémoire, l'histoire, l'oubli* and *Temps et Récit. Tome I*. Other sources include interviews with Julian Barnes, *Conversations with Julian Barnes* by Vanessa Guignery; an essay by Frank Kermode, *Stowaway Woodworm* and of course the novel itself.

Key words: theme of memory, history, post-modernism, Julian Barnes, Grand Narrative/metanarrative, metahistory, historical imagination