

# Postmodern Determinism in Kurt Vonnegut's Novel : *Breakfast of Champions*

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**Dr. Muzafar Ahmad Bhat**

*Assistant Professor, School of Humanities  
Dept. of English, Lovely Professional University  
(Punjab)  
(muzafarmaqsood@gmail.com)*

**Poonam Sareen**

*Ph.D. Scholar, School of Humanities  
Dept. of English,  
Lovely Professional University (Punjab)*

## **Abstract**

Postmodern situation as described by Kurt Vonnegut is more so like what Zygmunt Bauman argues, "there are no longer any rules or norms to guide inquiry, no overall validity, no universal, unequivocal basis for truth or taste" (1993:23), therefore the possibility of making a meaningful negotiation with life is ruled out and the Saul Bellowian 'deterministic' and 'sovereign self' is in a state of hysterical complaint and their moral conundrum is being solicited deliberately either to live a commodified objects or to avoid responsibility towards universalistic ideals at the cost of making pornographic display of bodily parts be it "hoovers penis or vaginas as wide open beaver" (1973:31), made brazenly explicit thereby to authenticate the cultural dehumanization and misguided society of America. Throughout this novel, not only boundaries between organic and inorganic are blurred but grotesquely the characters live like programmed machines with dysfunctional relativization and in this regard Vonnegut asserts that: "I learned a bone deep sadness for them, as they wrecked their lives imagining wrong things" (Allen 52) and as result throughout this novel in a manic depression, the characters more so prompt about 'chemical imbalance motivated' overwhelmed by 'sexual commercialization'.

**Keywords:** Human free will, existential crisis, "Dresden experience, psychic terrorism, postmodern humanistic determinism, apocalypse, moral relativism