

~~expressiveness, reason~~

(2) If so shrewd and sensitive a critic as Johnson failed to define metaphysical poetry by its faults, it is worthwhile to inquire whether we may not have more success by adopting the opposite method.

This critical passage has been extracted from T.S. Eliot's great critical article 'The Metaphysical Poets'.

T.S. Eliot propounded his own principles of criticism and accordingly evaluated the works of the writers. T.S. Eliot has differed greatly with Dr. Johnson as a critic in the evaluation of the metaphysical poets. Eliot believes that a scholar like Dr. Johnson failed to define metaphysical poetry by its faults.

T.S. Eliot believed that a critic should go by the principles of criticism instead of being swayed by the greatness of the poets. Dr. Johnson as a critic was not as much equipped with the tools of criticism as Eliot was.

T. S. Eliot's language is fluent, direct and precise.