

# The All-Pervasive Influence of the Media and the Collapse of Meaning in Don Delillo's *White Noise*

Abdol Hossein Joodaki

Hassan Aboutalebi

Faculty of Letters and Humanities  
University of Lrestan, Khoramabad, Iran

**Abstract:** This paper is an attempt to investigate Don Delillo's *White Noise* (1986) from the perspective of Baudrillard's theory of *hyperreality* and *simulation*, and that of the role of the media in contemporary media-dominated societies. In this regard, the above-mentioned theories will be first fully discussed, and then applied to Delillo's selected work to observe how a whole culture might be assimilated into a *hyperreal* world, and what ramifications it can have on people's lives without their knowing it. Ultimately, a conclusion will be drawn which might be of great help to readers of the fiction. It is hoped that this study would appeal to those interested in ascertaining the influence of *hyperreality* and the mainstream media on our daily lives, while most of us are not conscious of their dire, cumulative effects.

**Keywords:** *hyperreality*, *simulation*, the media, meaning, representation

## INTRODUCTION

Acknowledged as one of the foremost intellectual figures, Jean Baudrillard and his theories are of paramount importance in the postmodern age. He has exerted considerable influence over different domains. His critiques of Marx and Michel Foucault are known to present philosophers, but the ones