

The Adaptation of Characterization in the Novels and Traditional Paintings of Contemporary Iran (with Emphasis on the Works of Bijan Najdi and Mohammad Baqer Agha Miri)

Abstract

Character is the most central foundation of any story that plays an imperative role in conveying the plot and theme of the story; hence a story revolves around character and no story is formed without it. Bijan Najdi is one of the great novelists of the contemporary period that the novel "Cheetahs who ran with me" is one of his most famous and enduring novels in Persian literature, which has a lot of eloquence and rhetoric. In the art of painting, one of the subjects is considered by the characters and related issues, and Mohammad Baqer Aghamiri, one of the contemporary painters, beholds works in this field. In this research, based on descriptive-analytical method, personality types in terms of structure, characterization methods, perspective, time and manifestations used externally and internally of the characters have been analyzed. The findings of the research indicate that Bijan Najdi's novel is character-oriented and its greatest emphasis is on the main characters of the stories. In terms of characterization methods, the author has benefited more from the indirect method. The majority of the main characters in this novel are static characters. The adaptation of this type of characterization to the works of Mohammad Baqer Aghamiri shows the similarities in terms of attention to personality and its dimensions.

Research aims:

1. A study of the diverse aspects of characterization in Bijan Najdi's novel.
2. Adaptation of characterization in Bijan Najdi's novel and traditional contemporary painting with emphasis on the works of Mohammad Baqer Aghamiri.

Research questions:

1. What is the role and place of characterization in Bijan Najdi's novels?
2. What are the features of characterization in traditional Iranian contemporary novels and paintings?

Keywords: Bijan Najdi, Mohammad Baqer Miri, Contemporary Novel, Characterization, Traditional Contemporary Painting

Introduction

Personality is one of the most important traits in fiction. A character is a person who, like real people bestows characteristics and with these characteristics, appears in stories and plays. The author may present the characters directly or indirectly in his story. Character is the key to an effective story and great stories require great characters. Fiction literature is generally referred to as the work of fictional narrative and creative prose in the field of fiction, and the basis of this literature is the imagination of people and events that are made and dealt with by the human mind. Narrating the story is the responsibility of the characters who form the basis of any script by their actions and words; and through such characters, the story and happening events take place. Bijan Najdi is a contemporary writer in the field of fiction. The problem raised in this research is investigating the role of personality and characterization in Bijan Najdi's novel. Furthermore, Najdi's technique in processing the characters of his novel is also discussed. In this period, characterization can be seen in the works of great painters, hence, characterization is studied comparably in the works of Bijan Najdi and Mohammad Baqer Aghamiri.

Regarding the background of the research, it should be alleged that in the field of examining the element of personality and characterization, except for the novel "Cheetahs who ran with me", no other work has observed and studied the element of personality independently and comprehensively. Other research has been accomplished on the works of Bijan Najdi in which character personality is studied including: Aghagolzadeh and Razavian, (2014), in an article entitled "Personality" focus on Bijan Najdi's short story processing based on role-oriented grammar has examined characterization based on the transient system in role-oriented grammar in three of Najdi short stories. Jalilian, (2016), in his dissertation entitled "Stylistics of Bijan Najdi short stories based on the Simpson model" examines the stylistic features based on the Simpson model and introduces six model stylistics. These elements are: 1- textual intermediary 2- sociological linguistic code 3- characterization 4- perspective 5. textual structure 6- intertextuality. Mohsennejad Miandehi (2012), in his dissertation entitled "Study of cinematic tricks in Bijan Najdi fiction", examines cinematic tricks in Bijan Najdi's stories; moreover, theoretical basis of this research is the theories of Robert McMucci, Stephen Scharf, and David Bourdain. Of course, it should be noted that the present study is a completely independent and different work from other studies that have been done on the works of Bijan Najdi. Therefore, considering the importance of the subject under discussion, it is necessary to conduct a comprehensive research in this field. This article, which examines the characterization in one of Najdi's novels in a descriptive-analytical manner, first examines the concept of characterization and representation in the novel "The Cheetahs Who Run with Me". In the next step, the types of characters in terms of narrative structure and characterization methods are discussed. Another debate in this research is what characterization resembles contemporary painting and particularly in the artwork of Mohammad Baqer Aghamiri.

Conclusion

In this research, the characteristics of the element of character and characterization in the novel "Cheetahs who ran with me" are discussed and studied; in this study, the reader is acquainted with the author's art in how to process the characters of his novel. Obviously, such a study reveals many of the beauties of Najdi's works and his power in his writing style, and can also be used by other researchers in their subsequent studies. Bijan Najdi is one of the best writers in the novel of postmodernism and is highly skilled in writing. His words have the peak of eloquence and rhetoric. The book: "Cheetahs who ran with me" is a novel that

is character-driven and the story revolves around the main characters. In terms of narrative structure, the author has used a variety of main, secondary, background, typical, hypocritical and static characters. However, most of the characters in this novel are static. In characterization methods, the author has applied both direct and indirect characterization methods in processing the characters of his novel; nonetheless, the indirect method is more applied. In the indirect method, the author has processed the characters of his novel through dialogue, action, appearance, name and description. Among the various methods of indirect characterization, dialogue has been used the most which plays an important role in providing information to the audience. The characters in this novel are simple and ordinary characters. In terms of gender, most of the characters in this novel are male and then female. In a word, they are human, except for two stories whose main character is a horse and the other is a doll. In terms of names in the story, repetitive names such as Morteza, Maliheh and Taher are used and the author has limited the names of his characters to these three names. In terms of time, the time of this story is very chaotic; the writer at times takes the reader to the past and at times to the present time and occasionally to the future. In this novel, the characters are represented in two ways, external manifestations which are the gender and age of the character and internal manifestations which include expressing the emotion and feeling of the character, expressing the effect and sorrow of the character and expressing the thoughts and reasoning of the characters. A comparative study of characterization between the works of Bijan Najdi and the paintings of Mohammad Baqer Aghamiri demonstrated that the character is a central part of the works of both figures. Characters such as the main and secondary character, the narrator character and the expression of emotions by the characters can be seen in their works.

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