

Characterization and Symbolism of Contemporary Persian Fiction with Emphasis on the Story of the “Missing Soluch”

Abstract

One of the features of contemporary fiction is the issue of characterization and the use of symbols to convey concepts and themes. One of the outstanding works of contemporary fiction is the book *Jai Khali Soluch* by Mahmoud Dolatabadi. The issue that can be raised here is the reflection of the political, economic and social developments of this period and the use of characterization and symbols by the author. This research is accomplished by descriptive and analytical method and library data. The findings of the study indicate that the feudalism system governing Iranian agriculture was a method of exploitation and this phenomenon is reflected in the works of this period. One of the developments that took place in the field of agriculture during the second Pahlavi period was the issue of the White Revolution (1341 AD) and the land reforms along it, which were carried out by Mohammad Reza Pahlavi. After these changes, a number of writers started creating works known as rural literature, in which they studied these changes and their reflection in the life of the villagers. One of the most famous of these books is “Missing Soluch”, in which the symbolic aspects of the mentioned book is investigated in this study.

Research aims:

١. To describe the conditions of Iran's rural society after land reform in the book "Missing Soluch".
٢. To study the characterization and symbolic descriptions in contemporary fiction with a case study of the "Missing Soluch" book.

Research questions:

1. How is the situation of the rural community of Iran after the land reform described in the book “Missing Soluch”?
2. What is the role of personality, characterization and symbolic description in conveying concepts in the book?

Keywords: Missing Soluch, Contemporary Fiction, Land Reform, Characterization, Symbolic Description

Introduction

The history of Iran in the 1940s undertook many political, economic and social changes. During this period, which coincided with the rule of Mohammad Reza Pahlavi (1357-1320 AD), land reforms and the White Revolution (1341 AH) were carried out by the ruling regime and hence this reform plan produced many complications. Dissatisfaction with land reform is evident in various cities and states. In the meantime, this event also influenced the literary works of this period, so that in this period of time, works were created that were different from the previous works in terms of nature and type of expression. Literary works in any period and society are usually a reflection of the political, economic, social situation of their period. Iranian society in the contemporary period has experienced many ups and downs in various dimensions of the social system. In some historical periods, writing and creating literary works is difficult due to the existence of political suffocation. So the authors choose ways to better convey their intended concepts. The method of characterization and the use of symbols is one of the methods observed in the contemporary period in fiction. One of the most successful contemporary symbolic novels is *The Perspective of Poverty*, which has been reviewed by numerous books and articles. The study and analysis of how characterization and symbolism in this work can provide useful information about the events of this period and also provide the ground for the prosperity of this style of literary works.

Regarding the background of this research, it should be said that so far no independent work has been written under this title. However, several works have examined the book "Jai Khali Salouch". An article entitled "Stylistics of the novel Jai Khali Salouch by Mahmoud Dolatabadi" was published by Mohammad Reza Nasrani and Mila Shami in the scientific-research quarterly "Research of Rabban and Persian Literature" in 2009. The authors have studied this book in this study and believe that the prose of this Abadi government in this work is an innovative and artistic prose due to the variety and multiplicity of its positive linguistic, literary and intellectual characteristics. The author's concerns in the forties to fifties have caused a style that has made the perceptual dimensions and quantitative aspects of its metaphors and similes in a special and at times in a rough manner (Nasr Esfahani, Shamai, 2009: 202). Another study entitled "Study of personality in the novel Jai Khali Salouch" has been written by Ziba Verdipasandi and published in the monthly magazine *Melal* (2016). In this article, the author examines the dimensions of personality and characterization in the novel Jai Khali Salouch and believes that the main character of Jai Khali Salouch is Morgan; a woman who is present and talked about everywhere. The multiplicity of characters in this work has made it the best source for studying characters and characterization (Verdi Sepandi, 2016: 139). However, the symbols are not discussed in this work. The present study intends to analyze the personality and symbols in this outstanding work with a descriptive and analytical method and relying on documentary-library data, and to determine the extent of their influence on the political and social events of this period.

Conclusion

The book "Jai Khali Salouch" is the story of the rural community in Iran after the land reform, which has depicted its impact on the lives of the villagers and the cooling of the rural families. The author symbolically expresses the consequences of land reform, and the story is strongly illustrated and catharsis, in such a way that the financial problems and poverty and loneliness of Morgan and his children strongly affect the reader and the grief that exists in the existence. There are Morgan and Hajar and other characters in the story that make the reader feel unhappy; furthermore, symbolism is clearly understood in this story. The cold and icy weather and the dark and miserable atmosphere depicted in the story are in harmony with the mental, physical and psychological conditions of Morgan and other characters in the story, but what is in the underlying and hidden layers of this book is the unsympathetic aspect. In addition to this, the author is desperate about the conditions of society and the changes that have taken place in it, which he expresses in the form of bitter and cold symbolism. Also, not only the unfavorable living conditions of the villagers in

the time before the land reform are not told, but also the narrator has told the story in such a way that the reason for the misery and poverty of the villagers is the reform created in the agricultural system. In a way, the narrator intended to incite the villagers and incite them against the government, so he pointed the finger of blame only at the government and the reforms, and the ordinary people and the lords and the old system and the dictatorial character of feudalism in Iran from every mistake and omission. He has acquitted every crime and ignorance. To achieve his goal, the narrator has used symbolic aspects in creating the story to avoid any accusation. In general, it can be said that in contemporary Iranian literature, books that have highly symbolic aspects are written for specific political and social purposes and express the thinking of a particular party or group. In this period, in many books, we see populist thinking. Thoughts in which the author focuses on ordinary people, or in the words of populists, the "silent majority", ordinary people who are active and useful to society but do not engage in political activity, and according to their problems. And he tries to arouse them by magnifying them and opposing the heads of government, and in such works, symbolism is widely used. In some populist works of this period, the rural environment and the life of the peasants have been placed in the position of the ideal center, and "Jai Khali Salouch" is a successful example of such books.

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