

# **A Structural and Intellectual Analysis of the Stories of the Holy Defense with a Glance on the Novels of Hassan Bani Ameri in Comparison with the Battle Images of the Early Islamic Confrontations**

## **Abstract**

Postmodern war stories have their own characteristics that distinguish them from other stories; This distinction is both in form and content. The purpose of this study is to analyze the structure and thought of sacred defense stories with a look at the works and novels of Hassan Bani Amiri. In reviewing these works, two of his outstanding literary works entitled "Sparrows Understand Paradise" and "Do Not Breathe, Laugh, Say Hello" were examined. This research has been done by descriptive and analytical methods by depending on library data. Findings show that the novel "Sparrows Understand Paradise" has obvious postmodernist elements; components such as breaking time and place, entering fictional characters into the realm of narrative view point, quarreling with the author, changing the angle of view, introducing meta-fictional features and blurring the line between reality and fantasy. The author has dealt with issues such as the courage of warriors, adherence to sacred things, as well as paying attention to symbols such as the number seven, water, horse, etc. The novel "Do not breathe, laugh, say hello" also partakes postmodernist features and components such as non-linear narrative, change of perspective, metanarrative, humor, incomplete sentence, lack of authority of the author and rebellion of personality. In the intellectual analysis of this novel, attention to the sacred defense, the prominent role of women, and attention to symbols and sometimes attention to the sacred such as quoting verses and hadiths is obvious.

## **Research aims:**

1. Recognizing the components of the Sacred Defense stories.
2. Understanding the structural knowledge and themes of Hassan Bani Ameri novels.

## **Research questions:**

1. What are the characteristics of Hassan Bi Ameri stories?
2. What are the similarities between the stories of Hassan Bani Ameri and the images of the wars of early Islam?

**Keywords:** Hassan Bani Amiri, Postmodernism, Holy Defense Novel

## Introduction

With the beginning of the imposed war in 1980, a number of collected works called "War Literature" emerged in the writing space of the Iranian society. This phenomenon was considered a suitable and fertile ground for writers and poets who either were present in the actual war or witnessed the events of the war and mediated such events. War literature includes both works that directly describe war and those that indirectly define related features. These writers had diverse views on war and the sacred defense hence three groups emerged: the first group to defend and praise war and resistance and stability, which are called positive; the second group of writers who were fundamentally opposed to the war and considered it as an absolute evil and expressed most of the consequences and sufferings of the war; and finally, the third group are between these two categories and demonstrate both the achievements and desirable aspects of the war and its complications and difficulties. Hassan Bi Ameri is one of the authors who has authored literary works in the field of war literature; among his works the novel "Sparrows Understand Paradise" can be mentioned. This novel is different in terms of expressing the war and the Holy Defense since not all novels that have a negative view of the war have considered the Iran-Iraq war as completely useless and home-burning act nor like most novels that have a positive view of the Iran-Iraq war, present the war as a flawless event and introduces an innocent face of the warriors; they do not consider the war as sacred and not have told the epics of the war; and due to the fact that postmodernist novels behold many sub-narratives and lack a cohesive design, summarizing it is demanding and the full story can be recounted as a single narration with a definite beginning and end. The novel "Do not breathe, laugh, say hello" by Hassan Bani-Amiri is no exception to this category, and only the dominant and prominent narrative of the story can be told. The main issue in this research is the intellectual and structural analysis of the stories related to the sacred defense in the works of Hassan Bani Amiri. In particular, the study of the extent to which the structural components in each of these works serve the thematic components, is the focus of this study.

Regarding the background of the present research, it should be said that no independent work with this title has been written so far, but several works have considered the war literature. Regarding the researches done in this field, we can mention a number of cases, such as Khademi Kodlaei, Mehdi (2008) in an extensive research in the field of fiction literature of the Holy Defense, the book "Culture of storytellers: a study of the works of war storytellers" can be mentioned. In this great work, the personality and works of Bani Amiri and his outstanding works are introduced in detail and can be used as a reference in this research. Hanif, Mohammad (2007) in a book entitled "War from three perspectives" has studied the works of fiction focusing on war and sacred defense. In this book, the author has created an interesting division of this series of stories and has grouped the books into three categories: positive stories, negative stories and stories with a third look. The novel "Sparrows Understand Paradise" is examined and analyzed in the third group. Hanif's other work, Mohammad (2012), is a book entitled: "The Fictional Literature of War and Sacred Defense and Its Abilities in the National Media." In this work, the author has focused his efforts on two areas. One is to understand the nature of the fictional literature of the Holy Defense and the other is how to use these stories to create works for production and broadcast on radio and television. Whereas new methods and techniques of storytelling have seldom been used in the creation of the fictional works of the Holy Defense, and consequently we seldom witness the critique and study of such works; As a result, analysis of such works is necessary. By researching the works of Hassan Bani-Amiri, his two works entitled "Sparrows Understand Paradise" and "Do not breathe, laugh, say hello" are suitable options for research in this field. This research has been done in a descriptive-analytical method and relying on library data and seeks to study the structure of Hassan Bani-Ameri's stories and its adaptation to images of the early confrontations.

## Conclusion

In reviewing the works of Hassan Bani Amiri, two of his outstanding works such as: " Sparrows Understand Paradise " and "Do not breathe, laugh, say hello" were examined. Hassan Bani-Amiri has a relatively critical view of the war and has revealed all its events, both bitter and sweet. He consumes an intuitive view of the war and does not consider courage and other salient features to be unique to Iranian fighters, but every now and then portrays Iraqis and enemy forces along with these traits. The novel " Sparrows Understand Paradise " has obvious postmodernist elements; components such as: breaking time and place, entering fictional characters into the realm of narrative and arguing with the author, changing the angle of view, meta-fictional features, blurring the line between reality and fantasy, etc. The narration of this novel is puzzling and each piece of it is somewhere in the novel and it is the reader's duty to put the pieces of the puzzle together and put them in order. In the intellectual analysis of the novel "Sparrows Understand Paradise", we come to the conclusion that the author, when describing the courage and bravery of the warriors and expressing their self-sacrifice, and in general reflecting themes related to the sacred defense, such as the courage of the warriors, adherence to the sacred and his language becomes realistic and he has not sacrificed the content for structure and form. The novel "Do not breathe, laugh, say hello" also has postmodern features and components such as: non-linearity of the narrative, change of perspective, metanarrative, lack of authority of the author and revolt of the characters. The characters of the story, following the characteristics of postmodernism, are unusual with peculiar people, and even their names and genders are dual and contradictory. The plot of the story is not as good as the plot of the novel " Sparrows Understand Paradise " and is the result of the author's association with the mind. In the intellectual analysis of this novel, attention to the Holy Defense, the prominent role of women and occasionally consideration to sacred effects such as quoting verses and hadiths is palpable.

## References

- Bani Ameri, Hassan. (1385). Sparrows understand heaven. second edition. Tehran: Niloufar. [In Persian]
- Bani Ameri, Hassan (1382). Do not breathe, laugh, say hello. First Edition. Tehran: Niloufar. [In Persian]
- Parsi Nejad, Kamran. (1384). We had a war, we had a story (analysis and review of 14 titles of the story book published by Sarir). First Edition. Tehran: Sarir. [In Persian]
- Payende, Hussein (1386). Postmodern Novel and Film: A Look at the Structure and Crafts of Mix Film. First Edition. Tehran: Hermes. [In Persian]
- Hanif, Mohammad (1391). Fictional literature of war and sacred defense and its capabilities in the national media. First Edition. Tehran: Soroush. [In Persian]
- Hanif, Mohammad (1386). War from three perspectives (review of twenty novels and long stories of war). First Edition. Tehran: Sarir. Khademi Kodlaei, Mehdi. (1387). Culture of storytellers: A study of the works of war storytellers. Tehran: Shahed. [In Persian]
- Radfer, Mohammad Reza (1371). "Transformations and features of literature at a glance". Persian Language and Literature Quarterly, No. 36. [In Persian]
- Soleimani, Hassan (1380). The art of storytelling. Fifth Edition. Tehran: Amirkabir. [In Persian]
- Shayestehfar, Mahnaz. (1388). "Baghdad School of Painting with Emphasis on Shiite Themes". Islamic Art, No. 10, 76-60. [In Persian]

Shamisa, Sirus and Tadini, Mansoura. (1386). "Characters of Postmodern Story: The Originality of Existence". Quarterly Journal of Language and Literature. winter. Issue 34. [In Persian]

Sanati, Mohammad Hussein (1389). Familiarity with sacred defense literature. First Edition. Tehran: Sarir. [In Persian]

Abdullahian, Hamid (1381). Character and characterization in contemporary fiction. First Edition. Tehran: Anne Publications. [In Persian]

Kaden, Jay. Oh you. (1380). Culture and Literature Criticism. Translated by Kazem Firoozmand. First Edition. Tehran: Shadegan. [In Persian]

Lodge, David. (1386). Postmodernist novel. Selected and translated by Hossein Payendeh. Novel Theories. Tehran: Niloufar. [In Persian]

Louis, Tiger. (1383). Modernism and Postmodernism in the Novel: Postmodernism and Literature; Selection and translation by Hossein Payende. Tehran: Niloufar. [In Persian]

Mets, Jesse et al. (1389). Novel Theory: Postmodern Novel: Enrichment of Modern Novel; Selection and translation by Hossein Payende. Tehran: Niloufar. [In Persian]

McCaffrey, Larry (1387). Postmodern Literature: Postmodern Fiction; Compilation and translation of Yazdanjoo message. Central Tehran. [In Persian]

Mehdizadeh, Ireza. (1396). "Study of the manifestation of Shiite themes in Iranian painting", No. 6, 60-39. [In Persian]

Ward, Glenn. (1383). Postmodernism. Translated by Qader Fakhr Ranjbari and Abuzar Karami. Second edition . Tehran: Shahi Publishing. [In Persian]

Wu, Patricia. (1390). Faradestan. Translated by Shahriar Waqfipour. First Edition. Tehran: Cheshmeh. [In Persian]

Honeywell, Arthur. (1383). "Design in the Novel", "Modernism and Postmodernism in the Novel", selected and translated by Hossein Payendeh. Tehran: Rooznegar Publishing. [In Persian]