

## **Reflecting the Concepts of Injustice and Misery of Rural Society in the Modern Literature of Turkey and Iran (with an Emphasis on the Stories of Mahmoud Dolatabadi and Orhan Kamal)**

### **Abstract**

In the modern literature of Iran and Turkey, the origin and evolution of fiction and its categories have followed a similar process from the beginning. The fictional literature of both countries has been influenced by Western literature since its inception, and this impact has been obtained mainly through the translation of texts and literary works. The result of this effect is the formation of various streams of story-writing, either in terms of form or content. Orhan Kamal is one of the most prominent story writers of Turkey, many of his works have been translated into Persian, and he is one of the pioneers of rural literature. Mahmoud Dolatabadi is also one of the most influential contemporary writers of Iran, whose climate literature is evident in his works. This research is a comparative exploration with the aim of identifying the similarities and differences in the stories of "On Fertile Soils" by Orhan Kamal and "Seluch Vacancy" by Dolatabadi, which was written based on a descriptive-analytical method. By examining both works, we can come to the conclusion that Kamal and Daulat-Abadi describe the spitefulness, distress, injustice, poverty and misery in the rural society with insight and precision.

### **Research aims:**

1. Analyzing the factors affecting the misery and disintegration of rural society in Iran and Turkey.
2. Adapting the novels of Seluch Vacancy and On Fertile Soils.

### **Research questions:**

1. Have the countries of Iran and Turkey experienced common historical events, social and cultural conditions at the end of the beginning of the 19th century?
2. Which common political decision caused the destruction of rural society in Turkey and Iran?

**Keywords:** rural community, Orhan Kamal, Yahya Dolatabadi, Seluch Vacancy, On Fertile Soils

## Introduction

Mahmoud Dolatabadi is the artistic embodiment of an era in the field of Iranian fiction. Most of his fictional works are about the villages of Khorasan and thus the reader becomes acquainted with the details of the life of the villagers of Khorasan with the help of his stunning and detailed descriptions. He wrote the famous novel *Seluch Vacancy* in ۱۹۷۸. This novel is the story of the miserable life of Mergan and his family. "Mergan" means "killer of the hunt" in the rough mime or in short mime it is an abbreviation of Mitra Gana. He is a character that occupied the author's mind for thirty years and was recreated in this novel. The story takes place during land reforms and the author attempts to show the reader the negative consequences of such modifications. As the form and context of the economic and social life of the villages is gradually collapsing, the big owners have sold the land and left the village. In order to find new ways for more income, urban economy enters the village in the form of bank loans, tractors, pumps, and deep wells; however, their ignorance and profit seeking worsens the situation. As a result of these changes, poor villagers migrate to nearby cities to earn money and work.

Orhan Kamal was born in ۱۹۱۴ in Ceyhan city of Adana. His actual name was Mohammad Rashid Ayutcho. Orhan joined the army in ۱۹۳۸ and while serving, he was sentenced to five years in prison for reading the books of Nazim Hekmat and Maxim Gorgi and promoting socialism. In ۱۹۴۰, he met Nazim Hekmat in Bursa prison. During three and a half years, sharing a cell with Nazim Hekmat, he taught him French, philosophy and politics. In ۱۹۵۴, with the publication of the novel "On Fertile Lands", he brought the problems of the rural environment into the field of Turkish literature. In the mentioned novel, Orhan Kamal presents a social and ideological problem, i.e. the conflict between the oppressor and the persecutor. "The exploitative system in Chokurova, the introduction of the capitalist production method in the agricultural sector, the migration of villagers from the village to the city due to the inadequacy of the closed rural economy and the difficult living conditions of the migrants in the city environment are important issues that are mentioned in this novel. The world depicted by Orhan Kamal is the ruined world of poor people who work on these blessed lands. A world of interests that promotes lies, tricks, hypocrisy and theft" (Moran, ۲۰۱۵: ۷۰). With the subjects he chose, the characters he created and the presence he had in his stories, as a realist writer, Orhan Kamal skillfully depicted the social situation of ۲۰th

century Turkey. He wrote down what he lived and the issues of the environment he lived in, the people he met, every influential incident and every story that could be expressed then he masterfully created it into a short story or novel. He moved from the content to the form and considered cash and lust as the most driving forces of society (Karaalioglu, ۲۰۰۷: ۳۵۲).

The review of the background of the current research indicates that not much research has been done on the comparative literature between the countries of Iran and Turkey. Mohammad Riahi (۱۹۹۰) in the book *Persian Language and Literature in the Ottoman Empire* and Yaqub Ajand (۲۰۰۷) in the book *Literary Reform in the Constitution* have made scattered references to the influence of the poets and writers of the constitutional era from French literature through the mediation of Turkish modernist literature. Barna Moran (۲۰۱۵) in the book *A Critical Look at Turkish Novels* translated by Karim Pourakbari Khayavi has analyzed three periods of Turkish novels, and the novel "On Fertile Soils" is one of those works. No research has been done in Iran about Orhan Kamal's novel "On Fertile Soils". Also, by searching in books, periodicals and student finals, so far, no comprehensive research has been published dealing with the comparative analysis of the novel "Seluch Vacancy" by Dolatabadi and "On Fertile Soils" by Orhan Kamal.

## **Conclusion**

Dolatabadi and Orhan Kamal emphasized two economic and political factors in the occurrence of poverty in their societies and considered these two factors as the most significant influences in the growth and development of poverty. In the meantime, they have put many emphasis on the wrong policies of the government and the lack of correct and rational planning in the fair distribution of wealth and have considered it the most significant feature in the poverty and misery of the people, especially the lower class of society. In both stories, economic poverty creates a larger problem called cultural poverty; A poverty that destroys more than economic poverty, a poverty that destroys sanctities and questions sacred things, a poverty that destroys the love of a mother and makes little girls to be the prey to the lust of old men. Also, both authors have emphasized that the modernization of traditional societies requires the provision of a suitable platform, otherwise technology will lead to more deficiency and deprivation.

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