

The structure of Satire in the Old Persian and Arabic Texts: The Case Study of "*mohazerat al-odaba*" and "*resale-ie delgosah*"

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Abstract

The structure of satire in stories of "*resale-ie-delgoshā*" written by Obaid of Zākān and the satires in "*mohāzerāt al-odabā*" written by Rāghib of Isfahan is an inconsistent one. This research aims to achieve a single pattern in the satires of these two works and by using the descriptive-analytical method based on comparison, comes to the conclusion that according to the theory of inconsistency in satire, the structure and hence the content and form of satire in these two works can be considered inconsistent. The satiric content of these two works is inconsistent, because it conflicts with the definitions and norms adapted in the mind of the audience. The form is inconsistent because it is opposite to the audience's mental expectations and violates the backgrounds that are compatible with his/her mind, and accordingly, there is a pattern of satire in both works: an unconventional content is combined with an inverted form based on a structure which is incompatible with a pre-accepted principle. This single pattern explains the consequence of laughter from the satires of these two works for both Persian and Arabic speaking audiences and shows the shared individual as well as common mental elements between them and finally informs the possibility of comparative studies about these two works.

Keywords: Rāghib, Obaid, "*mohāzerāt*", "*resale-ie-delgoshā*", structure, satire, inconsistency.

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