

A psychological and social study of the characters in the novel “Al-Thajjah” by the Yemeni writer “Fikria Shahrah»

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Abstract

Yemeni author Fikria Shahrah's novel “Al-Thajja” addresses the multiple and complex issues that the characters face as they face the challenges and ups and downs of their lives due to social and political pressures. The novel explores the impact of traditional norms on individuals and reveals the struggles of “Mukhtar” as he seeks to balance raising his son, “Omar,” with social traditions. The motivation behind this study is evident in Shihra's intellectual desire to present studies that address the emotions of the various characters and how social and political circumstances shape their lives. The novel highlights the psychological effects of family relationships, as both Salem and Ghalia strive to achieve self-realization in defiance of social pressures, making challenging traditional norms an important goal within the overall context of the novel. The aim of the study is reflected in providing a cultural and psychological awareness of Yemeni identity in the midst of political and social transformations, as the characters reflect experiences of isolation and failure, along with aspirations for hope and the will to change. The results of the study indicate that the novel adopts a narrative approach that manipulates emotions, confronting the reader with complex issues surrounding the conflict between the past and the future. The characters in “Al-Thajjah” display psychological struggles due to traditional relationships and social pressure, making characters like Mukhtar and Salem examples of youthful anxiety and loss of identity in Yemeni society. Ghalia also displays an advanced social awareness, reflecting her rejection of tradition and her aspirations for freedom. The novel highlights how the conflict between the Radhi and Ebi families reveals the impact of poverty and war on family identity, deepening social divides within society.

Keywords: Yemeni novel, Fikria Shahrah, “Al-Thajja” novel, characters, social psychological study, identity.

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