

Literary democracy in the thought of Muhammad Ali Jamal-Zadeh and Mikhail Noaimeh: A Comparative Study based on Pre-disciplinary Perspective

Sajjad Arabi (Corresponding Author)

Ph.D. Graduate in Arabic Language and Literature, Persian Gulf University, Bushehr, Iran
arabisajad@gmail.com

Ali Asghar Ghahramani Moqbel

Associate Professor, Department of Arabic Language and Literature, Shahid Beheshti University, Tehran, Iran

Naser Zare

Associate Professor, Department of Arabic Language and Literature, Persian Gulf University, Bushehr, Iran

Rasoul Balavi

Professor, Department of Arabic Language and Literature, Shahid Chamran University of Ahvaz, Ahvaz, Iran

Mohammad Javad Bourabed

Associate Professor, Department of Arabic Language and Literature, Persian Gulf University, Bushehr, Iran

Abstract

Linguistic and literary views of Muhammad Ali Jamal-Zadeh as the pioneer of the Persian short story writing, in the introduction to his '*Yeki Bud, Yeki Nabud*' (There Was One and There Wasn't One, i.e. Once Upon a Time), consist of concepts, the most important of which is the concept of 'literary democracy', that many critics considered it as 'the manifesto of the new Persian literature'. The popular language of the writings, use of folklores, selection of ordinary characters from among the ordinary people and different social classes and layers, describing the people's customs and traditions, simple writing, enhancing the standard language, preservation of linguistic heritage, etc., are of the most important manifestations of Jamal-Zadeh's intended literary democracy. Such opinions can be deduced from the works of Mikhail Noaimeh, the great Arab writer and eponym of the Arabic short story. In this research through the descriptive-analytic method and in the framework of the American School of Comparative Literature and as a pre-disciplinary view, we seek to study the central concepts of Jamal-Zadeh's introduction to '*Yeki Bud, Yeki Nabud*' as the eponym of Persian short story in Michael Noaimeh as the eponym of the modern arab short story. The results of the research showed that something like literary statement of Jamal-Zadeh and its most important concepts including the concept of literary democracy can be deduced in Mikhail Noaimeh's ideas, except that Noaimeh's views are not collected in any of his work and is dispersed in most of his works. The abundance of these concepts can be seen practically in the two collections of '*Yeki Bud Yeki Nabud*' and '*Kān mā kān*'. Their main difference in this regard refers to the details and relates to the nature of the language and Persian and Arabic literatures.

Keywords: Literary democracy, manifesto of the new Persian literature, Muhammad Ali Jamal-Zadeh, Mikhail Noaimeh, '*Yeki Bud, Yeki Nabud*' (There Was One and There Wasn't One, i.e. Once Upon a Time).

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