

A study of the poem Yati al-Ashqun Elayk ya Baghdad. by Muhammad al-Fayturi based on exploratory and retrospective reading

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Abstract

This study aims to analyze the poem Yati al-Ashqun Elayk ya Baghdad by the Sudanese poet Muhammad al-Fayturi through the lens of Michael Riffaterre's semiotic theory, which is based on two key stages of literary reception: heuristic (exploratory) reading and retroactive (interpretive) reading. The research adopts a descriptive-analytical approach to uncover the deep structure of the poem by applying Riffaterre's core analytical tools, including grammatical and semantic deviations, cumulative expressions, descriptive systems, the hypogram, and the matrix. The findings reveal that the poem operates through a complex semiotic system where poetic signs interact to produce meanings beyond surface-level language, reaching into symbolic and cultural depth. The term Baghdad emerges as a central symbolic axis, representing both historical glory and present disillusionment. The poem's lexicon is organized into three major semantic systems: identity and belonging, resistance and liberation, and repression and silencing. Deviations play a pivotal role in disrupting syntactic expectations and guiding the reader toward deeper interpretive engagement. The study concludes that Riffaterre's theory offers an effective methodology for analyzing modern Arabic poetry—especially symbolic and politically charged texts—and that al-Fayturi's poetry stands as a rich example of its application due to its layered symbolism and national consciousness.

KeyWords: Semiotics, Riffaterre, Muhammad Al-Fayturi, the poem "Yati al-Ashqun Elayk ya Baghdad", exploratory reading, retrospective reading.

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