

Narrative Rhythm in the Novel *Turquoise and Blood*: An Egyptian Vision of Political Reality under the Rule of Mohammad Reza Shah Pahlavi

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Abstract

The novel has become a prominent literary genre in the second half of the twentieth century due to its deep connection with real life and social realities. *Turquoise and Blood* by Egyptian author Ibrahim Al-Desouki Sheta is a realist novel that bridges narrative form with historical resistance, particularly that of Iranian clergy opposing the regime of Mohammad Reza Shah Pahlavi. The novel skillfully uses temporal narrative techniques—such as flashback, foreshadowing, pause, and omission—to align its structure with its political message. This critical-analytical study explores how time is deployed throughout the novel. Findings indicate that flashbacks primarily reveal characters' pasts, while foreshadowing is limited due to the novel's grounding in rapidly evolving historical events. The narrative pause is especially effective, serving the narrator's omniscient perspective and cultural insight. Omission is rarely used, as the plot unfolds over a concise time frame of less than one year.

Key words: Egyptian novel, *Turquoise and Blood*, narrative techniques, temporal structure.