



Since
March 2002

A National,
Registered & Refereed
Monthly Journal :

Arabic Literature

Research Link - 173, Vol - XVII (6), August - 2018, Page No. 58-59

ISSN - 0973-1628 ■ RNI - MPHIN-2002-7041 ■ Impact Factor - 2015 - 2.782

Appearance of Arabic Novel Writers Including Naguib Mahfouz

Contemporary Arabic literature is come to existence after the movement of cultural survives or renaissance which is started mainly in nineteenth century, though some of its origins can be drawn to an earlier period. The movement changed widely in its impact and genre within the various place of Arab world, but the particular local development was the result of the process. In this process two principal powers were involved as traditional and modern. The purpose was to encounter western science and culture and rediscover and stimulate of the great classical heritage of Arab Islamic culture.

ARSHAD LASKAR

Introduction :

The rule of Muhammad Ali Pasha is noted the beginning of the Arab emergence. Muhammad Ali was emerged as the ruler of Egypt with the divergence of Napoleon's army. In the beginning of the 19th century a good number of writers, poets, translators, thinkers, scientists, journalists, printers were emerged which moved the Arabic literature to a distinctive development. Possession of French on the Egyptian land in 1798 is also a chief reason for the development of modern Arabic literature which results to near agreement of the Arab people with European literature and culture. The Egyptians were influenced greatly by the European custom and culture which awaken their learning and acquiring knowledge.

Appearance of Arabic Novel Writers :

The classical Arabic literature is consists of a number of different types of narratives as anecdotes, moral tales, vignettes, stories and so on. The world's greatest collection of narratives "A Thousand and One Nights" was left out the picture for development of the novel in Arabic. Maqamah was one of the most famous narrative genres which attracted the attention of the earliest pioneers, obviously introduced by Badi al-Zaman al-Hamdani. It was the most readily prose genre to provide early pioneers to revive the glories of the past heritage especially in the field of language and style, and at the same time focus the social aspects of the day.

When Napoleon attacked in Egypt in 1798, Egyptian was attained to European prosperity in technology and science. In the reign of Muhammad Ali, an Ottoman soldier sent a young Egyptian mission to Europe. Rifaah al-Tahtawi (1801-1873) was chosen as imam of these early missions to Paris. Then he wrote his famous book "Talkhis al-ibriz fi Talkhis Baris" a description of socio-political and cultural life of France. Certainly Tahtawi's work wakens the interest of the Egyptian

reader, although his importance lies in more two other areas as translation and the press. In 1836, he was entrusted in charge of a 'School of Language' in Cairo. During this time numerous significant works were translated in the hands of his famous pupil and collaborator, Muhammad Uthman Jalal (1829-1898). Tahtawi worked as an editor of the Egyptian newspaper 'al-Waqai al-Misriyya', it laid the foundations for the later emergence and it served as the official gazette.

A group of writer emerged in Lebanon and Syria in Nineteenth century as: Butrus al-Butani, Nasif al-Yazji, Ahmed Faris al-Shidyaq and Marun al-Nuqqash, and left notable contributions to reviving Arab awareness and language and literature. Butrus al-Bustani translated the Bible in to Arabic, he also wrote a dictionary "Muheet al-Muheet", and an encyclopedia "Dairat al-Maarif". Nasif al-Yazji wrote a great book inspired by maqamat of al-Hariri entitled "Majma al-bahrayn". Ahmad Faris al-Shidyaq was another notable writer of this century who also influenced by the classical writings and wrote a famous book as "al-Saq ala al-Saq fima huwa al-Fariyaq". In early development of modern Arabic fiction, the name of both Faransis Marrash and Salim al-Bustani deserve mention. In 1865 Marrash published his famous work entitled "Ghabat al-haqq" a philosophical work. Salim al-Bustani, the eldest son of Batrus al-Bustani, published a book in 1870 entitled 'al-Huyam fi jinan al-Sham', an excellent work on history.

Jurji Zaydan, the Lebanese writer and was considered the Dean of Syrian Egyptian history. He migrated to Egypt where he founded the magazine al-Hilal in 1892. Zaydan has vast information on the history and science of the West. In this regard he wrote a series of historical novels for example 'Hajjaj bin Yusuf', 'Shajarat al-dur' 'Istibdad al-mamalik' etc. Farah Anton (1874-1922) was another name of the writer of historical novel; and his famous historical novel is 'Urishalim

Research Scholar (Department of Arabic), Gauhati University, Guwahati (Assam)

al-Jadida' (New Jerusalem) is set during the Muslim conquest of Jerusalem in the seventh century A.D. Anton's other philosophical works are 'al-Ilm wa-al-din wa-al-mal', al-Hubb hatta al-mawt and "al-Wahsh al-wahsh al-wahsh" which deals the problems of Lebanese society. Yaqub Sarruf (1852-1927) was also the writer of historical novel, and the founder of the journal al-Muqtataf; his some famous works are "Amir Lubnan", "Ftat al- Misr" etc.

Jamal uddin al-Afghani and his famous Egyptian pupil Muhammad Abduh were the most famous reformer in Egypt; and entire generation of writers in Egypt was influenced by them. Among intellectual disciples of Jamal uddin al- Afgahni, Muhammad al-Muwaylihi (1858-1930) is distinguished. Socio-political and cultural events of the environment Egypt made Muwaylihi a journalist; for that he initially published episodes entitled "Fatrah min al-Zaman" in the family newspaper "Misbah al-Sharq". "Hadith Isa ibn Hisham" was the most excellent work of Muwaylihi and it was no doubt the first monuments of modern Arabic prose. Hadith Isa ibn Hisham served the major rule for fiction that does serve as feature in the development of Arabic novel.

Muhammad Hussain Haykal was considered a prolific novel writer of second phase of creation while he published his famous novel Zaynab in 1913. Haykal's work was distinguished and reviewed during the time of its appearance; and it was the cause of attention for some writers. Hence, some writers did turn their attention to the novel after Zaynab they were: Ibrahim Abdul Qadir al-Mazini, Abbas Mahmood al-Aqqad and Tawfiq al-Hakim. Ibrahim Abdul Qadir al-Mazini wrote famous novel "Ibrahim al-Katib". Tawfiq al-Hakim wrote his first novel "Awdat al-ruh" which is based on convincing humanities of a restricted family. Hakim's later novels were respectively: "Usfur min al-Sharq" (1938)" and "Yawmiyyat naib fi al-aryaf"; all these novels of Hakim succeeded in creating the works of early modern Arabic fiction. Abbas Mahmood al-Aqqad was a renowned writer who composed more than hundred books; his novel "Sarah" is a psychological analysis.

Taha Hussain is a notable figure in modern Arabic literature; the work that left a major contribution to the development of Arabic prose literature is "al-Ayyam" published in 1920; and it one of the most beloved work among the people. Al-Ayyam is the famous autobiography of Taha Hussain and it considered the masterpieces of modern Arabic prose literature. During this decade another writer was appeared and he was Mahmud Tahir Lashin who wrote the famous novel entitled "Hawwa bi-la Adam" in 1934. However, Taha Hussain, al-Aqqad and Tawfiq al-Hakim are the most famous names in the history of modern Arabic literature; and their works are the increasing interest to the novel genre.

In the beginning of the Second World War, some mahjar (émigré) writers from Syria and Lebanon were emerged and played a vital role to the development of modern Arabic literature. Among these writers the names of Jibran Khalil Jibran (1883-1932) and Mikhail Nuaymah (1889-1983) were remarkable.

Khalil Jibran's works show a lively picture of the issues of the societies. His famous works are: "al-Ajnihah al-mutakassirah", "al-Arwah al-mutamarridah" and "Dama wa Ibtisama". Jibran's friend Mikhail Nuaymah left further contributions in fiction, but mostly in the short stories. His first novel is "Mudhakkirat al-arqash-1949", based on the doctrine of rebirth and connection of the human soul with divine origin.

In the period of maturity the experiments and developments of novels have taken place by examining themes and techniques used by novelists. They have carrying in mind a close relation between novel writing and the events of society. In this period some writers have emerged and endeavored in writing realistic novel. In this regard some names are mentionable: Abd al-Rahman Munif, the Saudi novelist has written notable novel " Mudun al-milh" Tayyib Salih has written " Mawsim al-hijrah ila al-shamal", Sanaullah Ibrahim , Halim Barakat, Maruf al-Arnaut, Najib Mahfouz, Ali al-Jarim, Adil Kamil, Ihsan Abd al-Quddus, Ghassan Kanafani the Palestinian novelist, his most famous work is "Rijal fi al-sham". All the above writers have written in the themes like-struggle, revolution, liberation, rebellion, alienation, tyranny, injustice, poverty, deprivation, victimization etc. Abd al-Rahman Munif has proved his position and promise by writing the longest novelistic project in Arabic; with Mudun al-milh he has made a major contribution to modern Arabic narrative bearing major topics in social, economic and political life of the contemporary Arab world.

Conclusion :

Among the emerging and contributing writers in the development of modern Arabic novel literature the name of Najib Mahfouz is distinguished. With the award of the Nobel Prize in Literature in 1988 it is clearly considered his unique role and position in the development of the novel genre in Arabic literature. He was mostly famous as a novelist, short story writer as well as dramatist. As a well-known novelist of Egypt, Najib Mahfouz has produced the most professional novels of all about Cairo, its people and life. His some famous novels are: "Abath al-aqdar" published in 1939, "The Trilogy", "al-Qahrah al-Jadidah" (Modern Cairo, 1946), "Zuqaq al-Midaq" (1947; Midaq Alley), "Bidayah wa-nihayah" (1951; The Beginning and the End), "Khan al-Khalili" etc. Mahfouz also wrote many scripts for works of other writers, which may perhaps explain the mastery of cinematic techniques that is manifest in his own writings.

References :

- (1) Allen, Roger (1987) : *The Arabic Novel: an historical and Critical introduction*, Syracuse, 1982. ed. *Modern Arabic Literature Library of literary Criticism Series*, New York.
- (2) Allen, Roger (1998) : *The Arabic Literary Heritage*, Cambridge University Press.
- (3) Matti Moosa (1983) : *The Origin of Modern Arabic Fiction*, Washington, D. C., Three continents Press.
- (4) Ali B. Jad (1983) : *For and Technique in the Egyptian novel (1912-1971)*, London: Ithaca Press.
- (5) Hamdi Sakkut (1971) : *The Egyptian Novel and its main Trends (1913-1952)*, Cairo: The American University in Press.

