Criticism of the novel "Al-Qunds" by Mohammad Hasan Alwan based on the theory of "Van Leeuwen"

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Introduction

Social agents play a crucial role in shaping discourse and embodying literary ideas and motifs in literary works. Authors employ various methods, such as omission and assertion, to represent these agents, influenced by social conditions, power dynamics, and the emergence of social agents within the text. Drawing on the discourse theory of Theo van Leeuwen, this article delves into the functions, underlying social themes, and rationale behind the modes of naming and classification in the novel "Al-Qondos" by Saudi Arabian writer Mohammed Hasan Alwan. Analyzing the discursive representations and understanding the functions and messages generated by the text's construction is essential for literary works produced under oppressive or traditional social circumstances.

Methodology

Discourse analysis theories provide insights into literary works' hidden concepts and underlying structures through linguistic constructs and structures. They enable readers to uncover and analyze substructures, foundations, and the origins of discourse formation within the text. Each discourse analysis theory focuses on specific aspects and interprets them about other critical elements. Van Leeuwen's theory, one of the prominent discourse analysis theories, observes the meaning and representation of agents and role-players in a text through semantics. This approach serves as a key to understanding the connotations and functions of the text.

Discussion and Results

Mohammed Hasan Alwan, born in Riyadh in 1979, holds a master's degree in Business Administration from Portland State University in the United States and a bachelor's degree in Information Systems from King Saud University in Riyadh. After working as a writer for Saudi newspapers Al Watan and Al Shorouk, contributing articles for several years, he wrote novels. His works have received prestigious awards, including The International Prize for Arabic Fiction (IPAF). Notable among his works is the novel "Little Death," which delves into the life of Ibn Arabi. Another significant novel by Alwan is "Al-Qondos" (The Beaver), translated into Persian by Amirhossein Allahyari and published by Mola.

Conclusion

The analysis of Mohammed Hasan Alwan's novel "Al-Qondos," focusing on naming and classification, concludes that it symbolizes the protagonist's attachment to his homeland despite living in exile. The frequent use of Nastabbi classification supports this interpretation, highlighting the character's longing and estrangement. The naming of Al-Qondos and various classifications based on appearance and Nastabbi further emphasize the character's sense of detachment and yearning for his homeland. The novel uses limited naming, primarily relying on famous characters like Al-Qondos, Ghada, and Badria, each representing different aspects of the protagonist's life. Other characters receive minimal naming, emphasizing the character's introversion and societal rejection. The author predominantly employs van Leeuwen's concept of concealment in classification, mainly through Nastabbi-based classification related to identity formation in exile and visual classification based on gender and physical characteristics. The novel's characterizations align with the central theme of fragmented identity, with negative value attribution reflecting the author's pessimistic outlook. Overall, the social agents in the novel, regardless of their status, class, or name, transition from an active to a passive phase.

Keywords: Theo van Leeuwen, Discourse, Al-Qondos, Mohammed Hasan Alwan, Naming, Classification.