

The Reality at the Altar of Power: A review of *Dear Mim* as metafiction

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Abstract

As a type of writing originating in postmodernism, metafiction by breaking fictional frameworks and distorting boundaries of imagination and reality tries to reveal the artificial nature of reality and its constructedness in relation to the dominant power discourses. Thus, every playful chaos in the postmodern novel form stems from the depths of critical thinking in postmodernist skepticism about the mechanism of the contemporary world. Therefore, in the present study, reviews the story of *Dear Mim*, by Mohammad Hassan Shahsavari, on the basis of postmodernist ideas and shows the author's success in utilizing metafiction for presenting postmodern content. It also provides an answer to the main question as to what extent is *Dear Mim* derived from a postmodern unconscious self-awareness. Meaning that how much it is aware of its artificiality and whether it is the result of the liberation of the imagination and a deep internalized philosophy. According to the findings of this study, it can be argued that although *Dear Mim* has a multilayered and nested structure, a fragmented and incoherent form and complex narrative, and It depicts the family rift in today's world and appears to be successfully postmodern in presenting a metafiction, but as a pre-designed template that is not distorted by the postmodernist content, by its very nature it is essentially in fundamental conflict with the rules breaking and structure escaping nature of postmodernism.

Keywords: Metafiction, *Dear Mim*, Mohammad Hasan Shahsavari

Social, Religious, and Cultural Pathology in the Book of *Hadith Isa Ibn Hisham*

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Abstract

Al Muwailihi was a genial and committed reformist and intellectual who devoted all his efforts to reform the ethics of society. A student of Seyed Jamal and Mohammed Abdeh, he was among the advocates of liberty in his era. Their reformist ideas influenced him, and since patriotic sentiment among the reformist thinkers was a subset of religious sentiment, he felt the need to write a book to describe the social and cultural issues of the day to emphasize the need for reformation. This article examines the social, religious, and cultural traits of the Egyptian nation, portrayed in *Hadith Isa Ibn Hisham* by Al Muwailihi. This book shows how the people of that time became fascinated with and blinded to Western civilization. The social and cultural harms that Egypt has dealt with in this work include incapability, lack of responsibility, and oversight by government and government officials, corruption in the judiciary system, inadequate enforcement of the law, greed and avarice, thirst for popularity, extravagance and westernization in different aspects of life.

Keywords: Muwailihi, Hadith Isa Ibn Hisham, Egypt, Social and Cultural Pathology

Review of the Novel *Rostam in the 22nd Century*

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Abstract

This article is a study of *Rostam in the 22nd Century* (written in 1313 Persian calendar), a novel by Abdolhossein San'atizadeh. For this purpose, a brief introduction to San'atizadeh and his work and a summary of the story are provided. This paper then attempts to describe the sci-fi genre and its important components. Afterward, these components are presented in San'atizadeh's novel and its central theme and characteristic features are examined. Finally, the position of this work within the aforementioned literary genre and its importance in the history of Iranian story writing is determined.

Keywords: Science Fiction, Fiction, *Rostam in the 22nd Century*, Tradition and Modernity

Postmodern Cleopatra: Postmodernist Criticism of short stories *the Late Cleopatra* and *Satan's Night*

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Abstract

Historiographic metafiction and the decline of metanarrative are two important features in postmodernist stories. Writers of historiographic metafiction use historical structures such as real historical personalities and events but engage in deliberate interference so as to make the reader hesitate on deciding whether the story is based on reality or not. Postmodernists in this way draw the reader's attention to the fact that past events are unrealistic, distorted, and fictional narratives. Highlighting the crisis and decline of metanarratives is another characteristic of postmodernism, which points to the collapse of pre-existing fixed concepts. The decline of metanarratives has led to skepticism about generalizations and relativism. The postmodern view does not believe in the existence of universal truth, and instead of reiterating the continuity of existing or current patterns, it is multifaceted in nature. In the postmodern era, meta-narratives have replaced micro-narratives. In this research, we will examine the historiographic metafiction and the decline of metanarratives in two short stories, *the Late Cleopatra* and *Satan's Night* by Shiva Moghanloo.

Keywords: Postmodernism, Historiographic Metafiction, Decline Of Metanarratives, The Late Cleopatra, Satan's Night.

Reading Paradigms in *A Little Rude, Much Courteous in Mathnavi*

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Abstract

Hypertexts, both interpretive and critical, are formed around the texts, and they play a significant role in the dissemination, consolidation or distortion of the organized knowledge order. Therefore, even those hypertexts formed out of sympathy or empathy cannot be overlooked. *A Little Rude, Much Courteous in Mathnavi*, as a hypertext has described and interpreted a number of subjects in Mathnavi, claiming a triple analysis of Mathnavi and Rumi based on sympathy, contemporary readings, and debates. In order to avoid any misreading of the present article, the reading paradigms in this book have been reviewed and evaluated in the light of general reading principles and the author's claim on methodology. The result shows that the present book, despite some of its apparent attractions, contains weaknesses such as decontextualization - whether through an overlooking of the subject matter or the confusion of epistemic domains, neglecting the temporality of a dialogue between past and present, generalization as well as unnecessary wordiness as aspects of reading that each can lead to misunderstandings in some readers.

Keywords: Masnavi, Rumi, Reading Masnavi, Interpretation, *A Little Rude, Much Courteous in Mathnavi*

Which Hafiz? An Overview of *Hafiz and Russian Poets*

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Abstract

One of the broad areas of research in traditional comparative literature is the study of the influence of one poet on another in a different culture. Almost all literary influences occur through translation. The translator is a mediator between the two poets, and any study of literary influences in the realm of comparative literature would be irrelevant if the role of the translator and translation is neglected. Thus, in this line of study, one has to look at a few fundamental questions: Which translation helped the foreign poet become acquainted with this poet? Is this translation directly from the source language or through a mediator language? In what historical and discursive situations has the translator performed? How was the translation received in the target community, and what image of the poet did it create in the target community? Obviously, when it comes to the great poets of Iran and the world, such as Hafiz, we have numerous translations of Hafiz, with each translator having understood Hafez based on the frames of thought and discourses of their own time. This article is a review of *Hafiz and Russian Poets* and an analysis of the goals, method of research and findings of this book.

Keywords: Literary Influence Studies, Hafiz, Sonnet, Russian Poets, Translational Research, Comparative Literature