



A Comparative Study of the Woman's characterization in Two Short Stories: "Mashang" by Moniro Ravanipour and "Bache Mardom" by Jalal Al-e-Ahmad

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Abstract

The purpose of the present research was a comparative study of female characterization in the two short stories "Mashang"(the simpleton) by Moniro Ravanipour and "Bache Mardom" (child of the people) by Jalal Al-Ahmad. The research population was the works of Moniro Ravanipour, and Jalal Al-Ahmad, and the studied sample was the woman character in the story of Mashang and "Bache Mardom". The research design was descriptive-analytical. Data collection was done through the library method and through note card taking, and then, based on the two short studied stories, the characterization of woman by these two authors was analyzed and described. Findings showed that the story "Mashang" by Moniro Ravanipour was a successful example of female characterization in which the author addressed all the various physical, behavioral, intellectual, etc. dimensions of female identity and did not ignore any of them and the story of "Bache Mardom" by Jalal Al-Ahmad was an unsuccessful example of this type of characterization in which the author did not performed well in using the elements of the story and had often ignored the identity dimensions of the female character.



Extended abstract

Introduction: The character is the central element in the story that by removing it, other elements will lose their use and the story will not be formed. It could be said that all the elements of the story play a role in knowing more about the character. Such cognition about the character of the story is not merely understood from the action and speech of the character, but all the elements are involved in recognizing and addressing the character. Therefore, it must be said that removing the character from the story is like removing all its elements. In stories where the main characters have non-human characteristics, the character could not be omitted neither in this type of stories, rather, the objects or animals would take human characteristics and that is why they have entered the story. Literature in the past decades was based on the ideas and thoughts of male writers and they looked at women from their own point of view and created a female character in the story whose characteristics were different from the physiological, intellectual and behavioral characteristics of women and their true identity was denied in this image. Some female authors believed that literature has a masculine structure and a female personality whom was constructed and addressed according to this structural framework; a structure that saw woman not as a human being as men, but as another being; thus, in the characterization of women by men, most of the human characteristics of women were ignored. Female writers drew the attention to women as authors and they also created works that presented realistic images of women. By the entry of women's new images in the literature, the view of male writers was also altered in stories. They tried to see women from the women's own point of view and in the image that the male writers presented, they considered all aspects of her identity in order to make the female character in the story appear believable as a perfect human. Therefore, some male writers had been able to address the female character that was accurate and believable; but the prerequisite for this success in the correct addressing of female character, for both female and male writers, was the accurate knowledge of the physical, intellectual and behavioral characteristics of the character, the exact knowledge of the elements of the story.

Method: For a comparative study of female characterization in the two short stories "Mashang" by Moniro Ravanipour and "Bache Mardom" by Jalal Al-e-Ahmad, at first the background was studied and books related to the elements of fiction and characterization were also reviewed. Then, the sources and texts related to the subject of women were examined. The data was collected through library method and note card taking. Afterwards, based on these two stories, the characterization of these two authors was examined.

Results: The results indicated that The plot of "Bache Mardom" (child of the people) and "Mashang"(the simpleton) are both slices of a woman's life, but with different narrations. Al-Ahmad told the story of a frustrated and illiterate woman who had always been dependent on a man during her life. And by portraying a woman illiterate, he tried to make her irrational actions in the story believable. The woman in the story did not make much effort to keep her child and she found no other solution but to leave her child on the street and the author attributed these actions of the woman only to her ignorance. In Mshang's story, it was seen that the suffering of the protagonist was not limited to one person or men, but arised from the misconceptions that govern society. The character of Ravanipour, unlike the character of Al-Ahmad, was an educated woman whose thinking



and way of life differed from the general public and society's definition of woman. In fact, she broke down the boundaries that restricted women and, as a free human, chose a way of life that was her own choice.

Conclusions: In the story of “Bache Mardom”, the ambiguity of some of the events had led to a weakness in the plot and, consequently, a weakness in the characterization of the woman. Another issue that had plagued Al-e-Ahmad female characterization was that he did not pay attention to all aspects of a woman's personality, such as her physical, behavioral, and intellectual characteristics. Ravanipour, in comparison with Al-Ahmad, had expressed the woman's sufferings and her characteristics in a different form and in a surreal atmosphere, which was successful due to the author's knowledge of the physiological, emotional and behavioral characteristics of the character.

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