

Displays of Resistance in *al-Ushshaq* Novel by Rashad Abu-Shower

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Received:15December2018 Accepted:21January2020

Extended Abstract

1 Introduction

The most important aspect reflected by displays of resistance in the Palestinian Intifada is the will of the Palestinians (both inside and outside of text); a will that intensifies the fire and the fury in attempts to confront the enemy through its inherent properties. Following the novelist's choice of resistance as the subject, he/she would draw the events surrounding it whilst creating characters that would appeal to the reader. Accordingly, the selected subject should deal with a pivotal issue that is significant to the majority of the society and provokes their emotions. "Al-Ushshaq" Novel by Rashad Abu-Shower addresses the bitter realities of circumstances in Palestine, abandonment of daydreaming, and paving the way for protests, uprising, and Intifada. Inspired by such a setting, the novel draws an image of Palestine and other occupied lands and emphasizes determining the fate of the Palestinian nation through a single strategy, i.e. resistance and endeavors to retain the nation's identity and civilization. The present study attempts to examine displays of resistance in al-Ushshaq novel written by Rashad Abu-Shower, a contemporary Palestinian novelist, using the descriptive-analytical approach. Findings suggest the success of the writer in examining the elements of resistance in this novel, having allocated a large portion of it to the Palestinian cause and its freedom.

2 Theoretical Framework

Al-Ushshaq (1977) is Abu-Shower's third novel which tells the story of farmers' lives in caps near Jericho. His drawing of their battles shortly before the defeat in June (the Six-Day War) is done in way that the words themselves illustrate the most accurate details of Palestinians' lives. In addition to describing the awful circumstances in Palestinian camps, the writer has also addressed the issues of Palestinian residents in these camps through his roaring emotions, nationalistic sense, and the language of the sufferers. There are clear displays of Palestinian resistance in al-Ushshaq novel. These displays include freedom of the nation and defending it, achieving liberty, living with human dignity and restoration of lost rights, resistance against hunger and poverty in the society, enduring imprisonment and other means of torture, seeking martyrdom in line with realization of values, and social justice.

3 Method

The descriptive-analytical method is used for this study which is conducted via gathering data, recording information, and taking notes. The approach by which data are described and analyzed and the relation between variables and data, i.e. the components and indices of resistance in al-Ushshaq novel are examined, also describes the instances present in the novel. To this aim, a large number of resources such as the novel itself along with credible references

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in the area of resistance literature are employed. The references are available in Shahid Beheshti University library, websites and the author's personal library.

4 Results and Discussion

Al-Ushshaq novel can be considered as similar to a historical record of national protests, the characters of which is faced with a myriad of different divisions, concerns, homesickness, and sufferings experienced by all Palestinians forced out of their homes. The novel illustrates the hardships of the Palestinian society that is devoid of liberty; the novel illustrates defending the nation against invaders as well. The novel possesses an imagery of a historical fact and seeks to consolidate the belief according to which, victory belongs to steadfast free people and cannot be eradicated by the savagery of Zionists. The axis of such a resistance involves retaining the Palestinian identity, defending values, promoting people's sacrifices, believing in the ultimate victory, and defeating the invaders. Displays of sufferings experience by the Palestinians living in camps are abundant in the novel. Finally, al-Ushshaq delivers a clear picture of Palestinian men and women who fight the invaders in various Palestinian cities such as Quds, Jericho, etc., doing everything they can to realize their holy purpose that is, freedom, human dignity, and living a decent life.

5 Conclusion

According to this study, the identity crisis, losing the mother land, refuge, and displacement all take place in a historical setting and imply the legitimacy of those living in these lands. Nationalism is one of the most obvious displays of resistance in al-Ushshaq novel; here, the nation is the birthplace of the characters' dynamism and happiness and determines their stances and their fate. Moreover, it is part of the identity and existence of characters as well. The image of the martyr and seeking martyrdom in this novel are regarded as other bold, valuable displays of resistance in Palestine. Characters who believe in realization of maintaining the Palestinian identity through their inexistence somehow seek to repay their country by sacrificing themselves. In this regard, the writer follows humanistic and national purposes in his praising of martyrs; on the other hand, he seeks to provoke and persuade Palestinians to take part in revolutionary activities.

Based on the results, all Palestinian characters (men and women) are mobilized to achieve their purposes; meanwhile, the Palestinian woman is manifested in a variety of roles such as mother, sister, and martyr's daughter. Subsequently, women play an important role in the subject of Palestinian resistance. In fact, by illustrating the image of women, the writer has managed to draw the bitter reality of the Palestinian society.

Keywords: Resistance Literature, Resistance Novel, Seeking Martyrdom, Abu-Shower, al-Ushshaq Novel,

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