



The consistency of the threshold and the plot in the novel "Barid Al-Layil" by Hoda Barakat, Analytical semiotic analysis



Doi:10.22067/jallv15.i1.2209-1191



Zohreh Ghorbani Madavani¹ 

Associate Professor in Arabic Language and Literature, Allameh Tabataba'i University,
Tehran, Iran

Zahra Soleimani 

PhD Candidate in Arabic Language and Literature, Tarbiat Modares University, Tehran, Iran

Received: 13 October 2022 | Received in revised form: 6 December 2022 | Accepted: 12 February 2023

Abstract

It is necessary for the narrator to take advantage of techniques that help him write the novel and find consistency and coherence between form and content. The more consistent this is, the more successful the writer will be. Hoda Barakat utilizes the art of correspondence to outline the exciting and tragic plot in "The Barid Al-Layil". The narration is obscure and lacks clarity, as the reader never sees a known name for the protagonist. Everything is shrouded in darkness and separation, much like the night of vagrants - a story of those who have no time, place, or possessions. What captures the recipient's attention is how all textual elements such as titles, colors, cover, and other thresholds harmonize with the plot and serve its content. The writer's ingenuity is evident in this consistency that we see between form and content in her novel, creating an integrated fabric. This research, using a descriptive-analytical approach, studies the appropriateness between textual elements and the plot to unravel the mysteries of this correspondence novel and guide critics towards a more accurate and thoughtful review process. The textual elements studied in this article include the cover, colors, headline, sub-headings, and introduction. The research findings reveal that through a complex and disjointed plot without a clear resolution, Barakat alludes to complex crises in Arab countries that are not easily resolved. The reader must analyze the unsolved riddles presented by Barakat, fostering interaction between writer and reader while reducing the author's dominance over the text. The title of the novel, the cover, and the colors used on the cover all guide the reader to what will happen in the letters of disappointment. Barakat utilizes the duality of disappointment and hope in both the threshold and the plot to achieve her goals in writing "The Barid Al-Layil". It is as if she wants to confirm that there is no impact of dialogue and interaction in such a society. Those who reside in this society do not desire communication, not even through a message..

Keywords: Hoda Barakat, novel, Barid Al-Layil, threshold, plot.

¹. Corresponding author: zghorbani@atu.ac.ir



References

- Abedi, D.(1992). *A Bridge to Story Writing*, Tehran: Borhan School Publications.[In Persian].
- Al-Harbi, M. (2020). "The Narrative Structure and Patterns of Reception in the Novel Barid Al-Layil by Huda Barakat", *Journal of Educational Sciences and Human Studies*. 5(10),127-152. [In Arabic].
- Ahmadi, M. & F. Chelenia. (2020). "Analysis of Hamidreza Mohajerani's translation of the novel "Barid al-Layil" based on Antoine Berman's theory", *Journal of Translation Studies in Arabic Language and Literature*.
Accepted.(Doi:10.22054/rctall.2021.58964.1540) [In Persian].
- Al-Jazzar, M. F. (1998). *Title and Semiotics of Literary Communication*, Cairo: The Egyptian General Book Authority,1998. [In Arabic].
- Akbarizadeh, F. & Y. Shadman. (2020). "Criticism of the translation of the "multilingual" style in three Persian translations of Post Shabana", *Journal of Translation Studies in Arabic Language and Literature*. Accepted.
(Doi:10.22054/rctall.2022.63765.1581) [In Persian].
- Al-Saeedi, M. R. (2021). *Resistance to Life - Artistic Construction, Vision and Significance in the Novel (The Night Post)*, Nineveh House. [In Arabic].
- Azarshab, M. A. Amin Moghadasi,A.Niazee,S.(2018), Semiotics of the Title of the Ode (Hoffaron alla yaghut e al-arsh) Written by Mohammad Ali Shams al-Din, *Journal of Arabic Language and Literature*, 9(16), 1-26.
Doi:10.22067/jall.v8i16.62327
- Barakat, H.(2018). *Bareed Al-Layl, 1st Edition*, Beirut: Dar Al-Adab for Publishing and Distribution. [In Arabic].
- Belabed, A. A.(2015). (*Gerard Gent, from the text to the manas*), Algeria: Publications of Difference. [In Arabic].
- Belal, A. al.R.(2000). *Introduction to the Thresholds of the Text (A Study of the Introductions to Old Arabic Criticism)*, Beirut: East Africa. [In Arabic].
- Block, Lawrence. (2009). *writing the novel from plot to printing*, translated by: Sabri Mohamed Hassan, Cairo: Dar Al-Jumhuriya Press.
- Bougherra, I. & N. Belkacem. & W. Al-Arabi .(2019). *The structure of the character in the novel "The Barid Al-layil- Mail" by Hoda Barakat*. University Thesis. Akli Mohand Oulhaj University - Bouira. People's Democratic Republic of Algeria. [In Arabic].
- Chris, Nancy. (2009 AD). *Novel writing techniques*. Translated by Zeina Jaber Idris. I 1. Beirut: Arab House for Science.
- Farsi,B & Sayadani, A.(2016) A Semiotic Study of the Titles of 'The Cairo Trilogy' by Naguib Mahfouz, *Journal of Arabic Language and Literature*, 8(15),157-182. [In Persian] Doi:10.22067/JALL.V8I15.49109
- Forster, Edward Morgan. (1990). *Aspects of the novel*. Translation: Ebrahim Yunsi. Tehran: Look.
- Ganji, N.& el. (2010). "Lexical and idiomatic study of plot and its structural elements in Persian and Arabic", *Linguistics of Al-Zahra University*, 1(2), 131-172. [In Persian].
Doi: 10.22051/jlr.2014.1045
- Ghorabi, s. & D. Nadia. (2019). *The aesthetics of narrating messages in Hoda Barakat's*



- novel " *Barid Al-Layil* ". University thesis. Mohamed Boudiaf University. People's Democratic Republic of Algeria. [In Arabic].
- Hamdawi, J.(2020). *The Poetry of Parallel Text (Literary Text Thresholds)*, 2nd Edition, Kingdom of Morocco: Dar Al-Reef. [In Arabic].
- Jarayniyeh, I.(2014). *Textual thresholds in Hilabil's novel by Samir Qasimi*, university thesis, Muhammad Khaider University. [In Arabic].
- Kanan, K.(2016). *Textual thresholds in the novel of ceremonies and funerals by Bashir Mufti*, a cinematic approach, a thesis, University of Abd al-Rahman Mira Bejaia.[In Arabic].
- Khodvardi, S. &. M. Jalai.&. A. Hossein Rasul Nia (1400). "Manifestations of al-Mitasard in the novel of Barid Al-Layil Lahdi Barakat", *Lesan Mobin magazine*. 12 (44). 53-70.(Doi:10.30479/lm.2021.13827.3080) .[In Arabic].
- Lamouri, Z.(2007). "On Receiving the Procedural Critical Terminology", *Al-mostalah magazine*, Issue 6, 155-170. [In Arabic].
- Maskin, H.(2013). *Title Poetry in Contemporary Algerian Poetry, Thesis, University of Oran-Sania*, People's Democratic Republic of Algeria. [In Arabic].
- Mirsadeghi, J.(2014). *Story Recognition*, Tehran: Negah Publishing Institute. [In Persian].
- Najm, M. Y.(1996). *The Art of the Story, 1st Edition, Beirut*: Dar Sader for Printing and Publishing. [In Arabic].
- Ocean, L. &.R. Khairat.(2017). *the structure of the plot in the novel The Game of Happiness by Bashir Mufti*, university thesis, Akli Mohand Oulhaj University - Bouira - People's Democratic Republic of Algeria. [In Arabic].
- Omar, A. M.(1997). *Language and Color*, 2nd Edition, Cairo: The World of Books for Publishing and Distribution. [In Arabic].
- Salehi, P.(2016). "Studying the narrative elements in the short story collection, The Notorious House of Naguib Mahfouz," *Journal of Studies in Arabic Language and Literature*, No. 22, 61-90. DOI:10.22075/LASEM.2017.1490). [In Arabic].
- Shahrastani, A. (2022). "Comparative study of the image of the nation in the story of the loss of spouses" by Sadiq Hedayat and the novel " Barid Al-Layil " by *Lahdi Barakat*. *Research paper of comparative literature*.
accepted (Doi:10.22126/JCCL.2021.6537.2270) . [In Arabic].
- Wadi, T.(1994). *Studies in Criticism of the Novel*, 3rd Edition, Cairo: Dar Al-Maarif. [In Arabic].
- Younesi, E.(2005). *The Art of Fiction, Ch 8*, Tehran: Agah Publishing Institute, Tehran. [In Persian].
- Zawi, S.(2015). *Textual thresholds in the novel The Butterfly Kingdom of Wassini al-Araj*, University Thesis, Larbi Ben M'hidi University, People's Democratic Republic of Algeria. [In Arabic].