

Analyzing the elements of Sternberg's triangular theory of love in the book "Toq al-Hamama" by Ibn Hazm al-Andalusi



Doi: 10.22067/jallv16.i2. 2408-1449



Hasan Esmailzade Bavani¹ 

Associate Professor of Arabic Language and Literature, Azarbaijan Shahid Madani
University, Tabriz, Iran

Abdolmobin Souri 

PhD student, Department of Arabic Language and Literature, Azarbaijan Shahid Madani
University, Tabriz, Iran

Received: 16 July 2024 ■ Received in revised form: 16 September 2024 ■ Accepted: 21 September 2024

Abstract

Many scholars have explored the concept of love throughout history, but one of its earliest and most profound analysts was Ibn Hazm, the Andalusian writer, jurist, and philosopher. A polymath well-versed in all the sciences of his time, Ibn Hazm addressed the subject of love in his book *Tawq al-Hamama* (The Ring of the Dove) with unprecedented psychological insight. He structured his work into thirty chapters, each meticulously titled and analyzed, offering a comprehensive examination of love's various dimensions. Centuries later, psychologist Robert Sternberg, former president of the American Psychological Association, proposed his Triangular Theory of Love, defining love as an interplay of three core components: intimacy, passion, and commitment. The dynamic relationship between these elements gives rise to different forms of love. Despite the richness of Arabic literary discourse on the psychology of love, this subject has not yet been sufficiently explored through modern theoretical frameworks. To bridge this gap, the present study applies Sternberg's theory—which notably aligns with many of Ibn Hazm's observations—to *Tawq al-Hamama* in an analytical-descriptive manner. This article seeks to answer two key questions: 1. Which of Sternberg's three components (intimacy, passion, commitment) are present in *Tawq al-Hamama*? 2. Which of these elements appears most frequently? Through textual analysis, the study examines Ibn Hazm's typology of love, its causes, and its challenges, drawing on his personal experiences and anecdotes. The findings reveal that all three components of Sternberg's triangle—intimacy, desire (passion), and commitment—are prominently featured in *Tawq al-Hamama*, expressed through poetic narratives, prose, and introspective reflections. Additionally, the research highlights the adaptability of Sternberg's theory to Ibn Hazm's work, while also identifying mania obsessive love) and ideal love as the most recurrent themes in the text.

Key words: Ibn Hazm, Toq al-Hamama, Sternberg, Love triangle.

References

Holy Quran

1. Responsible author Email: h.esmailzade@gmail.com



- Abu Ali Sina, H, A, (1991). *Law in Medicine*. Translated by: Abdolrahman Sharafkandi. Vol. 4. Sixth edition. Tehran: Soroush. [In Persian]
- Ghaibi, A. (2013). "The sparks of chastity in the romances of Ibrahim Naji". *Journal of Arabic Language and Literature*.4(7)128-149.[InPersian]. Doi: 10.22067/JALL.V4I7.1980
- Hamidi. M. (1983). *Juzwa al-Muqtabas in the history of the scholars of Andalusia*. Research: Ibrahim Abiari. Beirut: Dar al-Kitab Lebanese. [In Arabic]
- Ibn Dawood. Z. (1985). *al-Zahrah*. research: Ibrahim al-Samrai. part 8. Jordan: Al-Manar library. [In Arabic]
- Ibn Hazm. A. (2005), *Tawq al-Hamamah. The research of Ibrahim Arabi Agha*. volume 1. Beirut: Dar al-Arqam [In Arabic].
- Ibn Kathir. (1988). *al-Badaiya and al-Nahaiya*. Research by Ali Shiri. Vol.1. , Dar Al-Ahya al-Torath al-Arabi. [In Arabic]
- Ibn Khalqan. (1994). *Deaths of Al-A'iyar*. research by Ehsan Abbas. vol.3. vol.1. Beirut: Dar Sadir. [In Arabic]
- Ibrahim. Z. (1966). *The problem of al-Hab. Philosophical problems collection*. Volume 3. Ibn Hazm Al-Andalusi. Al-Dar al-Masri. [In Arabic]
- Majd. A. Majd. P. (2013). Sternberg's love triangle theory and its adaptation to Saadi's ideas. *Women in Culture and Art Magazine*. 2(4)81-89. [In Persian]
- Mohammadzadeh, F & Abdullahi.H (2014). "A Comparative Study of the Themes of Excused Love in "Layla and Majnun" and "Urwah and Afra" *Journal of Arabic Language and Literature*. 6(11). 103-121. [In Persian] Doi:10.22067/jall.v6i11.18025
- Nave. A. poureza Qoli. M. (2016). Theoretical explanation of love in the moral thoughts of Ibn-Maskuyeh and Ibn-Hazm. *Research Journal of Islamic Religions*. 4(8)63-83 [In Persian]
- Rashidi. Z. (2019) Investigation of the components of love in Suvshon's novel based on Robert Sternberg's love triangle theory. *Razi University Fiction Literature Research Journal*. 9(1). 43-60. [In Arabic]
- Rasouli. M. Kiyomurthi.P. (2018). Examining the concept of love from Robert Sternberg's point of view in the story of "Sheikh Sanaan" by Attar and the fantasy play of Sheikh Sanaan by Mohammad Hossein Maimandi. *Mystical Literature and Mythology Quarterly Q* 15(54)109-133. [In Persian]
- Saad. M. (2013). The Theory of Al-Hab Al-Husani in the Book of Toq al-Hamamah. *JSAD*. 8(8). 1189-1374. [In Arabic] Doi: 10.21608/jsad.2013.17077
- Shultz. P. Shultz. S. (1389). *Personality Theories*. translated by: Yahya Seyed Mohammadi. 8th edition. 17th edition.Tehran: Virayesh. [In Persian]
- Sir Al-Ali. M. (2020). *Al-Hab in the short story of Asaad Zojin Latufiq Al-Hakim by Robert Sternberg*. Bachelor's degree. Maulana Malik Ebrahim Islamic University of Malang. [In Arabic]
- Sternberg. R. (2016). *The Story of Love*. Translated by Ali Asghar Bahrami. 7th edition. Tehran: Javane Rushd Publications. [In Persian]
- _____ (2016) *Love Story*. Translated by Mojgan Jamali. First edition. Tehran: Katibeh Parsi.. [In Persian]
- Talebi. A. Vaisi.S (2012). The relationship between romantic love and the realization of marital values. *Women's Strategic Studies Quarterly*. 14(56).247-283. [In Persian]
- Tehranpour. L. (2007). *Critical Philosophy of Love*. Book Review. No. 43. [In Persian]
- Vajiheh. Soroush & Amiri,J & Salimi,A & Marouf,Y. (2022). Investigation of emotional relationships in two novels "Anna Ahia" and "Adat MiKonim" based on Sternberg's love pyramid theory. *Journal of Arabic Language & Literature*, 14(3) 84-99
Doi: 10.22067/jallv14.i3. 2209-1188