

Analysis of the Narrative Mode in the Novel Taif Aneen Al-Nay by Maha Qasrawi

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Introduction

This study analyzes the narrative focalization in the novel *Tayf Aneen Al-Nay* by Maha Hasan Yusuf Qasrawi, focusing on how the author employs variable internal focalization to depict the complexities of individual and collective Palestinian experiences. The novel is set against the backdrop of significant socio-political upheavals in the Arab world, such as the Gulf War and the fall of Baghdad, which deeply affected Arab identity and social fabric (Qasrawi, 2016). By exploring the dual perspectives of the protagonists Khaled and Tayf, the narrative transcends personal trauma to engage with collective memory and political awareness. Drawing on Gérard Genette's narrative theory, especially concepts of narrative voice and focalization, this research aims to reveal how different modes of narration contribute to a layered and polyphonic storytelling style that reflects both historical events and emotional realities (Genette, 1398sh). The study also situates the novel within the tradition of Arabic postcolonial literature, where fragmented narrative structures often mirror the fractured identity of marginalized communities (Dazfulian & Moloodi, 1390sh).

Methodology

The methodology is grounded in qualitative narrative analysis, guided by Gérard Genette's narratological framework (Genette, 1398sh). This includes the examination of narrative modes, types of speech (direct, indirect, and free indirect discourse), and shifts in internal focalization between the first-person narrators Khaled and Tayf. Textual instances from the novel were systematically coded to identify patterns in narrative voice and temporal sequencing, with special attention to how stream-of-consciousness techniques contribute to the representation of memory and trauma (Taslimi & Mobaraki, 1393sh). The study also integrates perspectives from contemporary narrative theorists and scholars of Arabic literature to contextualize findings within broader literary and cultural debates (Haji Agha Babaei, 1398sh; Raymon-

Kenan, 1387sh). This approach allows for an in-depth exploration of how individual and collective experiences are articulated through shifting focalizers, revealing the tensions between personal and social histories.

Results and Discussion

The analysis shows that Tayf Aneen Al-Nay primarily employs variable internal focalization through the alternating first-person narrators Khaled and Tayf, each representing different emotional and ideological standpoints. Khaled's perspective foregrounds personal introspection and romantic themes, while Tayf's narrative focuses on socio-political issues such as occupation, exile, and resistance (Qasrawi, 2016). This dual focalization generates a polyphonic narrative, enabling the novel to address multiple layers of meaning and engage the reader in a dialogic process. The use of direct speech and free indirect discourse enhances the immediacy and authenticity of the characters' inner experiences, encouraging empathy and deeper engagement (Genette, 1398sh). Moreover, the novel disrupts linear temporality through stream-of-consciousness and memory flashbacks, reflecting the fragmented and nonlinear nature of traumatic recollection (Dazfulian & Moloodi, 1390sh). This narrative fragmentation mirrors the instability of Palestinian identity in the face of historical violence and displacement. The shifting perspectives also challenge singular historical narratives, promoting a more complex understanding of social and political realities (Saedi, 1393sh). The result is a richly textured narrative that situates personal pain within collective struggles, amplifying the novel's political and emotional resonance.

Conclusion

In conclusion, the study highlights how variable internal focalization functions as a powerful narrative tool in Tayf Aneen Al-Nay to portray the intersecting layers of personal and collective memory. By alternating between Khaled and Tayf's viewpoints, the novel breaks away from linear, monologic storytelling and instead offers a dialogic, multi-voiced exploration of Palestinian identity, trauma, and resistance. The application of Genette's narratological concepts confirms that the interplay of direct, indirect, and free indirect discourse, combined with stream-of-consciousness techniques, effectively captures the complexity of lived experiences amid socio-political turmoil. This multifaceted narrative strategy not only enhances psychological realism but also enables the novel to serve as a vehicle for historical testimony and cultural critique. The findings suggest that narrative multiplicity and polyphony are essential in representing the contested histories and identities inherent in postcolonial Arabic literature. Future research might further explore such narrative structures across contemporary Middle Eastern narratives to deepen understanding of trauma and identity in literary discourse.

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