

STAGES OF DEVELOPMENT OF THE NOVEL GENRE IN OMAN LITERATURE

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Annotation

The 20th century is of particular importance in Arab literature, which has ancient historical roots. This is because during this period, unprecedented economic development took place in the Gulf region. This development had a positive impact on a number of areas. Of course, this did not bypass culture, especially literature. Against the background of these upsurges in society, the Gulf countries had the opportunity to enjoy the artistic achievements of world literature, the experiences of classical and modern creators.

20th-century Arab literature began to develop as part of world literature. Writers began to truthfully describe social, political, and spiritual problems in life. In addition, while previously the main characters of literary works were rulers and people with extraordinary qualities, by this time literary characters were selected from among ordinary people. Thus, in the second half of the 20th century, the novel entered the literature of Oman, one of the Gulf countries, as an independent literary genre.

This article studies the emergence and development of the novel in the Sultanate of Oman, one of the Gulf countries. In addition, the article discusses in detail several writers who contributed to the development of the genre in Omani literature and their novels. At the same time, the novels listed in the scientific work are analyzed in detail from an ideological and artistic perspective.

Keywords: *Omani literature (1980s-1990s), the emergence of the novel genre, the novel genre, novelist writers, poets who worked in prose.*

Introduction: The economic and social life of the early last century brought about a fundamental change in Omani literature. This idea can be explained by the increase in the number of authors working in the novel genre in literature. They gave a completely new spirit to the novel genre in literature, as well as gave it a form characteristic of Arabic literature. Of course, some of these authors first started writing novels, others worked in the short story genre,

and then tried their hand at the novel genre, and another group of writers moved to this genre from the field of poetry. These authors have adapted to the nature of the novel in recent years and have begun to find their place in the prose space. This was an important phenomenon, indicating that many poets continued their work in prose, but this process did not last long. Only a few writers of the 1980s and 1990s continued to write in the novel genre, while the rest of the writers left this literary field for various reasons. It is worth noting that novels were a minority in Omani literature in the 1980s and 1990s. There were a number of reasons for this acceleration in the novel, the most important of which are: firstly, the late formation and development of the Omani state, which was consistent with the concept of a modern city. After all, Omani novels usually depict city life. Secondly, the dominance of poetry in the Omani literary field, its role in shaping literary taste, and the fact that it did not allow thinking about other literary genres for a long time were also important reasons. In addition, the generally peaceful and calm nature of Omani life was also one of the factors that influenced this process.

The absence of major events that would have caused the novel to stand out from other dominant genres is also an important factor. This process, of course, did not last long. Later, new conditions arose that paved the way for the formation of the novel genre as an independent genre, which had a significant impact on the development of Omani novelism. As a result, the number of novels increased, and this process began to develop rapidly in Omani literature. In this way, the novel began to play an important role in breaking down the previously dominant stylistic peculiarities. It is worth noting here that the novels of this stage were formed due to the author's active interaction with the achievements of Arab and world novelism. As a result, many works approached the form of a true novel, and some even surpassed similar novel models of their time.

Indeed, due to the lack of scientific observations and research on the chronological study of Omani novels, a thorough study of all novels published since 2000 has been one of the urgent and unresolved problems facing Omani literature. For this reason, researching this work is considered a somewhat difficult and laborious task. Of course, such an observation cannot be completely free from errors, because some novels have been left out of the spotlight, which may actually have been worthy of scientific observation.

At the same time, the novel genre in Omani literature is leading in accurately expressing the spirit of a new era in the region. In this regard, the establishment of sincere ties with the literature of neighboring countries, as well as world literature, plays an important role in the

rapid development of this literature. Below, we will talk about writers who have made invaluable contributions to the development of the novel genre in Omani literature.

Main part: One of the favorite novelists of Omani readers is undoubtedly Hussein Al-Abri. Indeed, the writer's passion for creativity was formed very early. The writer began writing short stories while studying at university. He also published several of his stories in large and small newspapers and magazines.

Finally, in 2001, Hussein Al-Abri published his first novel, "Diyazibam", and thus entered the field of Omani novelism, but this novel did not bring fame to the writer. After a short break, the writer published his second novel, "Alwaz" ("The Stinger") in 2006. This time, the writer was able to demonstrate his true novelist qualities through the novel and won the love of readers, both young and old. Importantly, this novel has been described by some critics as a biography in the form of a novel. The novel was banned for a while before its publication, which can be explained by the fact that Hussein al-Abri covered the events of the "secret organization" that took place in 2005 and the efforts to restore the Imamate of Oman. After that, the writer published his third novel, "The Last Hanged" in 2008, and his fourth novel, "The Red and the Yellow", in 2010. In recent years, the writer has published another novel, "The Ship of Fools" (2015).

Another famous writer who has made a significant contribution to the development of novel writing in Omani literature is Muhammad ibn Eid al-Ariymi. The writer's life has been marked by many unexpected accidents. One of these was when the author got into a traffic accident while going to work at one of the oil fields in Oman, which left him paralyzed for a while.

Muhammad ibn Eid al-Ariymi published his autobiography, *The Taste of Patience*, in 2001. In this novel, he describes the disability he suffered as a result of a traffic accident in 1981 and which lasted for almost twenty years. After that, he published his second novel, *The Joined Chain*, in 2005. Soon after, Muhammad ibn Eid al-Ariymi published his third novel, *Between the Desert and the Water* (2008). Later, the writer presented another novel, *Stories about Yunus Khayim* (2014), to his readers.

Muhammad ibn Eid al-Ariymi not only wrote novels. Many of the author's literary and scientific articles, as well as several short stories, were published in large and small Arab newspapers and magazines.

Another writer who was as prolific as Muhammad ibn Eid al-Ariymi is Ali al-Ma'mari. It is worth noting that Ali al-Ma'mari is respected as a true expert in Omani literature, one of the creators with his own voice and direction.

The writer entered literature by writing short stories. He published his first novel under the title "The Last Horizons of Desire" in 1999. After a short period, in 2003, he published his second novel "Khattar Hill", demonstrating his efforts in the path of novel writing. The pinnacle of Ali al-Ma'mari's work is considered to be the novel "The Whisper of Bridges", published in 2007. It is important to note that despite the fact that the writer had published two novels before, literary critics recognize the novel "The Whisper of Bridges" as the pinnacle of his creative perfection. It is worth noting that the scholar al-Musawi assessed the work as the beginning of a new stage of novel writing in Omani literature. After a short break, the writer completed his next novel, "Ibn Sul'a", in 2010. This work was awarded the "Best Omani Novel" award in the 2011 competition held by the Youth Association.

As noted above, Ali al-Ma'mari is one of the important figures in the history of Omani literature. He not only enriched literature with his works, but also actively participated in large and small public events. In addition, he was a deep and thorough expert on the history of Arab countries. Of course, he used this knowledge in his large and small works. Unfortunately, the artist died in January 2013 at the age of 55 after a long illness.

Another promising representative of modern Omani literature is Muhammad ibn Saif al-Rahbi, who has established himself in the literary world with his novels. He published three collections of short stories in the nineties of the last century. He published his first novel in 2005 under the title "The Journey of Abu Zayd al-Ummami". Later, in 2008, he published his second novel, "Al-Hasht" ("The Game"), which depicts a shocking reality. Three years later, in 2011, he presented his third novel, "The Gentleman Passed Here," to his readers. The writer continued to create novels. In 2014, he presented his fourth novel, "Al-Shuwayra," which covers the theme of the outcasts of society, at the Muscat Book Fair.

Muhammad ibn Saif al-Rahbi's novels are among the masterpieces of Omani literature. These thoughts are confirmed by several awards received by the writer. In particular, the writer's novel "The Gentleman Passed Here" won the Sharjah Arab Creativity Award. The novel "Alhasht" ("The Game") received the prestigious award of the Omani Writers' Association. Indeed, Muhammad ibn Saif al-Rahbi is one of the most versatile creators of Omani literature. Before writing novels, he presented his readers with dozens of short stories, short stories. The writer's collection of stories "The Wind Said" was awarded the "Best Publication" award in the

Oman Cultural Week and the "For Storytelling" award in the competition held by the Department of Culture.

Another writer who has made an invaluable contribution to the development of the novel genre in Omani literature is Khalid al-Kindi. The writer has published many series of novels, and his first novel, "Battle of Minds," was published in 2010. This novel is a detective story that includes events that take place in rural life. In the novel, the author was able to fully demonstrate his true talent and artistic skills. The fact that he describes the complex situations between the main and secondary characters in the work without any deviations is a clear proof of this.

Khalid al-Kindi continued on his chosen path and presented several more novels to his readers one after another after his first novel. The novel written by the creator in 2012 in the fantasy genre entitled "The Mother of Duwais" is one of them. This work also won the love of both young and old. These years were fruitful creative years for Khalid al-Kindi. A year after the novel "The Mother of Duwais", the writer published the novel "Alqofir", and in 2014 he published his last novel, "The Anger of the Wolf". These works clearly demonstrate the writer's high artistic taste and style. At the same time, they have both a moral-educational and educational orientation. In addition, the writer effectively used examples of Omani folk oral literature, in particular fairy tales, in his novels.

Indeed, in recent years, the Omani novelist scene, as in other Arab countries, has seen a surge in the number of poets writing in the novel genre. Several poets have preferred prose to verse. Examples include Saif al-Rahbi, Sama Isa, Zahir al-Ghafiri, and Salih al-Amari. For example, al-Rahbi began his prose career with an autobiographical work called "The Houses of the First Steps" and concluded it with his diaries titled "From the East to the West" in 2013. However, his prose work has not been in the form of novels, but in other genres. Some other poets have not followed this path, but have gone straight to writing novels. One such writer is Muhammad al-Harithi.

The writer presented his first novel, "Editing the Manuscript," to readers in 2013. Although the title of this work seems like an unusual, non-literary title for a poet, the work clearly demonstrates the author's knowledge of geology and fossils.

Another writer who gained fame in poetry, but also tried his hand at prose, is Zahran al-Qasimi. Initially, the writer began his work with small poems, and later he also tried his hand at the novel genre, presenting his two novels, "The Mountain of the Street" (2013) and "The Hunter" (2014), one after the other. Indeed, "The Mountain of the Street" became a real source

of experience for the writer. After all, many of the shortcomings made by the author in the first novel were eliminated in his next novel. This can be explained by the warm reception of the writer's second novel by readers. Another important aspect is that the idea of the novel "The Hunter" is built around the concept of a dream. In addition, in both of the author's novels, attention to the images of mountainous landscapes plays an important role.

Another writer who has taken his place in Omani literature is Ibrahim Said, who published his novel "Hamdiy, the Blind Poet" in 2014. The writer combined prose and poetry in this work, or rather, he was able to harmoniously express the story and poetry in the novel.

Conclusion: In general, as the novel developed as an independent genre in Omani literature, it began to truly reflect the upsurge taking place in the region. Important events in all aspects of the multifaceted life found their true expression through this genre. The novels created in recent years and reviewed above can serve as a vivid example of these ideas. At the same time, as the number of novels increased, in addition to the renewal in their subject matter and ideological content, significant changes also occurred among the images. Through these images, the attempt to reveal the noble qualities of people, their creativity, creative activity, reforms taking place in society and economic upsurges increased in literature. In addition, socio-political events that occurred in the distant and recent past did not go unnoticed by the writers. The authors' attempts to truthfully portray reality and reveal the characters of the characters, their aspirations to educate people in a spirit of goodness, patriotism, people-orientedness, high morality, and at the same time to give them aesthetic pleasure have intensified.

Therefore, although the formation of the novel in Omani literature dates back to the recent past, it has been the focus of attention of literary critics with its rapid development to this day. Indeed, the novel, which has grown in the wake of economic growth, has become one of the favorite genres of writers today. These thoughts can be explained by the increasing number of novels in literature in recent years. Of course, in-depth study of these works and scientific observations on them are one of the urgent issues facing not only Omani literature, but also world literature.

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