

The Years of Naguib Mahfouz: Beginnings and Endings) by Muhammad Shair

(A Study in the light of structural structuralism and genetics)

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Abstract

This study works on approaching the critical experience of the writer Muhammad Shuair in his book (The Years of Naguib Mahfouz: Beginnings and Endings) and trying to reveal the features of this research and critical experience in it. Barely moves in a critical space that may seem new, as it combines the history of literature and the approach to texts, which is historically different because it is largely of spontaneous and instinctive critical awareness that applies a practice closer to formative structuralism, and this is what will become clear from our study. His novels and his creative experience in general are within the framework of researching the social and cultural systems that paved the way for his emergence or paved the way for his realization as a complete literary phenomenon, which represents and embodies the pinnacle of Arab novelist creativity and achieves the aspiration of an entire culture to have its own fictional art that is no different from that of other nations and cultures. It also included in the research the social and cultural systems surrounding the phenomenon, another new dimension, which is the research in the life of the author and included his biography - for the first time - within the framework of Naguib Mahfouz's approach as a creative phenomenon, and within the framework of the approach of his texts, and the biography and the author's neglect are the turning point between Criticism of modernity and postmodernism. Structuralism completely neglected the author and dealt with the text as a closed universe with its own rules and internal laws, while the shift in post-structuralism was in returning to the author, especially in formative structuralism and genealogy that researched the originator of the discourse or its producer, and attached great importance to the author. And she believed that research surrounding the originator of the discourse or its point of departure is a necessary and inevitable entry point for understanding the discourse, which was achieved in the proposal of Michel Foucault and those who followed him in genealogy and developed the theory as a method for analyzing discourse.