

Development of Awareness:

The Power of Society and Men in the Saudi Women's novel (1958 – 2011)

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Abstract

This thesis investigates two of the most important themes concerning women's problems that have been tackled by Saudi female novelists between 1958-2011 with special attention to the development of their thoughts about the issues from stage to stage. To investigate the two powers over women explored in Saudi women's novels, the works have been divided into four separate and important stages and each stage has its own thematic and stylistic characteristics.

The thesis consists of seven chapters starting with an Introduction, in which the importance of studying the subject is detailed; the theoretical framework and the methodology of this study is also discussed. A section is devoted to reviewing previous studies of the Saudi novel in general, as well as studies published on the women's novel. The status of women in Saudi society is discussed in Chapter Two which covers the structure of Saudi society, women's education, women's employment and the effects on the status of women in Saudi Arabia of the events of September 11th, 2001.

The other four chapters are divided according to the stages of development of Saudi women's novels. In each chapter, two novels are analysed: the first novel represents the first theme examined in the thesis, which is the authority of society over women. The second novel represents the second theme, which is the Saudi novelists' vision regarding the relationships between the sexes in Saudi society. In addition, a section in each chapter is devoted to an examination of the characteristic of the themes in each stage by comparing and contrasting sample novels with the case study novels. The conclusion summarises the most important points of this research with reference to the findings of this study. It also suggests some further research in the field of Saudi literature.

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Dedication

It is a pleasure and an honour, for me, to present this thesis.

To my mother Lolo, my father Abdulaziz, my wife Bassmah and my children.

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Table of Contents

Abstract.....	2
Acknowledgement.....	3
Dedication.....	4
Table of Contents.....	5
Transliteration.....	7
Abbreviations.....	8
Chapter One: The Social Status of Women in Saudi Arabia.....	9
1. Introduction.....	9
2. The status of women in the structure of Saudi society.....	11
3. Intellectual Life and Women in Saudi Arabia.....	13
4. Women's Education.....	18
4.1. Teaching in Kuttābs.....	19
4.2. Organised Private Education.....	20
4.3. Formal Education for Women.....	22
4.4. Women's higher education:.....	26
5. Women's employment.....	28
6. The Effects of the Events of September 11th, 2001, on the Status of Women in Saudi Arabia.....	29
7. Conclusion.....	34
Chapter Two: Introduction.....	36
1. Hypothesis.....	36
2. The importance of studying this subject.....	36
3. Theoretical framework.....	38
4. The methodology of the study.....	41
5. Literature review.....	44
5.1. The Saudi novel.....	44
5.2. Critique of the Women's Novel.....	49
5.3. The academic lectures.....	60
6. The structure of this study.....	61
Chapter Three: First stage: The Early Beginnings (1958-1979).....	64
1. Introduction.....	64
2. Women's Novels Published in This Stage.....	69
3. The Most Prominent Women's Issues in the Novels of the Early Stage.....	70
3.1. The Power of Men and the Weakness of Women.....	70
3.2. The Issue of Marriage.....	83
4. Comparisons and Contrasts.....	94
5. Conclusion.....	101
Chapter Four: The Establishment of the Saudi Women's Novel (1980-1989).....	103
1. Introduction.....	103
2. The most prominent women's issues in the novel in this stage.....	106
2.1. Women's right to see their children after divorce.....	106
2.2. The emotional traumas that cause relationships break down.....	114
3. Comparisons and Contrasts.....	122
4. Conclusion.....	132
Chapter Five: The Coming of Age of the Saudi Women's Novel (1990-2001).....	134

1. Introduction.....	134
2. The Most Prominent Women’s Issues in the Novels of the Coming of Age Stage...137	
3.1. The Search for Freedom.....	137
3.2. Women’s Betrayal.....	153
3. Comparisons and Contrasts.....	168
4. Conclusion.....	179
Chapter six: Popularisation of the Saudi Women’s Novel (2002-2011).....	181
1. Introduction.....	181
2. The Most Prominent Women’s Issues in the Novels of Popularity and Extension...184	
2.1. Women’s Self-proving.....	184
2.2. The Effects of the Tribal System on the Formation of the Relationships between the Two Sexes.....	200
3. Comparisons and contrasts.....	213
4. Conclusion.....	231
Chapter Seven: Conclusion.....	233
1. Primary Sources.....	241
2. Secondary Sources.....	242
3. Unpublished thesis.....	246
4. Electronic Sites.....	247
Appendix.....	249
Diagram No.1: The Power of Society.....	249
Diagram No.2: The Power of Men.....	250
Diagram No.3: Style with Reference to the Power of Society and the Power of Men.....	251
B. Tables.....	252
1- The novels published at the First stage: the Early beginnings of Saudi women’s novel.....	252
2- The novels published at the Second stage: the Establishment of Saudi women’s novel.....	252
3- The novels published at the third stage: the Coming of Age of Saudi Women’s Novel.....	253
4- The novels published at the fourth stage: the Popluarisation of Saudi Women’s Novel.....	254