

Comparative study of the character element in Tawfiq al-Hakim's *Ahd Alshaytan* and Goethe's *Faust*

Yosra SHADMAN*

Assistant Professor of Arabic Language and Literature University of Al-Zahra,
Tehran, Iran

Reza NAZEMIAN**

Professor of Arabic Language and Literature at Allameh Tabataba'i University,
Tehran, Iran

(Received: ۱۳th, February, ۲۰۱۸ Accepted: ۲۴th, November, ۲۰۱۸ Date of publication: June, ۲۰۱۹)

"Comparative literature" is the (study of the links and the literature interaction in different languages and the study of the impact of these interactions. Comparative literature is an interdisciplinary research that studies the relationship between the literatures of different nations and considers the relationship among literature, arts and humanities. The comparative literature in its birthplace, France, was part of the literature history, and the French scholars were more interested in the sources of inspiration and historical evidence that emphasize the literary links of nations and their being influenced from each other. Hence, attention to the aesthetics of literary works did not matter much in the French school of comparative literature.

"Adaptation" literally means "learning science, the science of learning from someone, taking benefit and knowledge from someone and following him in science and knowledge," and in the term, it is a kind of influence or interpretation in which a scholar recreates new work through the interpretation of another literary work or its follow-up, in which traces of the earlier works are visible. Adaptation by creating harmony between Old literary work and modern social transformations plays an important role in the nations literature. For example, some literary or artistic works transfer from one country to another and find the international aspect.

* E-mail: y.sh_۲۰۰۸@yahoo.com (Responsible Author)

** E-mail: reza_nazemian۲۰۰۳@yahoo.com

Works such as "Kalila and Demna" that moved from India to Iran and then to other parts of the world, and produced remarkable derivative works. In this research, it is intended to compare the story of the 'Ahd al-Shaytan' (Devil Testament) of Tawfiq al-Hakim and Goethe's Faust from the perspective of fictional characters, using a comparative approach and a descriptive-analytical method. So, the questions that can be posed in this paper are: ۱. what are the similarities and differences between the characters of the two stories? ۲- How have the characters of the story of "Ahad al-Shaytan"(Devil Testament) been influenced by Faust? ۳. Has Tawfiq al-Hakim been able to make changes in the characters of the story?

According to the evidences mentioned in the article, Tawfiq al-Hakim, the great Arab writer, has been adapted from Goethe's "Faust" in the story of the "Ahad al-Shaytan" (Devil Testament), yet he himself states that despite the influence of the great writers of the world, these ideas have changed based on his nature and the circumstances prevailing on Egyptian society, Although Tawfiq al-Hakim has been influenced by Goethe's thoughts in the story theme and narrative elements, he has, by making some changes, brought together the subjects incoming of Faust with his own ideas and posed new characters. Therefore, contrary to Somerset Maugham's belief that "it is very difficult to create new characters", Tawfiq al-Hakim proves that the creation of new characters is not closed and new characters in the world of stories can be created by new impression and attitudes changing.

The most important thing that is seen in the "Ahad al-Shaytan" (Devil Testament), is the look toward man from the point of equilibrium philosophy. Tawfiq al-Hakim introduces balance creating in all aspects of human life as a sign of a successful and ideal man. Literature in his belief is an opportunity that can be used to teach the most important human subjects in a literary and beautiful form. Based on the searches made, it seems that so far, no research has not only failed to compare Tawfiq al-Hakim and Goethe, but also the study of the Tawfiq al-Hakim's "Ahad al-Shaytan" (Devil Testament) has been neglected by scholars and researchers until now. There is a brief mention of this work among the articles that have been devoted to Tawfiq al-Hakim plays

In the case of Faust, it should also be pointed that this great masterpiece of world literature has been studied in Arabic in the form of books and articles. Among them are these books "The Introduction of Faust" by Taha Hussein, "The Faust thoughts from the Age of Jute" by Kamal Radwan, "Faust in the modern Arabic literature" by

Mustafa Maher, and "Faust in the literature" by Samir J. W. However, this literary masterpiece has not yet been adapted and compared with Arabic literature. What is learned from the analysis of the characters of the story of "Ahd al-Shaytan"(Devil Testament) by Tawfiq al-Hakim and Goethe's "Faust" is that "Ahd al-Shaytan" (Devil Testament), due to the characterization and the role played by characters in the story, is a subtle adaptation of Goethe's Faust.

The characters of two stories indirectly describe their actions, thoughts, feelings, dialogue and monologue. There are two main characters and a subordinate in "Ahd al-Shaytan" (Devil Testament). It's clear that in a short story you cannot use a lot of characters. While in Faust we see the presence of two main characters and a large number of subordinates who play the role in the events of the story. The two main characters, Doctor Johan Faust in the story of "Faust" and the unnamed character in "Ahd al-Shaytan" (Devil Testament), are dynamic and the rest of the characters are static. The presence of at least one static character along with dynamic character leads to a better personality display and more prominent for dynamic character.

At the end, after reviewing and comparing the two stories of 'Ahd al-Shaytan ' (Devil Testament) by Tawfiq al-Hakim and Goethe's Faust, one can conclude that the 'Ahd al-Shaytan,s' (Devil Testament) main character has been adapted from Dr. Johan Faust, Eblis from Misty Flutes and the old maid from Wagner's character. But with the difference that the wishes for the personality of 'Ahd al-Shaytan" (Devil Testament) is contrary to those of Dr. Faust. Mufti, Iblis, also has one role and function in both stories, with the difference that 'Ahd al-Shaytan" (Devil Testament) is a short story, and does not provide a great opportunity for his verbiage and role-playing. The old maid role in 'Ahd al-Shaytan" (Devil Testament) is also shorter and lighter compared to Wagner, Faust's maid, and is summarized in only a few scenes and short conversations. It can also be said that despite the fact that the characters of "Ahd al-Shaytan" (Devil Testament) have been influenced by the "Faust" characters, Tawfiq al-Hakim has tried to make changes in these characters based on his nature and the situation of Egyptian society. Eventually, present new characters in Arabic fiction.

Key words: Comparative Literature, Tawfiq Al-Hakim, Goethe, *Ahd Alshaytan*, *Faust*.