

**Analysis of the Components of Postmodernism in the Novel *Alhaolae* by Majid Toubia**Zohreh Ghorbani Madavani<sup>12</sup>

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**Received:25 May2019****Accepted:26 November2019****Extended Abstract****1 Introduction**

Postmodernism like other schools made changes in the literature, among which are stories that have not been written according to the rules and principles of narration, but in the narration, in different ways, they are emphasized as fictional. Many Arab writers have used the elements well in their narratives. Among those writers is Majid Ishaq Toubia, an Egyptian writer of *Alhaolae*. The method used in this novel makes it a post-modern work. This study seeks to investigate the various techniques that Toubia used to create her postmodern story and find answers to the following questions: How did the components of postmodernism appear in the novel *Alhaolae*? What is the author's purpose in using those components?

**2 Theoretical Framework**

Literature, and especially fiction, is among the areas most influenced by postmodernism. Postmodernism in literature began in the 1960s and refers to a broad way or field of meaning that in the second half of the twentieth century, in addition to art, referred to the general human condition and society in general. This strong current is mainly based on poststructuralist theories and is in fact a continuation of modernism and a new phase of it.

There is type of postmodern fiction, called "metafiction". "Meta" which means "beyond" in combination with the word fiction, forms the term "metafiction", which refers to a special type of novel in postmodern literature. They refer to stories that consciously draw the audiences' attention to their fictional status to ask questions about the relationship between story and reality.

Some researches have been conducted on the characteristics of postmodernism and metafiction in both Arabic and Persian literature. All those researches have introduced metafiction and their techniques and have studied and analyzed the components of postmodernism in different novels but none of them has analyzed the novel *Alhaolae*. Therefore, this research is specific as it, on the one hand, examines the components of postmodernism from the point of view of Majid Toubia, which has not been studied so far, and on the other hand, it refers to the two categories of postmodernism and metafiction together, which have been mentioned separately in the researches.

**3 Method**

A descriptive-analytical method was applied to extract and analyze the components of postmodernism and metafiction techniques that Majid Toubia has used in *Alhaolae*. A novel that has been able to have a good position among the works of postmodernism by using its components. For this purpose, while studying the content of this novel and the views of critics and experts of postmodern literature, it was tried to extract various techniques that the author has used to create a postmodern story. Then given some examples from the novel, they were described and analyzed.

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#### 4 Results and Discussion

The findings of this study showed that the novel *Alhaolae* can be called a postmodern novel and, to be more precise, a metafiction. However, it has been written at a time when the term metafiction did not yet exist. But this metafiction is evident even from the title of the novel. The name of the reference "Haolae" is from Maaref, but it also comes with "Al". More importantly, with this deconstruction, the author wants to say that such a novel with this title does not exist in the real world and is artificial, which, contrary to the reality, has been re-introduced.

#### 5 Conclusion

The present study showed that the components of postmodernism in this novel are non-naming of the characters in the story, referring to the imaginativeness of the story and its characters, timelessness and impossibility, surrealism, the ambiguous conclusion, the reversal of the author's real name and his father's name, referring to the reason of choosing the plot. The most important component of postmodernism, which is the technique of metafiction, is shown to the reader in various ways: an obvious confession to the fiction of the story, a confession to the imagination of the characters, even the narrator, the non-naming of the characters in the story, the reversal of the names "Majid" and "Toubia", timelessness and impossibility, and seventh-degree trains that there are not real. Using these techniques, the author seems to try to fill the gap between the story and the audience and take the reader with him so that he feels that he is not facing a story, but are snippets of real life depicted in front of his eyes. That is why the main plot of this story revolves around doubt so that no one can relate it to the real world. In fact, Majid Toubia questions realism (the rotation of the earth in its own direction) from within, to pretend that it does not present picture of life or a reality.

**Keywords:** Novel, Majid Toubia, *Alhaolae*, Metafiction, Postmodernism

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