

**Analysis of the Titles of Adolescent Novels (*Hasti, Call Me Ziba*  
and *Younes's Romances in the Belly of the Fish*) from the  
Descriptive Perspective of Gerard Genet**

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**Introduction**

The title as a contextual factor plays an important role in attracting the audience and the reading of the text. This component is doubly important and valuable in adolescent fiction. The title of the work must be chosen artistically in order to display the quality of the text. The importance of choosing a title for children's and adolescents' fiction is doubly important according to their needs and age conditions. Given the growth and development of cyberspace and computer games that are available to children and adolescents today, writers of children's literature must be creative in choosing their titles, subjects and themes of the stories in order to be able to compete with the virtual world and encourage children to read stories.

One of the creative tricks in attracting the audience is choosing the right title for the work that encourages children to read the story. The purpose of this study is to investigate and analyze the descriptive function of the titles of the novels of *Hasti, Call Me Ziba* and *Younes's Romances in the Belly of the Fish* based on Gerard Genet's extra-textual and intra-

textual theory and his ideas on descriptive functions (thematic, ironic, metaphorical, etc.).

### **Research Method and Literature**

The research method is qualitative analysis of the content of the works and the method of collecting information is in the form of library documents. No independent research has been done on the Analysis of the titles of adolescents' novels based on the descriptive functions of Gerard Genet; but there have been studies on the titles of novels. Ma'adikhah and Namvar (2013) in "The context of the title and the credits as the threshold of the text in cinema with emphasis on the works of Abbas Kiarostami" based on Gerard Genet's views on the vision of the text, identify title and film credits as types of context that play important roles in how the audience reads the text. Namvar Motlagh (2009) in the article on the title of Iranian works of art and literature, a semiotic study of the title of art from the fourth to the twelfth century, with a semiotic approach, studies works of art until the end of the Safavi period and then points to the economic role of modern titles. Salehi and her colleagues (1398) in the article "Study of the titles of war stories in the field of children's and adolescents' literature", addressed the category of title in terms of structure and content. The results of this study showed that the structure of titles in the 60's is simple rather than combined; but as we distance ourselves from the war, the titles become more artistic, and the themes of the titles pay more attention to the time of the war than to the war front or the nostalgia for the war.

### **Discussion**

*Hasti* and *Call Me Ziba*, the two novels by Farhad Hassanzadeh, and *Younes's Romances in the Belly of the Fish* by Jamshid Khanian have been selected for review and their titles have been studied and analyzed based on Gerard Genet's theory. First, a summary of the novels is presented, and then the titles of the novels are analyzed based on Genet's theory and descriptive approach. According to Genet, the title of the novel *Hasti* has a function of identity. The title of the story includes the life of a teenage girl named Hasti who is present and plays a role in all scenes. From the point of view of Genet, the title of *Younes's Romance* is an extra-textual title which refers to mythical elements and characters. The subject of the novel also has a mystical and spiritual aspect. Younes' love for Sarah is a guiding and transcendental love. In terms of Gerard's descriptive functions, the title of the novel *Call Me Ziba* is a thematic title, "that represent the theme and are presented in different ways" (Zhou, 2015: 4). The title of the novel indicates the situation of people who have been neglected due to mental illness and now, frustrated and helpless, seek a way out of this situation.

### **Conclusion**

The study and analysis of the titles of adolescent novels based on Gerard Genet's extra-textual theory and his ideas about different functions of the title (descriptive, identity, absorption, etc.) showed that the artistic choice of the title has a great effect on encouraging the audience to read the story. From among the works reviewed, based on Genet's theory, *Younes's Romances the Belly of the Fish* has an extra-textual title and a thematic function. An extra-textual title is a title that

refers to the world outside the text and leaves the full understanding of the message of the story to the background information of the audience. The words Younes and the belly of the fish are reminiscent of the story of Younes the prophet for the audience. While the story is a narrative of spiritual and transcendental love, the symbolism of Younes' character, his symbolic death and his departure from the belly of the fish which symbolizes the dark and material world, reveals the extra-textual aspects of the work. The title of this novel, unlike the other two novels, has other functions such as attractiveness and metaphorical function. The title of the novel *Hasti* is a title of identity which shows the identity of the fictional character.

**Keywords:** Novel *Hasti* , Call Me Ziba. Younes's romances. in the belly of a fish. descriptive perspective of Gerard Genet. titles

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