

Children's and Young Adults' Identity Formation in Mohammad Hossein Mohammadi's Stories for Children Based on Erikson's and Giddens' Views

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Introduction

Migrant literature in Afghanistan deals with the miseries of the immigrants in the host country as well as the struggles of the survivors in a country under colonization, especially the life situation of children who, due to the physical loss of one of their parents, experience the severest damages in this society. The personality formation of these children, therefore, is absolutely ignored. According to psychologist Erik Erikson and the sociologist Anthony Giddens,

children with the above conditions undergo neurosis and identity crisis in adulthood. Therefore, it is important to analyze the literature of this country because it is the silent language of the immigrants and speaks from the depths of their souls.

In this article, three stories for children have been selected from Mohammadi's story collection to be examined for their representation of identity formation from a gestalt perspective, both as a sub-narrative from an individual psychological point of view, and as a macro-narrative from a sociological point of view. In the first story, the focus is on young childhood (before school); in the second story, on childhood; and in the third story, on young adulthood. Since the formation of identity is like a periodic movement, it is assumed that an individual might experience a part of the process of growth and identity formation and even return to the previous stages. The society is generally deemed as the groundwork for this growth process.

Method, Review of Literature and Purpose

This is a descriptive-analytical article, based on promotional-developmental research, using documentary data collection method. The collected data is analyzed by the use of content analysis method. The research aims at investigating the impact of migration and war on Afghan children in Mohammadi's works.

Ramin Mohri (2013) in "Psychological Analysis of Houshang Moradi's Fictional Characters Based on Erikson's Theory" analyzes the stories and their personality characteristics based on Erikson's three stages of the game, the school age and the adolescent stage. He considers the feelings of embarrassment and identity crisis as the characteristics of the adolescent stage. In "Functions of Children's Literature of Afghanistan in Iran", Mousavian (2021) examines issues such as health, security and educational problems of Afghan children. Niktalab (2013) in "The Change in Children's and

Adolescent's Literature in Afghanistan" focuses on the poems written for Afghan children and also provides a historical survey of children's literature in Afghanistan and the institutions which have been active in this field.

Discussion

Erik Erikson believes that human development takes place in the form of a series of stages and psychological-social events, which ultimately causes a person to have a definition of himself. Although the environment affects a person's behavior, this does not mean that humans lack individuality or free will (Erikson, 2016: 19). According to Anthony Giddens, the fact that we are involved in interaction with others from birth to death certainly creates conditions and restrictions for our personality, the values we believe in, and the behaviors we adopt. But at the same time, socialization is the root and origin of our individuality and freedom. In the process of socialization, each of us gets a sense of identity and the ability to think and act directly (Giddens, 2018: 49).

The most important theories of growth and identity are proposed by Erik Erikson. He believes that every psychological-social stage is accompanied by a crisis. That is, each of the eight periods in the human life cycle is characterized by a specific developmental task. Also, he determines three main processes of behavior for the individual: 1) The process of organismic organization of the body in space-time of the life cycle (including the growth of libido); 2) The process of organizing experience through the formation of the ego (identification); 3) Social organization process in geographical and historical units (collective life plan) (Erikson, 2016: 53)

Ericsson's growth stages are: 1) Basic trust against mistrust (birth to about 1.5 years old); 2) Self-management against shame and doubt (1.5 years old to 3 years old); 3) Initiative against sin (3-5 years old); 4) Efficiency against humiliation (5 to 13 years old); 5) "Self" identity against identity

dispersion (13 to 20 years old); 6) Intimacy against isolation (20 to 40 years old); 7) Fertility against self-absorption (40 to 60 years old); 8) Coherence against disappointment (60 years old and later) (Erikson, 1996: 185).

Anthony Giddens considers every person's life to be connected to "body and self". According to Giddens, identity is a person's self as he defines it. He believes that "human identity" is created in interaction with others and continuously changes in the course of life. No one has a fixed identity. Identity is constantly changing.

Due to the dynamism of today's societies, people have more choices. The diversity of references is effective in building people's identity. "Self-reflection" is very important to the extent that even people's bodies are not immune from this attitude in society and are judged (Giddens, 2018: 36).

Conclusion

The findings of the research showed that in the first place, children experience a lack of formation of basic trust. In societies with defective infrastructure and as a result of the absence of one of the parents due to migration or war, the child experiences behavioral challenges and severe identity crises.

The second point is the child's lack of familiarity with himself in the form of his reflection in the game. That the mother needs to work in the absence of the father causes the child to face the lack of one parent on the one hand, and the dimness of the role of the other parent on the other hand. The family's limited income does not allow them to buy toys. As a result, according to Erikson, the child turns to making things as toys to replace them.

And the third impact is setting a role model and striving towards libido to find a professional and sexual identity. A teenager in a traditional society experiences a lot of restrictions and a lack of access to basic needs which are also suppressed by the society. These obstacles prevent the emergence of "multiple selves". According to Giddens, if interaction with others is

minimized, a new identity will not be formed and all structures will be repetitions of what they have been before; therefore, there will be no need to change the infrastructure of the society. As a result, we witness the phenomenon of shaming a person by society in exchange for declaring the need to build the “self”.

Keywords: identity, children, Erikson, Giddens, Mohammadi

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