



Extended Abstract

Vol 16, Issue 1, Spring - Summer 2025, Ser 31

The Effective Narrative Contexts on Romantic Representations in 10 Persian Young Adults' Novels

Atefeh Jamali* 
Faramarz Khojasteh 
Zahra Movasagh 

Introduction

Persian literature, with its rich background in lyrical literature, has created unique patterns and metaphors for expressing love, which have been widely utilized in both popular and serious literature. This research aims to identify the similarities and differences in the representation of love in adolescent novels. The study seeks to uncover the "narrative frameworks" that influence the romantic elements in these novels. Instead of focusing on the visible elements of the story, this study emphasizes the invisible and underlying layers that underpin the representation of love in these works. The research demonstrates that these narrative frameworks, as textual conditions, play a crucial role in shaping and evolving romantic elements, and their changes can also influence other narrative frameworks. Ten realist novels published between 1978 and 2021 have been examined in this research, while other genres, such as fantastic stories or short stories, have been excluded from this study.

Research Method, Background, and Objectives

Although Persian adolescent novels are relatively new phenomena, they have grown in the context of popular and serious literature. Such a background is prone to having a patriarchal function; that is, it can both nourish the emerging literature for children and adolescents with its breadth, richness, and antiquity, and, by solidifying and fossilizing its patterns, potentially become an obstacle to the innovation of love in adolescent stories. This research seeks to find these similarities and points of divergence. We consider the poetic similarities to be the result of the stabilization of poetic patterns, while the points of divergence are seen as the result of new needs and novel responses.

The goal of this study is to use qualitative content analysis to explore the narrative layers that affect romantic elements in Persian realist adolescent novels. This research also simultaneously investigates the

* Associate Prof in Persian Language and Literature of Hormozgan University, Bandarabaas, Iran.

jamali.atefeh@gmail.com

DOI:10.22099/JCLS.2024.50539.2052



COPYRIGHTS ©2021 The author(s). This is an open access article distributed under the terms of the Creative Commons Attribution (CC BY-NC 4.0), which permits unrestricted use, distribution, and reproduction in any medium, as long as the Original authors and source are cited. No permission is required from the authors or the publisher.

transformations of these frameworks. Therefore, the narrative frameworks here refer to the textual conditions that ultimately impact the romantic elements in adolescent novels. Each of these narrative frameworks can draw from other frameworks, be influenced by their changes, and, by transforming itself, also transform other frameworks.

Among the Persian articles related to this research topic, three articles and one thesis focus on the representation of love in adolescent literature: "Representation of Love Towards the Opposite Sex in Adolescent Stories" by Fazeli and Alipour; "Exploring the Manifestation of Love in Iranian Adolescent Novels" by Farzanfar; "Representation of Love in Farhad Hasanzadeh's Adolescent Novels Based on Robert Sternberg's Model" by Moradi and Chalak. Additionally, the thesis "Examination and Analysis of the Theme of Love in Adolescent Novels Between 2001-2011" by Masoumeh Kabirnejad addresses the representation of love in adolescent novels based on Erich Fromm's theory.

Discussion

In this research, the theoretical foundations of love have been examined from various perspectives, including psychological theories, evolutionary theories, and Freudian unconscious theories. Subsequently, the impact of different narrative frameworks on the representation of love in adolescent literature has been analyzed.

One of the key issues discussed is the loneliness of the characters, which is categorized into two types: physical and psychological loneliness. Physical loneliness is often caused by the absence of parents, especially the mother, who plays a significant role in the maturation process and transition to adulthood for adolescent characters. Psychological loneliness, on the other hand, is observed in stories where the parents are present but the protagonist is mentally distant from them.

Class conflict is another narrative framework examined. In some stories, class conflict between the lover and the beloved is depicted, often based on traditional patterns of popular literature. However, in more modern works, this conflict is less apparent, reflecting social and cultural changes in modern society.

The centralization of the beloved is another framework explored. In some novels, the female beloved is portrayed as passive and lacking agency, whereas in other cases, the centralization of the male beloved leads to increased agency and greater complexity of characters.

Finally, the impact of the setting on the representation of love is considered. Rural love is depicted as a symbol of simplicity and closer emotional bonds, while urban love is often associated with more complexities and conflicts. Some stories present a negative view of urban love, while others represent it as a necessary stage in the characters' maturation.

This research demonstrates how Iranian adolescent literature, through various narrative frameworks, represents love as a complex and multi-layered experience influenced by cultural, social, and psychological factors.

Conclusion

In adolescent novels, romantic elements are situated within four narrative frameworks: the protagonist's loneliness, class conflict between the lover and the beloved, the centralization of the beloved, and the setting. However, these narrative frameworks are not static.

The transition from physical solitude to psychological solitude and the centralization of the beloved, along with the emergence of a female lover and a male beloved, are associated with the urbanization of the novel's settings and the fading representations of class conflict. This dynamism may be summarized by the traditional/modern dichotomy. The diminishing class conflict in novels is likely related to the modernization of the setting and the emergence of individuality. These complexities have led to a reduction in the representation of class conflict in adolescent novels. Understanding the centralization of the beloved, particularly with the emergence of female lovers and male beloveds, and the transformation in traditional gender patterns, may also be more comprehensible within this dichotomy. The rise of women's equality movements and the attainment of higher positions for women in modern society contribute to the representation of active female lovers in novels. The depiction of the shift from physical to psychological

solitude in adolescent novels is clearly linked to social changes, the expansion of urbanization, and the urbanization of the settings in the works under study.

Keywords: young adult novels, love, romantic representations

References

- Abrahamian, E. (2017). Powers and weaknesses of the labor movement in Iran, 1951-1952 (S. Torabi, Trans.). In *Essays on the political sociology of Iran* (pp. 216-254). Shirazeh. [in Persian]
- Allandy, R. (1999). *Love* (J. Sattari, Trans.) (2nd ed.). Tous. [in Persian]
- Dale Parker, R. (2021). Key concepts in narratology. In *Literary criticism with a narratological approach* (H. Payandeh, Trans.) (pp. 107-122). Niloofar. [in Persian]
- Eliade, M. (2013). *Rites and symbols of initiation* (M. S. Allameh, Trans.). Niloofar. [in Persian]
- Farzanfar, J. (2015). Examining how love manifests in Iranian adolescent novels. In *Proceedings of the Fifth National Conference on Children's and Adolescent Literature* (pp. 836-855). [in Persian]
- Fazeli, M. & Alipour, M. (2015). Representation of love towards the opposite sex in adolescent stories. In *Proceedings of the Fifth National Conference on Children's and Adolescent Literature* (pp. 812-835). [in Persian]
- Hasanzadeh, F. (2011). *Scorpions of the Bambak ship*. Ofogh. [in Persian]
- Hasanzadeh, F. (2014). *This blog is up for sale*. Ofogh. [in Persian]
- Helm, B. (2015). *Stanford Encyclopedia of Philosophy: Love* (N. Moslemi, Trans.). Qoqnus. [in Persian]
- Jahangirian, A. (2012). *Wake me up when the war is over*. Ofogh. [in Persian]
- Jahangirian, A. (2015). *Shadow of the monster*. Institute for the Intellectual Development of Children and Young Adults. [in Persian]
- Jamali, A. & Khajesteh, F. (2014). Examining the function of fantasy as a stereotype-breaking device in selected children's and adolescent stories after the Islamic Revolution. *Journal of Children's Literature Studies*, 5(1), 2-21. <https://doi.org/10.22099/JCLS.2014.1625> [in Persian]
- Kabirnejad, M. (2013). *Examination and analysis of the theme of love in adolescent novels between 2001-2011* (Master's thesis). Allameh Tabatabai University. [in Persian]
- Karimzadeh, M. (2010). *Orange hearts*. Institute for the Intellectual Development of Children and Young Adults. [in Persian]
- Khaniyan, J. (2014). *Younes's love stories in the fish's belly*. Institute for the Intellectual Development of Children and Young Adults. [in Persian]
- Kharaman, M. (2013). *Girls against girls*. Ofogh. [in Persian]
- Khushkar, S. (2011). *Diary of the tree in the back of the class*. Chekkeh. [in Persian]
- Mahzadeh, J. (2014). *Rayhaneh, the daughter of Narges*. Parseh Publishing. [in Persian]
- Masoudnia, H. & Foroughi, A. (2012). Examining the role of novels in understanding political discourse in post-revolution Iran: A case study of 1997-2005. *Political and International Studies*, 2, 128-102. [in Persian]
- Mokhtari, M. (1998). *Seventy years of romance*. Tirajeh Publishing. [in Persian]
- Moradi, A. & Chalak, S. (2021). Typology of love in Farhad Hasanzadeh's novels based on Robert Sternberg's model. *Journal of Children's Literature Studies*, 12(2), 233-262. <https://doi.org/10.22099/JCLS.2020.36386.1772> [in Persian]
- Moradi Kermani, H. (2002). *Palm*. Moein Publishing. [in Persian]
- Nikolajeva, M. (2008a). Growing up, a literary dilemma (G. Bozorgmehr, Trans.). In M. Khosravi-Nejad (Ed.), *In quest for the center* (pp. 497-546). Institute for the Intellectual Development of Children and Young Adults. [in Persian]
- Nikolajeva, M. (2008b). Beyond narrative grammar (G. Bozorgmehr, Trans.). In M. Khosravi-Nejad (Ed.), *In quest for the center* (pp. 547-590). Institute for the Intellectual Development of Children and Young Adults. [in Persian]
- Propp, V. (2019). *Morphology of the folktale* (F. Badrei, Trans.) (6th ed.). Toos. [in Persian]
- Sharepour, M. (2016). *Urban sociology*. Samt. [in Persian]
- Stevens, J. (2008). Gender and literary types. In I. Hosseini (Trans.), M. Khosronejad (Ed.), *In quest for the center* (pp. 91-112). Institute for the Intellectual Development of Children and Young Adults. [in Persian]