A comparative point of view to Mostafa Mastur and Raymond Carver’s fiction in characterization field

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ABSTRACT: Nowadays comparative literature discussions are one of the most common research topics in different fields like fiction range, because of their high level in art and cultural relationship and communication among nations and different cultures in the world. Comparative literature discussions have different and outstanding cases like Mustafa Mastur’s impression in fiction methods from Raymond Carver’s work style, the American writer (1939-1988); and this is because of Iranian writers’ continuum impression from western methods and techniques of narratives and their rich talent in fiction. In present research that is about different dimensions of the impression, we have considered three general dimensions: a) general fields of style and framework similarity b) methods of characterization c) basic concepts and theme. this research shows that there is a clear symbols of Mastur’s impression from Carver’s works in view, methods of narrative, setting, different methods of characterization and contents like characters’ love and internal confliction.

Key words: comparative literature, Mastur, Carver, novel, characterization.

INTRODUCTION

Normally, any fiction writer shows Vision, thoughts, feelings and beliefs during the story. Since the best emanation point of these feelings and beliefs are characters, character development in fiction literature finds an important place and the reader maybe familiar with the ideology of the author’s feelings and worldview through (Okhovvat, 1992). Although paying attention to the element of character and tips of Characterization has been started strictly since 17th century and lately with the taking place of novels specially psychological novels has been reached to its peaks but we can see the signs and symbols of a kind of paying attention to characterization and type development in Medieval. We can consider The Canterbury Tales of Chaucer as the most notable example of this kind of Type development. But as we mentioned characterization has been raised since 17th century and even lead to creation of a new genre that is called portrayal. It seems that author by creating a character, creates a human being that presents freely in the adventure of fiction and can be effective. Now what in the room, is desired, a comparative study of the way of characterization and in the stories of Mostoor and Raymond Carver; an American writer, who seems to be a clear and obvious signs of influence Mustafa Mostoor works of fiction his style.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

Issues of Comparative Literature especially in the field of fiction literature because of the influence of different styles of Story and Legacy of western fiction writing have Background and multiple and researchable instances that create proper background to be more familiar with the legacy of western fiction writing and also can clarify the different technical aspects and probably some of Meanings and themes of Iran’s Contemporary fiction writing. One of the contemporary and remarkable instances is influencing of Mustafa Mostoor from well known American writer Raymond Carver (1939-1988). This Comparative study, is classified in three parts; first general
fields of style and structure similarity has been discussed in Carver and Mostoor works then in second part that is
the most important part of this research, the techniques of characterization of these two writers has been analyzed
with great accuracy and details and at last Fundamental concepts and themes in these writers' works has been
provided. What seems interesting in the relationship between Carver and Mostoor is the similarity of this
relationship with the relationship of Carver and Hemingway (Sanapoor, 2012). Of course we cannot ignore what
Mostoor did to synchronize his work with Iranian propensity. We can primarily understand Orientation and intrinsic
interest of Mostoor to Carver through translation of Carver works. The translation “distances and the other stories”
by Raymond Carver is an obvious instance of such interest. Here the beginning starts with explanation of the
overall similarity in style and structure between these two writers’ works.

**General similarity in the fields of style and structure**

Two writers are similar according to their point of view base on “distance” by Carver and the novel “bones
of pig and leprosyhands”.

Similarities in narrative style, (The use of spoken language)that makes story concrete, for example “I
opened my hand and went stride.”(Carver, 2002) elephant story by Carver or “He looks the way that politely
meaning is go away of my sight. (Carver, 2002; Mostoor, 2009; Mostoor 2000).

Time and place, in their works has been started with immediate cuts of lives of the characters and the
addressed ones have no knowledge about the past social status of the characters. Yet all characters are tangible
and concrete. For example by paying attention to the first sentences of both writers we can understand everything.
“Elephant” by Carver: “I knew it was a mistake when I lend that money to my brother”. (Carver, 2002) Or in the
novel “I’m not a sparrow” by Mostoor “my eyes are shut. When she passes, I can only hear her voice.” (Mostoor
1387) and the novel “kiss the lovely face of god”, “I buy a few pink orchid flower and put them on my car’s back
seat.” (Mostoor, 2000).

Characters and situations in the story are hiding a multitude of symptoms Longitudinal course of the
characters of two writers is appeared by bringing Signs within the story. We can realize that by paying attention to
secondary symptoms like not locking the door of the house and behavioral changes.

**Analyzing the similarities according the ways of characterization**

Characterization takes place in story by different methods. “Writer by resorting to various aspects of
personality introduces him to the reader and guides to the climax and end of the story.” (Abdollahian, 2002)
generally characterization occurs by two methods 1- direct descriptive method that writer introduces character
directly 2- indirect descriptive method that writer doesn’t introduces character clearly and honestly but uses five
fundamental elements; action, conversation, environment description, physical description and name. Among these
elements we can consider action, conversation and environment description as common components in these two
writers’ works.

Action: “It’s an act beside the character and tied with it.” (Okhovvat, 1992) through analyzing two writers’
fictions, we can understand that both use immediate cuts of consumer oriented people living today. In both writers
works characters are free to act and their action are activities people do every day. In the story “the third thing that
killed my father” by Carver, Haloo is a character who is interested in fishes a lot and this interest leads him to
death. But he is dumb and the interest is understandable according to his actions. “My father entered the water with
his shoes on but when he reached to fish, haloo move his head angrily and moved his arms side to side. Haloo
didn’t give up and pointed to the pool.” (Carver, 2002)Yoosef’s character in the novel of “kiss god’s beautiful face”
by Mostoor manner changing and resolving doubts occurs by tying the little boy’s balloons. “Without taking eyes
from kite, give string to him and told him not to pull the thread tight or open it suddenly. I explained to him that
keeping the kite up in the air, making it difficult.” (Mostoor, 2000) Action is divided into two categories 1-habitual
action 2-non habitual action. Habitual action is an activity that occurs repeatedly. (Okhovvat, 1992) “Haloo always
carried a flashlight that was on even during the days.” (Carver, 2002) “You are just like fire, I’ve told you 100 times
that do not sit next to that damn window and don’t yell and scream but you don’t understand.” (Mostoor, 2002) non
habitual action just occurs once but we can understand character’s moral. (Okhovvat, 1992) “Susan was still
staring at Asphalt. The driver said: lady, hurry, and get on the car! She threw the bag from shoulder to shoulder and
looked at the end of street and returned. She returned to her apartment.” (Mostoor, 2002) “I was still walking then I
started to whistle and thought it is my right to whistle when I want.” (Carver, 2002).

**Conversation**
The most important element that Mostoor and Carver both have used is the conversation element that appears with characters’ actions. “Class features strongly affect the way a person speaking. Academic language, market language, community language and the language of the lower town are not same. “Yoonesi 2006”

The boldest element that Mostoor and Carver both have used in addressing their characters is the element of conversation that is usually with action. Conversation is divided into two categories 1- dialogue 2- monologue. Two sided conversation “dialogue” in this kind of conversation two characters talk to each other and in fact this speech makes the reader familiar with their internal thoughts. Carver and Mostoor are both kind of writers that do not pay attention to their characters past or social position or familial situation and the reader does not Have any information about the characters’ past. However, the characters are very real, and the audience will experience a mental transformation. One sided conversation “monologue” soliloquy is divided into three categories: 1- The inner soliloquy 2- External soliloquy 3- self narration.(Mir Sadeghi, 2010) The inner soliloquy is actually a branch of the manner in which the first-person narrator retells what's on his mind to tell the story and the events. (Mostoor ,2000) “Why didn’t anyone participate in his funeral ceremony? I thought to Oxygen again. The undertaker just threw some dirt and smoothed the dirt with the back of the shovel.” (Mostoor, 2010) this soliloquy is a part of “I’m not a sparrow” novel by Mostoor that writer takes the reader to the depth of tragedy of child’s death. In the fiction called “movie”, by Carver, the story’s main character’s soliloquy makes the reader familiar with the concept of the story. “I knew it was a mistake when I lend that money to my brother. I had no need for another debtor. But what I could do when he called and told that he doesn’t have enough money to pay for buying the house.” (Carver ,2002)

environment description

“Describing the surrounding area of the character (room, home, street and city) can help us to create a character pretty much.” (Okhovvat, 1992)

Carver and Mostoor are both realist writers so the environment is depicted without any change and also enlarged and no assimilation can be seen. Actually all descriptions are real and tangible but with a good perspective and outwardly simple look we can understand character’s moral and mental specifics. “His house was five or six miles away from city and near river. The door and the walls were covered with pitchy colored papers. Half mile away back his house at the end of pasture, there was a large pit in a sandy field.” (Carver, 2002) “Parsa’s room is at eastern side of the building. His worktable and computer occupied almost half of the room. There are shelves full of books at another corner of the room. All books are scientific and in English language. There are two picture frames hanged on the wall. There is a black and white photo of Parsa’s father in military uniform. (Mostoor 2000)

Contents

It seems that the major thing that makes Mostoor’s work similar to Carver’s is concepts that aside characterization method, style and structure is the basic part of these two writers’ fictions an characters. Concepts like love, distance between humans, Characters’ inner conflicts, doubt, pain etc. are two writers’ fiction’s characters. Here we mention to three of them:

Love

Carver and Mostoor are both kind of writers that we cannot define a special area for their fictions. Chain stories they like best or worst audience in the difficulties of their stories. Most of their stories have the same meaning and content, but each time with a different look and appear difficult. The same concepts in the form of new characters and new events can be seen. Love the concepts covered in all of Carver’s stories always has a special place and it will appear with a new dress. Carver times are Mostoor Iranian obscure fact casted religious and philosophical thought that with a little care and know that we love the rhythm and harmony in all the novels are like puzzles. According to Frimor Marco, carver’s fictions try with the mosaic like method to show broken and strange position of love in the contemporary world. Carver usually makes his stories like a context for research to show the reader what he talks about when he talks about love. (Carver, 2002) Both writers have depicted a complete picture of contemporary unstable loves.

The inner conflict of personalities

It seems that this conflict is always with these two writers’ characters. According to duality or multiplicity of characters, the audience will experience a mental transformation. This contrasts as the nicest shapes show the concept of identity with each other and interact with the show. Action and reaction are polyhedral in their fictions.

The distance between humans
Carver and Mostoor characters are developed according to distance, the distance that can be seen in consumerism and wheel barrel of modern humans’ life. These distances sometimes depicted in a relationship between a husband and a wife or human relations.

CONCLUSION

Mostoor has used just direct method in Character Processing but Carver has used both direct and indirect method. Both writers have used conversation element more than action, physical description, environmental description and name in addressing the characters and indicating the features. Mostoor has acted Conscious and successful in choosing characters’ names but Carver hasn’t paid attention to name his characters. One of the highlighted points in both writers’ works is considering the details and using them about life’s ordinary events and making them related to characters’ conflicts. Generally, the character’s element of inconstancy is obvious in both writers’ works. The interaction between creating the characters and personal believes of both writers in addressing the characters is tangible and concrete. Similarity in style and structure of writing method is more distinguished than characterization method of both writers.

REFERENCES