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POSITION OF NARRATOR IN AHMAD MAHMOUD'S NOVEL "THE NEIGHBORS"

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ABSTRACT

Undoubtedly, all novelists choose a method for representing their stories. In other words, they introduce their story with a special aspect sight to readers. The method and sight is point of view. Point of view regarding each narrator is different since he/ she chooses a set of special words to convey a story to the readers. Selection of a type of point of view affects the quality and volume information to the readers. Novel is a special narrative of modern world that usually is in contrast with other narrative such as myth, romance and epic. The main differences of novel with other narrative are the situation of narrative and point of view or narrative perspective or narrative mode. The present paper by library method studies the situation of narrator in novel of Ahmad Mahmoud "the neighbors".

Keywords: Novel, Point Of View, Epic, Ahmad Mahmoud, The Neighbors, Narration

INTRODUCTION

It should be considered that novel is a narrative that is near to outside world more than the other types. So, selection of point of view is so important. The intelligence of author to choose the "point of view" leads the readers to a virgin world. For this reason, the great authors pay attention to choose the narrator and point of view. Dostoevsky firstly wrote "crime and punishment in a first-

person narrative but later changed it to the third- person narrative. It also took place for Kafka' story "the palace". When the point of view changes, it may the basis of story will be converted (Martin, 2003). Martine also expressed that point of view in modern narrative is not only for conveying the message of story, but also for attracting and

challenging and creating a worry during the story.

Therefore, narrative point of view that in traditional and classic fiction usually is third-person and is a field to show off the style and imagination of the authors has changed in modern novels and tends to limited point of view. Uncertainty and relativity leads the novelists toward new thoughts. In other words, the novelists consider themselves as the author of a story but necessarily they are not narrator of the story. Adam and Revaz states that: if we consider the narrator as the definition process or production function of a story, it will remain who narrates the story and how the work is done? (Adam, 2004).

Todorov in his famous book, structuralist poetics, refers to the importance and selection of point of view in 20th century. In literature, we do not deal with raw phenomenon, but also we confront a specific manner of representation so that it creates two different sights regarding the single phenomenon. The importance always is represented in visual arts so that the literary theory can train many points from paint theories. It is obvious in a single shape, various attitudes have been used; and it is appropriated with the role that represented character should play in the tableau. Todorov stated what has happened in visual art when main character's face is not

toward the other character of the paint inside the tableau, but also he directly looks to the audience, the audience do not consider him as a separate person from the other? In traditional novels, the narrator usually was omniscience, but when the narrative is expressed by a person, how it is possible to represent its events and all characters, similarly? (Todorov, 2000).

The story criticism

Ahmad Mahmoud in his work, the neighbors, has forgotten the limited and unlimited omniscience. He has chosen the first-person narrative for representing the story. Mandani Pour in the book titled as "Arvahe Shahrzad" considered the first-person narrative like a microscope and explained that "most of time, it inquires deeply the intellectual layers of persons" (Mandan Pour, 2004). In this point of view, recognition of story's world and relationship between persons is directly portrayed by one of the story's character. In the work of Ahmad Mahmoud, the narrator and hero of the story is Khaled. He sees all things and if he do not see a thing or an event, he do not express it, therefore, the reader reads the events that the hero of the story will report. Since the narrator is the hero, reader feels closer to him, as a result. In addition, the relationship is created especially between reader and narrator due to the fact that at the

beginning of the story, the reader feels that he deals with a sharp narrator. Although Khaled is the hero of the story, he starts the story not only by an event that deals with him, but also by an event that has no relationship with himself. The beginning of the story is related to Mrs. Blour and the narrator only is a viewer of the story:” a shout of Mrs. Blour come again. Sir Aman hits her with a wide leather belt. The sun does not rise yet. I hurriedly wake up and go out. My mother now put the kettle on the stove. The weather is cold. Mrs. Blour’s groan has filled the yard. She curses. Suddenly, the door of her room opens and she is flung on outside” (Mahmoud, 1997).

Khaled like an expert reports the story with no interference in the event of the story. He keeps his distance from the screen and like a camera only records the events in order to reports what he sees during the story. It is important to note that in this point of view; usually the hero expresses his emotions more than the other, but in the story, the hero is expressed to the reader by exploration the other characters of the story. Therefore, the hero also plays the role of a reporter and by the exact reports demonstrates himself and it can be stated that he gives himself a fictional identity by recording the events. The narrator introduces none of the character of the story

generally and in a screen to the audience, but also, he portrays them in different situations and various screens. He expresses them separately in different screens and with all details: “Mr. Aman comes by a bicycle. When Mrs. Blour sets Mr. Aman’s special platter for dinner, Mr. Aman takes off his clothes. There are a few pickled shallots with a few green onions, radishes, tomatoes and the other vegetables inside a plate.

The interesting point is total contents of the table. He portrays the colored table of Mrs. Blour than the other neighbors’ tables. The description only belongs to narrative writings since it can demonstrate the total image during the time. In this screen, Khaled does not describe which neighbors has a better situation than the other, but by creating such images demonstrates the cultural and economic situation of every neighbor.

DISCUSSION

The narrator of this story basically do not focus on a subject, but also consider all characters and elements of the screen and also details. Therefore, type of his narration may agitate the audiences but by developing the story and more recognition of him, the feature changes to one of his technique. For instance, when Khaled escapes from one of the meeting and his leg fractures, he rest for a time in home. He sees each one of the neighbors in

this time and portrays them:” each one of the neighbors at least has come at least once for my visit but Mrs. Blour was spending one or two hours of her time beside me.

Hasani comes from brick burner of the home; firstly he goes toward Mr. Ali to bother him, then he come toward me and sits near me.

I have read the books. Shafaq hasn’t come again, but Bidar has come once. He took the books. Shafaq left me and gave me a few others in return.

A letter has arrived from Father. He also sent some money, too. Now, I have gave all depts. A few days remains to Nowruz, New Year.

I get up from the bed. I lean on my staff and stand up near the window. Rezvan come in through the house doors. She smiles at me and goes to Mash Rahim’s room. Banu sweeps the front of her room. A stray cat jumps down from above the donkeys’ sunshade into the courtyard and sneaks into the pigeon coop. he must be after a chick or a pigeon’s egg. He rummages the corners of the pigeon coop, and then comes out. All of a sudden, I hear Rezvan’s shout. Rezvan came out of the room and curse at Rahim Kharakchi”.

Khaled talks about some of the neighbors, his father, Shafaq and Bidar, however, he also talk or think about the other persons. Firstly, he talked about Blour and Hasani, then his father’s work, settlement of his depts, books

and finally about Shafaq and Bidar. When he is near the window, the story follows its logical process with the entire body of the story. He stands up here and reports what is saw regarding the neighbors, chronologically. He attempts to face the event with no emotion. In the following screen, when Rezvan comes to the room, the narrator does not hear her voice; therefor he cannot say what she expressed:” Rezvan goes to the room. The flames under the pot still are smoky. Mash Rahim’s voice is trembles: “I told you a hundred times to cover your head with damn chador. Rezvan’s voice is not heard””.

With all details and delicacies, sometimes attention to details is considered as weakness point of the story. It should be considered that in all situations, the narrator should keep the visual acuity toward the details. The obvious examples of such screen is when Khaled has sat down in Mohammad’s barbershop, suddenly, the government secret agent, Ali the devil, appears. In this screen, it is obvious that the narrator due to his unsuitable situation cannot see the details of the screen:”

- My voice is raspy. My throat is dry. What you want from me?
- Nothing
- He grabs my wrist, wanting to put handcuffs on me. I recited: why

should I go to the police station with you?

- Because you are a fugitive, and I am in charge of arresting you.
- I can't put my hand free from his grip. Without speaking at each other, we challenge one another. The steel ring of handcuffs clicks around my wrist.
- Get up, now.
- A tremble replaces the smile on his lips. His thick blond mustache he quivers. He tries to make me get up from the chair. I feel as if I'm stuck to the seat. There is a storm stirring inside me.
- Mohammad the Barber looks at us beside the door. He still hasn't let go off the customer's hand, and the customer is growing more and more agitated. The barber keeps hitting the glass door with the palm of his hand. Ali the devil ignores him."

Pay attention to the details in this situation is far from the reality. In other words, the narrator always describes the details, calmly. The type of descriptions is seen in the police headquarters' prison that is considered as the deficiencies of the novel. Finally, it should be pointed that point of view that Mahmoud has selected for narration of the story represents a suitable point of view.

CONCLUSION

As it was mentioned, some mistakes technically have been occurred but point of view in this novel shows its delicacy that is appropriated with contents of the story. The novel well represents the paradox and it shows the modernity of the story. Theodor Adorn (Theodor, 1995)states: among the valuable modern art, it cannot be found a sample which is not enamored the liberation and division. The narrator of the work considered all details so that sometimes it seems unreality. In the story, narrator describes the characters separately based on what he sees. Finally, it can be stated that narrator consciously narrates the story so that the reader can well realize the personality of each person.

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