

Fantasy And Science Fiction In Literature.. Semantics and Influence

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Abstract: *Fantasy in literature is a genre of literature that includes elements of fictional and unrealistic, they often include fictional characters such as witches, dragons, ghosts, elves and other fairy-tale creatures. Fantasy presents fictional and different worlds from reality, and fantasy is used to create exciting and interesting stories. Fantasy is characterized by the fact that it presents stories with many adventures and unexpected events, makes the reader imagine new and completely different worlds from the real one. Fantasy includes many literary genres such as novel, short story, poetry and plays. In this research, we address some aspects of fantasy and science fiction and the extent of their impact on fiction literature in a summary form, in addition to the impact on the reader and the effectiveness of literary criticism on such works.*

Keywords: Fantasy, Science Fiction, Writer, Reader, Novel, Literature

Fantasy between Arabic and international literature:

Fantasy is a literary genre that receives wide attention from readers all over the world, however, fantasy in Arabic novels has been a controversial topic by critics and literature specialists.

In fact, Arabic literature was mainly based on stories and novels dealing with real-life events and characters, and the fictional element was limited in these literary works. However, Arab writers began to be interested in fantasy and its introduction into Arabic literature in the twentieth century, and it was thanks to it that a lot of Arab authors took an interest in the development of this genre of literature.

Fantasy in Arabic novels is characterized by the fact that it includes many diverse elements that deal with Arabic and Islamic mythology, and includes a lot of fictional characters such as Jinn, angels, demons and many others. In addition, these novels contain exciting and interesting adventures, and present stories about fictional conflicts and battles taking place in magical and fictional worlds, such as the Iraqi novel "Inzorica" published by Dar Al-Matn in Baghdad in 2019, for example.

However, fantasy in Arabic novels still faces some criticism from some critics and specialists in literature, who see it as lacking realism and deep literary expression. Nevertheless, fantasy in Arabic novels is still widely received by readers and is an excellent addition to modern Arabic literature.

There are many examples of dark fantasy in literature, it can be said that they include horror, vampires, demons, ghosts and other fictional creatures. Among the most famous writers in this genre of literature is the writer Stephen King, who is one of the most famous horror and dark fantasy writers in the world, and has many famous novels such as "Sparkle, Kojo, Children of the Corn, the Green Mile" and others.

Reasons for interest in fantasy literature:

There are many reasons why fantasy literature is the focus of great attention. Of which, for example:

Escape from reality: fantasy literature is a way to escape from everyday routine and concrete reality. It allows readers to move into exciting and amazing fantasy worlds away from the limitations of realism.

Expand imagination: fantasy literature helps to expand the imagination of readers and motivate them to think outside the box. Through unusual worlds and characters, readers get acquainted with new and interesting ideas and concepts.

Adventure and excitement: fantasy literature is characterized by many exciting elements such as adventure, magic, combat and puzzles. It allows readers to immerse themselves in interesting and exciting stories that arouse enthusiasm and excitement.

Symbolism and deep meaning: although it deals with fictional worlds, fantasy literature may carry deep messages and meanings. It may address issues of death and life, the conflict between good and evil, courage and sacrifice, and other topics that evoke meditation.

Interesting characters: in fantasy literature, interesting and complex characters are present, from Kings and princes to witches and monsters. Readers can relate to those characters and live their adventures with them.

Science fiction: science fiction sometimes overlaps with fantasy literature, which makes it capture the interest of many readers. Fantasy elements in the stories can include high technology, time travel, outer space, and others, adding an additional dimension of suspense and strange twists.

Fantasy literature gives readers the opportunity to enjoy imagined worlds and fascinating stories that transport them to boundless places. It can also provide insights and profound comments on life and humanity. In addition, fantasy literature is a source of fun and entertainment, where readers can enjoy interesting events, thrill, experience various emotions and feelings.

Moreover, people's interest in fantasy literature is not limited only to readers, but also extends to the film industry, serials and video games. Many famous works in these industries are inspired by fantasy literature, which confirms the great appeal of this literary genre.

In general, it can be said that people's interest in fantasy literature stems from their desire to escape from everyday routine, get acquainted with new worlds and interesting characters, enjoy the fantasy and excitement that this genre of literature offers.

The convergence and difference between fantasy and science fiction:

Although fantasy and science fiction literature belong to one genre of literature and that is fantasy, they differ in the elements and themes they address. Some differences between them can be identified:

Fantasy literature is characterized by the fictional world, unreal stories and characters. It includes elements such as magic, legends and various forms of creatures such as dragons and fairies. It is characterized by supernatural powers and fantasy worlds that may be inspired by myths and legends. It can happen in different times and unrealistic locations. It usually focuses on adventure, fantasy and superheroes.

While science fiction focuses on the elements of science and technology in its stories. It deals with possible future scientific and technological ideas and developments and how this affects humanity and society. It uses existing or potential scientific and technological concepts to create unrealistic stories. It can address topics such as time travel, space exploration, artificial intelligence, genetic transformations, among others.

In science fiction, the emphasis is on the scientific and logical explanation of events and technology existing in the fictional world, while in fantasy literature the emphasis is on myths, magical powers and unreal beings.

Science fiction and fantasy literature may sometimes overlap, sharing some elements, but the main difference lies in the science and technology-based basis of science fiction, while fantasy literature is based on fantasy, magical and mythological elements.

It is noteworthy that there is an overlap and similarity between the two genres, and it can be difficult to explicitly identify some works as fantasy or science fiction, since they may have elements of both genres. It is possible that literature has an individual style and its classification is not always unequivocally clear.

Novel models of the two forms:

Examples of works of fantasy include “The Lord of the Rings novel” by John Ronald Tolkien. And “The Harry Potter series” by J. R. R. . K. Rowling. Examples of works of science fiction include George Orwell's “The 1984 novel” and Herbert George Wells “The war of the worlds novel”. Although the novel “1984” by George Orwell is classified among the works of science fiction and political novels. It was published in 1949 and is one of the most famous novels of the twentieth century. The novel is set in a dark and authoritarian futuristic society where every aspect of individuals lives is monitored and facts, history and language are manipulated. The novel touches on the issues of severe government control, violation of privacy and personal freedom. “1984” is an outstanding cautionary tale about repressive power and mass control of society.

How fantasy literature affects political issues:

Fantasy literature can significantly influence political issues in several ways. Although fantasy is a genre of fantasy literature, it has the ability to use fantasy and magical elements to explore and address real-world issues and politics.

First: figurative representation and analogy

Fantasy literature uses its fantasy-provoking elements such as monsters, fairy-tale creatures and magical worlds as an allegorical representation of real policy issues. This allegorical representation can have a powerful effect in highlighting injustice, corruption, oppression or depicting the struggle for freedom and Justice.

Second: the imaginary world as a model of the real world

Fantasy literature can present multiple fantasy worlds that resemble reality in different ways. These worlds can approach issues of power, governance, and political systems in ways that highlight the real issues people face in the real world.

Third: the struggle for change

Fantasy literature can depict heroic characters who are resistant and who are fighting for change and Justice. These characters can be inspiring role models for readers and motivate them to work to achieve change in the real world.

Fourth: exploration and imagination

Fantasy literature gives readers the opportunity to explore and imagine new and different worlds. This exploration can help broaden the horizons of readers, motivate them to think about different political issues and see things from a new perspective.

In general, fantasy literature can influence political issues by inspiring readers and encouraging them to think about political, social and economic issues in new and innovative ways. It gives authors and readers a platform to explore the complex realities and pressing issues of our world in interactive and imaginative ways.

There are many fantasy novels that can influence the political consciousness of individuals, including: the series of novels "Star Wars" by George Lucas: this famous series deals with battles between evil forces and resistance in outer space. The novel reflects a lot of political issues such as dictatorship, discrimination, resistance against persecution.

While we see the novel "1984" by George Orwell as presenting a dark vision of the future ruled by a totalitarian state and extreme surveillance. The novel discusses the issues of anarchist power, manipulation of facts and political repression.

The novel "The Hunger Games" by Susan Collins tells the story of Katniss Everdeen and her entry into a deadly battle within the hunger games, a television battle used as a means of controlling the people and manipulating public opinion. The novel deals with topics such as poverty, social and political injustice, discrimination.

These are just some examples of fantasy novels that can influence political consciousness. There are many other works of fantasy literature that may contain political messages and inspire reflection and discussion on political issues.

The influence of criticism on fantasy and science fiction literature:

Criticism has a significant impact on fantasy and science fiction literature, as it can influence the acceptance and reception of literary works in these genres. Some of the impact that criticism can have on this literature are the following:

Directing attention: critics can highlight certain aspects of the story or the fictional world presented in the novel or short story. Criticism may focus on aspects of literary style, characters, or narrative structure. This helps readers and writers to focus on specific aspects and appreciate them better.

Quality assessment: critics can provide a critical assessment of literary works in these genres, which helps readers make informed decisions about which books they choose to read. Critical evaluation can influence the popularity of a book or literary series, and can direct writers towards the development of their works based on future criticism.

Discussion and interaction: criticism can stimulate dialogue and interaction between readers and critics. Critics can put forward ideas and opinions that stimulate reflection and discussion on stories and topics related to fantasy and science fiction. This contributes to the strengthening of the literary community and the exchange of ideas.

The development of literature: criticism can play a role in the development of fantasy and science fiction literature in general. Critics can help writers improve their writing skills and develop their abilities to craft fairy tales and worlds. Criticism can also encourage innovation and renovation in this genre of literature.

In the end, it can be said that criticism plays an important role in the formation and development of fantasy and science fiction literature, as it contributes to directing attention, assessing quality, activating discussion, helps to develop this genre of literature to become more sophisticated and innovative.

How fantasy and science fiction influenced literature?

Fantasy and science fiction have greatly influenced literature throughout the ages. Some of the main effects that fantasy and science fiction have had on literature are:

First: clowning down on reality

Fantasy and science fiction are a way to escape from reality and plunge into fantasy worlds. It allows readers and writers to explore new ideas and concepts that do not exist in the real world. Fantasy presents stories full of magic and fairy-tale creatures, while science fiction focuses on the future, technology and alternative worlds. This satire on reality provides readers with an entertaining experience and stimulation of the imagination.

Second: exploring deep topics

Science fiction and fantasy allow discussing and exploring a variety of deep and philosophical topics. Through fictional worlds and unreal characters, writers can empathize with issues such as power, identity, freedom and Justice. Readers can internalize these topics and pose questions about reality and humanity.

Third: warnings and alerts

Science fiction and fantasy are sometimes used to warn about possible dangers in the future or to paint a picture of a society in which people live under special restrictions or conditions. By depicting dark futuristic worlds or warning against wrong behaviors, fiction literature can shed light on contemporary social or political issues and prompt people to think critically.

Fourth: meditation and visualization

Science fiction and fantasy encourage readers to meditate and fantasize. Reading these types of literature requires the reader to imagine new worlds and interesting characters. Such meditation and visualization contribute to the development of the ability to think creatively and express thoughts in new ways.

In general, fantasy and science fiction promote creativity and allow writers and readers to expand their horizons and experience new worlds. These two literatures are a source of entertainment, inspiration and motivation, contribute to the formation of culture and collective thinking.

Semantics and conclusion:

Although at first fantasy and science fiction may seem far from reality, they carry important connotations for fiction literature in general. They are working to expand the boundaries of imagination and expression, offering new visions of the world and humanity. There is a set of points that indicate the basic connotation of fantasy and science fiction over fiction literature:

First: exploring imagination and visualization

Fantasy and science fiction are a means of deep exploration of fantasy and imagination. It allows readers and writers to get into non-existent worlds and characters, experience adventures and events that are not limited to the known reality. This type of literature is characterized by the ability to arouse curiosity, create interesting experiences for fun and fly with imagination.

Second: expressing complex feelings and thoughts

Fantasy and science fiction provide a platform for expressing human emotions and complex thoughts in unconventional ways. Writers can use symbols and fictional elements to express deep truths, philosophical and moral issues figuratively. Readers can internalize these messages and meanings by interacting with the fictional world and its characters.

Third: social and cultural exploration

Fantasy and science fiction can offer different visions of society and culture. It allows writers to explore social and cultural issues by creating unique worlds and characters. Fictional elements can be used to shed light on challenges and tensions in society and to express cultural differences.

Fourth: expanding the boundaries of creativity and thinking

Fantasy and science fiction expand the boundaries of creativity and human thinking by encouraging writers to innovate and experiment with innovative ideas and new concepts. Readers can challenge realistic constraints and explore innovative ideas and solutions to the challenges they face in the real world.

In general, it can be said that fantasy and science fiction are an impetus for creativity and development as long as there are creative writers in this field, and the future will certainly reveal this.