

## A Political Reading of Seyyed Mahdi Shojaee's *Democracy or DemoCrazy* in the Light of the Theory of Organizational Structure

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### Extended Abstract

#### 1. Introduction

The novel "Democracy" or "Demokraze" by Seyed Mehdi Shojaei, a contemporary writer and researcher, is written in a simple and fluent style suitable for teenagers. This work is a kind of narrative similar to a report with a humorous tone that depicts the rule of several kings. The novel's political satire has depicted the confrontation between the people and the kings by projecting different views of sovereignty.

#### 2. Aim

By proposing the challenge of power, The novel "Democracy" or "Demokraze" shows the structural nature of governments with the color of democracy. Based on this, the criticism of this work, which is a kind of meaningful satirical narrative, is a criticism of the concept of domination in the historical mentality of mankind. From a management perspective, governments have a political structure that establishes principles and laws in order to maintain and survive and to be able to manage their territory. Although governments appear in many formats with different and in some cases conflicting approaches, all follow the pattern and principles of the organizational structure. This article answers the following questions by applying the theory of organizational structure to the novel Democracy or Demokraze: How is the relationship between organizational structure and political governance portrayed in the novel "Democracy" or "Demokraze"? Does a change in political governance lead to an alteration in the principles of the organizational structure in the mentioned novel?

#### 3. Theoretical Framework and Methodology

This article employs an interdisciplinary approach in comparative literature with an attitude towards the American comparative doctrine through an analytical-descriptive method. By emphasizing the organizational structure theory, it critiques the political framework of the novel Democracy or Demokraze.

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#### 4. Discussion

The political interpretation of the novel "Democracy" or "Demokraze from the point of view of the organizational structure places this research among interdisciplinary studies and offers a new reading in understanding the hidden concepts of the novel. There are different views and definitions about organizational structure. The structure determines the hierarchy of the task. Jackson and Morgan compared the basic and fundamental dimensions of the organization. Based on this comparison, the basic dimensions of the organization are divided into four main categories (Najafpour 1390: 6-8): Specialization or complexity, Formalization, Concentration of power, and Control of work flows.

The novel "Democracy" or "Demokraze" depicts the rule of several kings over a large state. The geographical territory of these governments is a land called Gharbiestan, which is an evocative of three words: Cemetery, Arabia and Western countries. The novel Democracy or Demokraze is composed of three government structures with specific theories. The first government structure is the Mamol government, which the author refers to with a common term. The second government structure is the chain of demos or sons of Mamol, which has 25 kings. These kings have a humorous reputation among the people and each one rules for two years according to the father's will. The third government is the king who invades Gharbiestan, who takes over this country due to the weakness and incompetence of the rulers of Gharbiestan and establishes a new government. The difference in the style of governance in this novel creates three government systems that have their own rules and regulations due to the style of governance. The principles of the organizational structure of these three governments are changed according to the evidence in the text. For this reason, we call these three government structures ordinary or simple government, destructive democracy or Demokraze, and political democracy or civilized democracy.

#### 5. Findings and Conclusion

Examining the theory of organizational structure in the novel Democracy or Demokraze with an interdisciplinary approach in humanities makes possible the political reading of the novel by applying the theories of management in literature. The findings show three government structures that successively rule over a single territory. This is the territory of Gharbiestan country, which shows a symbol of democracy according to the textual evidence. This is the land of Gharbiestan, which, according to textual evidence, symbolizes democracy. Three distinct political structures—simple and modernist governance, royal democracy or destructive democracy, and political democracy or civilized democracy—each with their own ideologies and beliefs, govern Gharbiestan in succession. The structural features of the first governments are presented in a short and transient way, and the government theory is fully explained only in the two parts of the reign of the demokrafie and the

invading king. The organizational structure of each of these governments is formed in the official sector by establishing laws and propagating a new ideology; however, there are no changes in the two basic dimensions of concentration and control. In other words, although the establishment of laws in the aspect of formality takes governments towards democracy, the centralized and supervisory nature of these governments does not change; Therefore, democracy in the superficial layers of these governments creates an attractive appearance that is deceptive, inefficient and incomplete. In this novel, we are faced with a structural transformation from a simple structure to an extensive and contradictory structure; That is, transformation occurs in the dimension of formality and to a lesser extent in the dimension of specialization, and in other cases it is ineffective; Therefore, moving from an authoritarian structure to a democratic structure is incomplete and undesirable. In this novel, the birth hypothesis is confirmed by the transformation at the top of the power pyramid and the change of the king.

**Keywords:** Democracy or Demokraze, Seyyed Mehdi Shojaee, Organizational Structure, content analysis method, Interdisciplinary studies in Management and Literature.

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