

An Interdisciplinary Reading of *Shiraz* and *Farewell to Shiraz* based on Westphal's Theory

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Extended Abstract

1. Introduction

The novel "Shiraz" is written by Robert Hamburger, an American writer. He spent part of his life in Iran and this had an impact on writing the novel and choosing its name. We study the Hamburger's novel as a work of fiction with an external Point of view. The book "Farwell Shiraz" is Cyrus Kadivar's memoirs about life in Shiraz. We study it as a real work with an internal view because it is the result of the author's objective observations. The focus of the current research is on the place and methods of its representation. The city of Shiraz is the place that we can see its representations in both works. The best approach to examining the place is the theory of geocriticism, which despite being new in the western world, has been widely welcomed. The theorist and creator of geocriticism, Bertrand Westphal, is a professor of comparative literature at the University of Limoges, France.

2. Aim

In this research, the elements of geocriticism are examined with examples from two books, Shiraz and Farewell Shiraz, so that by analyzing and describing these elements and their capabilities, readers and those interested in this approach of criticism in Iran will get more familiar with them. Additionally, I will try to seek an answer to the following questions: How are the Polysensoriality and stratification elements used in two works? Is the representation of human space and place in a fictional work fundamentally different from what is presented in the narration of memories? Is it true that the accuracy of the representation of the place in the story is less than the accuracy of its representation in the memoir that is based on imagination? Are such ratings correct? Should the question be answered if the change of location in these two works harms their structure?

3. Theoretical Framework and Methodology

Geocriticism is an interdisciplinary approach that combines geography and literary

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studies and examines the mutual links between literature and environment and emphasizes the spatial dimensions of literary works. Considering the geographical context in which literary texts are produced, geocriticism analyzes how places, landscapes and spaces influence the creation and interpretation of literature. This approach seeks to understand the relationship between literature and the physical world, and examines how writers represent, imagine, and engage with different geographical places.

4. Discussion

In his book *Geocriticism*, Westphal explains the following three elements: Multifocalization, Polysensorality and stratigraphic. About multifocalization, it should be said that Geocriticism avoids a unipolar point of view and an attempt is made to introduce the place and space under investigation from different points of view. According to the way Kadivar and Hamburger look at Shiraz, we can see the correctness of Westphal's opinion. While Hamburger rightly talks about the extreme heat of Shiraz in summer, Kadivar praises the bright sun of Shiraz. Kadivar sees beauty and goodness in Zand street and in Shiraz in general, which is not a complete view of the place while Hamburger has represented both the positive and negative aspects of the place. About polysensorality, Westphal talks about the domination of the sense of sight over other senses in the matter of understanding and recognition in Western culture, criticizes it and gives the example that when a person says "I see" he means "I understand!"; This is true in English, French, and many other languages, where 'seeing' is synonymous with 'understanding'. In these two works, the sense of sight is dominant, but there are also soundscapes, and the sense of smell is also used to describe Shiraz. Paying attention to the element of time in recognizing and correctly representing the place is of particular importance. Places undergo changes over time because layers are placed on top of each other and it shows the events that happened to them. The term "stratigraphy" is also used to refer to these changes, borrowed from geological knowledge. In the novel *Shiraz*, time layers are clearly visible ; each of them has somehow influenced the identity of the city of Shiraz, and despite their age, they still have their dynamic and live presence in the lives of the people of Shiraz. In *Farewell Shiraz*, different historical and cultural layers show themselves in the representation of the city and show the evolution of Shiraz.

5. Finding and Conclusion

Farewell Shiraz with its various and especially detailed descriptions has been more successful in the geographical mapping of the city of Shiraz in such a way that by reading it, a clear image of Shiraz of that time is imprinted in the mind of the reader and can understand its spacious history well. Hamburger also mentioned the names of some places in Shiraz and gave a brief description of Shahcheragh, the airport, Zand Street and Vakil Bazaar. Although it is not enough to form the geographical map of Shiraz in the mind, a general view of the city is imprinted in the mind. All the names used in both works have real references, and even in Hamburger's work, which is a

literary and imaginary work, there is no mention of unreal and imaginary places. The space and place of Shiraz in both works have special features, which if changed, will cause serious damage to the body of the work. The current research shows that the three elements that Westphal presents in Geocriticism are of great help in examining and analyzing the representations of place in literary works, and paying attention to different focal points such as native and alien and using all the senses in examining the representation of place and also Considering multiple time layers will lead to a comprehensive knowledge of the place in different literary types.

Keywords: Multifocalization, Polysensoriality, stratigraphy, Geocriticism, Shiraz

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