

Makamat Al-Hariri: A Pilgrimage of Narratives and Cultural Co-ordination

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Published by Ahlia University
1st Edition, April 2017



Abstract

This study is to explore the ancient narrative text which has not been considered and investigated in comparison to other literature models. Such models have been slightly approached and explored within modern criticism methodology where as a huge number of such texts fill the shelves of Arabian libraries. Moreover, looking at the ancient narrative text through the modern text techniques only makes ancient narrative text lose the cultural characteristic in which it was produced.

The plausible approach to the ancient narrative text is by analyzing the ancient text rather than having our information of modern texts projected on the ancient one. This can be reached through the process of producing new perception to the text. Such process should be depending on revealing the text effects on the surrounding environment and recognizing the importance of issues stem from the text, and the different probabilities of interpretations of the text. This should offer us a better perception to narrative researches because it represents the ultimate understanding of the structure, textile, function, and meaning of the text.

Upon this perception, the researcher attempted to position Al Hariri's Maqamat in its cultural and literature frames in this study. He also investigated its effects on the culture. To reach his goal, he used a number of techniques which they participate together to compose his own methodology to approach the Maqamat, bearing in mind the specialty of the Maqamat.

The researcher studied the pattern of receiving the Maqamat. He eventually found that the most prominent patterns of receiving are three.

The researcher started in the first chapter with the notions of "structure" and "cultural pattern" and he shed light on the functions of the narrator in the modern narration theories, particularly, in structuralism. The main question here was how these functions represented in the Maqamat.

Then he dealt with the Maqamat as a cultural product and the features that shaped and reshaped the Maqamat. The most important features according the researcher are:

- Utterance
- Stories and novels
- The process of narrating such stories and novels.

The above three features made the Maqamat reflect its cultural environment and literature characteristics.

The researcher found that the Maqamat reflects a number of cultural patterns.

In the second chapter, the researcher studied two sections. The first section is about structuring the Maqamat. He also talked about the structure of the introduction in the Maqamat and its functional and creative features. He explained the roles of the narrator.

In the second section, the researcher shed light on mechanisms of discourse which were adopted by Al Hariri to convey his messages in the Maqamat. The researcher focused on the rhythm structure and he investigated its perfect effects in the text. Next, he dealt with **intertextuality** and its affects on the text and intertextuality role in providing the text with argument capability.

The researcher concluded the study with an interpreting reading to some examples from the Maqamat in which he applied the above techniques. He chose three examples from the Maqamat that represent the most important models for investigation.

These three models are:

- The Maqamat that represent higher social class such as judges, princesses, and intellectuals (Rahbeyah).
- The Maqamat that represent the public.
- The Maqamat that is full of preaching and educational discourse.

The research brings to a close a number of findings. The main three findings are:

1. The Maqamat structure was affected by a number of elements surrounded he environment in which it was produced. Such effects were appeared in the function of the narrator, the receiver, the characters, and the discourse.
2. The Maqamat reacted with a group of cultural patterns and hence accepted some and rejected others.
3. The Maqamat held a pragmatic discourse armed with argument in purpose of affection and persuasion to the receiver.