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Title of Ph.D. thesis: Jamal al Ghaitani riwaeeyan:dirasa naqadeeyah
fi fannehi wa fikrehi

ABSTRACT

Jamal al Ghaitani (1945-2015) is an Egyptian novelist whose works basically unveil the political, social and economical conditions of Egypt in twentieth century. Actually he is a designer of rugs and left a lot of books in various fields. Ghaitani wrote several more novels and collections of short stories, each of which has added stature to his considerable reputation. In addition he has continued to work in journalism, first as a correspondent covering the major Arab conflagrations including the siege of Beirut then as a commentator and essayist.

The thesis comprises five chapters and the first chapter reveals the political and social conditions of Egypt in twentieth century. Then the second chapter is relevant to the writer, his life, his family, his educational background and the remaining chapters are relevant to his works especially in the field of critical study about his art and his thought in his novels.

Ghaitani has important predecessors in Egyptian fiction though his particular modes as a contemporary novelist distinguish him from other practicing novelists today. Jurji Zeidan, who was the most prominent writer among the earlier generation of writers, gives texture and historical breadth to the struggle for nationhood in the history of Arabs during the last years of European tutelage. The result was to have been, in Benedict Anderson's phrase, an imagined community of unified Arabs, a prospective goal for the present based upon a fully presented national story in the past. Some of this is ironically relevant to Ghaitani whose narrative techniques tell the story brilliantly. Unlike his immediate fictional predecessors the early and middle Najeeb Mahfooz principally Ghaitani is not a social realist influenced by Balzac, Gogol and Dickens. His reality is less stable, trickier, less amenable to definition and representation, just as post-revolutionary Egypt is a world dominated not only by American and Israeli power but by the consciousness industry, by subtle techniques of surveillance and political intelligence, by overlapping brigades of state security forces. Some collections of Ghaitani are "Al Rifaee" "Mutun al Ahram" "Al Zoyal" "Al Zayni Barakat" "Shatah al Madinah" etc.

Mostly Ghaitani has depended on the history narrating his novels and short stories and compared the Egyptian issues of twentieth century from the history of ibn Iyaas.