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Saudi Novel: Commencements, Efforts, and Headway (3)

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Abstrak

The Saudi novel has experienced profound thematic and artistic development changes. Going through the Saudi novel's several stages of development may assist readers in understanding the types of aesthetic advancements made at each step. By tracing the origins, evolution, and importance of Saudi fiction, a significant literary genre, the study aims to shed light on its growth and significance. In this literary work, the researcher uses an analytical-critical approach in keeping with the nature of the literary analysis. The paper gets started with a terse outline of the conception of the novel before moving on to talk over the following topics: the literary status of Makkah Al Mukarramah and an outline of the Arabic and Saudi novel. The paper then goes on to analytically shed light on Hamid Damanhori's novel, The Price of Sacrifice. The paper finishes with recommendable discussions and a conclusion.

Kata Kunci: Saudi Novel; The Price of Sacrifice; Saudi fiction; Hamid Damanhori; Kingdom of Saudi Arabia.

شَهَدَتْ الرِّوَايَةُ السُّعُودِيَّةُ تَغْيِيرَاتٍ عَمِيقَةً فِي التَّطَوُّرِ الْمَوْضُوعِيِّ وَالْفَنِيِّ، قَدْ يُسَاعِدُ الْمُرُورُ بِمَرَاكِلِ تَطَوُّرِ الرِّوَايَةِ السُّعُودِيَّةِ الْعَدِيدَةِ الْفُرَاءِ فِي فَهْمِ أَنْوَاعِ التَّطَوُّرَاتِ الْجَمَالِيَّةِ الَّتِي تَبْنِي فِي كُلِّ مَرَحَلَةٍ، مِنْ خِلَالِ تَتَبُّعِ أُصُولِ وَتَطَوُّرِ وَأَهْمِيَّةِ الرِّوَايَةِ السُّعُودِيَّةِ، كَوْنُهَا نَوْعٌ أَدَبِيٌّ مُهِمٌّ، تَهْدَفُ الدِّرَاسَةُ إِلَى تَسْلِيْطِ الضُّوْءِ عَلَى نُمُوِّهَا وَأَهْمِيَّتَيْهَا وَتَطَوُّرِهَا، يَسْتَحْدِمُ الْبَاحِثُ فِي هَذَا الْعَمَلِ الْأَدَبِيِّ مِنْهَجًا تَحْلِيلِيًّا نَقْدِيًّا يَتِمَّاشَى مَعَ طَبِيعَةِ التَّحْلِيلِ الْأَدَبِيِّ. تَبَدَّلَ الدِّرَاسَةُ بِمَوْجِزٍ مُفْتَضِّلٍ لِمَفْهُومِ الرِّوَايَةِ قَبْلَ الْإِنْتِقَالِ إِلَى الْحَدِيثِ عَنِ الْمَوْضُوعَاتِ التَّلَايِيَّةِ: الْوَضْعُ الْأَدَبِيُّ لِمَكَّةِ الْمَكْرَمَةِ وَالْحَطُوطِ الْعَرَبِيَّةِ لِلرِّوَايَةِ الْعَرَبِيَّةِ وَالسُّعُودِيَّةِ. ثُمَّ يَنْتَقِلُ الْبَاحِثُ فِي هَذِهِ الدِّرَاسَةِ إِلَى الْإِقَاءِ الضُّوْءِ التَّحْلِيلِيِّ عَلَى رِوَايَةِ حَمِيدِ دَمَنْهَوْرِي " تَمَنُّ التَّضْحِيَّةِ ". وَتَنْتَهِي الْوَرَقَةُ بِالْمُنَاقَشَةِ وَالتَّوَصِيَّاتِ ثُمَّ الْحَاطِمَةُ. الْكَلِمَاتُ الْمِفْتَاحِيَّةُ: الْأَدَبُ السُّعُودِي، تَمَنُّ التَّضْحِيَّةِ، الرِّوَايَةُ السُّعُودِيَّةُ، حَمِيدِ دَمَنْهَوْرِي، الْمَمْلَكَةُ الْعَرَبِيَّةُ السُّعُودِيَّةُ

1. Introduction

The fiction/novel is told by a narrative character, which distinguishes the novel as a genre of literature. Numerous critics have said that because the novel is a literary form that can continue to develop, there is no comprehensive description of it. The novel is also a series of

events conveyed in the style of a serial story by a long prose narrative portraying imaginary or actual people and events. In terms of size, personality, and variety of events, it is the largest anecdotal race. Even if they are incorrect, many commentators claim that the novel became a significant literary form in Europe in the eighteenth century.

The novel is a kind of literary expression based on a lengthy prose narrative in which the author analyzes imaginary or actual fictional people and events. The largest of the narrative genres in terms of size, the sequential story, also depicts events in the novel. The novel is a narrative-based story that features descriptions, dialogue, and personality conflict, as well as the underlying crisis, controversies, and feeding of events. A narrator must enumerate events in a variety of novel types, including social, historical, fantasy, romance, political, classic, realistic, commercial, science fiction, and autobiography. Making the appropriate choice for the character in the novel is crucial since, like in a play, that character is what draws the reader or listener in. Characters must be as human as the rest of life in order to make the proper decision. This means that they must have goals in life as well as fears and hopes.

Novels have captured readers' imaginations and taken them to fantastical worlds for decades. The many novel subgenres include romance, science fiction, fantasy, mystery, thrillers, and more genres. We will encounter the subject in one of the literary works we analyze and evaluate. Fiction has a far greater range of growth than stories do, can be written by one or several authors and is written in prose. The book is a popular and important literary genre. It frequently lasts a lot longer than a short narrative or an epic.

The novel often addresses social issues as well as real-world issues and interpersonal relationships. It has been one of the most important literary subgenres and has made a big difference in culture and society. With regard to creativity and output, the Arabic novel started to develop remarkably and quickly. Critics concurred that Mohammed Hussein Haikal's novel *Zainab*, published in 1914, marked, as many critics declare, the debut of the Arabic novel as a literary art form.

After the First World War, the novel began to take on a new more artistic, and more thoughtful character where its essential rules and elements emerged. In addition, it had writers who were motivated by it and contributed to its upkeep and development. Some of them are Tawfeeq Al-Hakeem, Mohamed Ali Maghrabi, Taha Hussein, Al-Mazny, Abdul Guddus Al-Ansari, Mahmoud Taimur, Hamid Hussein Damanhori, and many others.

According to Dahami (2022b; 2020a), Saudi literature has undergone a significant alteration that might be regarded as the most significant in the movement of cultural changes.

This is due to the services provided by media organizations, publishing houses, and literary communication movements. In accordance with all of its principles and regulations, the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia has supported free public education and schooling since the dominant nation is the one that controls the resources and components of advancement. As a response, the monarchy hurried to establish and fund educational institutions, including schools, colleges, universities, newspapers, and other mass media and cultural outlets. Thinkers and writers who sought to advance the literary revolution were welcomed by a variety of journals and newspapers. This was a great opportunity for many writers, critics, and literary figures to spread dull concepts to the general audience.

1.1. Objectives of the Study

The determination of this investigation is to analyze and ascertain the identity of the early stages and change from the early beginning to the contemporary age of the Saudi novel, with a focus on the model novel *The Price of Sacrifice* by the novelist Hamid Damanhuri and his erudite considerations. The importance of the novel, *The Price of Sacrifice*, lies in its being a literary work that paved the way for Saudi novels. The novel shows an evolution in literary style during the course of Saudi novel writing. Again, a significant element in this novel is that it reflects the impact of Arabic literature. In addition, it can be estimated as the first novel that contains complete elements of novel writing. It is a sort of defiance for the novelist to stand against some challenges to the literary endeavor in the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia at the time of its composition.

2. Research Method

The narrative type with the biggest scale is the progressive story, which the novel uses to reflect events. A detailed inspection of the literary constructs would have revealed the knowledge obtained through this type of inquiry. These are important, particularly when they are presented analytically. It demonstrates the validity of genuine methodical research that assesses both the integration of portraits and the usage of visual metaphors in the chosen play. The critical-analytical method can be useful in this situation since it illustrates how the analysis will be influenced by both the predicted social models and the traits that fit the current sorting approach to analysis. As a literary analysis, this study uses critical and analytical techniques as measuring tools for the study's occurrences. The paper is made of four parts. The first offers a brief summary of some critical attitudes, opinions, and valuations of Makkah Al Mukarramah and its literary status. The second point is about a succinct exploration of the Saudi novel while also proposing material on how it commenced and matured. The novel *The Price of Sacrifice*

(ثمن التضحية) by Hamid Damanhori is discussed in the following part as one of the premature efforts at Saudi novel. The last issues covered by the discussion and conclusion are covered in the final part.

3. Result

3.1. Makkah Al Mukarramah: Lofty Literary Status

When discussing Makkah Al-Mukarramah and its status in Arabic literature, encyclopedias are required to fulfill its due from the prestigious position it sought in various aspects of Arabic literature. With all of the world's metropolises, cities, villages, and populated regions, Makkah is the central place of all of them. As Arabs metaphorically say, it is the mother of all human civilizations and the cosmopolitan capital of the world. The traditions that discuss the prehistoric origins of Mecca suggest that the angels were responsible for erecting the Masjid of Allah there. It is a temple, the center of the earth, and a representation of monotheism.

Unquestionably, the capital of Islam, Makkah al-Mukarramah, is one of the finest and most well-known towns in the world. No other city has received greater recognition than Makkah. "The influence of literature among nations, from a country to another and from a continent to another, is tangible and palpable all over the ages. No one can deny the contribution and influence of Arabic and Islamic civilization on the West' (Dahami, 2017). This influence originated with the rise of Islam that saw light in Makkah (مكة)" (Dahami, 2020b). Such influence commenced since the middle ages until the resurgence or revival period and likely after, with witnesses, proofs, verifications and corroborations of Holy Mecca and Al-Medina El Monawara, Andalusia, Constantinople, ... and many other beacons of erudition and knowledge in the Arabic Islamic world (Dahami, 2018a).

One of the literary achievements that Makkah immortalized was the seven or ten Mua'llagat that were attached to the walls of Al-Kaaba to perpetuate Arab poets before Islam. "The Arabic expression Qasayd, a plural of Qasiydah, means odes sometimes translated as poems. Al Mua'llaqat, a plural of Mua'llaqah, means 'the hanging poems of Arabs'. It took that name for evidently being hung up on Holy Ka'aba in Mecca" (Dahami, 2019a). According to Faris (1946), the Holy Quran, poetry, and genealogy are the three main subjects of interest for Islamic and Arab historians today and historically. In the history of the time before Islam, they have emphasized two primary characteristics: the first is the city of Mecca [Makkah] and its holiest site for prayer and pilgrimage, the Ka'bah; the second is the nomads' open-air lifestyle in its natural state (p. 43).

This can be observed in the environment, which is a thirsty yet imaginative place, as well as in the various instances of little invasions and battles for control of water sources or the vengeance of slain kin. As a result, Mecca was an important city in Arabia, and Bedouin life is the most representative aspect of the period before Islam. However, there are several instances of people who encourage Arab traditions and make the widespread use of the Arabic poetic language obvious. According to Coke (1929), few of the jurists, philosophers, historians, poets, and storytellers who decorated the Court of Baghdad and made Arabic literature among the most prolific in the world could boast the blood of Arabia (p. 77). According to Browne, the Arabic mentality is clear and optimistic, and the language is tense, virulent, and rich both in the present and in the future. The elderly Arabs were sharp and perceptive individuals (Dahami, 2019b; Thorndike, 1927, p. 285).

Makkah has a great status in the hearts of Saudis, Arabs, and all Muslims. It is the passionate love that can never be hidden or concealed. "The love of the homeland is consistent with the purposes and teachings of Islam. It was reported by the Messenger that he addressed Makkah. He declared his strong love for it when his people deported him from it, so he said: By Allah, you are the most beloved land of Allah to Him and the most beloved land of Allah to me. Were it not that your people took me out, I would not have left" (Dahami, 2022c; Al-Omari, 2008; Al-Azraqi, 2004, p. 32).

Historically, "Makkah was the most important Arab city in the pre-Islamic era, as it was a symbol of security for the Arabs. Its community consisted of Guraysh Al-Bataha, which encamped around Al-Ka'aba" (Thaif, 2008, p. 51; An-Natsheh, 2001, p. 72; Abo Shareb, 1999, p. 30). Makkah or "Mecca made a nearer approach to the contemporary standard of civilized life than any other settlement in peninsular Arabia" (Dahami, 2018b; Hogarth, 1922, p. 17). Hamid Damanhori, in his modern Saudi novel, *The Price of Sacrifice* makes Makkah the setting of the events as a representative of Arab and Saudi cities.

3.2. Saudi Novel: Outline

Literature is the mirror of societies, reflecting their culture, and it is inclusive of many types of genres. One of these important genres, which is indispensable for social culture, is the novel, with its many forms. Peyre (1968), goes with the idea declaring that the apparent reasons why the novel is more likely than poetry, drama, or essay to become the art form that will mirror the most bottomless considerations of new or rejuvenated nations have to do with the form of the novel, on the one hand. On the other, have to do with the aptitude for dramatically illustrating social and psychological matters (p. xvii).

The influence of Saudi literature can be seen in the rhetoric, drama, novels, and literary works of many Saudi and Arab authors, as well as literary characters. History, didactics, and education can be understood as the main consequences and motivations of the Saudi revival. As the wellspring and fountain of knowledge and culture, the nation paid close attention to its constituents. In Saudi Arabia, the novel is a significantly conspicuous literary genre. The main literary form in the nation is narrative Arabic literature. A significant and sizable region of the Arabic world is represented by the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia. According to this opinion, it may be true that the novel's development and culmination in the modern era is a positive move. Naturally, it is believed that contemporary Saudi literature is a fundamental, important, and essential part of modern literature.

Through the efforts of numerous talented Saudi authors, the Saudi novel has established itself on regional and Arab levels. The narrative literary genre is regarded by many critics and writers as one of the modern literary genres that have developed in the Kingdom, like many other Arab nations. However, the existence of this literary genre has grown to be notable and unmistakably shows an unprecedented literary awakening in the Kingdom's cultural and literary centers. This momentum signals the beginning of a productive literary movement that advances the literary landscape in the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia.

The upswing in education in Saudi Arabia led to the presence of learned expats who contributed to the development and prosperity of education. They have also contributed to enriching the literary and cultural arenas with essays and literary symbols. One of these is the diversity of the stories, both translated and created by intellectual writers. Education, on the other hand, has contributed to a complementary and reverse process of allowing home students to learn from a variety of sources and cultures so that innovators can return and contribute to the country's development and prosperity.

As has already been mentioned, the majority of the early Saudi writers were educators who sought to advance their nation's development by educating society away from its primarily Ottoman culture and cutting itself off from the advancement that Egypt and Lebanon had experienced. Abdul-Guddus Al-Ansari and Ahmad As-Sebaei were two among many. Al-Ansari was the first to organize a literary society for educators and a public speaking training facility. He launched the significant literary periodical *Al-Manhal* in addition to penning the first novel to appear in *Al-Hijaz* (1936). As-Sebaei focused both his mind and his pen on the advancement of the country. He created the first Saudi reading primer while serving as the headmaster of an elementary school.

They also contribute to enriching the literary arena of the homeland, which ignites the torches of light through the literature of all kinds. "It is the love of the homeland that carries inside the poet, [novelist, dramatist, and literary figure] abundant feelings that fill the hearts of every human being towards their homeland." (Dahami, 2022a). Also, draw attention to the novel in particular. All this had an impact, and through it, it increased awareness among different social classes, especially the educated class. The educated and enlightened class increased its aspiration to seek out and advance the literature of the novel, which would enrich the literary arena, which was almost devoid of this literary genre in the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia.

The Saudi novel raises societal issues such as marriage, divorce, and the status of women. It also raises issues of identity, the identity of minorities, whether religious or racial and ethnic minorities, political crises, and the repercussions of the Gulf War on society. Controversy has arisen about the contents of the Saudi novel and whether it can be considered an artistic testimony to the reality of this society. Several literary critics searched for the biographical dimension in it to consider the fictional and narrative works in the Kingdom as a historical and social document that expresses the depth of the transformations that this society has undergone over decades (Saleh, 2014).

A novel with a social view, often known as a social novel, is one that seeks to directly affect how people interact with one another, either generally or in response to a specific set of circumstances. Private manners and public affairs are, of course, too intertwined to be changed separately from one another. Every moral critique has an impact on society. "This definition focuses on some aspects of the social novel such as the intellectual aspect, but completely neglects the literary aesthetics of the novel" (Al Harthi, 2015, p. 35). Some literary critics assert that the social novel serves as a reflection of society because literary works typically reflect social events in some way.

The novel is regarded as a social expression or product that can be critically examined in the same way as any other material object in society. The book functions as a reflection of reality, a byproduct of reality, and a research topic in this way. The relationship between literature and society is usually examined alongside the social novel, which makes up a significant portion of critical studies. Others have criticized them for their close relationships.

From its genesis in 1930 through the establishment, experimentation, and renewal, the Saudi novel has come a long way. Before reaching the juvenile period of the issues and moving from local to globalism, the novels went through a number of stages, from simple traditional

beginnings to literary and traditional alternate phases to good kinds of renewal. In the 20th century, the Saudi novel went through more than two stages of growth. The most fabricated and devious details are used to deceive the reader into believing that what he is reading is true and not fiction, as they prove the situation or the person as true as the details related to him, and the more accurate they are, the faster the reader will believe it. See more at (Al-Gawasemeh, 2020; Al-Madinah, 2011).

According to numerous reviewers, the Saudi novel reached its intellectual maturity between 1959 and 1979. Some others define the period to be 1959–1980 (Alshammari, 2017, p. 9). The Price of Sacrifice (1959) by Hamid Daminhori shows a development in literary style during this time. The first Saudi novel, At-Tawamn, had a didactic and theological tone, and its theme—which was also present in the works of Ghazi Al-Gosaibi and Ibrahim Al-Hamadan—was the pride of Islamic and Arab identity in opposition to the colonial West. Additionally, Al-Bara Al-Mafqudah (Lost Innocence) by Hind Ba Ghaffar and the adventure themes used in early Saudi novels both reflect the impact of Arabic literature. Generally speaking, these topics were present and predominated in early Saudi narratives.

The writing endeavors of Ahmad As-Sebaei, who published Fikrah (فكرة) 'An Idea' in 1947, and Moḥammad 'Alī Maghrabī, who published the novel Al-Ba'th (البعث) 'The Resurrection' in 1948, are all instances of the premature Saudi novel, a matter agreed upon by several perceptive critics. Novelists wrote novels in the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia before the genre attained its maturity in 1959 when Ḥāmid Damanhorī (1922–1965) issued his novel Thaman At-Tathḥiyah (ثمن التضحية) 'The Price of Sacrifice'.

3.3. Hamid Damanhori and The Price of **Sacrifice**

When Saudi Arabia was founded in 1932, education became more accessible, and newspapers and periodicals were first published. Saudi students who received scholarships traveled overseas, mainly to Egypt, where they returned with fresh literary and critical ideas that were sparked by the numerous publications they had never seen before. Hamid Damanhori, a 1945 graduate of the universities of Cairo and Alexandria, was one of them.

The Saudi writer Hamid Hussein Damanhori (also Damanhuri or Damanhourī) (1922–1965) is a multi-talented person. He wrote poetry, stories, and articles, and he created the novel, which has been known more than any other literary form in which it was produced, and it has two famous narrative works. They are The Price of Sacrifice (1959) and The Days Passed (1963). As a result, despite his short life, Hamid Damanhori, a comprehensive writer, was not limited to giving to one literary genre but to diverse sorts of literature.

Hamid Damanhori lived with a generation that opened up to a literary renaissance characterized by the inclusive production of poetry and prose. This is accompanied by the initiation of a number of publications for both publication and dissemination. In the forefront are the newspapers Um Al-Gura, Voice of Al-Hijaz, and Al-Manhal. From here, this generation found the roads in front of it paved by its previous generation. It is the generation of Muhammad Surur Al-Saban, Ahmed bin Ibrahim al-Ghazawi, Mohammed Hassan Awad, Abdul Gaddous Al-Ansari, Hamad Al-Jasser, and many others. They found encouragement and publishing outlets that were legislated, so they started writing early, although they encountered the problem of newspapers stopping during the Second World War. “the Arabic novel has achieved a true maturity and sense of identity since the Second World War, then they may perhaps be prepared to concede also that a slightly longer period of creativity in this genre” (Allen, 1982, p. 9).

As one of the returning envoys, Damanhori achieved the desire of the masses through his first completed novel with literary elements. It is a novel, "The Price of Sacrifice," which emerged in 1959. Many national critics have counted it as the true beginning of the novel in Saudi Arabia for its high artistry and cohesion in the construction of novels. It is a new stage in the development of the Saudi novel, where a large number of audiences received it so eagerly that its first edition was carried out shortly after its release. Furthermore, “many critics agree that *At-Tawamān* represents the initial phase in Saudi novel writing, even though it is an educational novel. Literary critics refer to the emergence of the artistic phase in 1959 when the first novel of Ḥāmid Damanhori (1980), *Thaman Al-Tathīya*, was published” (Al Harthi, 2015, p. 47). This confirms the novel's importance, as it has been translated into a number of languages. She is supposed to receive an appropriate share and space of critical studies to discover and probe her wishes, as well as to know the queens of her writer, Hamid Damanhori.

An author who exemplifies the importance and depth of Saudi literature is Hamid Damanhori. With a language that stands out among the best in great literature, his compositions are brilliant beacons. His two novels are the products of feeling and passion; they evoke sentiments of love and an emotional awareness of societal issues. The novelist Damanhori writes about love and improving the country through his creative creations, especially his novels, which are based on Saudi culture and literature. The novelist discussed societal issues and painted a picture of the reformation in his works.

The year 1959 saw the Saudi novel emerge from the predicament of faltering attempts, with the publication of the novel *The Price of Sacrifice*. Damanhori was interested in the spatial

environment and photographed it carefully and accurately, highlighting its streets, neighborhoods, and residences, the customs and traditions of its people, their way of thinking, their lifestyles, their interests, and everything related to them, as well as the temporal environment, so he referred to it ably by referring to the Second World War. In terms of the portion of the characters, Damanhuri was able to create characters belonging to that time period and to live out their issues, ideas, and concerns. At the same time, the novelist's time has not been neglected, as it is clearly defined. The protagonist begins his last year of study at the Institute for Mission Preparation and ends with his return as a doctor after seven years in Egypt.

The writer's creative potential made him not overlook modern methods of making the novel, so he deliberately retrieved in more than one place. More than once, he went back to the childhood of the main character. The monotony of the narrative is broken by many light interactive passages expressing their words and varying cultural levels. At the same time, these interactive segments added something important to the work, either motivating events or clarifying the dimensions of the interlocutor characters. Walk events along a logical path based on causes and results, not random coincidences or surprises, all in a refined literary style and a language far from costly. At the same time, the torment flows, and the vitality flows. In doing so, he did not lose sight of dialogue and its vital role in fiction. That is, it combines a narrative with the conversion of attitudes into a discussion at other times.

A prominent feature of the generation of Hamid Damanhuri's literature is diversity and inclusion in production. It is a phase that readers might call the experimentation phase because of a number of this generation's pioneers. Damanhuri's writings were not limited to a single literary genre, but he tried to knock on the doors of most literary types. We should not forget some contemporaries of Damanhuri. Ahmad Mohammed Jamal publishes a book of poetry and writes critical literary essays. Another is Hassan Al-Qurashi, who writes poetry, stories, and essays. Hamid Damanhuri, therefore, did not find it surprising to try his pen in more than one area influenced by his generation and in response to the community's call for new and creative literary creation.

With a view to Hamid Damanhuri's literary production, we note his desire to enlighten, educate, and develop by transferring it to other nations' experiences. From this, we find criticism of some negative behaviors in his society, Saudi society. Damanhuri's literary presentation at the novel and essay levels aspired to societal change and reform. This is the positive role of every citizen with his or her weapons. As everyone knows, the most beautiful and effective weapon is the weapon of the pen and the word.

It is noticeable that the reference of the novel is the talent, culture, and conscious vision of the novelist Hamid Damanhuri. He was one of the first to receive postgraduate studies outside the Kingdom. He was a representative of good values and noble principles. Damanhuri was a representative of modern culture in traditional surroundings. His responsibility was extraordinary, so he harnessed his literary talent in order to fulfill his illuminating message.

The writer, Damanhuri, was a witness to the days he lived and experienced. He sought to address the negatives and enhance positivity through his two novels and various literary writings, especially the novel *The Price of Sacrifice*. With his writing, Damanhuri played the role of a social reformer by praising moral values and contributing to the cultivation of human virtues. He was an optimist for a tomorrow that carried the authenticity of the past and the advantages of the age. This is what we have begun to miss in modern literature, as Abdullah Omar Khayad opines (Khayad, 2011).

My thoughts have been imbued with a national enthusiasm for homelessness in education, behavior, and culture. He highlighted his thoughts in this context, in which he insisted on the importance of taking advantage of successful achievements worldwide and bringing them to the country. His thoughts were societal in both industry and progress and in behavior, such as attention to time and hygiene, application, and respect for the system. If there is an explanation for Hamid Damanhuri's proliferation at this stage, more than one reason can be addressed. That is, in a sense, creative, cultural, and intellectual maturity. He also had a practical link to journalism, especially when he was a supervisor at the *Journal of Knowledge*. Damanhuri was also a member of the Yamama Press Foundation. Furthermore, his novel *The Price of Sacrifice* was a huge success.

Hamid Damanhuri's character takes on more than a literary dimension. The first dimension is his ongoing literary and cultural work for more than three decades, during which he has taken on different literary and cultural sites. The other dimension is his great fiction fame, which is reflected in the importance of his literary work, especially in the construction of fiction in Saudi Arabia. Many Saudi fiction fans regard him as the father of Saudi fiction and the inventor of the literary novel. Many Saudi fiction enthusiasts regard him as the father of Saudi fiction. It might be the beginning of a fully-fledged literary novel because of the fictional works of Damanhuri.

Batqah (2010), opines that "the city in the Arabic novel constituted a large space for events, as the novelist was able to reveal many of the contradictions that the world of the city is filled with" (p. 7). The events of the novel, *'The Price of Sacrifice,'* take place among the

Makkah neighborhoods during the sixties and seventies of the fourteenth century AH. There are numerous historical details about Makkah Al-Mukarramah throughout the book. The author describes aspects of Meccan's life as he observed and experienced them, as well as his memories of some historical events as related by some individuals. For example, Khadija, the lady of the house, shares memories of the years of the war she refers to as the "Turkic war" with those around her, during which Sharif Al-Hussein ibn Ali rose up against the Turkish government in Mecca.

The novel "The Price of Sacrifice" deals with one of the most important issues that emerged in Saudi society during its Renaissance. It is the issue of spreading abroad and opening up to foreign environments with civilizations, customs, traditions, and behaviors different from those of Saudi society at the time. The novel has had a clear impact on different societal groups, where it has elicited reactions, some of which have been characterized by problems or difficulties as a result of the change it has brought to some segments of society. In this novel, Hamid Damanhuri paints a vivid and pulsating metaphorical picture of Makkah's environment over a specific time period. That is when a new generation of aspiring learners began to be formed who saw education as a powerful weapon not just in this era but also in every era. They went outside the country, where the universities had not yet been established, to complete their education.

We can say that the Saudi novel went through several stages in its emergence and development. The first stage begins with the publication of the novel *The Twins* and ends with the beginning of the second stage, which begins with the publication of the novel *The Price of Sacrifice* in 1959, which represents the artistic and literary beginning of the Saudi novel (Raheem, 2016). *The Twins* by Abdul Guddus Al Ansari marked the historical beginning. Then begins the third phase that we are living in, which is distinguished from the previous one by prolific production and the emergence of new names that present works of fiction in the footsteps of Al-Ansari, As-Sebaei, and Damanhuri. This stage is still going on.

4. Discussion

Literary critics concur that this book is the first literary Saudi novel. Egyptian novelists like Yusuf Idris and Najeeb Mahfoth had an influence on Damanhuri's narrative. In the 1940s, Damanhuri studied in Egypt, where he was directly exposed to numerous outstanding works that were published at the time. Therefore, it is reasonable to conclude that *The Price of Sacrifice* was written during a time when many outstanding Egyptian novels were starting to become well-known. These masterpieces, which embrace the best of Western aesthetics,

include Mahfouth's *Khan Al-Khalili* (1946) and his grand epic *Cairo Trilogy* (1956–1957), as well as Idris's *The Cheapest Nights* (1954) and *Isn't That So?* (1957). Other Saudi novelists were motivated to write works with similar strengths by *The Price of Sacrifice*, elevating Saudi fiction. See more at (Alshammari, 2017, p. 9; Al-Muzaini, 2011).

Damanhori did not neglect the rest of the characters because of his interest in the main character, but rather cared about her according to her role, drew on her abilities, and dove into her depths. He presented his readers with lively characters in which we find movement and interaction that raise the artistic level of the novel. He also paid attention to the character of the hero, and he drew his roles carefully and accurately. The writer dived into the outsiders of the same hero as him. The reader has the opportunity to hear the voice of the main character in more than one corner of the story through a number of internal monologues conducted by the protagonist between himself and himself

5. Conclusion

We see models of these through the protagonist Ahmed Abdel Rahman, who represents the new generation with all his optimism, ambition, and persistence. and through his family, which is a model for Mecca's business-dependent families. The family is satisfied with this life and even sees it as the best life; it wants the children to walk in its passengers. Through his fabrication of the many details, Hamid Damanhori was able to make the reader feel that what he was reading was true. The writer was able to realistically monitor the environment surrounding the hero in all its social, spatial, and temporal aspects, becoming interested in many of the details that realistic writers rely on in order to share with the reader that what he reads is true .

The Price of Sacrifice, a novel by Damanhori, is generally regarded as having some laudable value in Saudi literature. It includes intriguing contemporary ideas and culture from Saudi and Arab literature written in the modern era. *The Price of Sacrifice* by Damanhori has gained recognition as a masterful work of literature. Damanhori could incite the activity of drawing necessities and poetic qualifications while fashioning the perception of amazing attraction. By boosting reader confidence, the work included numerous significant and influential reactions. The symbols and (wasf) descriptions unquestionably highlight the virtues of contemporary Saudi novels, which have significantly contributed to the development and progress of Saudi and Arabic literature in general and contemporary novels in particular.

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