

Abstract:

Psychological criticism has created deep connection between literature and psychological science. Today, it is one of the important approaches to literary criticism. "Sigmund Freud" as the founder of this criticism could present new attitude of literary texts and artwork; but after him, his psychoanalytic criticism involved various changes. "Karen Horney" as one of the disciples of Freud criticized some of his theories. She stated in her theory of "basic anxiety" that mental illness is the result of violent and abnormal relationships with children. Therefore, based on Horney's theory, childhood is the most influential factor in the development of personality types. Thereafter, this theory was the basis of analysis of some literary works. "Naguib Mahfouz" was an Egyptian writer who won the 1988 Nobel Prize for Literature. He is regarded as one of the first contemporary writers of Arabic literature. Many characters from the novel by Naguib Mahfouz, due to internal conflict, are consistent with the pattern Horney. In this study, we try to analyze various aspects of the characters of selected novels (*The Beggar*, *Midaq Alley*, *Palace Walk*) based on descriptive-analytical method. The analysis of the novels of this Egyptian writer is accomplished based on Karen Horney's theory. The results indicated that personality types of the novels by Naguib Mahfouz are more superegoist; also anxiety and neurosis, in two characters "Omar Hamzawi" and "Yaasin", by frequency 14 and coefficient %25 (respectively, characters of the novels "*The Beggar*" and "*Palace Walk*") is more than other novels.

Keywords: psychological criticism, Egypt's contemporary novel, Karen Horney's theory, Naguib Mahfouz's novels



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Graduate School
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**A Thesis submitted for the Degree of
Master of science in Arabic Language and Literature**

Title:

**A Psychocognitiv Analysis of Character on the Selected
Novels of Najib Mahfouz: Based on Karen Horney Theory**

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2017