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for the Degree of Master of Arts in Arabic Language and
Literature**

The Literary Features of Prison Literature in the Novel I'jaam by Sinan Antoon

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Abstract

Prison literature has long been a prominent theme in both poetry and prose and has found significant recognition in contemporary Arabic novels. The political climate of Arab countries, particularly Iraq in modern times, has contributed to the growing prevalence of this genre. *I'jaam*, written by Sinan Antoon (b. 1967), a celebrated contemporary Iraqi novelist, is a notable example of this literary tradition. Antoon's works have been translated into thirteen languages and have earned numerous awards. Among his novels, *I'jaam* stands out as it narrates the story of Furat, a Christian student who is arrested and imprisoned for opposing the Baath regime. The novel *I'jaam* portrays the political and social oppression in Iraq, highlighting the dire conditions of prisoners and their treatment. It explores themes of injustice, such as arbitrary imprisonment and the use of torture, espionage, and manipulative interrogations to extract confessions. The narrative vividly describes the inhumane and unhygienic conditions within the prison, the oppressive atmosphere outside, the pervasive fears and threats, and the delusions and complex personalities of those confined. This study seeks to analyze the characteristics of prison literature in *I'jaam* through a descriptive-analytical approach, emphasizing its most prominent features. Preliminary findings suggest that Sinan Antoon, through the character of Furat and his use of narrative techniques, effectively captures the essence of the prison environment and the dynamic between prisoners and interrogators. One of the most notable aspects of prison literature in this novel is the detailed depiction of the internal and external environments of the prison, achieved through the innovative use of the collage technique.

Keywords: Prison Literature, Iraqi Literature, Sinan Antoon, *I'jaam* novel.