

# **"Methodology of Systemic Formalism" A Pioneering Model in The Formulation of Literary History Writing In the 20<sup>th</sup> Century**

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## **Abstract**

Despite the initial contradiction between formalistic and historical approaches, systemic formalism could be recognized as a pioneering movement which can formulate a definite methodological framework for literary history writing. To do so, it has introduced some basic concepts such as: evolution, historical dynamics, canonicity, dominant element, and system. This approach, in spite of the criticisms made against it, took the first steps in bridging the gap between synchronic and diachronic studies in literature. Moreover, Literature, formerly serving as a covering to prove the assumptions of historians in interpreting the flow of history, became the main focus of historical studies. Following a critical approach, this paper seeks to answer these questions: first, what are the theoretical origins of systemic formalism? Second, what are its possibilities and limitations in compiling a history of literature?

**Keywords:** systemic formalism, synchrony, diachrony, system of systems, canon.

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