



University of Tehran press

## Research in Contemporary World Literature

<http://jor.ut.ac.ir>, Email: [pajuhesh@ut.ac.ir](mailto:pajuhesh@ut.ac.ir)

p-ISSN : 2588-4131 e-ISSN: 2588 -7092

### A Comparative Analysis of Narrative Function in Azam Rahnavard Zaryab's "Man and the Stone" and Spozhmi Zaryab's "Insects that Become Human"

Shirzad Tayefi <sup>1</sup> 0000-0002-2773-3074 Nasir Ahmad Arian <sup>2</sup> 0000-0003-3311-0006

1. Department of Persian Language and Literature, Faculty of Persian Literature and Foreign Languages, Allameh Tabataba'i University, Tehran, Iran. E-mail: [taefi@atu.ac.ir](mailto:taefi@atu.ac.ir)

2. Department of History, Faculty of Liberal Arts at Penn State University, Pennsylvania, United States of America. E-mail: [Nva5455@psu.edu](mailto:Nva5455@psu.edu)

#### Article Info

##### Article type:

Research Article

##### Article history:

Received: 25 July 2021

Received in revised form: 30

April 2022

Accepted: 09 May 2022

Published online: 30 January

2024

##### Keywords:

Narration, Pirang, Azam

Rahnavard Zaryab, Spozhmi

Zaryab, Afghan literature.

#### ABSTRACT

Narrative-cognitive analysis is a kind of linguistic-cognitive re-examination of texts. By means of narratological analysis, it is possible to access the semantic signs in the text and determine the semantic strategies from within the narrative structures of stories. The main aim of this article is to introduce the recognition of the function and the structure, as well as the core elements, of narration in narrative texts as a key factor in comprehending their main theme(s). The analysis of the levels of narration and Pirang design can shed light on the main theme of the text and the tricks that a storyteller uses in order to express the theme to the reader. To achieve this, we have analyzed and explained the level of narration and plot of "Man and Stone" and "Insects That Become Human" by two well-known and active Afghan writers, that is, Azam Rahnavard Zaryab and Spozhmi Zaryab, respectively. Rahnavard Zaryab is one of Afghanistan's most famous writers. Her productivity has made her one of the most active Afghan writers in the genre of fiction. Spozhmi Zaryab is another famous Afghan storyteller, whose knowledge about the French language has positively affected the structural quality of his stories. The two stories are studied from Lent Volt's point of view, according to which there exist three confrontations in the text: the concrete writer against the concrete reader, the abstract writer against the abstract reader, and the imaginary narrator against the imaginary audience. First, it will be shown that on the one hand, due to her tendency to reflect psychological issues in her stories, Rahnavard Zaryab does not deal with narrative aesthetics, and therefore, more attention is paid to the characters and the inner states of the narrator, because the psyche of the characters can be penetrated by the reader. On the other hand, "Insects That Become Human" has a strong narrative structure and includes suspense as well as descriptions of the scenes of the story. Secondly, "Man and the Stone" involves a frame narrative, within which there is another story that is the story of the world of the same story, and the discursive narrative of silence is also used at the beginning of the story, whereas the narrative of "Insects That Become Human," is the same as the narrative of the world of the story, and the discursive narrative of silence is used in the final part of the story, which suggests that such structures have different meaning-making strategies and different implied meanings. A comparative analysis of the narrative structure of these two stories can well illustrate their main theme, because particular attention to their narrative structures can enable readers to easily understand the main content of these stories.

**Cite this article:** Tayefi, Shirzad & Ahmad Arian, Nasir. "Comparative analysis of narration function in stories of "Man and Stone" by Azam Rahnavard Zaryab and "insects that become human" by Spozhmi Zaryab". *Research in Contemporary World Literature*, 28 (2), 389-411. DOI: <http://doi.org/10.22059/jor.2022.323940.2156>



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Publisher: University of Tehran Press.

DOI: <http://doi.org/10.22059/jor.2022.323940.2156>