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A Comparative Study of Story Elements in the 22nd Tale of Sa'adi's *Golestan* and Hartmann von Owe's *Poor Heinrich*

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ABSTRACT

In recent years, the comparison and matching of literary works of different ethnicities and nations have attracted the attention of researchers as well as readers and critics and, these comparative studies have provided a suitable platform for evaluating the structural and content commonalities and similarities of two or more works from different languages and cultures. The main goal of comparative research is to identify the theme and content of literary works and, then, an approach to criticize them. Story elements form the basis and the fundamentals of any work and reflect the beliefs and intentions of the author. Therefore, the analysis of these elements is an investigation of the beliefs that the author reflects behind these fictional elements. In this regard, the present study tries to compare the fundamental elements of the story in the two Persian and German works, the 22nd story of *Golestan* Saadi and the story of *Poor Heinrich*, written by Hartmann von Owe, to find out the similarities and differences between them, in dealing with a single topic, and reveal its cause. Investigation and analyzing the themes of these two works like writing style, perspective, character, and characterization can considerably help in understanding the society and social environment of the writers' era. The results of this study show that despite the common thread, each author has reached different results. For example, in *Poor Heinrich*, while the two institutions of government and religion, like two levers of pressure, have taken over the fate of other classes, especially the lower class, the hero's deviance occurs only because of his pride and drowning in the pleasures of the world. However, Saadi considers the lack of religion and morals to be the cause of the king's mistake in his story. Therefore, there is no relationship between the above two works of influence and influence. According to this point, comparative research has been done based on the American school and in a library and document research method.

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