

Characters' Psychological Dimensions In Amro Abd Alhamid's Novel "Zicola's Land"

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Abstract:

Our research aims at studying the characters, according to a psychological perspective, since the character is the basic foundation of novel, because of the relationship between psychology and literature. Literary studies have significantly benefited from psychology results, especially from Segment Froid's sayings, through the critical contextual method (psychological criticism), which looks on the novel characters' psychology, feelings, emotions and relationships with familial and social environment for the sake of constructing novel and ideas. All the artistic elements, included within the novel, are linked to the character, and they're performed through. The descriptive analytical method has been followed in defining psychological analysis, psychological criticism and the relationship between them. The psychological criticism method has been adopted in studying the novel through applying its concepts and procedures on characters. Concerning the study results, we've attained the fact that there's a close relationship between psychology and literature, although psychology concepts and sayings can't be totally applied on literature and its texts. The novelist has precisely chosen the characters whose roles and tasks are appropriate to their physical, moral and psychological specificities.

Key words: psychology, novel, character, Zicola's land.

Introduction:

There is a close relationship between literature and psychology, as the psychoanalysis school has provided a great service to literature in terms of study and analysis, through the approach of psychological criticism, which derives its concepts and procedures from this school. Understanding humans and treating their problems represents a significant tendency in psychology, which is the character analysis tendency. The relationship between literature and psychology is manifested more by the efforts of "Carl Jung" Freud's student, who broke away from him in search

for other fields in psychoanalysis. He invented new concepts in treating psychological diseases and discovering them like life experiences, which contribute to the formation of artistic work. The development of the relationship between literature and psychology resulted what was called “psychology of literature”, which is specialized in the study of the literary work in terms of psychological perspective. “Jung” believes that the novel is the most suitable psychoanalysis, through psychological study of the novel characters and linking them to the reality of writer’s life and observing the psychological conflicts to these characters. He links that to the functions that distinguish the human psyche, which are four corresponding as dualities: (reason and emotion) and (sensing and intuition). These four functions illuminate human behavior, either to be rational or emotional.

Because the character is considered as the backbone of the novel, regarding its relationship to the language of the novel, its performance and its spaces. We will focus on the psychology of the novel characters (*Land of Zicola*) by Amr Abdel Hamid, from the perspective of psychological criticism, and we will ask the following question: what are the most important psychological dimensions of the novel of *Land of Zicola*? How did these dimensions affect the structure of the novel and building ideas that the writer wanted? How were the psychological relationships between characters of the novel? Knowing that we used the descriptive approach to explain the psychological analysis approach, as we used the psychological criticism approach in studying the psychological dimensions of the characters and their relationships between each other. Among the main outcomes we reached are the following:

1) The Concept of Psychoanalysis:

Psychoanalysis was established by the scientist “Sigmund Freud” (1856 - 1939). The functions of this science extended until psychoanalysts ended up disclosing the deep reasons of the human behavior, which was emerged within the frameworks of psychology as a distinct approach to treat neurotics. However, soon after, it became a general psychological theory about humans. Freud denied the materialistic view of the world and denied the role of the objective approaches in studying the mental activity of humans, who subjected all mental circumstances, all the human deeds, all the historical events and the social phenomenon to the psychological analysis, meaning that he interprets them as manifestations of subconscious urges, in particular the sexual

ones. He attributes human behavior to the subconscious area (subconsciousness)¹.

Psychoanalysis studied the natural elements of human beings on the one hand, and disclosed the human psychological tendencies, his internal world, the meaning of human behavior, the importance of cultural and social transformations in shaping the psychological human life and his reactions on the other, by establishing a scientific approach in the analytical study of the human psyche"². Modern psychoanalysis theories carry out the analysis of the concept of personality, in order to explain psychological reality of the individual and his behaviors with his surroundings. It is "the psychology of morals and the psychology of feeling"³. Freud interpreted behavior as an outcome of several conflicts within the personality that are related to desires, tendencies, motives and preparations he receives. He linked the study of personality to the psychological diseases and considered literary works as an interpretation of complexes and repressed feelings of creative people who write them to express their inner feelings.

"Psychoanalysis now has a comprehensive character, which was not limited to the study and treatment of neuroses, but rather turned to searching many individual, personal and cultural life phenomenon, in order to develop an entire system of theories that reveal and interpret the laws of the development of culture, civilization, society and history, as well as the origin of religion and art ... Psychoanalysis has a philosophical character for the neo-Freudians, who reveal and explain the internal psychological factors of the personality, in addition to the revelation and interpretation of social, cultural and economic functions in the contemporary society; meaning that they search for the matters of the existence of human essence, under the conditions of contemporary civilization"⁴.

Freud divided personality into three systems: (id, ego and superego). These three elements constitute the right behavior of individual.

First/ Id: is about the inherited psychological components we are born with, including (id's) internal experiences that Freud called the true psychological reality of the personality, which is a store of

¹ Youcef Oughlissi: literary Criticism Approaches, Jusoora Publishing and Distribution, 1st edition, Algeria, 2007.p.22

² Fayssal Abbas: Psychoanalysis and Freudian Tendencies, Al-Fikr Al-Arabi publishing house, ed.1, Beirut, 1997, p31

³ Abdu Almonum Alhanafy: Psychoanalysis Encyclopedia, Noblis publishing house, Beirut, Lebanon, ed1, 2005, p.145.

⁴ Fayssal Abbas: Psychoanalysis and Freudian Tendencies, p. 06

instincts, if they are aroused and agitated, tension takes places. The id works on decreasing the level of tension in order to return it to its balance to avoid pain and achieve pleasure, using two innate processes:

the first process is the reflective actions, which we perform spontaneously to relieve the tension. Whereas the second one is about the initial processes that are primitive and simple, which occur when the mind brainstorms images, just like the phenomenon of dreaming ⁵. The distinction of id according to Freud lies in achieving instinctive satisfaction, but it is controlled by the ego.

Second/ the ego: the ego is part of the id, which lives within its power and works to keep it buried under the surface of behavior. Freud considered (ego) as logically organized and its functions are secondary, controlled by the principal of “reality” ⁶. Therefore, it is the pillar of psychological system, which reconciles between (id) and (superego) to enable the implementation and fulfillment of repressed desires according to what is acceptable in the society or according to the principles. This makes the role of the ego very significant to the evolution of personality in a healthy and polite social environment.

Third/ the superego: which represents the values, manners, principals and rules that establish society, which makes human being feel satisfied and comfortable when he complies to them and does not oppose or transgress them and abstain from what is undesirable. On the other hand, it makes him feel guilty and unhappy if he violates what is familiar and permitted in the society, which are also known “to represent the idealism related to the issues of right or wrong, by making the behavior of individual corresponding to the requirement of the social milieu in its most complete forms”, hence, the superego corresponds by what we call (conscience).

2) The Concept of Psychological criticism approach:

Psychological criticism seeks to look at the psychological aspects of the literary text. It derives its dominant vision and its critical mechanisms from the psychoanalysis theory, which is based on Freudism. The conclusion of this perception is that inside any human being, there are repressed desires that always seek the fulfillment in a society that may not enable that. Since, it is hard to fulfill these desires in his subconsciousness, he is obliged to escalate; to fulfill them in different ways (night dreams, daydreams, delirium of neurotics and art works). Thus, art is like

⁵ Ibid, p33.

⁶ Ibid, p33

escalation and compensation to what the artist was not able to achieve in his social reality, and as an automatic response to those sleeping thrills in deep psychological depths. In fact, they could be sexual desires (according to Freud), or a feeling of inferiority which requires compensation (according to Adler), or a number of inherited experiences stored in the in the collective consciousness (according to Jung).

For the diversity of psychological tendencies of which literary criticism has benefited; and their conflict, complexity and change. Psychological criticism has continued to move within a set of principles and foundations that have taken the characteristics of fundamentals, which can be summarized as follow:

- Linking the text to (the unconsciousness).
- Assumption of existence of an infrastructure of a text, rooted in the writer's "unconsciousness" (which is the goal of the psychological critic), reflected in an escalating manner on the text, whose relationship to the surface of the text resembles to the relationship of truth and metaphor in a single expression.
- Viewing at the text characters as real personalities with their own motives and desires ...
- Viewing the author of the text (and the artist in general) as neurotic. Whereas the text is a neurotic symptom, that reflects the real repressed person in the form of a socially acceptable metaphorical alternative, which is called "sublimation".

In general, literary studies exploited psychological facts and their concepts to various cases, we can mention for instance: studying the creative process itself (the psychology of creativity), its psychological essence and its special elements. Furthermore, studying the personality of the creative person (biographic tendency or his psychology); meaning searching for the significance of the creative work on the person's psychology. Additionally, studying the psychological relationship between the creative work and the receiver (the psychology of reception or the audience). Finally; studying the creative work from a psychological aspect (psychoanalysis of literature); which is the true field for psychological criticism practice.

3) The Writer of the Novel of Land of Zicola: He is the Egyptian writer and novelist Amr Abdel Hamid, born in Dakahlia governorate in 1987. He studied medicine and specialized in ENT surgery in Mansourah University. He was famous for writing a book in the field of factionary novel by publishing his first work (land of Zicola and Amrita). Recently, he published the book of Daqat Al-Shamo (The Rules of Two Neighbors and Akma Waves). The first

edition of *Land of Zicola* was published in 2010 then was republished by Aseer Al-Kotob publishing house in 2015. The novel achieved great success, selling many copies, which made it rank among the best-selling books, ranking second best selling in 2016.

4) Summary of the Novel: The events of the novel of “*Land of Zicola*” take place in Egypt in the country of the writer Amr Abdel Hamid who lives in the town of (Al-Bahow Frik). The protagonist of the story is (Khaled) who is twenty-eight years old, Faculty of Commerce graduate and lives in the village with his grandfather. He proposes to a girl he loved called (Mona), however, her father rejected him eight times for unclear reason, by saying he wants his daughter to marry an unusual young man. Khaled gets surprised to see Mona whom he loves to get engaged to another man, which makes him lose his mind and decides to change his social status. His journey starts in the basement of (Furik), which his father had always told him about his adventures there, as this basement is known for treasures and that it enlightens when there is a full moon. Khaled seeks to use the book of one of his grandfather’s friends who descended with him there.

Khaled goes to the basement and starts his journey by facing several obstacles like the lack of oxygen and existence of human skeletons there. The basement collapses and so he faints, and when he wakes up, he finds himself in a deserted land. Two men take him to a wonderful land surrounded by tall walls called (Zicola). He enters and there is a celebration there, he feels surprised by the reality of that wonderful city, by the clothes of its people that date back to ancient times, by their horses, their swords, as well as its wide squares and everything there. He gets lost there until he meets (Yamen) and Eyad, who become his friends and tell him about Zicola land, its laws and its dealings with one of the currencies of intelligence instead of money. They tell him about the celebration that is held once every year, during which the poorest person in the city is assassinated. The balance of a person is his units of intelligence, which people collect by work, there is no place for lazy people there, but the big surprise is that the door of the land opens only once a year. Khaled knows that the book he looks for, which is considered as the most expensive book in Zicola land was brought by a man about twenty years ago. Khaled knows that it is his father’s, then the adventures of Khaled in search for the book begin. He meets the city doctor (Aseel) who is the source of help to him in search for the book, which he finds in the hands of his brother (Helal) and was shocked when he learns that he killed his parents due to this book. (Khaled) spends much of his units of intelligence for the sake of the book, which made him lose all the intelligence units he had and becomes the poorest person in (Zicola) land within Zicola’s annual day. The

king decides to execute him; however, the doctor (Aseel) decides to help him again and share with him the units of intelligence she has. Khaled leaves Zicola land and returns to his village to marry Mona, who was waiting for him after refusing to marry the young man that her father has chosen for her, and Aseel escapes from the land Zicola because she breaks the laws and helps Khaled.

5) Characters of the Novel and their Psychological Dimensions:

5-1) The Psychological Dimension: a set of psychological components of personality, its feelings, its relationships, its behavior, its mood, its thoughts, as well as its values and principles that it believes and defends, whether these values are virtuous or vice. Besides that, the psychological being of the personality, which is subject to transformations throughout the novel.⁷

This dimension appears in the narrative text by the narrator's description of the character in a direct way, through its mobility, actions and words, its self-dialogue, dealings with other characters, other characters words about it, description, or through the relationship with the main character. Character is considered as a source of pleasure and excitement for several reasons, such as there is a natural tendency for every human to psychological analysis and examination of the character. Every one of us tends to know the function of the human mind, as well as we have a desire to study the human morality and the factors that influence it and the manifestations of this effect"⁸.

5-2) Definition of Character: character is composed of two main elements, first physical and second is psychological.

It was noted in Lisan Al-Arab book "one of its definitions is looking up at something from a distance"⁹. The term character was defined in Al Muejam Al Wasit "the descriptions that distinguish someone from others. For example; someone has no character; i.e, he does not have anything distinctive features, someone has come to diagnose something; i.e, examined it and distinguished it from others"¹⁰.

For the semantic indication, definitions varied, however they were limited to the fact that character is a set of internal physical and

⁷ Fayssal Abbas: Psychoanalysis and Freudian Tendencies, Al-Fikr Al-Arabi publishing house, ed.1, Beirut, 1997, p36

⁸ Muhammad Yusuf Najim, Art of the Story, Sader publishing house, ed.1, Beirut, Lebanon, 1996, p.42

⁹ Ibn Mandhur, Lisan Al-Arab, series 7, Sader publishing house, Beirut, Lebanon, 1975, p.45

¹⁰ Arabic Encyclopedia in Cairo, Mu'jam al-Wasit, Shourouk International Bookshop, Egypt, ed. 05, 2011, p. 475.

psychological descriptions that distinguishes a man from another. It is therefore, "a stable organization to a certain degree that create the individual's temperament, intelligence and physical traits, which, by combining them together, determines his compatibility with the surrounding" ¹¹. "Character is a scientific structure established to demonstrate the psychological reality of the individual, and the goal of modern psychology theories is to analyze this concept and determine approaches to understanding character" ¹².

Character is defined in terms of semantics as "the main engine that leads to the development of events within the novel work, and it is the general theme. Several concepts have emerged about character as the main general theme, which is responsible for highlighting the event. Hence, the first burden lies in convincing as a principle of its importance raised in the story and its value." ¹³.

The psychological dimensions in fictional works have always been associated to the social conditions surrounding the characters, which affect them and their character and behavior. Carl Young says that psychological traits always emerge in relationships of a social nature, which determine the moral actions of a person and his physical surrounding, as he says, "It is a system of psychological traits conditioned socially, and appears in relationships of a social and stable nature, and determines a person's moral behavior, and has tangible significance for the person himself and his physical surroundings," ¹⁴. This is what we will observe in the psychological dimensions of the characters in our novel.

Main Characters: It is an interactive character in the novel, as it creates the events and actions. It is the main and central engine. This character does not settle in one case and the recipient cannot know in advance what it will turn out to be because of the change of conditions and stages.¹⁵

¹¹ Aziz Hanna Dawood and Nadhem Hisham Al-Ubaidi: *Ilm Nafs Ash-Shakhsyah (Psychology of the Character)*, Baghdad: Higher Education, 1990, p11

¹² Fayssal Abbas: *Character: A Study of Technical Approach Cases – Procedures*, Al-Fikr Al-Arabi publishing house, Beirut, p. 5.

¹³ Nader Ahmed Abd Al-Khaliq: *Fictional Character between Ahmed Ali Bakathir and Najib Al-Kilani, an objective and artistic study*, Elelm Aleman publishing house, ed. 1, 2009, p. 42

¹⁴ Mohammed Hassen Ghanem, *Studies on Personality and Psychological Health*, v1, Gharib publishing house, Cairo, Egypt, 2006, p. 21

¹⁵ Abd Al-Malik Murtad, *Theory of the Novel (A Research on Narrating Technics)*. World of Knowledge, series of cultural books issued by the National Council of Culture, Arts and Literature, Kuwait, 1998

The Protagonist Character: Khaled is the protagonist character of the novel and the most visible and influential in its events. He is an Egyptian young man aged twenty-eight years old, handsome with prominent muscles and tall height. He lives in one of the Dakahlia cities called (Al-Bahow Frik) "I am Khaled Hosni. I am twenty-years old, graduate of the Faculty of Commerce in Cairo for six years and my hometown is called "Al-Bahow Frik, Dakahlia Governorate" ¹⁶.

Khaled, who was an orphan, lived with his grandfather, who provided him with tenderness that parents provide for their children. The narrator portrayed him as a strong, brave, ambitious young man, who is always smiley and optimistic, despite the traumas he was exposed to, whether the death of his parents when he was only two years old or his failure to get a job in his field. He worked in a drug store, however, this did not affect his personality or his psyche, as he was characterized by fun and light-heartedness, until Mona's father rejected him for the eighth time to marry the girl he loved, as the narrator says: "Although Khaled was characterized by his lightheartedness and cheerful spirit, his love for Mona and her father's constant rejection of him made him always sad " ¹⁷. However, he was able to overcome this with his strong personality and his defiance of his hard circumstances that he was born with. He stands as a patient person and capable to cope with consecutive traumas before which, any person might collapse. Instead of frustration as a result of all these disappointments, we find him standing up again, challenging his circumstances to fulfill himself and change his reality, which repels him wherever he goes in order to prove to Mona's crazy father that he is worthy of Mona. He said to himself "What if you go down to the basement? Suppose there was a treasure that actually existed. If you were a coward, then you are not worthy of Mona. Do you enjoy your life this way. You are a graduate of the Faculty of Commerce and your job has nothing to do with trade. You studied for four years to graduate and work in a drug store. If you had not lived with your grandfather, your salary would have been spent within half a month. If you love Mona, prove to yourself and to her that you really love her. If you find this treasure, you will be the most famous person in the country." ¹⁸. He is now more determined to venture out and enter the strange basement his grandfather told him about in order to collect money and become rich.

¹⁶ Amr Abdel Hamid, Land of Zicola, Aser Alkotb for Publishing and Distribution, ed. 8, Egypt, 2016, P05.

¹⁷ Ibid, p. 07

¹⁸ Ibid, p. 10

Nevertheless, this strong, courageous and adventurous character travels through this basement to a strange land and a strange and imaginary world, in which he is not lucky either. He gets disappointed and shocked, since he left Furik's basement and entered the land of Zicola. His condition has changed for the worse, his psychological state has worsened, fear, anxiety, confusion and loss have taken over him. "Everything in this land is unusual and disturbing, and he is shocked by his new fate when the boy tells him about the celebration"¹⁹. Khaled felt shocked when the boy told him that Zicola Land slaughter the poorest person in the city and thought that he is the poorest person there. The money he had was of no use after he was certain from his previous positions that they would not acknowledge it." However, Khaled's character surprises us with its strength, despite all he continued his steadfastness and determination to achieve his dream. Conflicts often occurred within him between the id and the ego, but the ego always triumphed and Khaled's integrity and distinction was proven as a valid character in the real and imaginary society. He did not change even when he moved to the imaginary world of Zicola, which is what the narrator worked to confirm several times, whenever he tends to do something, he relies upon God "in the name of God". He regretted his desperation to solve the mystery and drinking alcohol. He often looked at the sky and supplicate God whenever he faced an issue, which attracted Aseel's opinion and made her imitate him, even though she did not know the meaning of that. Khaled's personality is characterized by its tolerance that does not know any hatred. When Mona agreed to marry the doctor, the matter saddened him, but he never hated her and continued to remember her with love even when he was in Zicola land in the darkest circumstances. His tolerance also appears in his position towards his brother, who confessed to have killed their father, as well as he took advantage of Khaled in the worst way, steeling of all his intelligence units, and exposing him to death because he had become the poorest person of Zicola land. However, before his final departure from Zicola land, he recommended his friend Yamen to help him, "Yamen! you know that there is a young man who might be my brother in the northern region. If you meet him one day and he is in need of help, do not hesitate to provide any help"²⁰.

Mona's Character: she is Khaled's classmate in the same college. He met her by chance in the way. It was a love relationship, which arose between them, as Khaled became attached to her and asked her father to marry her eight times, but he refused.

¹⁹ Ibid, p.43

²⁰ Ibid, p.267

However, Mona did not show any behavior to defend her love for Khaled. Rather, she was a submissive person under her father's control, and these are traits of a weak personality, who does not defend her rights, as she agreed to marry the doctor, and "told Khaled that a doctor proposed to her and her father agreed, even though the doctor was not a unique person as he wanted and that Mona was convinced after her father convinced her and told her that he knew her interests better than her." This was like a thunderbolt on Khaled's heart."²¹ This caused a great shock to Khaled and made him make an important decision that changed the course of the novel as a whole, so he embarked on an adventure in Furik's basement in order to prove himself and get Mona.

However, Mona's personality changes later and she told her father that she does not want marriage from the doctor and she rejected all the suitors, who proposed to her and kept waiting for Khaled, until he returned and married her. Hence, under this change, she was not influential in the events of the novel, but rather dedicated her image as a weak character because her decision came too late.

Aseel's Character: she is Zicola's beautiful land doctor, aged 24 years old and she treats poor people and identify the poorest ones. She is from Pegana country. "Her eyes narrow as she laughs, making her beauty increase, and her lips very delicate."²² She is also distinguished by her soft black hair, a beautiful smile, and a delicate sense of humor. Despite these features, Aseel has a strong personality, deriving her strength from being the doctor who decides who is the poorest and who is the richest in Zicola land. She is also a rich girl, who owns many units of intelligence, which enables her to be influential in the events of the novel, as Khaled says to her, "Asil... you must think about it... you must help me... you are rich... I mean, you are smart, you are much smarter than us."²³

Aseel has fallen in love with Khaled since the day she knew him, which led her to provide him with help since he landed in Zicola land. She was like an energy supply to him, as she provided him with hope whenever he stumbled, she pushed him to accomplish his dream, obtain his father's book, and return to his country, but in her heart, she did not want him to leave. Despite all the strength that Aseel possesses, she had a sensitive feeling that made her experience many psychological conflicts and great pain when Khaled became one of the poor people in Zicola. The day came when the poorest person gets slaughtered and Aseel the

²¹ Ibid, p.09

²² Ibid, p.58.

²³ Ibid, p.174

doctor was the one who reveals about the name, which made her live confused and worried. The internal conflict between the id and the ego, between passionate love for Khaled, her loyalty and honesty in her job. She did not want anyone to be oppressed just to save poor Khaled from slaughtering. Her profession as a doctor requires her to be honest in her reports, in the meantime, her love for Khaled requires her to save him. "I saw Khaled looking a lot at the sky whenever he was in distress, and I heard him saying... Oh Lord, help me... I am looking at the sky just as he is doing now... and I say the same the same thing... Oh Lord... Oh Lord... Oh Lord, help me... I don't want to lose Khaled and then continued saying: I do not want to oppress anyone.. I do not want to oppress anyone.." ²⁴. This made her suffer a lot, until she reached a decision to give him her units of intelligence and sacrifice her status and her life, which made her psyche flop between honesty and betrayal, an internal struggle between two emotions: her love for Khaled and her passion, and the emotion of sacrifice in order for him to achieve his purpose for which he came to Zicola. The ego triumphs and decided to help him survive the murder, and at the last moment, she gave him her intelligence unit because she is very rich, and sacrifices her position in Zicola and herself to make Khaled not poor in order to save him and return to his country, which made her suffer from sadness and pain at parting with Khaled.

Then she runs away from Zicola, sad about parting with Zicola and for parting with Khaled as well. In the meantime, Aseel rode her horse outside Zicola towards the east...not thinking of anyone other than Khaled ²⁵.

Yamen's character: Khaled's loyal friend from the people of Zicola accompanied him during his stay there and helped him a lot in all stages of his adventure. He is also a strong young man, the same age as Khaled. He broke Zicola's laws in order to provide a helping hand to his friend until he reached his goal. His personality is characterized by love and loyalty to Khaled and sacrifice for his sake to return to his country for the last moment, as Yamen said to Khaled when he paid intelligence units in exchange for remaining empty for another day so that Khaled could escape from the tunnel they dug for him, "It was not only Aseel who provided him with assistance. Khaled smiled: I will certainly not find a friend like you, Yamen." ²⁶.

A) Secondary characters: The secondary characters are characterized by clarity and simplicity, as they are the basic

²⁴ Ibid, p.240

²⁵ Ibid, p.267.

²⁶ Ibid, p. 266

companions of the main facilitates. They are the ones that illuminate the hidden aspects of the main character, as they are either factors that reveal the central character and modify its behavior, or are subordinate to it. They turn around, and beyond that they shed light on it and reveal its dimensions²⁷

Khaled's Grandfather Character: an old man aged almost eighty years old. They lived together since Khaled's father passed²⁸. It is a strong character very close to Khaled, as he loves him too much to the point that he noticed his annoyance and extreme sadness after Mona's father rejected him, he said to him: aren't you upset? You should have gotten used to it²⁹. The grandfather seems affectionate and kind to Khaled, who caress and advises him. These feelings match the feelings of parenthood, regarding the fact that Khaled was an orphan since he was a kid, which made the grandfather play the role of the father and mother to Khaled. Therefore, we see him feel sad and happy for Khaled's sadness and happiness following everything that happened to him. He appears to be a strong, brave, and adventurous character, as he told Khaled the story of Furik's basement and how he and three of his friends went down there in the past, even though they had heard about its dangers and that it was full of goblins and hardships, but they decided to venture. This explains that Khaled inherited from him many qualities of bravery and audacity as the grandfather tells Khaled "Everyone knew that the basement existed indeed, but none tried to go down because it was possessed by goblins. Whoever goes down the basement will never come back from it, but we threw that away behind our backs and we said we must go down"³⁰.

The Character of Mona's Father: it is a strange character, moody, unstable, it does not accept discussion, dominant and one of the worriers of the 1973 war. He is also a bossy and stands for his opinion. The narrator described him as crazy, which caused him both his daughter's sadness and Khaled's sadness for his rejection to their marriage, as Khaled says: "I was rejected for the same reason, which is Mona's crazy father"³¹. He would every time reject Khaled's request to marry his daughter for no obvious reason; every time he meets him, he says: what distinguishes you from others in order to marry my daughter?³². He was an

²⁷ Sobhiya Odeh Zoroub, *Narrative aesthetics in novelist discourse* according to Ghassan Kanafani, ed. 1, Majdalawi, Amman, Jordan, ed1, 2006, p.131-132

²⁸ *The Novel*, p.07

²⁹ *Ibid*, p.07

³⁰ *Ibid*, p.08

³¹ *Ibid*, p.06

³² *Ibid*, p.06

authoritarian and uncompromising personality, as he insisted on his decision to reject Khaled although he found a job. However, he was certain that the decision was completely different when he found a job and propose to Mona again. He was rejected for the second time and was asked the same question by the father: what were your life achievements and makes you different from others ?”³³. He did not care about his daughter’s feelings and did not care about her love to Khaled and decided to not marry her to him pretending that he knows best about her interests. She lived in a state of sorrow and pain, as she neither married Khaled whom she fell in love with, nor did she marry the man her father chose for her. She reached the point where she rejected men of any kind to propose to her, hoping Khaled to return one day when she is in a state of stubbornness and challenge to her father.

Hajj Ahmed Mustafa Aslan’s Character: one of the inhabitants of Khaled’s town and was his grandfather’s friend, close to his age, known as the basement madman, because he tried to go down to it once in the past. He was the one who gave a book about the basement to Khaled, and after talking to him, he seemed to know important and true things about Furik’s basement. This encouraged Khaled to go down the basement based on the information and recommendations of Hajj Ahmed Mustafa Aslan. His personality is characterized by courage and stubbornness, as he tried to enter the basement accompanied with his fellow friend Khaled’s grandfather in the past. However, he insisted to enter again and when he was not lucky, he decided to give that book which contains the basement information to someone else, he was certain that there will come the day when he will decide to descend Furik’s basement to discover the truth.

Eyad’s Character: he was one of Zicola land inhabitants, Yamen’s friend before becoming Khaled’s friend in a transitive friendship. He is featured with physical strength and loyalty to his friend, as he was a very smart personality according to what Yamen said “My mother always told me that Eyad my friend is smarter than I ”³⁴ . He was known to be born intelligent, and for Khaled he represents his relief. He helped Khaled to solve the mystery of the book and dug the tunnel, which leads outside Zicola walls in an empty in the Western side of Zicola land; indeed, it was Khaled’s way of salvation, escape and return to his homeland.

Helal’s Character: He is Khaled's brother, born in Zicola land when his parents entered this land twenty years ago. However, he is a miserable, negative, weak character and alcohol addict. Khaled

³³ Ibid, p.07

³⁴ Ibid, p.174

entered the basement with him and noticed the extent of the poverty he lives in, the miserable life, and saw his miserable clothes and the floor of his house, full of empty bottles ³⁵ of wine. ³⁵ "He was characterized by greediness and covetousness, and he was also a reckless personality, as he killed his father to obtain the legacy, and he did not care about it. "Yes, I killed him, because he brought me nothing but poverty, I hated him because he was crazy, does some spend all his stock of intelligence unit in exchange for an evil book. It is enough for him to be lucky that he found someone poorer than him in Zicola, otherwise, he will be slaughtered years before I can kill him" ³⁶. Helal neither worked nor earned a living, he was an alcohol addict and greedy, which made him remain poor and always in need. Their brotherly relationship did not intercede for Khaled, yet Helal's greediness took control of him and exploited his brother to the utmost. When he knew that his brother needed the book, he sold it for 500 units of intelligence without caring about the tears of his brother and the family ties that associate them. Khaled became bankrupt and poor, which obliged him to work more to obtain intelligence units. Therefore, Helal's personality was controlled by the power of the id. He was imprisoned by his lusts, desires, and laziness, which made him a negative person, useless and even harmful to others, even to his relatives. He killed his father without any regrets, he exploited his brother Khaled without feeling ashamed, and was ready to kill him in order to inherit his legacy as well.

The King and his Wife: The king's character is distinguished by his less presence in the novel, as he appeared only few times. However, he appears throughout the novel as a strict, fair character. When he was told by the boy that Khaled was not poor, he said "Why did the doctor choose him while he owned those units of intelligence? Do you want a celebration of my boy by oppressing someone else? He looked at Khaled and said, we have forgiven you dear son, we never oppress anyone, Zicola is a land of justice" ³⁷. He was able to ensure for the people of Zicola a land of laws that cannot be broken, and whoever breaks them is considered as a traitor and will therefore leave the land like Aseel.

C) Marginal Characters:

1-Zicola Inhabitants: they did not play a major role, but they were distinguished by their different ages and had special clothing. Women had special uniforms as well as men had their own uniforms. They were distinguished by the beauty of most of their women. As for their behavior, they were people who loved to work

³⁵ Ibid, p.137

³⁶ Ibid, p.138

³⁷ Ibid, p 259

and be diligent, as the laws of their land required that. They were also loyal people to their ruler and to the laws of their land.

2-The Two Escaped Men of Zicola: two marginal characters whom Khaled met when he left the basement and the beginning of his journey towards Zicola and his adventures there. They were distinguished by their fear and panic about their fate, from which they had escaped in Zicola. They provided primary assistance to Khaled and were able to draw for him a simple and initial picture of this unknown land.

3-The Fancy Girl: She was mentioned only twice in the novel. She was from the northern region, whose people are characterized by negativity, laziness, and vice. However, she helped Khaled find out the location of the book and he was able to gain her respect.

D)The Narrator's Character: Through the novel, although it was fictional and its idea is new. It appears to be an autobiography of its writer, Amr Abdel Hamid, as he invested in the character of Khaled in order not to announce himself, for one reason or another, which is confirmed by psychological studies and their theories that artistic writing is considered one of the ways the writer expresses himself. They write about their repressions and pain without announcing it directly to the society for fear that it will not accept it, or as a result of their weakness in confronting their reality and social circumstances. "The most open literary works to the psychological approach in the present era are the fictional works, in which the novelist exposes many of his instincts and character and imbues them on the characters of his novel. In this case, psychological analysis works on putting and removing the veil on those symbols that the novelist resorted to in order to pass on his speeches and ideology. By bribing the wonderful artistic work presented to the reader"³⁸. Through this novel, we find that the narrator matches Khaled's character very much, as they are both young Egyptians from the Dakahlia region, and they are in their twenties, and both graduated from the university. It seems that Khaled's love story for Mona is the story of the writer himself, but he did not want to disclose it, and the work conditions that Khaled faced. These are the same difficult circumstances faced by many young Egyptian graduates in his country, including Amr Abdel Hamid, which made the writer dream of a better life and better solutions, dreams that did not come true in his reality.

³⁸ Muhammad Hmamouchi, *Psychological Analysis of Literature*, a website for prominent professors and researchers in the Arabic language, 2009, p.07

Therefore, he resorted to his imagination to satisfy his desires that seemed impossible in his country. He resorted to imagination to fulfill himself, even when he escaped to writing. He worked on writing a novel that was completely different in terms of its idea from previous novels in Egypt and in the entire Arab world. This is to prove the self and its ability to distinguish, based on the principle of difference from the other, which is what psychologists consider to be one of the complexes and issues that psychoanalysis addresses. It is an individual's attempt to prove his superiority by achieving something different and unprecedented.

6)The Psychological Relationship between the Characters: The spatial space of the novel *The Land of Zicola* was divided between two realistic parts, whose events took place in the city of Dakahlia in Egypt and a fictional section, whose events took place in the wonderful land of Zicola. In each of them various psychological relationships were linked between the characters between love, attachment, friendship, estrangement from the homeland, and patriotism.

-Love relationship: "Love is considered as a profound existential experience that extracts a human being from his harsh and cold loneliness in order to provide him with the warm heat of shared life. Love is a mirror of a human being, which reflects what is inside of him with the depth of description and imagination."³⁹ The love relationship brought together Khaled and Mona, as he loved her since the day they met on the way to the college where they study. Hence, the repeated setbacks of this relationship due to Mona's father made Khaled live under anxiety, sadness and despair of marrying Mona, which made the events of the novel change from a realistic story to a fictional story with Khaled's decision to go down to Furik's basement.

The love relationship between Khaled and his grandfather was also brought together, and it was a fatherly love full of compassion and tenderness from both parties, as the grandfather's love for Khaled formed the support and encouragement in the novel, which was a source of self-confidence. The latter increased Khaled's strength and courage as the hero of the novel, and this love remained constant and did not change or get affected by events.

The love relationship between Khaled and Aseel took place in the land of Zicola, where they had a great love relationship, which made Aseel sacrifice everything she owned in the land of Zicola in order to help Khaled and enable him to find the book and return to his homeland, and Khaled also felt the same way about her.

³⁹ Sanaa Soliman, *Love and Belonging Psychology*, University publishing house, ed1, Cairo, 2013, p.19

The love relationship between Khaled, Yamen, and Eyad is a friendship relationship since Khaled entered the land of Zicola and met Yamen, where a friendship that developed between them, and the relationship extended and included Eyad, Yamen's friend. Therefore, each of them was Khaled's helpful friend, which enhanced his role in heroism and success in all his missions and adventures. Until he left Zicola thanks to their help and Aseel's help.

-Hatred and Resentment Relationship: They were feelings of withdrawal followed by intense disgust, aversion, hostility, or lack of sympathy for someone, anything, or even a specific phenomenon”⁴⁰. The hatred relationship appeared between Helal, Khaled's brother, and Khaled, as Helal was a negative, spiteful, reckless, and selfish personality, which made him hate everyone, including Khaled and his father, who was killed by him. However, this relationship did not affect Khaled, whom the narrator portrayed as a positive and stable character, as he did not react to Helal's hatred despite his rejection of what was coming from him and his sadness at killing their father. However, when they were about to leave Zicola, he told Yamen to help Helal if he meets him one day.

-Love of the homeland: Feelings of love for the homeland and longing for it brought together Khaled, Aseel, Yamen, and Eyad, as each of them expressed his love for his land and his country. Khaled and Aseel shared the alienation from their homeland and longing to return. Both of them were in a strange land and in the end, they returned to their country despite their motivational differences. When Yamen and Eyad's love for their homeland Zicola, appeared by informing that to Khaled, when he told them of his concern regarding Zicola's customs and the currency of intelligence, which is considered a standard for wealth, poverty and the sacrifice of poor people. Yamen said that it is our land where we were born and loved to stay in.

7)Conclusion: after analyzing the characters of Zicola novel from the perspective of psychological criticism, as we examined it through the author's narration of the events of the novel. We followed their roles and relationships to each other, and we arrived at a set of outcomes, which are as follow:

The psychological dimension represents a significant component in the fictional work, as the novelist must have great experience and ability in order to be able to gather between the role of the

⁴⁰ Marwan Abu Huwajj, Introduction into General Psychology, Al-Yazori for Publishing and Distribution, Jordan, 2006, p. 247.

character and its psychology in construction of the fictional character.

The characters of the novel represented an important element to which all events and their development were linked, as well as the basic idea of the novel.

The novelist Amr Abdel Hamid has succeeded in carefully selecting his characters, whether the realistic or the fictional, as he filled each character with the appropriate psychological state of (strength and weakness, seriousness and recklessness, love and hate, activity and laziness, ...), which qualified them to perform their roles and interact with other characters.

We also notice that the psychology of the characters, besides the innate preparations with which they were born, was affected by the social influences surrounding them, which affected their behavior and interaction with other characters.

The psychological criticism approach is important in studying literary works, as it reveals the true backgrounds of these works. That made us conclude through the analysis of this novel that the hero Khaled is the same narrator Amr Abdel Hamid and that this novel is an autobiography despite the fact that many scholars and critics classified it as a fictional novel.

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