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Synopsis

This Master's Thesis investigates the work of the poet and the writer Mahmoud Darwish as a case study, to explore the character types of "the other". The hypothesis rejects the current myth and preconceived images about this "other", and investigates it in sufficient detail. The research question is: What are the subjective and objective parameters that determine Darwish's view of the Zionist Idea, and how has his vision affected the poetic characterization of "the other" in his literature?

The purpose of the thesis is to indentify a unique dualism in the poet's discourse, the gist of which is that Mahmoud Darwish, the poet, has not maintained a consistent image of the "other" in his poetic memory, but the model of this "other" has gone through a dramatic gradual growth in characterization, starting from a stereo type, through a living realistic image, and ending with an Arabesque. The other aspect of this dualism is that the Palestinian Darwish in his address of the "other" was radical in poetry and art in general, and pragmatist in his Politics and Ideology.

This thesis follows the "Integrity Phenomenalism Method" as a tool of analyzing texts, and parallel texts (those texts produced before, during or after composing the literary work), combining the psychological and aesthetic approaches, the former for interpreting original thinking and explaining views and attitudes, and the latter for literary appreciation. As for discourse analysis of this prose, a combination of the historical and case study approaches is used.

The importance of the thesis lies in its discovery of the progression of characterization of "the other" as a correlation to subjective factors stemming from the originator Darwish himself.

This thesis basically contains two sections and a conclusion. The first part which is devoted to theoretical knowledge is divided into three chapters: The first two chapters discuss the ideological and theological factors and their effect on the struggle between two memories (Identities).

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The third chapter reflects the points of view within the modern Palestinian poetry. The second part, which comprises chaptes 4 & 5, focuses on the knowledge factors related to the images of "the other" in Darwish's texts and parallel texts.

The conclusion is a discussion and implications of the findings, a panorama of psychological and intellectual complexities which drone the dynamics of change in Derwish's poetic and parallel texts. The research input is derived from case studies of Darwish, and personal interviews with intellegentsia and critics.