Arabic Fairytales: An Analysis of Hatim Tai’s Story Within Propp’s Model

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Author: Bahram Kazemian
Email: click here TO access email
Homepage: https://www.researchgate.net/profile/Bahram_Kazemian4/?ev=hdr_xprf
Institution: Islamic Azad University, Tabriz
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Abstract: The research aims to investigate the Arabic folklore “Hatim Tai” to reveal its constructive elements at narrative levels. Propp’s narrative model is exercised as a theoretical framework. It’s a qualitative study and a descriptive method is applied. The selected Tale has all the constructive elements introduced by Propp. Some functions are replicated more than two or three times. This world class story deals with ethics and morality. The research will be helpful for the future researchers who desire to conduct research on cultural folklore in Pakistani or other contexts.
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Within the composition of the tale which Propp discovered, and which form the structure of the fairytale. Before Propp the so-called atomistic conception was dominant, which considered either the motif or the whole type as an elementary 'monad' of the tale. From this follows Propp's twofold definition of the fairytale; he first characterizes it as a "story built upon the proper alternation of the above-cited functions in various forms", and second as a "tale subordinated to a seven-personage scheme". The sphere of action, i.e. the distribution of functions according to roles, makes the second model dependent on the first, fundamental model. Although Propp's work on structural analysis of fairytales is the classical one, there were not almost any similar investigations in the Kazakh Folklore science. Unfortunately the author didn't find any researches of Kazakhstani investigators where would be done the structural analysis of Kazakh fairytales how Propp did in his fundamental work as «Fairytale's Morphology». Now such investigations are very necessary because «Fairytale's Morphology» and the other Propp's works mostly considered Russian and European tales. Propp in his work «Russian fairytale» did not consider a genetic interrelation between a fairytale and a myth, because he supposed that this question very disputable.