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## Sociology of literature

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### Abstract

The subject of this article is the sociology of literature. In general, it is the representation of society in literary texts and the relationship between literature and other social structures, and theorizes that literature is part of the social system of its time, a structure that cannot be properly analyzed and worked out without the knowledge of certain institutions and groups. The sociology of literature was unveiled in the 19th century, but dates back to ancient times. Plato and Aristotle also explored the theory and outlook of art and literature. They consider the sociology of literature to be a valuable resource for sociology, because they believe that it is possible to obtain aspects of social, environmental, economic and political life through the study of literature, so that no sociologist can use literature as a valuable source of knowledge. Because sociologists are trying to determine human society in terms of the structure of human collective behavior.

**Keywords:** Sociology, literature, analysis, knowledge

### Introductions

There are different ways to achieve cognition, and also there are so many different ways to achieve these methods. Thus, if we define enlightenment as a subconscious philosophy in the way of the laws of methods (Sarukhani, 1381: 7), we see that there are different chances of approaching knowledge and minimizing slippage and achieving results. Weber believes, "It would be to the detriment of sociology if we deprive a devotee of some research tools that can enrich our knowledge" (Freund, 2007: 99). Sociology is an integral part of the social sciences. Knowledge of the Study of Society (Social Phenomena) This discipline examines human societies, all their actions, processes that keep societies in their present state or change them. The aim of this field of science is to divide society into its constituent parts, such as associations, institutions, same-sex groups and races and ages, and to examine how these components interact actively with each other. Here is a specific debate on the sociology of literature. It was established as a specialized branch of sociology at the end of the nineteenth century and reached its turning point in the twentieth century with the ideas and works of the Hungarian philosopher John Lucas. In addition to Lucas, thinkers such as Erich Kohler, Lucien Goldman and Mikhail Bakhtin have all contributed to the development and development of this discipline. Sociology of literature as an interdisciplinary science is, on the one hand, the culmination of literary sciences related to linguistics and philosophy and, on the other hand, closely linked to social sciences and history. In philosophy, the disciplines of sociology of literature should be sought, especially in classical German philosophy, because many of the principles and foundations of this discipline have been formed according to the philosophic ideas of Kant, Hegel, Marx and Schleier. Current research focuses on topics such as a brief introduction to sociology of literature, sociology of literature and literary sociology, sociology of books, reading, the mind of the reader, the historical disciplines of sociology, and the place of sociology of literature in contemporary criticism.

### Research Hypothesis

By studying and determining the social status of human beings, by identifying groups with which we have had little or no contact, by taking the time to learn the community of literary texts, because the sociology of literature is mainly related to the social function of literary texts and, in their view, literature is a social document with a mirror of society.

### Objective of research

Accurate and objective study and knowledge of social relations, because literature is not only

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a translator of social realities, but can also transform the reality that has arisen as a result; In other words, literature is a product of society. And that's why the sociology of literature focuses its research on the relationship of the author to the social, cultural, contemporary and literary conditions of production. To better and better understand the social environment of literary texts.

### Importance of research

Since sociology is a science that studies all or all of the social phenomena and their directions and movements, it is also important to know the importance of current research in the community of literary texts, and this is a way for further research into sociology in literature.

### Research Background

Research in the field of literature sociology there is no independent book in the field of literature in Afghanistan, but a lot of research has been done in Iran and other countries on sociology of literature on sociology of literature. For example: Fundamentals of Sociology by Bruce Quinn, Sociology of Literature Defending Roman Sociology by Goldman, and a number of other books translated into Persian in Iran.

### Research Method

The method used for this research is the library and valid sources and references.

### Sociology

Sociology is a science which studies and studies society and the changes and developments that have taken place in the life of society and which follows certain principles and laws.

The historical field of sociology is a matter for French theorists. Sociology is the youngest social science in the world. The term "sociology" was first used by the Frenchman Auguste Kent in his affirmative philosophy. August Kent is generally considered to be the father of sociology. According to Kent, knowledge of sociology may be based on regular scientific observation and classification. (Quinn, 2002: 23).

Sociology is an integral part of the social sciences. This discipline examines human societies, all their actions in processes that keep societies in their present state or change. The aim of this scientific field is to divide society into its constituent parts, such as associations, institutions, groups, races, and to study these groups. It also explores issues such as social classification, stratification, social movements, social change, and irregularities such as crime, deviance, and revolution.

Since sociology pays attention to our behavior as social beings, its field of study ranges from the analysis of short-term contacts between strangers on the street to the study of global social trends. In fact, sociology is the science of the knowledge of society, as well as the structures and relationships within those institutions and social realities. Sociology is based on theories developed in the 19th century. It was founded by the ancient philosophers of Greece. It was first recognized as an academic discipline in 1880 and 1890 and began teaching in universities.

The Durkheim School was the first school of sociology. The school, founded by the French sociologist Emile Durkheim, has placed great emphasis on the existence of community-

level realities that are independent of the different psychological characteristics of individuals. In an effort to identify the truth and communicate it together, this group of sociologists began to explore human societies. Primitively, in France and the English-speaking countries, they tried to argue that models of social structure emulate what is done in physics. (Quinn, 2002: 48) <sup>[5]</sup>.

### Sociological theories

Sociological theories are theoretical frameworks used by sociologists to explain and analyze activities, processes and social structures. Sociological theories are divided into three categories.

**The first group:** theories that have been inspired by the method adopted in the natural sciences and with the aim of finding comprehensive laws governing human society. Theorists in this field are trying to discover the cause and effect of human society relations. The proposed laws and models must be formulated in such a way that their accuracy can be tested. In other words, the collection of data confirms or denies these theories.

**The second group:** anywhere but, examining the empiric data of social processes, discusses basic and internal issues. Some of these studies specifically examine "behavior" and "order" and then answer questions such as: are social behaviors pragmatic and goal-oriented, or are they shaped and guided by esthetic, emotional and moral considerations? Are the patterns observed in social behaviors due to the control that institutions have over individuals through morality or coercion, or are they due to practical negotiations between different people when they have to make a momentary decision in unforeseeable situations? Nasal, do you take part in everyday life? The theories in this category emphasize the role of emotion in behavior and the need for coordination in order-building.

**The third group:** seeks to understand the meanings and intentions of the texts indirectly through theories and hermeneutic methods. They have become famous in a society and, through this, they are indirectly trying to answer questions of interest to comprehensive scholars. (Sociologists' Association: Remembrance of Gholam Hassan Siddiq, Founder of Sociology, 2002: 161-163).

### A brief introduction of sociology of literature

The sociology of literature, which emerged as a specialized branch of sociology at the end of the nineteenth century, is part of the general sociology which deals with the "text" and, rather, with everything outside the text itself. Readers, writers, critics, literary institutions are included in this field of book production and distribution, but "literary sociology" is one of the branches of literary science. With a linguistic approach from the point of view of phonology, phonology, grammar, Semiotics examines the text and the meaning of its interpretation. Jacques Derrida, Michel Foucault, Roland Barthes, Wiltai. They are among the contemporary scientists who have worked in this field.

Two views may be discussed in the field of sociology of literature. One is the materialist view, and the other is the idealist view, which, of course, encompasses both critical views. Materialists establish a representational and mechanical link between literature and society, and limit

literature to the reflection of social and, in particular, economic issues, their view is one-dimensional literature and does not ignore the esthetic independence of literature and literary phenomena. In fact, sociologists of literature who have a materialist view are unable to understand and define a phenomenon such as superficial literature, as well as an abstract idealist view that claims the absolute independence of artistic and literary creation. Idealists ignore the complex link between literary creation and social reality and deal with abstract and ideal literature in such a way that they reach the absolute soul and move away from social reality. They completely deny the link between literature and social and historical phenomena. Sociology of literature is an integral part of books, literary works and reading, each of which is analyzed and studied in the fields of sociology of books, sociology of literary creation, and sociology of reading (Poyandeh, 2002: 34).

**Sociology of Books:** In this field, sociology deals with the production and distribution of books, and why is a book a bestseller in one period compared to another? Why is a certain book being read by a certain group? Why don't some books find their audience despite their literary and artistic value? Why are book sales in some communities so low? For this purpose, literary sociology plays an important role in examining the activities of institutions such as universities, academies, libraries and their circles.

**Sociology of Literary Creation:** returning to the author, his field of activity focuses on thought and language and is closely linked to social reality. This does not mean, of course, that it is limited to the reality of society.

One of the themes addressed in the field of literary creation. Analysis is the relationship of form and content. "Erich Kohler considers literary creation as an inseparable unity of form and content. And he considers the complete conformity of form and content as a criterion for a work of art."

According to Kohler, it is the content that creates the face and, on the other hand, the face is the creator of the content. This means that a certain content cannot be expressed in any way whatsoever. The face is the clearest reflection of reality that the interpretation of this reality depends on the content and is as much a function of reality as it is of the same content.

**Reading Sociology:** Today, reading the text is one of the most important and complex aspects of the sociology of literature. In fact, "Reading" is a conversation between text and hypertext. From this point of view, reading in sociology is as much a creative work as the work of the author and his artistic and literary work. The "reading" process is an active process between the text and the reader's mind, that is, the close relationship between the production and receipt of the work.

Reading Sociology seeks to answer the following questions: Why do readers have different perceptions of the unit? Why do they have different perceptions of literary work in different periods of time? What kind of relationship can there be between text structure and reader perception? To what extent do the expectations of the reader in understanding and interpreting factors such as education, background and mental background, social status and the level of the reader's class have an impact on the type of

reading that they have as a result of the type of interpretation of the text? The literary effect has no single structure so that all audiences have a single perception of it. Rather, the structure of the text is multifaceted, and the multidimensionality of the text leads to different readings, followed by different interpretations of the text.

Reading text is not limited to the receipt of text messages. Reading text means the ability to decode and decrypt by hypertext. The reader's mind is not a passive mind. The reader deals with the text according to his mental background and worldview, according to the experience of his wishes and expectations. In fact, he reads and understands the text as he expects from the text himself.

Lucien Goldman says that the creator of the work of art is a collective "Creating a work of authorship can be one of the factors or actors: hypertext plays as much a role in creation as a writer. Society, people, history, culture, reality of the time, singers are as involved in the formation of the work as Jacques Rezida." "Reading" is a sort of deconstruction. Derrida believes in two types of reading: classical reading, which leads to an understanding of the apparent meaning of the work, and deconstructive reading, which leads to the hidden meaning of the work.

And from this point of view, reading is a kind of hermeneutical interpretation. In the field of hermeneutics, all meanings are relative. There is no single, unchangeable meaning. And the text has different meanings according to different readings, none of which has a final and definite meaning. (Pooyandeh, 1381, 4-5)<sup>[5]</sup>.

Sociological theories of reading are the product of modern and post-modern literature. In classical literature, the role of the author and creator of the work was so prominent and wrong that it left no room for hypertext and even text. But gradually, in modern and postmodern literature, a move was made to remove the author and, instead, to highlight the role of hypertext. So that the verdict of defeat and death of the creation of artistic and literary works was pronounced. (Fadhli, 386, 12).

In fact, Bard Batoriuri's "Death of the Author" routines have reinvigorated the reader into a creative force that not only has the power to intervene in the text, but sometimes even takes the place of the author. The theory of the author's death is a kind of authoritarianism. An authority that has been influenced by the author and the creator in classical literature.

This authority is that hypertext in modern postmodern literature. Jacques Dride, as one of the theorists of postmodern literature, has a theory in this regard: each text has an author according to the number of its meta-texts and interprets the number of meta-texts according to the number of meta-texts. No 1374: 9)

### Literature Sociology

Sociology of literature is not, in fact, a single theory that can set out very clear principles in its methodological explanation. Various sociologists have proposed different views on this method of study of literature. With these views, it can be summed up that the sociology of literature as a whole, deals with and theorizes, the way in which society is represented in the literary text and the interaction of literature with other social institutions. In this research approach, literature is a function of the social structure of its time, a structure without which literary works cannot be properly analyzed without the knowledge of its institutions

and groups. Two major trends in sociology of literature have emerged from these theoretical commonalities.

1. A group of sociological literature researchers are mainly concerned with the social function of literary texts. According to them, literature is a "social document" or a "mirror of society" and, by examining it, an accurate and objective knowledge of social relations can be acquired. Literature is not only a translator of social reality, but can also transform the reality that has resulted from it; in other words, literature is both a social product and a social force. The views of Marxists on literature and its social function are in line with exactly the same trends in the sociology of literature. Among the theorists of this kind of literary sociology are Madame Friends, Elipolit Ton and Richard Hogarth.
2. Another group of writers on the sociology of literature focuses their research on the relationship of the author to the socio-cultural situation of his time and the conditions for the production of literature. It is very important to address the author's personal worldview in the analyzes of these researchers. This group also devotes a large part of its authors to examining the role of these institutions. They are involved in the production and distribution chain of literary works. According to these sociologists, poets have, in ancient times, gained their social status from their lords or sponsors, while today it is the publishers and distributors of books who determine this position for poets and writers (Payendeh, 2005: 4).

#### **Place of sociology of literature in contemporary criticism**

Sociology of literature is a field of multidisciplinary studies which examines the impact of social structures on the production of literary texts. The premise of those involved in this type of research is that the creation of literary works is the result of certain social situations, and the mystery of literature cannot be properly understood unless we first carefully analyze its relationship with these situations. In this research, theoretical concepts and methodological principles of sociology serve as a tool for reading and evaluating the social functions of literary texts.

Sociology is a field of social science that examines human social life. Sociologists are trying to analyze human society from the perspective of the structure of human collective behavior. In a sense, a sociologist is someone who studies how the social system works and how it relates to the way in which the statistics of society are lived. Analyzes by sociologists on the impact of cultural, political, geographical and economic factors Esthetics and the like discuss the relationship between social statistics and their social groups and internal legislation. In other words, sociologists are trying to explain social processes and how society is organized. Such an explanation should usually involve the social institutions and their functions. According to sociologists, man is a creature that is influenced by family, culture, religion, politics, education and other social institutions and reacts conditionally to the teachings of this institution (Payendeh, 1394: 1) <sup>[9]</sup>.

According to sociologists, literature is one of the resources that can be used for the scientific study of society. Indeed, literature itself is a kind of social institution. According to sociologists, the function of literature is to reflect the situation of society at any time, and the relationship between

the statistics of society and the critical view is being examined.

Sociology of literature states that literature reproduces human experiences in social life; therefore, the core of any literary work is social life. By adopting the same approach, René Volk and Austin Varan argue in their book *Theory of Literature*: that the creation of literary works is a consequence of life in the sum of other human beings (society). Literature is born out of special social institutions (René Volk - Austin Varan, 1379: 99).

In this case, we can say that differences in the literature of nations are rooted in the same question, for example: differences in norms, values and social behavior in different societies, and differences in the themes of the literary works of those societies. Whenever the social systems of the roof are different, the literature derived from those systems will be different in the first place.

Or, if we consider literature as a product of social life, then we must say that there are many commonalities between sociology and literature, because they both pursue the same goal of the search for society and interpersonal relationships.

Sociologists study the aspects of social life by studying literature, just as they do by analyzing the social structure. According to them, the works of the literary index of each period give a clear picture of the social, environmental, economic, religious and political structures and behavior of human beings in their contemporary societies. Sociological research requires the same type of data and, therefore, sociology should not neglect the literature that is a valuable source of information and social research (Payende, 1394: 1) <sup>[4]</sup>.

In this case, he argued that the relationship between literature and society is dialectical, that literature arises from social structures, but at the same time questions and denies those structures. For example, in order to be successful in literary creativity, every novelist must have a view of the world around him, but if he remains within the cultural boundaries of the world, he can no longer help to create a new and different reality through literary creation. The works of such an author are the most accurate description of society, but they do not provide any alternative to the issues dealt with by the statistics of society (Wat, 1394: 11) <sup>[9]</sup>.

#### **Conclusion**

The results of the present study indicate that the title *Sociology of Literature* has been defined as a field specific to the study of sociology in universities and research centers since the middle of the twentieth century, but this method of study of literature has a long history and history of the controversy of Aristotle. It's going back to Plato on the nature of art and literature. Plato's arguments against literature in his two *Republican* and *Ivan* treaties revolve around the assertion that literature confuses the minds of social statistics.

In his view, the creators of literary works are liars who, by provoking the emotions of the audience, weaken his intellect, making it possible for him to make sensible decisions. So, the needs of literature are taken over by society. Aristotle Aflaton's response to his treatise on the effects of literature on audiences by proposing the concept (psychotherapist) was equally sociological because, according to his theory, other anti-Semitic and destructive feelings of viewers were exposed to tragedy. , Are purified

within them, and they return to society as citizens who have constrained their anti-social tendencies. Thus, we can see that research on the function of literature in terms of its impact on individual behavior and the outcome of society has existed since the advent of ancient Greek literary theory and criticism. According to Ellipolite, a French literary critic of the nineteenth century, and O'Brien's emphasis that the meaning of any work should be sought in the three elements of collective spirit, position and time, the turning point was more attention to the interrelationship between literature and society. In body theory, the literary effect does not arise from the author's individual intelligence, but is the product of the social or environmental reality in which the author has acted and nurtured it. This emphasis on the social foundations of literary creation has led him to be called the father of the sociology of literature. Literature sociology has already become an important subject in social studies. But what we call, especially in the late sociology of literature, is the result of the great contributions of Georg Loach, Lucien Goldmann, Leolonthal and Bruscarpet.

Analyzing these issues, we can say that the sociology of literature as a whole is the representation of society in literary texts and the relationship between literature and other social institutions, which it studies more and considers literature to be a function of the social structures of its time, a structure which it ignores. And his groupings cannot properly analyze literary works

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