

## A Study of Types of Plots in Narratives of Nakhshbi 's Touti Nameh Based on Norman Friedman Theory

Zahra rajabi<sup>1</sup>

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### Abstract

After Aristotle that was the first theorist of plot, in recent decades, Propp was the first theorist that start searching for common frameworks and patterns in the plot, especially in folktales; And these studies continued after him. Norman Friedman is one of the contemporary narratologists who has studied the structure of the plot, influenced by the methods and views of Aristotle and Propp; and based on the three main components of Aristotle's view, namely action/ fortune, character and thought, he has introduced 14 types of plots. Since structures and themes are generally repetitive in folk tales, in the present study, the types of plots in Nakhshabi's Touti Nameh stories, which are folk works of the 8th century, have been studied in a descriptive-analytical manner based on Friedman's view; While introducing a new perspective to narratology research, find out which one of the 14 types of plots is used in the Touti Nameh. Based on the results, in the 75 main and sub-stories examined, all types of Friedman plots are used, and this shows the richness and structural variety of the plot in this work; It was also found that there is a significant relationship between the use of some of the most frequent types of plots of fortune and character in stories.

**Keywords:** *Nakhshabi's Touti Nameh, Friedman's theory and narrative plan, Criticism and analysis of popular literature stories, Classical Persian prose.*

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<sup>1</sup> Assistant Professor, Persian Language and Literature Department, Faculty of Literature and Foreign Languages, Arak University, Arak, Iran; ORCID ID; 0000-0002-2802-4245 Email: [z-rajabi@araku.ac.ir](mailto:z-rajabi@araku.ac.ir)



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### ***Extended Abstract***

#### **1. Introduction**

Understanding literature, both as an institution and as an activity, requires understanding the conventions and actions that make it possible to write and read works. Plot is one of the main and frequent elements that play a fundamental role in the formation of narratives. It is based on the relationship structure of the plot that events are considered part of a coherent whole and find a specific meaning; and from this point of view, it includes a special type of composition, expansion and structuring of the actions and events of the narrative. Therefore, the plot definitely has certain principles and rules that have been tried to be discovered since the time of Aristotle in literary studies. One of the theorists who had studied in this field is Norman Friedman, a contemporary American writer and novelist. Although he is not a structuralist, by examining the structure of the narratives, he has examined the plot in the three main axes of fate, character and thought, and has stated sub-branches for each of them. This research has investigated the design plots in Nakhshabi's *Touti Nameh* stories based on Friedman's point of view. *Touti Nameh* is one of the Persian folk works with a structure like a thousand and one nights stories; And like fairy tales, it is based on repeating repeated stories.

#### **2. Literature Review**

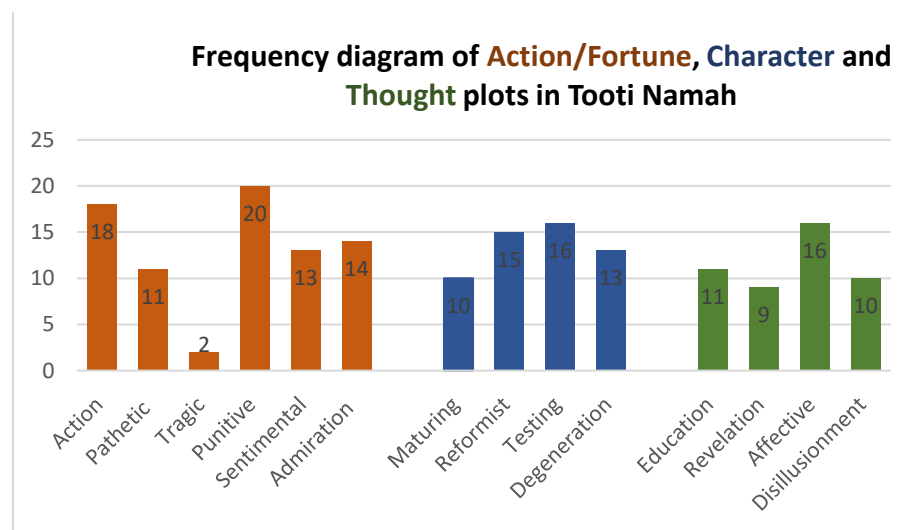
In this regard, it should be said that so far in Persian literature, many researches have been carried out focusing on the investigation and analysis of plot in fictional narratives. But most of them were based on the viewpoint of theorists such as Propp, Todorov, Grimas, etc. Therefore, in Persian literature, for the first time in the present research, Friedman's view and his division of plot types in folk stories have been introduced.

#### **3. Methodology**

This research was done in a descriptive-analytical way. First, Friedman's point of view and his 14 classification of plot types in folk tales are expressed; Then, the types of plots in 75 main and secondary stories of *Touti Namah* have been analyzed based on this division. At the end, the results have been reviewed and analyzed.

#### 4. Results

Among the 75 stories of Tooti Namah, 51 are the main stories that parrot said it to the merchant woman during 52 nights. And the rest of the stories are secondary. The frequency of each of the three types of fate, character and thinking in these 75 stories is as described in the following chart:



Based on this diagram:

- The tragic plot has the lowest frequency and the highest frequency is the Punitive Plot; It means, there are more negative and unsympathetic characters who intend to deceive others.

- The most transformation of the characters is of the Maturing, Reformist and Testing type; It means empathetic heroes who find themselves in difficult situations and choose the right path in the end.

- In terms of Thought, the frequency of Affective and Revelation types is more; Because in general, the main character does not play a role in these stories, and other characters who help the hero play a role in solving the hero's riddle and problem or discovering another aspect of the characters in the story.

- Finally, in these stories, Tragic and Revelation plots, which require more complexity in storytelling and characterization, are less frequent, which of course is normal in folk stories.

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