

## **The Explanation Of The Role Of Literary Discourse On The Rise Of The First Pahlavi**

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### **Abstract**

The main question of this paper is to explain the role of the literary institution in the context of power relations and in particular the arrival of Iranian society into the era of Pahlavi rule. In the meantime, based on Ernest Cassirer's comments, the late literary works of the Qajar period until the first Pahlavi era was evaluated. Contrary to the prevailing approaches to text as abstract, neutral, inactive, and merely reflective of a subject or matter, Cassirer believes that texts as a system of signs are, above all, a set of practices that have the capacity to be the position of agency. On this basis, he believes that the mental construction of the new world is still influenced by myths that are produced and reproduced in various ways and with specific purposes. The results obtained and described by these works show that literature in this period, by creating a particular kind of myths and then expanding and diffusing the mythical insights into heroism and nationalist discourse, provided the basis for the emergence of the First Pahlavi rule.

**Keywords:** *The role of discourse in literature, the contexts and emergence of the Savior in literature, Pahlavi rule and Persian literature, the adaptation of Cassirer's theories and contemporary literature.*

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***Extended Abstract***

**1. Introduction**

In criticism and new theories, one of the important issues is the function of literature. This issue has always been raised among thinkers and intellectual and cultural trends and is considered a part of the problem and problematic of the philosophy of literature. Among the contemporary thinkers, Cassirer, along with Gramsci and Althusser, have addressed the issue of the importance and function of art and literature. In Cassirer's intellectual system, text and culture are not basically neutral categories without agency. From such a perspective, Cassirer establishes a close bond between text and power. Cassirer refers to myths and the conditions in which myths appear. In the book *Myth of the State*, he raises the issue of how totalitarianism and its examples and representatives, like Hitler, have emerged in the modern world demanding rationality, and what is the role of literature in this? Now, according to Cassirer's theory, we have examined the position of the literary community (text and author) as a reference group in the emergence and evolution of Iranian society at the end of the Qajar period. In fact, this article seeks to show and explain the role of the institution of literature in the emergence of the first Pahlavi.

**2. Literature Review**

In the field of Persian literature, there is a large volume of books, treatises and articles and other scattered writings that, despite their value and importance, have followed a single pattern. These works often deal with the quality and place of a phenomenon or a concept in literary texts, and there are not many works that have reached an understanding of the text that observes the participation of the text in power equations and relationships. Based on Ernst Cassirer's opinions, the following article tries to independently show the influence and role of Persian literature in the rise of Pahlavi rule.

**3. Methodology**

This article is done with the method of qualitative content analysis and based on library sources. First, Ernst Cassirer's theory, which observes the relationship between the text and the concept of power, has been explained. Then, the cases that have played a role in the emergence and establishment of Pahlavi rule in the poetry and prose works of the late Qajar period have been examined and analyzed according to the article's hypothesis.

#### 4. Results

The results of this article show that literature in the late Qajar period, in its various fields, by creating the myth of the savior and then expanding and spreading its various dimensions, has provided the ground for the emergence of Pahlavi rule with known and known coordinates. Malek osh-Sho'arā Bahār, Aref Qazvini, Farokhi Yazdi and Mirzadeh Eshghi have played a significant role in producing the myth of the savior and the character of rescuer by using the possibilities and capacities provided by the language of poetry. Bahar mentions the savior models present in ancient Iran, such as Cyrus, Kaveh, etc., and Aref Qazvini, Farokhi Yazdi, and Mirzadeh Eshghi also adhere to Iranian savior myths in accordance with such a model. On the other hand, such a theme can be seen in the fiction and prose works of that period as well as historical novels and plays, and in the final analysis of this homogenous collection, they form a discourse that is generally aligned with the phenomenon of Reza Khan and his desired order. In other words, they have made the ground favorable and smooth for the emergence of his speech. Another constructive field for the emergence of authoritarianism of that period, according to the results obtained, is the category of nationalism, which was re-read in the light of Ernst Cassirer's views. Along with other factors of the rise of nationalism and the necessity and reasons for the formation of this idea, the nationalism in Iranian culture in general and in Persian literature in particular - according to the description and analysis of the selected works in this article - can be seen as a result of the prevailing mythic insight that in the conditions an exceptional and critical age emerges.

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