

Historiography of the novel *Min Hikayati Jaddati* by Suhayr al-Qalamawy: a study of new historicism

Historiografi dalam novel “Min Hikayati Jaddati” karya Suhayr al-Qalamawy: kajian new historicism

Mahjatin Nabilah Syarofina^{1,*} & Moh. Zawawi²

^{1,2}UIN Maulana Malik Ibrahim Malang

Jl. Gajayana No.50, Dinoyo, Lowokwaru, Malang, Indonesia

^{1,*}Email: 210301110079@student.uin-malang.ac.id; Orcid iD: <https://orcid.org/0009-0008-9335-601X>

²Email: zawawi@bsa.uin-malang.ac.id; Orcid iD: <https://orcid.org/0000-0003-0243-9327>

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Abstract

The nineteenth century was distinguished by a period of considerable turbulence and strife between Europe and the Middle East. One such event was the Battle of Alexandria and the subsequent outbreak of the Mahdi Revolution in Sudan. Suhayr al-Qalamawy's historical novel *Min Hikayati Jaddati* is the object of this research. The novel recounts the experience of a grandmother attempting to ascertain the whereabouts of her three children, who had enlisted in the Egyptian army under the command of Urabi in the conflict against the British. This research examines the economic and political representations in the novel *Min Hikayati Jaddati* through the lens of new historicism. The research method employed is a qualitative narrative with a new historicism approach model. The findings of this research relate to the strategy of the British forces in paralyzing the Urabi forces in Tal Kabir, which killed many people, thus affecting the political factors at that time, namely the change of power from the hands of Ismail Pasha to Khedive Tawfiq. The economic impact that arose after the war was the increase in food prices, which resulted in the instability of the country's economy and the rise in poverty.

Abstrak

Abad ke-19 ditandai dengan periode gejolak dan konflik yang signifikan antara Eropa dan Timur Tengah. Salah satu peristiwa tersebut adalah Pertempuran Alexandria dan meletusnya Revolusi Mahdi di Sudan. Objek penelitian ini adalah novel sejarah *Min Hikayati Jaddati* yang ditulis oleh Suhayr al-Qalamawy. Novel ini menceritakan pengalaman seorang nenek yang berusaha mencari tahu keberadaan ketiga anaknya, yang telah bergabung dengan pasukan Mesir yang dipimpin oleh Urabi dalam konflik melawan Inggris. Penelitian ini bertujuan untuk mengkaji representasi ekonomi dan politik dalam novel *Min Hikayati Jaddati* dengan menggunakan pisau analisis *new historicism*. Metode penelitian yang digunakan adalah naratif kualitatif dengan model pendekatan *new historicism*. Temuan dari penelitian ini berhubungan dengan strategi pasukan Inggris dalam melumpuhkan pasukan Urabi di Tal Kabir yang menewaskan banyak orang sehingga mempengaruhi faktor politik pada saat itu yaitu dengan adanya perubahan kekuasaan dari tangan Ismail Pasha ke Khedive Tawfiq. Adapun dampak ekonomi yang muncul setelah peperangan tersebut adalah naiknya harga pangan yang berakibat pada ketidakstabilannya ekonomi negara dan bertambahnya jumlah angka kemiskinan.

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A. Introduction

Towards the end of the nineteenth century, Egypt was profoundly impacted by a pivotal event: the deployment of British military forces, who had assumed control of the country through a process of gradual assumption of authority. This resulted in the eruption of the Urabi Rebellion. After the British incursion, the Ottoman government was the sole remaining authority in the region. In 1882, Khedive Abbas Helmi II assumed the role of Caliph Abdul Hamid's representative in Constantinople, succeeding Khedive Tawfiq (Mooduto, 2018). In 1882, the British formally assumed control of Egypt. The rationale behind this intervention was to stabilize the country and protect the Suez Canal, which constituted the primary trade route to India. The Suez Canal was of particular interest to Europeans due to its capacity to facilitate a network of connections between continents (Darmawan & Nashir, 2023; Nasihin et al., 2022).

The Middle East constituted a part of the Ottoman Empire until 1914. By the early 20th century, the Ottoman Empire was in a state of decline, which gave rise to heightened political conflict in the conquered territories that were situated at a considerable distance from the center of Egypt (La Rue, 2024). The initial Islamic state to be conquered by Western forces in Southeast Asia was the Ottoman Empire (Jamilah et al., 2023; Yeltriana et al., 2023). The collapse of the Ottoman dynasty was the result of a complex interplay of factors, including internal conflicts that the ruling elite was unable to resolve, attacks from European powers, and the emergence of political treason movements against the dynasty (Muttaqin, 2018; Sundari, 2021).

All historical evidence has been meticulously recorded and preserved in written form by historians. In consideration of the historical context, a multitude of authors have produced literary works that draw inspiration from these events. This is in accordance with the assertion made by Wellek and Warren in their seminal work (Sahliyah, 2017; Susanto et al., 2021), A literary work can be defined as a collection of writings arranged in chronological order, and as such, it constitutes a component of the historical process. A fundamental tenet of historical analysis is the understanding that every historical event is unique and cannot be repeated. Nevertheless, historical events can be represented in written and spoken form through Lestari & Yurisa (2024), Tjaraka & Tjahjandari (2024) it should be noted that the reconstructions in question are subject to change over time, both in terms of geographical location and in terms of the individual responsible for the reconstruction. It can be argued that historical processes exert an influence on the creation of literary work (Qadriani & Masda, 2020). One of the writers who employed a process of literary transformation to reimagine historical events was Suhayr al-Qalamawy.

In his inaugural foray into historical fiction, Suhayr al-Qalamawy presents *Min Hikayati Jaddati* من حكايات جدتي (2000), a novel infused with a subtle feminist perspective. The historical reconstruction depicted in the novel is situated against the backdrop of the conflict between Britain and Egypt in the late nineteenth century. In this work, Al-Qalamawy employs oral history as a means of analyzing the social role of women as revitalizers and custodians of local history (Al-Zayyat, 2002). This novel presents a grandmother's account of her grandson's experiences from the past (Al-Qalamawy, 2000). The situation is typified by a sense of *déjà vu*, with the protagonist confronted with a dilemma between two options. Al-Qalamawy presents the narrative from the perspective of each character. A literary narrative has the capacity to foster a critical attitude and consciousness among those versed in literary studies. This enables researchers to elucidate and describe the content of meaning by the conditions of reality through the approach of New Historicism (Yulianti, 2021).

The theory of New Historicism has been described in literary criticism as a "return to history." The theory of New Historicism allows for the consideration of a multitude of perspectives in the writing of history. Consequently, it enables the revelation of the experiences, struggles, and contributions of minority social groups, the weak, the oppressed, or the invisible in historical contexts (Mttaqin, 2021; Sayar, 2024). This modification to the historical record provides a novel perspective on the nature of historical understanding. This new understanding posits that history is not an objective phenomenon; rather, it is a construct shaped by the perspective of the author. The concept of history as a unified, unchanging, and linear phenomenon is rejected by New Historicism. The theory of New Historicism facilitates a more nuanced comprehension of culture and history, offering a perspective that considers the influence of power relations in historical events (Kara, 2020).

Nevertheless, Louis Montrose was the first to offer a more exacting theoretical definition. He established the fundamental tenets of New Historicism as a theoretical framework for interpreting texts. The concepts of "the textuality of history" and "the historicity of the text" established a distinction between history and literature. The textuality of history demonstrates that historical texts exhibit the attributes of literary narratives, whereas the historicity of texts illustrates that literary texts are implicated in the construction of historical events. The advent of this theory can be attributed to several factors, including Montrose's

discontent with formalism and the New Criticism of the mid-20th century, as well as the influence of cultural and anthropological considerations.

In Montrose's view, literary texts are cultural artifacts that must be analyzed in their cultural and social context (Montrose, 1989). Montrose then employs a methodology that integrates textual analysis with an investigation of the cultural practices and structures of power that were prevalent during the period under consideration. The argument is that texts and contexts are inextricably linked, with each influencing the other in a mutually constitutive relationship (Gao, 2019). The objective of an analysis conducted using the theory of New Historicism is not to ascertain the meaning and intent of a given literary text. The objective is not to ascertain the meaning and intent of a given literary text, but rather to provide a detailed description and examination of the language, culture, society, and political structures of the past.

In the context of New Historicism, several studies have addressed this issue. Such research includes that conducted by Ardhianti (2016) which concludes that historical facts encompass social, political, and economic issues that arose during the Dutch and Japanese colonization of Indonesia. The subsequent research, written by Anggarista et al. (2021) & Purnamasari (2018) led the researcher to conclude that the novel had historical, cultural, and economic value. Other research has been conducted by (Qadriani & Masda, 2020) who identified two elements in the novel *Rumpa'na Bone*: firstly, a historical representation of the Kingdom period and secondly, a cultural representation. A comparable methodology is observed in the research literature (Gümüş, 2021). The researchers identified the formation of subjective reconstructions and representations of history, based on memories, rumors, and discourses, as a consequence of the relationship between public and private history.

The researchers identified several similarities and differences with the findings of previous research, noting points of similarity and points of difference. The similarity is that the focus of this research is related to the analysis of New Historicism studies that aim to reveal historical facts from the past. The difference lies in the method of analysis used and the researcher's perspective on the proposed hypothesis. This research aims to build on the existing findings of previous studies in the context of New Historicism and examine the evolution of power as depicted in the novel. This approach requires identifying aspects that may have been missed in previous studies, especially those based on Louise Montrose's perspective. With the similarities and differences with previous studies, this research can make a new contribution to the understanding of new history and provide deeper insights or richer nuances to the phenomenon.

B. Method

This research employs a narrative qualitative method with a historical approach, which focuses on the historical background of the creation of literary works and relates historical events in literary works to non-literary texts. The narrative approach is an approach in social science research that refers to stories (narratives) that are listened to or told to help understand a person's identity and world perspective. This approach can also be referred to as the process of critically investigating events that occurred in the past to produce precise and accurate descriptions, stories, and interpretations of these events. Heuristics, source criticism, interpretation, and historiography are the techniques usually used (Adlini et al., 2022). Qualitative research is defined as a research method that aims to understand and explain the actions, perceptions, and motivations of people in terms of language and words in a particular setting (Mustafidah & Zawawi, 2024). The primary source of data was a novel entitled *Min Hikayati Jaddati* by Suhayr al-Qalamawy, published by Noor Book in 2000, consisting of 48 pages. The data set for this study comprises extracts from the novel *Min Hikayati Jaddati*, which encompass historical economic values and the history of the struggle of Egyptian society in the nineteenth century. Furthermore, the data set comprises supplementary material in the form of books pertinent to the subject matter under examination, including historical texts, periodicals, and scientific articles, as well as other pertinent documents.

The data collection technique used in this research is a literature review, the choice of which depends on the type and object of the research. A literature review is a method of collecting information relevant to the subject matter of the research project, and utilizing literature to obtain data in the field without the need to go directly (Nurjanah & Mukarromah, 2021). This is done by reading various sources, including scientific publications, books, articles, and print and online media. In addition, the data analysis in this research utilizes the New Historicism studies methodology, which uses non-literal texts as a means to integrate the literary text under study (Adhitya et al., 2021). The analysis procedure of this research consists of three stages. The first stage, parallel reading, involves reading the literary text (the novel) along with non-literary texts (such as news, scientific articles, and information from the internet) related to the object of research. The second stage, description, involves explaining the quotations contained in the novel. The third stage is the presentation of conclusions.

C. Results and Discussion

The findings of this study are comprised of thirteen data sets, each of which presents historical information regarding the events of the attack in both Alexandria and Sudan. The historical facts identified by the research team are intended to describe the conflict and its impact on the Egyptian people in their efforts to defend their country from European colonization. The representation in the novel is juxtaposed with the historical truth and analyzed using the theory of New Historicism. This approach allows for new insights and the examination of historical events through the lens of literature.

Table. 1 Data on the Representation of Historical and Economic Values Contained in the Novel *Min Hikayati Jaddati*

No.	Data criteria	Amount of Data
1.	Condition of the Egyptian military before the war and during the war in Alexandria and Sudan.	8
2.	The state of Egyptian society and forms of national defense.	4
3.	The economic condition of the Egyptian people during the war.	1

1. The Representation of Egypt's Battle History is in the Novel *Min Hikayati Jaddati*

The historical representation of the novel *Min Hikayati Jaddati* is presented in the form of a series of events that arise from the problems experienced by the main character. The narrative includes a comprehensive account of the military conflict between Egypt and Britain, as experienced by the protagonist. The novel's historical narrative encompasses not only the political context but also the military circumstances surrounding the capture of Egyptian troops by the British army in Alexandria and Sudan. In essence, the novel depicts historical events from the perspective of each character. This study aims to examine the representation of history in Suhair Al-Qalamawy's novel *Min Hikayati Jaddati* and its role in recreating the atmosphere of the British-Egyptian war in 1882-1914.

a. The Military Condition of the Egyptian Army before the War and during the Battles in Alexandria and Sudan

Data 1

مربنا الجيش المصري يوما، فرأيت أستاذي ينظر للجند متألما يغالب دموعه، وقال لي: كم يستطيع هذا الجيش لكنه مقيد لا يقوي علي شيء، كالأسد المحبوس في قفص الحديد، لا يستطيع الا الزئير.

I saw my teacher looking at the soldiers in pain, fighting back tears, and said to me, "How much can this army do?" But he is bound and unable to do anything, like a lion trapped in an iron cage, he can only roar (Al-Qalamawy, 2000, p. 20).

The first dataset provides excerpts that discuss the alarming state of the Egyptian military. The soldiers are in a state of oppression and restraint due to the circumstances that make them weak and powerless. In the novel, the Egyptian military forces are deprived of their basic right to be free and are only at the mercy of their superiors.

Data 2

وكان جو الوطن إذا ذاك كله غيوم كثيفة، عرابي باشا من ورائه الجيش، وقد تجسمت آمال المصريين ومطالبهم في شخصه، والحديوي توفيق في سراي التين والأجانب والانجليز خاصة يرون الفرصة قد جاءت لتدخلهم في شئون البلاد وأخذ ما يمكن أخذ منها.

The atmosphere of the country was then all thick clouds, Orabi Pasha with the army behind him, the hopes and demands of the Egyptians materialized in his person, the Khedive Tawfiq in Saray al-Tin, and the foreigners and the British in particular saw the opportunity to intervene in the affairs of the country and take what can be taken from it (Al-Qalamawy, 2000, p. 22).

In the above quote relates to the condition of the Egyptian army in its home territory. At the time, Colonel Urabi Pasha was seen behind the Egyptian army. Meanwhile, Khedive Tawfiq was in the Tin Palace in the company of foreign nationals, especially British nationals. They saw an opportunity to intervene in the country's internal affairs and extract resources from Egypt. Colonel Urabi Pasha was an Egyptian nationalist who played an important role in socio-political movements during Khedive Tawfiq's tenure.

As the data has been presented by the researcher in the form of original excerpts, a comparison can be made between the events depicted in the novel and historical facts that are analogous to the theme. The text provides an account of the state of the Egyptian military in the period preceding the attack on Tal Kabir in Alexandria. The precise cause of the Egyptian military's extreme suffering is not identified. Nevertheless, there is a correlation with historical documentation indicating that during the tenure of Muhammad Ali Pasha, Egypt was undergoing a process of military reorganization and modernization. He appointed the French colonel Sulaiman Pasha with the objective of establishing a military force that was both well-disciplined and loyal (Permata et al., 2023; Zaini et al., 2023). The disciplinary measures implemented by Sulaiman resulted in a notable reduction in the number of dissident troops.

In his book, the historian Abd al-Rahman al-Rafi'i offers an analysis of the relationship between Khedive Tawfiq and the leader of Orabi. Moreover, he defined the Orabi revolution as a national one, rather than merely a military one, and argued that all social groups were involved. Furthermore, he proposed that Orabi was the primary catalyst for the revolution, as he cultivated a sense of camaraderie and unity among the military personnel. He advanced boldly from his position in the ranks to present his demands to the leaders of the officer revolution with great resolve. Following the resolution of the dispute between the Khedive and the British Ministry in May 1882, the former agreed to the latter's proposal to intervene militarily. This resulted in the deployment of a fleet to Alexandria for a demonstration of naval force. It was their position that the Egyptian revolution required the involvement of the international community. In accordance with Al-Rafi'i's account, the fleet arrived in Alexandria on May 19, 1882 (Razek, 2022). This is the precise location of the significant event, as referenced in the novel.

Data 3

كانت الاخبار تأتينا لكن متناثرة مفككة، بعد وقوع الحوادث أيام، بل بأسابيع. قالوا إن الانجليز ضربوا قلاع وحصون الإسكندرية بأساطيلهم، فأنزعج قلبي علي أبنائي، كانوا في الإسكندرية، وكانو في حرس توفيق باشا. واخيرا جائي خبر انهم ثم يصبوا في ضرب الإسكندرية.

The news was scattered and disjointed, days or even weeks after the events took place. They said that the English had hit the castles and fortresses of Alexandria with their fleets, and my heart broke for my sons, who were in Alexandria and were in Tawfiq Pasha's guard. I finally got the news that they were going to hit Alexandria (Al-Qalamawy, 2000, p. 25).

The above quote illustrates that the author is speaking to a grandmother who expresses her concern about the news relating to the war in Alexandria. It seems that her son is serving in Tawfiq Pasha's army, which is currently stationed there.

Data 4

ولم ينته الجراح يا ابنتى بضرب الإسكندرية، وانما كان يشتد ويزيد، ثار المصريون ثورتهم واندفعوا وراء زعيمهم عرابي باشا يريدون وضع حد فاصل بينهم وبين تدخل الاجنبى. واتهم عرابي باتهامات كثيرة، ورأى عرابي ان الخديوي قد خدعه الانجليز، وانه آمن اليهم اكثر مما يجيب، فلم يكن عرابي والمصريون معه ليفهموا حسن نية الانجليز بعد ضربهم قلاع الإسكندرية وتدميرها.

The Egyptians revolted and rushed behind their leader, Orabi Pasha, wanting to draw a line between them and foreign interference. He was accused of many accusations, and Orabi saw that the Khedive had been deceived by the British, and that he had given them more than he had answered. Orabi was accused of many accusations, and Orabi saw that the Khedive had been deceived by the English, and that he gave more to them than he answered, so Orabi and the Egyptians with him did not understand the good faith of the English after they struck and destroyed the fortresses of Alexandria (Al-Qalamawy, 2000, p. 25).

The excerpt depicts that the intensity of the attacks increased, and the Egyptian population rose up against their rulers. Orabi was subjected to various accusations, and he argued that the Khedive had been misled by the British. This was due to the fact that he treated them in a more generous manner than they deserved. Despite having destroyed many palaces in the Alexandria area, Orabi and other Egyptian troops remained unconvinced of the intentions of the British forces.

Data 5

فأشهر عرابي الحرب علي الإنجليز، وحاربهم وحاربوه. وأعلن الخديوي انه غير مسؤول عن اعمال عرابي وأصبح عرابي زعيم الامة، والجيش من ورائه. وحارب عرابي، وأخذ يتقهقر الي ان وصل الي التل الكبير. وتحصن في التل الكبير واستعد لموقعة هائلة، موقعة فاصلة علق المصريون عليها آمالهم وكل مستقبلهم .

Orabi declared war on the British, fought them and they fought him. The Khedive declared that he was not responsible for Orabi's actions, and Orabi became the leader of the nation, with the army behind him. He fought Orabi and retreated until he reached Al-Tal Al-Kabeer. He barricaded himself in the big hill and prepared for a huge battle, a decisive battle on which the Egyptians pinned their hopes and all their future (Al-Qalamawy, 2000, p. 25).

The following three data quotes are presented to describe the state of war in Alexandria. These quotes are in accordance with historical facts, which indicate that at that time the British government in Egypt considered the Urabi Revolution to be a military protest rather than a nationalist movement. Subsequently, the British government advised the Khedive to deploy military force to suppress the rebels. The confrontation reached its zenith in Alexandria (Zaki, 2024). While the Urabi fleet remained stationed on the coast of Alexandria, the bombardment commenced on July 11, 1882. The structural integrity of the city was compromised, compelling Urabi's troops to withdraw and reinforce their position at Kafr Al-Dawwar. Nevertheless, they were ultimately defeated by British forces. Subsequently, Urabi sought refuge on a substantial hill (Aşik, 2018).

The Egyptian army employed a strategy of obstruction along the entirety of the Suez Canal, with the objective of preventing the British fleet from entering the waterway. In response, French Inspector De Lesseps employed a strategy of incitement to persuade Urabi of the neutrality of the Canal. This ultimately resulted in the British becoming definitively disinclined to enter the canal. It was not until June 26 that the British fleet finally entered the canal, thereby defeating Urabi at the Battle of Tal Al-Kabir on September 13, 1882. His apprehension, along with that of his principal subordinates, signified the conclusion of one phase and the advent of another. At that time, the British had been colonizing Egypt for a period of up to seventy years (Ayoub, 2022).

This perspective is further reinforced by Abbas Mahmoud Al-Aqqad's literary works, specifically 11 July and the Alexandria Attack. Despite its relative obscurity, this work is regarded by historians as one of Al-Aqqad's most significant contributions in the final decade of his life, as it represents his inaugural exploration of this subject matter. In the opening passages of his book, Al-Aqqad states that at sunrise on Tuesday, July 11, 1882, the British fleet commenced firing its artillery upon Alexandria. The shooting continued without interruption until sunset. In his analysis, Al-Aqqad examines the underlying principles of the Urabi Revolution, which saw its protagonists challenge the Egyptian government's exploitation of the nation's resources and the unequal distribution of wealth (Al-Kafrawi, 2022). The next notable event is the inception of the Mahdi Revolution in Sudan. The following information is presented in the novel.

Data 6

بعد ثلاث سنين من دخولهم مصر جاءتهم الفرصة. قامت ثورة المهدي في السودان واشتد أمرها، فحشدوا عشرة آلاف جندي مصري وأرسلوا معهم القائد ((هكس)) الانجليزي. ولم يشك أحد المصريين إذ ذاك في ان الانجليز لا يريدون بهذا الجيش الا ان يقاوم المهدي في السودان .

Three years after they entered Egypt, the opportunity came. They mobilized ten thousand Egyptian soldiers and sent with them Commander ((Hicks)) Englishman. At that time, no Egyptian doubted that the English only wanted this army to resist the Mahdi in Sudan (Al-Qalamawy, 2000, p. 42).

Data 7

سار الجيش وراء قائده سليمان نيازي باشا ورئيس أركان حربه هكس باشا وتحمل الجيش ما تحمل من متاعب الطريق، و الم الجوع، والصبر علي العطش. وما قاربوا ((الابيض)) بعد انتصارهم علي جنود المهدي بالقرب منها حتي طمعوا في فتحها، وارسلوا الي الحكومة لتأذن لهم فوافقت.

The army marched behind its commander, Suleiman Niazi Pasha, and his chief of staff, Hux Pasha, and endured the hardships of the road, the pain of hunger, and patience for thirst. When they approached ((Al-Bayyad)) After their victory over the Mahdi's soldiers near it, they aspired to conquer it, and sent to the government to authorize them (Al-Qalamawy, 2000, p. 43).

Data 8

فرفض القائد الا تنفيذ خطته، و سار الجيش جائعا عطشا، مهددا كل وقت بخروج الدراويش عليه من الاحراش والغابات وجاعت الجياد وعطشت وسقطت إعياء، واصبح الامر الجيش مؤلما فضيحا أشد الفضاة، أصبح جسما بدالموت يدب فيه من الجوع والتعب و العطش.

The commander refused to carry out his plan, and the army marched hungry and thirsty, threatened at all times by dervishes emerging from the bushes and forests, and the horses became hungry and thirsty and fell exhausted, and the army became a painful and terrible thing, a body that began to die from hunger, fatigue, and thirst (Al-Qalamawy, 2000, p. 44)

The three data points cited in the novel are corroborated by historical sources, which substantiate the assertion that the Mahdiah Revolution in Sudan was a pivotal event during Taufiq Pasya's tenure. In the end, the revolution was suppressed by Egyptian military forces in collaboration with the British government. Egypt's political history underwent a significant transformation, largely due to the large-scale movement that demanded a revolution in the aftermath of World War I. The novel provides a detailed account of the leaders who played a pivotal role during the Mahdiah Revolution in Sudan. If the data presented in the novel identifies the leader in question as Sulaiman Niyazi Pasha, then Firdaus states that the Egyptian military

campaign in Sudan was led by Ismail Pasha. The objective of this military campaign was to incorporate Sudan into Egypt's sphere of influence. Furthermore, Arab forces from Sudan and Ethiopia laid down their arms and surrendered their horses to the Egyptian troops, thereby symbolizing their defeat (Putra, 2022).

The Shayqiyya were cognizant of the Egyptian military presence in Sudan. At that time, these tribes were regarded in Egyptian politics as allies of the Mamluks and opponents of Muhammad Ali. The Mamluks were a military caste derived from slaves who subsequently converted to Islam and subsequently became powerful in various Muslim communities, especially in Egypt, but also in the Levant, Iraq, and India. They held considerable political and military authority. In certain instances, they assumed the role of sultan, while in other cases, they functioned as amirs of the region (Firdaus et al., 2020). Consequently, Ismail Pasha exacted brutal retribution, initially with firearms and subsequently with artillery. Ultimately, Al-Shayqiya was forced to surrender to Ismail Pasha and the nascent government. Moreover, they persisted in extending support to the Al-Masry Turkish government until the culmination of the Mahdi revolution (Ayoub, 2018). Having gained a comprehensive understanding of the historical context, including the political situation and the structure of the Egyptian military forces, the data presented in the novel provides insights into the social and political conditions in Egypt at the time of the battle and the prevailing attitudes towards national defense.

b. The State of Egyptian Society and Forms of National Defense

Data 9

لولا ان الوقت مخيف. فما سمعوا أخبار الحرب والانهازم حتي صعدوا إلي اعلي غرفة علي سطح المنزل واعتصموا بها أياما يولولون و يبكون و يصرخون . ولقد تركتهم يفعلون ما يريدون. فهذه طريقة تفريجهم عن حزنهم وان كانت لم أعرف بالضبط سر بكائهم .

But the time is scary. When they heard the news of the war and the defeat, they climbed to the highest room on the roof of the house and barricaded themselves there for days, wailing, crying and screaming. I let them do what they wanted. This was their way of releasing their grief, although I didn't know exactly why they were crying (Al-Qalamawy, 2000, p. 32).

The data goes on to offer insights into the state of Egyptian society in the context of war. In the context of a very challenging environment. Responding to news of war and defeat.

Data 10

طالما شهدوني باكية في هذه الأيام. ففوق اضطراب الخوف من الحرب كنت أخاف ان تطول الحال بنا فينتهي ما عندي من مال.

These days, they often see me crying. On top of the turmoil of fearing the war, I was afraid that it would be too long and I would run out of money (Al-Qalamawy, 2000, p. 29).

The data shows that, in response to such events, they consistently exhibit a state of distress. Furthermore, in addition to the atmosphere of anxiety and uncertainty that exists around the prospect of war, there is a high likelihood that current financial resources will not be sufficient to sustain the population through this challenging period. The author's narrative conveys a pessimistic view of the state of Egyptian society. The atmosphere of war, which can evoke deep sadness, haunts her thoughts, prompting her to reflect on the fate of the rest of her family.

The quote also provides an overview of the psychological impact experienced by the Egyptian people, as observed and interpreted by the author. Furthermore, data regarding the forms of state defense mobilized by the Egyptian people to defend their country from European colonization, especially the British government, are presented. The data presented in this novel is based on the author's direct experience.

Data 11

اقتربت في حق وطني اذذاك. شعرت ساعتها اني لو خيرت بين موت اولادي الثلاثة، وبين انتصار عرابي في التل الكبير لاحترت وتمهلت لافكر. ولم أخفي عليك؟ لقد سالت نفسي هذا السؤال، ولقد سمحت لي نفسي أن أتردد وأن أميل أخيرا الي تفضيل حياة ابنائى. كم لمت نفسي بعدها وقلت لها: خذي جزاءك علي فكرة مرت بك لم تكن صريحة خالصة في جانب الوطن .

I committed a crime against my country at that time. I felt that if I were given the choice between the death of my three children and the victory of Orabi at the Great Hill, I would have hesitated and paused to think. I asked myself this question, and I allowed myself to hesitate and finally leaned in favor of my sons' lives. How I reproached myself afterward and said: Take your punishment for a thought you had that wasn't purely on the side of the homeland (Al-Qalamawy, 2000, p. 48).

In the above-mentioned excerpt of the story emphasizes that (the protagonist) is dedicated to the country of Egypt. he is willing to accept the consequences of his decision for the sake of the homeland. In the end, the protagonist experiences regret for having jeopardized his son's life to do military service for his country.

Data 12

فخفف علي الرجل بعض ما أجد وقال: ((سيدتي، عزاء جميلا وكفاك فخرا أنك قدمت ولدك فداء للوطن)). قلت: جزاك الله خيرا يابني. منذ أن نطق الرجل بعبارته هذه امتلأ قلبي فخرا وأمنا. نعم قدمت من أجلك يا مصر شابا في العشرين من عمره، لم يملك الا حياته فقدمها غير طامع في شكر أو فخر أو ذكري .

The man relieved me of some of my pain and said: "Madam, you have a beautiful consolation, and you are proud that you gave your son as a sacrifice for the homeland." I said: "May Allah reward you well, my son. From the moment the man uttered this phrase, my heart was filled with pride and security. Yes, I gave you, Egypt, a young man in his twenties, who had nothing but his life, and he gave it without asking for thanks, honor, or remembrance" (Al-Qalamawy, 2000, p. 48).

The data set above illustrates the conditions experienced by the author through the protagonist in the novel. In the historical context, the British attack on Alexandria caused profound distress and anxiety within Egyptian society. In this context, Egyptian society is wholly dedicated to the defense of the country. However, as the conflict was characterized by the use of cannons and bullets, the Egyptian populace demonstrated a willingness to make the ultimate sacrifice for their homeland. A significant number of Egyptian casualties resulted from the incident. Subsequently, Orabi withdrew from the battlefield to Kafr al-Dawwar with the intention of reorganizing his troops. In a statement to the press, Ibrahim Issa, a prominent journalist, asserted that Tawfiq had acted as a traitor by accumulating significant debt for Egypt before the arrival of the British (Ayman, 2021).

2. The Representation of Economic Conditions in the Novel *Min Hikayati Jaddati*

The economic situation of Egyptian society at the time of the British-Egyptian attack on the Alexandria area is depicted in the novel *Min Hikayati Jaddati*. As the conflict intensifies, a significant number of Egyptians will become unemployed, with a particularly high incidence among those residing in urban areas. The author illustrates this point through the use of quotations from the novel, as follows:

Data 13

كانت القاهرة كلها يا ابنتي وهي عاصمة البلاد مهددة بشبح الفقير. وبخاصة الأسر التي كان يعولها رجال الجيش. فما بالك بأسر الريف الفقيرة المسكينة. وكنت أخاف علي قلوب صغاري البرئية من الألم فأخفي دمعي.

All of Cairo, my daughter, the capital of the country, was threatened by the specter of the poor. Especially the families that were supported by military men. Let alone the poor families of the countryside. I feared for the innocent hearts of my little ones and hid my tears (Al-Qalamawy, 2000, p. 29).

The final data set elucidates the economic impact on Egyptian society during the invasion at the conclusion of the 19th century. Following the conclusion of the First World War, the integration of Europe and the Ottoman Empire led to an intensification of relations between the respective markets, resulting in heightened tensions within Egyptian society (Li et al., 2019). In the aftermath of the British victory in the war, there was a pervasive assumption that the British occupation would conclude in the near future. It was assumed that the moment had arrived for the Egyptian people to gain independence, given the significant human and material losses incurred as a result of the war. In any given country, the most valuable trade assets are food commodities, particularly cereals, which are the staple food in all societies (Kalimullina & Orlov, 2020). The war resulted in a scarcity of essential goods and a rise in prices, which had a significant adverse impact on the country's economy. During the period of conflict between 1914 and 1918, Egyptian society experienced a notable increase in prices. The price of wheat increased by 131%, that of sugar by 149%, and that of beans by 114%. These increases were the consequence of scarcity and rising inflationary pressures (Ayoub, 2022).

D. Conclusion

In consideration of the findings and discourse presented by the research team, it can be proposed that an analysis of the novel *Min Hikayati Jaddati* through the lens of New Historicism can facilitate a nuanced and comprehensive exploration of historical facts. In this study, the researchers identified two historical aspects present in the novel. The initial area of focus is the portrayal of historical events occurring during the period of conflict in Egypt between the late 19th century and the early 20th century. The second area of focus is the representation of economic conditions in Egyptian society during the aforementioned period. The representation of history in the novel is divided into two sections. The initial section pertains to the status of the Egyptian military, encompassing eight data points. The second section addresses the condition of Egyptian society during the battle, as well as the attitude of the state toward defense. This section comprises four data points. Regarding the economic representation of Egyptian society, the researchers were able to identify a single data point within the novel. The economic conditions are based on historical facts and presented in a global context. The account is less detailed than the historical account of the battle, which occurred on numerous occasions within the same year. In conclusion, the economic situation is worsening as a result of the ongoing conflicts and the scarcity of essential foodstuffs. As food supplies diminished, prices rose, while income remained uncertain.

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