



جامعة الموصل

كلية الآداب

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أطروحة دكتوراه فلسفة

في

اللغة العربية/ الأدب

بإشراف

الأستاذ الدكتور

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Abstract

Research into modern methodologies of criticism is one of the thorny issues that has long attracted, and continues to attract, the attention of many specialists in the field of scholarly research. This reflects the growing recognition of the true and increasing value accorded to this issue within scientific research across its various dimensions and levels. Textual criticism is considered one of the most important critical trajectories, encompassing contemporary criticism approaches that have contributed to a qualitative shift in global criticism in general and Arabic criticism in particular. This qualitative shift in Arabic criticism prompted Arab critics to appropriate and engage with these approaches, adopting them in the interrogation of Arabic texts, both classical and modern, until serious trends emerged that sought to consolidate textual practice in Arabic criticism. As a result, textual criticism has come to constitute a central axis of critical analysis.

Among the most significant foundations of the Arab critical experience is openness to Western criticism—through knowledge and acquaintance, as well as through transcending, adopting, and drawing upon it. This openness manifested itself in the emergence of critics who attempted to establish critical trajectories that take into account the specificity of Arab culture and the Arabic text. The Algerian critic Hussein Khamri is among those who devoted their efforts to interrogating Western criticism in its various forms. Western critical theories have occupied a substantial place in his studies. In view of the importance of his critical insights, we deemed it appropriate to study this critic and examine his critical system. Within this context, the supervisor proposed the topic “Textual Criticism in the Works of Hussein Khamri” as a scholarly arena for our study, a methodological field for our knowledge, and a critical space for our analyses. The study aims to achieve the following objectives: to clarify the status and importance of textual criticism for analysis, explanation, and interpretation on the one hand; to give due attention to contemporary Arabic

criticism on the other; and, moreover, to identify the contributions made by Hussein Khamri to the Arab critical scene, as well as to explore how Arab critics have approached textual criticism.

The study draws on Hussein Khamri's books to trace the practice of textual criticism in his work. The research plan is divided into two chapters, preceded by an introduction entitled "Textual Criticism: Concept and Practice." In this introduction, criticism in general and textual criticism in particular are addressed, with attention paid to the boundaries of the term and the concept. The study also examines the state of Arabic textual criticism and highlights the approaches employed in its reading.

The first chapter, entitled "Problematics of Textual Criticism," seeks to provide a conceptual framework for the problematics of textual criticism and to uncover its cognitive and methodological foundations. It is divided into two sections. The first section, "Critical Domains," relies on Khamri's book *The Space of the Imaginary: Approaches to the Novel*, in which we examine the various levels through which the text manifests itself and produces its meanings along its trajectory. The second section, "Methodological Treatments," draws on his book *The Arabic Poetic Phenomenon: Presence and Absence*, in which we address the most important methodological trends adopted in textual criticism.

The second chapter, entitled "Trajectories of Textual Criticism," discusses the diversity of textual criticism's trajectories and its operative mechanisms. It consists of two sections. The first, "Cognitive Perceptions," is based on his book *Text Theory: From the Structure of Meaning to the Semiotics of the Signifier*, in which we examine the types of cognitive perceptions and their functions in textual criticism. The second section, "Textual Practices," relies on his book *Narratives of Criticism in the Analysis of the Mechanisms of*

Contemporary Critical Discourse, which aims to elucidate the mechanisms of dealing with the text and their role in developing critical vision.

The study ends with a Conclusion, in which we present the results of the methodological trajectories reached in the course of researching textual criticism. The conclusion is accompanied by an appendix outlining Khamri's most prominent literary and critical works.

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Textual Criticism in the works of Hussein Khamri

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PhD Thesis

Arabic Language / Literature

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