

Chapter One

Introduction

1.0 Overview

First of all the researcher wants to verify an obvious fixed clarification, that, this research is a literary study. It is an attempt to investigate one of the literary aspects in the Holy Quran. It is the art of novel, which is by definition included in this glorified book the Holy Quran. Utterly it is not a comparative study, simply because, absolutely there is no comparison between the divined speech of our all-mighty Lord Allah, the greatest and human being's speeches! In the Holy Quran Allah the greatest says in Surah (6) Al-Annam verse 38 says: (وما من دابة في الأرض ولا طائر يطير) “ (بجناحيه الا أمم أمثالكم ما فرطنا في الكتاب من شيء ثم إلي ربهم يحشرون) (38) “ There is not moving (living) creature on earth, nor a bird that flying with two wings, but are communities like you. We have neglected nothing in the book, then to their lord (Allah) they (all) shall be gathered” (Al-Anam:38). The All-mighty Allah says in the Holy Quran: “And all that we relate to you (O Mohamed. ‘Peace be upon him’ of the news of the messengers is in order that we may make strong and firm your heart thereby. And has come to you the truth, as well as admonition and reminder for the believers”. (Hud 120). This introductory chapter gives general portrait of the research. It presents clarifying idea about the this

study. it describes the statement of the research and the aim of the study. then it presents the questions, hypotheses and significance of the study. After that it shows the scope or the delimitation of the study. Finally this chapter includes the methodology the researcher adopts for this research.

1.1 Statement of the study problem

There is a literary assumption says that: “a novel is a fruit, grows and ripens in Europe!”. Many scholars, teachers, students and generally educated people think that Europeans are the founders of the art of novel, but the documents of history reflect that the holy Quran has come up with the art of stories which have the characteristics of novel before the Europeans for centuries. As it has been known Defoe’s attempts (1719 A) were considered as the first attempts of novel writing. Also the history shows that there were stories, tales, fables and (Magamat) like Alhamazani’s and Hariri’s Magamat in the arts of Arabs before Europeans!. Furthermore there were other stories in Arab literature, for instance the stories like “Forgiveness’s message” (Resalat Alghofraan) written by Al- Maari, and the message of (Tawaabi and Zawaabi) by Ibn-Shaheed Alandalusi. Moreover there were the so-called biographies like (The Biography of Antara Bin Shadad) and (Saif Bin Zeiazan) in the literary archive of Arabs. All these narratives witness that, the Arab’s literature dealt with stories since that far

ancient times earlier than the time of Defoe which was considered as the starting point of writing novel. On the other hand in the Glorious Quran there is an inspiring source of that literature, so the stories and other literary components were relevant to the holy Quran. For these logic reasons we can say the Holy Quran dealt with stories earlier than the first time of emerging of novel as a literary art. When the researcher studies the elements of the modern novels, he feels that they are implicitly portrayed or depicted by the stories of the holy Quran, particularly the stories of prophet Ibrahim, Musa and Yusuf peace be upon them, and other stories of the holy Quran like Alkahf, Al-roum, consequently the researcher is encouraged by these amazing facts to conduct this study seeing how and to what extent the holy Quran's stories reflect the elements of the novel. By reading the book "The Stories of The Prophets Of The Holy Quran" that written by Ibn-Kathir, translated by Muhammad Mustafa Gimaa, which was published in Al-Azhar and other related books, the researcher becomes fully enthusiastic and encouraging to go a head in conducting this study because of encouraging and supporting information concerning the topic included in these books.

1.2 Objectives of the study

The study aims mainly at investigating and studying the stories in the Holy Quran. Particularly prophet Ibrahim, Musa and

Yusuf. Other stories in the Glorious Quran can be addressed. The researcher aims at the elements of novel which are portrayed by these stories. Also to show those who are in concern, either Muslim or non-Muslim, that the holy Quran copes with every thing concerning human beings' lives on earth or even other universes which the novel is one of these concerns, since it is associated with human beings' lives. Also the study aims at, returning the literary rights and the priority of modern novels to the Holy Quran by evidences from the last sacred book come down from All-mighty Allah. The researcher thinks that the Holy Quran achieves the priority in creating the art of novel before the attempts of human being's. The researcher does not neglect the role of European novel writers. They did well and enriched the world with a considerable sets of novels, and they contributed effectively in literary renaissance. But he wants to put the issue of novel's first founder chronologically in it's right path. Then judging who is the first founder, in absolutely neutral and fair literary judgments. The study also aims at revealing the masks of literary aspect that concerning novel in the holy Quran, then to show those who are in concern, mainly those who are interested in the art of novel, that the Holy Quran never neglects, misses, lacks or forgets literature in general or novel in particular. It deals with every thing that the human beings need, and copes with every pits and pieces

concerning living on earth either materialistic or spiritual. The study also aims at the religious, social, educational and other story-telling values that the stories of the holy Quran come out with. This is also an evidence verifies that, these stories in the Holy Quran have forms of the Holy Quran stories as revealed and send down, but they also have the values and contents of novels, since they reflect social problems such as betraying and envying as in Yusuf chapter. miraculous of Prophet Musa story from throwing him in the sea through his magic stick against Pharaoh, to the sinking of Pharaoh in the sea. Other images of these stories which go ups and downs, with the flow of life from that time onwards up to the present time. There are strong evidences of the permanent continuation of providing human being with more new values in all aspects of life. The study also aims at giving evidence that the stories of Holy Quran are fit for the past time, the time being and the future through describing how the Holy Quran tackles novel, however many people, particularly the non-Muslims think that the Holy Quran is the book which expired with life of the messenger Muhammad peace be upon him!

The study also aims at opening the way for Muslim researchers to conduct studies concerning the topics that have not been conducted yet, and show the (world) the aspects of the Holy Quran that are misunderstood by many people, specially those who

stand against Islam, or oppose Muslims. The study also aims at enriching Muslim's library with a study that reflects the literary aspect of glorious Quran. The researcher finds a big shortage of reference in the literary studies of the Holy Quran. The study gives evidence that the Holy Quran is so flexible to cope with everything of lives of people on earth for ever. That of course is one of the miraculous challenging of the Holy Quran, which the stories are considered as a part of these miracles.

1.3 Significance of the study

The researcher thinks that, by researching the stories of the Holy Quran in terms of explaining and conceptualizing the elements of novel, that may return the rights of novel's foundation to the sciences of Holy Quran particularly literary sciences then spontaneously to Muslims whom their rights as creators in many locations of creativity are neglected. The researcher assumes that the study may be an endeavor to show the literary aspects of the Glorious Quran, which are also misunderstood by non-Muslims. The study may be considered as a tool or evidence, to show a potential flexibility of the Holy Quran, which on the other hand considered by non-Muslims as a stagnant book of validity and reliability expired with the death of the messenger Mohammad peace be upon him! The study shows that, the holy Quran copes positively with communities, societies, and their concerns, like

stories or any other literary products, for instance the prophet Yusuf chapter, shows the social problems such as envying others on their wealth, properties or distinctions. When we realize the incidents between Yusuf and his brothers, the interpretation of dreams, which was spread and has its social impact on people from that era onwards up to now, Women's evil design over their husbands, the lives in prison and how Yusuf could utilize it in calling to All-mighty Allah, the punishment of sinners, and rewarding for the doers of the righteous deeds or repentant, we will be satisfied by the reliability of the Holy Quran. Many stories show different topics, reflecting lives at that time and still acting as sources for solving human being problems. Moreover the study can be a source for drama, that is to say the stories of the holy Quran can be converted into scenarios to be performed on theatres with regarding their divinity and sacredness. Furthermore the researcher thinks that the study may open the way for researchers to study the literal ,rhetoric, social and other human studies of the Holy Quran which are still in need to be explored and investigated. On the other hand, the researcher thinks that the study may be an addition to the literary of the Holy Quran which researchers are so hesitant to tackle such studies, because they fear to commit sins or be sinful, however they did not put in consideration the big preaching(Daawa) service they provide by conducting such

researches. So the lack of researching in the Holy Quran lets some people, especially the non-Muslims describe the Holy Quran as a book of limited times and places!. So they usually spread their ironic speeches, jokes and caricatures. That indicates their ignorance of the Glorious Quranic sciences. The researcher thinks conducting this study may send a message to non-Muslims to reconsider the Holy Quran in general, and specifically the stories of the Holy Quran with open minded evaluation and investigating eyes.

1.4 The Study Questions

1. To what extent are the elements of novel such as theme, setting, plot, conflict, etcetera portrayed or depicted by the stories of the Holy Quran.
- 2/ To what extent are the stories of the holy Quran are of prose verses forms, but the contents, tastes and purposes are of novel
- 3/ How far the stories of the holy Quran can be converted into drama or documentary films

1.5 Study Hypotheses

- 1/ Theme(idea), setting, characterization, plot and other elements of novel are depicted by the stories of the holy Quran.
- 2/ The stories in the holy Quran are in the form of verses (Aaiat), but the contents, tastes and purposes are of novel.

3/ The stories in the holy Quran can easily be changed into documentary films or drama works .

1.6 Scope of the study

The study is limited to research the stories of the holy Quran to find out to what extent they involve the art of novel, mainly the elements of novel as depicted by the stories of the holy Quran. The researcher might support the core of the study with sources that related to the objectives of the study. The study is limited to focus only on the art of novel's elements, in the light of how do the stories of the Holy Quran portrayed the elements of novel in the stories of it. The study is also limited to what is assumed about the founders of novels among learners and even among the well-educated people, that the holy Quran has nothing to do with novels, and what is provided by the holy Quran in this trend. The study is limited to be conducted in the Sudan. The researcher starts this study in November 2014 A .

1.7 Methodology of the study

Both content analysis method and descriptive analytical method are used for examining to what extent the elements of novel are depicted in some stories of the Nobel Quran, through content analysis and statistical figures as well. The tool of collecting data will be questionnaire. The subject of the study will

be lecturers in the Sudanese universities who are specialists in literature particularly stories, mainly in Khartoum state or those who are from other states if it is needed. Version of English translation of the meanings of the Noble Quran (King Fahd Complex for the printing of the Holy Quran) is used as documented translation to facilitate the procedures of the study. The study makes use of the translation of prophets' stories, journals or studies concerning the topic are used to support the study objectives. Technology and the media devices, the (I .T) sources are used in this research, specially the site of (islambasic. Com).