

## DEDICATION

*To my father and mother with love and  
gratitude*

*To my brothers and sisters.*

*To Zainab, my beloved one.*

*With love and respect I dedicate this work*

## **ACKNOWLEDGEMENT**

I hereby give my thanks to Allah, the Almighty, for giving me the strength and health to accomplish this work.

I would also like to express my deep indebtedness and profound thanks to my supervisor Yousif Omar Babiker, professor of English literature at the Islamic University of Omdurman, who suggested and supervised this undertaking with patience and keen interest. Without his instructive criticism scholarly guidance and observations, I could not have accomplished this work. I respectfully thank him not only for his thoughtful insights, clarity and coherence but also for his high standards and valuable comments. His sincere advice and friendship during the ups and downs of writing this thesis gave me assurance and confidence. I will remain indebted to him for ever.

My gratitude goes to Mogadishu University in Somalia as well as Sudan University of Science and Technology for granting me a scholarship to study in Sudan and to the various teachers and colleagues in both institutions.

Special thanks are due to my friends for sending me some crucial references from abroad. To name a few: In USA Abdi Fattah Barre Mohmoud, Yousif Sheikh Hassan, Mohammed Ali Muse, Ahmed Nor Da'ud. In UK Musse Hubey Roble. In Egypt Abdolkadir Haji Mohmoud. In Somalia my teacher Ahmed Nor Qabobe, my friends Abdolkadir Abokar Sheikh, Sharif Mohmoud Mohammed, Abdalla Mohamed Hassan Ali Mohammed Halane. Also in Sudan Ustaz Al Aqqad Al Haj, Dr Mohammed Ahmed Sheikh Ali, Mr. Abdelhamed Abderahim Abdalla Ahmed Sh. Ali and Dr Hussien Bashir for their help and kindness.

My heartiest appreciation is to my brothers: Bashir Hubey Roble and Muse Hubey Roble for their continuous financial support during the years of my research in Sudan.

# TABLE OF CONTENTS

	Page
Dedication.....	i
Acknowledgement .....	ii
Tables of contents.....	iii
Abstract .....	v
Arabic abstract .....	vi
INTRODUCTION .....	vii
<b>CHAPTER ONE: A BACKGROUND OF SOMALI LITERATURE .....</b>	<b>1</b>
<b>1.1. Influential Factors in Somali Literature.....</b>	<b>1</b>
1.1.1. Location.....	1
1.1.2. Cultural life.....	4
1.1.3. Somali language.....	7
<b>1.2. Brief Account of Somali literature.....</b>	<b>13</b>
1.2.1. Poetry.....	15
1.2.2. Drama.....	20
1.2.3. Prose.....	23
<b>CHAPTER TWO: THE RISE OF THE NOVEL, ITS DEVELOPMENT AND DECLINE.....</b>	<b>29</b>
<b>2.1. The rise of the novel.....</b>	<b>29</b>
2.1.1. Definition.....	29
2.1.2. Novel in Europe.....	30
2.1.3. In Africa.....	31
2.1.4. In Somalia.....	33
<b>2.2. Development of Somali Novel.....</b>	<b>36</b>

<b>2.3. Decline of the Somali Novel</b> .....	44
<b>CHAPTER THREE: A DISCUSSION OF SOME PROMINENT NOVELS</b> .....	48
3.1. From a Crooked Rib.....	48
3.2. "Ignorance is the Enemy of Love" .....	55
3.3. "In The Name Of Our Father's".....	64
<b>CHAPTER FOUR: NURUDDIN FARAH</b> .....	72
4.1. Biography.....	72
4.2. Farah's Works (Novels) .....	77
<b>CHAPTER FIVE: THEMES, CHARACTERISTICS, AND FOREIGN INFLUENCE ON SOMALI NOVEL</b> .....	86
<b>5.1. Themes</b> .....	86
5.1.1. Marriage.....	86
5.1.2. Divorce.....	91
5.1.3. Corruption.....	93
5.1.4. Warfare.....	95
<b>5.2. Characteristics of the Somali Novel</b> .....	98
<b>5.3. Foreign Influence on Somali Novel</b> .....	101
5.3.1. The Arab influence .....	102
5.3.2. European influence .....	103
<b>CONCLUSION</b> .....	107
<b>BIBLIOGRAPHY</b> .....	109

## **ABSTRACT**

This study attempts to provide a general survey of the Somali novel by tracing its early beginning, and development. The study includes some of the factors, which have contributed to the development of Somali novel; among them, and most prominent are: the adoption of Somali script, the radio and newspapers. It also attempts to introduce and analyse some outstanding novels such as "From Crooked Rib", "Ignorance Is The Enemy Of Love" and "In The Name Of Our Father's", which are believed to be representative of this new genre in Somalia.

The thesis also discusses some prominent themes like marriage, divorce and corruption which most Somali novelists dealt with. That is, these themes reflected social and political conditions under which Somali society lived.

The researcher used in his study descriptive and historical methods as well as analytical approach and was mostly dependent on what has been written about Somali literature.

The study comprises five chapters and a conclusion. Chapter one provides a historical background of Somali literature and paves the way for a comprehensive understanding of Somali novel. It also

deals with the influential factors in the formation of Somali literature.

Chapter two traces the history of Somali novel from its emergence through development and decline. Particular emphasis has been laid upon the works of the most gifted novelists.

Chapter three attempts to survey, discuss and analyse some outstanding novels representing the different phases through which Somali novel has passed.

Chapter four provides a biography of Nuruddin Farah, as a pioneer novelist and one of the most prominent contemporary African writers, along with an exposition of his works.

Chapter five examines the themes and characteristics of Somali novel and foreign influence on it.

## خلاصة

تقدم هذه الدراسة مسحاً عاماً للرواية الصومالية وذلك عن طريق تقفي نشأتها وتطورها. وهي أيضاً تتطرق إلى العوامل التي ساهمت في تطور الرواية الصومالية ، ومن بين هذه العوامل وأكثرها أهمية كتابة اللغة الصومالية والراديو والصحف.

تحاول هذه الدراسة أيضاً أن تقدم وتحلل بعض الروايات المميزة، والتي يعتقد أنها تمثل هذا النوع الجديد من الكتابة الأدبية في الصومال.

علاوة على ذلك فإن الرواية الصومالية تركز على الحقائق الراهنة بدلا من التركيز على الماضي ، وهي تصف الأحوال الإجتماعية والسياسية التي يعيش فيها المجتمع الصومالي. وهي أيضاً تكشف المغازي الرئيسية التي تتعامل معها الرواية الصومالية.

استخدم الباحث في دراسته المنهج الوصفي والتاريخي بالإضافة إلى المنهج التحليلي ، وكان الباحث يعتمد في دراسته على المصادر والمراجع التي كتبت عن الأدب الصومالي.

وتقع الدراسة في خمسة فصول بالإضافة إلى الخاتمة. يقدم الفصل الأول خلفية تاريخية عن الأدب الصومالي ويفتح المجال للفهم الشامل للرواية الصومالية وأيضاً يتناول العوامل المؤثرة في تكوين الأدب الصومالي.

أما الفصل الثاني فهو يتقفى تاريخ الرواية الصومالية منذ نشأتها وتطورها وحتى تدهورها.

أما الفصل الثالث فإنه يستعرض ويناقش بعض الروايات الأكثر شيوعاً وتميزاً.

وقد أفرد الفصل الرابع للسيرة الذاتية لنور الدين فرح كروائي رائد وكأحد أبرز الكتاب الأفارقة المعاصرين بالإضافة إلى عرض أعماله الرائعة.

يستغرق الفصل الخامس مغزي ومميزات الرواية الصومالية والتأثير الأجنبي عليها.



## INTRODUCTION

Novel has become the most interesting genre of literature for both writers and readers for the last hundred years. It can evoke people's way of life at a given time. Through this and through a selection of interrelated aspects of life it can depict the basic social structure of a given society and show how the total life of the individual is affected by the conditions in which he or she lives. This capacity, which the novel alone possesses, has been seized upon by the novelists.

The Somali novel is meant to be a source of literary entertainment for its readers. It is a revered form of aesthetic enjoyment and expression of deep feeling about love. But that is not the limit of its use. It is a record of historical events, and a reflection of social and political life.

Novel is a newly borrowed form of expression in most of the developing countries- Somalia is no exception.

In the past, Somalis did not know the art of writing, for they were pastoral people at large. But this does not mean that writing was totally strange to Somalis. There were very few people who had knowledge of the written form in Arabic but their works were extremely limited in their subject matter. They were mostly of a religious nature and their circulation was limited.

When the colonizers arrived in Somalia, the country was exposed to new experiences, which had greatly influenced Somali people, their life and culture. The introduction of modern education and its relatively

rapid pace of development helped create an educated elite that was fairly well acquainted with Western culture and literature. They began producing new literary forms such as short story and novel. Among the elite was Nuruddin Farah, the greatest Somali novelist.

The early seventies of the twentieth century witnessed the birth of literary movements in Somalia because the Somali script was then officially adopted. Young Somali authors writing in their own language emerged. Their works attracted attention on a national level. This period ushered in a new era in the literary history of Somali literature and novel in particular.

With the passage of time, Somali literary works found their way to young Somalis. Moreover, as modern Somalia writers became aware of their own culture, tradition and folkloric heritage, they began producing more distinctive literary works with a Somali flavour, which was markedly different from the previous imitations of western writers. This period seems to be the beginning of the maturation of Somali novel in Somalia. This research is mainly concerned with this flourishing period of the Somali novel