

An Overview of Egyptian Science Fiction

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Introduction:

Egyptian science fiction is a genre of literature that combines elements of science fiction, fantasy, and horror with the rich cultural and historical heritage of Egypt. It emerged in the mid-20th century and has since become a popular form of speculative fiction in Egypt and the Arab world.

The themes of Egyptian science fiction are diverse, ranging from exploration of space and time travel to alternate realities and the supernatural. The genre often features stories that challenge traditional Egyptian values and societal norms, with characters who are often rebels or outsiders struggling against oppressive political or social systems.

The origins of Egyptian science fiction can be traced back to the 1950s and 60s, with writers such as Mahmoud Kahil and Mahmoud El-Taher exploring themes of space travel and alien encounters.

Historical perception of literature:

Literature is the mirror of incidents, facts, perceptions and theories in the environment, and is affected by changes in the environment and colored in its color. Literature is the result of the environment that grows in the civilized environment, and develops with the development of its conditions and conditions, and is completely affected by the scientific, material, economic and technological developments that take place in the environment. When science and technology developed in the nineteenth century, and literature intertwined with modern science and technology, a new type of literary creation emerged in the world. It is science fiction literature. The events of this type of literature revolve around scientific creativity, innovation, and the conditions of the world in the near and far future. Its events depend on scientific, logical and philosophical rules and foundations. For example, the novel "From the Earth to the Moon" is a scientific novel in science fiction literature that was printed in 1867 AD, and its theories were realized in 1969 AD when the first man landed on the moon. This type of literature appeared first in the West and developed there, then touched on Arabic literature.

In this research, we try to chart the development of this science in Arabic literature, mentioning its definition and its first pioneers, and we do our best to search for a way to determine the production of this type of literature in Arabic literature, and to publish it in a circle of scholars. This type of literature is still at an early stage in Arabic literature and the Arab world, although its foundation and counterpart are found in the ancient Arab heritage.

Definition: Science fiction is a genre of speculative fiction that typically deals with imaginative and futuristic concepts such as advanced science and technology, space exploration, time travel, parallel universes, and extraterrestrial life. It often explores the potential consequences of scientific, social, and other innovations. Science fiction has a long history and has evolved over time, with many subgenres and variations, such as hard science fiction, cyberpunk, post-apocalyptic, and many

others. Science fiction stories can be set in any time period, from the distant past to the far future, and often involve characters who are scientists, explorers, astronauts, or aliens.

The genre is popular in literature, film, television, video games, and other forms of media, and has had a profound impact on popular culture and our collective imagination. It is often used as a tool for exploring complex ideas, examining the human condition, and posing thought-provoking questions about the future and the nature of reality.

Arabic Science Fiction:

Arabic science fiction refers to science fiction literature and media produced by authors and creators of Arab origin or who write in the Arabic language. It explores imagined futures, new technologies, and alternate realities, often with a focus on social and political issues relevant to the Arab world.

Arabic science fiction has a rich history that can be traced back to the early 20th century, with works such as "The Book of the Sultan's Seal" by Egyptian author Abdulrahman Munif and "The Awakening of the Arab Nation" by Syrian author Ahmad Faris al-Shidyaq. More recently, the genre has seen a resurgence of interest and popularity, with new writers and creators exploring themes such as artificial intelligence, genetic engineering, and space exploration.

Arabic science fiction offers a unique perspective on the genre, with its own cultural, historical, and linguistic influences. It also provides a platform for Arab voices and stories to be shared and heard on a global scale.

Arabic science fiction is a genre of literature that combines elements of science fiction with Arabic culture, language, and history. It features stories and narratives that are set in the Arab world, and often explore themes such as futuristic technology, alternative realities, and social and political issues.

Arabic science fiction has a rich history, with some of its earliest examples dating back to the Islamic Golden Age (8th-14th centuries). During this time, Muslim scholars and scientists produced works of literature that explored ideas about the universe, time travel, and other speculative topics.

In recent years, Arabic science fiction has seen a resurgence in popularity, with authors from across the Arab world producing a range of novels, short stories, and graphic novels. Some notable examples include "The Secret Life of Saeed the Pessoptimist" by Emile Habibi, "Frankenstein in Baghdad" by Ahmed Saadawi, and "The Queue" by Basma Abdel Aziz.

Egyptian Science Fiction: Pioneers and features

Egyptian science fiction is a subgenre of Arabic science fiction that explores themes and ideas specific to Egyptian culture, history, and society. It has a long and rich history, with some of the earliest examples dating back to the early 20th century. Here are some details about Egyptian science fiction and some notable Egyptian science fiction writers:

Egyptian science fiction often explores themes of politics, religion, and social issues. For example, some Egyptian science fiction stories have explored the impact of colonialism, the role of women in society, and the tension between tradition and modernity.

Egyptian science fiction has been influenced by the works of Western science fiction writers such as Jules Verne and H.G. Wells, as well as by Arabic science fiction writers such as Mahmoud Kahil and Nihad Sharif.

An overview of Egyptian Science Fiction

Notable Egyptian science fiction writers include Ahmed Khaled Tawfik, who is known for his horror and science fiction stories, and his "Ma Waraa Al-Tabiaa" (Beyond Nature) series, which features a supernatural detective investigating paranormal cases in Egypt.

Yasser Bahjatt is another Egyptian science fiction writer who has gained international recognition for his works. He is the co-founder of the Saudi Arabian publishing company Yatakhayaloon, which focuses on science fiction and fantasy literature.

If we name 10 famous Egyptian science fiction writers with famous work, we will categorise as mentioned below. They paved the ways for others to thrive this noble task for the coming generation.

Ahmed Khaled Tawfik - He is one of the most prominent science fiction and horror writers in Egypt. His notable works include the "Ma Waraa Al-Tabiaa" (Beyond Nature) series, which follows a supernatural detective as he investigates paranormal cases in Egypt. Other notable works include "Utopia," "Virus," and "King of the Djinn."

Yasser Bahjatt - He is a Saudi Arabian writer and entrepreneur of Egyptian descent, who has contributed to the science fiction genre with his works that often explore the intersection of science, technology, and culture. His notable works include "The Servant," "Takween," and "Sons of the Earth."

Basma Abdel Aziz - She is an Egyptian writer who has explored dystopian themes in her works, such as "The Queue," a novel set in a futuristic authoritarian society. Her other notable works include "The Smiling Man," "An Orphan of Islam," and "The Temp."

Nihad Sharif - He is an Arabic science fiction writer who has written numerous science fiction and fantasy novels. His works often explore themes of social and political change. His notable works include "The War of the Black Heavens," "The End of Time," and "A Planet for the President."

Samir Taher - He is an Egyptian science fiction writer who has written several science fiction novels, including "El-Share' El-Dahy" (The Living Cell), which explores the potential impact of advanced biotechnology. Other notable works include "The Fourth Dimension" and "The Missing Dimension."

Ahmed Salah Al-Mahdi - He is an Egyptian science fiction writer who has written several science fiction and fantasy novels, including "Nass Al-Ghoul" (The Zombie People) and "The Sons of Adam."

Mohamed Abd Al-Rahman Al-Sharqawi - He is an Egyptian science fiction writer who wrote several science fiction novels and short stories in the mid-20th century. His notable works include "The Secret of the Sphinx" and "The Star."

Ahmed El-Fakharany - He is an Egyptian science fiction writer who has written several science fiction novels, including "The Sign of the Phoenix," which explores the consequences of a discovery that could change the course of human evolution.

Ibrahim Farghali - He is an Egyptian science fiction writer who has written several science fiction and fantasy novels, including "The City of Oblivion," which is set in a world where humans and supernatural beings coexist.

Literary Criticism of Egyptian Science Fiction:

Egyptian science fiction has been a subject of literary criticism by scholars and researchers interested in exploring the genre and its cultural significance. Some common themes in the criticism of Egyptian science fiction include:

The relationship between science fiction and Egyptian history and culture: Scholars have noted the ways in which Egyptian science fiction often engages with themes and issues specific to Egyptian history and culture, such as the legacy of colonialism, the role of religion, and the influence of technology on society.

The use of science fiction to critique social and political issues: Many critics have noted the ways in which Egyptian science fiction is often used as a platform for social and political critique. Works by writers such as Basma Abdel Aziz and Ahmed Khaled Tawfik often address issues such as authoritarianism, corruption, and inequality.

The representation of technology and its impact on society: Egyptian science fiction often explores the impact of technology on society and the human experience. Some critics have noted the ways in which writers use science fiction to explore the ethical and moral implications of technological advancements.

The importance of genre hybridity: Egyptian science fiction is often characterized by its blending of multiple genres, including horror, fantasy, and mystery. Critics have noted the importance of this genre hybridity in shaping the unique character of Egyptian science fiction.

The significance of language and translation: Many works of Egyptian science fiction have been translated from Arabic into other languages. Scholars have explored the ways in which translation affects the interpretation and reception of these works, as well as the challenges involved in translating science fiction across linguistic and cultural boundaries.

Overall, the criticism of Egyptian science fiction reflects its growing importance as a cultural and literary genre, as well as its unique contributions to the wider science fiction tradition.

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