CHAPTER – I

INTRODUCTION

The Arabic Novel has its roots in The Arab world is going through a period of change, involving much insecurity, a historical stage replete with contradictions, dissension and struggle. All these things make the novel as a mode of expression more capable than any other genre of literature. The Arabic Novel has its roots in the Nahda,[1] a period which was marked by the French expedition, perhaps bettered called on invasion to Egypt which took place in 1798 and latest for three years . Prior to the nahda, the prominent Arabic literary form was poetry, and there was no remarkable narrative prose that might be considered as significant as the novel or the short story, both of which are representative as well as creative. Narrative fiction was seen by Arab intellectuals as a more appropriate medium for depicting and reflecting the new transitional movement being made by society so as to cope with what was called the spirit of the age and the rising of classes in Arabic society.

The novel, "a fictitious narrative in prose of considerable length showing characters in action with more or less close adherence to the principle of realism"[2] developed in Europe in the 18th century and was not known to the Arabs in their classical literature.The Novel is not an indigenous form in contrmporary Arabic literature but an imported and borrowed form that arrived from the European colonialism in the 19th and early 20th centuries in the Arab world.

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[1] Nahda-literary and cultural renaissance that began in the late 19th and 20th centuries in Egypt,then later moving to Ottoman- ruled Arabic- speaking regions including Lebanon,Syria and others. It is often regarded as a period of intellectual modernization and reform.In traditional scholarship, the Nahda is seen as connected to the cultural shock brought on by Napaleon's invasion of Egypt in 1798, and the reformist drive of subsequent rulers such as Muhammad Ali.

[2] Dr. Fatma Moussa Mahmoud, the Arabic novel in Egypt, P.P. 7 – 11.

As a modest venture dealing with Arabic novel this work aims at providing a concept of its modern history. The motivation of the thesis a desire to highlight the role of Arabic novel which has been in dark at least in Indian's sub-continent. Further it presents a broad survey of development of Arabic novel in modern Arabic literature. By the middle of the 19th century the Arabs, influenced by European literature, attempted this new form in their language. It was natural that the first attempts at writing the novel would be an extension of the maqama. Although the link with the traditional maqama is marked in the use of the title, dialogue, style, choice of words and forms of sentences.[3]

Novel may provide the earliest examples of modern Arabic literature. Now it took a new form of literature. After the interaction with foreign literature.Many Arab novelist contributed to its development and it takes to its zenith because of their sincere efforts. Novel as now developed into the most favourite mode of literary expression in the modern Arabic literature.

From the earliest period in the development of Arabic novel, the issue of language has been the focus of much debate. Since independence, there have been fierce debates in the Maghrib over arabization and the writing of literature in Arabic as opposed to French. The use of the colloquial dialects in fictional dialogue has been the matter of debate in Arab world.

The early novel writers were not prepared to follow Western models in their entirety. When Al-Tahtauri translated 'Les Aventures de Telemaque'[4], he did not render all the aspect of the novel, but selected

[3] Ismat Mahdi, Modern Arabic literature, P. 34.
[4] Les Aventures de Telemaque-It is a didactic French novel by Fenelon. It was published anonymously in 1699 and reissued in 1717 by his family. The Fenelon described his book as a prose "epic": oddly for such an admirer of the humanism of the ancient World.

what he felt would be suitable to advice kings and rulers. He also included sermons to improve the behaviour of the common man, thus sowing the seeds of what later developed into the didactic novel.[5]

The novel which assumes a consistent underlying world view and demands powers of sustained and unified invention for which the Arabic literature of the past offered few models had a more chequered history. Most of the fictions produced in the 1930s and early 40s reflected the combination of nationalist, democratic and romantic ideals that had penetrated the elite. Historical novels projected modern values into the past, the poor were sympathetically depicted as victims of oppression and love stories spun webs that stirred the aching heart even if they did not always accord with conventions that still rules family life.[6]

The first novel in modern Arabic was produced in a mature, artistic and beautiful form, thus asserting its right to endure in literature as well as to lead others that were to follow.[7] These novels were published fifteen to twenty years after Zaynab[8] by Egyptian writers who were all Haykal's contemporaries.

Among the pioneer figures in the development of modern Arabic novel in the Syro-Lebanese region mention must be made of Fransis Marrash[9] (d. 1873) and Salim al-Bustani (d. 1884). Marrash published a novel entitle 'Ghabat al-Haqq[10] (The Forest of Truth) comes out in 1885, which is a highly idealized philosophical work which is essentially an allegory about freedom.

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[5] Abdal-Muhsin Taha Badar, Tatawwur al-Riwiya al-Arabiya al-Haditha fi Misr, P. 52.
[6] Pierre Cachia, Arabia Literature an Overview, P. 137
[7] Yahya Haqqi, Fajr al-Qissa al-Misriyya, P. 38

[8] Zaynab-It is considered the first modern Egyptian novel published in 1913.
[9] Fransis Marrash-He was a Syrian writer and poet of the Nahda movement.He was born1836.
[10] Ghabat al-Haqq- Among the earliest examples of the novel in Arabic were Ghabat al-Haqq an idealistic allegory about freedom that was published in Syria by Fransis Marrash.

Another writer of this period was Salim al-Bustani[11] published serially in the periodical al-Jinan nine novels, historical and non historical, the 1st of which al-Huyam Fi Jinan al-Sham (Passion in Syrian Garden) in 1870. These novels began the critical process of developing a reading public for the genre by combining elements of entertainment and instruction within a single work. In this case episodes from Islamic history were combined with travel, love stories and adventure to form of thrilling montage which was to capture an ever-widening public for the genre.

From 1931, novels began to appear regularly their authors where mostly men of letter, for whom the novel was one genre among many at which they tried their hand. Some of these works are of merely historical interest today as Sarab (Woman's name 1938)[12] by Abbas Mahmud al-Aqqad, one of the dominating literary figures of the period.

Another direct contribution to the foundation of a tradition of the novel was the publication of autobiographies by novelists. The autobiography by its nature possesses the scope which has a single unifying focus thought.

The 1st work of this kind was part one of 'Al-Ayyam' published serially in 1926 – 27 and in the book forms in 1929 the autobiography of Dr. Taha Hussein. He was one of the famous Arab writer's of the 20th century and of the most prolific.[13]

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[11] Salim al- Bustani-.He was born in 1848 and died 1884.The son of Butrus; a journalist. He was one of the earliest writers of Arab historical novels.He contributed to both Al- Ginan and the Encyclopedia.

[12] English translation by Mustafa Badawi, Cairo 1978.

[13] Elementary Modern Standard Arabic, Part – 2, P. 228. Cambridge University Press.

The history of the Egyptian novel from 1913 – 1980 traces the process at first and then gathering momentum by which a genre of foreign origin has been natuaralised and assimilated and has then taken on specifically Egyptian features. The intangible essence of the novel genre lies in its role as an agent of change and thus the necessity of its susceptibility to the phenomenon that it depicts.

The tradition of the historical novel has also continued, particularly under the impetus of a growing sense of national pride fostered by Arab nationalism but in more recent times the attention of novelist has tended to be more devoted to the event of the present part and the lesson to be derived from them. However as historical events bring about a process of change whereby the Arab world begins to challenge the hegemony of European colonialism and to play a much larger part in the course of its own destiny so the novel as reflector and even catalyst of change, assumes a more significant role. Without in any way diminishing the importance of Haykal's novel in the history of modern Arabic prose literature. A dearer historical perspective can be obtained by placing it on the historical event.

In classical Arabic literature, some kind of narrative writings were found like Kitab al-Aghani, Qisas al-Ambia, Maqamas, Hikayatu Abil Qasim al-Baghdadi, Resalat al- Ghufran[14] and Alf Lyla wa Lyla and so on. But it can not be claimed that any one of those works contain even in a most rudimentary form of seed of a novel, yet they all have certain narrative element which could have served as the basis for novelistic development for the men who sought to infuse a new life into Arabic

[14] Resalat al-Ghufran.It means the Epistle of Forgiveness, is a famous Arabic book from the 10th century written by Abul ala al- Maari. It is a book of divine comedy that concentrates on the Arabic poetical civilization but in a way that touches all aspects of life.The most interesting characteristics of Resalat al- Ghufran are its genius digression, deep philosophy, and brilliant language.

literature in the later part of the 19th century. This however did not happen with the exception of one man, Mohammad al-Muwaylihi, who managed to bring the traditional Maqmas a step nearer to the novel. Basically the author, of the first conscious attempt at writing novels in Arabic in the modern period derived their models directly or indirectly from western literature.

In the rapidly changing societies of the Arab world there has been no lack of material with which to fulfill its generic purpose and Arab writers have made use of its changing nature to the fullest extent. Like many of their western colleagues they have chosen to represent the complex and fragmented conditions that confront them, through what Frank Karmode has described to be known as reality. "This is of course, one aspect of the process of 'metafiction' what Frank Kermode describes as, 'the use of fiction as an instrument of research into the nature of fiction."[15]

The Arabic novel has also addressed whole series of other confrontations and problems within the society itself, many of them atained the achievement of independence but were affected in different ways by the policies of the newly independent regimes. A number of Egyptian novelists have addressed this topic, including Abd al Rahman al-Shuqri, Yusuf Idris and Fathi Ghanim and Yahya al-Tahir Abdallah. The novels explore not only the events of the war itself but also the complexities of the social fabric, between city and provinces, between religious and secular, a situation that has been highlighted by recent events in the country through their written novels.

[15] Roger Allen ,the Arabic literary Heritage, p.311.

Many European novels especially from French and English were translated into Arabic. The reading public for these translations was created largely by the rise and spread of journalism. However, the Arabic translations of western novels were not without their use in the development of the Arabic novel. Only these translations encouraged many an Arab authors to try their hand at writing novels. Although undistinguished there early attempts paved the way for the novel began almost at the same time as the translation. The main feature of most of the novels of this period is the introductions of western character or settings.

There were many writers who attempted in different phases of its history, like Jurji Zaydan[16], Salim al-Bustani, Ibrahim Abdul Qadir al-Majini, Taulfiq al-Hakeem, Mahmud Tahir Lashin, Taha Hussain, Abbas Mahmud al-Aqqad, Mustufa Lutfi al-Munfuluti and finally it reached in the hand of most renowned writer Naguib Mahfouz to whom we are concern. How ever it was mainly his works that the 1st signs of his fruitful contact with western pattern writing novels began to appear. When he started novel writing he did not find the tradition to which he could resort. He is one of the leading figures of novel, who has played an outstanding role in the development of Arabic novel. He belongs to the second generation of Egyptian novelists, after the early pioneers of the thirties like Mohammed Husayn Haykal, al-Aqqad, Mahmud Toymur and finally Ibrahim Abdul Qadir al-Mazini. Since the novel primarily deals with love, it was difficult for the author to deal with it openly in a traditional Arab society where social intercourse between men and women were not common. Because of that we observed the complete

[16] Jurji Zaydan,Born in 1861 and died 1914.He was a prolific Lebanese novelist,journalist, editor and teacher most noted for his creation of the journal al-Hilal, which he used to serialized his 23 historical novels. His 1st book was poublished in 1889 with Ta'rikh al-Masuniya al- Aman.

absence of Arab to setting or Arab characters in early imaginative fiction writing.

Novel played an important role in modern Arabic literature. It paved the way for the emergence of modern Arabic literature which was initially regarded morally suspected especially in the conservative societies like Egyptian, Syrian and Lebanese societies. But with the course of time novel gained popularity and was considered to be highly serious and respectable art in modern Arabic literature and successful novelist were awarded the highest state prize. The writer of this art like Tawfiq al-Hakeem, Haykal's, Aqqad, al-Mazini, Taymur, Ihsan Abdul Quddosse and so on tried to address through their writing various social, political, religious, moral issues and problems faced by the people at that time. Therefore, we see the romantic trend most apparent was in their writing.

The new generation of novelist intelligentsia lacked the distrust of its predecessors for the novel as a serious literary form for not only were the works of the pioneer, in existence to show what possibilities the genre offered but also European novels and plays, accessible either in the original or in translation also proved the effectiveness of these imported forms in discussing central issues of society and culture.

The novel moves quickly and several times there are a cut from one situation to another which heightens the reader's curiosity. The raw material of this novel is clearly the social and political reality of Egyptian life. The style is precise and economical and dialogues although in literary Arabic reflect the different characters.

In the field of modern Arabic fiction, Naguib Mahfauz's [17] contribution is tremendous which made a new path to the development of Arabic novel. He was the first Arab writer who was awarded the Nobel Prize for literature in 1988. Like Mohammed Husayn Haykal's, Mahfauz is widely regarded as the founding father of modern Arabic novel. He was the 1st Arabic novelist to make an analytical study of Arabic novel. His influence based on the ideas of Haykal's which can be seen in his various books. He was greatly influenced by western writers and their books. From the western writers and their works Naguib Mahfouz discovered that the western world as a much more developed from Arab world.

Naguib Mahfauz is one of the leading figures of this art who has played an outstanding position in the Arabic novel and its progresses. In fact with Mahfouz the Arabic novel has achieved genuine maturity. His contribution to the genre of Arabic novel laid the ground work throughout the Arab world. His stories widely filmed in cinema. He was awarded states highest prize for literature in 1957. Mahfouz's achievement in stretching the literary language (fusha) to convey realistic dialogue is perhaps more important in the context of the Arabic novel outside Egypt than in his native country. He was far less adventurous, carefully constructing his early novels in the manner of the nineteenth century European realists and avoiding statements of intent. For his masterpiece 'al Thulathiyyat' (The Trilogy) Mahfouz returns to familiar ground the old quarters of Cairo and the traditional middle class. Mahfouz is using some humour desperate though it may be in treating serious issues.

[17] Naguib Mahfouz (1911-2006) Among the major figures in the development of modern Arabic fiction, none has received higher international acclaim than Naguib Mahfouz. He is a great novelist, a thinker, a critic and a philosopher of modern Arabic literature.

Mahfouz's novels deal with the various aspects of life as love, faith and death and above all the meaning of life. The struggle between man and woman also forms important aspects of his novel. Politics is an important aspect of his novels; He is preoccupied mainly with liberty and deals with the relationship of the citizen to the state of the child to the father and of the women to the man. His writing style is panoramic and he uses very ambiguous sentences.

Mahfouz in his writing has always adopted a wider human view that was responsible in the 1st place to make him a universal writer and literary figure important for all those who love to see their common issues reflected in his writing. He represented his culture in a modern garment diffusing the traditional with the modernist, and the national with the international, in a way that makes of him the literary man respected by all,lovers or enemies.

For his writing style and techniques Mahfouz obtained Nobel Prize for literature in 1988. He wrote many Arabic novels among them al-qahira al-jadidah and khan al- khalili are very significant and remarkable. Through these novels Naguib Mahfauz shows his full awareness and full assimilation of various techniques of the stream of consciousness novel similar to that European novel. In these novels Mahfouz also addressed many social and political issues. We find his approaches, style and techniques especially in Al-Qahira al-Jadidah and Khan al-Khalili.

In these novels Mahfouz's female characters are unique to his understanding of the feminine and the internal and external contradiction within Egyptian culture.They are obidient,subservient, powerful,strong, independent and religious. The roles that the female characters play in Mahfouz's novels define not only patriarchy, but also provide another

way to view exteriorty interiority during the 20th century. Mahfouz uses a mix of realism and social allegory in order to appreciate his own urban Egyptian culture in the early 20th century. These novels constitute major steps forward in the development of the modern Arabic Novel.

This Ph.D. thesis has been divided into six chapters including the introduction and conclusion.

In the 1st chapter, we have tried to introduce the thesis. This chapter presents a brief description of my research work.

The 2nd chapter discusses about the Arabic Novel and its origin and development in modern Arabic literature. Through this chapter it is expressed that how Arabic novel gradually increased and reached its proper places. Novel may provide the earliest examples of modern Arabic literature. Now it took a new form of literature. Many Arab novelists contributed to its development by their hard efforts but Arabic novel reached its actual places by the efforts of Naguib Mahfouz. His contribution is tremendous which made a new path to the development of Arabic novel.

The 3rd chapter, deals about the life and works of Nazuib Mahfouz. This chapter also deals with the major theme of Mahfouz's writing. His works oscillates between romantic and realistic narrative and attempts to root the genre in the concern of the newly emerging semi-urban middle class. For his vast writing style techniques Mahfouz won the Nobel Prize for literature in 1988 and is widely recognized as the founding father of the Arabic novel.

The 4th chapter of the thesis deals with Al-Qahira al-Jadidah: An analytical study. In this novel Mahfouz analytically depicts Egyptian society during the thirties. Through this novel Mahfouz depicts the moral

bankruptcy of the Egypotian administration in the early 1930s. He skillfully portrays it through three young university students who are the principle characters of this novel. The novel deals with the period during the II world war, the period which is characterized by political and social upheavals in Egypt. This novel constitutes major steps forward in the development of the Arabic novel.

The 5th chapter of this thesis is Khan al-Khalili: An analytical study. In this novel Mahfouz addressed many social and political issues. Khan al- Khalili is a great introduction to the work of Mahfouz and the rich and complicated life of modern Egypt and Egyptian. Its completion marked a turning point in Naguib Mahfouz's career and it reflects instead a deep concern with the lives and problems of contemporary Egyptians. In this novel Mahfouz succeed in breaking the norms of the realistic novel to create a new literary style heralding modernism in the Arabic novel.

The 6th chapter is conclusion. This chapter also contains the final determination of the discussion point. Conclude the thesis, summarizes its findings and provides some recommendations for further research.

From this thesis, we tried to show how our renowned novelist as well as our Nobel Prize winner Nazuib Mahfouz reached to the international scene and how the Arabic novel developed its shapes and conduct. Finally we will try to point out the artistic feature of Mahfouz's novels Al-Qahira al-Jadidah and Khan al-Khalili. These novels constitute major steps forward in the development of Arabic novel. We hope it will give a picture of Arabic novel in the modern Arabic literature.

The motivation of this thesis was from a desire to promote and enhance the role of Arabic novel which kept in dark as to the nature of its recent progress.