

Impact Of Gulf War II in The Novel of "Saatu Bagdad" By Syahad Ar-Rawiy: Analysis of Literature Sociology

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The Middle East is one of the interesting areas to study, especially related to prolonged conflicts that always surround the region. One of the conflicts recorded in history is the conflict that occurred in Iraq or better known as the Gulf War II involving Iraq and Kuwait. In *Saatu Bagdad's* novel by Syahad al-Rawiy, an Iraqi writer, she tried to clearly explain how the Gulf War II had a huge impact on the lives of Iraqi people. This study aims to reveal the impact of the Gulf War II experienced by the Iraqi people based on data in the novel *Saatu Bagdad*, the reality of Iraqi society, and the relationship between the structure of the text and the reality of Iraqi society. The theory to be utilized in this research is the theory of sociology of literature as proposed by Alan Swingewood, that literature is a mirror of the age or social document. Swingewood's mirror is a self-reflection of social life when the work was created. The method used is the literature of sociology, which is a method that moves from the data of literature to be connected with the existing reality. The most dominant physical impact is the devastating condition of the Iraqi economy, damage to infrastructure both civil and military, and massive immigration. The impact is a representation of the reality that occurred in Iraqi society during the Gulf War II which began in 1990.

Keyword: *Impact, Gulf War II, Iraq, Bagdad, Sociology of Literature.*

1. INTRODUCTION

Literary work is a reflection of a culture of community groups that tells about human interaction with the environment and is the result of human creative activities to appreciate beauty, express feelings, and emotions in beautiful and structured sounds (Wellek & Warren, 1995: 321). In narrating a problem in his work, an author is not only attached to his imaginative narrative but sees the social side that occurs in society through his lens. This is because literary works as sociocultural documents can be used to see a phenomenon in society at that time (Swingewood, 1972).

Literary works, like sociology, also talk about human life, how to adapt, and their desire to change. However, as an aesthetic product, literary works cannot be interpreted as such as mere sociological facts. Literary works go beyond mere descriptions of objective scientific analysis. He can penetrate the social surface, even showing the life experiences of individuals expressed in a group (Wahyudi, 2013).

As a reflection of society, literary works can portray people and display social facts that occur in society. In Arabic literature, for example, narratives about the lives of Egyptian women can be seen in novels by Nawal el-Saadawi, drums of poetry portraying Palestinian issues can be found in the work of Mahmud Darwis, social issues in Egypt can be seen in the work of Najib Mahfudz, and etc. The Arabic literary critics or researchers also tend to like research related to the sociology of literature, such as Istiqomah (2018) research entitled "Social Conditions of the Syrian People after the 2011 Revolution in *Ayyam fi Baba Amru* Novel by Abdullah Maksur: Analysis of Sociological Literature". This study aims to reveal the social conditions experienced by Syrians during the Syrian revolution based on data in the *Ayyam fi Baba Amru* novel, the social reality of Syrian society, and the relationship between the structure of the text and the social reality of Syrian society by utilizing the concept of

sociology of Swingewood literature. From this analysis, it is concluded that there are several causes of the Syrian revolution mentioned in the novel, such as the desire to be free from a regime that has ruled for decades, rampant corruption, inspired by other Arab countries, and hatred that has been embedded for a long time. The social conditions experienced by Syrians during the revolution are intimidation from the military, people arrested without mistakes, tortured in military prisons, shootings, bombings, and chaos in several cities, some girls are sexually abused, people are divided between supporting the regime or the opposition, and most Syrians fled to neighboring countries. Therefore, it can be concluded that the social conditions that occur in the novel are a representation of social reality that occurred in Syrian society after the revolution in 2011. Further research related to literary sociology is a thesis from Khumayroh (2017) entitled "Social Class of Pre-Revolution Egyptian Society 1952 Review of the Sociology of Literature on *Al-Haram* Novels by Yusuf Idris ". From the results of the study, it was concluded that the formation of social classes in al-Haram's novel was caused by two factors, namely social factors which included differences in the size of wealth, division of labor, and high education, as well as political factors consisting of patterns of land ownership, the entry of foreign capital, and the struggle of the fellah (farmers). These two factors then gave birth to social classes in Egyptian society, in the form of the upper class or the large bourgeoisie, the middle class or the petty bourgeoisie, and the working class. Of the three social classes, the middle class is a class that has the highest class consciousness and can threaten the existence of classes above and below it.

In addition to the two studies above, there are many sociological studies of literature in Arabic literary treasures, both poetry, drama, and novels. Especially in the modern era, Arab writers tend to portray the conditions in their society through literary works, especially novels. This is because novels are considered easier to narrate the social conditions of society than poetry which is full of semiotic or connotation-meaning meanings. In this study, researchers will examine one novel entitled *Saatu Baghdad* by Shahad al-Rawiy. This novel succeeded in photographing the condition of the Iraqi people during the 1991 Gulf war until the era of international embargo sanctions against Iraq.

Broadly speaking, this novel narrates the dark events of the Gulf War II through the perspective of an unknown victim, and is often called "I". I was a child born in Baghdad, at the time of the first Gulf war between Iraq and Iran from 1980 to 1988. When I entered the early age of the elementary school, precisely in January 1991 the Desert Storm Operation event roared. This resulted in me and the entire Baghdad community having to evacuate in a shelter bunker for twenty days. In the bunker, with a stuffy, humid, and limited atmosphere, I met Nadia, her peer. Since that event, their friendship has been very close to their difficult times. During adolescence, they must be confronted that the country they live in must receive sanctions from the international embargo. This pushed Iraq to the brink of hyperinflation, increasing unemployment, exacerbating poverty, and giving birth to cases of malnutrition. These conditions resulted in increasingly tense conditions. Fear is everywhere. Their lives (the victims) have become more difficult since the sanctions imposed on Iraq. Fatigue is seen on the faces of the fathers. The mothers began to replace everything that was no longer available. The streets in their homes became damaged and filled with holes. Some shops were closed. They no longer buy new clothes, but start sewing or repairing existing clothes. These sanctions made them confused, so everyone thought of moving to another country. Many of my friends and Nadia have moved to set foot in other countries for a new life with their families, such as Wijdan, Tabarak, Samiya, and Rita. Until they enter the world of college, they cannot enjoy a better life. I and Nadia were forced to move and flee to other countries. They will never know when they will return to Baghdad. There was nothing left in their

residential area. All the neighbors they know have moved. Only ruins and memories from the past that they remember.

Through this description, it appears that the novel narrates the effects of the Gulf War, both physical and psychological. Therefore, in this study, the researcher will see how the effects of the Gulf II war narrated by the author through the novel *Saatu Baghdad*? Furthermore, is there a relation between the structure of the text and the social reality of the Iraqi people? The purpose of this research is to describe the impact of the Iraq war in *Saatu Baghdad*'s novel and to recognize the relationship between text and social reality.

2. THEORY

In this research, the theory that will be utilized is the theory of Sociological Literature proposed by Alan Swingewood. In his book, *The Sociology of Literature* Swingewood sets limits on sociology and literature as two different disciplines but presents the same overview. Swingewood states that "sociology is essential in the scientific, objective study of man in society, the study of social institutions and social processes" (Swingewood, 1972: 11). Literary works, like sociology, also talk about human life, how to adapt, and their desire to change. However, as an aesthetic product, literary works cannot be interpreted as such as mere sociological facts. Literary works go beyond mere descriptions of objective scientific analysis. He can penetrate the social surface, even showing the life experiences of individuals expressed in a group (Wahyudi, 2013: 56). Therefore, it can be said that the approach of literary sociology is based on the fact that literary works cannot be separated from social realities that occur in society (Swingewood, 1972: 17).

The difference between sociology and literature according to Damono (1984: 7) is the way it is expressed. When sociologists describe the lives of people and society through objective scientific analysis, writers express it through emotions subjectively and evenly. Therefore, if there are two sociologists researching problems in the same society, then the results of both studies tend to be the same. However, if two writers are writing a problem in the same society, then we can be sure the results will be different. Literary sociology has many approaches, each of which is based on certain attitudes and views.

Related to sociology and literature, Swingewood (1972: 13) presents three concepts in his literary approach, namely; literature as a reflection of the times, literature is seen from the production process, especially in the author's social situation, and literature concerning history. The concept that will be utilized in this study is the first concept, namely literature is seen as a reflection of the times or social documents as the following quote "The most popular perspective adopts the documentary aspects of literature, arguing that it provides a mirror to the age" (1972: 13-14). The mirror according to Swingewood is a self-reflection, as well as analogous to a literary work is a reflection of community reflection: social structure, familial relations, emerging trends, and class conflicts. In this case, the task of literary sociology is to link the experiences of imaginary figures and the situation of the author's creation with the historical circumstances surrounding the author's life. From the opinions above, it can be concluded that what became the core of the first concept of Swingewood's literary sociology was that literary works were a reflection of social life when the work was created.

3. METHOD

Swingewood divides the theory of literary sociology into two methods, namely sociology of literature and a literary of sociology. In this research, because literature is the main focus, the method to be used is literary of sociology, which is a study that moves from phenomena contained in literary works to further be used in understanding social phenomena

that exist outside of literary texts, as stated by Swingewood (1972: 78): "secondly, a literary sociology with a basis in the literary text, with a relates structure to genre and society".

The following are the overall steps of the research work to be carried out, namely (1) determining the literary work that is made as the object of research material, namely Saatu Bagdad's novel, (2) establishing the main research problem, namely the impact of the Gulf War II, (3) Conducting a literature study with searching and collecting data supporting research objects related to the analysis of literary sociology and the impact of the Gulf War II, (4) Analyzing Saatu Baghdad's novel by referring to Alan Swingewood's literary sociology theory, (5) drawing conclusions and reporting the results of research.

4. RESULT AND DISCUSSION

War or conflict has a huge impact, including the Gulf War involving Iraq and Kuwait, as well as countries condemning Iraq's actions for invasion of its neighbor, Kuwait. The following will describe the impact of the Gulf war on Iraq narrated in the Saatu Bagdad novel;

4.1 PHYSICAL IMPACT

a. Economic Conditions

The main factor in Iraq's invasion of Kuwait was the condition of the Iraqi economy which was ravaged by war or conflict with Iran for eight years, namely 1980 to 1988. The purpose of Iraq's invasion of Kuwait was because Iraq's first request that Kuwait consider legitimate war debts to be unresponsive, the second is the history that Kuwait used to be part of the Iraqi state, and the third is Saddam Hussein's ambition to control Kuwait and the Arab world. However, the intention and the plan failed. After Iraq invaded Kuwait, the Kuwaitis asked the United States to help secure Kuwait from the Iraqi invasion. Through various UN Security Council Resolutions, the US finally launched a counterattack on Iraq, because Iraq did not comply with the UN ultimatum, as a security council. As a result of these attacks, Iraq's economic conditions are increasingly unstable. In the Saatu Baghdad novel, it is mentioned that war and embargo sanctions from the international world made Iraq's economy paralyzed and massive layoffs were resulting in rampant unemployment. The famous Nabil shop that is complete and always provides a lot of needs, is now empty. Many items are not available, even the shelves are only filled with dust.

خير دليل على صحة تكهنات المشعوذ هو دكان أبي نبيل الذي أصبح فارغاً اختفت منه مواد كثيرة؛ فرغت الرفوف العالية وتجمع الغبار فوقها ولولا الحصة التموينية التي يتسلمها من الحكومة ليوذعها بيننا كل رأس الشهر لانتهى الأمر بإغلاق هذا الدكان منذ وقت طويل.
(٢٠١٦:٩١)

The clearest sign of the truth of the man's prediction was Abu Nabil's shop, which had now become empty. Many items are now not available. The top shelf is now full of dust, and if it were not for the supplies he received from the government to distribute to us at the beginning of each month, the store would have been closed for a long time.

Besides, because many stores were closed and no longer in operation, mothers began to replace everything that was no longer available. For example, in this novel narrated mothers sew and repair old clothes to be worn back, because they cannot buy new clothes.

..... ظهر التعب على وجوه الآباء وراحت الأمهات يصنعن البدائل لكل شيء لم يعد موجوداً أخرجت أمي مائدة الخياطة القديمة التي نسيناها ول نعد نتذكرها ونظفها ودضعت الزيت في الثقوب الصغيرة

على جوانبها ثم سحبتها للصالاة، لأننا منعند نشترى ملابس جديدة» كان من الأفضل أن نستخدم الملابس القديمة ونعيد خياطتها ونليساها كأنها جديدة.
(٢٠١٦:٩١)

Weariness is on my father's face. Mothers began to make replacements for everything that was no longer available. My mother pulled out an old sewing machine that she had forgotten. He cleaned the machine, oiled the small holes on each side, and carried it to the living room. We are no longer buying new clothes. Better to repair old clothes and wear them as if they were new.

The conflict also caused the value of the Iraqi currency to change. Coins began to disappear, even during the war the Iraqi currency was no longer valid. This can be seen in the narrative below;

في السنوات الأخيرة؛ شسحت الأوراق الرسمية التي عليه توقيعها: وتراكمت العملات النقدية أكداً عالية تثير اشمئزاه؛ تغيرت العملة وقيمتها، وتبدلت أوراقها ورأيتها، اختفت العملة المعدنية» اختفى الربع دينار» اختفى النصف دينار» اختفى الدينار نفسه، الدينار العراقي اختفى وصار ذكرى من زمن آخر.
(٢٠١٦:١٢٤)

In recent years, the official documents that must be signed are increasingly reduced. He was fed up with money piled high. Currency and value change. New bills were replaced, which had a different aroma. Coins began to disappear: a quarter of the dinar was not used, then half a dinar. Then one dinar. The Iraqi Dinar no longer sells, disappears and becomes a memory from a different time.

The next effect is unemployment increases from time to time. Many workers who were laid off, one of them is Uncle Shawkat, a person who works at the Central bank, suddenly laid off from his workplace.

أحيل عمو شوكت على التقاعد من وظيفته في البنك المركزي، أصبح بلا عمل ينهض من أجله في الصباح الباكر ويدير محرك سيارته القديمة ويذهب إليه.
(٢٠١٦:١٢٤)

Uncle Shawkat was fired from his job at the Central bank. He no longer has a job that makes him have to get up early in the morning.

b. Infrastructure Conditions

The war destroyed various infrastructures, both civilian and military infrastructure. In this novel, the first damage mentioned is the malfunction of the bridge in the eastern Tigris river due to damage by fighter planes.

شاهدت جسوراً ميتة قتلتها الطائرات...
(٢٠١٦:٢٣)

... The car they were riding on passed through the river, and Nadia saw a dead bridge damaged by warplanes.

It is also narrated that the road is damaged and filled with various holes. Windows in various building structures were damaged by bombs and shootings.

وتهشم قديمة صارت فيها تمشي التي والسيارات كثيرة حفر وفيها تعب شوار عنا صارت... زجاجها
(٢٠١٦:٩١)

The road in our house is broken and filled with holes. The passing cars look old and getting old with broken windows ...

Worse, the scenery in the Baghdad area was not as beautiful as before the war. Figure Me and the other victims no longer see the trees in their area. There are only the debris ruins of buildings that have been damaged. Besides, many damaged cars adorn their environment. Garbage piles up everywhere. Many young people drop out of school and have to work to help support their families.

اختفى وجه محلتنا الأخضر، واختفت معه تدريجاً رائحة الورد والقذاح والعشب، اختفت رائحة الماء وهو يلامس طابوق الحيطان القديمة، كبرت محلتنا الفتية وأصبحت عجوراً تفقد ذاكرتها تدريجاً، ازداد عدد السيارات العاطلة وهي تخنق الشوارع وتعرقل حركة المرور فيها، تراكم السكراب عند الأبواب، خرج المراهقون إلى سوق العمل يساعدون ذويهم على تحمل الأعباء وقسوة الظروف.
(٢٠١٦:١٢٨)

The green color that once dominated the area where we lived now disappears, and with it, the aroma of roses, flint, and grass slowly fades. The scent of water splattered on the ancient brick walls. This area where we live is aging, and slowly losing its memories. The number of damaged cars continues to increase. The cars filled the streets and jammed. The trash piled up in front of the door. Young people find work to help their families carry the heavy burden of time.

c. Immigration

Immigration is the entrance into an alien country of the person intending to take part in the life of that country and to take it their more less permanent residence (Sjahriful, 1993:7). In this novel, it is narrated that many neighbors in the housing complex of the figures Me and Nadia left Baghdad one by one. This condition is caused by insecurity and inconvenience of Baghdad to live in. They must at all times see fighter planes, hear sirens, rifles, and bombs. They also decided to move and flee to another country.

كان ذلك النهار نهاراً مميراً لا يمكن أن أنساه، للأسف الشديد، اجتمع فيه الفرح والحزن. الأفراح في محلتنا لا تدوم طويلاً. في هذا اليوم نفسه، بعد أن تسلم نزار نتيجة الامتحان، كانت تقف في بابهم سيارة كبيرة سوداء اللون نوع شوفرليه، سنتعود عليها في ما بعد إنهم في هذه الساعة يتركون بيوتهم، ويهاجرون إلى خارج العراق ولن نراهم بعد هذا اليوم.
(٢٠١٦:٤٨)

That day was a special day that I will never forget. Unfortunately, happiness and sadness go together that day, and happiness in our area of residence did not last long. That same day, after Nizar received his test results, a black Chevrolet stopped in front of their house, a car that we would often see later on. That was the day they left their homes and moved from Iraq. We will never meet them again.

Not only Umm Nizar's family, sometime later, many other families also moved to other countries:

في العطلة الصيفية نفسها، ليس بيت أم نزار وحده من هاجر من المحلة، بيت أم علي وبيت أم سالي هاجرا أيضاً، ثم تبعهم بيت أم ديتا، أصبح مشهد الدموع والتوديع عادياً، في كل مرة، نقف نودع صديقة تسافر مع أهلها من دون أمل في أن نراها ثانية.
(٢٠١٦:٤٩)

During the summer holidays, Umm Nizar's family is not the only one to move to another country. The family of Umm Ali and Umm Salli also moved to other

countries. Then Umm Rita's family followed. Tears filled with tears and separation became common. Every time, we will stand there saying goodbye to friends who will move with their families. We did not have the slightest hope that we would meet them again.

However, although many leaves, not everyone can migrate to a far safer country. Some still have to survive in Baghdad. These characteristics address their social status. This is because moving to and living abroad requires a large amount of money.

صارت الهجرة امتيازًا اجتماعيًا للمهاجرين, الطالبات اللواتي لم يهاجرن يشعرون بالحسد نحو زميلاتهن اللاتي عبرن الحدود. ولأمت أقدامهن أرض الحياة الجديدة وتنفسن عطر عالم جديد هاجرت صديقاتنا إلى المدن الباردة, في حين أننا نحن نتنفس في المكان, نعيش بابتسامات جامدة وأيام من غبار. (٢٠١٦:١٣٢)

The move became a decisive social characteristic for those who left. Students who remain jealous of their classmates who have crossed the border, whose feet have now planted the ground of new life, and who breathe in the fragrance of a new world. The friends went to cold cities while we lived in a devastated place, living our days filled with dust with frozen smiles.

Although moving to another country is a solution for Iraqi citizens, it does not mean they will get security guarantees and certainty whether they will live safer. This is narrated by the author in the following quotation:

الموت هو الغياب الطويل الذي لا لقاء بعده, قد يذهب الميت إلى الجنة لكن الذي يهاجر من بلده فإن الجحيم تذهب وراءه. (٢٠١٦:٤٩)

Death is a long absence without the possibility of meeting again. Those who have died will go to heaven, but for someone who leaves his country and moves to another country, hell will always follow behind him.

4.2 IRAQ SOCIAL REALITY WHEN-POST GULF WAR II

Departing from the data contained in the Saatu Baghdad novel, researchers then looked at social phenomena through various media, both books, journals, and news related to social or conflict with victims in the Gulf War II involving Iraq, Kuwait, the United States, Britain, and various countries condemning the Iraqi invasion of Kuwait.

The physical effects narrated by authors in novels such as declining economic conditions, damage to infrastructure, and immigration are the dominant physical influences. The impact is a representation of the condition of Iraq during the Gulf II war and embargo. In the book Rahman (2003: xxi) won after the 1991 event, Iraq released a period of disorder and anarchy after losing the Gulf war because it was bombarded with the latest weapons in the United States. Not only that, but Iraq must also be finished isolated, embargoed, disarmed, sovereignty counted and subject to economic and political sanctions.

In Iraq-Sanctions and the rest, Cordesman (1997) narrated the price of oil in 1989. This fact led to the inability of state funds for the oil sector to support funding needs, to increase utility, finance reshuffle, and also help the necessities of living food for Iraqis. To overcome this, President Saddam Husein changed his economic team and reduced the number of civil servants and troops. However, this will swell. Which further complicates the Iraqi economy.

In addition to economic conditions, infrastructure in Iraq was also badly damaged, both civilians and military installations affected by the massive attack, one of which was

from Operation Desert Storm on January 17, 1991. In this Operation, it was stated (Solichien M, 2014: 13) that the Operation was carried out in two stages, the first stage was carried out by carrying out airstrikes against military targets and the second stage was a joint ground operation to expel Iraq from Kuwait. During Operation, coalition forces dropped more than 90,000 tons of bombs and nearly 110,000 airstrikes. This airstrike can quickly destroy the military command network and paralyze Iraqi military power, and bring down 34 planes and destroy 100 Iraqi warplanes at its base. The United States also uses Tomahawk missiles launched from ships on the water and Navy submarines. As a result of this, Iraq is dead and infrastructure damage is increasingly out of control.

As for immigration-related problems, many Iraqis go abroad, both to the local area, in the Middle East and outside the Middle East region, such as Europe. Initially, Iraqi immigration outside Iraq was due to economic factors. However, this latter trend did not develop in response to the needs of economies more dynamic than that of Iraq but because individuals were not satisfied with the limited opportunities the Iraqi political system imposed upon their activities or their free expression. Regarding the causes of their emigration, Iraqi exiles and expatriates were living in countries of immigration under a variety of legal statuses (as citizens, refugees, asylum seekers, long-term residents, on student visas, etc) (Chatelard, 2009).

In the Middle East region, many Iraqis cry to Syria, Jordan and Saudi Arabia. It was noted that nearly 20,000 Iraqis fled to Saudi Arabia. They are, on average, traders who often engage in cross-border economic activity, partly thanks to tribal social networks operating on both sides of the border, as the following quote (Chatelard, 2009);

Finally, about 20,000 Iraqis had settled in Saudi Arabia or had dual citizenship: among them were traders and businessmen, often involved in cross-border economic activities, partly thanks to tribal social networks operating on both sides of the border and sometimes beyond. Among immigrants in the narrow definition of the word, one can include the exiled leadership of the Iraqi Muslim Brotherhood who benefited from the patronage of the Saudi authorities. Besides, there were movements and exchanges between Shi'ite communities from Iraq and the east of the Arabian peninsula (Delouvain 2002; Luizard, 2002: 212; interviews, Jordan, 2003 and London, 2004).

As for the regions outside the Middle East, many Iraqis have fled to Europe. Some European capitals, particularly London and, to a lesser extent Paris, had received Iraqis who had left their country at different times, depending on developments in their country's political history. Among those who left Iraq for strictly political reasons, very few made asylum applications, preferring other ways of gaining residence in Europe at a time when it was still relatively easy for the Iraqi upper-class and upper-middle-class to get student or employment visas (Chatelard, 2009).

5. CONCLUSION

In research on the Saatu Baghdad novel by Shahad al-Rawiy by utilizing the concept of the sociology of Swingewood literature, it can be concluded that the author narrated the effects of the Gulf II war 1990-1991 involving Iraq, Kuwait, the United States, and the American coalition states in the novel clearly and straightforward. The impact represented was the first condition of the Iraqi economy which was in ruins, both the death of economic activity, the emergence of a lot of unemployment, as well as the value of money that had declined even more. Second is the destruction of Iraqi infrastructure as a whole, both civilian and military infrastructure. The third is the immigration carried out by Iraqis for a safer life, both to the Middle East region such as Saudi Arabia, Jordan, and Syria and to European regions such as London and France. The text structure narrated by the author has a

relationship with the social reality of the Iraqi people during the Gulf II war. This is because the author narrates in her work based on the social reality that occurs in the field as well as based on her memory in childhood.

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