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Title of Ph.D Thesis: Qadhaya Ijtimaeeyah Wa Siyaseeyah Fi Riwayate Yousuf Idrees.

Yousuf Idrees is one of the great novelists in the contemporary Egyptian literature. He emerged on the horizons of Arabic literature as a novelist, playwright, editor, essayist and critics.

This thesis consists of five chapters. The first chapter deals with the political, social, economic and literary background of Egyptian society in twenty century, while second chapter sheds light on the life of Yousuf Idrees, as well as his family background, academic and political activities and his contributions to the Arabic literature. The third chapter explores the history of short story and dramas as well as contribution of Yousuf Idrees in them and critical analysis of his some dramas. The fourth chapter discusses the history of novels and the great contribution in it made by Yousuf Idrees and recognitions and appreciations by well known Arab writers on his works. The fifth chapter conducts critical study of his novels and political and social issues raised by Yousuf Idrees.

Findings

He was one of the few Arab writers who addressed political and social issues realistically. With vivid images of human interaction, he explored the psychology of the oppressed classes in both the village and the city and created narratives of social and political significance. The incorporation of the spoken Arabic language heightened the sense of realism in creating a more truthful

picture of characters' lives, traditions, failings, and virtues as they struggled against the restrictions of class in Egyptian society.

Idris's stylistic devices varied from realism and existentialism to absurdity, all in reaction to the changing political conditions of Egypt. This variation is demonstrated in the chronology of Idris's work. He began as a social realist in the 1950s, and his Marxist views led him to address contemporary problems and their impact upon Egyptian life. His themes during this early period included Egypt's transition from a feudal to a socialist society, the plight of the Egyptian lower classes, and issues of child labour, overpopulation, and migrant workers poverty, alienation, sex and women. The setting for most of Idris's early work was the Egyptian village or the urban slum areas of Cairo. The characters were mostly peasants and migrant villagers with whom many readers could identify. Idris's collection *Arkhas al-layali* (The Cheapest Night) depicted popular literature, *Al-Batal* (The Hero) portrayed patriotic sentiments of fighting the British occupation, *Love Story* (*Qissat hubb*) and *Al-Bayda'* [White Woman] weaved a narrative of Egyptians' defense of their country's independence and with love stories. *Al-Haram* (Sinners) addressed moral issues such as the permeation of corruption in the government and described the group psychology of two poor social groups, the unprivileged seasonal migrant workers and the villagers. In addition to being a prolific writer, Idris was the type of intellectual who is actively involved in political life and engaged in the most important issues of his society, nation and the Arab world. He was imprisoned for his involvement in political activities for many times.

Idris enriched literary life with numerous productions in drama, fiction, and critical studies and his work provides an incandescent mirror of the time through which he lived.