

Literature education and its role in the life of the university student and in the labor market

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Abstract

Literature plays a pivotal multidimensional role in the life of the university student, beyond being a mere subject to hone language skills or express feelings, or awaken aesthetic sense and taste, to become a tool to build personality, cultural and value identity, develop the mind, promote human values, or create multiple opportunities for work. Through this study, we seek to read the reality and analyze the relationship between literature education and alignment with the labor market. Our talk about linking literature to the labor market does not mean turning the writer into a technician, but lies in investing the high mental and personal skills that the student of literature acquires and employing them in various professional fields (education, art, journalism and media, authorship, translation, the fields of sociology and psychology, artificial intelligence, natural language processing and dialects ...). Literature education may contribute to the development of critical thinking, the ability to analyze, creativity, and communication skills. We are trying from this study to emphasize the need to believe in the role played by all disciplines, and to go beyond the superficial view in linking literature to the job market. All the skills and knowledge that students learn represent building blocks that are added to each other in their formation. All this dictated the following problem: What can the specialization of Arabic language and literature offer to the university student in his path and life? And what are the functions of literature? Or rather, what does literature have to do with life? What is the place of literature in the scales of the labor market?

Keywords: educational literature, jobs, student, university, job market.

Introduction:

I started writing my essay from an idea that I recalled from university days when I was a student in the Department of Arabic Language and Literature, and here I am today as a professor. I stand on the same observation when our students feel hesitant to choose or announce their studies for the specialization of Arabic literature at the university or embarrass them from mentioning this in front of others, which is a complex socio-academic phenomenon, due to several reasons. My study aims to shed light on this and to enhance the confidence of the students of the specialization or those who are about to choose the specialization of Arabic language and literature by explaining its importance. Literature is not just poetry and texts as it may seem, but it is a study of the language that shapes our thinking and perception, as well as a study of literature and culture, criticism, history, and a lot of science and analytical skills that are required in the fields of editing, publishing, translation, journalism, media, and even art and cinema. The role of the

university in the era of interdisciplinary science, digitization, and the information flood is the work of the student researcher, thinker, and creator. Literature is the fertile field for the development of these skills. Betting at university depends on the student's passion and diligence in developing his skills, not just on the type of certificate.

- Literature Education:

If we first turn to the definition of literature, we say that literature is a human product, and a form of linguistic expression of thought and emotion. It is the gray garment that covers our mental and hearty outputs and provides them with a distinctive linguistic template that is different from the language of daily life. It may be poetry or prose, a record that preserves for each nation a large part of its history, culture, and civilization.

In his book "What is Literature?" Jean-Paul Sartre made the motives that drive the writer towards writing, along with questions such as "Why do we write? We Write It is the focus of the talk about what literature is, so the talk focused on the goal and purpose of literature to determine what it is.

Literature comes from man and its purpose is man, and man is composed of the soul, matter, and the conscience, and each of these components needs to be saturated, and because these components are tightly intertwined and inseparable from each other, literature was a cornerstone in meeting the needs of the soul, conscience, and heart, as they are key pillars in the formation and formation of man, and Taha Hussein defined literature as: "A beautiful art that invokes language."

When talking about the education of literature, we are talking primarily about texts, which are "the collection of poetic and prose anthologies created by poets and writers throughout the ages, and these anthologies usually have a set of qualities of artistic beauty, whether in terms of the ideas they contain, the values they advocate, the meanings they suggest or the language in which they were written, and literary texts are a pot of good literary heritage, ancient and modern, and its material through which students' language skills can be developed, intellectual, expressive and gastronomic¹."

Today, educational studies recognize that literary texts have the first place in preparing oneself, forming personality and guiding behavior in general, and they are the most appropriate studies for learners in various stages because it is the study that aims to enlighten thought, refine conscience, filter feeling, refine taste and intensify sensation. In general, literary texts represent the center of gravity of the materials taught by the language teacher. Through the literary text, learners get used to the quality of pronunciation, safety of performance, good expression, accuracy of understanding and extraction of the meanings of words, and as a result, the wealth of linguistic matters grows, and their taste is refined. The intellectual horizon expands, so they act positively, and the learner is acquainted with the sublime human nature, so he admires generosity and honesty and is averse to miserliness, betrayal and other attributes. The nation that lacks literature loses its existence and history, because literature is the roots of civilization

¹. Rushdie Ahmed Taima, Mohamed Elsayed Manna, Teaching Language and Religion between Science and Art, Dar

and the fountain of culture that is inexhaustible. Therefore, nations are interested in teaching it. The lesson of literature is "the beloved opportunity in which students' minds inspire the traits of freedom of opinion and starting to think. If we return to these students, we would find them as individuals in the nation, so we disciplined them in it the general goodness of the whole nation, and the nation is affected by literature as the influence of the individual¹."

- The most prominent functions of literature:

The functions of literature are varied to include artistic enjoyment, moral refinement, expression of emotions, commitment to community issues, as well as cognitive and critical function. Literature aims to arouse artistic pleasure (pleasure) with interest, develop awareness, purify oneself through feelings, and influence behavior and values

- The **educational and disciplinary function**: Literature works to transfer knowledge, and consolidate values, morals, and virtue in the souls of generations.

- **Emotional expressive function**: Literature is a way for the writer to express his feelings, emotions, and his own emotional experience.

- **Cognitive function**: It is indisputable that literature is a form of knowledge that helps to expand human knowledge, self-awareness and understanding of the interests of society. Aristotle stressed that poetry is closer to truth and knowledge, as he showed that "poetry is attached to philosophy than history, because history tells things that happened, but poetry tells things that can happen", that is, the writer sometimes predicts², and this prediction is a kind of knowledge that does not fall within the framework of philosophy. The Algerian writer Mohamed Deeb predicted in his trilogy (fire, loom, large house), which was written before the revolution and during it the revolution and the explosion of the situation and the restoration of evil. Ben Arabi said: The poet was named a poet only for his intellect in ambiguity "; that is the minutes of things. Literature also performs a critical function by critiquing and analyzing reality, providing a deep knowledge of the nature of life and humanity.

- **Psychological function**: A novelist or poet can teach you more about human nature than a psychologist, because the novel in literature, for example, reveals the inner life of characters, so it was said that great novels are references to psychologists, "which are indestructible sources.

As we read the poems of Al-Mutanabbi, we reveal the psychology of greatness, read the poems of "Antara", discover the psychology of love mixed with heroism, read Molière's Scrooge play to discover the value of the stinginess inherent in the depths of the hero's personality, and from the story of Oedipus we discover the sin complex, and so on.

But the question can be asked: Is literature disinfectant or emotional?!³. We go back again to Aristotle in the theory of purification because of its importance in this subject. Aristotle affirmed that art is purgatory, and he saves us writers and readers from the stubbornness and misery of emotions. It was said that Goethe freed himself from the

1. Zakaria Ibrahim, Methods of Teaching Arabic Language, Dar Al-Maaref University, 1999, p. 257.

2. See: Aristotle, The Art of Poetry, Tr: Ibrahim Hamada, Anglo-Egyptian Library, Cairo, 1982, p. 23

3. Salah Fadl, Contemporary Critical Approaches, Dar Al-Afaq Al-Arabiya, 1st Edition, Cairo, 1996, p. 64.

pain of the world by writing the novel "Vater's Passion". Farther becomes Goethe himself because of the unhappiness and deprivation of his love for Charlotte, but everything is broken.

The same story is found in Khalil Gibran in the broken wings, so Gibran got rid of the misery after writing the novel¹.

- **Social function:** The writer is committed to the issues of his society. Literature will become a means of change, expressing people's concerns, forming collective awareness, and the real writer is a real human being who defends the tormented and those who have been pushed to the sidelines. Perhaps this is what the reflection theory referred to.

Perhaps the most important work in our belief, which embodies the social function of literature and which was widely known, is the novel "Uncle Tom" by the American novelist Herit Beecher Stowe, which revolves around [combating slavery](#) and putting forward the suffering of [African Americans](#). The novel was published in [1852](#). It is said to have helped lay the groundwork [for the American Civil](#) War. The novel is popular because it mimics the realities of the United States in the nineteenth century. It is also said to have helped fuel the abolitionist cause in [1850](#). In the first year after its publication, 300,000 copies of the book were sold in the United States; in Great Britain, one million copies of the book were sold.

- **Creative function:** Art is one of the factors of human creative activity and a catalyst for creative queens and creative imagination in all fields, in theater, poetry and novel. Many poets organized poems after seeing the "Jocunda" portrait of Leonardo da Vinci, and many poets were influenced by pre-Islamic poetry.

Many of Mahmoud Darwish's poems were influenced by Nizar Qabbani, and Victor Hugo's Les Misérables inspired many writers and artists to draw paintings and write poems.

This also invites us to talk about the relationship of poetry with songs, as the poems of Nizar Qabbani, for example, are a key pillar in modern Arab music, where his words were characterized by sweet romance, and modern vocabulary that is pliant to sing. His poems were associated with the voices of the giants of Arabic singing (such as' Abd al-Halim, Najat, and Fayrouz) who sang "The Woman Poet and Love" in poems that were immortalized in artistic memory.

It is no secret that cinema and films were inspired by the stories and novels of world literature. Novels, stories and epics are a source for filmmakers and filmmakers. "World cinema has never stopped relying on world literature, as cinema is based on the literature that existed before it." In the production of its films, cinema depends on literary texts, such as the novel and the tale. We cannot imagine that "a cinematic film without a" screenplay", and screenwriting is the task of the cinematic book, and the text of the

¹. Shukri Aziz Al-Madi, in Theory of Literature, Dar Al-Muntakhab Al-Arabi, 1st Edition, 1993, pp. 145-147.

screenplay read may not differ much from the text of the story or the novel read or heard. The main difference lies in transforming the screenplay into a film prepared for viewing¹."

- Aesthetic function and enjoyment: Art develops aesthetic sense, taste and the need for beauty and art as the need for food. Art and beauty are food for the soul. Usually, we find man beautifying the walls of the house with oil paintings and pictures, and this is evidence of man's aesthetic need to create an atmosphere of comfort, joy and entertainment. The **aim** of literature is also to entertain the reader and arouse artistic pleasure through the aesthetics of language and photography.

The functions of literature have evolved through the ages, from mere pleasure and imitation to a commitment to the issues of existence and man, making it an effective tool in society.

Literature, through these and other functions, remains closely related to human life. As long as this man thinks, literature enables him to organize and rationalize this thinking, and helps him to understand his social and class reality in order to build constructive relations within society and preserve nature, as it is - that is, man - its most dangerous component.

- The place of literature in the scales of the labor market:

Linking education and its outputs to the job market has been an urgent necessity for many years, as many voices are raised to reconsider a range of issues in the education sector. This vital sector has become a heavy burden on the labor market and on the state budget. It is strange that huge numbers of students when they graduate do not find a home in the labor market, because some of the disciplines that these students study do not have a place and presence in the labor market. Attention to education outcomes is the main pillar for increasing the productivity of human capital and enhancing the leadership of technological progress. The quality of education and the highest level of its outputs is one of the powerful weapons to eradicate poverty, achieve sustainable development and bridge the gap between the outputs of education and the labor market, by enabling graduates to obtain job opportunities that need their specializations. Linking education with all its disciplines is an essential pillar in the development of the national economy, because it contributes to providing qualified and trained frameworks and competencies capable of increasing production to meet the challenges. One of the reasons for the problem of the gap between educational policy and the labor market is due to poor planning and the failure to identify the actual needs required for the labor market, with strategic plans and visions on the basis of which admission rates are determined for each scientific specialization. The closure of many scientific disciplines is also due to the absence of policies to link scientific disciplines to each other to serve society. The outputs and levels of education, whether in public or university education, represent a disaster, so that there are generations graduating from university who are not "educated", so how will this generation contribute to building the next generation? Is it possible to

¹. Zahia Tarrah, *Between Cinema and Literature*, "The Tale of Siliona between the Film and the Oral Folk Novel,

live without the humanities? Does this science have anything to do with the science of the digital age, which occupies the minds of people and young people, especially in a language that has dominated the spontaneous expressive structure of everyday speech? Is preoccupation with major intellectual issues still active in the mindset of modern affiliation with the current culture? Is there time to learn editing? Can students enter the job market? Is the sobriety of philosophy still a must-have capability for the post-robotics and artificial intelligence science industry?

Edgar Moran says it's not "about fixing my software, it's about fixing my *radgmati* or my approaches to our ability to organize knowledge ... Education reform must lead to reform of thinking, and reform of thinking must lead to reform of education¹. "

In the midst of the ongoing debate about the development of education (public and higher), and the need to link its outputs to the job market, some opinions go to the issue of a number of theoretical disciplines, and questioning the feasibility of what they can offer to the future of students. Perhaps the lessons of Arabic language and literature come at the forefront of those disciplines, which are sometimes questionable.

One might wonder about the relationship of literature to life? Especially since literature seems to be just ideas and texts that are often transcendent on people's emotions and on their situations and concerns? We answer that the majority of people are closely related to their essential needs. All that achieves them the prosperity of living, as they are linked to direct reality in a way that makes them recognize only what they touch and deal with sensually. This may explain their interest in crafts, crafts, professions and applied sciences, and everything that has a guaranteed or direct material benefit. It also explains at the same time man's aversion to literature and considering it a vague thought or manipulation of ideas and words, and therefore a waste of time only.

Literature and literary and linguistic activities in the educational process represent an important catalyst, and an influential factor in the formation and refinement of the scientific and social personality of students, as mentioned above, by instilling a number of positive principles, skills and behaviors. Foremost among these skills is expressing oneself and the crowded thoughts in their minds in sound and clear language. I believe that this skill is one of the biggest challenges faced by new generations, with the proliferation of distractions, distractions and uniqueness.

Focusing on literature classes may also contribute to consolidating and developing basic learning skills (reading, writing, listening, speaking), and developing the skill of critical thinking (extrapolation and analysis). This is in addition to important social behaviors such as encouraging communication with the community, raising the sense of social responsibility, and developing the spirit of working with the team. She also performs various literary activities (memorizing and reciting poetry, writing and analyzing stories, writing literary essay... etc.) to develop students' entrepreneurial spirit.

¹. Edgar Morin, *The Hermetic Mind Rethinking Reform and Reforming Thinking*, Tr: Moncef Nass, Reviewed by Faraj

Hence, specialists always emphasize the importance of integration between the members of the educational process in their various functions and specializations to contribute to instilling different cognitive skills. They also stress the need to believe in the role played by all disciplines, so that this faith can be a starting point for instilling this in students. It can be said that one of the worrisome observations is the tendency of some to underestimate the importance of Arabic sciences and literature (in schools), and to question their actual usefulness. Despite what language and literature studies offer, it is not only in promoting the values of belonging to the Arab identity, but also in developing and developing cognitive and personal skills that are central to building a successful positive personality for young people.

We are well aware that what students study must be helpful to them in their professional future, but at the same time we call for going beyond the superficial view in linking the issue to the labor market. All the skills and knowledge that students learn represent building blocks that are added to each other in the formation of the integrated and desired structure. I think that the specialization of Arabic language and literature complains about the lack of belief of some teachers in the importance of the role played by the specialization in all its branches. This is a major obstacle to solving the problem. The members of the educational process in their various specialties and tasks must be convinced of the importance of the role played by all disciplines (including the specialization of the Arabic language, of course) in consecrating and developing necessary values and skills, such as social participation, raising the level of responsibility, developing the spirit of initiative, and participating in activities, conferences and seminars...Etc., and that all of them should join hands to ensure that they are instilled in an appropriate academic and educational manner.

There is no doubt that the Arabic language is a powerful tool in the job market, and it is a window on culture. Mastering it also helps you to understand the aspirations of consumers, social habits, and the decision-making mechanism in institutions, which gives you an advantage in marketing, sales, and team management. If we invest in our Arabic language, we will also invest in our other technical and linguistic skills, to surprise us with the opportunities that will open up to us.

We should not lose sight of the idea that language and literature graduates have a wide variety of jobs, where they can work in many jobs and places. Therefore, you should consider studying the languages that are most in demand in the labor market. Here are the most prominent jobs and places where language graduates can work:

- Works in the field of translation of various kinds
- Teaching
- Content Writer
- a content creator
- Works in journalism and media
- Written
- Work in embassies, consulates, or international organizations
- Tour guide

- Working in international airlines and hotels in the international relations or customer service department
- Provide radio or television programs in multiple languages

Finally, in addition to all of the above, literature curricula can be linked to modern technologies, which contributes to the qualification of graduates capable of meeting the requirements of the local and international job market. Learning languages is also an important way to break into more professional doors in many fields. In addition, it helps you in your academic life, and develops some of your interpersonal skills, such as communication.

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