



A Reading Of The Contents Of The Educational Anasheed And Their Role In Instilling Values In Children: The Arabic Language Textbook For Fourth Grade In Algerian Primary Schools As A Model

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Received : 23/08/2023 ; Accepted : 16/11/2023 ; Published :25/12/2023

Introduction:

Through this research paper, we will focus our discussion on an important and significant segment, believing that children are the future of the nation, leading it towards progress and development. The child represents a bet that society must care for and nurture. One of the most crucial educational stages that forms the foundation of a child's personality and actively contributes to enhancing their intellectual and educational awareness is the primary stage. Therefore, we have chosen this particular group for our study. The primary objectives we aim to achieve through this research, primarily, are to explore the role of nasheeds (Islamic songs) and their effectiveness in promoting a set of values in children, considering them as the easiest means to influence a child's psyche. Hence, we present the following problem: What are the values conveyed in nasheeds directed towards children, and what is their role?

Keywords: nasheed, values, child, primary stage, role.

Research Outline:

We have decided to outline a research plan for this work, where we will address the following points:

- Defining the concept of children's literature.
- Children's literature: Characteristics and objectives.
- Identifying the general objectives of children's literature.
- Nasheeds: Exploring their concept, types, and importance.
- The main themes and values conveyed in nasheeds directed towards children: A reading based on the Arabic Language textbook for the fourth grade of primary school in Algeria.

1- Children's Literature: Conceptual Approach:

The birth of children's literature can be traced back to folk literature, as acknowledged by many scholars and critics. It transitioned into formal literature through the efforts of creators and the contributions of educators who showed great interest in nasheeds, songs, poems, stories, and tales. But what is the concept of children's literature?

According to specialists in the field, children's literature is defined as "a collection of productions that are presented to children, taking into consideration their needs, desires, and their age, physical, intellectual, and psychological levels¹." This means that children's literature is a creative process that produces literary texts that engage with children's desires and needs from all aspects, while also considering the age level of each group. Saad Abu Radha, on the other hand, views the concept of children's literature as revolving around an expressive discourse that carries beautiful words, leaving an impact and impression on souls. It works to enhance and enrich ideas that contribute to shaping the child's personality, whether through oral or written means, including genres such as stories, plays, anasheeds, and songs².

Given the above, we can assert that the creative process directed towards children bears a distinct and distinguished identity when compared to other literary genres targeting different age groups. It is characterized by clarity and a departure from ambiguity to foster the child's aesthetic and artistic perception.

2- Children's Literature: Characteristics and Objectives:

Children's literature is characterized by a set of features and qualities that make it unique. These characteristics contribute significantly to shaping the child's personality and development. Some of these features include:

1. Simplicity and Clarity of Language.
2. Avoidance of Complexity and Artificiality.
3. Aesthetic Appeal.
4. Imagination Development.
5. Foster Thinking and Creativity.
6. Promotion of Values.
7. Encouragement of Building and Development.
8. Fostering a Sense of Teamwork.
9. Promoting the Love of Knowledge and Scholars.
10. Teaching Scientific Facts about the Universe³.

It is evident that children's literature should possess a range of characteristics and qualities as it is targeted towards a sensitive segment of society. In order to achieve all that has been

mentioned, it is necessary for the chosen subject matter to be derived from the real environment in which children live.

As for the desired objectives to be achieved through creating this type of literature, they can be summarized as follows:

Cultural Objective: Children's literature instills principles of national culture and fosters a love for culture and heritage in children.

Ethical Objective: Children's literature works to strengthen virtuous moral values and encourages children to embrace them, such as love for goodness, tolerance, cooperation, while discouraging negative traits like evil, treachery, and hatred.

Spiritual Objective: To achieve this goal, children's literature instills spiritual and religious values, such as love for God, obedience to parents, and acts of kindness.

Social Objective: This objective promotes the integration of children into their environment, helping them understand the components and trends of society.

Intellectual Objective: This objective provides a great opportunity to stimulate the child's mind by encouraging focus, imagination, memory, and understanding of ideas⁴.

3- Types and Significance of Anasheed:

The term "Anasheed" is derived from the Arabic root "N-Sh-D." It is said that someone "NashadaNashdan" when they remember and recite poetry, meaning they recite it to each other. Anasheed refers to a type of poetic composition that is chanted or sung by a group of people, following a specific rhythm. The plural form of Anasheed is "Anashiid⁵." From a linguistic perspective, the concept of Anasheed merges with the meaning of poetry that is recited with a regular rhythm. However, in technical terms, Ahmad Zalt describes Anashiid as a literary genre composed, composed, and performed for an audience consisting predominantly of children. It is a poetic system with a vocal, linguistic, and musical rhythm that is chanted loudly by children. Therefore, Anasheed is intended to raise the voice through singing, and due to their affinity, children tend to enjoy singing Anashiid⁶. Consequently, Anasheed is considered one of the forms of literary arts directed towards the world of childhood. It serves as a means to create an atmosphere of joy and happiness in their minds and aims to promote noble values that contribute to their upbringing and development in a healthy and righteous manner. Some of the kinds of Anashiid include:

1 - National Anthem: This type of Anasheed reinforces love for one's country and instills a deep sense of belonging in children. It encourages them to aspire for greatness by focusing on the glory of the nation, fostering a love for history, and highlighting the heroic acts and sacrifices made to elevate its dignity and progress towards advancement and civilization⁷.

2 - Religious Anthem: This type aims to reinforce values related to religious affairs and beliefs. Its ultimate goal is to demonstrate faithful behavior to individuals, such as promoting honesty,

obedience to parents, loyalty, and sincerity. This direction also seeks to enhance the principle of humanity, as Islam, at its core, is a guidance and mercy for all of humanity⁸.

3 - Educational Anthem: This type of Anasheed takes a literary form and its subject matter revolves around educational programs, activities, and occasions. It is based on psychological foundations, such as rhythmic repetition and singing⁹.

From the above, we can conclude that the intellectual content of children-oriented Anasheed has witnessed significant diversity. This diversity plays a key role in shaping the child's personality, creating a balanced world that contributes significantly to their holistic and healthy upbringing.

4- Pillars and Components that Shape Children-Oriented Anasheed:

To create a comprehensive Anasheed, it is essential to rely on pillars and components, which are as follows:

1 - Content: Referring to the subject matter presented to children, it should be closely related to their reality and environment. The content should include experiences and knowledge that bring them closer to their lived reality, making it easier for children to understand and comprehend.

2 - Lyrics: Words play a fundamental role in constructing phrases. They must be suitable for the child's language, perception, and age, showing coherence and connection. Additionally, the lyrics should be characterized by simplicity, clarity, and ease, as well as carrying educational and purposeful messages¹⁰.

3 - Phrases: Phrases are a collection of words that create meaning. In the case of national anthems, the phrases should be based on clear linguistic structures and well-defined ideas. The beauty of the style has a significant impact on the child's psyche, stimulating their emotions and encouraging awareness and imagination. This is achieved through the use of poetic meters, rhythm, and music¹¹.

5- Key Themes and Values in the Children-Oriented Anasheed: A Review of the Arabic Language Textbook for Fourth Grade in Algeria

5.5. An overview of the textbook:

The construction of knowledge in the Arabic language textbook for fourth grade in Algeria is based on the curriculum approved by the Ministry of National Education, aiming to achieve comprehensive competence. This textbook stands out for its diverse content, derived from the learner's environment, primarily aiming to develop the child's intellectual and behavioral capacities, promoting various values such as spirituality, ethics, nationalism, and social values. We will explore these values by examining a selection of Anasheed included in the Algerian curriculum. Some of them are:

1 - Ethical Values:

The first aspect emphasized in the Anasheed section of the Arabic language textbook for fourth grade in Algeria is the ethical dimension. The curriculum developers believe that ethics are a fundamental aspect that should be promoted in children's culture. They recognize the importance of ethics in shaping the child's thinking, as societies can build and construct an advanced civilization with its presence, while nations collapse in its absence.

On page 21, an Anasheed titled "Ya Hassan Al-Akhlaq" (O Beautiful Ethics) by Abdelkarim Ben MessaoudJadour is chosen. The lyrics go as follows:

Oh, how beautiful are your manners

You came as a light, a gift to the whole universe

You, the forgiving, with a gentle smile

You reside in the heart, providing solace

You wipe away tears of hatred and nourish

The garden of forgiveness with what you have sown¹²

In these verses, the poet attempts to highlight the role of good ethics that came and illuminated the world with guidance. He describes good ethics as forgiving, kind, cheerful, and smiling, residing in the hearts without hesitation. The final verse emphasizes the role of good ethics in erasing hatred and nurturing the gardens of forgiveness, promoting peace, and spreading love among people.

Religious Values:

This aspect is considered one of the most important aspects that the Ministry of National Education in Algeria has focused on. They have worked on instilling religious values in the hearts of our children due to the intellectual content it carries, which positively influences their behavior and overall lives. Hence, the choice of the Anasheed "Ummy" (My Mother) by the poet Ali Al-Jumblatt on page 38, which calls for enhancing the status of the mother and highlighting her role in building communities. The lyrics go as follows:

Life has beaten on your hands, and as long as

It overflowed with the springs of blessings, your hands

Never will there be true happiness in life

Unless you generously bestow it with your hands

You are nothing but a fountain of love, from which

Souls quench their thirst, so do not deprive anyone but yourself

Oh, mother, the joys of existence gather

To make the celebration of the universe sing your praise

From these verses, we can infer that the poet Ali Al-Jumblatt aims to illustrate the significance of the mother, who represents a source of love and contentment. This intellectual background of the poet may be derived from the Holy Quran, which emphasizes the satisfaction and kindness towards parents, as it leads them to the satisfaction of Allah Almighty.

Embedding these spiritual and intellectual values in the child's psyche ensures their holistic and sound upbringing. The mother is the universe, life, beauty, and splendor. She is the school of education, instilling noble and virtuous morals in the hearts of our children.

National Values:

Love for the homeland, expressing it and singing its praises, is a duty rooted in faith. The land is our mother, and based on this perspective, the Ministry of National Education has strengthened national-themed Anasheed in this textbook. It emphasizes the importance of preserving and defending the homeland. On page 55, there is an Anasheed titled "Ajmal Al-Awatan" (The Most Beautiful Homelands) from the collection "Ash'ar min Thakirat Al-Watan" (Poems from the Memory of the Homeland) by Mas'ad Ziyad. The lyrics go as follows:

My homeland, you are the green garden,

From the gardens of my Lord,

In you, there is sanctity and purity,

You are my pride and love.

In you, there is love and simplicity,

Two candles that light my path.

My homeland, an everlasting spring,

In its shade, we strive and play¹³.

Here, the poet Mas'ad Ziyad sings of his love for the homeland, describing it as a green garden, a paradise bestowed by Allah Almighty. In it, everything is sacred and pure, filled with love and simplicity. Moreover, he goes even further, describing it as an eternal spring, a candle that illuminates the path, and under its shade, we find joy and play.

Embedding love for the homeland in the hearts of children is a reinforcement of national identity and a promotion of the values of belonging, which motivates them to serve their country and uphold the principles of preservation. Consequently, achieving these values leads to the creation of a balanced and strong personality, both internally and in relation to others.

Educational Values:

This value encompasses an invitation to love knowledge, learning, and sacrificing for its pursuit. Through knowledge, nations rise and develop. Therefore, the Ministry of Education in Algeria supported the Arabic language textbook for the fourth grade in Algerian primary schools by including a poem titled "Al-Kitab" (The Book) by LuqmanShatnawi. The poem goes as follows:

The book is my dearest companion
In it, I find happiness and delight
How many stories it holds, full of pleasure
And how many wonders it narrates
Through it, I quench my thirst for knowledge
And it guides my doubts towards the right path
Within its pages, the universe unfolds
With answers to every question I have

Here, the poet LuqmanShatnawi seeks to highlight the immense importance of the book, describing it with beautiful phrases and precise words. He emphasizes that it is the dearest friend and closest companion, bringing happiness and delight. Its subject matter is engaging, offering enjoyment and pleasure due to its rich knowledge and diverse content.

Moreover, the selection of such a poem aims to inspire children to love reading and engaging in literature, as it provides numerous benefits. Reading nourishes the mind, strengthens concentration skills, and stimulates imagination. Therefore, we can say that there is no better nation than one that reads.

In the same vein, we find another educational activity that also promotes a love for learning. The poet aims, through this activity, to strengthen the instinct of thinking and stimulate memory. It also works towards enhancing the child's skills and enabling them to connect their knowledge with the surrounding environment, such as nature. For example, in the poem titled "AlabaAlwan" (The Box of Colors) on page 106, the poet "Abi Aloush" says¹⁴:

"I have colors that awaken,
I keep them in the sweetest place.
I paint with them paintings
That make the garden's flowers laugh.
I color the sun with yellow,

And the seas with blue."

From this, we can say that the Arabic language textbook for primary education in Algeria carries within it a cognitive and diverse value, depicted through pure letters, to serve the child and emphasize its role in enhancing various dimensions aimed at creating a balanced, healthy, and sound childhood personality.

Conclusion:

We can draw several important conclusions from the preceding discussion:

- The most distinctive feature of children's literature is its emphasis on considering the needs, interests, and abilities of children.
- One of the main objectives of children's literature is to achieve religious, educational, creative, and pedagogical goals.
- Anasheed (songs) are considered one of the most beautiful forms of art that touch the child's personality due to their unique characteristics compared to other art forms.
- Anasheed hold significant importance and benefits as they contribute to the holistic development of a child's character.

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