A Comparison of Character, Characterization and Text-Picture Relationship in Selected Iranian and Foreign Picture Books (Based on Maria Nikolajeva & Carole Scott)

The goal of this research is a comparison of character, characterization and text-picture relationship in selected Iranian and foreign picture books (with respect to elements of story). The sample of this study is purposeful and chosen in accordance with experts’ opinions. The unit of analysis is word, sentence, paragraph, single spread, double spread, context, picture and the whole story. This research is based on Maria Nikolajeva and Carole Scott’s ideas. Yet the new horizons are opened up. Thereby besides descriptive-interpretive, it has applied the interpretive-abstractive approach. The methodology is based on Mayring’s (2000) deductive and inductive content analysis. As the consequence of such a reading, the theoretical framework of mentioned categories is more empowered; achieving new ways and components and as for text-picture relationship, it accomplishes a new and more comprehensive model named after the descriptive term as “interactive web”. In addition to a complete study of various facets of characterization (genre, gender, frequency, type, and…), regarding to text picture, for the first time, some side but seminal and effective findings are obtained in picture books which reminds some of the ways of text-picture ultraweaved in this type of literature, as a specific form of art, to children’s literature society.

The findings indicated that based on character, characterization and picture and text relationship, Iranian and foreign stories have significant differences. However they are similar in inevitable fundamental and general aspects. In comparison with Iranian stories, the text picture relationship in foreign ones is richer and even provides the audience with wider and more complex perspective of Maria Nikolajeva and Carole Scott’s theoretical framework. It also demonstrated that in foreign stories, text picture relationship components and techniques are more various and powerful. However the over attention to this process, have made them plot-oriented. Nevertheless, in Iranian stories the identity, dynamic and static aspects of characters and in more extended view, characterization functions are more appropriate and are more deserved to be modeled by the audience. Namely, although character and characterization are under the strong influence of the reciprocal relationship between text picture functions, it is not always a straight and positive relationship.