

METHODS AND TECHNIQUES OF DR. SHAWQI DAYF IN THE LITERARY CRITICISM

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ABSTRACT

Ahmad Shawqi Abd Al-Salam Dayf (13 January 1910 – 13 March 2005), was one of the most influential 20th century Egyptian writers and intellectuals, and a figurehead for the Renaissance and the modernist movement in the Arab World. He had deep knowledge in the western literature and criticism. He became one of the towering personalities in Arabic literary criticism. In literary criticism, he largely followed the styles and methods of the great like Taha Hussain, Abbas Mahmud al-Aqqad and Mohammad Hussain Haikal.

Shawqi Dayf divided the Arabic literature into five periods based on the political conditions, while his contemporaries depended on historical events and social conditions, which starts with the Pre-Islamic period and ends with the modern period. Although, Shawqi Dayf largely based his method of criticism on political conditions, he sometimes kept in mind the historical and social conditions also, like his guide **Taha Hussain**. His critical approach to biographical literature is mainly based on historical events.

Dayf's main three doctrines are “**Al- Suna, Al-Tasnu and Al-Tasn'i**”. He opined that Arabic literature, particularly the poetry, remained the same in content and style until the modern period. He has applied the integrative approach in his study on Arabic literary personalities.

He has based his method for criticism on the approach followed by "**Hypotile Taine**". He implied the psychological approach in his study of the poets and prose writers. Sometimes he followed the historical approach in his criticism