

The Role of the Kanun in Narrative Construction in Albanian Literature: The Cases of Ernest Koliqi and Ismail Kadare

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Abstract

This paper offers an in-depth analysis of the impact of the Kanun of Lekë Dukagjini on Albanian literature, examining two significant works: "Hija e maleve" (The Shadow of the Mountains) by Ernest Koliqi and "Prilli i thyer" (Broken April) by Ismail Kadare. Utilizing a combination of narrative and anthropological approaches, the study explores how these works reflect and interpret the norms of the Kanun and its influence on the development of narrative structures and characters. The narrative analysis focuses on the story structure, character development, conflict and resolution, and the symbolism and main themes of the works. Meanwhile, the anthropological approach addresses the cultural and social context, rituals and traditions, the impact of the Kanun on daily life, and the confrontation with modernity. The study concludes with a discussion on the importance of these approaches to better understand the complexity of the Kanun's norms and traditions and their role in shaping narratives and Albanian culture. This research contributes to the fields of literary and anthropological studies by illuminating the profound intricacies of the Kanun and its representation in Albanian literature.

Keywords: Albanian literature, kanun of Lekë Dukagjini, blood feud, honor and justice, albanian tradition