Under Children's Eyes: Becoming Pious in Tayeb Salih and Pramoedya Ananta Toer Short Stories
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Abstract

This research seeks to discuss how child characters navigate their interactions with the adults in two short stories set in the predominantly Islamic society of Sudan and Indonesia. It examines Tayeb Salih’s “A Handful of Dates” (1964) and Pramoedya Ananta Toer’s “Circumcision” (1950) by locating both texts in World Literature which is largely Western or Eurocentric. Both short stories belong to the genre of initiation fiction often included in world literature anthologies. This paper argues that both authors help contribute to not only the rethinking of World Literature concept and circulation thereof, but also balanced view of heterogenous, multicultural Muslim society. Using post-Genette focalization theory as conceptual framework, this study finds out that the child narrators play distinct roles as (1) the perceptual focalizer to reveal injustice and frivolity of the adults’ world; (2) the ideological focalizer to make meaning of children’s faith through their relationship with the grown-ups.

Keywords
hypocrisy, perceptual focalization, ideological focalization, injustice piety

Full Text:
PDF

References


Pramoedya Ananta Toer (EYD: Pramudya Ananta Tur) (6 February 1925 – 30 April 2006) was an Indonesian author of novels, short stories, essays, polemics and histories of his homeland and its people. His works span the colonial period, Indonesia's struggle for independence, its occupation by Japan during the Second World War, as well as the post-colonial authoritarian regimes of Sukarno and Suharto, and are infused with personal and national history. Release and subsequent works. Pramoedya was released from imprisonment...


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