

Abstract:

This PhD Thesis, entitled, “Between Egyptology and ‘Egyptomania’: Ancient Egypt in Selected Western Novels and Films, 1990 to 2020,” attempts to pursue a balanced approach taking insights from Egyptology, a rigorous fact-based discipline, and “Egyptomania,” a productive output involving both proven and speculated concepts concerning ancient Egypt, and express the same in different artistic/creative media. The modes of such adaptations and expressions resemble “recontextualizations” of features and concepts connected with ancient Egypt or Pharaonic Egypt. The Thesis has chosen mainly three films and six novels all of which are produced in the White and the Occidental West between 1990 and 2020. The Thesis gives attention to the textual details and representations and discusses the fascination of the western directors and writers for ancient Egyptian mythology, the ancient Egyptians’ depiction of deities, material culture, architectural pursuits and mysteries, mummification, and funerary beliefs. The four main chapters (from chapter Two to chapter Five) provide compared discussions on texts which share some common emphasis on particular aspects of ancient Egypt and their recontextualizations. The Introduction-chapter shall provide the comparison between Egyptology and “Egyptomania” along with the important concepts which are popular in cinematic and textual discussion. The Conclusion-chapter shall again bring the concepts together and reiterate that ancient Egypt finds inclusion more considerably to the Western representations than any other ancient cultures. The Thesis in overall has attempted to perceive that films and fiction could conveniently expand the interest in ancient Egypt beyond the discipline of Egyptology, and “Egyptomania” for its broader scope could make use of genres like science fiction and fantasy. The Thesis points out, in agreement with previous scholars, that representations of ancient Egypt by the White West do show a tussle between the Occident and the native Egyptians in terms of

archaeology. This tussle further brings out the uniqueness of ancient Egypt having preceded the Classical White West in age and innovation; but an open-minded, inclusive approach can make ancient Egypt as relevant globally. Thus ancient Egypt as a living consciousness remains in thoughts, speculations, studies, and representations.

Keywords:

Egyptology, “Egyptomania,” Arts, Mythology, Religion, Novels, Films, “Recontextualizations”