

A Comparative Study of Narrative Structure in Tale of *Black Pavilion* and *Zadig* by Voltaire relying on Vladimir Propp's Morphological Components

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Abstract

François-Marie Arouet, known as Voltaire, is one of the most famous French philosophers and writers of the age of enlightenment in the eighteenth century. The philosophical novella *Zadig* is the first novella of Voltaire which shows Zadig's confrontation with fate as the novel's protagonist in a simple and fluent language. In the third part of the book, Zadig meets people who are looking for the king's lost horse and dog. This part of the novella is very similar to the tale of Black Pavilion of the *Hasht Behesht* (The Eight Paradises) by Amir Khusrau Dehlavi, Indian Persian-speaking poet, in terms of subject matter as well as narrative structure. In this story, the three wise princes are confronted a fleeing camel. Purpose of writing this article is to study the narrative structure of these two valuable works in Persian and French literature; for this purpose, the morphological method of Propp, one of the most famous researchers in this field, will be considered. Therefore, in this study, the aim was to explore the narrative structure of these two works based on Propp's morphological approach to see to what extent these two stories can be placed in his specific framework. Their commonalities and differences will also be explored and listed based on Propp's method. Moreover, the study tried to compare and analyze narrative structure of both works and study the narrative similarities as well as differences between the two stories which have been intended to attract the Asian and European audiences.

Keywords: Morphology, Function, Narrative, Novella, Character.

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