

Abstract

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A New Historicist reading of the lives of two Queens of Egypt: 'Cleopatra' and 'Nazli' as depicted by Shakespeare, Dryden, Rawya Rashed and Rashad Kamel respectively

This thesis is a new historicist study of the life and times of Queen Cleopatra VI of Hellenistic Egypt and Queen Nazli Sabri of Modern Egypt in Selected literary texts that provide multi-perspectives of the traditional image of both queens in art and history. In the light of the study, Authorial Intentionalism is examined by emphasizing the Selected texts' structural analyses of language, which shape the reader's perception of both queens in stylistic terms. The New Historicism theory is thus applied to the Selected literary texts, which represent both queens, to deconstruct the traditional opposition between history as factual and literature as fictional and unmask the political ideologies behind Cleopatra and Nazli's discursive constructions. Translation of the Arabic texts that depict Nazli has been attempted, where certain sections have been literally translated not to weaken the effect of the Arabic structure. Mailloux's examination of the temporal reading model is also used to analyze authorial intentionalism in the examination of the texts under study. Therefore, as the authors of the Selected texts of Cleopatra and Nazli approach their subjects from one of several directions, the study underlines how by comparing between Cleopatra, in Shakespeare's *Antony and Cleopatra* (1623) and Dryden's *All for Love* (1677), and Nazli in Rawya Rashed's *Nazli: A Queen in Exile* (2010) and Rashad Kamel's *Queen Nazli: Love and Revenge* (2010) reality is constructed by the free play of institutions and rhetoric among discourses insofar as both queens have been misrepresented in history and literature. Key Words: Authorial Intentionalism- Cleopatra – Discourse – Nazli – New Historicism- Stylistics.