

# LIBRARY AND LIBRARIAN IN ISRAELI ADULT LITERATURE

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## **Summary:**

Libraries and the librarian in Israeli adult literature, the topic itself assumes a correlation between common stereotypic perception of libraries and librarian, the stereotype as represented in literature and the treatment of the topic in modern Israeli literature. This thesis will examine this assumption in seventy works of literature where either the concept of library or librarian are mentioned. The discussion will focus on the following areas:

Survey of literature: The current research is based on a study by Anne-Marie chaintreau and Renee Lemaitre (1993) who investigated the same topic but with its correlation to French literature. Their study, Droles de bibliotheques, included original French writing, as well as literature translated into French and movies.

Method: At present, there is no data base for Israeli literature. The works considered were those the author was familiar with' those suggested by others, the subject catalog of the Beit Ariella library, as well as hours of library shelf perusal. Having found a corpus of relevant data, the subject division of our study emerged.

Introduction: This section deals with the intrinsically lack of prior attention to this topic. It is particularly strange since books, an integral component of a library, are a recurring motif in Hebrew literature. It is thus surprising that this is the first such study.

The librarian as portrayed in modern Israeli literature: This survey of the librarian, arranged alphabetically by author, covers thirty works. The characterizations are varied, both positive and negative. The personality traits featured range from apathy to snobbery. The jargon of librarians is also cited in this chapter. Our survey of modern Israeli works showed substantial differences in the portrayal of the librarian. This is

particularly interesting since these are all by modern Israeli writers of the same decade.

Library descriptions: Where the physical descriptions of libraries in our corpus are few, only found in the books of Reuven Kritz Aand David Shachar, the library's atmosphere is frequently described. These descriptions focus on the population of library users: the students, academics and alienated visitors.

when Israeli writers describe the libraries their description include some of the stereotypic features of the library and actual library: the rats, worms, dust, the various smells that characterize libraries, as well as, the omnipresent ladders and silence.

According to studies of the Israeli library users,this population frequents the library for different reasons. These include: reading, studing, a search of particular material, social reasons, shelter and escapism.

Romance: There is even a romantic side to libraries in modern Israeli literature. There are both long and short term relationships that began in the library.

The conclusions of our study support a correlation between stereotypical literary portrayals and the stereotypical portrayals of the reality. These stereotypical descriptions reinforce and help perpetuate this image.

This study, by virtue of its pioneering nature opens avenues for further research which are included at the end of this study. The last section includes a list of the libraries cited within the library works. The list is divided into types of libraries, by countries of origin, of libraries described in the literary works of the modern Israeli writers cited in this thesis.

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