

## **Memory of Childhood place in the Palestinian Self-Writing**

**Ali Musa**

**(PhD Candidate in Social Sciences, Birzeit University)**

This Research aims to study the memory of Palestinian childhood place through published texts, based on the experiences, interactions, and individual views on the lives of a number of Palestinian individuals, and their expression of the way in which they lived their life experiences and expressed them later, through self-writing texts, which depend on distant memory (autobiographies and memoirs).

The research main question is: How did the Palestinians express, through their individual memories and their own texts, the place of childhood and their relationship to it, and what are the factors that affected this memory and expression? The research suggests the existence of several patterns of remembering the place of childhood and expressing it in the texts it will address: memory of family (including home and neighborhood), memory of reductionist romance, memory of nowhere, and memory of exile and nostalgia. The research presents an assumption that there are multiple factors affect the overcoming of one or more of the mentioned patterns on each of the studied texts. These factors are the writer spatial and social background, gender, the period covered in the text (before 1948, after 1948, before and after 1948), and the interval moment for the end of childhood according to the text and its interpretation according to social class. The research argues that while the patterns of memory and expression of the place of childhood in writing the Palestinian self are distributed on bases of individual choice or destiny, the factors behind this distribution are general or structural.

The research uses the methodologies of content analysis, discourse analysis, and critical discourse analysis in the study of selected texts. The researcher will also interview some of the authors of these texts (the alive ones), to highlight some points that attract attention and need some clarification and enrichment in their texts.

This research tries to strengthen the position of the weakest actors in the process of historiography and the study of history, and to combat the phenomenon of silencing, concealment and selectivity practiced by traditional historical work in the context of subjection to cognitive power relations.

The importance of this research comes from that it is expected to make a serious and new contribution in enriching the fields of Palestinian studies, social history, critical discourse analysis, space studies, memory studies, and childhood studies. This research will open new research horizons, and propose different focus and raw materials for these fields and other related fields, especially since this kind of research intersects with the interests of researchers in the fields of literature, history and psychology, in addition to social sciences, social history, and Palestinian studies, which the research revolves around.

**Short Biography:** I am a lecturer in Philosophy and Cultural Studies department, and PhD candidate in the PhD program in Social Sciences- Birzeit University, Palestine. I work on my dissertation (Memory of childhood place in the Palestinian self- writing), under Dr. Salim Tamari supervision. I hold a MA degree in contemporary Arab studies and a BA degree in English language and translation from the same University. I am interested in studying the Palestinian individual and collective memory and their relationship to identity, place, and time, within the framework of Palestinian social history, through self-literature (biographies, memoirs, and diaries).