

Analysis of Personality Types and Metamorphosis of the Hero and Other Characters in the Novel *Hasti* Based on Enneagram Theory

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Article Info (۱۹۳-۲۲۰)

ABSTRACT

Article type: Research Article

Article history:

Received:
۱۸/۱۱/۲۰۲۳

Accepted:
۱۵/۰۳/۲۰۲۴

Keywords:
Character
Analysis
Personality
Transformation
Novel "Hasti"
Enneagram

One of the most important topics in novel criticism is the analysis of the character types of the protagonist and other characters. Sometimes, the protagonist and characters undergo transformation. If this transformation has an evolutionary trend inspired by natural sciences, it is called character typification, where the protagonist or characters acquire superior types. In this descriptive-analytical research, the typification and personality transformation of the protagonist and main characters of the novel "Hasti" by Farhad Hassanzadeh have been analyzed from the perspective of the Enneagram theory. The findings of this study indicate that Hasti, the protagonist of the story, suspends her social assumptions and stereotypical norms of her gender and, with the help of her mother, aunt, and uncle, overcomes challenges comprehensively, transforming into the hero and savior of her family and society. By analyzing the personality elements of Hasti and comparing them with the Enneagram theory, Hasti is a girl with type 4 characteristics who moves towards type 3 after the events of the story. Hasti's mother, aunt, and uncle have a type 2 personality and maintain their character type even with changing circumstances and the onset of war throughout the story. Hasti's father is an individual with an unhealthy type 1 who undergoes transformation towards the serene type 7.

Citation: Samkhaniani, A.; Shahabian, M.; Mohammadi, A. (2024). Analysis of the type and metamorphosis of the hero and characters of the novel *Hasti* based on the Enneagram theory. *New Literary Studies*, 3(1) 193-220
Publisher: Association for the Promotion of Persian Language and Literature
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DOI: [20.1001.1.28211413.1403.3.1.9.0](https://doi.org/10.28211/413.1403.3.1.9.0)

Introduction

One of the most critical aspects of literary criticism in fiction is the psychological analysis of protagonists and supporting characters. In many narratives, characters undergo significant transformations that drive the plot and thematic depth. When these changes follow an evolutionary trajectory, they can be termed “personality metamorphosis,” wherein characters transition toward more mature or superior archetypes. This research analyzes the novel *Hasti*, written by the renowned children’s and young adult author Farhad Hassanzadeh, through the lens of the Enneagram personality theory. Set in Abadan during the Iran-Iraq war, the novel serves as a socio-ideological narrative depicting the conflict between tradition and modernity, particularly concerning gender roles. The study investigates how the protagonist, Hasti, and the supporting cast evolve psychologically within this turbulent environment.

Method

This research adopts a descriptive-analytical methodology. By utilizing the Enneagram of Personality as the primary theoretical framework, the authors performed a qualitative content analysis of the novel. Data were extracted through a systematic examination of the characters’ thoughts, dialogues, actions, behaviors, and motivations. These qualitative data points were then categorized and mapped onto the nine distinct Enneagram personality types to identify the primary archetypes of the characters and trace their psychological metamorphosis throughout the narrative arc.

Results

The findings reveal specific psychological typologies and significant character development among the novel’s figures:

1. **Hasti (The Protagonist):** Hasti is identified as an Enneagram **Type 4 (Individualist)**, characterized by her sensitivity, vivid imagination, and desire to distinguish herself from her peers. Through her engagement with societal challenges and her refusal to conform to stereotypical gender roles, she undergoes a

psychological shift toward **Wing 3 (The Achiever)**. This development manifests as increased focus, goal-oriented behavior, and resilience in overcoming obstacles to protect her family and community.

۲. **Supporting Characters (Mother, Aunt Nasrin, Uncle Jamshid):** These characters occupy the **Type 2 (Helper)** archetype. They consistently display traits of empathy, generosity, and supportiveness. Aunt Nasrin, influenced by her experiences in Tehran, acts as a modernizing agent, while Uncle Jamshid consistently aids the protagonist. Notably, under the extreme psychological stress of the Iran-Iraq war, Uncle Jamshid exhibits a temporary shift toward the aggressive and assertive behaviors associated with **Type 8 (The Challenger)**.
۳. **The Father:** Initially, the father presents as an **unhealthy Type 1 (The Reformer)**—rigid, perfectionistic, authoritarian, and deeply entrenched in patriarchal, gender-biased ideologies. However, as the plot progresses, he experiences a significant metamorphosis, transitioning toward **Type 7 (The Enthusiast)**. By the novel's conclusion, he abandons his anger and oppressive behavior, embracing a more joyful, relaxed, and egalitarian relationship with his daughter and family.

Conclusion

The study concludes that *Hasti* is more than a familial narrative; it is a profound socio-ideological commentary on the transition from traditional, patriarchal structures to modern, progressive social dynamics. The “metamorphosis” observed in the characters—particularly in the father’s shift from an unhealthy Type 1 to a healthy Type 7, and Hasti’s growth into an empowered Type 3-leaning individual—highlights the author’s intent to advocate for gender equality and emotional intelligence. The Enneagram framework proves highly effective in elucidating the psychological depth of the characters, demonstrating how their internal growth mirrors the external shifts in the socio-cultural landscape of Abadan during the war.