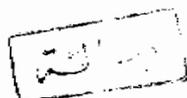


**Preface to the Second Edition (1800) of
The Lyrical Ballads By William
Wordsworth and El-Diwan (1921) by
Abbas Mahmoud El-Aqqad and Ibrahim
Abd El-Qadir El-Mazini
(A Comparative Study)**



A Thesis

*Submitted to the English Department
Women's College,
Ain-Shams University*

*In Partial Fulfilment of the Requirements
of the Master of Arts Degree*

By

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B.A. 1990

SUPERVISED BY

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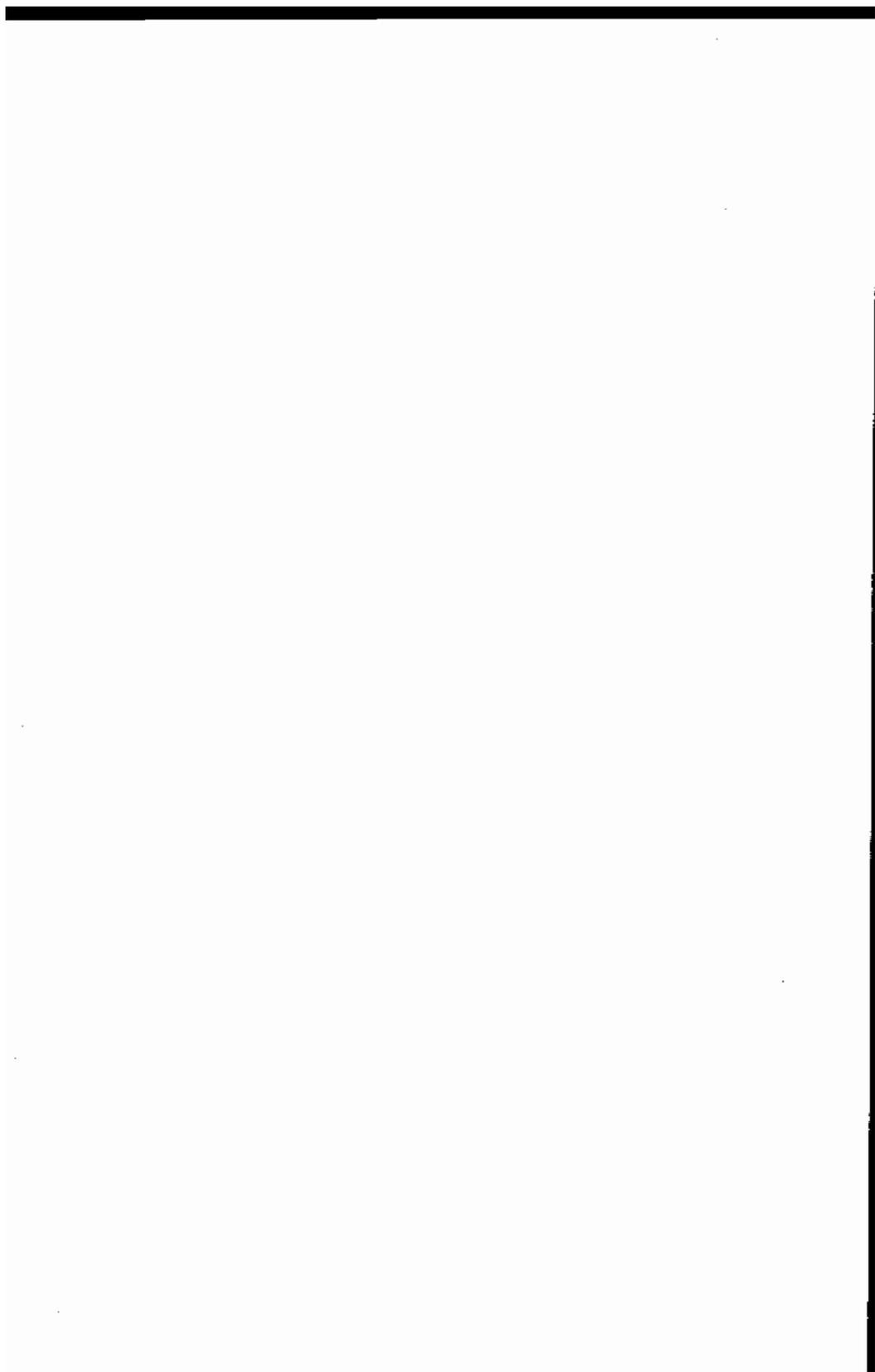
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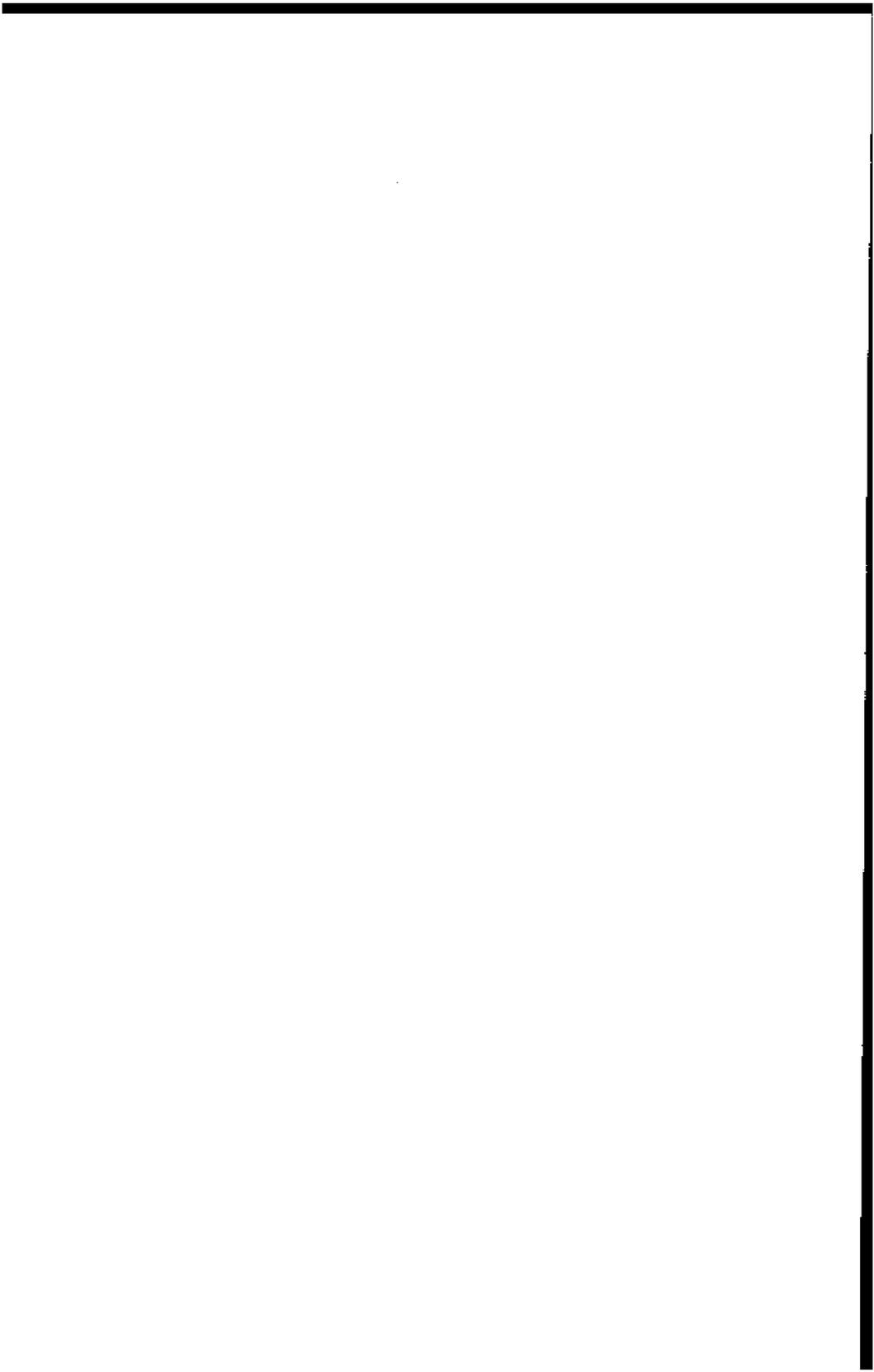
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Introduction

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INTRODUCTION

Comparative Literature is still one of the most questionable branches of literary study. The term Comparative Literature, As René Wellek says, is "troublesome"¹ and doubtless, certainly one of the causes why Comparative Literature has had less than the hoped academic success. Matthew Arnold, translating Ampère's use of "histoire Comparative", was clearly the first to use the term in English (1848)².

By its very scope, Comparative Literature is a "presumptuous study."³ It requires not only knowing more than one language but also their literature. The comparatist has to be aware of the rules of the literature of his mother tongue as well as that of the other language with which he is involved as a comparatist. The good comparatist, as Henry Gifford states :

... needs time and patience; a
conviction of where he is going;

1 René Wellek & Austin Warren, Theory of Literature (London: Harcourt 1942), p. 46.

2 Ibid., P. 46.

3 S.S. Praver, Comparative Literary studies (New York: Harper and Row Publishers, Inc., 1987). p. 51.

a keen eye for the local and particular; the awareness of historical context; an active belief that all Literature is one and indivisible.¹

The comparatist should have an eye for the most important facts otherwise the comparative study would "yield nothing of value."²

Scholars have not agreed on a unified definition of the term Comparative Literature. Henry Remak sees that :

Comparative literature is the study of literature beyond the confines of one particular country, and the study of relationship between literature on the one hand and other areas of knowledge, such as the arts, philosophy and history on the other. In brief, it is the comparison of one literature

1 Henry Gifford, Comparative Literature: Concepts of Literature (New York: Routledge and Kegan Paul, 1969) P. 15.

2 S.S. Praver, Comparative Literary Studies, P. 169.

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I would like to extend my acknowledgement to my parents for helping me in every possible way, and to my husband for his unfailing encouragement and his unswerving support

M.A. El-Kady



with another or others, and the comparison of literature with other spheres of human expression.¹

According to Remak's definition of Comparative Literature, the comparatist is free to select important points of similarity throughout the whole field of human activity whether intellectual or imaginative.

Remak's previous definition of Comparative Literature is, however, repudiated by scholars like Harry Levin who claims that "we don't compare literature with religion or science. Literature is beyond compare, it can only be compared with itself."²

Scholars like Aldridge, Carré, Guyard and Van Tieghem assert that Comparative Literature is essentially interested in comparing different individual works

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1. Henry Remak, "Comparative Literature: Its Definitions and Function", in Comparative Literature: Method and Perspective, ed. Newton P. Stallknecht (Carbondale: Southern Illinois Univ. Press, 1961), p.1.
 2. Harry Levin, Grounds for Comparison (Cambridge: Harvard Univ. Press, 1972), p. 75.

belonging to different countries and tradition. Aldridge assumes that :

Comparative Literature should relate individual works to similar creations in other national traditions, and should include the literature of the East as well as the West.¹

Another sense of Comparative Literature similar to that of Aldridge, is given by Roger Fowler:

Comparative literature
aiming to enhance awareness of the qualities of one work by using the products of another linguistic culture as an illuminating context; or studying some broad topic or theme as it is realized ("transformed") in the literature of different languages.²

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- 1 A. Owen Aldridge, Comparative Literature: Matter and Method (Urbana: Univ. of Illinois Press, 1969), P.2.
 - 2 Roger Fowler, ed. Modern Critical Terms (London: Routledge and Kegan Paul, 1987) P. 34.