

## **Cultural Pollution among Students of History Departments in the Colleges of Education in Iraqi Universities from the Point Of View of Academic Staff**

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### **Abstract:**

The current research aims to identify the cultural pollution among the students of the history departments in the Iraqi colleges of education from the point of view of the college members, to achieve the objectives of the research, the descriptive approach was used, and a scale for the cultural pollution variable was built, this was done by relying on the theoretical framework, and the scale in its final form, after completing the conditions of validity, stability, and discriminating power, consisted of (27) items, the researcher applied the two scales to a sample of (112) male and female teachers in the universities of the Middle Euphrates for the academic year (2020-2021), then the data was analyzed using the statistical packages for social sciences (spss), the results showed that the students of the Department of History from the point of view of the college members have a high level of cultural pollution, and based on these results, the researchers presented a number of appropriate recommendations and suggestions.

### **Chapter one / Introduction to the research**

#### **First: Research Problem**

Cultural pollution is considered the problem of the times and one of the most dangerous types of pollutants, and university students are the most affected individuals by what is happening in their society, because they are the most receptive to the dangers and threats that surround them, and between the trend towards independence and self-realization, and this era is considered the era of technological development, especially in the field of communications, where the world has become like a small village. This resulted in a new type of pollution, which is cultural pollution through the Internet, satellite channels and social media (Talib, 2016: 115).

(Al-Sunbul, 2010) believes that cultural pollution has many causes and types, including: backwardness, moral deviation, negative destructive values, loss of loyalty, many social problems, and weak social ties, and the impact of the various technological means from the Internet and various means, and the influence of the digital world on the various areas of life experienced by the individual, which led to their fascination with Western cultures.

In light of the foregoing, the serious repercussions of the phenomenon of cultural pollution on students and society have become clear, and some behaviors that contradict the authentic Arab values and customs have appeared among young people, especially university students, who constitute a large and important

segment of society, and which appear clear in their general appearance, such as clothes, hair styles, or in the way they speak and their use of strange phrases in their conversations or in their behavior, and that the researchers experienced this segment at the university, based on this view and the importance of cultural pollution among the students of the history department from the point of view of the college members, the researchers conducted this study and from here the idea of the study was born for the researchers. Through what has been presented, the research problem is summarized in trying to answer the question (What is the level of cultural pollution among students of the history departments in the colleges of education in Iraqi universities from the point of view of the college members).

**Second / Research Importance:** In light of these rapid developments and changes in the world, which were directly reflected on nations and peoples, where the world has become like a small village with this rapid development in the means of communication and social communication, and this imposes on nations to make change in order to adapt to global challenges at various levels, social, economic or cultural, this led to the concern of many societies about these rapid changes, especially in Arab societies, including Iraq, because of its impact on their customs, values and traditions (Hassan, 2017: 9), as the most dangerous concepts that society is exposed to lose citizenship as the impact of technological development on its concept, because it moved from the feeling of loyalty and historical, cultural and civilizational belonging to a particular country to new dimensions that included in the rights, duties and responsibilities towards the self and the society to which the individual belongs, and that these duties and rights are not it can only be achieved in a just and democratic society (Al-Khurasat et al., 2018: 368).

Failure to adhere to these rules causes changes in the cultural patterns spread in all societies, especially with the development of media and communication between societies, where technological changes have affected patterns of thinking and become more susceptible to cultural pollution as a result of the duplication that our children live today between the values and traditions of the fathers and the values imported from here and there (Nashwan, 1993: 94).

The youth stage is one of the dangerous stages that a person goes through in his life, especially with the development of means of communication and openness to multiple cultures, young people have become more vulnerable to cultural pollution through being affected by Westernization campaigns and destructive calls, and we notice this by their excessive fascination with Western thought, imported cultural currents, including imitation of Western customs and excessive liberation (Aboudev and Agha, 2001:377).

Al-Laqqai (2013) stressed that culture, as the main component of the knowledge and gains of the human being who is raised on it through the external scholar and his social institutions, has become suffering from a problem that calls for stopping at its features to clarify and take into account its details as the problem of cultural pollution (Al-Laqqai, 2013: 58).

The researchers believe that the study of this phenomenon among university students, because they are the nation's repository and the future of its existence, this category of conscious youth must be preserved and protected from all negative influences aimed at crafting the values, customs and traditions of the original community, as the desire of the young man to change and inclination for everything that is exciting and new this makes them less committed to what is required of them.

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In the face of these global changes comes the importance of the role of education in directing change and providing assistance to students and preparing them to understand and accept it in order to adapt to it and benefit from it, training students and providing them with knowledge so that they can distinguish between beneficial cultural elements, which are consistent with the values and customs of their society in this era, and between destructive cultural elements that conflict with the values and customs of their society (Istita, 2010: 209).

From the above, the importance of the current research is evident in the following points:

1. The study dealt with the phenomenon of cultural pollution and its serious impact on university students.
2. The tools of this study can be used to measure cultural pollution among individuals in the secondary stage.

### **Third: Research Objectives**

The current research aims to identify the cultural pollution among students of the history departments in the colleges of education in Iraqi universities from the point of view of the college members.

### **Fourth: Research Limits: The current research is limited to:**

- 1- Objective limit: identifying the level of cultural pollution when requested by the history departments in the colleges of education from the point of view of the college members.
- 2- Human limit: The study was conducted on a sample of teachers of the history department in the colleges of education in the universities of the Middle Euphrates.
- 3- Spatial limit: Colleges of Education for Human Sciences at Al Furat Al Awsat University (Karbala / Al Qadisiyah / Babylon / Al Muthanna / Kufa).
- 4- Time limit: The study was conducted during the academic year (2020-2021).

## **Chapter Two / Theoretical framework and previous studies**

### **First: theoretical framework**

The concept of cultural pollution: cultural pollution impacts the human psyche as a result of a defect in values, ideas and beliefs, as well as impacts the behavior of individuals, causing deviation from what is familiar, it is considered one of the most dangerous types of pollution that occurs due to ignorance, moral deviation, loss of loyalty and belonging, weak social ties and weak religious faith, and due to the strong influence of external variables from the media, various means of communication and internet networks, especially what we are witnessing in this era of technological progress, and the young man has become more vulnerable For these cultural pollutants (Sunbul, 2013: 133-134), cultural pollution is considered the problem of the times, especially since students are the most influential groups with the dangers and threats that surround them, and they may not have the ability to bring about change, and they do not have decision-making authority. Abdul Khaleq, 2019: 257), and defines (Al-Hassan Cultural Pollution, 1998) as: "The case of foreign culture prevailing over the culture of a people, creating a chasm between the past and present of that people, and between it and its cultural heritage, which leads to the elevation of foreign civilization, and the obliteration of Cultural landmarks, inherited values, and special local or national traditions (Al-Hassan, 1998: 17).

**Characteristics of cultural pollution:** Cultural pollution is an important concept in the era of globalization and the development of digital technologies, and as a widespread phenomenon in many societies, it has many characteristics that can be mentioned as follows:

1. Focusing on popular culture and transforming it into an attractive entertainment culture in order to separate individuals from the content of national popular culture.
2. Dismantling the national cultural identity, by adopting the cultural polluter to spread its cultural components and message through various means of communication and communication, and this leads to the dissolution of cultural identity in the components of the West.
3. Using the culture shocks method with individuals, which makes the recipient amazed and fascinated by the transferred material to facilitate acceptance and influence by it (Al-Habashi, 2013: 27).

The phenomenon of cultural pollution: As a result of the phenomenon of cultural pollution, which has taken on a great challenge and danger to various areas of life, it is considered one of the most dangerous types of contemporary social challenge, as it seeks to penetrate Arab culture through the flow of information through Internet devices in order to spread cultural and intellectual pollutants and after referring to a group of Educational and social frameworks The researcher can list some of the causes of the phenomenon of cultural pollution as follows:

### 1. Globalization

It is openness to the world culturally, economically, politically and technologically, i.e. transforming everything that is local to global. There are several types of globalization, including:

- A- Political globalization:** It means spreading Western values in the field of politics and calling for the adoption of Western democracy as a system of government, and what this system includes of freedom of expression, political pluralism, constitutions and legislative councils.
- B- Economic globalization:** It means spreading Western values in the economic field, such as economic freedom, opening markets and making the power of supply and demand in determining prices in the markets, as well as linking the economy of developing countries to the global economy (Zayed, 2013: 8).
- C- Cultural globalization:** The dissemination of Western culture through satellite channels, various means of communication and the Internet to become a model for cultures in the world, and the education of cultural values that form the basis of society, such as moral and religious values, and the spread of information technology skills, the state is no longer able to monopolize the information it broadcasts to its citizens, citizens obtain information through satellite channels (Khamsh, 2010: 23).

(Al-Rawashdah and Khalil, 2009) summarizes the impacts of globalization on cultural identity as follows:

- The prevalence of consumer culture, due to the glorification of consumer cultural globalization.
- Alienation and isolation of man from his issues and concerns, making him weak and questioning all his religious convictions, identity and culture.
- The spread of Western fashion and products in Arab societies. (Al-Rawashdah and Khalil, 2009: 9)

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1. **Media:** Global societies are witnessing a development in the media and communication, as a result of the technological revolution that the world is witnessing, which has had a clear impact on human life and society, where we see rapid and great changes in the thought, behavior and culture of individuals, due to which the world has become like a small village (Al-Ajimi, 2007: 293 ), “Satellite channels and websites have become the source that individuals rely on to obtain information, therefore, the media owned by the circles responsible for organizing cultural pollution campaigns in conveying news, information, values and beliefs, and practices of foreign countries controlled by ideological and political movements hostile to Arab society, and these news, information and practices are carefully selected, and passed through the media to the people of Arab countries, especially the youth, with the aim of influencing their ideas, inclinations and trends”(Al-Hassan, 1998: 91).
2. **The family:** It is a social and educational institution, which is important in raising children, and its impact is either negative or positive on the children’s behavior, the home environment has a great influence on the emotional, moral and religious upbringing of its children. When it is a good environment, stability occurs and the first trends of an orderly social life arise, as for the turbulent family climate, the individual pushes the individual to violate moral values and standards and not to abide by them, especially as we live in a world dominated by technology (Al-Jahed, 1988: 195)
3. **The weakness of the Arabic language:** The Arabic language is related to the culture of the individual in general, and the Islamic culture in particular, the Arabic language is considered the mirror of culture, and it is a means of expressing traditions, customs and laws. Therefore, Western countries tried to weaken the Arabic language by spreading its languages globally through its media and communication techniques, as that language is not just rigid letters, it carries in its contents thought and culture whose owners try to publish it. These ideas are contrary to Arab culture and the Islamic religion, among the manifestations of the weakness of the Arabic language is the bilingualism between the community and its local institutions, where the student learns the language in educational institutions with its rules, but he practices the local dialects outside of them because of the ease of use and acceptance of some synonyms and foreign words and the speed of their spread and circulation in the community (Asfour, 2008: 122).

### Previous studies

- 1- **Study (Al-Habashi 2013):** The study was conducted in Egypt and aimed to identify the most important manifestations of cultural pollution among university students in the Egyptian society, and to identify the educational role practiced by a college member at Suez Canal University in the face of cultural pollution from the perspective of the study sample, to achieve the objectives of the study, the researcher used the descriptive approach, and applied a questionnaire to a random sample of (254) female students, and the community reached (254) female students, and the results showed that the college members’ practices, not their educational role, in facing the challenges of cultural pollution were high (Al-Habashi, 2013, 1-23).
- 2- **Study (Abdul-Khaleq 2019):** The study was conducted in Iraq, entitled “Cultural Pollution and its Relationship to Intellectual Security Disorder for Middle School Students”, and aimed at identifying cultural pollution among middle school students, and knowing the significance of differences in cultural pollution variables among middle school students according to the gender variable , the study population was the students of Baghdad Governorate - Al-Rasafa First, which numbered (39858), and the study sample amounted to (600) male and female students who were chosen by the stratified random method, the results showed a high level of cultural pollution among middle school students,

and that the level of cultural pollution among females is higher than that of males (Abdul Khaleq, 2019, 253-281).

### Chapter Three / Research methodology and procedures

**First: Research Methodology** / The descriptive approach was used, which is one of the forms of interpretation and organized scientific analysis. The description of the phenomenon is a quantitative description through collecting data and standardized information about the problem or phenomenon, analyzing it and subjecting it to a careful study (Al-Nuaimi et al., 2015, 227).

**Second: The research community** / they are the professors of the history department in the colleges of education in the Iraqi universities (Karbala, Qadisiyah, Babylon, Muthanna, Kufa), who number (158) male teaching and female teaching.

**Third: Research Sample** / The research sample defined as: “The sub-group of the research, which represents the elements of the community is the best representation, so that the results of that sample can be generalized to the entire community and make inferences about the features of the community” (Abbas and others, 2014: 218), (158). Sample (112) according to Thompson's equation, 2012)) the number of males and females within the sample was determined according to the proportional random stratified choice, and the researcher adopted this sample as a sample for statistical analysis to use the psychometric properties of the scale, and it is the same sample of the research results on the basis of which the researcher achieved research goals as shown in Table (1)

**Table (1) The research sample distributed by university and gender**

S	the University	Gender		Total
		Male	Female	
1	Karbala	21	7	28
2	Qadisiyah	18	7	25
3	Babylon	23	7	30
4	Muthanna	11	4	15
5	Kufa	9	5	14
<b>Total</b>		<b>82</b>	<b>30</b>	<b>112</b>

Fourth, the research tool: The two researchers relied on the questionnaire with five-response alternatives, consisting of (30) items distributed over six areas, for the purpose of achieving the objectives of the research, the tool is defined as the means that the researcher uses to elicit or obtain the required information from the relevant sources in his research, the research tools vary in their ability to measure the required response. The tool that measures a particular response may not be able to measure another response (Abbas et al., 2014: 237).

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**Fifth: Psychometric Properties**

1- Validity

Apparent Validity: the researchers presented the items of the scale to a group of experts and arbitrators to verify their validity, and to express their opinions and observations according to the appropriateness of the tool for the purpose for which it was prepared to measure, and after taking their opinion, the cultural pollution tool was prepared in its final form consisting of (30) items

**The discriminatory power of the item:** After applying the t-test for two independent samples to find out the significance of the differences between the lower and upper groups whose number of members reached (30) for each, the results showed that all items are distinct because their calculated t-value is higher than the tabulated t-table of (1.96) at the level (0.05) and the degree of freedom (58), except for the items that fell, which are (1, 2, 24) as shown in Table (2) Therefore, the researcher has deleted the above items, so the scale will be in its final form of (27) items.

**Table (2) The discriminatory power of the cultural pollution scale using the two extreme samples**

Item Number	Group	Arithmetic medium	Standard deviation	Calculated T	Indication
1	upper	4.27	0.74	1.31	Non-function
	minimum	4	0.83		
2	upper	3.1	0.76	-1.74	Non-function
	minimum	3.43	0.73		
3	upper	3.67	0.66	4.69	function
	minimum	2.73	0.87		
4	upper	4.83	0.38	5.32	function
	minimum	3.97	0.81		
5	upper	4.47	0.68	2.84	function
	minimum	3.87	0.94		
6	upper	4	0.69	6.55	function
	minimum	2.7	0.84		
7	upper	3.97	0.72	2.31	function
	minimum	3.43	1.04		
8	upper	4.67	0.61	2.69	function
	minimum	4.13	0.9		

9	upper	4.7	0.6	4.25	function
	minimum	3.8	1		
10	upper	3.93	0.58	5.81	function
	minimum	2.93	0.74		
11	upper	3.93	0.87	5.73	function
	minimum	2.63	0.89		
12	upper	3.5	1.04	5.29	function
	minimum	2.27	0.74		
13	upper	4.7	0.47	2.07	function
	minimum	4.3	0.95		
14	upper	4.6	0.5	6.28	function
	minimum	3.5	0.82		
15	upper	4.67	0.48	6.39	function
	minimum	3.67	0.71		
16	upper	3.67	0.84	6.01	function
	minimum	2.3	0.92		
17	upper	2.87	1.14	4.05	function
	minimum	1.8	0.89		
18	upper	4.37	0.61	3.06	function
	minimum	3.8	0.81		
19	upper	4.4	0.93	4.43	function
	minimum	3.4	0.81		
20	upper	4.13	0.68	7.62	function
	minimum	2.73	0.74		
21	upper	3.87	0.82	4.84	function
	minimum	2.83	0.83		

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22	upper	4.6	0.62	5.86	function
	minimum	3.5	0.82		
23	upper	4.53	0.68	4.18	function
	minimum	3.63	0.96		
24	upper	3.43	0.97	1.94	Non-function
	minimum	2.97	0.89		
25	upper	4.63	0.56	3.07	function
	minimum	4	0.98		
26	upper	3.37	1.13	5.38	function
	minimum	2.07	0.69		
27	upper	3.57	0.94	3.89	function
	minimum	2.77	0.63		
28	upper	4.47	0.57	3.34	function
	minimum	3.7	1.12		
29	upper	3.97	0.61	3.52	function
	minimum	3.3	0.84		
30	upper	4.2	0.71	5.42	function
	minimum	3.2	0.71		

### Internal Validity

To achieve this, the researchers used the Pearson correlation coefficient in order to extract the correlation between the degree of each item of the scale and the total score of the research sample, whose correlation coefficients ranged between (0.38 - 0.69), after using the t-test for the correlation coefficient, it turned out that the correlations are all statistically significant, being higher than the tabular correlation value of (0.19) at the level (0.05) and the degree of freedom of 110, as shown in Table (3).

**Table (3) Statistical analysis of the items of the cultural pollution scale using the method of item degree to total degree relationship**

Item	Correlation coefficient	Indication	Item	Correlation coefficient	Indication	Item	Correlation coefficient	Indication
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1	fell into discrimination		11	0.53	Function	21	0.56	Function
2	fell into discrimination		12	0.5	Function	22	0.68	Function
3	0.47	function	13	0.51	Function	23	0.59	Function
4	0.63	function	14	0.69	Function	24	fell into discrimination	
5	0.48	function	15	0.69	Function	25	0.39	Function
6	0.58	function	16	0.54	Function	26	0.55	Function
7	0.45	function	17	0.38	Function	27	0.5	function
8	0.5	function	18	0.48	Function	28	0.49	function
9	0.51	function	19	0.56	Function	29	0.48	function
10	0.53	function	20	0.65	Function	30	0.53	function

#### Reliability:

It is to give stability to the results obtained by the researcher if it is re-applied to the same subjects, and under the same conditions, as he gives the same results continuously, and here the degree of stability is considered coincidence (Mahjoub, 2005: 187).

**Internal consistency method (Alpha-Cronbach):** The two researchers verified the stability of the cultural pollution scale by the Alpha Cronbach method, based on the data of the total sample, and the reliability coefficient in this method reached (0.91).

**Sixth / the final application of the tool:** After confirming the construction of the cultural pollution scale, and its validity for distribution, it was distributed to the sample covered by the research (112) male and female teachers in the Department of History at the University of (Karbala, Qadisiyah, Babylon, Muthanna, and Kufa).

**Seventh / Statistical Means:** In order to analyze and unload the data, the researcher used the Statistical Package for Social Sciences (SPSS) in order to treat it with statistical methods.

#### Chapter four / presents and interprets the results

Identifying cultural pollution among students of the history departments in the colleges of education in Iraqi universities from the point of view of the college members, to achieve this goal, the researchers applied the scale of cultural pollution to the members of the research sample, which numbered (112)

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individuals, the results showed that their average score on the scale was (99.31), with a standard deviation of (12.05) degrees, when balancing this average with the hypothetical mean <sup>(1)</sup> of the scale of (81) degrees, and using the t-test for one sample, it was found that the difference was statistically significant and in favor of the arithmetic mean, as the calculated t-value was higher than the tabular t-value of (1.96) degrees freedom (111) and significance level (0.05), the results indicated that the research sample possesses cultural pollution and its degree is (high), as shown in Table (4).

**Table (4) is the t-test for the difference between the sample mean and the hypothetical average of the cultural pollution scale**

Sample volume	Arithmetic average	standard deviation	hypothetical mean	Calculated T-value	Table T-value	degree of freedom	Indication level
112	99.31	12.05	81	16.08	1.96	111	function

The arithmetic average shows from the above table to the high level of cultural pollution among university students, and the researchers attribute the reason for this to the great openness of Iraq to the outside world as a result of the civilizational and technological development witnessed in this era, this openness made some individuals imitate and believe in Western cultures that are alien to the authentic Arab customs and traditions, they imitate them by their behavior or their general appearance, or they are influenced by their ideas and beliefs, thinking that they are keeping pace with the development and civilizational progress with these actions, the current study agreed with the study (Abdul-Khaleq, 2019), which indicated the high level of cultural pollution among middle school students..

**Recommendations:-**

1. The necessity of cooperation between the Ministry of Higher Education and cultural institutions in order to develop social principles, values and historical awareness among university students.
2. Holding training courses for students to familiarize them with the danger of being influenced by other cultures.

**Suggestions:** Conducting a study similar to the current study to determine the degree of cultural pollution among Iraqi youth.

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<sup>1</sup> The hypothetical average of the scale (cultural pollution) was extracted by summing the weights of the five scale alternatives and dividing them by their number, then multiplying the result by the number of (27) items.

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