

**Binary opposition and narrative irony**  
**A study in “The City of Beautiful Death” by Saeed Al-Kafrawi**  
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**Summary**

This research aims to study the narrative and semantic components of the forms of opposition and the resulting binary opposition, essential to the collection of short stories “The City of Beautiful Death,” by the late Egyptian storyteller Saeed Al-Kafrawi. It represents the backbone - in my view - on which the narrative vision was built and its succession established. By tracing the dualities that appear here, the student can compare the narrative line of writing in its formation and the forms of its transformation, and then capture the central constants that determine the nature of the narrative world in its space and time. Al-Kafrawi’s totality, and the comparisons that might arise from that with his other collections, or with the writing of his peers from the 1960s.

This study is based on a basic hypothesis that believes that this group, even if its stories are diverse, in the final analysis turn into a group of basic opposite dualities in which the narrative is generated, and that these dualities are, in one way or another, an aspect of paradox as a style that story writers in the sixties tended to, including Saeed Al-Kafrawi. It was an aesthetic phenomenon that was associated with storytelling among the sixties generation, or what was called the “new sensibility” generation.

**Keywords:** Binary opposition - the short story - Saeed Al-Kafrawi - the sixties generation in the Egyptian story