

## **Analysis of the Literary Texts and their Cultural Content in Action Pack Textbook in Jordan for Grades (6, 10, 12)**

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Received 12/9/2022

Accepted 22/10/2022

### **Abstract:**

This study aimed to analyze the cultural content and key aspects of the literary texts in Action Pack textbooks for Jordan. The sample consisted of six textbooks for the grades 6, 10, and 12. A content analysis was conducted to investigate the number, genres, length, and authenticity of the examined literary texts. As for the cultural content, a checklist of nine main categories, including intellectual values, lifestyle, behaviors, media, artistic values, family, minor values, major values, and formal values, was applied. The results revealed that 21 literary texts were integrated to the examined textbooks. Only 19% of these texts were authentic. With regard to the cultural content, it was arranged according to the highest ratio as follows: major values, family and the intellectual values, lifestyle, behaviors, minor values and finally the aesthetic values. While the official communication and values were not integrated in the examined texts.

**Keywords:** Action Pack; cultural content; literary texts.

## تحليل النصوص الأدبية ومحتها الثقافي في كتب أكشن باك في الأردن للصفوف الدراسية (6، 10، 12)

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ملخص:

هدفت هذه الدراسة إلى تحليل المحتوى الثقافي والخصائص الرئيسية للنصوص الأدبية المضمنة في الكتب المدرسية من سلسلة Action Pack الأردنية. تكونت عينة الدراسة من ستة كتب للصفوف 6، 10، 12. وقد تم إجراء تحليل للمحتوى بهدف التحقق من عدد النصوص الأدبية وأنواعها وطولها وأصالتها. أما فيما يتعلق بالمحظى الثقافي للنصوص الأدبية، فقد تم استخدام قائمة تحقق تضم تسع فئات رئيسية تشمل: القيم الفكرية، نمط الحياة، السلوك، الوسائل الإعلامية، والقيم الفنية، والأسرة، والقيم الثانوية، والقيم الرئيسية، والقيم الرسمية. أظهرت النتائج أن الكتب التي تم تحليلها تضمنت 21 نصاً أدبياً. شكلت النصوص الأصلية ما نسبته 19% فقط من هذه النصوص. أما بالنسبة للمحتوى الثقافي فقد جاء بالترتيب على النحو التالي وفقاً لأعلى نسبة ظهور: القيم الرئيسية، والأسرة والقيم الفكرية، ونمط الحياة، والسلوك، والقيم الثانوية، وأخيراً القيم الجمالية. في حين أظهرت النتائج أن الوسائل الإعلامية والقيم الرسمية لم تتمج بالنصوص التي تم فحصها. **الكلمات المفتاحية:** أكشن باك؛ المحتوى الثقافي؛ النصوص الأدبية.

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## Introduction

Integrating literary texts in English language textbooks has been strongly recommended by many scholars and educators. Brumfit (1985), Collie & Slater, (1987), Richards & Rodgers (2001), Choo, (2011) and Bland (2018) argued that literary texts are key sources of authentic materials that expand language awareness, cultural awareness and ensure personal growth and involvement. Moreover, literary texts extend literary competence among learners and help them read and enjoy great works of world literature. Several criteria for selecting and evaluating literary texts in EFL textbooks have been suggested by educators and researchers like (Lazar, 2000; Bibby & McIlroy, 2013; Pellicer-Ortin & Romo Mayor, 2020). All the criteria have a consensus on the value of choosing literary texts according to students' needs, interests, and level of language proficiency, cultural background, and life experiences.

Despite the strong recommendation of integrating literary works in EFL classroom, numerous researchers (Lima, 2010; Shrouf and Dwaik, 2013; Skela, 2014; Al Faki, 2014; Shamshiri and Zerkarat, 2014) found that existence of literary texts in EFL textbooks is still insufficient either in term of quantity or quality.

In Jordan a core outcome of the Jordanian EFL curriculum is to aid the learners to explore and respond to both Arabic and world literature. Therefore, learners can be enriched in the levels of knowledge, personal values, understanding cultural heritage, and appreciating other cultures (Ministry of Education, 2013). To achieve this outcome, various literary contents, for instance, short poems, short songs, rhymes, simplified short stories, and narratives, have been included in the Jordanian English textbooks; Action Pack. These textbooks are twelve-level English learning series that have been adapted for Jordanian students to help them master language skills and develop cultural, social, cognitive, and “psycho motor” domains (Al- Ghazo and Smadi, 2013). Each level of Action Pack consists of a student's book, a workbook, an audio cassette, and a comprehensive teacher's book.

Analyzing EFL textbooks is a significant and common technique in the field of learning and teaching EFL. It can be a preliminary stage for evaluating the effectiveness of these textbooks. A common procedure for analyzing textbooks is content analysis. It is an important analytical research method, through which supervisors, textbooks' authors, and researchers can define the points of weakness and strength in a given textbook, and decide

to what extent it is suitable for the learners as well as teachers (Al-Ghazo and Smadi, 2013). This methodology, among other methodologies, was applied to analyze different aspects of Action Pack textbooks by many researchers (e.g. BaniAmer and BaniAbdelrhman, 2020; Omari, 2018; Al-Ghazo and Smadi, 2013; Zawahreh, 2012; Zawahreh, 2012; Al-Barakat, Bataineh, Al-Karasneh, Bataineh, 2006). Still, there is a clear shortage of studies that investigated and analyzed the literary texts in Action Pack Series. This fact leads to state the research problem.

#### **Statement of the Problem**

Action Pack textbooks in Jordan have been designed to provide learners with the necessary knowledge, language skills, and information about the English-speaking countries. The content of these textbooks also aims at qualifying Jordanian learners to interact with other cultures. So, several studies have been conducted to explore the appropriateness of these textbooks (BaniAmer and BaniAbdelrhman, 2020; Omari, 2018; Al-Ghazo and Smadi, 2013; Zawahreh, 2012; Zawahreh, 2012; Al-Barakat, Bataineh, Al-Karasneh, Bataineh, 2006). However, there is a current shortage of studies needed to shed the light on the quality and the quantity of the literary texts in Action Pack Series. In other words, it is an essential issue to define whether Action Pack textbooks provide Jordanian learners with the appropriate quality and quantity of literary texts or not. To achieve this, analyzing literary texts in the assigned English textbooks can be a sufficient device.

#### **Purpose and questions of the study**

This study attempts to explore the key-aspects of the involved literary contents in 6 textbooks of Action Pack Series in Jordan for the grades 6,10 & 12 through analyzing their number, length, genres, and authenticity. It also aims at discovering what type of cultural content is employed within these literary texts. Particularly, this study intended to answer the following questions:

1. What are the features of literary texts in Action Pack Series for the grades (6, 10, 12) in terms of their number, genres, length and authenticity?
2. What kinds of cultural content have been included (embedded) in the literary texts in Action Pack textbooks for the grades (6, 10,12)

#### **Operational Definitions:**

The following terms are operationally defined

- **A literary text:** every piece of literary works included in the Jordanian Action Pack textbooks. These literary works are classified under three main literary genres: first, prose fiction mainly short stories and novels, second: poetry in form of poems, songs, and rhymes, third, drama in form of plays.
- **Action Pack Series:** a series of twelve levels of English textbooks approved by the Jordanian Ministry of Education for Jordanian students in public schools for the academic year 2022/2023. This study is concerned mainly with the student's book and the activity book.
- **Cultural content:** the cultural components that are integrated in Action Pack textbooks. The components were classified under main categories including: intellectual values, lifestyles, verbal and non-verbal behavior patterns, media, artistic values, family life and relationship, and minor values, and major values. These categories were adapted from Tuna and Razi (2016) study.

### **Limitations of the study:**

This study is limited to the literary texts in Jordanian English language textbooks "Action pack Series" mainly students' and activity books for the grades (6,10,12).The study is also limited to the Jordanian scholastic year 2022/2023.

### **Literature review**

#### **The Merits of Using Literary Texts in EFL Classrooms**

Although literary texts have not been composed for teaching and learning languages, many academics, and researchers promoted integrating such texts into language curricula, in general, and EFL curricula, in particular for several reasons. Al- Dersi (2013) indicated that literature in EFL classroom makes the process of learning more enjoyable and attractive. That occurs because literature provides a variety of emotional values which aid the reader to get a taste of literature (Isariyawat et al, 2020).

Literary texts in EFL classroom can be employed as valuable resources to enrich learners' language abilities and stimulate language acquisition. Lazar (2000), Lima (2010) and Al-Dersi (2013) argued that literary materials expand language awareness and encourage language acquisition among EFL learners. Duncan and Paran (2017) stated that reading skills and vocabulary development benefit from using literary texts in EFL teaching and learning more than other language skills. Nurrohmah, Suparman, and Sukirlan (2015) concluded to the fact that reading comprehension among

learners who read literary texts is much better than who read non-literary texts.

Burns (2011) mentioned some life skills and abilities, considered as fundamental in “today's world,” that can be enhanced through reading valuable literary works. Instances of these skills and abilities are: interpretation, problem solving, oral and written communication, evidence-based argument, critical thinking, making inferences, and drawing conclusions.

Collie and Slater (1987), Van (2009), Marzban (2015), Al- Saeed and Alenezi ( 2020), and Hamimed (2021) supported the view that the authenticity of literary texts makes them valuable materials in EFL classrooms since exposing EFL learners to authentic texts obliged them to cope with language created basically to native speakers and provides opportunities for authentic communication and collaborative group work.

Brunn (2011) and Hamimed (2021) emphasized the fundamental role of literary materials in EFL classrooms as they provide the learner with a chance to observe how people in other nations communicate, practice, and express their ideas. They also stated that literary works appear as an essential source of the values, perspectives, or ways of living of other people cultures. In this case, learners can compare their own culture and lifestyle with that of the target culture and they will become aware of the cultural similarities and differences.

In 2016, Tuna and Razi outlined 45 cultural components that should be integrated in EFL classrooms. The 45 components were classified under nine categories. These categories include intellectual values, lifestyle, behaviors, media, artistic values, family, minor values, major values, and formal values.

Gomez Rodriguez (2015) classified culture into surface and deep culture. The topics of the surface culture are described as being “static, congratulatory, neutral, and “homogeneous” like holidays, celebrations, food, and geographical sites. The topics of the deep culture are labeled by being “transformative, complex, contentious or congratulatory, and heterogeneous”. Sociocultural norms, beliefs, values and lifestyles are examples of these topics.

### **Action Pack Series in Jordan:**

Action Pack Series, which was selected as EFL textbooks to be taught for Jordanian learners in public schools from grade one through grade twelve, plays a major role by providing the Jordanian learners with the

required knowledge, skills and attitudes. Each level of Action Pack consists of a student's book, a workbook, an audio cassette, and a comprehensive teacher's book. The content of these books contains simplified texts as well as authentic texts to achieve the intended outcomes. Literary texts such as short poems, short songs, rhymes, simplified short stories, and narratives are also part of the content for the purpose of exploring and responding creatively to Arabic and world literature as a way of knowing, developing personal values, understanding Arab- Islamic cultural and appreciating other cultures (Ministry of Education, 2013). Several studies like BaniAmer and BaniAbdelrhman, 2020; Omari, 2018; Al-Ghazo and Smadi, 2013; Zawahreh, 2012; Zawahreh, 2012; Al-Barakat, Bataineh, Al-Karasneh, Bataineh, 2006 were conducted to analyze and evaluate different aspects of Action Pack textbooks. For instance, BaniAamer and Baniabdelrhman (2020) conducted a content analysis study to analyze the values embedded in the literature spots of Action Pack 12. The findings showed that personal and social values were given the highest percentage comparing with the religious values in term of their appearance. Dweik & Al-Sayyed (2015) conducted a study to investigate the cultural content of Jordanian Action Pack 12. The results showed that Action Pack 12 is heavily loaded with Arabic cultural aspects followed by international cultural aspects and finally the British Cultural aspects. The fundamental reason for conducting this study is the clear shortage of studies that investigated and analyzed the literary texts in Action Pack Series.

### **Method and procedures:**

The population of this study consists of all the literary texts in both student's and activity books in the 12 levels of Action Pack Series in Jordan. The sample of the study consists of the literary texts in 6 textbooks for the grades (6, 10, 12). The sample of the study was purposefully chosen to represent the three educational stages: lower basic stage (1-6), upper basic stage (7-10), and the secondary stage (11-12).

A content analysis was conducted to investigate the number, genres, length, and authenticity of the literary texts in 6 Action Pack textbooks for the grades (6, 10, 12). A table was built to collect the data. The 6 books of Action Pack Series were scanned page by page to detect the number and genre of the literary texts. The total number of words for the investigated text determine its length. Literary texts were classified to non-authentic, simplified, or authentic texts in term of their authenticity. This classification was adopted from Bakhshizadeh's (2018) study. The non-authentic texts

according to Bakhshizadeh are mainly written by a non-native for language learning purposes like teaching a particular structure or vocabulary. Contrariwise, authentic texts are written for natives and contain "real" language. Finally, the simplified texts are basically authentic texts. As for the cultural content in the literary texts in Action Pack textbooks, the researcher followed Tuna and Razi (2016) classification of the cultural components. According to Tuna and Razi (2016) the cultural components were classified under nine main categories including:

- **“Intellectual Values:** Thoughts, habits, beliefs, traditional values, etiquette, ethics, and ideas.
- **Lifestyles:** Unique dances, unique jewelry, hobbies, particular skills, unique tools, dressing habits, food, and games.
- **Behaviors:** Non - verbal behavioural patterns, verbal behavioural patterns, other behavioural patterns, means of communication, and reactions to particular situations.
- **Media:** Television shows, news broadcasts, popular web sites, advertising, scientific / technological accomplishments, and printed materials such as newspapers and magazines.
- **Artistic Values:** Music, cinema, art, and literature.
- **Family:** Family life, taboos, relationships, and daily life.
- **Minor Values:** Public holidays, weather conditions, traffic rules, and travel habits.
- **Major Values:** History, geography, and philosophy.
- **Formal Values:** Legal system, politics, and the economy” (p.44).

A cultural checklist was used to analyze literary texts to discover the types of the cultural content within these texts. The validity of this checklist was already measured by Tuna and Razi (2016). The reliability of the cultural checklist was obtained by analyzing a sample of (11) literary texts shaping (55%) of the total number of the literary texts (21) by two independent analysts; the researcher and another analysts. The examined literary texts were chosen to represent the three grade levels (6,10,12). Holsti's inter-coder reliability formula was applied to find the agreement between the analysts:

$$C.R. = \frac{2M}{N1 + N2}$$

Where C.R. referred to coding reliability, M referred to the number of cases that the coders were in agreement, and N1 and N2 referred to the number of coding cases made by the first and the second coders. The accepted level of agreement among the coders should be 85% or more

according to Hoilsti (1969). The percentage of agreement between the researcher and the other rater was 91%, which is statistically acceptable for this study.

### **Findings**

Findings Related to Question One:

“What are the features of literary texts in Action Pack Series for the grades (6, 10, 12) in terms of their number, genres, length, and authenticity?”.

#### **A: Findings related to the number, genres and length of the literary texts**

**Table 1. The number, genres and length of literary texts in Action Pack textbooks for grades (6,10,12)**

Textbook	Number of literary texts	Genres of literary texts	Length of literary texts
Action Pack 6	10	4 songs	Range ( 59-65) words Mean of texts length = 61 words
		6 short stories	Range (97-197) words Mean of texts length = 148 words
Action Pack 10	5	3 short stories	Range (170- 520) words Mean of texts length = 366 words
		1 extract of novel	1065 words
		A stanza of poem	34 words
Action Pack 12	6	2 poems	Range (105 -180) words Mean of texts length = 143 words
		Extracts of 2 novels	Range (514- 730 ) words Mean of texts length = 622 words
		scene of a play	(191) words
		1 short story	127 words

Table 1 shows that 10 literary texts are included in the 6th grade student's and activity books of Action Pack Series. Learners at this grade are exposed to 4 songs and 6 simple short stories. The songs range in length between 59- 65 words with a mean of texts length 61 words. The 4 songs are presented as closing activities of some units in the student's book of 6<sup>th</sup> grade. The 6 stories were distributed equally in both the student's and activity book and range in length between 97-197 words with an average 106 words. The stories were written as supporting texts to represent the vocabulary, grammar and any language items studied during the unit. All the literary texts in this stage are non-authentic.

Student's and activity books of Action Pack 10 contain 5 literary texts including 3 short stories, one stanza of a poem and one extract of a novel.

Four texts out of five are presented in the student's book. It is worth to mention that all the literary texts in the student's book of 10th grade; an extract of novel and two short stories, appeared at the end of the book under the title "Extra reading" except the stanza of a poem. The stories range in length between 170- 520 words with an average 366 words. The stories in the student's book were about Muslim inventors more specifically; Abbas Ibn Firnas and Al Jazari. The extract of a novel is a 1065 words long. It is a simplified version of "Treasure Island" novel which was written by Robert Louis Stevenson. Only a stanza of 34 words is presented to 10th grade students. This stanza is quoted from Julia Abigail Fletcher Carney poem's "Little Things" This stanza is the only authentic literary texts in Action Pack 10 whereas the three short stories are non-authentic text. As for the extract of novel, it was classified as simplified text.

Students are introduced to four different literary genres in Action Pack 12, including poetry, drama, novels, and short stories. There are six literary texts in this level: two extracts of novels, two poems, a speech from a play and a short story. With the exception of the short story, all the literary texts are introduced to the Jordanian students in a separated section titled "literature spot". Thomas Hood's "I Remember, I Remember" is one of the poems. It is a 180 words poem. The second poem is "A Green Cornfield" by Christina Rossetti and it is a 105 words. The two poems are authentic texts with an average of 143 words long. The learners are also exposed to a famous speech from "As You like It" by William Shakespeare. It is a 191 words act. It is the only appearance of drama in the three investigated levels. As for the novels, a summary of the novel "The Old Man and the Sea" by Ernest Hemingway and an excerpt from the novel "Around the World in Eighty Days" by Jules Verne with a word count ranging from 514 to 730 words and an average of 622 words long. Only a single non-authentic short story was appeared in Action Pack 12. The total number of its words is 127. It was employed to represent the use of the past perfect continuous tense. Regarding to the texts authenticity, three authentic texts were employed in Action Pack12 including the poems and the speech from William Shakespeare's "As You like It." The extracts of the novels were classified as simplified texts and the short story was labeled as non-authentic text.

#### **B: Findings related to the authenticity of the literary texts:**

Twenty-one literary texts from three levels of Action Pack textbooks were examined to determine their authenticity. The percentages of authentic,

simplified, and non-authentic literary texts among the 21 texts evaluated are shown in Table 2.

**Table.2 Number and Percentage of the literary texts in terms of authenticity.**

Textbooks	Non-authentic		Simplified		Authentic	
	Number of texts	Percentage	Number of texts	Percentage	Number of texts	Percentage
<b>6</b>	10	100%	0	0%	0	0%
<b>10</b>	3	60%	1	20%	1	20%
<b>12</b>	1	17%	2	33%	3	50%
<b>Total</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>67%</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>14%</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>19%</b>

Table 2 shows that 67% of the examined literary texts were non-authentic texts. 14 literary texts out of 21 were non-authentic. All the literary texts in Action Pack six; 4 songs and 6 short stories, are non-authentic whereas for grade 10, three out of five literary texts were non-authentic with a percentage 60% of the analyzed literary texts. The non-authentic texts in Action Pack 10 include the 3 short stories. As for Action Pack 12 only the short story is the non-authentic literary text with a percentage 17%. The extract from Robert Louis Stevenson's "Treasure Island" is the sole simplified text that accounts for 20% percentage of the analyzed literary texts in Action Pack 10. The simplified texts in Action Pack 12 are 33% of the examined texts including the summary of the novel "The Old Man and the Sea" by Ernest Hemingway and an excerpt from the novel "Around the World in Eighty Days".

It is worth to mention that poetry is the only authentic literary genres represented in 10 and 12 Action Pack textbooks. In Action Pack 10 only a stanza of a poem which accounts 20% of the total texts was classified as authentic text. As for Action Pack 12, learners are exposed to poetry through 2 poems; "I Remember, I Remember" and "A Green Cornfield" as well as a speech from "As You Like it". In this level, authentic texts account for 50% of the total literary texts.

#### **Findings Related to Question Number Two:**

The results of the analysis that aimed at answering the second question which enquire about the kinds of cultural content that have been embedded in the literary texts in Action Pack textbooks for the grades (6, 10, 12) were presented in table 3.

**Table 3 The frequencies and percentages of the cultural content in the literary texts in Action Pack ( 6, 10, 12).**

Cultural content	Action Pack 6 textbook		Action Pack 10 textbook		Action Pack 12 textbook		Total of cultural content		order
	Freq.	Perc.	Freq.	Perc.	Freq.	Perc.	Freq.	Perc.	
<b>Intellectual values</b>	2	6%	8	21%	10	16%	20	15%	<b>2</b>
<b>Lifestyles</b>	3	9%	2	5%	13	21%	18	14%	<b>3</b>
<b>Behaviors</b>	4	13%	0	0%	11	18%	15	11%	<b>4</b>
<b>Media</b>	0	0%	0	0%	0	0%	0	0%	<b>7</b>
<b>Artistic values</b>	4	13%	1	3%	1	2%	6	5%	<b>6</b>
<b>Family</b>	11	34%	4	11%	5	8%	20	15%	<b>2</b>
<b>Minor values</b>	1	3%	2	5%	7	12%	10	8%	<b>5</b>
<b>Major values</b>	7	22%	21	55%	14	23%	42	32%	<b>1</b>
<b>Formal values</b>	0	0%	0	0%	0	0%	0	0%	<b>7</b>
<b>Total</b>	<b>32</b>		<b>38</b>		<b>61</b>		<b>131</b>		

The results in table 3 show that the cultural aspects which scored the highest frequencies and percentages in the examined literary texts are the major values, intellectual values, family and lifestyle. These categories have scored 32%, 15%, and 14% respectively. Both intellectual values and family have scored the same percentage. While with the cultural aspects: behaviors, minor values, and artistic values have received 11.7%, 8.6%, 4.7% respectively. The cultural aspects media and formal values were completely ignored in the analyzed texts. Both aspects received 0%.

#### **The cultural aspects in the literary texts in Action Pack 6**

Among other cultural aspects, family relationship and daily life has ranked first in term of the appearances in the examined texts in 6th grade textbook. It was employed 11 times and accounting for 34% of the total. The analyzed literary texts described the relationship between the family members, their duties, the relationship with their relatives.

The examined literary texts highlighted only geography as a major cultural value. The focus was on Arabian geographical locations particularly Aqaba, UAE, Abu Dhabi and the desert. These places were mentioned 7 times and received a 22% rating.

Behaviors and artistic values ranked third with 4 frequencies and 13% for each one. The texts highlighted reading habit as a nonverbal behavior and thankful and apology as verbal behaviors. The music, which is combined to the songs, provides the learners with artistic values in this

stage.

Analyzing the literary texts in Action Pack 6 showed that only 9% of the total cultural content was given to the lifestyle. Texts mentioned life in tents as a part of Arabic culture. In addition, some sports like hiking and snorkeled were motioned as lifestyle patterns.

Some ideas and ethics about the importance of respecting the history as well as the future and the virtue of helping others are examples of the intellectual values embedded in the examined literary texts. This cultural aspect appeared shyly at a rate of 9%. The single mention of the minor values as cultural aspects in Action Pack 6's literary materials was a description of the weather conditions in Aqaba. This aspect percentage was the lowest among the employed aspects, at 3%.

#### **The cultural aspects in the literary texts in Action Pack 10**

About 55% of the cultural content that embedded in the literary texts of Action Pack 10 was classified under major values aspect; particularly geography, history and philosophy. This percentage is the highest among other cultural aspects. The learners were exposed to Arabic and Islamic culture as well as the target and international cultures. Regarding to the historical values; different ancient civilizations such as the Chinese, Egyptian, Indian and Persian have been mentioned in the examined literary texts. Some Arab and Islamic historical characters were also mentioned, namely Abbas Ibn Firnas and Al Jazari. Their lives, inventions and books were presented in the form of short stories. Geographical places like England, Cordoba, Diyarbakir and the desert were settings for different literary works like Treasure Island and stories about Abbas Ibn Firnas and Al Jazari. Some literary texts highlighted some philosophical perspectives. An example of these perspectives is the stanza from Julia Abigail Fletcher Carney poem's "Little Things" which emphasized the secret of happiness.

*Treasure Island*" is the literary text which presented to tenth grade students with some ethical values mainly the virtue of helping people; like when Jim Hawkins; the hero of "*Treasure Island*" decided to help the pirate who was hurt and when Ben Gunn helped Jim Hawkins to get to the citadel. The short story" *AL Jazari*" offered some scientific ideas to the learners like the mechanism of using water and weight to run Al Jazari's the water clock. This cultural aspect appeared 8 times and ranked 21% of the total appearance of the cultural content in Action Pack 10's literary texts.

In Action Pack 10, family life and relationships were ranked third as a cultural component with 11% percentage and 4 frequencies. For example

the text "Treasure Island" presents an example of the strong relationship between family members in order to solve difficulties and assist one another when Jim Hawkins and his mother worked hard in the hotel because of the illness of his father.

Both lifestyle and the minor values have scored the same percentage and frequencies. Each aspect was repeated twice and achieved 5%. An example of dressing habits of Arabic people as a part of their lifestyle in the past was presented in the story of Abbas Ibn Firnas. The text mentioned that Abbas was wearing a cloak. The lifestyle of the pirates was also described in "*Treasure Island*." Regarding to the minor values, the only one that was highlighted was the change of the weather condition between day and night.

In Action Pack 10, the ratio of the artistic values in the literary texts were 3%. The narrator of one of the literary works, namely the short story in the Activity book, describes how fathers convey old stories to their kids "My father told us old stories about the people who travelled constantly and who passed through these areas". This quotation clarified how literature of certain culture passes from one generation to another.

The cultural aspects media and formal values and behaviors were completely ignored in the literary texts In Action Pack 10. The three aspects received 0%.

### **The cultural aspects in the literary texts in Action Pack 12**

The results of analyzing the literary texts in Action Pack 12 revealed that among other cultural aspects, the major values, particularly geography and history, achieved the highest percentage (23%). Several places, like Jerash, Cuba, Africa, India, Kholby, Bombay, Hong Kong, Calcutta and Allahabad were mentioned in the literary texts especially in the novel "*Around the World in Eighty Days*".

Lifestyle, as a cultural component of the literary texts in Action Pack 12, has been ordered second with percentage 21% and 13 frequencies. Jordanian learners are exposed to new and different lifestyles through reading the given literary texts. For example by reading "*The Old Man and the Sea*" the students learn about the lifestyle and the skills of fishermen. The students also distinguish the unique tools of this Job like hooks, harpoon and club. While the novel "*Around the World in Eighty Days*" highlighted the lifestyle in India for instance the text mentioned wearing the Indian shoes as dressing habits for this culture. The text also referred to the habit of using the elephant as a means of transportation and using howdahs, which is something new to the culture of the Jordanian learner.

Behaviors ranked third with a percentage of 18% and 11 frequencies. Numerous verbal and nonverbal behaviors, which reflect different cultures, have been mentioned in several literary texts. An example of the verbal behaviors is using the French expression “Monsieur” in the novel “*Around the World in Eighty Days*”. As for the nonverbal behaviors, the act of the play “*All the World’s a Stage*” highlighted some international nonverbal behaviors, for instance a school boy attitudes toward the school and the soldier behavior in the battle. Santiago’s determination to catch the huge fish and to fight sharks to reach the shore in “*The Old Man and the Sea*” is another example of nonverbal behaviors.

The intellectual values were ordered fourth with percentage of 16% and 10 frequencies. They were presented in form of believes, ideas, ethics and traditional values. Shakespeare’s play “*All the World’s a Stage*” is a clear example of the writer’s thoughts and beliefs about the world and the role of individuals in this world. In “*The Old Man and the Sea*.<sup>1</sup>” Manolin’s ethics were clear through insisting to return the favor to his teacher Santiago. Manolin refused to leave his teacher despite the difficult circumstances and despite the insistence of his parents to leave Santiago, and by taking care of him during his illness. The love of beauty and nature was emphasized in both “*Green Cornfield*” and “*I remember, I remember*” poems.

The minor cultural values that have been mentioned in the literary texts in this stage with percentage of 12% and 7 frequencies are travelling rules and habits beside the weather conditions. Through reading “*Around the World in Eighty Days*” Jordanian learners are educated about the means and the rules of travelling in India. For instance, you need to buy a ticket and present it to a person who is called conductor in order to board a train. But in some places in India the only means of transportation is elephants and it is familiar to sit on the elephant’s neck.

Family life and relationships made up 8% of the overall cultural content that was integrated in Action Pack 12’s literary texts with 5 frequencies. The poem “*I remember, I remember*” and the short story at the student’s book page 19 both highlighted these cultural aspects.

The artistic values appeared once in Action Pack 12 when the narrator of “*Around the World in Eighty Days*” said “The story, set in 1873 CE, is about an Englishman, Mr. Phileas Fogg”. This cultural aspect ranked 2%.

The cultural aspects media and formal values were completely ignored in the literary texts In Action Pack 10. The two aspects received 0%.

## Discussion

As shown in Table 1, the literary genres which presented in Action Pack 6, 10, 12 textbooks are: poetry ( including songs and poems), narrative texts( including short stories, simplified and paraphrased novels), and one dramatic text – a scene from “*As You Like It.*” The results indicated that Jordanian students in grades 6 and 10 are deprived from the opportunity to taste two main literary genres namely poetry and drama. As for drama, it is missing in the two textbooks. As regards poetry, non-authentic songs and a stanza of 34 words were the only types of poetry that appeared in the two textbooks. The researcher believe that the purpose of using literature in EFL classrooms could not be attained by such presence of poetry and the absence of drama. These findings are in line with those of Al-Saeed and Alenezil (2020) and Shrouf and Dwaik (2013).

The results related to the authenticity of literary texts, as presented in Table2, showed that 67% of the texts included in Action Pack for grades 6, 10, 12 are non-authentic, 14% are simplified, and 19% of the texts are authentic. These findings are in accordance with those of Al-Saeed and Alenezil (2020), Farrah (2019) and Shrouf and Dwaik (2013). Some researchers like Campbell (1987) advocated the use of adapted literary texts in EFL textbooks by mentioning when using adapted literary texts the linguistic difficulties of authentic literary texts may be avoided, and EFL learners, as a result, will be able to understand and enjoy reading literary works.

Several criteria for evaluating the cultural content, as a part of English as a foreign language (EFL) textbooks, have been suggested by researchers like Tuna and Razi; 2016, Gholami and Ghasemi; 2018). Those criteria have completely or partly consensus on several cultural components to be integrated in EFL contexts. The components include lifestyle, geography, history, media and communication, family life, art, belief and behaviour.

The findings of the second question, as shown in Table 3, revealed that several cultural components, which reflect the source, target, or international culture, were embedded in the examined literary texts. For instance, number of geographical places and historical incidents were mentioned. The findings also showed that intellectual values (mainly ethics, beliefs and thoughts), family (including family life, daily life and family relationships), lifestyle (in particular dressing habits, particular skills and tools) were pointed. Some verbal and non-verbal behaviors were integrated. The results of this study is in agreement with Dweik and Al-Sayyed (2015), who

analyzed the cultural aspects in Action Pack 12. The results of the two studies indicated that there are cultural aspects that have been integrated into the analyzed textbooks, such as history, literature, family, and dress. While some cultural aspects did not appear such as etiquette as a social behavior.

### Conclusion

This study aimed to investigate the literary texts included in Action Pack Series for the (6, 10, 12) grades in terms of their number, length, literary genre and authenticity. The study also sought to investigate the cultural content of these texts. The results of the study revealed that the analyzed books contained a total of 21 literary texts, most of which were simplified or non-authentic. In addition, some important literary genres, such as drama, only made one appearance in Action Pack 12. Thus, it is necessary to reconsider the number, authenticity and distribution of literary genres included in Action Pack Series. The results also showed that some cultural components were adequately represented in the examined literary texts, while some components were not represented as media and formal values.

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