

The Dialectic Of Oral Narrative As A Leading Source In The Codification And Justification Of Historical Events

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Abstract:

Objectives: This research paper investigates the dialectical relationship between oral narration and oral history as foundational sources of historical and legal knowledge. It seeks to elucidate how oral narratives frequently marginalized within traditional historiography can play a pivotal role in the codification, interpretation, and legitimation of historical events.

Methods: The study adopts a historical–legal methodology grounded in qualitative analysis. It combines a critical review of prior scholarship with the systematic collection of oral testimonies through semi-structured interviews. These testimonies are then evaluated against authenticated archival materials to assess their evidentiary reliability and historical–juridical relevance.

Results: Findings indicate that oral narration, when subjected to rigorous methodological scrutiny, can constitute a credible and complementary evidentiary corpus within historical research. The analysis demonstrates that well-documented oral testimonies provide interpretive depth, particularly in reconstructing events where official records have been lost, censored, or selectively preserved..

Conclusions: The study concludes that integrating oral narration within the broader framework of historical inquiry not only enriches the epistemological foundations of history but also reinforces the principles of historical justice by amplifying marginalized voices and legitimizing suppressed experiences. Such integration ensures that historical reconstruction adheres both to documentary authenticity and to ethical responsibility in preserving collective memory.

Keywords: Oral narration, oral history, historiography, historical sources, oral testimony, legal–historical methodology, collective memory.

Introduction:

The process of compiling historical material has long been a central endeavor of historians and researchers. Despite continuous scholarly efforts, historical sources have remained diverse in nature ranging from written documents to oral narratives. Among these, oral or spoken testimonies have repeatedly proven their value in reconstructing the past, whether by corroborating an event or contesting its occurrence. Consequently, increasing attention has been devoted to collecting, authenticating, and classifying these dispersed narratives to refine the trajectory of historical interpretation and narration. In this context, the present study addresses the following central research question:

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Study hypotheses:

To approach this inquiry from a comprehensive analytical perspective, the study proposes several hypotheses that may assist in clarifying the conceptual and methodological dimensions of the topic:

- _ The tendency to rely on oral narration may stem from a growing scholarly and societal passion to uncover the factual truth behind specific historical events.
- _ The narrative may elevate a particular event to determine whether it represents a myth, a symbolic tale, or an actual historical incident.
- _ Some oral narratives may transcend factual reality and enter a realm of exaggeration, boasting, or selective recollection, which requires critical historical verification.

Problem of the Study:

Several previous studies have addressed the relationship between oral narratives and historical documentation, forming a theoretical foundation for the present research. Among the most relevant works are: Ibrahim Bouchich et al., *Oral History: Approaches to Concepts, Methodology and Experiences*, Vol. 1, Arab Center for Research and Policy Studies, Beirut, 2015; Najat Salim Mahasis, *Keys to the World of History*, Dar Zahran for Publishing and Distribution, Amman, 2010; and Nariman Ismail Metwally and Ghada Abdel Moneim, *Research Methods in the Twenty-first Century*, Academic Library, Cairo, 2013. These studies collectively emphasize the novel—or oral narrative—as a legitimate source of historical knowledge when examined through a sound methodological framework.

Objectives of the Study:

- ✓ means of reconstructing and extrapolating history.
- ✓ To demonstrate how oral narratives contribute to unveiling concealed dimensions of past eras, particularly where written records are limited or absent.
- ✓ To examine the cognitive and methodological integration between tangible documentary evidence and oral testimonies within the historical research process,

1. Oral Narration And Its Relationship To Historical Oral Sources:

Historians unanimously agree that historical sources constitute the foundation upon which historical research is built. Once the authenticity of these sources is verified, the resulting historical analysis acquires substantial scholarly value. Such sources serve as the primary material for historical interpretation and critical reconstruction of the past (Captain, 2008, p33) Among these contemporary sources that document events or factual accounts, narratives and oral histories hold particular significance (Ibiid, p33)

The relevance of legal release agreements within oral history practice becomes particularly evident. Although such agreements are fundamental to ensuring the lawful use and ethical preservation of oral testimonies

and ethical collection, storage, and use of testimonies, they are often treated superficially, resulting in potential ambiguities that may compromise the reliability of historical records. The controversy surrounding the release agreement executed by former U.S. Supreme Court Justice Thurgood Marshall with the Library of Congress illustrates the profound consequences that a single ambiguous clause can trigger, affecting access rights, authorship, and the integrity of historical narratives.

This case exemplifies the delicate intersection between legal frameworks and historical truth, highlighting emphasizing that linguistic precisioin legal documents is essential to safeguard

collective memory and institutional credibility. By ensuring clarity and rigor in legal release agreements, oral history programs can strengthen the authenticity of recorded testimonies, to safeguard both collective memory and institutional credibility to enhance the overall reliability and credibility of oral historical research (Neuenschwander 2014, pp3_4)

Marginalized communities and localized acts of resistance, gain both historical and legal legitimacy through rigorous oral history methodologies and carefully drafted legal release agreements. Adherence to ethical protocols ensures testimonies are defensible in legal contexts and credible for historical analysis. By integrating methodological precision, media-sensitive practices, and robust legal oversight, oral historians transform personal recollections into authoritative sources that bridge gaps in archival records and reinforce collective memory. Topically arranged chapters, with oral history excerpts woven into the narrative, enhance both coherence and evidentiary reliability. Use of these interviews in documentaries and public broadcasts demonstrates their enduring value. Storytelling techniques aimed at broad audiences, systematic archiving, and the availability of high-quality recording and editing technologies further ensure oral testimonies remain credible historical evidence and ethically secure records of collective memory (Ritchie 2011, P305)

However, despite these methodological and legal safeguards, oral testimonies still face significant challenges when presented as judicial evidence challenges when introduced as evidence in judicial proceedings. Appellate judges often lack direct exposure to witnesses, limiting their ability to assess credibility and distinguish fact from fiction. Indigenous communities frequently exercise proprietary control over oral narratives, and cultural norms may restrict pre-trial disclosure to external experts. Consequently, reliance on published scholarship alone, while necessary, may inadequately capture the nuanced, localized knowledge inherent in oral testimonies. This situation underscores the necessity for a rigorous legal-historical methodology that preserves both evidentiary integrity and the cultural rights of knowledge-holding communities research often emphasized material culture, mythology, and religious beliefs, largely neglecting Indigenous economic systems, political organizations, and land tenure practices (Mille 2011, pp148-149)

Insufficient. Appellate courts and Crown counsel frequently encounter challenges in securing independent expert testimony due to informant loyalty and concerns over future research opportunities. Recognizing qualified oral historians as independent experts allows them to provide authoritative testimony. Alternatively, frameworks within criminal law may interpret the Crown's disregard for oral traditions as a "wilful tort," while Aboriginal legal principles could be formally acknowledged within mainstream systems, linking oral histories to universally recognized community norms. Oral narratives may also be admitted under hearsay exceptions, not necessarily to establish factual truth, but to convey community perceptions at the time of events. Elders or community leaders, if recognized by peers and their communities, can serve as experts, ensuring reliability and credibility. Established common-law principles, such as the reputation doctrine dating back to the 17th century, allow widely acknowledged community knowledge to shift evidentiary burdens. Moreover, oral histories can be analogized to ancient documents, providing a strong legal basis for their admissibility to support collective memory and historical reconstruction (Ibid, pp. 149-150)

Beyond legal frameworks, the credibility of oral history also depends on broader epistemological and institutional contexts. The value of oral narratives should not be perceived as an inherent or absolute attribute residing within the testimony itself. Rather, it emerges as a socially constructed phenomenon, shaped through institutional frameworks, legal standards, and culturally mediated practices. Legal recognition, ethical protocols, and historical validation now serve as key markers of reliability and credibility, reflecting collective assessments within

the historiographical and judicial context. This paradigm positions historians, oral practitioners, and legal mediators as interpreters operating within a network of social, legal, and epistemic relations. Consequently, the evaluation of oral testimonies transforms into a rigorous interpretive act grounded in contextual understanding, ethical standards, and methodological rigor rather than in the intrinsic content of the account alone. Such a perspective underscores how institutions—whether judicial, archival, or academic—establish legitimacy through codified procedures and critical scrutiny, ensuring that oral history contributes reliably to both legal and historical knowledge (D. A. Ritchie 2015, p49).

This conceptual shift leads to a deeper reflection on the epistemology of memory and its role in historical narration. By integrating recorded voices into museums and public spaces, oral history no longer functions as a mere archive but as an active dialogue between the witness, the listener, and the place of memory. This reconfiguration decentralizes the historian's authority and allows marginalized voices to reclaim their agency in shaping historical discourse. Hence, listening becomes not only an aesthetic act but also a moral engagement with the past, bridging personal experience and collective remembrance (Thomson 2016, p449).

Building on this conceptual transformation, the epistemological foundations of oral history lie in the recognition that memory and narration are not mere vehicles of information but complex social constructs that shape the way communities perceive and transmit their past. Through storytelling, individuals transform personal experience into collective understanding, producing a shared version of truth that transcends written documentation. This perspective situates oral history within the broader philosophy of knowledge, emphasizing that historical reality is mediated through linguistic and cultural frameworks rather than objective neutrality. Building upon these philosophical foundations, modern social sciences—particularly anthropology and sociology—have further institutionalized oral history as an academic discipline. This transition marked a methodological shift from textual criticism to the study of living traditions, oral performances, and community-based modes of historical transmission (Researcher's comment). Recognition of these communities as sovereign entities, endowed with both territorial authority and autonomous governance over cultural matters. Consequently, the utilization of archival materials, including oral recordings, demands strict adherence to culturally sensitive and ethically sound protocols. In 2006, a collective of nineteen archivists, librarians, museum curators, historians, and anthropologists—representing fifteen Native American, First Nation, and Aboriginal communities—convened in Arizona to establish the First Archivists Circle. This body developed and codified best professional practices for the culturally responsible stewardship and use of traditional materials held by non-tribal institutions, ensuring both the legal defensibility and historical credibility of the collected oral testimonies (Placeholder1 p. 56). Although memories are a mixture of facts and personal viewpoints, they weave the threads of historical events based on the experiences of the narrators who lived through them (Watan, 2021). Additionally, the historical novel captures its themes from history, relying on and focusing on human conflict and the turmoil of human emotions (Small, 2017, p109).

Initially, in *History of History*, Wajih Kawtharani discusses how human civilizations have long recognized historical narratives in various forms. He explains that, through extensive development, human thought has learned to distinguish between myth and historical reality. Moreover, Kawtharani notes that in Western civilization, this knowledge was termed "Historiography," while in Islamic Arabic civilization, it was known as "blogging news." Additionally, significant efforts have been made from the fifteenth century BC to the present day to critique and refine historical knowledge. Consequently, the science of history emerged from these efforts, with notable figures like Herodotus, the "father of history," contributing significantly. Finally, it is important to note that among Arabs, historical science initially

developed orally through transmitted narratives (Ghanayem, 2022, p34)

It can also be said that the credit for rehabilitating oral history is largely due to anthropologists and sociologists. These disciplines were pioneers in utilizing oral narratives as a foundational element of field research, which garnered international acclaim for their early work. From the late nineteenth century, significant efforts were made to collect and preserve folklore from tribes and peoples with rich oral traditions. By the 1920s, the field saw a marked increase in works based on oral history, as researchers began conducting interviews with informants to document personal experiences and historical events. This practice became a crucial tool in anthropology and sociology. Furthermore, since the 1950s, oral testimonies have gained recognition among historians, evolving into a valuable supplementary source alongside traditional historical records (Tahtah, 2014,p33)

And therefore, the significance of oral narration becomes particularly evident in the absence of written records. It serves as a crucial tool for revising historical accounts penned by influential figures who may have intentionally omitted the contributions of many who played a part. Consequently, when comprehensive documentation of a historical event is lacking, oral narratives offer invaluable support by highlighting the roles of ordinary individuals who were involved or lived through the event (Ziada, 2008, p360)

2. Interest In Collecting Oral Narratives And Narratives:

The study of oral history gained prominence in the early 1950s when it was established as a vital historical source. Oral history captures the lived experiences, thoughts, and emotions of people and reflects the prevailing economic, social, political, and cultural systems in ways that written records often cannot. Some scholars argue that recorded history evolved from oral traditions, which included folktales, legends, epics, biographies, anecdotes, proverbs, and folk songs. Before writing was introduced, history consisted mainly of myths conveyed through oral narratives. Ancient civilizations, such as the Egyptians, Babylonians, and Assyrians, often included supernatural elements in their stories. In pre-Islamic Arabia, oral tradition featured narratives of pride and criticism. These traditions, known as the "Days of the Arabs," provided a pre-Islamic historical record and were transmitted orally until they began to be documented during the Umayyad period. With the advent of Islam, the Arabs continued to value their historical and cultural heritage (Sakina, 2021, p155)

Historians often face challenges due to insufficient archival documents, which typically reflect the viewpoints of discredited governments rather than resistance. In newly established states in Asia and Africa, where written records often mirrored colonial perspectives, oral history has been used to recover suppressed national identities. For example, after the Soviet Union dissolved, Russian and Eastern European oral historians began reexamining and revising distorted official histories by collecting personal testimonies repressed under communist regimes. In Brazil and Argentina, oral history projects focused on documenting experiences from military dictatorships to highlight the victims of state terrorism. Similarly, in post-apartheid South Africa, oral history became a key tool for truth and reconciliation, essential for addressing issues of repression and reconciliation in many countries. Like all research sources, oral history should be cross-checked with other evidence to assess its reliability (Ritchie, 2003, pp23-26)

Thus, The use of oral history has grown dramatically in size and sophistication since the beginning of World War II and after. With the recent definition of the field of public history and the growing interest in "history from below" (a focus on the experiences of ordinary people rather than elites) that began in the 1960s, the collection of new historical sources has evolved

significantly. Interview techniques may also vary, with people sometimes thinking of interviews on historical topics as oral history. Oral historians use and benefit from journalistic techniques, and many academic historians whose work focuses on the history of the twentieth and twenty-first centuries have conducted interviews to gather their information (Quinlan, 2009, pp01-03). Therefore Modern oral history has been spearheaded by historian Ronald J. Grele, who founded the Oral History Teaching Unit at Columbia University in New York City in 1971, making it the world's first university to establish a dedicated oral history department. Grele began conducting oral interviews in 1965 and, based on these narratives, authored a history of ordinary Americans. Historian Lawrence Goodwyn attended the oral history program at Duke University in North Carolina, where Goodwyn's students wrote about the history of the civil rights movement based on oral testimonies. Another significant initiative in the field of oral history is Sadet (South African Democracy Education Trust), a project established in South Africa in 1999 under President Thabo Mbeki. The project's objective is to study the period between 1960 and 1994 through interviews with ordinary African citizens about their struggles and experiences in liberating themselves from the apartheid regime, which had ruled South Africa since 1948 until its abolition. These efforts collectively highlight the importance of oral history in documenting and understanding personal and collective experiences (Rawdat Ghanayem, op, cit, page 35)

3. Embodiment Of Oral Narration Of Oral History :

The novel draws inspiration from the essence of history, even after its cultural ties to civilization have been diminished, reducing it to mere numbers, statistics, and historical artifacts. It retains internal questions and transforms them into a literary reality governed by poetic principles. Despite this, the novel evokes both actual and hypothetical realities, driving the movement toward positive change. It addresses the blurred lines between myth and reality, presenting a transcendent narrative that intertwines the real with the imagined, the event with the hypothetical, and the distant dream with the near hope. Indeed, entire peoples continue to live by mythical truths, where the boundaries between expansive imagination and limited reality are indistinguishable (International, 2011,p191)

Determining the historicity of a novel seems challenging, particularly given the perspective that a novel is inherently historical, or the belief that every past moment, whether recent or distant, becomes part of history. The term "historical novel" may apply to texts that make the distant past, which lacks influence in the present, an essential component of the narrative. Thus, historical novels are often seen as writing about ancient periods or their impact on the present, such as events from the Middle Ages, the Ottoman Empire, or the lives of historical figures like Christ, Magellan, and Genghis Khan. The previous description of the historical novel may be merely a procedural definition that does not negate the historical propositions of each text (Abd El Allah, 2018,p69)

Through oral narration, she tracks the frequent recounting of past historical events that are not documented in writing but have been passed down by descendants. In African societies, a specific category of individuals, commonly referred to as narrators, has traditionally specialized in oral storytelling. These groups have developed a distinct system and rigorous rules governing their craft, which lends a degree of credibility to their narratives. Oral traditions have been a crucial resource for bridging the gaps left by the scarcity of written historical texts, particularly in the study of West African history during the Middle Ages. Delafosse was the first to significantly incorporate oral narratives from the peoples of the Mali Empire in his book "Haut-Sénégal et le Niger." However, he did not standardize the names of his local informants. Since 1960, African researchers have increasingly focused on preserving and documenting their local

oral heritage to prevent its loss (Issa, 2009, p16)

Accordingly, it is necessary to verify the authenticity of the original and ensure it is free from all intrigue or forgery. We must verify the historian's identity, explore his personality, study the place where he lived and the time in which he wrote his accounts, and assess his inclinations, tendencies, degree of knowledge, intelligence, and connection with the incidents he narrates. We must also consider the time and place in which this news was written to reach the truth we seek. If this process falters, it may lead us into erroneous or false news, causing us to fall into the shafts of misguidance and deception (Rustam, 2020,p25)

Whereas Oral History is an audible history, although many scholars in this field advocate for integrating it with visual elements. For instance, Public Library Quarterly recently published an article showcasing successful models from various libraries that compile oral history interviews and transform them into illustrated publications, slides, videos, exhibits, radio plays, and other formats. These efforts enhance the presentation of historical materials. Moreover, the availability of oral history libraries to the public is a significant development. In this context, the Catholic Library magazine highlighted the crucial role of librarians in managing and disseminating oral history materials. This article underscores how librarians contribute to making the contents accessible to users. Additionally, the study includes a selected bibliography for office use, featuring handbooks on oral history theory and applications, articles on legal aspects, periodicals on the subject, and guides for locating oral history collections (Metwally, 2013, pp131-133)

This is because much was lost and very important this news before the beginning of the knowledge of Muslims to record history, as most of it was transmitted by oral narration. After Muslims entered the stage of codification, the Abbasid era witnessed a wonderful development in the curricula of Muslims, represented in their tendency towards personalization, taking note of details, historical analysis and composing a kind of short messages about historical events, and the news ended up with a new approach in recording history among Muslim scholars within the continuity on the one hand and the coordination of various historical materials on the other hand, and this news was initially narrated orally, narrated by its owners about those who saw and participated in it or narrated it from other narrators who contacted its origins. The first through contemporary, then came a generation to record these oral news in letters in the form of books and abounded these letters and books to Baghdad starting from the beginning of the third century AH, and thus turned news and oral narratives into news and written messages (Khader, 1995, pp178,179)

therefore iMany the modern nera have sought to arouse Muslim in the glories of their history and the greatness of their past. They rewrote history, but there were those who wrote in the history of Islam according to the approach of the ancient Muslim narrators with some improvement, as is the case in the lectures on Islamic history of Sheikh Mohamed Al-Khudari (1872-1927), who had no connection with the world of Orientalism or new research, and what was followed in his writings modern curricula and then appeared who writes history with a modern methodology and knowledge of Islamic and Western sources, and the movement of Orientalism flowing activity (Al-Karawi, 2010, p16)

4. The Extent To Which The Narrated Testimonies Are Familiar With History:

The historian of contemporary events also utilizes oral testimonies from eyewitnesses who experienced the events firsthand or were directly involved. However, the inherent subjectivity of these testimonies and the potential for interviewees to either defend themselves or embellish their achievements can explain why some historians are hesitant to rely on such sources. In some cases, their reluctance is rooted more in principled objections than in genuine scholarly

concerns (Hani, 1971, p20)

Whereas, Oral sources present numerous challenges for researchers and exhibit certain distinctive features that warrant attention. One key aspect is the revival of memory (Mohamed al-kadhi et others, 2010, p333), which involves assessing whether the historian personally witnessed the event and had a vested interest in it. This requires a thorough examination of additional documents related to the event. Historians often concentrate more on specific aspects of history rather than on crafting comprehensive general histories (Abd-al Rahim, 2022,p153) In the long run, several initiatives have emerged, including "Voice of Witnesses: Palestine Speaks," which documents narratives of life under occupation, and the Project on Oral History and Living Memory in Cyprus (COHP), both of which we can rely on for recording and preserving oral history (Kristina R Llewellyn, (w.d), p 32), The novel employs a precise approach with profound rulings recognized by scholars. They distinguish between authentic and flawed narrations, referring to authoritative imams for validation. While some narrations are universally accepted for their accuracy, others are deemed unreliable. The novel's importance in Islamic civilization stems from its role as a key source of knowledge. Abu Hilal Al-Askari defined narrations as statements that can be true or false, focusing on reports about others. Effective verification and documentation are crucial for preserving and transmitting knowledge (Shami, 2020, p58)

Thus, oral narratives are subsequently transformed into written texts. As Paul Ricoeur articulated, the purpose of writing history is to pass down each generation's experiences to the next, preserving its authority or at least rationalizing and guiding the future. A text functions as a living organism with an intricate structure and interconnected elements, influenced by the historical and objective conditions from which it originates. Understanding its various aspects, questions, answers, and nuances provides insight into its interpretive and diagnostic implications. This process is a testament to human history in any language, as long as it remains authentic (Ismail, 2016,p332)

The purpose of historical research is to shed light on the present. The materials used in historical research are inherently current and existent; history does not involve something entirely past and disconnected. A researcher should follow the prevailing ideas, opinions, and interests of their time. A historian cannot separate themselves from their own environment, nor should they attempt to, if their goal is to understand their surroundings and themselves. In essence, all history is contemporary history. Anyone who rightfully bears the title of "historian" is, whether they realize it or not, a philosopher. We make this statement not merely for the sake of wordplay, but because it reflects a deeper truth (Hernshaw, 2020,p16)

Accordingly Historical novels document real events from the past, with their facts, characters, and settings derived from history. They are typically categorized into three types: Era Novels provide a broad overview of a specific historical period, with characters primarily representing the era's general outline, as seen in Barthélemy Datha Crassis's 1788 Greek novel. Historical Fiction blends real historical settings with imaginative elements, allowing exploration of past glories and adventures. Historical Novels of Society relate past events to contemporary society, showing continuity from past to present and highlighting the connection between history and current life. These novels focus on everyday life and strive to avoid taking sides between the past and present (Ragheb, 1981,pp60-61) there are those who divide oral narration into three types:

A- Oral narrations.

B- Written novels.

C. Illustrated novels, including maps and drawings (Mahasis, 2010, p52)

It is a fact that truth is inherent in history. This may explain the appeal of historical novels,

which attempt to connect past events with the present. While reading a historical novel, the reader feels that the narrative is not merely a product of the author's imagination. Imagination plays a role in shaping the portrayal of life as it was in the past, depicting it without distortion, addition, or omission. However, the narrator might alter the course of historical events to align the artistic construction with their own vision and conscience. To achieve the intended impact and enjoyment in writing a historical novel, the author must engage deeply with history absorbing its events, immersing their feelings in its circumstances, and allowing it to influence their psyche profoundly. This emotional engagement leads the writer to translate their experiences and express their emotions, thus creating a portrayal that reflects their own thoughts and feelings about the historical events. Regarding the novelist's adherence to historical facts, Lukács asserts that "... The novel must be faithful to history, despite its innovative hero and imaginary plot..." (Alkhatib, 2008,pp14,15)

As The critic identifies two main points: first, the need to adhere to historical facts without alteration or falsification, and second, the acceptance of integrating fictional elements and artistic narratives within real historical events. In this context, the novelist has the creative freedom to rearrange and assign roles as desired (Qandilji, 2019,p138). Historians can employ analytical methods in oral history, an important approach that records spoken testimonies through interviews with individuals who have witnessed or participated in significant events. Oral historians preserve these accounts for future generations. These testimonies typically involve in-depth interviews aimed at studying past and recent events. Additionally, biographical studies focus on critical aspects of individuals' lives (Bochich, 2015,pp166-167)

Such and it highlights the value of oral testimony in historical research. Oral history enriches our understanding of the past by offering insights into daily life, personal experiences, and societal attitudes that are often missed in written records. It captures the nuances of individual and collective memories, including those that are repressed or marginalized. Here are some key points from your text: Daily Life and Attitudes: Oral testimonies provide a window into the daily routines, social behaviors, and mental representations of individuals and communities. Memory and Imagination: These testimonies help bridge the gap between past events, present understanding, and future imagination, offering a richer narrative than written sources alone. Hidden Histories: Oral history can reveal experiences and perspectives often overlooked or omitted in written records, such as: Repressed memories of individuals or groups. Experiences of militants, resisters, and victims of oppression. Stories from marginalized or forgotten communities. Narratives from those without written histories. Historical Methodology: Oral history, as an ancient and spontaneous method, plays a crucial role in capturing the human element of historical events. It complements written records and helps historians gain a fuller picture of past events and experiences. By including these oral testimonies, historians can uncover layers of history that written documents alone might not reveal (Al-Adawi and Hafez and others, 2015,pp18,19)

It can be said as well "Memory as a Historical Phenomenon" is directly connected to history, as it is the primary vessel for carrying historical events. Without memory, there would be no foundation for recording history, as historians rely first and foremost on testimonies—accounts from those who witnessed events firsthand. A witness might assert, "Believe me if you wish, or not; I was there." However, historians must be cautious about trusting these memories at face value. They need to critically evaluate and compare various testimonies. A testimony gains significance when it is subject to public scrutiny, allowing the reliability of the witness to be assessed. Since testimonies are based on personal memory, the challenge for historians is to determine how much trust can be placed in each account and to uncover the truth through the comparison and analysis of these diverse testimonies. (Ricoeur, 2009,p16)

5. The Ability Of Oral History To Retrieve The Details Of The Past In Its Entirety:

Oral historians strongly advocate for their approach, viewing it as a solution to the scarcity of documentary sources on recent events, to the point where audio recordings have become their primary reliable source. Nonetheless, they continue to debate the relationship between audio recordings and their transcription, with a focus on achieving accuracy that ensures the transcribed material matches the original audio. Consequently, audio recordings are considered a valuable historical source. Oral historians also suggest that audio recording should be accompanied by a written summary, which historians can use to convert raw material into data suitable for historical analysis, as proposed by L. Star, a prominent oral historian in the United States. Star argues that audio recordings allow historians to capture precise nuances of sound, accents, variations in voice tone, and the emphasis of specific words (Qais, 2013,p243)

Dr. Robert Birt, Director of the National Archives of Sound Recordings at the British Museum, wrote a book titled *Oral History: A Talk of the Past* about thirty years ago, which explores Britain's approach to managing oral history. Dr. Abdul Allah bin Ibrahim Al-Askar translated this book into Arabic in 1424 AH, and it was published by King Abdul Aziz House. The book offers valuable scientific insights into the field of oral history, including its origins, applications, benefits, and methods of publication. It details the preparation required before an oral interview, the necessary equipment, the handling of tapes with oral interviews, and subsequent steps like transcription, archiving, and organization. Al-Askar noted that he and his colleagues established the Center for Oral History at King Abdul Aziz House, developing scientific methods for conducting oral interviews. This experience motivated him to translate the book to support professionals working in this vital area of local heritage (Alqashami, 2023)

According to the methodology of the French sociologist and philosopher Maurice Halbwachs, historical memory (*Mémoire historique*) forms the basis of historical knowledge, while collective memory (*Mémoire collective*) represents a shared interpretation and representation of a group's past. The remembrance and revival of the past in the present tend to be transformative, sometimes mythical, and selective, which contributes to shaping a collective identity and a common view of history (Edali others, 2022,p157)

In this context, Halbwachs notes that oral anecdotes "are useful in history." However, he argues that oral narration holds less historical value when transmitted randomly, as it is influenced by the context in which it is recited and thus becomes less reliable as a historical source. Additionally, he cautions against using poetry as a historical source, as poets often write with purposes beyond factual representation. Halbwachs draws on Aristotle's distinction between the poet and the historian: while the historian narrates events realistically, the poet presents them in a literary and probabilistic manner (Benhada Abd al-Rahim, op, cit , p 152)

Since the novel inevitably passes through two ways, the download, that is, that the narrator hears the news from its source, and the performance, which is to perform the news as memorized or written, and therefore the source of the narration of the news: two types of oral sources, where the oral source in the early eras of Islam is predominant, and written sources that were not widespread at the beginning of the Islamic Arabic civilization due to the dependence of Arab Muslims on oral sources (Samai, 2016)

As can be said, the importance of the historian's reliance on the popular heritage in addition to its traditional sources represented in documents, records, and the testimony of historians. As the combination of these two types of sources, recorded and oral objects, helps the historian to understand the historical phenomenon and draw a holistic picture of it. In view of these roles played by oral narration, researchers of the heritage of primitive peoples and groups without written documents are currently forced to rely primarily on oral narration in particular, and

popular tradition in general, for these groups to extract from it some of their recent or distant history (Khleifi, 2002,p341)

Therefore, oral history serves as a method for preserving records of various lifestyles. It provides a platform for individuals and groups whose experiences and viewpoints might not be documented elsewhere. Through oral history, we hear the narratives of working-class individuals, women, ethnic minorities, and others whose lives are often overlooked. It captures the experiences of those with little societal power, including the poor. The spoken word has the unique ability to convey emotions and sentiments in a way that written text often cannot (Xina, 2019, p11)

Conclusion And Results Of The Study:

Through the study of the topic, the following results can be reached:

- The efforts of historians resulted in the analysis of novels that took cognitive contexts and a historical scientific approach to tell us a set of facts and events and form a format of ideas that return us to history for a certain period of time.
- It can be said that the narrations, even if they are adopted cautiously, but they cannot be overlooked as a source of confirmation of the course of events
- The historical novel provides us with details that may be characters who contributed to the performance of a particular work, dates, or even battles, etc... Therefore, it is indispensable in coordination with the rest of the sources of history, which, if combined, will bring us a significant amount of historical evidence.
- The sayings narrated are considered successive events over successive times.

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