When the novel appeared, as a literary genre, in the 18th century, three major types of narrative techniques were used widely by the early novelists and by those who succeeded them in the 19th century. These types are the autobiographical, the epistolary and the omniscient narrator techniques. The common feature among these three techniques is the domination of a single voice that reflects one point of view about the main incidents of the novel. However these techniques were challenged by the modern novelists who sought realism not only in plot and character portrayal, but also in the technique of narration. Therefore, they introduced new methods of narration that made a revolution in the form and style of narrative arts.

The main purpose of this thesis is to study the narrative techniques used by the American novelist, William Faulkner (1897-1962), in comparison with those used by the Iraqi novelist Ghaib Tu’má Farman:
Ghaib Tu’mā Farman (1927-1990). Two novels by each novelist are chosen for study: *The Sound and the Fury* (1929) and *As I Lay Dying* (1931) by Faulkner and *Five Voices* (1967) and *Shadows on the Window* (1979) by Farman. These novels are chosen because they have a close bearing on the subject of study.

The thesis is divided into three chapters and a conclusion. The first chapter is an introduction which gives a historical and critical survey of the development of narrative techniques from the 18th to the 20th century. It discusses through specific examples, the three traditional methods of narration which are the first person narrator, the epistolary technique, and the omniscient narrator, showing the merits and demerits of each. The chapter also discusses the new techniques that appeared at the beginning of the 20th century such as the stream of consciousness, interior monologue, cinematic devices...etc.

The second chapter is devoted to William Faulkner and his selected novels. It is divided into three sections. The first section gives a short biography of William Faulkner, showing the main experiences and influences that shaped his personality as a man and as a writer. The second and third sections give a detailed analysis of Faulkner’s narrative techniques in *The Sound and the Fury* and *As I Lay Dying* respectively.

The third chapter deals with Ghaib Tu’mā Farman and his selected novels. It is also divided into three sections. The first one presents a brief note of Ghaib Tu’mā Farman’s life and experiences,
concentrating on those that affected his literary works. The second and third sections give a detailed analysis of Farman’s narrative techniques in *Five Voices* and *Shadows on the Window* respectively.

The conclusion sums up the findings of the study.