



THE THEME OF ORPHANHOOD IN THE POETRY OF UZBEK AND ENGLISH LITERATURE

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ABSTRACT

In poetry, the poet always tries to cover the pain and experiences of the people. Poems on the theme of orphanhood in Uzbek and English literature are also important in this regard, as they serve to awaken a sense of humanity and compassion in the heart of the reader.

KEY WORDS. *Poem, poetry, orphan, orphanhood, war, literary theme, motif, social life*

I. INTRODUCTION

It is known that literature is an art that explores the life of the people in different periods and the peculiarities of the human psyche. Fiction fully reflects a person's thoughts, dreams and desires. In this regard, the words of the first President of the Republic of Uzbekistan "In order to understand spirituality, first of all, it is necessary to understand the human being"¹ are of special importance. The reason why literature is called a reflection of life is that it has always served in a sense to embody the period in which the writer lived. For instance, samples of literature created during and after the war, in turn, illustrate the spirit of that time. Along with the themes of patriotism and heroism, the works about orphans and orphanhood also play a significant role in the poems of that period. Because the writers tried to cover the negative consequences of the war by revealing that many children were orphaned as a result of the war.

This article provides an analysis of some examples of poetic work that reflect the plight and pain of orphan children, illustrating the writer's ability to reflect on their inner feelings. It studies and compares the attitude of Uzbek and English authors towards the problem of orphanhood.

II. LITERARY REVIEW

In modern literature there are 5 types of poetics: general, descriptive, normative, theoretical and historical poetics. In historical poetics the genesis of all artistic elements that serve the creation of a

work is studied.² The artistic world and mastery of the writer are revealed in connection with the historical and literary process and the spirit of the time. When we read the poems created during the war, we realize that the representatives of both Uzbek and English literature have a common theme and motive in their work. That is – orphan and orphanhood.

In their poems, poets often described unfortunate mothers sending their children to war and unhappy children who lost their fathers. In Uzbek poetry, this theme is beautifully revealed in the poem "Nido" by Erkin Vahidov, "Sen yetim emassan" by Gafur Gulam, "O'g'lim sira bo'lmaydi urush" by Zulfiya and etc.

In English literature, the theme of orphanhood is deeply rooted in the works of some poets. In particular, William Blake's poetry mostly focuses on the image of homeless and lonely orphans. His "Songs of Innocence and Experience" is fully devoted to this theme. Here can be listed the poems like: "The Falling Leaves" by Margaret Postgate, "For the Fallen" by Robert Laurence Binyon, "Tears of the Orphans" by Hesbon Nyamwaya, "The Little Orphan" by Edgar Albert Guest, "A cry of an orphan" by Ruetry and so on.

III. ANALYSIS

Uzbek writers, who described the scenes and consequences of the war in their poems, mainly tried to reveal the suffering of the common people. We can clearly see it in the poem "Sen yetim emassan"

¹ I. Karimov. Yuksak ma'naviyat - yengilmas kuch. - T.: Ma'naviyat, 2008, 29 - bet

² G. Xalliyeva. Qiyosiy adabiyotshunoslik. - T.: "Mumtoz so'z", 2020, 47- bet, 2020, 47- bet



(“You are not an orphan”) by Uzbek writer Gafur Gulam. When he was 9 his father dies, after 6 years he loses his mother. Staying alone with his sisters and brothers he becomes completely orphan, and does any kind of work in order to support his siblings.³Due to the fact that young Gafur saw all the difficult days caused by war and experienced them in his innocent soul, the feelings of humanity and orphanhood awoke in his heart very early. As he admitted himself, this was the reason why his first poetic pieces were devoted to orphans. “Sen yetim emassan” (“You are not an orphan”) is a poem that brought him fame immediately after it was written. It sings with great skill the patriotic, fraternal and humane feelings of people towards the orphans during the Second World War.

Sen yetim emassan,
Tinchlan, jigarim,
Quyoshday mehribon,
Vataning – onang,
Zaminday vazmin-u,
Mehnatkash mushfiq,
Istagan narsangni tayyorlaguvchi
Xalq bor – otang bor.
Cho`chima, jigarim,
O`z uyingdasan.

*(You are not an orphan, Calm down, my liver, As kind as the sun,
There is the Motherland - like Your mother,
As gentle as an Earth Who is ready to give whatever you want
There are people - you have a father. Don't panic, my liver, you are at home.)*

In these lines, the poet addresses to the orphan child with the aim to calm him down telling that he is not alone, the homeland and the people are with him: to defend, to support, to care. He uses the word “Liver” while addressing to the orphan child. In Uzbek nation the close family members as, siblings often refer to each other with this word and show how dear is this person for them. The poet also tries to say that no child is a stranger, that the Uzbek nation does not leave any orphans by their own and reflects its readiness to take care of them as parents.

In each verse, the author tries to win the heart of an orphan with a kind of paternal kindness convincing him of a bright future. At the same time, he speaks about his own orphanhood and fully embodies the situation of his time. In the following verses we can see that the poet's lonely childhood and experiences are skillfully described.

Мен етим ўтганман,
Оҳ, у етимлик...
Вой, бечора жоним,
Десам арзийди.

³ Jumaboyev M. Bolalar adabiyoti. – T.: “O`qituvchi” nashriyot-matbaa ijodiy uyi, 2004, 61 - bet

Бошимни силашга
Бир меҳрибон кўл,
Бир оғиз ширин сўз
Нондек арзанда.

(I was an orphan, Oh, that orphan hood. It was worth saying. Woe is me, my poor soul. A kind hand To stroke my head, And sweet words To please my heart – are as dear as a piece of bread.)

While reading these verses, the plight of orphans who have lost their parents and home as a result of the war becomes vivid in the eyes of the reader and a strong feeling of compassion awakens in the hearts.

“Nido” by Erkin Vohidov was created as a painful cry from the tongue of a child whose father died in the war. The poet expresses how many children remained with unfulfilled dreams in their hearts because of the war, and how many homes were left in endless sorrow and pain. The reader can clearly understand that the consequences of war injurious mostly for innocent children:

- Мана мен, ўғлингиз,
Дардли оламга
Сиздан танҳо ёдгор,
Сўйланг, отажон!

Сўйланг, бир дақиқа кулоқ солайин,
Овозингиз тинглаб тўёлмаганман.
Бир марта йўқотиб тополмаганман,
Хаёлимда тиклаб олайин.
Отажон!⁴

*(- Here I am, your son. To a painful world.
A lonely memory from you,
Talk - Let me listen for a minute, I'm not fed up with listening to your voice.
I have lost it once, let me fix it in my mind. My dear daddy!)*

Erkin Vohidov's poem was welcomed by the readers as having the most impressive meaning and vivid scenes. The lines where a young boy with angelic thoughts, who has just started the school and learned to write, writes a longing letter to his father melt the hearts.

“Дадажон!” Мен сизни жуда
соғиндим.

Соғиндим иккала кўзим билан тенг.
Келиб қолармишсиз эртами-индин,
Аям шундай деди, Ростми шу,
айтинг?! “Dadajon!”⁵

(“Daddy! I miss you so much. I miss with both my eyes equally.

⁴ Vohidov E. Ishq savdosi. Saylanma, Birinchi jild. T.: “Sharq”, 2000, 163

⁵ Vohidov E. Ishq savdosi. Saylanma, Birinchi jild. T.: “Sharq”, 2000, 169



Sooner or later you will come, my mother said, Is that true, tell me?! Daddy!'"

Such poems, which reflect the suffering of mothers who have lost their children, are also found in English literature. In his poem "For the Fallen" Robert Laurence mentioned about awful consequences of war:

With proud thanksgiving, a mother for her children,

England mourns for her dead across the sea.
 Flesh of her flesh they were, spirit of her spirit,

Fallen in the cause of the free.

In some of the poems poets skillfully described the affliction of abandoned children, not because of the war, but because of the cruelty of their parents. Through the image of an orphaned child, the writer appeals to unkind mothers and urges them to be compassionate towards their children.

All I want is someone to love me
 Someone to guide me and to help me
 Am I asking too much?

Or is it just that no one wants me ("A cry of an orphan" by Ruetry.)

IV. DISCUSSION

The purpose of the creation of orphan images by poets and writers is to encourage humanity to be kind. The reasons for the orphanhood of children in the works are different: the early death of parents, the consequences of war, the abandonment of children by unloving mothers, and so on. However, no matter what the reason, no matter what nationality, the child's heart, dreams and hopes are similar. They need love and care. For example, Abdulla Aripov's poem "Mother" expresses the grief of children who lost their mothers at early age.⁶

Афсус, ўзинг эрта кетдинг,
 Эрта кетдинг оламдан.
 Укаларим бағрим эзар,
 Ажрадик деб онамдан.

In these lines we can feel the sorrows of the children whose mother died. The poem is told by the elder son of the woman (poet himself). The poem also shows the boundless love of Uzbek mothers in such a way that she takes care of her children even after her death.

Сен отамга пул берибсан
 Ёстиғингинг остидан.
 Айтибсанки, онасизлик
 Келмасин ҳеч ўйига.
 Сарф қилингиз, менга эмас,
 Абдулланинг тўйига.

Here the author describes how the mother thinks about her son. Gives money to her husband and says to spend it for his wedding, she wants her son not to

feel the sorrows of motherlessness. The similar feelings of a poor orphan can be in the following lines written by English poet William Blake. But here the difference is the author reflected mistreatment of a father towards his motherless child:

When my mother died I was very young,
 And my father sold me while yet my tongue
 Could scarcely cry 'weep! 'weep! 'weep!
 'weep!'

So your chimneys I sweep & in soot I sleep.⁷

The child tells how his father sold him to a master chimney sweeper when he was so young that he could not even pronounce the words 'sweep, sweep' (the traditional street cry which chimney sweeps called out to advertise their presence). The boy comforts Tom Dacre, another sweep whose blond hair has just been shaved off. Tom goes to sleep and dreams that an angel sets free all the sweeps so they can run, play and swim freely in the innocence of youth. William Blake openly demonstrates the injustice of social London life in his rhymes. At those times people often forced the children that were homeless or sold by their family members to do the dirtiest and the most dangerous labors like, chimney sweeping.

V. CONCLUSION

The analysis proves that the poetry of both nations describes a similar attitude towards orphans. It is not difficult to feel that the highest goal of poets is to awaken feelings of compassion in the hearts of mankind. After all, regardless of nationality, all children have the same sufferings, thoughts, dreams and hopes. Both English and Uzbek literature reflect that the life is very hard for motherless children, the authors admit that nobody can replace mothers. In addition, we can surely say that most of the analyzed English and Uzbek poems point out to the war as the main factor in the orphanage of children.

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