

The Role of Conceptual and Visual Motifs in Contemporary Poetry and its Reflection in the Posters of the Sacred Defense

Abstract

The Sacred Defense, an imperative historical event in Iranian civilization in the preceding century, has nowadays developed into one of the most significant cultural symbols of the society. This has led poets and writers to devote their creations to the formation of artworks with themes and concepts related to this phenomenon. This approach has led to the formation of an exceptional style in the works of such literary figures. A motif is a specific theme, character, or pattern that is repeated in various forms in literature and art. The Sacred Defense poetry, which was formed with the occurrence of the mentioned historical event in the sixties, led to the strengthening of Iranian identity and cultural fundamentals. These widely used cultural motifs represent the poetry of war with its own stylistic features that aid to identify commonalities in thought, culture, values and beliefs of the nation. The issue raised in this paper is to study the effect of this particular style of poetry on the formation and creation of conceptual and visual motifs and its reflection in the posters of the Sacred Defense. This research is accomplished relying on descriptive and analytical methods and also on the collection of library data. The findings suggest that a number of the motifs seen in the poetry of this period are faced with lexical, visual and thematic repetitions; moreover, the thematic section includes concepts such as martyrdom, patriotism, the battle between right and wrong, love, and so on. Studies have shown that the unique motifs related to the poetry of the Sacred Defense bestow an emotional, aesthetic, guiding and prominent function on the content of the poem and the approaches of the audience; consequently, the poets of the Sacred Defense created their most intense artworks by emphasizing the mentioned elements in their poetry. Such concepts have caused the endurance of the values of the Sacred Defense in the history of Iranian literature and its presence for the future. Therefore, the adoption of this poetic style has increased the role of conceptual and visual themes in the poetry of the Sacred Defense. The posters of this act are created in order to celebrate and spread the culture of this sacred event and are reproductions of its conceptual and visual motifs in literature.

Research aims:

1. To investigate the varieties of motifs and their elements in the poetry of the Sacred Defense.
2. To examine the motifs and elements of the Sacred Defense poetry in poster art.

Research questions:

1. What elements do the poems of Sacred Defense use in describing the values and beliefs of such act?
2. What is the reflection of the poems of Holy Defense in the posters of this event?

Keywords: Contemporary Poetry; Sacred Defense; Motif; Background; Repetition; Sacred Defense Posters

Introduction

The occurrence of eight years of holy defense not only caused many changes in the political, social structure and intellectual and cultural values of the people; it also aroused the epic passion and national and religious emotions of the people. For this sense, literature and especially poetry entered a new period of development filled with identity and cultural values. The existence of specific themes with thematic, pictorial or lexical repetition in the background of the poetry of this phenomenon adds uniqueness to this approach. In this regard, understanding the motifs and examining its elements as the most used and repeated elements in a work of art that aids the recognition of the commonalities of thought, culture, values and beliefs of people. Achieving the cultural, religious, identity and even stylistic background of a period is possible by identifying such motifs. Poets such as Qaisaraminehpour, Seyyed Hassan Hosseini, Tahereh Saffarzadeh, Mohammad Reza Abdolmalekian and Alireza Qazveh and other poets of their generation are among the current poets of Sacred Defense literature. Most of them, have experienced the front line of war, faced the realities closely and lost their allies in front of their eyes; hence, they are able to introduce the original themes and images into literature with the help of imagination and emotion. Leading research, by studying the works of the poets in question, has examined the common examples of sacred defense poetry in order to identify some aspects of the unknown aspects of the literary heritage of Iranian society to world literature.

Numerous research works have been written on the values, consequences and implications of the Sacred Defense literature; But so far no research has been done on the repetitive elements (motifs) in the poetry of the Holy Defense and its reflection in the posters of the Holy Defense. Since the literature of Sacred Defense has been introduced as one of the most influential and widely used works of art during and after the war, it seems that addressing this issue is necessary to promote the self-confidence of the post-war generation and can be considered as a step towards the productiveness, integration and purposefulness of national studies and research. In this regard, we can refer to articles that have worked on a similar topic; the study in these researches has been mostly based on the whole subject of the motif: "A note on the visual elements in the poem" The sound of the foot of water "Kian Daneshvar, 2008; "Mortality is the most important theme in Forough Farrokhzad's poetry" Reza Sadeghi Shahpar and Rahman Moshtaghmehr, 2008; "Mirror Motif in Khaghani Poetry" by Mohammad Behnamfar and Zahra Delpzir, 2013, Poetry Research Journal, Vol. 72; (1388). "What is a motif and how is it formed?" Mohammad Taghavi and Elham Dehghan, Naqdabi Quarterly, No. 8; And the following researches that focus on the subject of war and holy defense: "Critique and study of the literature of the holy defense system" Mohammad Reza Sangari, Palizan Publishing: 2001, "Study of themes, themes and forms of war poetry", Parand Fayyazmanesh, Persian Language and Literature Research Quarterly, 2002; "A Study of Mystical Themes in the Poetry of the Sacred Defense" Enayatullah Sharifpour and Narges Mohammadi, 2009 Journal of Sustainability Literature, Vol. 1, have conducted studies in the field of the poetry of the Holy Defense, but none of the works mentioned reflect the poems in Holy Defense posters make no mention. Therefore, the author intends that in the present study, which has been done by descriptive-analytical method and content analysis, the theoretical foundations of the research have been studied and analyzed based on library and main sources, including the works of poets in the field of Sacred Defense in order to study the visual themes in the poems of the Holy Defense and its reflection in the posters of the Holy Defense.

Conclusion

The poets committed to the Sacred Defense with their emotions and thoughts presented the various manifestations of the imposed war and beheld at the consequences and events during the war through the means of language and message expressing the deep and great relics after the war. The product of this poetic view of the great phenomenon of imposed war was a sense of thought, epic uprisings, a spirit of solidarity, self-sacrifice, martyrdom, anti-oppression, commitment and many other values arising from our national identity, and it is not surprising that the building blocks of this identity form the basis of the Sacred Defense poetry. Since the nature of war is tied to the concepts of blood and martyrdom and is inextricably linked with self-sacrifice and martyrdom can be considered the most central element that all poets of the Holy Defense, while addressing other issues, ultimately poetic and logical avoidance. Therefore, the motif of blood and martyrdom is the most central theme of war poetry, which has been formed with the themes of boasting about the status of martyr and praising martyrdom, endurance and steadfastness of their families, feeling of regret and deprivation towards martyrs and nostalgia for their absence. Studies have shown that special motifs of sacred defense poetry have emotional, ambiguous and aesthetic functions, guiding and emphasizing the content of the work and the feelings of the audience. The poem differed significantly from the previous poems in terms of language and visuals, and its content deepened. Vocabulary, illustrative combinations, and the most commonly used themes of war brought about a great change in the field of literature, which led to the creation of a school called sustainability literature. A dynamic and committed literature that revived the thought and poetry style of the poets of the Holy Defense in order to cultivate pure commitment and thinking in the non-war generations, in addition to making the audience feel uplifted. Today, sacred defense posters are a kind of symbol that conveys the concepts related to sacred defense and are made in diverse colors and designs. An examination of the concepts contained in these posters shows that they are influenced by the motifs or visual concepts contained in the poems of the poets of the Holy Defense. The use of red and green colors in the posters, which is reflected in the poetry of the Holy Defense, is a reflection of this vocabulary and the colors are a rejection of the poetry of this event. The use of terms such as stability or other related vocabulary in poetry or poster art reflect the valuable features of this Holy act.

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