

Visual Descriptions (Symbols) of Freedom in the Poems of Mohammad Afifi Matar

Abstract

Poetry and literature are constantly an echo of the events taking place in individual and social lives of people. It partakes an imperative role in motivation, hence poetry in various historical periods, while being a tool for expressing emotions, has also had a great power in encouraging various fields. Egypt is one of the countries that has experienced a complex set of domestic and foreign events in the contemporary period. The issue that can be raised here is the reflection of these developments and the type of confrontation with them in the poems of contemporary Egyptian poets such as Muhammad Afifi Matar. Afifi Matar is one of the committed poets of Egypt in the contemporary period who composed poems with the themes of stability against internal tyranny and oppression and the manifestations of resistance with the approach of awareness, nationalism and patriotism and relying on the homeland. Friendship and anti-oppression have become the main features of his works and the theme of his poems. This article is accomplished via descriptive-analytical method whilst relying on library data. The findings of this study indicate that Matar has preferred the structure of modern poetry to the old form of poetry and has chosen this form as a pleasant means to express his ideals and goals. The Divan of Mohammad Afifi Matar is full of themes such as motivating people to fight against oppressive rulers, advocating patriotism, fighting silence in the face of oppression, demanding the exit of occupiers, hoping for freedom and the elimination of oppression, and so on; ultimately this has led to visual descriptions of freedom and resistance in his poems.

Research aims:

1. Studying the themes in the poetry of Mohammad Afifi Matar
2. Explaining and drawing the visual symbols of freedom and stability in the poems of Mohammad Afifi Matar

Research questions:

1. What are the themes of Mohammad Afifi Matar's poems?
2. What is the place of the visual symbols of freedom and resistance in the poems of Mohammad Afifi Matar?

Keywords: Contemporary Arabic Poetry, Resistance Literature, Mohammad Afifi Matar, Manifestations of Stability and Freedom

Introduction

Literature plays an essential role in human life. This role varies from creating the required motivation in human individual and social life to its significant position in creating the instinct of stability and producing the force of resistance. In the contemporary world, a literary movement has formed against imperialism that has become a global phenomenon; in other words, the contemporary artist is taking a serious and sensitive stand against imperialism with a literary weapon. The great changes and decisive revolutions in the history of human societies will destroy the weak fundamentals of the past and launch a new foundation based on novel notions and developments. In human life, the pen has been a weapon of power. Mohammad Afifi Matar is one of the modern poets of Egypt of the sixties who chose to have a critical look at the disputes and issues of the Egyptian society and was a staunch opponent of Anwar Sadat, the former president of Egypt; furthermore, he was arrested for opposing the policies of the government of the time; moreover, he was eventually deported. As a poet committed to his justice-seeking vision and in search of a just and humane society, benefiting from its merits and dignity, in his poems he has repeatedly referred to oppression, subjugation, and inequality. This research intends to express the manifestations of the symbols of stability through Afifi Matar's poetry. During his life, Afifi Matar attempted to inform people about the political issues of his time and to awaken the spirit of struggle in order to incite them against the tyrannical rulers. The rule of tyranny and oppression in society is one of the main factors in the emergence of elements and manifestations of stability and endurance in his poetry. A review of the background of the present study shows that no independent work has been written in this regard so far. However, a number of works deal with other aspects of Afifi Matar's poetry. A dissertation entitled "The Rhetorical Impact of Quranic Meanings and Concepts on the Poetry of Three Contemporary Poets (Amel Danqal, Mohammad Afifi Matar and Salah Abdul Sabur)" has been written by Samira Farahani; in this research the author analyzes the Quranic concepts in Matar poetry. Also articles with the titles: "Jamaliyat al-Tanas in Afifi Matar Poetry" by Dr. Ahmad Jabr Shaath; "Critical Analysis of Religious Controversy, Quran in the Poetry of Mohammad Afifi Matar" by Masoud Eghbali and Ali Salimi; "Semantic Abnormality of the Quran in the Poetry of Mohammad Afifi Matar" by Ebrahim Anari Bezchloui, Hassan Maghiasi and Samira Farahani; "Al-Halm, Alchemy, and the Book in your Diwan and one of them" by Shakir Abd al-Hamid; "Al-Hayat Al-Thaqafiyah: The Belief of Muhammad Afifi Matar: Peace be upon you" by Dr. Ghali Shukri and Nouri Al-Jarrah; "Hurriya Mohammad Afifi Matar: Even the Poets" by Ahmad Judeh and "Case: Discussion on Mohammad Afifi Matar" by Dr. Ghali Shukri; And "The coldness of the possible possibility in the poetry of Mohammad Afifi, the tomb of the tomb of the immortal" has been written by Shahriyar Hemmati and Hamed Pour-Heshmati. In these works, the recognition of Quranic concepts in Afifi's work has been mostly recognized. The present study, with a different effort from the previous writings and specifically and relying on the Divan of Mohammad Afifi Matar, has tried to introduce this poet and study his revolutionary poems, to the various manifestations of freedom and resistance, oppression, defense and patriotism in the poems of this poet.

Conclusion

Poetry and its themes have a unique power to convey different political and cultural ideas. Hence, many poets have attempted to fulfill this social mission in their poetry. An examination of the themes of Mohammad Afifi Matar's poems shows that freedom and the struggle against oppression are the poet's main concerns. By adopting the principles of modern poetry, this Egyptian poet has sought to portray his goals and ideals, regardless of the commitment and monopoly of traditional poetry; furthermore, he encourages people to fight and raise awareness. The rule of tyranny and the spread of oppression and injustice are the main factors in the emergence of elements and manifestations of stability in the poetry of Mohammad Afifi

Matar. Due to his familiarity with the Qur'an since childhood, also divine teachings, justice and oppression are among the symbolic manifestations of authoritarianism in his poetry, and his desire for freedom and resilience against oppression has a high frequency. Among the components of the effects of stability in his poems are the power of patriotism, lack of silence in the face of oppression, the departure of the occupiers from the homeland, the hope of victory and freedom, and the elimination of oppression, and so on. Afifi Matar believes that the ignorance and silence of the people pave the way for an authoritarian system and cause the oppression of oppressive rulers to continue, but since God sits on the throne of justice, he receives the rights of the oppressed and destroys the oppressors. The torment of the oppressor will be an ointment for the heart of the oppressed. Therefore, a number of the concepts that Afifi Matar has chosen to convey the concepts he wants are perceptions derived from the Qur'an and Islamic culture. Relying on religion against oppression and relying on religious culture against Western culture is the method preferred by Afifi Matar.

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