

A Metaphoric Comparison of the Image of Women in the Poetry of Two Female Poets (Forough Farrokhzad and Jama'ah Haddad)

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Abstract

Contemporary literature is a very rich resource in regard of women; hence, poems by female poets composed in this field require further deliberation. This article intends to study the metaphorical image of women in the poetry of two prominent Iranian and Arab writers and poets; Forough Farrokhzad and Jama'ah Haddad and their approach regarding their poetry via an analytic study through the use of library data and translated material. Forough Farrokhzad is one of the preeminent Iranian female poets in which no other contemporary poet can be paralleled to her in the realm of modern poetry. Her poems exemplify all concepts of womanhood in contemporary poetry conveying love, sadness, joy and despair beautifully from her unique point of view. Jama'ah Haddad is also an Arabic poet whose language of poetry carefully resembles the poetry of Forough Farrokhzad. This closeness is due to the feminine sense and criticism of the status of women in society that is found in the poetry of both poets. The outspoken feminine language of both poets has made their poetry exceptional and distinct.

Research Aims:

1. Studying the metaphorical image of women in the poetry of two prominent Iranian and Arab writers and poets; Forough Farrokhzad and Jama'ah Haddad.
2. Reviewing and comparing the common features and differences of their insights regarding the issue.

Research Questions:

1. What is the metaphorical image of women in the poems of two prominent Iranian and Arab writers and poets, Forough Farrokhzad and Jama'ah Haddad?
2. In their view, what are the mutual features and dissimilarities between them?

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Introduction

It is not only history that records and transmits events, actions, and trends of human societies; literature is also an artistic reflection of the personal and social issues of history and perhaps more truthful and finer than history; hence this became an assured means express the issues regarding women in Iran and this was highlighted and reflected in the poetry of poets such as Mirzadeh Eshghi, Iraj Mirza, Nasim Shomal and others. Since then, as poetry evolved, the position and attitude of women changed dramatically. In the meantime, it is expected for female poets to be more sensitive to the issue of being female since they are not spectators but present in the actuality and alert to all the needs, problems, concerns and dreams of women.

Thus, what is reflected in the issue of women in their poetry is a direct, immediate, and consequently real, reception. This article aims to examine the poetry of two prominent contemporary female poets, Forough Farrokhzad and Jama'ah Haddad. Despite their differences, they agreed on one subject and that is the role of women and their struggles. Forough Farrokhzad and Jama'ah Haddad are both contemporary figures in global literature; that have a straightforward language and common feminine pain; hence, their poetry is the hardship of women. Their poetry was successful and followed the same path with many commonalities in their works. Since no work has been translated from Jama'ah Haddad in Iran; not much criticism is reflected by critics regarding her poems; hence, it is hoped that this research will be a starting point of criticism in such poetry.

In this regard, Salamatnia and colleagues (2019) in a comparative study of the poetry of the contemporary Iranian modern poet Frookh Farrokhzad and the contemporary poet Nazik al-Malaekeh and pioneers of new poetry in Arabic literature, confirm that these two women poets are both prominent representatives of women's literature in Iran and Iraq; also, the task of conveying imperative parts of their poetic concepts has been portrayed by them. In addition to feminine language and emotion, they reflect the ideas that govern their day such as loneliness and exile, malice, female oppression, pessimism, social issues and many more based on a delicate connection with living organism in the form of protest poetry.

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Conclusion

The two poets mentioned in this study are the most prominent women poets of our time. Forough, a poet who rebelled against cultural tradition striking overwhelming blows - sometimes with closed eyes - on the concrete walls of the cultural tradition and does nothing less than to destroy the house. Forough paints the face of a modern woman as one who protests and demands independence and freedom. This woman is at times in love, beloved or a fulfiller of her dreams. In other words, the poetry is about a woman that screams her ignorance and loneliness throughout history. Forough and Jama'ah are among such women in our time. The calm voice of Jaffa's poetry turns into a scream. The poetry of these two poets is full of feminine feelings and profound human notions that can be less found in poetry. The obvious sensations, the feminine gaze on nature and the fiery love that are hidden in the aura of despair and frustration, and in the poetry of both express feminine emotions such as maternal love, fear, loneliness and romantic feelings. Moreover, the poets are insurgents and flee from masses; they believe in earthly love and their poetry is the image of their lives. They have mutual pains and the same voice in protesting against cruelty towards women. They bear sorrows and pains that are clearly expressed in their poetry.

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