

The Semiotic Reading of Akhavan's Epigraph

Alireza NABILOU*

Professor of Persian Language and Literature,
Department of Persian Language and Literature, University of Qom,
Qom, Iran

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The main issue, in this article, is the analysis of Akhavan's "Epigraph" based on Michael Riffaterr's semiotic theory. According to Michael Riffaterr's semiotic theory, the reading of poems includes two stages: an exploratory (Heuristic) and a reading-oriented (Retroactive) stage. The first stage involves the search for meaning and the second stage considers the implications of language. In research based on semiotics of poetry, Akhavan's "Epigraph" will be checked on reading-oriented (Retroactive) stage. This stage considers its implications of language. This approach in reading the text may explain the relationship between covert and internal accumulation of elements and systems in the text. This then brings the critic to the Hypogram and ultimately leads to the perception of these issues and uncovers the poems structural matrix. It is assumed that can be reached second reading in Akhavan's "Epigraph" and ungrammatical elements, the accumulation, descriptive systems and the structural matrix of Akhavan's "Epigraph" can be revealed. One of the methods of studying and analyzing literary texts are semiotics that study the relationship between signifier and signified and semiotics include all communication systems such as languages, codes, and systems of symbols, etc. Riffaterr says some of poems have a surface layer and a deep inner layer (Heuristic reading and Retroactive reading). He is trying to find ways to achieve this internal reading in his theory. The main purpose of this paper is to provide a more accurate and deeper reading of Akhavan's Epigraph, whit using the Riffaterr's theory, because without the use of such theories, it is not possible to achieve the hidden layers of the text and the inner intentions of the poets in the compilation of poetry. For this reason, in the

* Email: dr.ar_nabiloo@yahoo.com

present article, using the Riffaterr's theory, it has been attempted to the system and the internal relations of the text. This is provided by the review of ungrammatical elements, the accumulation, descriptive systems and the structural matrix in Akhavan's "Epigraph". In the retrospective reading, Riffatter examines the ungrammatical elements and the exiting of linguistic turning points, and then introduces the processes of accumulation and descriptive systems. Accumulation is a collection of words that are gathered around the Sememe through synonyms. Sememe is the unit used in the process of accumulation. Accumulation is based on the lexical mechanism and the coherence of the related concepts. Here the emphasis is on synonyms of vocabulary with each other, and there may be several semantic accumulation in a poem. Sememe can usually be placed at the top of the descriptive system or accumulation. The descriptive system is based on relationships of disparate concepts. In the descriptive system, the relation is virtual and is expressed in whole. In the accumulation, the relationship of words is based on the Synonym, in the descriptive system, the relationship between the system and the core is based on the virtual. The relation between the system and the core may be metaphorical. That is, the relationship between them can be created outside the poem. After receiving the accumulation and descriptive system of the poem, the reader or the interpreter must discover the hypogram and ultimately the structural matrix of the poem. Hypogram or lexical and conceptual associations are a form of image in the mind of the reader that word or phrase associates it in the text. In fact, the hypogram is the key theme which in the text of the poem has a massive, frequent or strange expression. What must finally be discovered is a structural matrix that can be reduced to a sentence or even a single word. structural matrix is a word or phrase and a sentence that can rewrite the text of a poem as the root of the hypograms. Structural matrix may not be present in poem. This matrix can only be deduced indirectly and does not exist in the form of a word or sentence in poetry. Poetry is connected with its structural matrix through narratives or hypograms (key issues and verbal and conceptual associations), ultimately matrix unites poetry. Now, using the Riffaterr's theory of semiotics, we are going to analyze the Akhavan's "Epigraph". The accumulation of this poem are: narrator and companions, nature and guiding person. Three descriptive systems can be seen in this poem. Their core is definite destiny, hopelessness and hesitation, and hope and effort. Although these descriptive systems are not expressed directly and explicitly in poetry but they can be achieved

in an implicit and decoding reading. The hypograms in this poem can be summarized as follows: Man is condemned by fate and philosophical fate/ This definite fate undermines mankind with despair and eternal despair/ Although hopes lead to human endeavor, but appreciation makes something else / The poet sees himself condemned to fate / This poem can be an illustration of the community of the poet in ۱۳۴۰ / This poem can represent the fate of human kind and all mankind and algebra of nature as if the poet himself was the source of the suffering and torture of the forbidden and compelled men in the confluence of the narrow circles of the chain of history/ Although guiding man tries to help people, he is also condemned to this fate. The structural matrix of the Akhavan's "Epigraph" is as follows: In the wrists and afflictions of man - fatigue and despair - the achievement of a liberating and promising sound - an effort and hope of emancipation-disappointment and seeing himself entangled in the determinism of nature and destiny. As seen in the article, the Riffaterre's theory of semiotics, while paying attention to the various aspects of the structure of poetry, namely accumulation, descriptive system, hypogram and structural matrix, reveals some of the hidden aspects of poetry, and the coherence and conceptual design and implications that lie behind the apparent meaning of poetry can be explained by this pattern.

Key words: Semiotics of poetry, Michael Riffaterre, Matrices, Akhavan's Epigraph, Hypogram, Accumulation.