

Analyzing the Expressive Techniques in Patriotic Poems of Shathel Taqa

Maryam bakhshandeh

PhD Candidate in Arabic Language and Literature, Ferdowsi University of Mashhad,
Mashhad, Iran

Ahmadreza Heidaryan Shahri⁸

Associate Professor in Arabic Language and Literature, Ferdowsi University of Mashhad,
Mashhad, Iran

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Extended abstract

1 Introduction

As one of the primary types of contemporary poetry, patriotic poems and resistance poetry in particular has witnessed significant prevalence in today's era; resistance poets have created pure, everlasting poems in this genre. Being an unknown Iraqi poet, Shathel Taqa is one of these figures. In his poetry, the concept of nation is manifested in the form of different themes using a variety of expressive methods and techniques. Examinations into studies related to this concept and patriotism in poems by contemporary poets suggest the considerable number of research conducted on this area. Yet in fact, figures such as Taqa who is one of the pioneers of Modernist Poetry in Iraq alongside al-Sayyab, al-Bayati, and Nazik Al-Malaika has remained unknown in Iran. The lack of research-based inquiries on this poet and his works and the absence of any academic or general studies on his patriotic poetry and the expressive techniques used within them both in Iran and other countries necessitated the conducting of the present study.

2 Review of Literature and Theoretical Framework

In this study, there is initially a brief look at the life of Shathel Taqa and his experiences in poetry. Next, it is attempted to examine the techniques used in his patriotic poems through a brief analysis of several odes with respect to each technique; the extent of harmony and appropriateness between these techniques and the patriotic themes are described as well.

To date, there are countless studies conducted on the concept of patriotism in contemporary poetry; however, there are no studies in Iran on Shathel Taqa and his poems except for an article written by Maryam Bakhshandeh, Ahmadreza Heydarian Shahri, and Bahar Sedighi, titled "*Ayyoub fi She'r Shathel Tawa ala thou al-Ramziyah: Dirasah Qasidati 'Hamoum Ayyoub' va 'Entsiar Ayoub' Anamouzajah*" (2018). Certain studies in Arabic nations include the book titled "*fi al-Riadah va al-Fann, Qiraa'a fi She'r Shathel Taqa*" by Bushra Bostani, the article titled "*Shathel Taqa: al-Seyrah va al-Najazat*" by Sa'ad Bazzaz, and the article titled "*al-Tajrobah al-Arouthiya fi She'r Shathel Taqa*" by Malik Matlabi.

3 Method

The present study is aimed at providing answers to the following question by analyzing two undiscovered aspects in Shathel Taqa's poetry, i.e. introducing his patriotic poems and identifying the diverse expressive techniques used in his poetry;

What are the techniques used by Shathel Taqa to express patriotic themes?

⁸. Corresponding author. [E-mail: heidaryan@um.ac.ir](mailto:heidaryan@um.ac.ir)

Are the techniques in patriotic poems sufficiently diverse and appropriate?

The following hypotheses are formulated for the research question:

1. Shathel Taqa has used techniques including personification, religious address, the narrative method, and symbolism;
2. These methods are sufficiently diverse and appropriate with resistance and patriotic poetry.

4 Results and Discussion

Shathel Taqa has used a variety of effective expressive techniques. One of these techniques is the personification metaphor through which the poet has given his nation character, addressing it as if it were a human. He would, sometimes, regard his country as holy, worthy, and devoid of any wrongs in his odes; at other times, he would deem his nation at fault due to its agreements with the invaders, using profanity to serve such an end. Given his adequate awareness of the considerable capacity of religion in influencing and informing the people, he has used the religious discourse technique to offer resistance-related themes in his patriotic poems. Shathel has used the age-old story of Abel and Cane to reveal the evil face of the enemy and explain domestic treachery; he has also used the story of Christ Antichrist to dishearten people from enemies who appear with friendly faces. Additionally, he tells the tale of Job the Prophet to point out his people's disregard of their land and invaders within it; he addresses all that are holy in Islam, Christianity, and Judaism to emphasize the disastrous occupation of Palestine by Zionists and the universality of this incident, calling for the aid of all humans to liberate such a holy place from the tyranny of oppressors.

Another technique used in his poetry is the narrative method. Employing two narrative techniques of first person narration and the omniscient point of view, he has spoken of his emotions and thoughts regarding the nation whilst narrating the tragedy unfolding in his country. The final and most-used technique in his poetry is symbolism. In this regard, he has used contemporary and historical figures, both religious and non-religious, as well as natural elements. All in all, the majority of symbols in his poems are religious.

5 Conclusion

Shathel Taqa created his patriotic poems using a variety of expressive techniques while maintaining the appropriateness of these methods with the patriotic themes; this, in turn, has offered a harmony between the language and contents of his poetry. The highly frequent techniques included personification due to the high value of the nation; religious discourse to offer pattern, and provoke collective sentiments and the fighting spirit among people; the narrative method as a result of narrative reportage of national sufferings and disasters and placing protagonists when addressing events; and symbolism due to the impact of symbolic language in expanding the fight, the repressive climate, and the impossibility of using free language in his poems. Shathel's symbols are adapted from different areas in religion, history and nature; they are often non-ambiguous and act as distinguished codes between the poet and the fighters.

Keywords: The Nation, Expressive Techniques, Personification, Religious Discourse, Shathel Taqa

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