

An Investigation into and Analysis of Labor Poetry in the Post-Islamic Revolution Decades

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Introduction

The emergence of labor literature in the world dates back to the middle of the 19th century. In labor literature, issues such as poverty, unemployment, inequality, etc., as well as workers' protests, strikes, and struggles are written in the form of poems, stories, novels, hymns, etc. Labor literature has been popular in Iran since the constitutional era, and labor poetry in the history of Persian literature begins with Abulqasem Lahouti. After the constitution, poets in different periods of history wrote poems about workers. From August 1941 to the coup d'etat of August 19, 1953 is the peak period of this type of poetry. Even after the coup d'état of 1953 until the beginning of the 1960, some poets remained loyal to writing this type of poetry. From the 1960s to the victory of the revolution, labor poetry has been part of the works of committed poets. Therefore, the life and issues of workers have been one of the prominent topics in pre-revolution poems.

But since the reflection of the life of the working class in the works of poets is not related to a specific period, the position of labor poetry is important and can be investigated among other literary works has disappeared in the years after the revolution, when both the political and social structure of the country changed and the discourse that popularized the writing of this type of poetry.

Method, background and purpose

In order to conduct this research, we, first, examined the "post-revolutionary works" of pre-revolutionary labor poets. Then, we examined the collection of poetry poems that began their literary activity after the revolution in various forms until the end of the nineties. This research is a library type and its data has been developed after gathering the data in a descriptive-analytical way. In this study, while analyzing the reasons for the recession or the prevalence of workers' poetry in the decades following the revolution, we compared the workers' poems before and after the revolution.

The present study deals with post-revolutionary labor poetry for the first time. A few articles that written about poetry, all addressed the pre-revolutionary labor poetry, including 1) "Investigating the Constitutional Poems Themes" by Basiri et al. (2018), 2) "Comparison of Labor Literature in the Poems of Farrokhi Yazdi and Jamil Sadeghi Zahabi" by Sharifpour (2011), and 3) "The Hymns of Life" by Mehdipour and Khakpour (2010); in the thesis section, "Analysis of Labor Poetry Literature from 1941-1954" by Zadeh Hassan (2005); in the book section: "Poetry of Labor in Persian Literature" by Panahi Semnani (1990).

The purpose of this study is to analyze the process of labor poetry and its evolution in the Post-Islamic Revolution decades.

Discussion

Since the victory of the revolution until the end of the 1980s, the presence of labor poetry in the works of poets has diminished. A study of the poems of the figures and the prominent currents of these three decades shows that labor poetry has no special place in these decades. Among the most important factors that influenced the recession of labor poetry in the decades after the revolution, there are four important cases: the dissolution of the Tudeh Party of Iran in post-revolutionary Iran, as the main amount of labor poetry; reducing labor protests and strikes in the sixties, seventies and mid of eighty; the overwhelming Islamic poetry of Islamic poetry that was more committed to Islamic values than the community and the problems of the masses of people, especially the workers; and finally, the growth of idealistic tendencies and formal poetic currents that led to no poetry collection in the field of labor literature in the two decades of seventy and eighty.

In the nineties, the workers' concerns were once again attracted by poets. One of the most important reasons in this approach is the real situation of workers in this decade. During this period of economic crises, inflation and high-income, low-income and unemployment caused workers' population a remarkable suffering from severe poverty, resulting in the number of workers' protests in this decade. Therefore, the increase in labor movements in this decade has led to the reflection of the work of the labors in the works of poets.

But the themes of the labor poetry of this decade, given the change in the social context of post-revolutionary poetry, despite the similarities to the pre-revolutionary era, have undergone changes. The resemblance of the labor poetry of the nineties to the pre-revolution is in two ways: criticism and protest. Labor poetry has been based on criticism and protest from the beginning and has continued to critique and protest to this day. But there are three major differences between this type of poem in two historical periods before and after the revolution. First, one of the important themes of pre-revolutionary labor poetry was to invite and recommend a strike; but in the poetry of the nineties, there is no invitation to strike. Second, other themes of pre-revolutionary labor poetry have been inviting the struggle and uprising against the causes of oppression; but the labor poetry of the nineties is neither a call for the uprising nor an invitation to struggle, and finally, hope and promise of victory, which are the most important features of pre-revolutionary labor poetry themes cannot be seen in the post-revolutionary labor poetry.

Conclusion

According to surveys in this study, labor poetry has been stagnated after the victory of the revolution until the end of the 1980s. However, some of the poems of pre-revolutionary poets were dedicated to the subject of labor. Some of the most important reasons for the stagnation of labor poetry in the decades of the revolution are: the dissolution of the Tudeh Party in Iran as a promoter of labor poetry, the reduction of workers' strikes in the early decades after the revolution, as well as the conquest of Islamic committed poetic poetry, and then Formalist and anti-

idealism. According to the findings of this study in the nineties, we see a relative boom in labor poetry over other decades after the revolution; but the themes of labor poetry in the nineties have undergone changes, despite the similarities of the pre-revolutionary era. Criticism and protest that are the main themes of pre-revolutionary labor poetry also play an important role in the working poetry of the nineties. But in this poem, as in the past, there is no invitation to form trade unions, strikes, uprisings, and armed struggle. Another important difference is that the pre-revolutionary labor poetry promoted the hope for a better future; post-revolutionary labor poetry is very disappointed and has no hope for improving conditions.

Keywords: Commitment, Labor poetry, Post-Islamic literature, Pre-Islamic literature.

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