



Extended Abstract

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Jihad of Explanation in Minimal Poetic Style: Transtextual Analysis of Gholamreza Kafi's Short Poems

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Introduction

In the Islamic discourse, the term “jihad” is divided into three types, namely “Jihad-e Asghar” (military war with enemies), “Jihad-e Akbar” (the struggle with ego) and Jihad-e Kabir (cultural war). The expressions such as “jihad-e kabir” and “soft power” are among the practical concepts which hint at specific kinds of jihad or preparation for Islamic resistance. “Tabyin” (explanation) means clarification and explanation, which result in “Tabayon” and elucidation (Nezafat Yazdi, 2023: 28). “Tabayon” requires “foregrounding, the ways of good and evil must become foregrounded so that they can be distinguished” (ibid, 29). Jihad-e abyin (jihad of explanation), is a scientific effort for enlightening people through logical and documented elucidations in line with religious and revolutionary realities. This type of jihad is done for removing mental doubts which may pollute the minds of society in general and the youths in particular.

Minimal poems have a long background in the vast context of Persian literature. They are composed in the forms of Khosrowani, Gathas of Avesta, Ruba'i and Do-bayti (two-couplets). Creativity in the moment, brevity, hyper-lexical implications of language, narrative explanation and variety of themes are the main characteristics of short poems in resistance literature.

This study aims at analyzing Gholamreza Kafi's *Short Songs* (2005) and *Passenger of the Next Station* (2017) within the framework of Gerard Genette's theory of transtextuality. It seeks to determine the role of stylistic devices in promoting “jihad of explanation” and developing Islamic values.

Research method, Literature Review and Purpose

This is qualitative study conducted by using descriptive-analytic methodology. Primary data is collected by investigating Gholamreza Kafi's short poems and the aesthetic elements of *Short Songs* (2005) and *Passenger of the Next Station* (2017) will be analyzed within the framework of Gerard Genette's theory of transtextuality. The researcher makes use of SPSS software in order to determine the frequencies of transtextual types and resistance components effective in “jihad of explanation” through Chi-square results.

In *Morphology of Minimal Story* (2021), Muhammad Javad Jezini scrutinizes the literary movement of minimalism in Iran. In this book, we get familiar with foreign minimal works and literary genres such as flashfiction, nanofiction and microfiction. In their joint essay, “Minimalist Features in Stories of Hujwiri's *Kashf al-Mahjub*”, Esmaeil Shafagh and Mohammad Hosein Vahdani (2019) show that

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minimalism is rooted in ancient Persian literature. The two researchers have analyzed the characteristics of minimalism such as brevity, simplicity of plot and limitation of scenery in the selected mystical works.

Discussion and Investigation

In Gholamreza Kafi's short poems, honest narration of the realities and encouraging the readers to gain discernment are the key strategies and goals pursued in line with jihad of explanation and enlightenment movement. We will investigate the most important architextual aspects and constructing elements of jihad of explanation in the next section.

The short poems of Gholamreza Kafi are based on Islamic ideals and revolve around the pivot of accepting Wilayah (guardianship) and expressing love to the inheritors of the "People of the Household (P.B.U.T)". The short poem, "Dam-ishq" selected from *Passenger of the Next Station* (2017), alludes to the lasting statement of Hazrat Zaynab after Ashura. It reflects the poet's love for the "Family of Velayat" and his jihadic effort in the way of explaining Hussainian instructions to the readers:

Dam-ishq

Zaynab: I perceived nothing but beauty.

It is only Ishq (Love) that rhymes with Damishq (Kafi, 2017: 93)

Believing in guardianship (Velayat-madary) as the sub-category of political explanation in the conceptual model of jihad of explanation suggested by the Supreme Leader of Iran, is an effective strategy against the hybrid war of the enemy. A poet composing in the realm of resistance literature must have the required awareness of the formative grounds of social, political and economic challenges while acting as the mouthpiece of his own time. In the short poem, "Basho", Gholamreza Kafi utilizes a stylistic device similar to alliteration in the combinations "tomato blossoms" and "barbed wires" for referring to the most important principle of jihad of explanation which is time-consciousness and dominance over the components and grounds:

Basho

Basho talks of tomato blossoms,

I of barbed wires

One has to be the poet of his time (Kafi, 2005: 26)

In contrast with Basho, the attitude of Kafi toward literature is realistic and he does not trap himself in the trivial issues. His artistic ideal is removing cultural deficiencies in the way of jihad of explanation. Compassion, benevolence, companionship and empathy are the most important means of moral communication with the readers. In the short poem "Property", he introduces himself in the following way:

People enjoy having friends

To me, the possession of love itself is sweet (Kafi, 2017: 116)

In its hypotextual layers, this short poem has intertextual relations with the following line taken from Saadi's sonnets:

I am happy with the world since it is merry because of Him

I love the entire world for they belong to Him (Saadi, 1921: 118)

Conclusion

In his short poems, Gholamreza Kafi decorates constructing elements of jihad of explanation with stylistic devices such as pun in particular. By using lingual techniques including lexical defamiliarization, he has managed to transfer his messages to the readers in the shortest way. These impressive and meaningful short poems are the ground for depicting lovely, didactic, complaining, critical and descriptive aspects. They have architextual relationship with Khorasani and Hindi styles and set new horizons of genuine reality before the readers' eyes.

Gholamreza Kafi has chosen free style in his minimalist short poems in order to remind the readers of the values of the Sacred Defense (eight-year war with Iraq), cultural crises and social challenges.

Keywords: jihad of explanation, minimalism, transtextual analysis, short poems, Kafi

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