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Extended Abstract

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A Thematic and Content Analysis of Articles Published in *The Journal of Poetry Studies (Boostan Adab)*, Issues 1–60 (Spring 2009 – Summer 2024)

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Introduction

The Journal of Poetry Studies of Shiraz University is a scientific journal in the field of literary research that has been published since 2009 under the title *Boostan Adab* and has been studying Persian poetry texts since 2012. In this article, after analyzing 551 articles published in this journal (from 2009 to 2024), the status of these Persian articles is reviewed based on research patterns, topics and approaches, frequently analyzed texts and poets, periods under research, and forgotten topics in literary research.

Method and Review of Literature

In this study, first the structure of titles, abstracts, topics, and keywords of a total number of 551 articles was provided. Then, through the method of content analysis, branches of theoretical

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patterns, frequently occurring works and poets, research topics, and periods of interest to researchers in poetry studies were extracted and examined from this structure. Considering the effect of orthography on intelligent data extraction, two methods have been used: computer search and text reading.

In most academic articles, research studies have dealt with description, criticism, and very rarely the pathology of articles published in Iran. Among the researchers, Heydari (2019) has examined articles in the field of Hafez studies from 1992 to 2001. Also, Shirdokth Motlaq Quchan (2010) has criticized comparative literature articles in the journal *Al-Darasat al-Adabiyyah*; and Talebi Ganjai (2011) has also analyzed the structure of research background in the scientific articles on Persian language and literature. Other researchers, such as Alizadeh and Nayibi (2018), have conducted a content analysis of articles in *The Persian Literature Journal* of the University of Tehran using the approach of scientometrics. Also, Moradi and Mohammadi Hosseinabadi (1402) have analyzed articles published in *The Journal of Children's Literature Studies* of Shiraz University from the beginning of its publication to 1400, in terms of their subject matter, research patterns, and frequently cited sources and works. In general, no complete research has had the structure of the present article within the scope of poetry research articles as well as scientific research articles on Persian language and literature.

Discussion

Researchers of Persian poetry have taken different and sometimes similar approaches in choosing research methods, questions, and texts and works for their studies. In the main part of this research, each of these areas is separately examined and its status is introduced in the articles published in *The Journal of Poetry Studies*.

Theoretical Model of Most Research: Of the 551 articles, 397 (71 percent) were mostly written using traditional and general literature methods, and their authors paid less attention to conventional patterns and theories in literature. In 154 articles, the authors followed one of the theoretical models, of which linguistic theories and models with their general perspective were most commonly used. Of the total number of articles reviewed, 45 articles (8 percent) were written using specific linguistic patterns and 25 articles (4.5 percent) were written using psychological patterns. Among the formalist and structuralist theories, researchers have focused most of their attention on the models of Greimas and Propp (each in 4 articles).

Poets frequently cited in research: In total, the researchers have based their research on more than 150 poets and literary figures. The important point is Ferdowsi's popularity in the total number of articles, as 48 articles were written on his poems. This shows the interest of

contemporary poetry scholars in Ferdowsi. In 45 articles, the basis of the research was Hafez's poetry. The third and fourth most popular poets were Rumi and Attar, with 37 and 30 articles written based on their poems, respectively.

Most frequently cited works: Ferdowsi's *Shahnameh* and Hafez's *Divan* are the main poetic texts about which articles have been written. The third most frequently cited work is Rumi's *Masnavi*, on which 21 articles have been written; Of course, Rumi's *Divan-e Shams* is also the basis of research in 16 articles. Among them, except for three articles based on Rumi's rubaiyat, the authors of the other articles focused on his ghazals.

Main research topics and areas: It can be said that the researchers of poetry have devoted their greatest attention (in 190 articles) on the area of literary elements and components of texts. After that, in 147 articles, researchers have based their research on analyzing the connection between literature and other branches of the humanities and arts, and rarely, the empirical sciences and their general or partial components.

The third category is articles (138 articles) that examine the subject or theme in poems or pay attention to explanations and discussions related to the reading and reception of literary texts. In 125 articles, researchers have analyzed poems with a critical approach. In 90 articles, the research is based on topics related to the generalities of literary sciences and its sub-disciplines. And in 64 articles, researchers have focused on manuscript research, correction, and recording of texts and poems.

In general, it can be said that most studies have examined the literary traditions of the works, and linguistic aspects have been of less interest to poetry researchers.

Periods reviewed in the articles: In terms of literary periods, most researchers have examined old Persian poetry; however, 170 articles on the topic of poetry or poets have been written since the post-constitutional era until the 1990s. Most of these articles are related to the poetry of the Pahlavi era, especially the second Pahlavi dynasty. And the works of poets from the constitutional era and after the revolution, especially in recent decades, have been less criticized and analyzed.

In the millennium before the modern era (4th to 13th centuries AH), the largest number of articles (103) were written on the subject of poets of the 6th century AH, which shows the significance of this period in ancient poetry. In addition, 74, 71, and 64 articles have introduced and examined poetry and poets of the eighth, seventh, and fourth centuries, respectively.

Conclusion

What can be concluded from the analysis of the articles is that more than seventy percent of the articles did not have a clear and obvious theoretical framework. This indicates the tendency of researchers in the field of Persian language and literature to analyze texts in a manner consistent with books on ancient literary theories, which is what they have been trained in universities. In the articles that were based on a framework, linguistics and psychological theories were used most of all; although most of these articles are written by scholars outside the field of Persian language and literature.

One the subject of literary figures, most articles have been written about Hafez and Ferdowsi. This is compatible with the role of Shiraz University and its development of the epic literature program, as well as its Hafez studies activities. Rumi and Attar are other major poets in the research, while Saadi has received less attention despite the connection of regional traditions with his works. Also, many prominent ancient poets either have no place in research or have found little roles. The lesser number of articles in the field of contemporary poetry compared to the periods of ancient poetry is significant and shows the significant position of Shiraz University in the education and research of contemporary literature.

Keywords: *Boostan Adab*, Shiraz University, *The Journal of Poetry Studies*, Scientific Research Articles, Thematic Analysis

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