

A COMPARATIVE STUDY ON PORTRAYAL OF MARVI IN SHAH JO RISALO AND CORDELIA IN KING LEAR; AS A FEMALE CHARACTER

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Abstract

This paper on the topic “A Comparative study on portrayal of Marvi in Shah Jo Risalo and Cordelia in King Lear; as a female character” is a textual analysis in this research. Shah Abdul Latif Bhitai, a famous poet of Sindh and William Shakespeare very much famous in English Literature; female characters have been taken from both poets’ poetry. This research paper covers the feminist aspect or portrayal and image of woman in the poetry of both poets; it’s a comparative study of both poets about woman and their depiction of female character; especially Marvi a female folk character of Sindh from Shah Jo Risalo of Shah Latif and Cordelia from King Lear Play of William Shakespeare. The portrayal of woman is depicted in the poetry of both poets especially these both characters are symbol of courage, love, straightforwardness, unselfishness, patriotism. The image of woman shown in the poetry especially in these two characters is based on sufferings and pains which leads towards reward, loyalty, honesty and truthfulness. These are victim of male dominant and patriarchal society also that why Cordelia suffers because of patriarchy an Marvi because of male dominance but both never withdraw from their cause and words; keeps striving and struggle together.

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1. Introduction

1.1 Thesis statement

In this research Marvi and Cordelia have been comparatively studied that how Shah Latif and William Shakespeare have portrayed woman in their poetry; different aspects of feminism have been discussed and studied such as male dominance, patriarchy, subordination of woman and on other hand a loyalty, love and patience of woman portrayed by both poets is depicted.

1.2 Rationale of the Research

This research deals with the comparative study on image of women in the poetry of Shah Latif and Shakespeare, both poets have depicted different aspects of women in their poetry. This research will explore various areas of the poets regarding depiction of female characters. This research especially deals with the one female character of Shah Latif known as Marvi and other female character of Shakespeare Cordelia.

Marvi is the female character and complete Sur of Shah Latif in his poetic book. Sur Marvi, similar to every single other real Surs of Shah Abdul Latif, is a purposeful anecdote in light of old stories. There is something so somewhere down in the expression of Shah that you are without a moment's delay aware of the way that there is something extremely significant and genuine past them. The excellence of this verse lies not simply in its mood, or in its musical words yet in the fragile and profound shades of implications that is past their outer magnificence. As matter of realities, words in themselves are neither revolting nor delightful, the importance improves their essentialness. In the event that the diverse Surs are dealt with as the distinctive stages in the advancement of the spirit, Sur Marvi is to be set last where as in the other real Surs, the heroes succumb, to enticement, getting to be nature of slip to be recovered later. Sur Marvi speaks to that phase of the otherworldly advancement in which the spirit stays unyielding to the most charming and entrancing allurements. Never accomplishes for one single moment Marvi wince from her awesome determination. She despises what might entice on common woman.

Shakespeare's female character Cordelia is the victim of male dominant society where the powers of the society are only for male, she is suffering from violence. There are other two characters are known as sisters of Cordelia; they are not

suffering because they accept the social male dominance but only this sole character is suffering because of opposing the male dominance. Cordelia is being young and loving daughter of King Lear but due to male dominance she suffers in the play of Shakespeare. She is pure, passive and straightforward throughout the play.

1.3 Objective

This research will explore the presentation and image of women presented by the both poets in their poetry, these two characters Marvi and Cordelia will be only characters in the comparative study.

1.4 Research Question

How Marvi and Cordelia are presented in the poetry of both the poets; what are different aspects have been portrayed of both the female characters in the poetry?

1.5 Delimitation

In this research poetry of Shah Abdul Bhitai is focused from his book *Shah Jo risalo* and different research articles related to the topic are taken and same as for comparative study William Shakespeare's book *King Lear* is focused and closely read and different research articles are also the part of this research to find out results.

2. Literature Review

“Sur Marvi is not a non-romantic moral story but rather additionally an ethical and a national purposeful anecdote. The essential of these all purposeful anecdotes, is adoration which is the preeminent law representing this universe” (Mohammad, 2004, 2005). Marvi is the symbol of courage, love and patriotism. “As a national purposeful anecdote, it manages the account of an uncommon laborer young woman who is locked in to one of her own kind and who is persuasively diverted by a lord who comes in attire of a parched explorer and requests a beverage which is simply a reason to approach her. This laborer young woman is a secured up one of the rooms of the royal residence and is enticed with everything that riches and position can convey to a man, but she stays consistent with her backbone” (Mohammad, 2004, 2005). This must be conceded that the ruler Umar in spite of his beginning demonstration of avarice, carries on with generosity that stirs our appreciation and adoration for him. He is not an antagonist of the typical old stories story, not a dark guard or an exhaustive scoundrel. The enticement is all the more awesome to Marvi, under the condition, there was no damage in Marvi getting hitched to Umar and live in his royal residence as his ruler. However, “Marvi does not notwithstanding for a moment

dither from her choice ; She is locked in, She cherishes her laborer folks and her local spot with its sand rises, its deserts, organic products, its short and sharp interim of downpour season guaranteeing in greenery and bounty, bringing about the cheering of the desert occupants” (Khokhar, 1999)

سنهيسئيءسبيون، مونمارو عسا
وينيساريانسومرا، گولاڙا ۽ گ
هنڀونمنهنجو هتڻيو، هتمئي ۽ ماه
پکنمنجهپساھ، قلباً هيڪوٽ ۾

A fine needle has sewn me with my people I miss all the wild foods grown from the ground, my heart abides there, the body arrives, the spirit being with the desert occupants, my body is bound in the post of Umar.

“Would she change all these for a ruler and royal residence? With no wavering her choice is made. She has come back to her kin, to her relative land, the leaders of the spot must yield effortlessness, singleness of point, immaculateness and quality of this worker young woman's character. She at last comes back to her desert-inhabitants in the midst of extraordinary celebrating” (Qazi, 2003).

“Marvi stands for the will of the individual, at the same time she is the personification of good, in the conflict between good and evil” (Khokhar,1999). Man has only to will for the good to prevail and be firm and prepared to abide by it in spite of all adds and he is sure to succeed. The power that evil has over good, is given to it by good itself.

In the world of literature Shah Latif is counted world’s greatest poets as Shakespeare, Goethe Homer, Virgil and John Milton etc. poets are famous due to their characterization and feelings, psychology and emotions in those characters from different perspectives which makes characters immortal forever. “Marvi shows different aspect of woman in the male dominant society she fights against not only an individual but against mentality of whole society” (Fahmida, 2006).

“In the play of William Shakespeare, the ‘King Lear’ viewers admire and respect female character much is Cordelia and depicted very well Shakespeare which covers all corners of being good morally in the play”(Finegan, 2016). This character of Cordelia is pure and kind in nature that’s why liked by all, in all ages. This has been shown in the play that Cordelia is change in nature and other qualities from her sisters as she claims that she loves her father more than anything else. “You have begot me, bred me, and loved me. I return those duties

back as are right fit” (Act, I Scene, I). Cordelia is different from her sisters because of honesty and love, it seems a quite contrast attitude towards other sisters and this leaves different image in the mind of the audiences. “Cordelia is ideal woman for audience because of her positive depiction and humble behavior” (Finegan, 2016). She displays such characteristics which make her ideal in the eyes of all due to her conventional values and purity. “No unchaste action or dishonored step that hath deprived me of your grace and favor” (Act 1 Scene 1). Shakespeare has shown Cordelia a quality woman; she always comes on the stage in white dress which shows her purity and innocence.

“Cordelia has been shown pure and forgiving but she suffers because of sins of other people, here religious aspect is given” (Finegan, 2016). The portrayal of Cordelia is religious as well as social but religious element is quite prominent in the whole play. Cordelia is awarded because of her honesty and courage but on other hand her sisters are given reward of hatred and treated as dishonest. This female character is depicted by William Shakespeare as a symbol of goodness, Cordelia shows positive aspect of the human nature which is pure from greed and lust of wealth in the worldly things, and she loves pure soul love. Cordelia is the actual portrayal of woman loyalty and love, without any kind of excess and exaggeration she is pure soul. Even King Lear couldn’t be able to understand her love and intensity of love being separate from her sisters. A father is not able to understand his daughter because of her broad mindedness that is not anywhere found in the other people. Knight (2008) writes, “King Lear was unable to understand love his children because of change in nature on one side two daughters, Gonorill and Regan are loving wealth and worldly things but on other hand King Lear loves Cordelia and she loves to live with her father and no need of anything else without love of father”.

“The portrayal of woman has been shown as a symbol of purity, natural love loyalty, honesty and courage. Cordelia stands alone and faces consequences instead of being wealthy and rich like sisters, she chooses path of truthfulness and natural love and never goes back even she suffers” (Finnegan, 2016).

3. Research Methodology

This research is based on textual analysis, in this research female character from Shah Jo Risalo of Shah Abdul Latif Bhitai and a female character King Lear of William Shakespeare. Through, this researches the poem from Shah Jo Risalo and from the play King Lear has been analyzed as a primary source of research. Furthermore, to deduct the inference of the secondary source has been used also. In this research for critical studies the secondary source of research method is

included; it includes both printed as well as electronic form of research that is based on these both characters of both poets mentioned above. This research style is based on the APA style for citations.

3.1 Close Reading

In close reading is the careful, sustained interpretation of a brief passage of a text. A close reading emphasizes the single and the particular over the general, affected by close attention to individual words, the syntax, the order in which the sentences unfold ideas, as well as formal structures.

3.1.1 First Reading: Determine What the Text Says.

By dividing up his kingdom King Lear wishes to give up the responsibility of being king, but keep all of the benefits. This is another form of greed, different from his daughters, but still clearly wrong. This wish to retain his power is made evident by Lear banishing Kent shortly after stepping down from the throne:

*Hear me, recreant, on thine allegiance hear me!
That though has sought to make us break our vows,
Which we durst never yet, and with strained pride
To come betwixt our sentence and our power,
Which nor our nature nor our place can bear*
(1.1.170-174)

3.1.2 Second Reading: Figure out How the Text Works

Edmund questions the natural progression of things and why he was dealt this terrible hand in life. He then misleads his father into thinking Edgar is trying to kill him, and Gloucester himself becomes so upset that he questions nature:

*These late eclipses in the sun and the moon
portend no good to us. Though the wisdom of nature
can reason it thus and thus, yet nature finds itself
scourged by the sequent effects. Love cools, friend
ship falls off, brothers divide; in cities, in mutinies' in
countries, discord; in palaces, treason; and the bond
cracked twixt son and father*
(1.2.106-112).

3.1.3 Third Reading: Analyze and Compare the Text

Even the innocent Cordelia falls victim to this natural order propagated by greed. In this world good has no place, overwhelmed by the evil surrounding it. This

fatalistic viewpoint is tragic in itself, but it is Lear's appearance with Cordelia's limp body in his arms that is most tragic of all. Lear sums up his bleak nihilistic view of the earth when he says,

"I know when one is dead and when one lives; / She's dead as earth. (5.3.265-266)."

4. Data Analysis

Marvi shows patriotism at very intense level has love and desire for her beloved land is more than all other things which are precious. Her love is limitless, she does not only love her land but everything of her land is being loved in her character of her land, she express her love in such a way as Shah says.

قلمنهنجيڪوٽ ۾ گهايلڻو گهاري

She is not prisoner but she feels that away from my beloved land I am prisoner the prison which is here never tortures me but I am from land it is heart touching that's why she prays in such a way:

الا ائينمھوءَ، جيئن آئون نمران بند ۾
سوزنجيرن ۾، راتو ڏينھان روءِ
پھرينو جانلوءَ، پوءِ مريجنم ڏينھڙا

She is crying and dying for her land, she prays that if I die it better to die in my homeland than again, she says after death I don't want to be buried there. It shows intensity of love that my last breath should in at my land if not then I must be buried in my land after my death.

وجهائيو ٽنڪيانو نجي تهتمياس
گھور منهنجي سو مرا، ڪجهه پنھوار نپاس
نُجڏا ڏانڊي ههجهي منجهانولڙ نواس
ميائيجياس، جيو جيمڙ ههملير ڏي

She wants to do while reaching for her land. She is real daughter of her land she has forgotten her lover but her beloved is her land everything of land is precious for her.

تڏيو سانجڙ نجي، مٽي مٽي مٿان
جيو پيو نٿي پيسا هه، تنهنجامڙ ههملير ڏي

“Everybody loves character of Marvi, every person of every class accepts character of Marvi because center or theme of her character is voice of oppressed and lover class people who are salve at any situation.

Love loyalty, desires, feelings, emotions, pains and sorrows of Marvi are limited and bound to poor people. Marvi is symbol of equality she focuses on those who have no pride and arrogance where everyone is equal, all people are simple and loyal, where is no smell of class discrimination.” Latifi Shairy main Jadeed Fiker by Saleem Bhutto Latifi.

الستبر بكمجذ هينكنيوم
قالو بلايسينتد هينتنچيوم
تنهينوير كيوم، وچنوير هينچنسين

Relation of Marvi with those people is not the relation of this age but it is from beginning of this world when God created Adam this relation took place at that time so now Marvi is dying for that relation, whenever Marvi has become well known about her relatives after that she can't live without that land and that people who has grasped her soul very tight even Umar's prisoner can't imprisoned her at any cost. Respect of her relatives is respect of her own whatsoever Umar says about her relatives she warns Umar,

كثيريتانكل، عمر كجماهڙي

Marvi loves her relatives, they neither beautiful nor wealthy but they are poor even she loves them a lot because of their simplicity Marvi loves her tradition and custom. She accepts her relatives at any situation she wants to live with them.

جيهاجيتيها، مونمار ومجيا
يا
كاندنه كنديسكو پيو كڙيو ڙيو خوب
ميروئي محبوب، اسانمارومن ۾

There is class system but every class prefers her own upper or lower class but people sometimes want to live in upper class but Marvi is completely against from this condition she wants to live and die with her poor family.

Marvi says it's not suitable that live her with prosperity and my relatives die due to hunger, they have nothing to eat and nothing to wear so it's not possible that I live here with luxurious life, only my happiness can't satisfy my heart my

satisfaction and happiness is related to my parents whom I can't forget at any cost their happiness and prosperity is my happiness. Marvi denies from all kinds of offers of Umar.

آئونڪيٽسوڙ ڀنسمهانمون نور گهار يولھه
يا
آئونڪيٽسوڙ ڀنسمهانمون نور گهار ڀسج
ورا ٻاٽسڀناج، ڪو شربتنتنهنجوسومرا

I want to live with my husband and parents I can tolerate hunger there but I can't live here. I know there are many things to spend prosper life but my conscious never accepts this that I live here.

ڪارا ڪارين ڇ، سونا سان ڪيسوءِ
ور جيڏينجوءِ، فاقو فرحتيائين

Marvi does not only want to live their but she never wants to eat anything there no she want to wear any precious thing of Umar that's she says I feel satisfaction to wear my poor parents things whom they have purchased me and those things are suitable and perfect. I know those are precious but my land everything is precious

عمر اچا ڪپڙا، ڪاٿيار يونڪيٽنڪن
جانيجاٿرن ڇ، ورتاويٽسهن

Marvi is symbol of boldness and courage she never accepts any kind of offer of Umar.

ايءَ نهمار نريت، جو سيٽمٽائونتي
اچي عمر ڪوٽ ڇ، ڪنڊيسڪانه ڪريت
پڪنجي پريت، ماڙ ڀنسيننهمٽيان

It shows unending love of woman for her father when she denies to get marry and to serve father and this tragic death of loving daughter Cordelia occurs in the form of marriage with Edgar. True love and pure soul succeed in the end and virtue wins .other two daughters of King Lear are shown dark sides of human nature who run behind power and wealth and ignoring blood relations but the Cordelia and her husband are same in nature in the beginning till the end of the play as they have shown purity, love and loyalty. For such kind and positive nature Cordelia is rewarded and her sisters cursed its due to greediness and impurity of human nature that's why they are cursed. Cordelia suffers but wins.

This female character is portrayed by William Shakespeare as a symbol of courage and straightforwardness, and she has no fear of punishment and unwanted comments. She knows that her father's behavior and real words when she denies to marry and to be with her father but instead of these all she again and again says remains straightforward and never loses her courage and never takes back her words. She is punished and deprived of love and care but being woman remain courageous and undefeatable in front of the situation and unwanted conditions.

In this play patriarchal society is depicted very much where only orders of male are acceptable and denial of woman is sin, and in such society Cordelia faces bitter criticism and suffers a lot being woman in patriarchal and male dominant society. The woman is shown powerless and devastation in the society even she is pure and loyal. Therefore, it has been shown woman is dead and powerless she cannot do anything according to her will even she is right and on right track of thinking about blood relations positively but due to male dominance she can't enjoys her own will and wishes.

The image of woman is shown as loyal and unselfish and same as her husband and Edgar son of Gloucester is also unselfish, both choose themselves and rewarded because of their nature. Here, William Shakespeare portrays human nature being man and being woman but again there is freedom of expression which is quite different for man and woman as Cordelia proves her unselfish and loyal she suffers but Edgar being man is not victim as much Cordelia is.

5. Conclusion

Therefore, it shows that woman is victim of every society, she stands in every age against evil of the society and fights, and she suffers and feels pain but never goes back from her words. She is loving, caring, loyal, patriot, unselfish, straightforward and much more. Nothing can divert and distract her from her goal and intention. She has been suffering a long ago but never shuns her courage and boldness in the society where male is dominant, she is the fighter of every age and fighter of everything. It shows that poetry of Shah Latif and William Shakespeare is full of courage, love, struggle and striving. Both characters (Marvi and Cordelia) are symbol of honesty, truthfulness and straightforwardness. Hence, it proves that there is message of love and courage even you suffer a lot in such society where patriarchy and dominance of male is prominent but truth and reality wins.

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