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Article

Nationalism in the Poetry of Dr. Allama Muhammad Iqbal and Walt Whitman: A Comparative Literary Analysis of *I Hear America Singing* and *Tarana-I-Hindi*

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KEYWORDS

Nationalism;
 Variation Theory of Comparative Literature;
 Equality.

A B S T R A C T

This paper is based on the comparative study of the two poets, Allama Muhammad Iqbal from Pakistan and Walt Whitman from America as nationalistic poets of their specific age. Nationalism was a common theme in most of their works. These two poets belonged to different geographical social cultural and religious backgrounds but they have some similarities as well as differences. Allama Muhammad Iqbal was famous for the fan Islamism and he was considered as the Muslim nationalist of their time throughout the world while Walt Whitman was famous for American nationalism and democracy. All the time he speaks about the superiority of the American I have used the variation theory of comparative literature presented by changing Cao for the purpose to compare and contrast the work of two different for similarity as well as difference and another framework I will use comparative cultural studies presented by Totsy Zepetnek in my research.

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INTRODUCTION

The word nationalism, according to Ansari (2018), has been derived from the Latin word *nasci*, which means to be born. It conveys the idea of common blood ties. And the word nationalism is defined by Jenson and Amstar dam (2016), that nation is the combination of people which is the mixture of different manners attitudes, and different national elements like common culture common religion, language, and a single government. These, according to him, are the elements that compel these different sorts of people under the umbrella of a nation.

The nation does not come into existence directly, but it evolved and passes from different stages. In ancient times, people were living under the umbrella of one

family which later evolved to the tribe and then to the clan, and finally to the nation. As Jenson and Amstar dam (2016) in his book 'The root of nationalism' say about the history of nationalism can be explained from two perspectives; modernist and traditionalist approach. He says according to traditionalist nation is evolved from kin to tribe and finally to the nation while modernist beliefs purely on the political approach they argue people who live under one political government is the separate nation.

That kind of literature that reflects or which contains ideas about national identity and nationalism is called Imago logy. The purpose of such type of novel, drama, and poetry is written to promote the national image. It is also used for the purpose to integrate the people under one government. It promotes patriotism, spread national

values, brings different people under one slogan, and to solve any contemporary political conflicts, writers prefer to speak about nationalism in their literary works.

Our country Hindustan is the best among all the countries (Sevea, 2012). We are the inhabitants of it and this is our abode. If we live abroad but still our heart remains here in our homeland and we are the only there where is our heart. The Tallest Mountains of our country talking to the sky. These are our guard and our watchmen. They protect us from all the evils. There are a lot of flowing rivers and Streams due to which our land has become Paradise. O the water of Ganga Do you remember that time our caravans first disembarked on your waterfront. Our Religion does not teach us discrimination. We are human beings and Hindustan is our country. All the Civilizations of Ancient Greece Egypt and Rome are finished but our Civilization is alive today up to now we are alive. Our existence does not erase from the world even all the world has been enemy of us. Iqbal concludes that we have no confidence in this world what does anyone knows about our hidden pain.

On the other hand Walt Whitman's poem I hear America singing can be explained as in this poem he expresses his attitude toward America. The Speakers hear the different carols of all the people who make the life and culture of America. The people like Mechanic, the carpenter, the boatman the shoemaker, and the woodcutter all come together with the chorus of America. Their feeling of fruitarian is expressed by the singing of Mother, the wife, and the girl who happen to be at work. These highly individualistic men and women sing and what belongs to him or them. Americans' faith is based on the creativeness of labor. The Poem expresses the poet's love of America, its vitality, variety, and massive achievements which is the outcome of the creative endeavor of all its people. The poet gives more importance to the individual and says that it is individual freedom that allows him to be great. The line each singing what belongs to her expresses the individual liberty and the celebration of the individual is the main theme of the poem. First education from his father Madrassa because his father was a religious teacher.

The Researchers have to compare and to contrast two poets for their nationalistic ideas in their works. Both poets have shared their attitudes towards nationalism. However both poets have different ideas about nationalism, one wants Muslim unity, while the other wants ideal America. For instance, Ahmad (2017), Allama Iqbal has talked about nationalistic ideas but only at an early age. Iqbal had such sort of heated emotions that his heart was burning from such an idea. The selected words of the researcher, heated and burning show the very essence and passionate love of nationalism in the

heart of Iqbal. Another excerpt, American bards, argues that Walt Whitman is pure a nationalistic poet. His ideas about nationalism can easily be guessed in his poems. As earlier has been argued that Iqbal nationalism is particular to the area of Hindustan, Walt Whitman ideas are particular to the area of America. The researcher praises Whitman that he has created his persona by presenting such like ideas. Moreover, in another sight, Iqbal's views that cultural nationalism in his poetry is based on the gathering of people by their common cultural bonds. Iqbal is praised in the sense that he had a vast number of approaches and knowledge and it is because of his complex life. He has traveled a lot, from Eastern countries like Hindustan to Western-like Germany, etc. It was because of this that he had a comparative approach toward the nationalism of western and eastern.

Ansari (2018) says in his research paper, Nationalism in perspective: Allama Iqbal critique of Western nationalism, that Allama Iqbal has studied thoroughly the ideas of Western nationalism and developed his psyche to stand against their contrary ideas which were different from Islamic and Eastern ideas. Ansari on the other hand has limited his approach by mentioning all those ideas which are related to Hindustan. He has called to Iqbal the singer of Hindustan, although the vast approach of Iqbal's nationalism cannot be denied. He concluded in his research that Allama Iqbal was a true nationalist singer for his motherland India. Whitely (2010) in the American bards argues that Walt Whitman refers to himself as a True American poet and proclaiming that he is the American bard at last. Walt Whitman claimed himself as a national poet and speaks for Americans. He presented his vision about Ideal America on the surface of the earth.

METHOD

The researchers have explored the nationalistic ideas in the poems and will compare and contrast the nationalistic ideas of Muhammad Iqbal and Walt Whitman. These perspectives have been put inside the framework of the Comparative literature. The researcher applies the qualitative method in which analyzing and exploring the nationalistic ideas of the two poets in their different poems. The similarities and dissimilarities have been analyzed with the help of the text which shows us that there are some similarities and dissimilarities in the nationalistic ideas of the two poets. This study emphasizes the text of the poems I hear America singing and Tarana-e-Hindi.

The researchers have used the theoretical framework of the theory of Variation of comparative literature Cao and the framework of comparative cultural studies of Zepetnek, S.T.D as a source of guidance in this Research. The Researcher has been analyzed the textual analysis of

the poems and this Research is also qualitative. To find nationalism in their work is the main Research area of the Researcher and the focus of the Researcher. The Researcher has been found both the qualities in both of the poets some of the qualities which are similar and some of the qualities which are different from each other following the nationalistic ideas of this Research.

The Researchers used the thematic framework of Braun and Clark. They affirm that there are some specific themes and meaning in any sort of written work which can be studied according to a particular purpose of the Researcher. They also said that every written text has a specific pattern of themes and these themes may convey the ideas of surface meaning as well deep meaning they both are in the views that they may convey both meanings in a written text. The Researcher will have to find those themes which are related to the Research and which cover the Research area easily Research. There will be several themes in any text. The Researcher analyzed I hear America singing as well Tarana-e-Hindi for some specific and basic themes.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

Comparison of Muhammad Iqbal and Walt Whitman as a nationalist poet

Although both poets belonged to two different geographic localities which resulted from different approaches toward nationalism. These differences were also because of differences in religious ideas, political ideas, and economic influences, but still, these two poets share a vast number of similarities. The following points will highlight some similarities and differences in their attitudes in their poetry toward nationalism.

The universality of art in the poetry Muhammad Iqbal and Walt Whitman

According to Cao, the researchers should find out homogeneity as well heterogeneity while comparing two pieces of literature according to Zepetnek, S.T.D, second principle that the comparative literature is to move and to dialogue between cultures languages and pieces of literature what he says that comparative literature is a kind of dialogue between the two languages, literature and cultures. Muhammad Iqbal and Walt Whitman both used poetry to express their ideas. They both believe that we can use a medium that cannot be confined to a cause of their homeland.

Walt Whitman was truly an Egalitarian. He wants brotherhood among the people and supports democracy in a society where all the people are equal regardless of power, race, and creed same is the case with Muhammad Iqbal but he had inherited a different culture from that of Walt Whitman who has inherited western culture. He

wants brotherhood and nationalism in an Islamic society a society that favors equality.

Different cultures and different approaches to society

Allama Muhammad Iqbal was extremely critical of the western concept of nationalism. Western needs limited nationalism and it has no connection with religion while Iqbal's concept of nationalism is quite different from that of western nationalism. Iqbal's nationalism is deeply influenced by Religion. Iqbal says that modern nationalism of the west divides up mankind into artificial entities or states that are separated from one another and are motivated by greed and selfishness the result of nationalism could be bloody war with one another for the control of economic resources as we can find in the American culture. In the west, the separation of religion from the state has turned the state into a monster that does not know any moral bounds. According to Iqbal for the Muslim religion is central to life. The researcher quotes one of the Iqbal best lines of poetry the religious ideas determine the ultimate structure of the Muslim community.

Allama Iqbal's rejection of territoriality in nationalism and Walt Whitman does not do so:

According to Cao, the variation arises when we compare two pieces of literature of different cultures and according to Zepetnek S.T.D, six general principle is the focus on the context of culture.

Allama Iqbal's rejection of territoriality as the basis of nationality and his notion of spiritual democracy might suggest that in his view Islam prohibits the idea of an individual sovereign nation. This is not the case with Walt Whitman's nationalism while the political idea of Islam consists in the creation of people born of a free fusion of all races and nationalities. On the other hand, Walt Whitman favored race and nationality. The concept of Walt Whitman's nationalism is completely different from that of Islam. They favor the idea of individual sovereign nations. They say that every nation is sovereign in its political and social life which is not agreeable with the view of Islam.

The self-philosophy in the Poetry of Allama Muhammad Iqbal and Walt Whitman:

According to Cao, the same philosophies have been shared by the poets which is the aspect of homogeneity. The great poets belonging to two different cultures and we can find similarities of self-philosophy in their poems. East and West have different forms of mysticism. Allama Iqbal has inherited eastern culture and Walt Whitman has inherited western culture. According to Allama Iqbal's

first you should know your inner self then you will come to know the other-self or outer world. The knowing of the inner self is the knowledge of God or the Universe and about the creator of the universe and the self-philosophy of Walt Whitman is also the knowledge of God. Both of them were in the favor of science and according to the scientific revolutions bring us to observe God and science is a journey from known to unknown. They accept the reality of the scientific world because it represents the truth of cosmic consciousness.

CONCLUSION

Similarities and differences in the poetry of Muhammad Iqbal and Walt Whitman:

Walt Whitman and Muhammad Iqbal were both Nationalistic poets and they were both Revolutionary in their ideas. Both poets were singing the Anguish and the grievances of their people. They sing the glory of their ancestor and their Country. They wanted Brotherhood, equality, and fraternity among their people. Muhammad Iqbal was a Hindustani Nationalist before the inception of Pakistan. He has a deep love for his Homeland and he wanted to find the Youth in the same glory as their ancestors were once in the past time same is the case of Walt Whitman who sings the Glory of America and he wanted Brotherhood, equality, and liberty among his people in his country. He was deeply affected by the Revolutionary ideas of the American and France revolution of independence. The Main philosophy of Muhammad Iqbal is that first, you should know yourself then you will know about the world around yourself but because of different cultures and Religion.

Muhammad Iqbal says in his poem about the self that if you want to know about God, first you should know your inner Self, what is there in your inside world it will fall you in the ways of God. The philosophy of self can be found in the poetry of Walt Whitman.

The difference between the two poets:

Both poets have different approaches to Nationalism. Allama Muhammad Iqbal was extremely critical of the western concept of nationalism. Western nationalism is limited to a certain area especially Walt Whitman which is bounded to the four borders of his country while as a concern to Muhammad Iqbal nationalism does not need any kind of boundary. His nationalism is limitless and it is deeply affected by his Religion Islam and its University.

Muhammad Iqbal says that modern nationalism of the west divides Human beings into artificial entities that are separated from one another and are motivated by greed and selfishness and the result of that nationalism could be bloody war and that is separated from another for the control of economic resources as we can find in the American Culture. The other difference is that the West has separated Religion from the state and has turned the state into a Monster that does not know any moral bound and especially in the Islamic countries. Religion is the very base of a state and without religion, there is no concept of a state.

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