

A COMPARATIVE STUDY OF P.B. SHELLEY AND HABIB JALIB AS REVOLUTIONARY POETS

Ali Nawaz¹, Prof.Dr.Abdul Ghafoor Awan²

ABSTRACT-*The poetry in which a poet protests against the oppression, inequality, despotism and strives for emancipation of the poor is called revolutionary poetry and the poet who rebels against the social injustice by using the medium of poetry is called a revolutionary. The objective of this study is to compare analytically the revolutionary poetry of P.B Shelley and Habib Jalib and to explore the cause of revolutions in different societies. Our study is qualitative in which secondary data has been used. The data has been collected from different articles, magazines, newspapers and research papers. The common themes of selected revolutionary poems of both poets P.B Shelley and Habib Jalib. Our study finds that when social evils like injustice, inequality, persecution, feudalism, exploitation and killings of innocent people run rampant in a society, an agitation will start and revolution will take place.*

Key words: *Revolutionary poetry, Marxism, working class, persecution*

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1. M.Phil Scholar, Department of English, Institute of Southern Punjab, Multan. Mstar500@yahoo.com. Cell # +923464875459.
 2. Dean, Faculty of Social Sciences, Institute of Southern Punjab, Multan. ghafoor70@yahoo.com. Cell # +923136015051.

1. INTRODUCTION

The poetry in which a poet protests against the oppression, inequality, despotism and strives for emancipation of the poor is called revolutionary poetry and the poet who rebels against the social injustice by using the medium of poetry is called a revolutionary Poet. Here, the researcher's main purpose is to explore the ways of revolutionary poets by which they did their level best to expose the social evils in their poetry. Actually, a poet spearheads the reformation of a society who whips the vices of society through his poetry. He goads the depraved society on a right path by flogging their follies. If anything averse to social taboos takes place in a society, he protests against it and does his level best to reform it through his poetry. Both revolutionary poets, Habib Jalib and P.B Shelley proved themselves the greatest reformists. P. B Shelley was born in 1792. He came of an affluent Sussex family. His grandfather was a successful businessman. His father name was Timothy Shelley who was a member of parliament. When he was twelve years old, he reached Eton one of the leading schools for boys. He was highly impressed by William Godwin. He was one of the greatest English romantic poets. French Revolution had a deep impact on his mind and he became one of advocates of liberty, fraternity and egalitarianism. So, he was also known as a revolutionary poet. Shelley was a great reformer, rebel, idealist and revolutionary. He became exasperated at the wrongly established order of society. He stood against oppression and despotism. He felt for humanity. His poem "Ode to west wind" was written as a result of direct influence of French Revolution. In this poem, he uses natural symbols like wind as a vehicle to disseminate his revolutionary ideas. He depicted both society and nature are surrounded by evils of oppression and corruption which can be cured by certain political and social upheavals. In 1816, he met Lord Byron who was also known as a revolutionary poet. On 08 July 1822, his boat sank due to a poignant storm when he was sailing of the Italian Coast and he also drowned with it.

Habib Jalib was born on March 24 ,1928 in a village near Hoshiarpur. His real name was Habib Ahmad. He migrated to Pakistan after the partition and worked for daily Imroze in Karachi. He was also known as revolutionary poet. He stood against despotism and opposed oppression, inequality and ruthless plundering in Pakistan. He joins hands with the poor and raised a slogan for their emancipation. He was well versed in recitation of poetry and was an avid writer. He attracted a large number of audience with his enthusiastic recitation. He adopted a colloquial style and addressed common people and their tribulations. He was known as poet of masses. He stood against the dictatorship of Ayub khan and Zia ul Haq. He criticized those who supported dictatorship and stood by oppressors. He was basically a reformist who fought against all those evils which were corroding the prosperity of Pakistan. His plain words coupled with music of his voice stirred up the conscience of the people. He passed away on 13 March ,1993.

1.1. Main Research Question:

Main research question of this study to explore the answer of the question. What is revolutionary poetry and what are the reasons which bring about revolutions? How the poetry of these two poets (Shelley and Habib Jalib) is revolutionary?

1.2. Objective of study:

The objective of this study is to explore how political upheavals occur when oppression, inequality, injustice and despotism increase in a society and to enable the researcher to investigate the significance of communism and its need.

1.3. Scope of study:

Our study is worthwhile for other researchers and society. It will inspire them to observe the social injustice in their surroundings and highlight it in their research in order to reform the society. It will enable them to revolutionize their work by protesting against the social injustice. It will make them identify and study specific social problems and seek possible solutions to them. It will enhance their critical approach to evaluate the social life on the basis of egalitarianism.

2. LITERATURE REVIEW

Revolutionary Poets write against the social injustice and stand for the rights of poor. Poets are very sensitive. They feel for the oppressed and are dauntless protesters, rebels and lawmakers. Paul Laurence Dunbar wrote “The Haunted Oak” which is a revolutionary poem in nature on the ruthless killings of African -Americans by the whites. Similarly, P.B Shelley wrote “The Masque of Anarchy” on that massacre in which he protested against the injustice of the society.

*And a mighty troop around,
with their trampling shook the ground,
Waving each a bloody sword,
For the service of their Lord.*

(P.B Shelley, The Masque of Anarchy)

Allen Ginsberg was also a revolutionary poet who wrote his poem “Howl” in which he protested against the subjugation, repression, and exploitation. He urged people to howl against all the social evils which were corroding the prosperity of the whole country. Henry Lawson wrote his poem “Faces in the Street in which he advocated the unemployed people who were wandering here and there for nothing and were forced to live on the streets.

*The city grinds the owners of the faces in the street –
Grinding flesh, grinding bone.*

(Faces in the street, Henry Lawson)

Milton also presented his revolutionary ideas in his poem “paradise lost”. In it, Satan has contempt against the authority of God which shows the hatred of Milton for Charles I in England.

French Revolution influenced the whole Europe on a large scale. It influenced Blake, Byron, Southey, Wordsworth and Coleridge’s thoughts. The age in which Wordsworth was living had observed a revolution in the fields of poetry and politics. His age was averse to set conventions and rules. He also imbibed the spirit of protest

against the old rules and bondages of the society and forced the Europeans to fresh thinking. Hasrat Mohani was also a revolutionary poet who fought for the independence of people of India. He expressed his deep love for his country in his country in his Ghazal “Chupke, Chupke, Raat Din and aspired to get independence from the coercive British Rule. Revolutionary poetry discussed all the social issues of the day. Therefore, the role of Urdu Revolutionary poetry is very important in the Indian Independence movement.

*“Rasm-e-Jafah Kaamyab dekhiye kab tak rahe,
Hubb-e-watan mast-e-khwaab kab tak rahe,
Daulat-e-Hindustan qabzah-e-aghyar mein ,
Be adad o be hisaab dekhiye kab tak rahe!”
(Chupke Chupke Raat Din ,Hasrat Mohani)*

Bismil Azeemabadi of Patna wrote an ode “Sarfroshi ki Tamanna” on young freedom fighters in 1927. Allama Iqbal also wrote a patriotic song called Taranah -i-Hindi which later on became an anthem for the masses of India. Akbar Allahabadi was also a great freedom fighter who used to unleash satire in his poetry for social flux. Chandrashekar was also an Indian Rebellious who protested against the British Rule in his poetry. He proved himself as an aggressive poet who was followed by Bhagat Singh. Ashfaquallah Khan was a great revolutionary who took part in the Independence Movement. He conspired against the British Rule in the Twentieth century, due to which he was hanged.

Brij Narain Chakbast was also included in the revolutionary poets who infused the fresh thinking into the hearts and minds of the countrymen. Faiz Ahmad Faiz was also a great freedom fighter. He not only felt for Pakistanis but also for the oppressed of the whole world. He believed in humanity and considered it his religion. He opposed all the oppressors of the World and strove to emancipate the poor. Walter Bagehot was always desirous to change. He struggled to uproot the perpetual and bitter realities. He opines that human life is always in flux. Many scholars of the world carry the same view. Shelley says that evil is something that is not inevitable and it

cannot be regarded as real. They are of the opinion that Shelley considered the law, government and church as the basis of all the evils. In his early days, he looked upon injustice, inequality and feudalism as evils which have been imposed upon the people from outside. The conscience of the people was destroyed by the imperious Ottoman in Laon and Cythna. In *Queen Mab*, the mob was subjugated by the ruling elite. The modern standpoint of life's tragedy appears in the Shelley's last works *Charles, The First* and *The triumph of life*. *Charles* opposes all the despots and tyrants. He falls into misconception and considers himself as upright whereas the inner motive changes the idealistic Rousseau in "*The triumph of life*. He downplays the conception of sin and accepts the idea of melodramatic villainy. He depicts the struggle of man against all the hindrances produced by his own spirit. Referring to the *Prometheus Unbound*, Shelley's wife opined that misconstrued his theory of evil. He regards man as perfect who possesses the power to eliminate the evil from his own nature. Shelley comes up with his last analysis that evil cannot be removed completely. All the elements like mutability, death, ill-health and chance combine to bring about evil. Therefore, all the poets must expect the time of jubilation in order to stir up the unemployed capabilities of the men. His poetry is based on the truth which is always in flux. He tries to clothe it in words. Shelley introduced new things in English literature like Spirituality, Idealism and freedom in poetry. Shelley makes the people to get rid of subjection and sustain the hope of freedom in their minds and hearts in his poems "*Song to the men of England*", *England in 1819*" and "*The Masque of anarchy*." He depicts the view of the modern stage in his tragedy "*The Cenci*" which is quite unnatural. He introduces a thing of lightness, song and grace which renders him the greatest poet. He always stands by the humanity and alienates himself from the ordinary passions and motivates. His verses are full of sympathy with human beings. He always declines from the suffocated environment and adopts love to revive the humanity.

Habib Jalib had a great revolutionary fervor which led him to raise his voice against inequality, persecution and and ruthless plundering in Pakistan. He supported the downtrodden and did his level best to make them get rid of all these evils. He was an avid reciter of the poetry and had propensity for writing. His vigour and strength in the recitation of the poetry moved a number of audience a lot. His poetry was based on the issues of common people. That is why, he was known as the poet of masses. He says in his poem “Pakistan ka matlab kiya” that Pakistan came into being in the name of Islam .The sacrifices of people of Pakistan for gaining a separate homeland cannot be denied .Many were killed for the sake of Pakistan. Many sisters and mothers sacrificed their honors for the sake of Pakistan. The reason behind getting a separate homeland was to have all the basic necessities of life like bread, clothes, education and medicine. He also depicts in his poem “Khatre mein Islam Nahin” that Islam is not in danger .It is only elite class which is in danger. He despises the rich people that they have plundered the resources of Pakistan with their both hands. They have thwarted our happiness and prosperity. Habib Jalib wrote another poem “The Mother” in which he felt for the mothers of the innocent children who were killed at the altar of Politics. He further says that the killings of innocent children by the despots forced the mothers to come out with weapons and avenge their children. Similarly, in his poem “The Garden is A Bloody Mess” he depicts the oppression which took place in East Pakistan. He further says that the agitation in East Pakistan has deprived us of peace and comfort. Our eyes are thirsty for peace and happiness. Our whole country has fallen into bloodbath. Habib Jalib wrote another poem “Bootan Di Sarkar” in which he reproaches the villagers who supported the thieves and impeded the ways of people to make ahead. The despots kept plundering the resources of this country and caused its downfall. He also questioned the constitution of 1962 in his poem “Dastoor”.

*“Deep jis ka sirf mehlat hi jalay ‘
Chand logon ki khushiyon ko la kar chalay,
Aisay dastoor ko, Subhe bay noor ko,*

Main naheen Manta, Main naheen janta.”

(Dastoor, Habib Jalib)

He says that this constitution has been ushered in only for the benefits of rich people and poor are excluded from it. Similarly, he feels for the actress Neelo by saying that she will fail to break the chains of subjection until she chains. The despots are forcing her to dance. So, she will have to dance in order to get rid of their persecution. He also stood against the dictatorship of Ayub Khan and Zia-ul-Haq .He despises Zia in his poem “ Zulmat ko Zia .He dislikes his actions and considers him a liar. He says that we cannot eulogize his wrongdoings.

3. RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

3.1. Nature of study

Our Study is qualitative in which secondary data has been used. It includes newspapers, magazines, articles and the research papers. The focus of study is that which forces bring about revolutions and what is the role of revolutionary poets for the emancipation of poor and the removal of all evils from the society? Our study falls within the ambits of reformation of the society and change. The author has analyzed the current and past circumstances of both countries England and Pakistan and read different articles, magazines and research papers about the great revolutions taking place in the world and got to know how they brought about social change.

3.2 Sample of Study:

The author has selected poems relating to revolutionary thoughts of two poets (P.B Shelley and Habib Jalib) as a sample. The common themes of selected revolutionary poems of both poets have been analyzed carefully in order to answer the research questions.

3.3 Themes of study:

The themes which have been analyzed in the research include injustice, inequality, oppression, despotism and feudalism. The common themes of selected

revolutionary poems of both poets reveal that they both have struggled for the emancipation of poor.

3.4 Analytical Techniques:

We have used three analytical techniques to analyze data. These techniques are stated as under: -

1. Textual Analysis;
2. Content Analysis;
3. Discourse Analysis

4. DATA ANALYSIS

Walter Bagehot was always desirous to change. He struggled to uproot the perpetual and bitter realities. He opines that human life is always in flux. Many scholars of the world carry the same view. Shelley says that evil is something that is not inevitable and it cannot be regarded as real. They are of the opinion that Shelley considered the law, government and church as the basis of all the evils. In his early days, he looked upon injustice, inequality and feudalism as evils which have been imposed upon the people from outside. The conscience of the people was destroyed by the imperious Ottoman in Laon and Cythna. In Queen Mab, the mob was subjugated by the ruling elite. The modern standpoint of life's tragedy appears in the Shelley's last works Charles, The First and The triumph of life. Charles opposes all the despots and tyrants. He falls into misconception and considers himself as upright whereas the inner motive changes the idealistic Rousseau in "The triumph of life.

*"Swift as a spirit hastening to his task
Of glory & of good, the Sun sprang forth"*

(The triumph of life, P.B Shelley)

He downplays the conception of sin and accepts the idea of melodramatic villainy He depicts the struggle of man against all the hindrances produced by his own spirit. Referring to the Prometheus Unbound, Shelley's wife opined that misconstrued his theory of evil. He regards man as perfect who possesses the power

to eliminate the evil from his own nature. Shelley comes up with his last analysis that evil cannot be removed completely. All the elements like mutability, death, ill-health and chance combine to bring about evil. Therefore, all the poets must expect the time of jubilation in order to stir up the unemployed capabilities of the men. His poetry is based on the truth which is always in flux. He tries to clothe it in words. Shelley introduced new things in English literature like Spirituality, Idealism and freedom in poetry. Shelley makes the people to get rid of subjection and sustain the hope of freedom in their minds and hearts in his poems "Song to the men of England", "England in 1819" and "The Masque of anarchy." He depicts the view of the modern stage in his tragedy "The Cenci" which is quite unnatural. He introduces a thing of lightness, song and grace which renders him the greatest poet. He always stands by the humanity and alienates himself from the ordinary passions and motivates. His verses are full of sympathy with human beings. He always declines from the suffocated environment and adopts love to revive the humanity.

Cazamian said about Shelley:

"Shelley belongs to that rare species of mankind whom reason and feeling convert revolutionaries in the flush of youth and who remain so for the rest of their life."

Habib Jalib had a great revolutionary fervor which led him to raise his voice against inequality, persecution and ruthless plundering in Pakistan. He supported the downtrodden and did his level best to make them get rid of all these evils. He was an avid reciter of the poetry and had propensity for writing. His vigour and strength in the recitation of the poetry moved a number of audience a lot. His poetry was based on the issues of common people. That is why, he was known as the poet of masses. He says in his poem "Pakistan ka matlab kya" that Pakistan came into being in the name of Islam. The sacrifices of people of Pakistan for gaining a separate homeland cannot be denied. Many were killed for the sake of Pakistan. Many sisters and mothers sacrificed their honors for the sake of Pakistan. The reason behind getting a separate homeland was to have all the basic necessities of life like bread, clothes, education

and medicine. He also depicts in his poem “Khatre mein Islam Nahin” that Islam is not in danger. It is only elite class which is in danger. He despises the rich people that they have plundered the resources of Pakistan with their both hands. They have thwarted our happiness and prosperity. Habib Jalib wrote another poem “The Mother” in which he felt for the mothers of the innocent children who were killed at the altar of Politics. He further says that the killings of innocent children by the despots forced the mothers to come out with weapons and avenge their children. Similarly, in his poem “The Garden is A Bloody Mess” he depicts the oppression which took place in East Pakistan.

*“ Aur nahjaney kab tak hogi ashkon ki barsaat
Khoon se holi khel rahe hain dharti ke balwan
Bagiya lahoo luhan.”*

(Habib Jalib ,Bagiya Lahoo Luhan)

He further says that the agitation in East Pakistan has deprived us of peace and comfort. Our eyes are thirsty for peace and happiness. Our whole country has fallen into bloodbath. Habib Jalib wrote another poem “ Bootan Di Sarkar” in which he reproaches the villagers who supported the thieves and impeded the ways of people to make ahead. The despots kept plundering the resources of this country and caused its downfall. He also questioned the constitution of 1962 in his poem “Dastoor”. He says that this constitution has been ushered in only for the benefits of rich people and poor are excluded from it. Similarly, he feels for the actress Neelo by saying that she will fail to break the chains of subjection until she chains. The despots are forcing her to dance. So, she will have to dance in order to get rid of their persecution. He also stood against the dictatorship of Ayub Khan and Zia-ul-Haq. He despises Zia in his poem “Zulmat ko Zia”. He dislikes his actions and considers him a liar. He says that we cannot eulogize his wrongdoings. Faiz Ahmad Faiz paid tribute to Habib Jalib by saying that;

“He was truly the poet of the masses.”

5. CONCLUSIONS:

This research paper has explored the cause of revolution occurred in past in different societies in the light of the poetry of two poets, Shelley and Habib Jalib. We have concluded that revolution or people's rebellion were taken place when social evils like injustice, Lawlessness, inequality, persecution, feudalism, exploitation and killings of innocent people prevailed in a society. The intellectuals of the society are oppressed and start expressing their reaction via medium of poetry. Therefore, they are known as the unacknowledged reformists and legislators of the world. Many revolutions of the world took place owing to social evils like corruption, injustice, persecution, feudalism and plundering which led to erupt agitation on a large scale. This agitation brought about homicide which is the humiliation of the humanity. But these human sacrifices brought about the elimination of all the social evils and gave birth to social justice. Shelley was a great revolutionary poet who felt for the oppressed during his era and used the medium of poetry to unite the people against the oppression of the elite class. As a result of Shelley's revolutionary poetry, Europeans stood against the feudalism and exploitation and brought about revolution throughout the Europe. Similarly, Habib Jalib also disliked the dictatorship and feudalism in Pakistan. He unleashed revolutionary ideas through the medium of his poetry. He was also incarcerated for several times but he never left the support of the poor and oppressed.

This study is worthwhile for other researchers and society. It will inspire them to observe the social injustice in their surroundings and highlight it in their research in order to reform the society. It will enable them to revolutionize their work by protesting against the social injustice. It will make them identify and study specific social problems and seek possible solutions to them. It will enhance their critical approach to evaluate the social life on the basis of egalitarianism. Our is a unique contribution to English literature which states that revolutionary poetry is a revolt against all the evils of society. Sensitive minds of Shelley and Habib Jalib felt the

pains and agonies of the oppressed and stood by them. They girded up their loins to emancipate the poor and misery stricken. Both advocated the fraternity, egalitarianism and stood against the oppression, and inequality in the society

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CONTRIBUTION OF AUTHORS AND CONFLICT OF INTEREST

This research work was carried out in collaboration between two authors.

Author 1: Ali Nawaz is an M.Phil scholar at Department of English, Institute of Southern Punjab. He designed the study, collected and analyzed data. He also wrote first draft of the manuscript under the supervision of author 2.

Author 2: Prof. Dr. Abdul Ghafoor Awan is one Ph.D in Economics from Islamia University of Bahawalpur-Pakistan and second is in Business Administration from University of Sunderland, U.K. He has been serving as Dean, Faculty of Management and Social Sciences since 2010. He contributed in this research paper by way of guiding author 1 about title selection, data exploitation and analytical technique. He edited and gave final shape to this manuscript. To know about his research fields, Pl look at his Web of Science ResearcherID [□ M-9196 2015 or profile at Google scholar.](#)

Both authors read the manuscript carefully and declared no conflict of interest with any person or institution.
