



University of Tehran press

Research in Contemporary World Literature

http://jor.ut.ac.ir, Email: pajuhesh@ut.ac.ir

p-ISSN : 2588-4131 e-ISSN: 2588 -7092

A Comparative Reading of the Psychological Manifestation of the Idea of Descent and Destruction in the Poetry of Sayyab and Akhavan-e-Sales Based on the Existentialist Theory of Irvin D. Yalom

Mahboobeh Habibi¹ 0009-0000-1505-6988 Ahmadreza Heidaryan Shahri² 0000-0002-2671-0727
Bahar Seddighi³ 0000-0003-1877-8243

1. Department of Arabic Language and Literature, Faculty of Letters & Humanities, Ferdowsi University of Mashhad, Mashhad, Iran. E-mail: habibi_mahboobeh@yahoo.com

2. Department of Arabic Language and Literature, Faculty of Letters & Humanities, Ferdowsi University of Mashhad, Mashhad, Iran. E-mail: heidaryan@um.ac.ir

3. Department of Arabic Language and Literature, Faculty of Letters & Humanities, Ferdowsi University of Mashhad, Mashhad, Iran. E-mail: seddighi@um.ac.ir

Article Info

Article type:

Research Article

Article history:

Received: 05 February 2022

Received in revised form: 01 March 2022

Accepted: 08 March 2022

Published online: Summer 2024

Keywords:

Abjection, Chora, motherhood, Julia Kristeva, Marguerite Duras, The lover.

Extended Abstract

The psychological analysis of art, especially poetry, has been the focus of thinkers for a long time. Psychoanalytical criticism views the poet's unconscious and inner world as the source of poetry. According to this view, it is possible to understand the poet's feelings, concerns, and repressed desires through poetry by analyzing the hidden images in the poet's work. In other words, the artist's psychology can be discovered and identified through an analysis of his or her art. This article argues that death anxiety is one of the most basic feelings that influence the mind and expression of two Arabic and Persian poets, namely Badr Shaker Al-Sayyab and Mehdi Akhavan-e-Sales. According to Irvin D. Yalom's psychological theory, "death anxiety" is one of the most basic existential concerns of humans. Each individual's lifestyle, encounters, and interactions with existence is different depending on how he deals with it. Similar to other poets, Al-Sayyab and Akhavan-e-Sales dealt with death and conveyed their experiences and feelings toward death through their poems. Unstable living conditions, dissatisfaction with the present, and the death of loved ones are factors that lead to thoughts of death in a person. Since Al-Sayyab and Akhavan-e-Sales lived chaotic lives and lost their loved ones, they seemed constantly conscious of the experience, which made them anxious. This issue can be seen again and again in the poems of both poets. They both used different defense mechanisms such as denial, turning to a savior, escaping into the past, and accepting death to deal with this anxiety. Adopting descriptive-analytic methods based on the American school of comparative literature, this paper attempts to fill the current critical gap in the psychological analysis of the poetry of the abovementioned poets by analyzing the motives behind the tendency to die and the defense mechanisms used by these two poets against death anxiety. Influenced by the motive of death consciousness and the existential anxiety accompanying the fear of death, the two poets turn to defense mechanisms. It will be shown that the ideas of descent and destruction make up a considerable portion of their poems.

Cite this article: Habibi, Mahboobeh; Heidaryan Shahri, Ahmadreza & Seddighi, Bahar. "A comparative reading of the psychological manifestation of the idea of descent and destruction in the poetry of Sayyab and the Akhavan sales based on the existentialist theory of Irvin D. Yalom. (Death Anxiety)" *Research in Contemporary World Literature*, 2024, 29 (1), 99-123. DOI: <http://doi.org/10.22059/jor.2022.335242.2249>



© The Author(s).

Publisher: University of Tehran Press.

DOI: <http://doi.org/10.22059/jor.2022.335242.2249>