



## RESEARCH PAPER

### Comparative analysis of poem "*Hum Dekhenge*" and "*Ode to the West Wind*"

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## ABSTRACT

The research delves into a comparative analysis of two impactful poems: "*Hum Dekhenge*" by Faiz Ahmed Faiz and "*Ode to the West Wind*" by Percy Bysshe Shelley, framed within the theoretical backdrop of Karl Marx's conflict theory. This exploration unveils the profound themes embedded in these works, encompassing revolution, optimism, hope, and the nuanced social and political issues depicted by each poet in their respective creations. Conducting a meticulous textual analysis, the study culminates in a noteworthy revelation: despite the poets hailing from distinct cultures and employing different languages, their verses resonate with parallel revolutionary ideals. It is imperative to acknowledge the study's limitations, as it focuses solely on individual poems, paving the way for future research endeavors to enrich our understanding of these literary nuances."

**KEYWORDS** Conflict Theory, Faiz Ahmed Faiz, Revolution Hope, Karl Marx, Percy Bysshe Shelley

## Introduction

Poetry is tool for poets, which helps them to express their inner feeling and thoughts by using different themes and techniques. Different poets use different themes such as theme of religion, realism, romance, beauty, and revolution. The revolutionary poets always instruct the masses for the reformation of society. (Clausen and Christopher, 2015). Revolutionary poets raise their voices in favor of mankind against Injustice, Corruption, and Oppression. They aware the people from social evils and encouraged them for social change in their society. There are some pakistani revolutionary writers and poets who got the great fame in world literature. Among them Faiz Ahmed Faiz is one of the great poet, whose revolutionary ideas, and poetic aesthetic can be compared with the English great poets such as Percy Bysshe Shelley. Shelley is renowned English romantic poet. He is also famous for his revolutionary ideas.

The poem "*Hum Dekhenge*" is Urdu poem (Nazam) written by famous Pakistani Urdu poet Faiz Ahmed Faiz in 1979. Faiz is known as great Pakistani revolutionary poet, he is also the winner of Lenin Peace prize. Ashrar lone (2017) said, Faiz is famous urdu poet, he also wrote many poems in other languages. Faiz used his poetry as tool to spread his revolutionary ideas in Pakistan. His Ghazals and Nazams dealt with the themes of love, beauty, romance, nonviolence, revolution, sacrifice and peace, which have been influencing the people of his country. Faiz spented much of his life during critical condition of Pakistan history. (Lone, 2017).

"*Hum Dekhenge*", is the revolutionary work of Faiz which was written to criticize the dictatorship and fundamentalism of former Pakistan general-turned president Zia-ul-

Haq. Indori (2020), Stated that Faiz wrote the poem "Hum Dekhenge" against the Dictatorship of Zia. Faiz used Islamic imagery by which he attacked rulers of that time, his poetry was denied and banned for several times but his voice reaches even those who have never heard about him (Indori, 2020). The poem "Hum Dekhenge" has rendered muscle not just to anti-Zia protest but also to protest in Nepal against the monarchy. Faiz is also a poet of optimism and positively along with being a Revolutionary poet.

The poem "Ode to the West Wind" is written by English Romantic poet Percy Bysshe Shelley, who is known as the radical poet of his time period. This poem was published in (1820). Shelley was a Revolutionary poet. He was highly influenced by French Revolution and its mottoes: Liberty, Equality and Fraternity. Shelley was not satisfied with his society, he always desired for a social change in his society. (Hassan, R, 2009).

Shelley wrote the poem "Ode to the West Wind" by getting direct influence from his society. He was an idealist and he always wanted to see the world based on supreme rules of equality and liberty without sufferings, evil and miseries. "Ode to the West Wind" is Shelley's inner voice which expresses his inner feeling: The intense sufferings of life and his great hope for bright future of Humanity. Shelley uses "West Wind" as perfect symbol to raise his spirit out of the depths of miseries, Sadness and Tiredness. The poem is also the perfect reflection of French Revolution, which depicts the actual message of Shelley: The end of injustice, Corruption and Oppression from the society which means, a world that must be based on good governance. (Thomas, 2015)

The Research intends to analyze the themes of revolution and hope from both poems. It also highlights the Social and Political influences on both poets' ideas portrayed from their poems respectively.

### **Literature Review**

The comparative studies on the work of Shelley and Pakistani poet have been done by some researchers. A comparative analysis on poetry of Shelley and Pakistani revolutionary poet Habib Jalib has been done by Nawaz Awan (2019). After collecting the data from various articles, newspapers, magazines, and research papers, the researcher concluded, the emerging of political conflicts are the result from feudalism, corruption, inequality, and injustice. These social evils create great conflict which may be the cause to bring the reformation in society. (Nawaz & Awan, 2019)

A comprehensive work has been done on the poetry of Faiz in (2020). Thoroughly studied Faiz's poetic collection. It ended with the result that Faiz is a universal poet. His poetry consists many themes. Putting a label with any prejudice on his poetry is injustice with him.

Another study thoroughly analyzed on the poetic body of Faiz. It concluded that Faiz inspired and urged people to fight and promoted revolutionary change (Magray, 2020)

Faiz Ahmed Faiz and P.B Shelley both are well known for their revolutionary ideas. Both poets wanted radical change in their society, they wrote against the violence, inequality, and injustice in order to revolt the society. Two researchers Saleh and Yusoff investigated the similarities and differences in the work of Faiz and Shelley. They intended to identify the aspect of Revolution, Universality and Humanitarian approach in their poetry's ideology. They concluded that although both poets belonging to different periods,

both revolted against tranny and anarchy, and supported the internationalism of art. (Saleh and Yusoff, 2016)

Shelley is one of the great English romantic poet, an idealistic and social reformist. He wrote many poems on the current state of the politics of his society. Some of his poems were deemed too radical for the time that they were published after his death. Many researches have been done on the work of P.B Shelley. A study was conducted to reveal the vengeance and retribution abandonment and peaceful rebellion aspects by constructing him a right-activist. It was concluded that Shelley was revolutionary poet, he envisioned a society teemed with justice and equality. He raised voice for the rights of the common people. (Saleh & Khan, 2017)

Iftikhar Arif highlighted some major poems of Faiz specially those which were witten in London such as "Koi Ashiq Apni Mahbuba" and "Hum Dekhenge". He said the poem "Hum Dekhenge" was written for the wake of revolution. He argues that Faiz's has the elements of French Revolution. Faiz was also inspired from French Revolution. He was against the dictatorship, he believed that people should have liberty: freedom of voice, freedom of choice, freedom of expressions. Faiz wanted Political reformation, In this poem he is highly optimized for revolution and he expressed his inner voice to the people. Although Zia's Dictatorship imposed a ban on Faiz's poetry, it did not stop and became the revolutionary anthem for oppressed people. (Raza, Hussain, 2006, pp. 43-44). Faiz was revolutionary by heart, he got influence from the society and he depicted the society with new modes of exploitation and injustice. He wrote openly against the oppressive regime, he used his poetry as the voice of oppressed people (Ahmar, 2017).

The Revolutionary ideas of Shelley clearly depict from his famous poem "Ode to the West Wind", in the poem Shelley seems as a rebel who wants revolutionary change in society. Shelley was not satisfied with his society especially with the rules, orders, customs, and extreme religious thoughts of people. According to him these rules and orders make people bound from their liberty. People especially from lower middle class cannot live freely under that boundary. Shelley wanted to break the chain of that boundary and make reformation in the society. Henry (1920) said: The poem "Ode to the West Wind" is symbol of change, which is written under the direct influence from his society. Shelley believed in Revolution, which means the spiritual awakening and the beginning of new life. According to him the development in society is only possible when people enjoy the liberty, that liberty means freedom from external restrains (Henry, 1920).

Although both poets have their own way of expressing their ideas, but according to their themes both poets are in same direction. By reviewing whole literature, it is concluded that, despite having different, period, Culture, and languages both poet can seem as contemporary for their ideas and themes of their work. They both are radical poets and they want change in their society. The poem "Hum Dekhenge" and "Ode to the west wind" are the mouth piece of Faiz and Shelley respectively. This research will intend to compare the ideas, thoughts and concepts of both poets with the reference of these selected poems.

## **Material and Methods**

### **Theoretical Framework**

The conceptual framework is conflict theory which is applied for the comparative analysis of the themes of two poets: Faiz Ahmed Faiz and P.B Shelley from their selected poems "Hum Dekhenge" and Ode to the West Wind" respectively. The theory is formulated

by Karl Marx, according to which reforms come through tensions and conflicts which take place due to the injustice, unequal power and uneven capital and resources in a society. The constant effort of conflicting groups brings forth the achievement in development and progress of society (Croser, 2019)

The conflicting groups of society consist of the ruler and the public, the powerful and the needy, and the justice holder and Criminal minds. The revolutionary people struggle for social, political and economical reforms. The efforts of these conflict groups play a major role in the change against injustices and inequalities (Mondal, 2015). The conflicting clashes exist due to inequalities and injustice imposed by the particular group in society. The dominant group bourgeoisie holds on major resources and high position of society due to their power, influence and wealth. In contrast, the proletariat, the working-class group which is burdened and oppressed from the laws and poverty. The conflicts that emerge between these two groups may result in the achievement of change in politics, social structure and economical conditions of society.

The concept of theory is that competition is constant in all human interactions, and social classes. When there is injustice of power, it causes the crisis in society. The competition is not only for tangible resources but also for intangible goods such as social status, domination or oppression (Koop, 2021).

Faiz and Shelley both had the influence of conflict groups, they raised their voice against the corrupt system. They were highly motivated for bringing the reformation in their society so conflict theory can be fit on their poetry. By applying this theory, the selected poems are analyzed on the basis of their themes based on the social and political structure. The studies examine the selected poems to explore the major themes of poem such as Revolution, Optimism and Hope and the comparison between themes and ideas used by both poets in their respective poems.

### **Comparative Analysis**

"Hum Dekhenge" and "Ode to the West Wind" both poems are written by two different poets who belong to different ages and cultures yet both poems are common in the themes and ideas, Faiz and Shelley both share similar ideas in their poems. The theme of Revolution is common in both poems, more over the poems also show the optimistic ideas of Faiz and Shelley.

### **Theme of Revolution**

In the poem "Hum Dekhenge" Faiz shares his revolutionary ideas by using Symbol of Islamic ideology, he criticizes the rulers of his time, He portrays the condition of his society and the people who are in trouble due to the oppression and rules of dictatorship, he says:

(When mountains of tranny will blow like cotton,  
When the ground beneath the feet of us who are the oppressed will shake and tremble,  
When thunderous lightning will hover over the rulers, We shall surely witness) (Faiz, 1979)

Faiz shows the condition of oppressed people and corrupt rulers of his society, He refers to the time oppression and tranny for the common people. The power is in the hands of corrupt rulers who are ruling with their powers.

Similarly Shelley also shows his revolutionary ideas in his poem "Ode to the West Wind", the symbol of nature depicts the actual condition of Shelley's society. He was not

happy with the orders and rules of his society. For him the people of the society are bounded, they have no any liberty, and their conditions are rough like the colors of the leaves in the winter season he says:

(Yellow, and black and pale and hetic red  
Pestilence+stricken multitudes: O thou,  
Who chariotest to their dark wintery bed) (Shelley, 1820)

The colors of the leaves show the condition of people, while the Winter season refers the rulers. The rough condition of people are caused of laws imposed by the people who govern the system they are responsible for rough condition of people.

Faiz is against the rulers of his time he shows his conflict by criticizing the corrupt government and the rulers of his time, he uses the traditional Islamic imagery, which actually used to attacks on Zia's dictatorship and restore the democracy. He says:

(When idols of falsehood would be caust aside from the abode of Ka'aba  
When we, the pure, the outcast of sacred place (Haram) would be placed on thrones) (Faiz, 1979)

The word "idols" symbolizes the "The ruler". The rulers who consider themselves the god, they have illegal power of their government, Faiz believes that there will be end of this false ideology, the injustice will no more and justice will rule the country, these self-proclaimed gods will kicked out and they will be banished from this peaceful place, and the power will be in the hands of people who are the owners of this position. The ideas to abolishing the dictators and bring the pious leaders are portraying the Revolutionary ideas of Faiz which is based on the political change in the country.

In order to overcome the conflict and utilize his ideas Shelley seeks power from Wind by using his ideas he can change the society he says:

(If I were a dead leaf, thou mightiest bear,  
If I were a swift cloud to fly with thee,  
A wave to pant beneath thy power and shar) (Shelley, 1820)

Shelley desires to obtain the strength of wind which means 'the power' to restore his youth. He wants to fly with wind like leaf, cloud, wave, so that he may flourish his radical thoughts to the mankind. As the West Wind changes the nature with it's power, Shelley also wants to make the reformation in the society by sacrificing even his real existence.

Both poets have ideas of conflict group who are against the bourgeoisie. They both are unhappy with their society specially the rulers who are ruling by using their power. These bourgeoisie groups controled over the people politicallly socially as well as economically. Faiz wants political change, while Shelley wants social as well political reformation in his society.

### **Theme of Hope and Optimism**

Faiz and Shelley both are optimistic in their poems, they both have strongly believe on the reformation. Faiz always hope for good. In this poem he has optimistic ideas for the refromation in the society as he says:

(We Shall witness. Surely, we too shall bear witness,

To the promised day etched on all eternity) (Faiz, 1979)

Faiz seems optimistic and hopeful for the good time, he believes that the day will come where Truth and Justice will rule over the country, where right people will get the throne and corrupt rulers will be banished from this system. The whole poem is based on the hope, the hope for the Revolution.

Shelley is also a visionary poet who never loses his faith and hope. Shelley dreamed of a bright and beautiful future. He believes that poetry will bring glorious eternity, a golden age in the future. The poem "Ode to the West Wind" is Shelley's inner voice. It is actually a manifestation of optimism which was nurtured in his heart. He ends the poem with the most beautiful and hopeful lines he says

(O Wind, If Winter comes, can Spring be far behind) (Shelley, 1820)

The winter represents the corrupt society and its system and the spring is the symbol of good time. The line shows how Shelley is hopeful for the revolution, for him the revolution will bring Equality, Liberty and Fraternity in the society.

"Hum Dekhenge" and "Ode to the West Wind" both poems are common on the basis of theme, and techniques. Faiz and Shelley both have the influence of conflict groups, they raise their voice against the corrupt system as well as people. They are highly optimized for bringing the reformation in their society. They both share their revolutionary ideas by using the techniques of metaphor, symbol and Imagery.

### **Social and political Influence**

#### **Hum Dekhenge**

Faiz was revolutionary by heart, he got influence from the society and he depicted the society with new modes of exploitation and injustice. He wrote openly against the oppressive regime, he used his poetry as the voice of oppressed people (Ahmar, 2017).

Faiz raised his voice and wrote for the rights of poor people. He always attacked dictatorship, and imperialism, tyranny, hypocrisy and oppression. In the poem "Hum Dekhenge" Faiz portrays the torturous times of Pakistani military dictator Zia Ul Haq who imposed restrictions on several kinds of liberties during his regime. Rahat Indori (2020) stated that Faiz wrote the poem "Hum Dekhenge" against the Dictatorship of Zia. Faiz uses Islamic imagery by which he attacks rulers of that time, his poetry was denied and banned for several times but his voice reaches even those who have never heard about him. (Rahat Indori 2020).

Faiz criticized Pakistani rulers of that time through this poem. He shows the oppression, deceit, injustice and corruption of those rulers. He says

(When idols of falsehood would be cast aside from the abode of God (Kaaba),  
When we, the pure, the outcasts of sacred place (haram) would be placed on thrones)  
(Faiz, 1979)

Faiz highlights the corruption and injustice of the government. He called the rulers "idols of falsehood" who are self-proclaimed gods, who impose their laws over people. They are dominant on the basis of their power, while the right people who believe in democracy are under oppression and suppressed by these dictators. Moreover, he believes

that time will come and the throne will be in the hands of those pure hearted people who deserve that place.

The whole poem portrays the picture of Zai's dictatorship era, by using Metaphorical language and Islamic imagery, Faiz highlights the issues of Injustice, falsehood, oppression and Corruption.

### **Ode to the West Wind**

Romantic poets of 19th century were highly motivated from french revolution. The revolution has strong influence on Shelley, he was great motivated by the mottoes of French revolution: "Liberty, Equality, and Fraternity". His poem "Ode to the West Wind" is the perfect reflection of French revolution. By using metaphorical language, Shelley portrays the social and political issues such as oppression, corruption in the society, and his ultimate message of poem is also the end of these issues. According to him there should be liberty, equality, and fraternity for all the people and the world should be based on good governance.

Shelley represents his society and governing system as Corrupt, according to him Malfunction exists in every corner of society. He gives the reference of Roman Empire by using the phrase "The trumpet of prophecy" which recalls the golden time of Roman Empire. Shelley denies the present order and rule of society, and he wants the golden time of Roman Empire in his society. According to him the rules had better to change with the power like the power of Wind. He says

(The trumpet of a prophecy! O Wind,  
If Winter comes, can Spring be far behind?) (Shelley, 1820)

Shelley believes that the wind has both power: Destructive as well as creative agent of nature. He wants to get the power of wind and shatter his thoughts among the people.

Shelley uses the metaphorical language in order to reflect the political and social issues. Rough condition of society, problems and difficulties of the people and Corruption of rulers are main issues depicted from the poem "Ode to the West Wind". Shelley seems optimistic for his society, he believes that all problems will get over, when the reformation will come in society, as he himself is inspired from the Wind which is destructive and brings death but also can be beautiful and bring life.

### **Conclusion**

While both poets employ distinct methods to express their ideas, a thematic alignment emerges, indicating a shared direction in their works. The common themes of revolution and hope resonate in both Faiz and Shelley's poetry. Influenced by conflict theory, both poets raise their voices against corrupt systems, passionately advocating for societal reformation. Their revolutionary ideas are communicated through powerful literary techniques such as metaphor, symbolism, and imagery.

Faiz utilizes the symbol of Islamic ideology, openly criticizing the rulers of his time and vividly portraying the societal conditions of oppression and dictatorship. Similarly, Shelley employs the symbol of nature in his poem, reflecting the genuine state of his society. Both poets share an optimistic outlook, firmly believing in the possibility of societal transformation.

Furthermore, both poems are deeply rooted in the societal influences of their respective times, offering poignant portraits of social and political conditions. Faiz exposes the oppression, deceit, injustice, and corruption prevalent in his era. In contrast, Shelley employs metaphorical language to shed light on societal issues such as oppression and corruption. The overarching message of both poems is a call for an end to these issues, envisioning a world liberated from social evils.



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