



Social Anthropology of the Ruler's Function in Khalil Mutran's Poetry

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Introduction

As a social phenomenon, literature is not isolated from society, events, and social functions. As anthropology is the science of investigating various biological, cultural, and social aspects of human beings, literature, too, is a human construct that depicts society and public functions. Thus, viewing literature from an anthropological perspective helps us understand society and its social and cultural structures. In the contemporary age, the literature movement ushered in a new way, with its primary function being to serve society and people. At this time, Khalil Mutran left a huge impact on guiding the new generation toward understanding society and social functions. Hence, investigating his poetry from social anthropology could pave the way for a better understanding of social structures, human conduct, and the intellectual and cultural systems governing the society of the poet. Social anthropology concerns human functions and their social behavior within a social framework. In this connection, functions are the basic concepts of social anthropology. Since Khalil Mutran was living in a society ruled by despot Ottoman kings, who used to suppress the nation and delay social achievements, it is clear that he used his poems to unveil ruler functions to change political behavior. This is because understanding the functions of a ruler helps better understand the behaviors of other members of society and their social relations, which would lay bare the social structure of the poet's time. To this aim, the present study aimed to analyze the most important functions of a ruler in the poems of Khalil Mutran.

Methodology

The study method was first based on a social critique as a prelude to social anthropology research and then followed by qualitative substantive analysis to explain manifest and latent concepts of poetic verses. Since selecting an approach in substantive analysis methods helps expand the scientific domains of research and its constructs, and considering contemporary approaches to social anthropology, this study used the structural-functionalism approach to focus on public functions in various systems to achieve some

structural harmony and balance.

Results and Discussion

The findings of the study indicated that Mutran has referred to the negative aspects of ruler functions in his social poems, depicting the ruler's domination and despotism as a degree of suppression and his use of some executive mechanisms such as social control to establish social balance and political security. As revealed by Mutran's poems, the most important manners of social control include physical, behavioral, and mental violence, represented by carnage, bloodshed, setting people on fire, and terrifying the public. This social function had spread to the point where government and scientific groups of people could not remain immune, with strict compliance with the ruler and submission against his will becoming some basic functions of the then society of the poet.

Since a ruler's power function is thought of as an isolated and independent construct of other people in society, he can change the nation's political functions in the direction of his domineering goals as a president of the political system. On the other hand, the nation's cultural poverty, represented by bowing down to the ruler and sanctifying his position, had manifested the ruler's functions as natural while institutionalizing them in the minds and consolidating his governance.

Conclusion

the social anthropological review of Mutran's poems demonstrates that the ruler's domineering functions, the lack of justice and freedom of expression, on the one hand, and the dysfunctional cultural function of the nation, on the other hand, could lay the ground for the loss of political involvement, change of values and crisis of identity, with the public remaining indifferent to ruler functions and losing the motives to change the status quo. In the society of that time, the social link between the ruler and the nation was founded on a power and submission relationship, resulting in the governance of a superior class over an inferior class. This necessitated the ruler being on top of the pyramid and the inferior in lower tanks, which would guarantee the survival of the political system of the then society.

Keywords: Social anthropology, Function, Dominance, Social control, Khalil Mutran.

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