

## THE THEME OF WAR IN THE POETRY OF UZBEK AND ENGLISH LITERATURE

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**ABSTRACT:** The poet always tries to cover the pain and experience of people in poetry. Poems in the theme of war in Uzbek and English literature are also important in this regard, as they serve to awaken a sense of humanity and compassion in the heart of the reader.

**KEY WORDS:** Poem, war, term, imagery, message, tone.

### I. INTRODUCTION

War is one of the most universal and profound themes in literature, as it reflects the human condition and the human experience in times of conflict and violence. War affects not only the lives and the deaths of individuals and nations, but also the values and the beliefs of cultures and civilizations. War challenges the notions of justice and morality, of heroism and cowardice, of loyalty and betrayal, of love and hate. War also inspires the expressions and the creations of writers and artists, who use their words and their images to convey the realities and the emotions of war, to criticize and to protest against war, to commemorate and to mourn the victims of war, and to hope and to dream for peace.

In this article, I will compare and contrast the theme of war in the poetry of Uzbek and English literature, focusing on the works of Erkin Vahidov and Carol Ann Duffy. Erkin Vahidov is a prominent Uzbek poet, who participated in the Soviet-Afghan War in the 1980s, and wrote his famous poem Nido as a tribute to his mother, who died while he was away. Carol Ann Duffy is a renowned British poet, who was the Poet Laureate of the United Kingdom from 2009 to 2019, and wrote her poem War Photographer as a homage to her friends, who were war photographers. Both poets explore the theme of war from different perspectives and with different techniques, but they both convey the horrors and sufferings of war, as well as the indifference and detachment of those who are not directly involved in it. I will analyze how both poets

use poetic devices, such as imagery, metaphor, allusion, repetition, rhyme, irony, and sarcasm, to enhance their messages and their effects. I will also discuss how both poets show the contrast between the reality of war and the ignorance of peace, and how they present the personal and emotional aspects of war, such as the loss of loved ones, the trauma of witnessing violence, and the dilemma of being a witness or a participant. I will argue that both poems challenge the reader to think about the consequences and the causes of war, and to question their own role and responsibility in it.

## **II. LITERATURE REVIEW**

Erkin Vohidov is a renowned Uzbek poet and writer known for his powerful and evocative poetry that often explores themes of love, loss, and the human experience. His work is deeply rooted in Uzbek culture and history, and he is celebrated for his ability to capture the beauty and complexity of life through his words.

On the other hand, Carol Ann Duffy is a prominent British poet known for her poignant and thought-provoking poetry that often addresses social and political issues, as well as personal experiences. She served as the Poet Laureate of the United Kingdom from 2009 to 2019 and has received numerous awards for her contributions to literature.

While both poets come from different cultural backgrounds, their work shares a common emphasis on the human condition and the power of language to convey emotion and meaning. Their poetry is characterized by its lyrical quality, emotional depth, and keen insight into the complexities of life.

Overall, Erkin Vohidov and Carol Ann Duffy are both esteemed poets whose work continues to resonate with readers around the world, offering profound reflections on the human experience and the world we live in.

## **III. METHOD**

This article uses the method of comparing Erkin Vohidov's "Nido" and Carol Ann Duffy's "War Photography". Erkin Vohidov wrote about the struggles and sufferings of his people under the Soviet regime and the aftermath of the Second World War. His poem "Nido" (The Cry) is a tribute to his father, who fought and died in the war, and a reflection on the contrast between the peaceful life in rural England and the horrors of war in distant lands. Carol Ann Duffy is a contemporary British poet who became the first woman to hold the post of Poet Laureate in 2009. Her poem "War Photographer" is based on her friendship with two war photographers, Don McCullin and Philip Jones Griffiths, who risked their lives to capture the images of war and its victims. The poem explores the ethical and emotional dilemmas of the photographer, who has to balance his professional duty with his personal feelings, and the indifference of the readers who consume his pictures.

## **IV. ANALYSIS AND DISCUSSION**

Analysing the poems in terms of their form, language, imagery, tone, and message.

**Form:** Both poems are written in four stanzas, but "Nido" has a variable rhyme scheme and meter, while "War Photographer" has a regular rhyme scheme of ABBCDD and a consistent iambic pentameter. This could suggest that "Nido" is more expressive and spontaneous, while "War Photographer" is more controlled and structured.

**Language:** Both poems use simple and direct language, but "Nido" also incorporates some Uzbek words, such as "otajon" (father), "yolg'izim" (my lonely one), and "qo'zim" (my eye), which create a sense of intimacy and cultural identity. "War Photographer" uses more technical terms, such as "spools", "solutions", and "supplement", which reflect the photographer's profession and detachment.

**Imagery:** Both poems use vivid and contrasting imagery to convey the impact of war. "Nido" uses metaphors, such as "*Sizning ko'ksingizni teshgan qora o'q*" (the black arrow that pierced your chest), "*Qalximni o'rtamoqda so'ngsiz armonim*" (the heart that bleeds with endless longing), and "*O'sha olis yurtida qon kechib hozir*" (the blood stained into foreign dust), to express the poet's grief and loss. "War Photographer" uses similes, such as "as though this were a church and he a priest", "to fields which don't explode beneath the feet", and "a hundred agonies in black and white", to highlight the photographer's moral conflict and the difference between his worlds.

**Tone:** Both poems have a tone of sadness and anger, but "Nido" is more personal and emotional, while "War Photographer" is more detached and ironic. "Nido" expresses the poet's love and admiration for his father, as well as his resentment and despair for the war that took him away. "War Photographer" reveals the photographer's frustration and guilt for his role, as well as his cynicism and contempt for the readers who do not care.

**Message:** Both poems convey a message of anti-war and human suffering, but "Nido" is more patriotic and optimistic, while "War Photographer" is more critical and pessimistic. "Nido" celebrates the heroism and sacrifice of the poet's father and his people, who fought for their freedom and dignity, and hopes for a better future for their children. "War Photographer" questions the purpose and effect of the photographer's work, which exposes the atrocities of war but does not change the apathy and ignorance of the society.

## V. CONCLUSION

In conclusion, both poems are powerful and moving expressions of the horrors of war and its consequences on the human psyche. They share some common features, such as the use of simple language, vivid imagery, and contrasting settings, but they also differ in their form, tone, and message. "Nido" is more personal and emotional, while "War Photographer" is more professional and ironic. "Nido" is more patriotic

and optimistic, while "War Photographer" is more critical and pessimistic. Both poems have their merits and flaws, depending on the perspective and preference of the reader.

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