

## The bases of historical-cultural incongruity in contemporary poetry based on Mehdi Akhavan Sales's poem

Fatemeh Hedayatnezhad<sup>1</sup>, Reza Sattari<sup>2</sup>, Mohammad Taghi Ghezelsoufa<sup>3</sup>

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### Abstract

The life experience of Iranian man in the transition period shows that, despite his efforts, he is still unable to fully understand the requirements of the modern world and is constantly hesitating between the two traditional and modern worlds. The feedback of this problem is profoundly obvious in contemporary culture, so that it caused an incongruity in our history and culture. Incongruity doesn't mean the existence of different and heterogeneous elements together, but the simultaneous presence of asynchronous things. historical-cultural incongruity is evident in contemporary poetry as one of the basics of society's culture, especially the poetry of Akhavan, one of the contemporary modern poets. This descriptive- analytical article attempts to reveal the reasons and bases of historical-cultural incongruity in contemporary poetry and its manifestation in Akhavan's poems and exploring the historical experience of modernity in Iran in the meantime. This survey shows that Akhavan's poem contains incongruities in three domains, including, form and content, language and format. It means that the form of poetry is modern but it's content, instead of representing modern values, similar to European critics of modernity, criticizes west and it's values. Furthermore, the usage of old

1 Corresponding author. PH.D graduate of Persian Language & Literature Mazandaran University

Email: [fatemehhedayatnezhad@yahoo.com](mailto:fatemehhedayatnezhad@yahoo.com) orcid: 0000-0001-9720-8315

2 Associate Professor of Persian Language & Literature, Mazandaran University, [rezasatari@umz.ac.ir](mailto:rezasatari@umz.ac.ir)

3. Associate Professor of Persian Language & Literature, Mazandaran University, [m.ghezel@umz.ac.ir](mailto:m.ghezel@umz.ac.ir)

language beside new one and concurrent use of old formats of Persian poetry and Nima'i poetry, is an indicator of incongruity in Akhavan's poems.

**Keywords:** *Iranian modernity and contemporary poetry, historical-cultural incongruity in Akhwan's poetry, Mehdi Akhavan Sales 's poem, Uneven contexts in contemporary poetry.*

### **Extended Abstract**

#### **1. Introduction**

Iranian society, from the beginning of dealing with modernity, that is from the nineteenth century until now, is caught in the strait of tradition and modernity and is looking for a way out of it. In this situation, most of the people in the society who should be able to solve the problems of the transition period while accurately knowing the past and criticizing it, due to their social origin and mental ideas, they have not understood the modern culture in its entirety. This problem has caused our history and culture to become incompatible and incongruous. The reflection of this incongruity can also be seen in the poem. Mehdi Akhavan Sales, as one of the contemporary prominent poets, has not been far from these incongruities. This essay intends to look at the contexts and factors of the historical-cultural incongruity and examine the components of this incongruities from various aspects in the poetry.

#### **Research questions**

These questions are answered in this research: what are the factors and grounds of historical-cultural incongruity in contemporary poetry? Also, what are the manifestations of historical-cultural incongruity in the poetry of Akhavan Sales?

#### **2. Literature Review**

Our historical and cultural incongruity comes from the fact that we lack the sequence of historical experience and often we go through historical periods not in its gradual way, but in a confused and chaotic and sometimes even regressive way. So we inevitably experience heterogeneous elements from different periods at the same time, however, every historical period have its own political, economic, social and cultural requirements. When we talk about historical and cultural incongruity, we do not mean diversity or simply the existence of incompatible elements together. Incongruity means the simultaneous

presence of asynchronous things next to each other that do not have any historical and cultural compatibility with each other. Like most of those who took steps towards modernization, Mehdi Akhavan Sales was still subjected to institutional behaviors, words and ideas. Undoubtedly, it's inevitable result showed as a contradiction in the poet's worldview and naturally manifested in his poetry. Akhavan's poetry is full of incompatible and contradictory elements that are combined and unified with a special skill. From this point of view, Akhavan's poetry can be examined in three areas:

1. Incongruity of form and content in Nima'i Akhavan's poem

In this way, the form of the poem is new and modern, while the content of it, instead of accepting the values and manifestations of modernity, has had a revers trend and with an empathetic approach towards traditions, it has exhibited a critique of the values and manifestations of modern life.

2. incongruity in language

Harmonizing and synchronizing of the archaic language and the modern language as unbalanced and asynchronous elements in Nima'i poems of Akhavan, perhaps is the result of an imbalance and contradiction in his conservative idea and worldview, which is trapped between the old and new worlds and still does not have a clear identity.

3. incongruity in poetic format

Using classical and neoclassical formats to express new content and current issues, at the same time as accepting Nima'i style, shows the dual approach of Akhavan to modernity and innovation in poetry.

### **3. Methodology**

This research intends to study historical and cultural incongruity in Akhavan's poem and exploring the reasons and bases of this incongruity in Akhavan's poem with a descriptive- analytical method. Data collection was done using reliable library resources and documents.

### **Results**

The continuous invasion of foreigners throughout history to the land of Iran and the disturbances and crises resulting from it, caused that this country will never be able to achieve balanced growth from the feudal system to the industrial revolution and modern bourgeois civilization. Therefore, in the nineteenth century Iran has been thrown into the world of modernity without the historical, political, social and cultural contexts of that great event in this society. In this way, our historical-cultural structure has been developed based on the uneven growth and

synchronization of asynchronous phenomena. The reflection of the historical and cultural incongruity in the poetry and thought of Akhavan Sales can be seen in three areas. In this way, the negation of modernity and its achievements, the criticism of the dominant West, the romantic return to himself and etc, have had a wide reflection in Nima'i poems of Akhavan and the result has appeared in an incongruous form and content. Other incongruities in the Akhavan's poems can be seen in the field of language and format. In this way, the poet used archaic language under the influence classical poetry in his Nima'i poems along with new and modern language, and at the same time as he wrote Nima'i poem, he also wrote many poems in classical format.

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