

War 's Impact on Social Relations: A Study of Selected Literary Texts

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ABSTRACT: War is a conflict among political groups involving sizable duration and vastness, and sociological view which presents a special way to see the world and analyzing the events which happen in society upon their social view including war. This study hypothesizes that social relations are affected by war and by consequences of post war. This study aims at showing the effects of war by using the social approach as a method for analyzing selected literary texts to show the outcomes of war on the social relations. This paper starts with an introduction to the subject of war, then the discussion comes and it ends with a conclusion that points out the results of discussion .

KEYWORDS: War, Antiwar Theory, "*Love in Makhool's Flank*", Social Approach

INTRODUCTION

War has led to social transformations which change the face of human society. The effects of war contain large destruction of cities. It has great effects on social relations. Armed conflict has a negative results on infrastructures, nations, social orders, health deteriorations, social and personal destructions among many other things which considered as indirect results of post war ^{(Arthur, et al).} This study is limited to portraying social relations under influences of war in selected Arabic and English texts by emphasizing upon social and personal destruction which depict the separation and ruin of society in post war era. The present paper helps to declare the dangerous and horrible consequences of war upon the society by telling the reader how war makes people split from each other unwillingly. Political benefits are always behind the war. It is always the war to achieve the politicians' own purposes. It is the duty of literature and literary texts to depict the terrible truth of war and makes the reader sees the horrible results of war through characters' suffering as they pass throughout the situations and difficult circumstances. They separated from home, friends, and their lovers. War destroys their future life by effecting them and their social relations. Literary texts differ in portraying and dealing with war. Each writer has his/her own view regarding war and see war through his own views, some socialist focuses upon military matters rather than discussing the effects of war upon social relations, and some sociologist deals with illustrating the destruction caused by the consequences of war. This means that studying sociology of war does not mean or only concentrate upon military or military settled, as some writers deal with war as political process and deal with arrangement of military in war rather than consequences of war as notable in Clausewitz's theory, and some writers focus upon the transformation that results out of war by illustrating and depicting social and personal nature of characters while they are in war and after it ends.

1- Methodology

This paper follows the social approach by applying Max Weber's theory of War to analyze the consequences of war upon social relations as appear in selected Arabic and English texts. This approach is the most suitable one to tackle this subject and achieve the aim to prove the hypothesis of the paper that the war has destructive effect on the social relations of the people.

Maximilian karl Emil Weber was a German sociologist. He wrote a lot of writing that show the effects of war on social relations by depicting the nature of war and how it effects on human's life. Weber emphasizes on depicting the horror of the postwar period to put in plain words the real picture of war. Weber concentrates on war 's theory as "sadness which created by war is so unique as well as powerful because only in war, human can think on death and therefore his life obtain meaning " (Long,2012). Weber emphasizes on the sadness, tragedy which caused by war. According to him, war is situation that creates unusual feeling and pathos.

He criticizes the politics which are exploiting the society and innocent people in war and using them as a physical force defending the land to achieve their own purposes or political interests or victories. Weber's definition of war is, "Entity which possesses a monopoly on the legitimate use of physical force". (Brustolin, 653) . He was clear in his explanation of military as a tool of power and force, and concentrating upon the link between politics and violence. He clarifies that the centrality of the military to state power, according to him that state is only a state when it is able to keep the rights of using the physical force within its territory. His theory illustrates the consequences of war upon the society as that which can be divided into types:

- a- Personal destruction which concentrates of war 's outcomes on ruining the life and future of humans' lives and their feelings and inner sufferings during the war .
- b- Social destruction which concentrates on the war 's outcomes on human 's relation with their family, mistresses, friends, and how war forces them to separate from the relations and to live the life which they do not like (Upeniece).

2- Discussion

One of the Arabic novels called "Love in Machool 's Flank" depicts the horror of war and its effects on social relations by showing the war between Iraq and Iran (1980-1988) and the life of innocent soldier named Khalid. He is forced to participate in war. He separated from his beloved, Salma. He left his family and his friends as well. After many years in which war continued, his family and his beloved received a news that Khalid is Killed in the war due to the messenger who brought the identifications of Khalid from war as an evidence that he was killed during the war. Fortunately, Khalid was not killed during that battle. However, he was captured by the enemy during the battle. Khalid was disconnected with his family and his lover, even his friends. He knew nothing about them. As his relatives became hopeless about Khalid's return, his mistress is forced by her family to marry another person named Yassen. After a while, she gave birth to a child, she named him Khalid after her lover. After many years, Khalid came back and he has shocked when he knew about his beloved's marriage and the news that reached to his family about his death and he was frustrated by the situation. The same condition is with his beloved, Salma, who fell in trauma when informed that Khalid is still alive and he has not died in the war. Then Khalid became desperate and his family forced him to marry another woman to forget his late mistress. After Khalid 's marriage, Salma's husband is died by car's accident. This novel gives most clear picture about war and how separate the

characters from each other are. It depicts the personal and social frustration by making all the main characters in difficult circumstances. War forced them to think and decide, they did not like to take such decisions, but war made them unwillingly did.

There are some evidences which shows the truth of war and the circumstances which show the suffering of characters during the war. It makes the reader understand the sense of war and the person's personal and social destruction. At the beginning of the novel, the meaning of war is illustrated by Khalid. He brings the news of their neighbor's death to his father, Khalid says:

Jassim ,may God's mercy on him, Tomorrow I will go to condolence his family. I saw in my eyes, when their bodies were decomposed and other became food for dogs, so give thanks they found Khalid 's corpse, he has been buried, this holocaust will take from us a lot (Translation is mine) (Zaidan ,P.24).

Then Khalid begins to contemplate while he has on his bed, and he thinks about war. He asks himself: When will it be finish? He thinks about war as interminable which never ends. He imagines the horror of war and how it takes people's ages and loves from everyone. Khalid describes war as "death". He thinks about war as that of no advantage, which only achieves the purpose of politicians to gain their own aims by using innocent people. Khalid contemplates: When the war begins, no one knows when it will be end, it detracts from our ages, it takes our lovers from us, and children will be die and women will be widowed in the young ages (Translation is mine) (Zaidan, P. 25).

Khalid asks: What do we get from war ?What will it give us ? (Translation is mine) (Zaidan ,P. 25) Then, Khalid thinks about one of most dangerous result of war, as one enters war in the prime of his youth and will come out elderly from it. Why we are just and how many time it takes (Translation is mine) (Zaidan, P. 25) .

As war forced them to separate, this had a great reflection on their personal destruction, as the last meeting between the mistresses, when Khalid informs her about leaving and he gives her a beautiful ring as a token of their love, and Salma gives him a handkerchief, on which she writes their names, and he says: Is this possible Salma? Who did know that things would go opposite to our plans (Translation is mine)(Zaidan, P. 97).

Khalid begins to feel longing to his beloved. He describes the purity of their love. How do they love each other, and how they are forced to split from each other. he talks about the place where they have started meeting each other. the same place which begins and splits the lovers. He describes his sadness and he questions the place to be the witness of their love, he says:

It is the last evening with the beloved ! here born love and here will pass away the burn disc, as we are leaving Makhool, our old neighbor, I want to stick on my village, where I could gain some hope (Translation is mine) (Zaidan, P. 97) .

As the war makes the characters longing for each other. It makes them in a bewilderment situation, they look at the time that seems as not passing .In one situation, Khalid comes back. His family describes the period, as if Khalid has been gone for ten years not only two months. While he describes the period, saying: "How heavy the period, as if my absence was not about two months but I fell that I missed ten years " (Translation is mine) (Zaidan, P. 101) .

This exaggeration is a vital prove which shows the consequences of war and how it affects the personal feelings. It makes people be on the path which they find no way to escape. War obliges them to live with a huge suffering and soreness, as Khalid 's family situation when they think that Khalid is killed in the war. when the messenger has informed them that he has seen the ID of Khalid in the battlefield. He forces himself to tell this bitter reality to Khalid's family. He begins to think

about the condition of Khalid 's mother when she will hear the news, "The news to his mother will be heavy" (Translation is mine)(Zaidan, P.115) Even when his mother knows about the news of Khalid 's death. She temporarily becomes mad. She could not receive the news, then she starts to shout mourning her son, she says: "No, it is not Khalid who cited that it is laying, is not it?" (Translation is mine) (Zaidan, P. 116).

Salma, Khalid 's mistress, as well as Khalid 's mother become grieve. She asks her mother, about her fate, by saying and questions her mother, " why does war make them in such a situation?" (Translation is mine) (Zaidan, P. 116)) She expresses her melancholy and she says that there is a great melancholy in my heart which I could not express, she says:

He is Khalid my mum, why he is exactly no one else? Damn the war Damn, my mum if you know what I have in my heart, Khalid my innocent dream (Translation is mine) (Zaidan, P. 118) .

The news causes a great effect upon Khalid 's mistress, salma. She suffers a miserable condition when she knows about her lover 's death. She had been started tend toward isolation, as she does not like to see any one because of her sadness .She starts to visit the place where their love has been created. She goes to the field and sees every place which reminds her with Khalid. Her lover stays as he was captured for many years in Iran and no one knows anything about him. Salma is forces by her family to marry and forgets Khalid when she becomes hopeless about Khalid 's return. Her mother tells her that she should live her life like other girls, and forgets Khalid. Later, Salma has got married, but her heart was with Khalid. she could not enjoy her life with Yassen, her husband. She expresses her feelings saying that, "How could I enjoy life? In which paradise will he be? Why do you left me and let our love die in a hand of circumstances?" (Translation is mine)(Zaidan, P.125) . Salma 's condition is clear when people bless her about her marriage and she shows no sense of happiness, she says: "On What Stupid? How you bless me about such a marriage?" (Translation is mine) (Zaidan, p.126) .

Khalid comes back from war. He knows nothing about his family, lover, and friends. His family is surprised and tell him about the circumstances which they thought that he was killed in the war. The condition of Khalid 's friends was the same as well as his family and his lover. They became sad when they knew that Khalid, their best friends, was killed. His friends began to visit him, and share with him their happiness, this shows that war affects his friends when they consoled Khalid about his lover 's marriage. Khalid asks his friend, Falah, about his beloved, if he knows anything about her. He says: "Did she get married, tell me ?" His friend, Falah, answers him: "Alas, yes, she has got married " (Translation is mine)(Zaidan, p.143).

Khalid 's beloved, Salma, was loyal to him. After her marriage, she named her son after his name. Khalid has shocked about his beloved 's marriage, and could not comprehend the world around him. He began to speak with himself, in one situation, he says: "Salma, oh the most beautiful lady that her love goes deep down on my heart " (Translation is mine)(Zaidan, p.146).

When Salma hears about Khalid 's return from war, she regretted her marriage, she began to cry, telling her mother, "how could I live with Yassen, her husband, and I love Khalid, her lover? How could I live from now on?" (Translation is mine)(Zaidan, p.147). her reaction shows that war makes them in a path which they find no way to escape and rescue their live. Then Khalid 'mother forces his son to marry and lives his life, as both were married, although they love each other. khalid says: "Salma, is a woman who will never be repeated" (Translation is mine) (Zaidan ,p.167) . Khalid scolds war as the main reason

to separate him from his beloved, Salma. It puts them in a condition from which there is no way to flee.

Analysis of "Postponed Dreams "

"Postponed Dreams" is a one Act play. It is written by the Kurdish writer Jamal Nori. The main character talks in this play about the USA invasion of Iraq. To talk about the form of the play, Nori uses various theatrical techniques. Division is the most important one. He uses this technique in a very smart way. The text shows that the stage is divided into three sections. The first section contains tables and chairs representing a casino or restaurant in particular. Different picture are there on the walls and one waiter stands to the left of the place waiting for customers to deliver their requests and orders.

The second section of the stage is in the middle. There is a trench or place and bags of dirt. In this respect, it represents a battle field. The third section represents a public park, terraces and green trees. Behind the three scene is a shared wall on which there is a large clock with a rope tied to it or something like this (Clock wise voice with chanting music). This may represent the time that cover all the events that take place in these three different places. Taking in his consideration the difficulty of arranging the stage in the theatre, Nori Craftly uses the technique of dividing the stage into three sections to save time in transforming from one scene to another throughout the performance.

The exposition of the play shows that, The man enters the casino and with his hand the mobile looks for something in vitality:

I forgot this time also (refers to his hand), What a rusty memory gnawed by sad experience ... Where did I leave the Key, you see? I put it here in my pocket.(The mobile rings with a sad tone).Here...(ring the phone signal to the solution) ^{(Nori ,2014) (Translation is mine)} The writer, here, uses repetition as a second technique in this scene,

I am tired of waiting... but (laughing heard) Waiting for you from the nicest things that you add ...Yes, ...in the same restaurant The waiter is buried of me ^{(Nori ,2014) (Translation is mine)}.

Here, the character explains to the audience by using direct speech:

The problem is that thing started to get complicated... it started from decades...Whenever we tried to approach the oases of joy, we would have some things wrong to post pone death (The voice of a traditional song rises) (darkness) and then the small garden spot is lit at the far end of the theater and a balcony... sitting next to each other ^{(Nori ,2014) (Translation is mine)}.

In this scene, there is another technique that is the use of light and darkness to shift the focus of the audience from one thing to another, and the writer employs singing in dramatic construction as well. The distribution of lights throughout the stage from one point to another to announce that the scene has changed is used in many other points throughout the play:

Woman : Did you think well about it ... you see that ?The man: Yes, The war is no doubt announced ... you can see war defeats everything Life itself is retreating to its inevitable fate The many dates of love will be suspended and the men will leave to the fronts of death ^{(Nori ,2014) (Translation is mine.)}

The playwright, here, uses the technique of flash back. It is a technique that helps in bringing events that occurred in the past, in front of the audience to see them as present. Here, the writer's view about the war are articulated by the hero. In a vital conversation between the main characters in the play, the playwright shows the discrepancy between woman cheerful view towards life and future and the

man's pessimism. The woman wants to get married and having children to continue life and this is an anti-war view, but it contrasts the view of the man who refuses to get married.

The woman:- Let us defy hatred and despair ... let's light up the candles of joy, don't be pessimistic...

The man :- I am not pessimistic by imagining with me what if came back from the first fierce battle in a coffin ... maybe I will be half back How will the children be ? The woman (God blasé you) is not less than this, darling ... If we think way , It means that we will raise the white flag. ^(Nori ,2014)
(Translation is mine)

There is a dialogue between the pessimistic man and the cheerful woman, who has hope and wants to marry and get a family. She finds it very difficult to convince the man who is trying to cancel every dream, because he is afraid of the destruction of the supposed family because of the war. He doesn't want to be a cause of sorrow for his sweetheart and the coming children. He was always pessimistic and has a negative idea: "The man:- Let's leave this matter now" ^(Nori ,2014) (Translation is mine)

The playwright uses additional technique that is music and dance. The use of music and dance reflects an optimistic mood in the play. Sounds of blasts and continuous blues accompanied by rapid lighting with different colors is another clarifying technique, where the predominance is of red. Red color is an evidence of blood and explosion.

It seems that its madness will end.... It is then I want nothing but vet urn safely, but how will I get rid of these flying fragments ? I don't know, whether to believe that poet who said two things we should fight for home and beautiful woman ? ^(Nori ,2014) (translation is mine)

Form the battle field, the man talks to himself, wanting nothing but surviving and returning safely to his beloved. He has many questions in his head such as: is he fighting for something worthy of sacrifice, and he concludes, "No one comes out of a victorious battle, I believe in it....Victory is a myth that the war lords of war in the pear of their perpetually." ^(Nori ,2014) (translation is mine) This statement reflects an anti-war view. The scene shifts to another one with a flash back technique. Darkness is everywhere. There is a small garden, the man walks anxiously as the woman sits on the chair shortly after speaking:

The third year is going on and things are getting tougher ... the vacation will end tomorrow and I will return the shrapnel forest and the mouth of death that doesn't stop devouring us one by one The last time the executed a week soldier and withdrew from the battle field ^(Nori ,2014) (Translation is mine).

In another scene, the repercussions of the war and the execution of soldiers who are weak, where in the war there is place for the slack, either to die with a shot of the enemy or to be killed by the commander. In place and under a shower of Bullets:

These are the screens of death.... How many friends left this place after being grabbed by a stray shrapnel, yes, those fragments that flay like small trivial bullets that quickly end the lives of the soldiers Azad, my friend , the dreamer had go then a small shrapnel in his dead he was sleeping and perhaps dreamed of cities snow....Then he did not wake up His it body was taken to his family on a painful journey. I wish that it would go on too long, just to avoid the tragic situation that was terrible when the car stopped in front of their house... I stammered and couldn't stop myself from crying ^(Nori ,2014) (Translation is mine)

In this scene, the Kurdish writer mentions his friend, Azad, who died of shrapnel in his head. The writer, returns to the present and recalls how he took the body of his friend to his home. He was greatly affected by this painful incident. He was crying when he arrived at his friend's house's. "In the garden sits alone. Accompanied by a sad eight song looking at his watch from time to time and waiting" (Nori ,2014) (Translation is mine).

In the garden, another scene, the man sits waiting for his sweetheart and asks when she will come. The mother doesn't talk to her son and this is a proof that the mothers has a revolution against the war and death which prevent the marriage of her son. All ideas are Anti- war .

In the restaurant, the man is walking, obsessed with anxiety. He is asking:

Is she coming.....or will she approach to a car bombed to kill simple people Approaching and dreaming of our children delayed as our dreams post panedNo...No But I told her we will get married and let it be. (Nori ,2014) (Translation is mine).

In the restaurant the man walks and starts to worry and think because he is waiting for his sweetheart. He knows that the road is risky and blames himself so much for delaying the marriage decision.

Ha.....Ha.... Here is the mobile rings (Ring mobile)

-Yes, yesfrom my beloved dear ? Where did you arrive? Nice so you are not far..... How happy I am? (Nori ,2014 (Translation is mine).

The exposition of the play tells that at this point the sound of a loud noise shaking the theater, falling chairs and the man falls on the ground. And after five minutes, there is movement form the man. The man's silence lasts long....then the mobile rings until it stops Then it rings again and stops at the last time. He talks the mobile, difficulty and says, "Aloemy love I am still waiting for you"(Nori ,2014) (Translation is mine).

It seems that the caller is the woman, the man feels happy for a moment because of the contact and then a huge explosion is heard from the phone. It may refer to the continuation of postponing for the dreams or to the death of woman.

Analysis of "Alas Babylon"

Another greatest novel "Alas Babylon " by Pat Frank . "It is a historical novel takes place 1950 ,at height of cold war between the united states and soviet union" (Gundersen , Kathryn,et. At ,2015). Mark Bragg was officer and realized about unclear war is forthcoming .He informs his brother ,Randy ,about it. Mark realized the consequences of nuclear war and sends his wife Helen and his children to live in isolated Town in Florida at Fort Repose ,then the war began and wreck most of Florida major cities , while Fort Repose is completely separated . Helen and her children remained in the city for many years and they were separated from her husband and her acquaintances and chaos prevails in the town . Many people killed themselves like Randy friend and Edgar Quisenberry . Bank president was killed by local police chief .As the people were in bad condition , and many people were affecting from radiation poisoning . Randy helped the people by bringing fresh water and food in to the city , in order to rescue them from death , they then discovers that Mark was killed in the war . Helen and Her children remained alone in the city and war separated the family and destroyed them . The novel shows how cruelly war can change the lives of ordinary citizens , not only adults , but children also .The war made many innocent child orphan like Peyton and Ben franklin who lost their father as a consequence of the war . The novel can be consider as a mean to remind people that war affects

everyone . It deals with Folly of war by destroying many precious things and separating the family from each other but without vain . The word "Alas Babylon " represents the warn used by Mark to inform his brother that is coming because he could not inform him about this secret through telephone . In Bible , "it means the city which destroyed by God"^(Gundersen , Kathryn,et. al ,2015)

You see . all their lives , ever since they have known anything , they have lived under the shadow of war –atomic war ,all their lives , they have heard nothing else , and expect it (Frank , 1959 ,P.85).

This quote talks about Benfranklin and Peyton , it deals with clarifying that all children were growing up during the war , these children considered war as something normal and this shows how war affects the nature of children and makes them seeing war is their life and it combined with their blood, as they grow up with war , fighting , killing , bombs . The author generalized the idea of war and how affects the nature and future life of children ^{(Gundersen , Kathryn,et. al ,2015).}

.....The struggle was not against a human enemy , or for victory .The struggle , for those who survived "The day "was to survive (Frank , 1959 ,P.123).

The Quote deals with illuminate that none of citizens of Fort Repose are soldiers but war affects them , even they were separated but war 'results made their life difficult and hard , it clarifies that war is not about win the war and destroy the enemy but to keep our life going from day to day by facing the hardship and struggle with live in order to survive .

Who is winning ? Nobody is winning , cities are dying and ships are aircraft is going in but nobody , winning (Frank , 1959 , 141).

One of most important message in the novel is revealing futility of war , the authoe illustrates that no one wins , both sides lose their cities and killing Million of innocent people , as these destruction results which will not let them achieve their goal . No sides is truly winning. The end of war whatever the results both sides will sustain unbelievable losses . ^(Gundersen , Kathryn,et. al ,2015)

The engine started and randy turned away to face the thousand year night (Frank , 1959 , 316).

This Quote deals with consequences of war and how the results of war remains for a long time and it effects the life of people for hundreds and hundreds of years . war remains inside people by effecting their nature , environment , economic , war still affects them .

3- Conclusion

M. Ali Zaidan's "*Love in Makhool's Flank*" and Jamal Nori 's "*Postponed Dreams*" are the core of this study. The writers have successfully exposed the suffering of people because of the war and how the social relations are affected by war in a destructive way. This study, throughout the analysis of the selected texts which follows Max Weber's theory of War, shows clearly how war destroys the human 's life and social relations. This comes in accordance with the previously put hypothesis. It shows the consequences of war and how war forces people to live the life that is opposite to their plans. It affects the people's ability to make right decisions as well. War, in this sense, has a catastrophic effect on the social relations. The paper concludes that war has no vain and soldiers are not the only victims, innocent people who destroys by war. War servers no one but few politicians. This study shows the cruelty of war which can influence the lives of the innocent citizens. In war, no one wins, both sides lose their cities as well as the innocent people. Whatever the results are, both will have sustain incredible losses.

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