

A literary analysis of the Oriental lyrics of George Gordon Byron

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Abstract

This research paper delves into literary exploration of Oriental poetics in the lyrical works of the renowned Romantic poet, George Gordon Byron, commonly known as Lord Byron. Byron was a leading figure in the Romantic movement and was well-known for his versatility in poetry that ranged from lyric to epic to satirical. G.G.Byron as a romantic poet wanted to show his inner thoughts through his rebellion heroes, in order to do this, he used Orientalism as a main element. When undertaking a literary analysis of George Gordon Byron's works through the lens of Oriental poetics, various elements come into focus, such as: connotative meaning, imagery, metaphor, poetic language, rhyme scheme and simile. Through his work, Western and Eastern literary traditions are brought into conversation, demonstrating how they can be combined to create intricate and nuanced artistic expressions.

Key words: *Oriental poetics, exoticism, scenery, denotative and connotative meanings, themes of emotion, image-symbol, Byronic hero.*

Introduction

Poem analysis typically involves the careful examination of various literary elements. These elements include narration, setting, characters, theme, structure, rhythm, rhyme, figurative language, diction, tone, and mood. An analysis, or poetry explication, may also consider the audience for which the poem is written as well as the poem's context. In the article "Poetry analysis" former U.S. Poet Laureate Billy Collins mentions that: "Poetry analysis involves dissecting a poem to gain a comprehensive understanding of its various components. By examining each line individually, one can deconstruct the poem to explore its structure, form, language usage, metrical pattern, and underlying theme. The goal of literary analysis is to interpret the poem's significance and develop a deeper appreciation

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for it." In order to analyze and comprehend deeply Byron's Oriental lyrics, figuring out Orientalism, knowing his main reasons to be inspired by eastern or oriental culture, poems and society are so important.

Main part

According to the *New World Encyclopedia* the term Orientalism derives from a Latin word *oriens* meaning "east" (literally "rising sun"). Despite the fact that the history of Orientalism related to the Middle age, it became more popular especially, at the period of Enlightenment. In western literature the end of XVIII and the beginning of XIX centuries were considered difficult period for poor people, writers and poets. Of course the challenges and alternations of society had a huge effect to their works. G.G.Byron was born on January 22,1788 in London. At the age 10 he inherited he title Baron from his uncle William. He started writing from his early ages and the first published work was "Hours of Idleness". In 1809 he became a member of the House of Lords, from that time he was called as Lord Byron, and may be for this reason he knew all about the politics and unfairness which were done from aristocrats to poor population. The problems in the society also effected to the works of G.G.Byron. As other romantic poets he suffered exact problems and tried to solve them in his poems. While reading his lyrics we can feel the hard period, a rebellion romantic hero who wants to change and improve something and, at the end terrible final. In this time G.G.Byron had to travel a lot and one of his trip was to East (through the Ottoman Empire). This was the most essential reason to create Oriental tales. Byron's engagement with the East is particularly evident in works such as his Turkish Tales, which includes "The Giaour," "The Bride of Abydos," "The Corsair," and "The Siege of Corinth", "Lara". These works were largely inspired by his travels through the Ottoman Empire and Greece, they reflect his fascination with Oriental landscapes, cultures, and themes. As a romantic poem Byron often incorporated lush and exotic descriptions of Eastern landscapes and architecture, which can be associated with the traditional Oriental poetic emphasis on nature and setting. He painted a vivid picture of the Orient, imbued with mystery, sensuality, and darkness, which aligned with the Romantic ideal of the sublime—inspiring a sense of awe and wonder mixed with danger.

Exoticism and Scenery

"The Bride of Abydos" is a romantic narration located in Tur-

key, authored by Lord Byron. The plot centers on the illicit affection between Selim, and Zuleika, an attractive young woman who is engaged to another man. In spite of the obstructions they encounter, Selim and Zuleika are resolute in their desire to be together and flee to a remote island where they can reside in tranquility. Nevertheless, their joy is short-lived as Zuleika's intended, Giaffir discovers their whereabouts and seeks retribution. The narrative is replete with vivid portrayals of the Turkish terrain and customs, as well as themes of love, integrity, and treachery. Byron's poetic diction and narrative style render "The Bride of Abydos" an enduring classic of romantic literature.

*Where the flowers ever blossom, the beams ever shine;
Where the light wings of Zephyr, oppressed with perfume,
Wax faint o'er the gardens of Gul in her bloom;
Where the citron and olive are fairest of fruit,
And the voice of the nightingale never is mute;
Where the tints of the earth, and the hues of the sky,
In colour though varied, in beauty may vie,
And the purple of Ocean is deepest in dye;
Where the virgins are soft as the roses they twine,
And all, save the spirit of man, is divine –
'Tis the clime of the East – 'tis the land of the Sun ...*

(Canto I)

This is a beginning of the Canto I and while reading the reader can feel a sense of Turkish culture and nature with ease. From the beginning the writer describes East with beautiful and delicate words and expressions. The description of the garden with *Gul* (in East it is a rose which reflects the beauty) and nightingale which is a symbol of beloved man. Reading attentively helps us to understand its denotative and connotative meaning. Here denotative meaning is an attractive sights of Turkish area, its unforgettable smell with Zephyr (a gentle breeze), fruits citron and olive (mostly eaten in Turkey), eastern garden where every part covered with flowers especially with roses and the tune of nightingale. All this factors make readers feel as if they are in East. On the other hand, we can imagine there is a romantic sphere. There is a Turkish girl (*Gul*) in a beautiful nature and her beloved man (nightingale) "*And the voice of the nightingale never is mute;*" means his love is forever. The sky and the ocean are the proof of his pure love.

The Persian Atar-gul's perfume,

*And sprinkled all its odours o'er
The pictured roof and marble floor –
The drops, that through his glittering vest
The playful girl's appeal address.*

(Canto I, 10)

This exemplifies an authentic portrayal of Eastern habitation, as depicted by the poet through the olfactory imagery of Atar-gul, the ornately decorated roofs, and the marble floors, which served as emblematic of Eastern cultural traditions. Moreover, this serves as evidence of Lord Byron's thorough exploration of Eastern culture.

Characters and emotions

In "The Bride of Abydos," the characters are not only vessels for the narrative, but they also represent thematic and symbolic elements that enrich the story. Let's delve deeper into the analysis of the characters to better understand their roles and significance in the narrative. Giaffir and Zuleika stand as stark embodiments of contrasting emotions and themes within the narrative. Giaffir's character symbolizes death and destruction, portraying a force that threatens the harmony and love represented by Zuleika. This duality of characters creates a compelling dynamic that drives the conflict within the story. Zuleika, on the other hand, represents love and embodies the emotional core of the narrative. Her character serves as a beacon of light amidst the darkness, showcasing the enduring power of love even in the face of adversity. Selim and Haroun, the other central characters, navigate a balance between love and death, each embodying different facets of this emotional spectrum. Selim's evolution from a silent lover to a character aligned with the forces of death and destruction reflects a transformation in his character, highlighting the complexities of human nature and the capacity for change. His journey serves as a reflection of the internal struggles and conflicts that propel the narrative forward. Haroun, as a eunuch who holds a key role, presents an enigmatic and pivotal figure within the story. His status as neither a lover nor a fighter positions him as a neutral entity, yet his significance lies in the knowledge and influence he holds, symbolizing the underlying power dynamics and complexities within the narrative. The interactions and dynamics between these characters serve to underscore overarching themes such as the interplay between love and destruction, internal conflict, and the complexity of human emotions. Through their actions and relationships, the characters in "The Bride of Abydos" contribute to

the exploration of these themes, providing depth and nuance to the narrative. Furthermore, the way in which these characters evolve and interact with one another shapes the overall trajectory of the story, driving the plot forward while offering insights into the human condition. By delving into their motivations, conflicts, and transformations, readers gain a deeper understanding of the thematic layers present in the narrative, as well as the emotional and psychological aspects that drive the characters' actions. The characters in "The Bride of Abydos" serve as more than mere conduits for the story; they encapsulate thematic and symbolic significance, embodying essential elements of emotion, conflict, and human nature. Their interactions and individual journeys enrich the narrative, contributing to a multidimensional exploration of love, conflict, and the complexities of the human experience. Collectively, the characters' internal struggles and conflicts serve to illuminate the profound emotional landscapes that underpin the narrative, offering a rich tapestry of human experiences and introspection. These inner battles add depth and dimension to the characters, underscoring the universal themes of love, conflict, and the human condition. The exploration of internal struggles and conflicts within the characters in "The Bride of Abydos" not only deepens the narrative but also invites readers to contemplate the complexities of human emotions and the nuanced interplay of internal strife and external pressures. By delving into the internal landscapes of the characters, the story transcends mere external conflicts, delving into the profound depths of human experience and the enduring resilience of the human spirit.

The Use of Oriental Motifs:

Byron's lyrics often feature Oriental motifs such as gardens, harems, battles, and sea voyages—a reflection of Oriental poetry which commonly uses nature and voyage as metaphors for inner journeys and emotional states.

"Let the chamber be clear'd." - The train disappear'd -

"Now call me the chief of the Haram guard."

With Giaffir is none but his only son,

And the Nubian awaiting the sire's award.

One of the central oriental symbols in "The Bride of Abydos" is the motif of the **Haram**, which serves as a potent emblem of the exotic and mysterious East. The harem, traditionally associated with the Islamic world, represents a secluded and enigmatic space that sparks the imagination and curiosity of Western audiences. Byron skillfully utilizes the haram as a symbol of female captivity and

the Eastern mystique, underscoring the allure and enigma of the Orient as perceived by the Western gaze. Turkish scientist Seniha **GÜLDEREN** mentioned that Haram as the separate part of a Muslim household reserved for wives, concubines, and female servants in her article. Furthermore, the portrayal of luxurious and opulent palaces, adorned with silks, jewels, and intricate designs, serves as a vivid oriental symbol that accentuates the allure of the Eastern world. Byron's evocative descriptions of Eastern architecture and interior decor evoke a sense of grandeur and exotic beauty, presenting the Orient as a realm of lavish splendor and aesthetic richness. The figure of the veiled woman also emerges as a powerful oriental symbol in the poem, encapsulating notions of femininity, mystery, and cultural difference. The veil, a traditional garment in many Eastern cultures, becomes a potent symbol of the hidden and the enigmatic, casting a shroud of intrigue and allure over the women of the Orient. Through the veil, Byron evokes the mystery and exoticism associated with the Eastern female persona, imbuing the narrative with an aura of otherness and cultural fascination. Moreover, the evocation of Eastern landscapes, such as deserts, bazaars, and minarets, serves as a compelling oriental symbol that enriches the narrative with a sense of place and cultural distinctiveness. Byron's vivid portrayal of the Eastern milieu immerses readers in a world of stark deserts, bustling marketplaces, and towering minarets, cultivating an impression of the Orient as a realm of both harsh beauty and vibrant energy. Byron's use of oriental symbols in "The Bride of Abydos" serves to infuse the narrative with an aura of exoticism, mystery, and cultural fascination, capturing the allure and enigma of the Eastern world as perceived through the lens of Western romanticism. Through the rich tapestry of oriental motifs and imagery, Byron paints a vivid portrait of the East as a realm of untold beauty, intrigue, and allure, inviting readers to embark on an evocative journey through the cultural and geographical landscapes of the Orient.

"The Corsair"

"The Corsair" is a captivating and influential work by the renowned poet Lord Byron. Published in 1814, this narrative poem delves into themes of honor, love, and the conflict between societal expectations and individual freedom. The work follows the story of Conrad, a corsair (pirate), and his tumultuous love for the beautiful Medora. Set against the backdrop of the exotic and treacherous Mediterranean seas, "The Corsair" captivates readers with its vivid

imagery, evocative language, and compelling exploration of human emotions and the human condition. One of the central themes in "The Corsair" is the tension between individual agency and societal conventions. Conrad, the charismatic and enigmatic corsair, embodies this conflict as he grapples with his identity as an outsider to mainstream society while navigating his own moral code. Byron explores the notion of rebellion against societal norms and the pursuit of personal freedom in the face of social constraints, offering a thought-provoking examination of the human desire for autonomy and the consequences of defying established norms.

The theme of love, particularly the passionate and forbidden love between Conrad and Medora, serves as a poignant focal point in the narrative. Their intense and tumultuous romance unfolds against a backdrop of danger and betrayal, highlighting the complexities of human emotions and the profound impact of love on the human psyche. Byron masterfully delves into the intricacies of love, exploring its capacity to both uplift and devastate, ultimately painting a vivid and heart-wrenching portrayal of the power of love in the face of adversity.

Additionally, "The Corsair" delves into the theme of honor and the moral implications of Conrad's actions as a corsair. The poem navigates the complexities of morality, duty, and the pursuit of justice, prompting readers to contemplate the blurred lines between heroism and villainy. Conrad's moral ambiguity and his internal conflicts offer a compelling exploration of the human capacity for both good and evil, underscoring the multifaceted nature of human nature and the intricacies of moral decision-making.

*"A sail! – a sail!" – a promised prize to Hope!
Her nation – flag – how speaks the telescope?
No prize, alas! but yet a welcome sail:
The blood-red signal glitters in the gale.
Yes - she is ours - a home-returning bark -
Blow fair, thou breeze! – she anchors ere the dark.*

Byron's evocative language and rich imagery transport readers to the dangerous and alluring world of the Mediterranean seas, infusing the narrative with a sense of adventure and intrigue. The vivid portrayal of the landscape, from the perilous shores to the open sea, serves as a powerful backdrop for the characters' emotional journeys, emphasizing the interconnectedness of external landscapes and internal states of being.

"The Corsair" also serves as a reflection on the consequenc-

es of pride, betrayal, and the pursuit of power, offering a cautionary exploration of human frailty and the potential for downfall. Through the characters' actions and choices, Byron weaves a narrative that delves into the complexities of human motivations and the enduring impact of pride and ambition on individual fates.

In addition to its thematic depth, "The Corsair" is celebrated for its lyrical and emotive language, which showcases Byron's mastery of poetic expression. The poem's stirring verses and evocative imagery contribute to its enduring appeal, resonating with readers through its exploration of human emotion, moral dilemmas, and the timeless pursuit of freedom and love.

"The Corsair" is a poignant and thought-provoking work that captures the essence of human experience through its exploration of love, honor, societal constraints, and the complexities of human nature. Byron's lyrical prowess and thematic depth infuse the narrative with a timeless resonance, inviting readers to contemplate the enduring themes and emotions that define the human condition.

Conclusion

In conclusion, a literary analysis of Byron's work with a focus on Oriental classical poetics can reveal the deep influence of Eastern aesthetics on his lyrics. Byron's adoption and adaptation of Oriental themes and settings were part of a larger trend of Orientalism within Romantic literature, reflecting both the fascination and the ambivalence that European writers felt toward the cultures of the East. His work opens up a dialogue between Western and Eastern literary traditions, showing how they can be intertwined to produce rich and complex artistic expressions.

Lord Byron's exploration of Eastern culture, as reflected in his works, is a subject of much discussion among scholars. While his poetic depictions offer rich insights into the Eastern world, it is important to acknowledge that they are filtered through the lens of a Western observer. Given that women's roles were not rebellious throughout the Ottoman Empire era he wrote about in "The Bride of Abydos," They were obligated to obey their mahrams (father, brother, or husband) because to religious regulations. But Lord Byron wished to interpret the western women who were a part of his society, and he did it with the aid of Zulikha. women who were attempting to secure their rights and freedom via struggle. Like many Western writers of his time, Byron was influenced by the Orientalist trends prevalent in European art and literature, which shaped his portrayal

of the East. Therefore, while his engagement with Eastern culture is significant, it is essential to approach it with critical consideration of the cultural and historical context in which it was written.

The oriental symbols in “The Bride of Abydos” and “The Corsair” contribute to the poem’s rich tapestry of imagery and themes, infusing the narrative with a sense of cultural fascination, exotic allure, and enigmatic beauty. Byron’s evocative portrayal of the Orient as a realm of opulence, mystery, and feminine allure serves to enhance the narrative and evoke a sense of wonder and enchantment, capturing the essence of the Western romantic fascination with the exotic East.

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Jorj Gordon Bayron Sharqona lirikasining adabiy tahlili

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Abstrakt

Ushbu tadqiqot ishi taniqli romantik shoir Jorj Gordon Bayronning, odatda Lord Bayron nomi bilan tanilgan, lirik asarlarida Sharq poetikasi-ni adabiy o'rganishga bag'ishlangan. Bayron romantik harakatning etakchi vakili edi va lirikadan dostongacha satiragacha bo'lgan she'riyatdagi ko'p qirraliligi bilan mashhur edi. G. G. Bayron romantik shoir sifatida o'zining ichki fikrlarini isyonkor qahramonlari orqali ko'rsatmoqchi bo'ladi, buning uchun u sharqonalikdan asosiy element sifatida foydalangan. Jorj Gordon Bayron asarlarini Sharq poetikasi obyekti orqali adabiy tahlil qilishda turli xil elementlar e'tiborga olinadi, masalan: konnotativ ma'no, tasvir, meta-fora, she'riy til, qofiya sxemasi va o'xshatish. Uning ijodi G'arb va Sharq adabiy an'analari e'tiborga olib, ularni qanday qilib birlashtirib, murakkab va nozik badiiy ifodalarni yaratish mumkinligini namoyish etadi.

Kalit so'zlar: Sharq poetikasi, ekzotizm, manzara, denotativ va konnotativ ma'nolar, hissiyot mavzulari, obraz-ramz, Bayronik qahramon.

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