



Fighting The Colonialism in The Works of Kateb Yacine, The Algerian Writer

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ABSTRACT

Among the Algerian scholars, Kateb Yacine is one of the most prominent authors who played a significant role in fighting the French colonists. The Algerian revolution which was a reaction to the colonial policies, i.e. removal of Algerian identity, eliminating Islam and the Arabic language and culture, has grabbed the attention of numerous writers as one of the most important incidents in the history of Algeria. Meanwhile, Kateb Yacine, having political-social knowledge, joins the revolution and closely touches its incidents and leaves famous works such as Najma, the body with a ring on the neck, and circle of revenge novels as his legacy. The Najma novel is the manifestation of Algeria in the form a beautiful but sick woman with many problems. In other words, Najma is the symbol of Algeria injured and wounded by the colonial France. Also, the play "a body with a ring on the neck" recites the events of May 8, 1945. In which the Algerian people launched a massive protest against the French colonialism and Kateb Yacine also joined this protest which made him end up in the jail.

Keywords: decolonization, rebellious revolutionary writer, Kateb Yacine.

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INTRODUCTION

From 1954 until the Independence Day (for eight years) the National Liberation Front in Algeria continued its armed struggle against the French occupation, strongly. Algerian nation gave a million victims and it is known as "the land of a million martyrs" in the history of Arabic and North African countries. The French government made most countries in North Africa, particularly Algeria as their colony in order to use this land for inhabitation of the French for nomadic purposes and grabbing the most fertile agricultural lands. On the other hand, on the outbreak of WWI, the French government used to send the Algerian youngsters to the European fronts. On January 1st, 1962, and through a referendum, 90% of Algerian people sought separation and independence from France.

The war and struggles between the Algerian nation and French colony during the occupation of Algeria by the France have been among the most important means of accompaniment and confederacy between the Algerian poets and scholars alongside with the public. The Algerian authors and poets, by the aid of their revolutionary poems and works and with the aim of stimulating and awakening their nation fought colonialism. Among these authors was Kateb Yacine who became known as the "the rebellious revolutionary" who stepped in this way with heart full of love towards his motherland and his Arabic identity, obliging us to introduce his character and his literary campaign. The research method in the current study is a data collection with the combination of library-based and internet-based methods. The data analysis and inference method is descriptive-analytical. However, it should be noted that

researching the approaches of this author requires the least superficial information on all of his thoughts dimensions of which a part is dealt with in the current study about the poems, novels, and plays in the field of fighting against the colonialism. Kateb Yacine, with courage and directness of expression, has put the issue of decolonization as a frontispiece of his work.

In spite of the importance and beauty of the Yacine's (the famous Algerian author) works, the Muslim researchers, particularly the Iranian, have not paid the due attention to it as there are no Persian studies in this field. With such condition, the authors of the current study have found some resources and studies in Arabic, searching the libraries and the net. The followings are the most important ones:

- 1- The Resources of-Khatib, Imad Ali Salim, on the modern literature and criticism, Oman, Daralamaysareh publishing, distribution and printing, first edition, 2009.
- 2- Masterpieces of Algerian literature – Zohreh Daik - Printing, Publishing and Distribution - Algeria - Dar Al-Huda 2014.
- 3- Najma, translated by Mohammad Koubaa, exposure, Dar Al Rayes Publishing, 1984.
- 4- Munawar Ahmed, Algerian literature in French tongue, Algeria, Divan university publications 2007.
- 5- Abdulrahman, Aisha, new values of the Arabic literature, Cairo, Knowledge House, second edition, 1970.

Articles

- 1- Hassan, Hassan, Kateb Yacine and journey to find his Najma, www.thawra.alwehha.org (2006/12/7) Khanfawi, Ali, City of Annaba, www.nu5ba.net 2011/9/21.
- 2- Kahil, Abdulaziz, Kateb Yacine, a giant or a large hallucination, www.moheet.com/ 2010/1/10.

The subjects of Yacine's Literary Works:

Yacine's literary works' subjects are Algeria, Muslim residents and decolonization which are among the most central issues of literary works of this Algerian author. Most important of all, the location of the works of this author is only Algeria. In other words, Algeria is the starting and ending point of his literary works. In the view of European critics, Kateb Yacine is one of the most prominent members of the North Africa literary school among the non-Europeans.

The Most Prominent Features of Yacine's Literary Works:

Struggle is among the most prominent features of literary works of this author. He is known as the "rebellious revolutionary author" among the Algerian scholars. This trait was evident from his early childhood as despite of his low age while educating in the French school, on the birthday of Holy Prophet and while having physics test, wrote on the test paper:

"Muslim feasts are not recognized, and today is the birthday of the Prophet (pbuh). I go to the ceremony, because I am Muslim, not French".

Novel in Algerian Literature

Novel is one of the very effective literary types in Algeria which have been enriched both technically and in terms of content in the passage of time. The novels "Bulnawar, the Algerian Youngster", "Maryam in the palm grove", and "Leila, the Young Algerian Girl" are among the primitive types of novel writing in the twentieth and thirties decades which all insist that there is no way to defeat the colonialism but resistance.

The novels that are published in French in 50th decade all reflect the sadness and suffering under the yoke of colonialism in Algeria. Drawing the people murder and massacre by the French, exposing their crimes, and depicting the strength and courage of the warriors are obvious in these novels. The reason behind the Algerians writing in French is that France tried to by colonizing Algeria, wipe its native culture and impose its own culture on Algeria. However, after independence, the Algerian used the colonizer's language to express their protest and conveying their message to the French people. For example, someone like Kateb Yacine wrote in French and was always concerned with their country and nation.

The Important Historical Event of May 8th 1945 at the Time of Kateb Yacine:

May 8th, 1945, is the anniversary of an important historical event which is the main subject of the famous novel "Najma" by Kateb Yacine, the Algerian writer. He has described the massacre of thousands of Algerians by the French, in the novel "Najma".

Kateb Yacine, to describe the physical and psychological harassment suffered in this period, has chosen a form of narrative that is not in chronological order, but is cyclical and fragmented. The components of this avant-garde novel (Najma) are the three young people searching for Najma. Najma is both a woman and a symbol of independent Algeria.

Yacine wrote the narration of Najma in 1956 and this is the best witness of the birth of new Algeria. Among the most important symbols of Najma narration is that of French hero who is the example of new Algeria. Najma was the daughter of a French woman and an infamous Algerian father.

What has made the Najma narration an international one in the view of the Arabic critics is that it is both symbol-based as well as historical. Kateb Yacine could show the world the real interpretation of dominance over Algeria through the use of symbols in the Najma narration.

Najma narration includes all the Algerian and historical characters as well as their lifestyles. Yacine distinguishes several characters in different social occasions. In fact, this narration describes the French colonialism domination over 130 years and in order to do so, Yacine uses symbolic characters and narrates the events in a symbolic form to affect the reader more. Through this narration, the reader can percept different characters and parties living in Algeria during the French occupation as well as seeing the workers and farmers working daylong to make the ends meet, while they love their motherland and suffer much difficulty for the sake of their country. Also meanwhile, there are numerous spies betraying their country and selling it in cheap price. The Najma narration is a narration of war in Algeria. The imposed war with the

occupying power versus the writing war in Algeria. Najma is a character who in spite of isolation, finally wins through the past and tribal habits.

Najma narration includes 7 chapters full of strange and pretty amazing symbols and symbols. Kateb Yacine due to his narration (Najma), has been welcomed by all the scholars. Yacine's book language is a beautiful poetic language and the meaning he has narrated are lyrical all around his deep love toward his country.

Najma narration presents great meanings. The meanings that describe the Algerians' deprivation from the least rights; a French occupying crime during a century and a 1/3 in a country known as "the land of a million martyrs".

Najma is a narration Yacine talks about. A narration related to Yacine's life and makes his name brilliant in the literary world. Who is Najma? Or what you see? An old and wearied shadow with Bani Halal blood running in its vessels. A dignity and glory and a persistent and strong land where the enemies die, is your symbol and the Algerian youths stand for this land and hide in its shadows. Lovers who are most notably four persons: Morad, Akhzar, Rasheed, and Mustafa, who seek it, as if they are searching for its essence.

The reason behind the success and shining of Yacine's book name in Algerian literary world or outside it, is just his humbleness and smiling face. As much as he owned Najma novel and became famous for it, he was away from pride and knew himself joined and clung to his people.

A portion of Najma novel by Yacine in Arabic:

He describes Algeria occupied by France during 130 years and in order to do so, he uses symbolic characters and narrates the events in symbolic form. Najma Narration is a narration of war in Algeria...

"Al Akhzar" escaped from his cell ...

And it appeared at dawn on the doorstep haunting the audience heads explore it without that and showed them a large effect.

Morad scanned the fugitive.

. It did not come something strange. And said him a hello again.

. They know your name.

. I do not have an identity card.

. Come stand here

. keep silent... not vain my resolve ...

You sleep ... and Akhzar hinted empty bottle, he asked:

Are you drunk?

. Yes, and thanks in such case the clock. Now leave this place.

. I have no right, I, too, that I know?

Murad said, suggesting: Listen, what did you see?

And one would not imagine one of us ..."

1. Masterpieces of Algerian literature – Zohra Daik - Page 348 to 349

There was a star shining, and it reminded the delicacy of Kamal, who was sitting- then- beside its dying mother, happened for his dear wife, Najma, And the reception hall filled with posh furnishings, in which were Murad and Mustafa, It has betrayed the audacity comment on the absence of them Akhzar, Since the bell rang, Mustafa calls was to wait.

Murad has left the house silent.

The supernatant Murad Bhanat city antique one and the same, and that the first sip a cup of coffee until I sobered up from wine, and he returned drunk again and insisted, is in darkness to interpret Kalam sir Boomroan Almghaz: I testify that God's house is full of secrets that he is a great teacher of light radiate from him, And it is to light and glory planetary seems that without him it looked planetary Saad in Anabba...

The position of Poem:

Among the literary types, poetry has been the best way to encourage people to launch the movement and the national struggle in Algeria. The effectiveness of poetry is to the extent that some believe Algerian national movement has begun with Algerian Devotees Ode (1936) by Mofdy Zakaria. Perhaps that is why poets like Amin Awdi, Abdul Karim Alaçon, and Al-Rabi Bushameh were killed by the colonists.

Except the mentioned poets, Kateb Yacine can be mentioned who in section of his famous poem "That Fire", says about Algeria:

This Algeria of ours is in its finest freedom
And it has always been

It has been always ruling and facete
Its enemies militarized it and themselves got trapped
Facing the nation rose up in the dawn light

Critics see that the writer Yasin took the hair a platform for dialogue with Altasaullac disturbing was experienced by the people Algerian Alradkh under the yoke of colonialism... What made his poems full of the spirit of resistance and charged with thoughts and deep meanings of humanity... But his poems narrowed payload pain returned and have the ability to accommodate the concerns of his people.

He began to hatch obsession and spawn dreams in the Najma rating unmanageable and that caused embarrassment novelist style Aruban right appointment with amazement and exclusivity.

Other samples of Yacine's book poems:

- You are inside the crawlspace
- Thunderstruck
- Snake I do not know
- Busy
- The crowd fateful, from attending the first lord of the snake
- Warrior approached me, saying: approaches you the snake, do not forget especially that crowd War
- Kindled my head joyful
- Pleasure in search of a warrior
- It is also disappeared
- Crossed at length the crowd
- Missed friendship Warrior

Play:

Another literary type is the play which has played an important role in Algeria resistance literature. To put it more precisely, it should be noted: Plays rank first in addressing humanitarian issues of Algeria.

Meanwhile, the works of Yacine are among the most prominent works of playwright in the field of Algeria resistance literature. However, what should be noted is the conflict between new and old or classics and modernists which have been specially reflected in Algeria literature. Among the authors, Mohammad Daib, Moloud Moameri, and Moloud Ferown are the classic writers and Yacine is among the modernists.

Algerian Theater, from Deception to Awareness:

Algerian theater was initially a copy of which was performed in theaters in France. However when the spirit of protest, anti-colonialism and liberation was blown into Algerian people, theater also took on national and local flavor.

Kateb Yacine as the largest body in the Algerian theatre writes in his plays named "Kedar" and "Seige":

"none of us will evict someone who cannot stand this from it. Any attacker can still stab us and in turn flourish our graves ... but have we not always cried this interpretation we are living

in, which is such as a grave, is our trampled land. Can it be self-deception.

Tendency to nationality in Algerian art and literature roots back to long time ago as the playwrights such as Yacine wrote their works from a particular native ideology or as the leader of the Algerian independence movement, Ahmed Ben Bella puts they had been on track of some sort of Islamic socialism.

The play "a body with a ring on his neck" describes the events of May 8, 1945 that the Algerian people launched a massive demonstration against French colonialism in which 45,000 Algerians were killed. Kateb Yacine also participated in the protests and was jailed for it. In spite of the claims of some tententious people and the lack of proper understanding of the literary works of Yacine, the drama experts, critics, and the scholars of literature and drama insist that Yacine's plays are not anti-arabic-society. Rather, Yacine considers the plays as a means of resistance and awakening the spirit of resistance and revolution to return the liberalism and dignity to the country from the yoke of French colonialism. Kateb Yacine plays basically revolves around Algeria. Among his plays in this field are: Ringed carcass – the savage Woman savage - war of millennium – king of Maqreb - grandparents are getting fiercer- Under the circle of repression.

Yacine could expose through "Ringed carcass" that exposes the public opinion the global tragedy of Algeria. And it proved that France launched a war of extermination on the unarmed demonstrators and exposed the savagery and brutality. And are instrumental in his own language and style of the rebellious and distinctive sense of sincere able to express the suffering of the Algerian people, which was the aspiration for freedom and Emancipation. As widely known plays in the press and foreign. And by global theaters. Also:

We find in the play "grandparents are getting fiercer," or expression else "grandparents doubling of Dharautem". And a close link between the present and the past and what is experienced by the Algerian people a day, as defined by the ancestors of Azza and feared Farrah inspires the determination and strengthens the spirit of struggle and virility». Highlights writer Yacine through these plays, Algeria fills the sky and land spirit adrift concern, not to find comfort and dead and grandchildren revenge for him, If it turns punishment day above their heads and surround them and plugging them crying and prospects including chivalry and honor and complements".

CONCLUSION

The war and struggle between the Algerians and French colonists during the years of French occupation of Algeria, has been among the most important means of accompaniment and partnership between the Algerians poets and Algerians and the Algerian people. The poets and authors of this land have fought colonists through their revolutionary poems and works, aiming to awaken their nation. Yacine is among these writers, who is known as the "rebellious revolutionary".

Among the most basic subjects of the literary works of Yacine are Algeria, Muslim warriors and decolonization.

The masterpiece of Kateb Yacine is "Najma" novel by which the writer succeeded to actually interpret dominating Algeria through the use of symbols in its narration. Najma, in spite of isolation, eventually wins with the sentence of past and tribal habits.

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