

BADR SHAKIR AL-SAYYAB'S ATTITUDE TOWARDS 'THE WOMAN' IN
THE LIGHT OF THE APPRAISAL THEORY

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DEDICATION

To my late husband Ahmed, without whom this would not have been possible.



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ABSTRACT

Many studies dealt with Al-Sayyab's poetic achievement, life, political and intellectual stances, and relationship with women. His political stance and literary direction change more than once, and in all phases of his poetry, he addresses "the woman", praising, blaming, or sympathising with her; however, no study has examined the relationship between al-Sayyab's political and intellectual orientation and how he evaluated "the woman." This research studied Al-Sayyab's Attitude toward "the woman" in these three phases by analysing his poems utilising the Appraisal Theory (Martin & White, 2005) under Systemic Functional Linguistics as an interpersonal metafunction. Al-Sayyab's poetry was divided into three phases: romantic, realistic, and existential. The current study focused on Attitude, subdivided into Affect, Judgment and Appreciation, to investigate how Al-Sayyab was evaluating "the woman" and to determine whether his political and literary stances affected his Attitude toward "her". The analysis followed a content analysis approach by adopting the Appraisal Theory framework and statistical analysis to obtain the quantitative results and compare the results using the SPSS 25 programme and the chi-square test. The results showed that Affect was the most frequently occurring expression in the first phase (528/1133), in the second phase, it was Judgment (322/659), and Appreciation most frequent occurrence was in the first phase (194/376). These results indicated that Al-Sayyab's evaluative language demonstrates his Attitude toward "the woman", while The Chi-square test revealed a significant difference in the frequency of the Attitude expression in terms of Type, Strategy, or Polarity between the three phases, demonstrating how Al-Sayyab's political and literary stances changed throughout the three phases and how this was reflected in his attitude toward women. It was also, established that Al-Sayyab's attitude changes were caused by two factors: the first was internal and related to the family and its immediate circles, and the second was external and related to the indirect relationships' circles. Further research could use the findings of this study to compare them to the attitudes toward women of other poets, whether from Iraq or other

countries, who lived in the same era or a different period, to see if global changes had the same impact on the different poets.



ABSTRAK

Banyak kajian yang berkaitan dengan pencapaian puisi Al-Sayyab, kehidupan, pendirian politik dan intelektual, dan hubungan dengan wanita. Pendirian politik dan hala tuju sasteranya berubah lebih daripada sekali, dan dalam semua fasa puisinya, dia menyebut "wanita", memuji, menyalahkan atau bersimpati dengannya; walau bagaimanapun, tiada kajian yang mengkaji hubungan antara orientasi politik dan intelektual al-Sayyab dan bagaimana beliau menilai "kaum wanita". Penyelidikan ini mengkaji Sikap Al-Sayyab terhadap "wanita" dalam tiga fasa ini dengan menganalisis puisinya menggunakan Teori Penilaian (Martin dan White, 2005) di bawah Linguistik Fungsian Sistemik sebagai metafungsi interpersonal. Puisi Al-Sayyab terbahagi kepada tiga fasa: romantik, realistik dan eksistensial. Kajian semasa memberi tumpuan kepada Sikap, dibahagikan kepada tiga jenis; Kesan, Penghakiman dan Penghargaan, untuk menyiasat bagaimana Al-Sayyab menilai "wanita itu" dan untuk menentukan sama ada pendirian politik dan sasteranya mempengaruhi Sikapnya terhadap 'dia'. Analisis mengikut pendekatan analisis kandungan dengan menggunakan pakai kerangka Teori Penilaian dan analisis statistik untuk mendapatkan keputusan kuantitatif dan membandingkan keputusan menggunakan program SPSS 25 dan ujian chi-square. Keputusan menunjukkan bahawa Affect merupakan ungkapan yang paling banyak berlaku pada fasa pertama (528/1133), dalam fasa kedua, ia adalah Penghakiman (322/659), dan Apresiasi yang paling kerap berlaku adalah pada fasa pertama (194/376). Keputusan ini menunjukkan bahawa bahasa penilaian Al-Sayyab menunjukkan Sikapnya terhadap "wanita". Ujian Khi kuasa dua menunjukkan perubahan ketara dalam kejadian ungkapan Sikap antara tiga fasa dari segi jenis, strategi atau polariti, membuktikan bahawa pendirian politik dan sastera Al-Sayyab berubah dalam tiga fasa itu tercermin dalam Sikapnya terhadap wanita. . Terbukti terdapat dua motivasi yang membawa kepada perubahan Sikap Al-Sayyab iaitu pertama dalam kalangan keluarga dan kalangan terdekat dan kedua berkaitan dengan kalangan tidak langsung di luar keluarga. Kajian lanjutan boleh menggunakan

keputusan dalam kajian ini dan membandingkannya dengan Sikap Sikap penyair lain terhadap wanita, sama ada dari Iraq, atau negara lain, yang hidup dalam era yang sama atau tempoh yang berbeza, untuk melihat sama ada perubahan di seluruh dunia telah berlaku. impak yang sama kepada penyair yang berbeza.



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PTTHM
PERPUSTAKAAN TUNKU TUN AMINAH

LIST OF SYMBOLS AND ABBREVIATIONS

Avg	Average
BSS	Badr Shakir Al-Sayyab
SFL	Systemic Functional Linguistics
AT	Appraisal Theory
SPSS	Statistical Package



PTTA UTHM
PERPUSTAKAAN TUNKU TUN AMINAH

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PTTA UTHM
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CHAPTER 1

INTRODUCTION

1.1 Introduction

Badr Shakir Al-Sayyab (BSS henceforth) was born in the village Jaykour in Basra Governorate in southern Iraq (December 25, 1926 - December 24, 1964). He moved to the capital, Baghdad, where he joined the Teachers' High School to study Arabic and English literature and graduated in 1948. He was known for his leftist political leanings at the beginning of his literary career, his national struggle to liberate Iraq from the English occupation, and his support of the Palestinian cause. He was dismissed from his jobs because of his political inclinations, was imprisoned and forced to leave his country for Iran and then to Kuwait, following demonstrations he participated. Then he turned against the Communist Party when he found that its leaders were not committed to the cause of the people and their fight against the hegemony.

In 1954, the poet returned to Baghdad, but he did not adapt to the city but continued to yearn for the village where he was born (Jaykour). When Abd al-Karim Qasim revolted against the monarchy and established the republican regime on July 14, 1958, Badr Shakir al-Sayyab was among those who welcomed and supported the coup, but after that, he attacked the revolution when he saw that it did not meet the aspirations of the people. In 1961, BSS's health began to deteriorate, as he began to feel heavy in movement and the pain began to increase in his lower back, then a state of atrophy appeared in his body and his feet, and he kept travelling between Baghdad, Beirut, Paris and London for treatment without benefit. Finally, he went to Kuwait for treatment but died in the hospital on December 24, 1964, at 38. His body was

transferred to Basra to return to the village (Jaykour) and buried in the cemetery of Al-Hassan Al-Basri in Al-Zubayr (Boullata, 1969; Abbas, 1969).

BSS is inherent in a long legacy of Mesopotamian poets who symbolized the struggle against the unjust as a survival challenge. He is also the ancestor of Arab poets who believed that poetry was their register. BSS is best known for his amendments to the form and themes of traditional and idealistic Arabic poetry (Thompson, 2017). He is also widely recognized as the pioneer of modern Arabic poetry, and it is agreed that he was the first to take on the classical poem into the free forms of verse (Gohar, 2008). In addition, BSS was the first Arab poet who metaphorically used myths in his poetry to draw symbolic images (Ayasrah & Azmi, 2019; Abood & Ali, 2018).

BSS successfully integrated his personal experiences with the political situation. For example, a fugitive in Kuwait escaping the Iraqi police relates his longing for his ideal homeland to the yearning of the Iraqi people for an ideal country in the future after getting liberated from the unloved regime, which was a representative of British colonialism. He believed in revolution as the hope for Iraq, as many Arabs did in the 1950s (Boullata, Abdel-Malek, & Hallaq, 2000), who sought a different and developed future after the downfall of the British and French colonialism subsequent the World War II (Al-Musawi, 2006; De Young, 1998; De Young, 1993).

Most of BSS's critics believe that his poetry is divided into three phases according to the shifts in his ideological attitudes (Colla, 2015; Jones, 2013; Asfour, 1984). Critics accept that he was still writing the classical Arabic poem in his first phase and that his poetry was romantic then (Jones, 2013; Karim, 1985). In the second phase, firstly, he was a communist (1946-1954) and wrote realistic, socialistic, and revolutionary poetry; however, after 1954, BSS abandoned the Communist Party and took the side of the Arab Nationalists (Jones, 2013; Karim 1985). Three years before he died in Kuwait in 1964, he suffered from gradual health collapse, and that is why, as his critics argue, his poetry at this time was subjective and existential (Colla, 2015; O'Rourke, 2009; al-Abtah, 1965).

BSS never stopped portraying the woman in his poetry in all three phases. In most of his poems, there were two significant representations of the woman: the traditional woman as the mother, the companion, the wife and the beloved, and the symbolic woman as the homeland, the nation, the rescuer, etc. (Jones, 2013). It is mainly related to the early loss of his mother and his grandmother, the only mother he

knew. In addition, because he was not always in good health or shape, BSS felt rejected by women, which led to his constant looking for the ideal woman, traditional or symbolic (Karim 1985).

1.2 Background of the study

BSS is not only renewed in the Arab poetic system but also in content and vision; he saw the world from an unknown angle to express his position towards the universe, man, life and things. Therefore, in addition to the escalating drama in the different phases of his life, his poems remained active factors for the permanence of critical studies of him and his poetic texts. BSS, the poet was not isolated from the human, rather, they were two sides of the same coin, which called for delving into the details of his life accompanied by delving into the unseen of his poetic text (Colla, 2015; O'Rourke, 2009).

Poetry, in general, involves communication as an element of poetic discourse, and the woman has always been present in BSS's poems as the mother, wife, beloved, and home, symbol of love and life and even grave(Gohar, 2008; Noorani, 2010).

The specificity of BSS's experience and the great revolution it brought about in the history of modern Arabic poetry made the critical discourse that examined it rich and diverse and no less important than the experience itself. In addition to that, it dealt with a poetic stage that is the deepest and most important in modern Arabic poetry (Bashkin, 2008). However, this study first presents a review of the critical studies that dealt with BSS's poetic text and his life since the studies themselves were not given the care of critics and academic or non-academic researchers; because the general trend was toward BSS's life experience or Poetic rather than about the treatments raised around them.

BSS could be the most studied Arab poet (Boullata, 1969; Badawi, 1975); however, only a few studies examined his poetry from a linguistically scientific point of view. This study intends to dig into the use of language in selected poems of BSS to uncover how he portrayed women in three different phases of his life to expose his attitudes towards them.

Through a detailed analytical textual reading of BSS's poetry, his attitude toward women in three phases of his life is examined, and then the results have linked

the changes of literary and ideological tendencies to see if there is any relationship between them.

This study takes from the SFL in general, and Appraisal Theory in particular, an approach to knowing how BSSs evaluate women and claims to be the first in this field. However, it tried to benefit from the previous few studies, whether those which used the Appraisal Theory to analyze literary texts or those which mainly tried to pay attention to the textual aspects and modern approaches to BSS's poetry.

Martin & White's (2005) Appraisal Theory, located in the field of Systemic Functional Linguistics (SFL), stresses the functional aspect of language in social contexts. The central concept in the Appraisal Theory framework comes from the fact that the producers of a discourse construct their stances directly from their language of evaluation and that when they express it, they express their attitudes implicitly or explicitly. Therefore, the aim is to expose how BSS stated his attitude towards women by using the language of evaluation according to the Appraisal Theory framework.

To the researcher's best knowledge, only a few studies adopted this model to analyze poetry, or BSS's poetry specifically.

1.3 Problem statement

The majority of BSS's critics agreed on dividing his work into three phases; the Romantic, the Realistic, and the Existential phase (Thompson, 2017; Colla, 2015; Jones, 2013; Ouyang, 2008; O'Rourke, 2009; De Young, 1998; Asfour, 1986; Boullata, 1969). However, whether these phases reflect his ideological developments or merely reflections of his personal life, only a few studies analyzed his poems according to Systematic Functional Grammar.

It is broadly known that of all ages, women have occupied a considerable part of Arabic poetry and the conscience of Arab poets (Yu & Alhartani, 2018). However, the representation of women in modern Arabic literature is challenging; the authors, poets in particular, have adopted different attitudes in representing women according to their philosophy or ideological stances (Al-Shami, 2016). On his side, BSS represented women constantly in his poetry throughout all the different and painful circumstances of his short life (Boullata, 1969). His critics believe BSS was obsessed with women (Izzat, 1976). BSS himself confessed that his life was a journey of search

for the women that could fill the vacuum inside his soul because he grew up deprived of their tenderness (Boullata, 1969), so he continued portraying the woman as traditional or as a symbolic woman (Boullata, 1969; Izzat, 1976). Although some studies discussed BSS's portrayal of the traditional women as the beloved, the mother and the wife, they dealt with the symbolic woman who represented the homeland and the key to salvation (Boullata, 1969; Mu'auash & Salim, 2006; Noorani, 2010). However, far too little attention has been paid to relating his attitudes towards women to his ideological stances or literary tendencies. Furthermore, no study discussed whether he changed his attitudes towards women when changing his ideological stances and literary tendencies. Therefore, this study is dedicated to uncovering BSS's approaches in evaluating and addressing the women in three different phases of his life work to detect the changes in his attitudes (if any) towards them while changing his ideological stances.

Martin and White's (2005) Appraisal Theory framework is utilized to determine BSS's evaluation of "the woman" in three different phases of his life work, focusing on the Attitude subsystem of the theory. White (2005) asserts that Attitude takes account of intersubjective values or assessments like emotions and aesthetics. It is the nucleus and main category of the appraisal theory (Peng, 2008) and the primary tool in this study for examining, analysing, and explaining how BSS used language to evaluate, take positions, create textual identities, and regulate interpersonal positioning towards "the woman", and to show whether he changed his attitude when he was changing his political and literary stances.

1.4 Aim of the study

Studying BSS's poetry in depth leads to distinguishing his inherent ability and the internal system of his texts, which introduces us to his ability, making him the pioneer of modernization in the Arabic poem. Does it also answer why his achievement did not end with his quick death? The research aims to identify some aspects that made Al-Sayyab able to transform his attitude towards life, society and the self into a rich poetic text that is still to be studied.

This study aims to critically analyse literary written discourse, namely selected poems by BSS, to investigate the linguistic choices he used to evaluate the woman in

his poetry. The focus is on his Attitude, as the major scale in the Appraisal Theory (AT henceforth), to know BSS's emotional, judgmental, and evaluative stances towards the women throughout three phases of his work as a romantic poet, realistic, and existentialist.

The study also aims to deeply understand BSS's attitudinal positioning by examining the strategies and polarities of the linguistic constructions he used to reflect his attitude in the selected poems in three phases to realize whether the change in political and literary tendencies affected his attitude towards women.

This study also aims to investigate BSS's poetry in the context of public and private affairs that affected his attitude and poetry. It is believed that he temporal gradient, psychological growth (or regression) and development (or relapse) worked together to motivate the human and poet.

1.5 Objectives of the study

The objectives of the study are:

- i. To reveal BSS's attitudes towards 'the woman' and to know the attitudes conveyed according to the AT in three phases of his life work.
- ii. To identify the types of changes in BSS's attitudes towards 'the woman' in three phases of his life work.
- iii. To state how BSS's personal and non-personal motives are related to the changing of his attitudes towards 'the woman'.

1.6 Research questions

- i. How did BSS evaluate 'the woman' in three phases of his poetry in terms of the Attitudinal system of AT?
- ii. What are the changes in BSS's Attitude towards 'the woman' in three phases of his poetry in terms of the AT approach?
- iii. How BSS's personal and non-personal motives were related to the change of his Attitude towards 'the woman' when he evaluated 'her'?

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