

The Social construction of Tragedy in the Pashto Folk Romance narratives

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Abstract:

The oral tradition of Pashto language has been a vital source in the formation of the collective social and historical consciousness, cultural education, imagination and particular forms of expression through poetics and prose. Romance narratives are one of the composite genres cum poetic genre of Pashto folklore which have been transferred from one generation to others over the period of hundreds of years. While stepping in the modern literacy and development arena, one can see that some of the particular romance stories have survived as part of the collective memory of most of the Pashtun pertaining to cultural and traditional backgrounds. This trickle-down from the treasure of oral tradition of poetics and prose is due to its particular construction. Characterization and the very tragic ends of the lives of both the lovers. Tragedy or Gham is perceived as a compulsory value for life. The Tragedy occurred in the romance narratives is crafted over the social conditioning of women and the ideals of masculinity and male superiority, therefore one can see that in all the popular romance narratives woman has to die after her beloved to prove her true love. This paper is going to unpack the reality that, the tragedy in the popular romance stories is stemmed in the ethos and norms of social structure and its value system. This paper unfolds the tragic patterns of the popular romance stories which are the great source of oral folkloric prose in the Pashto language. The tragedy reflected in the popular romance stories possesses commonalities in terms of the vantage position of male protagonists and his beloved heroine.. but it also possesses a true replica of the construction of the social order, which awards specific and selected roles to the different social classes and sexes.

Key words: Pashto language, Romance, Cultural, Traditional, Tragedy.