

**Exploring the Representation of Homeland in Mahmoud Darwish's Passport: A Literary Analysis**

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**DOI: <https://doi.org/10.63163/jpehss.v3i1.173>**

**Abstract:**

This research discusses the Poem Passport by Mahmoud Darwish appeared in his prominent work "The Leaves of the Olive Tree" in 1946. The objectives of the study are to explore figurative language and imagery and how Palestine is represented in Passport through figurative language and imagery. In this paper, the researchers employ and use the qualitative descriptive approach with Stuart Hall's theory of representation (1997). Various figurative languages are described in this research by the researchers. They are hyperbole, symbols, metaphors and personification, and types of imagery such as tactile, auditory, visual, and kinesthetic in the poem, Passport. It portrays a person who is anguish and annoyed because his passport is not identified and valued by his enemies. But, he does not show any anger or rage against his enemies and expresses to them that his passport is not a source of identification and recognition for him. The researchers show that in the poem, Passport by Darwish represents Palestine's effort and struggle implicit through figurative language and imagery.

**Keywords:** Struggle, Homeland, Palestine

**Introduction**

Palestinian-Jewish Israel's conflict in Palestine had become a big problem in the region. The war begins when England gives its approval to Jews finding a position in Palestine in the 1917 Balfour Declaration. The Declaration says, "Government views in support of the creation of a National Home for the Jewish People in Palestine, and will employ their efforts to promote the attainment of that intent, it is certainly comprehended that nothing can be done that could damage and detriment the religious and secular freedom of those who are not Jewish in Palestine". Until now, the war between Palestinian and Jewish Israel has never ended because of that declaration. The war has been going on in Palestine for several years, triggering fragmentation. Palestine is one of the troubled, undivided Arab nations. Though freedom has been achieved, for many years, However, Israel stays in breach of autonomy and still faces the threat of being invaded at any time, particularly in Gaza. Palestine is an isolation regime in Gaza in Israel. Diverse adverse effects of preventing Gaza occur both economically and socially in people's personal lives. The sounds of bombs blasting are heard, and the transformer supplying the magnetic field is demolished, turning the city into gloominess and banishing it from the external and other parts of the world. Next, the F16, approach to support the tanks. Israeli tanks reached Palestinian capital towns such as Gaza, Ramallah, Nablus and Tulkarem, all attempting to destroy along the way. The planes rained bombs on migrant camp residents.

Forty people have been killed in one attack alone. Israel's soldiers shot at hospitals, ambulances, and schools like the UN-based blind academy. A thousand citizens were investigated for no Particular cause and sent to jail. Electronic media revealed the brutal exploitation of Israel against the people of Palestine to the whole globe, though it has always been denied by Israel and claims that its blockade is good for Palestine. Outside the official declaration condemning the actions of several states such as the United States and the United Nations. It also called for protests from different states concerning millions of people, who denounced and criticized the brutal actions in Israel. Several poets were involved in composing poetry as the voicing of Palestinian troubles and grief. Mahmoud Darwish is one of them, who is an Arab poet of our time. He is a well-known and very famous Palestinian poet different people have distinct attitudes toward poetry, but Arab's point of view about poetry is that they think poetry is the greatest kind of art. He is a popular poet for his harsh descriptions and sorrow of dependence on land. His poetry was long adopted by audiences in Europe, mostly France. He was born in 1942, he was born a village called Galilee in Barweh, which the Israelis left in ruins in 1948. He had faced house arrest and incarceration as a result of his political engagement. Darwish was Etihad Newspaper's editor. He moved to Egypt, served for Al-Ahram Newspaper in Cairo, and worked as an editor of a Journal named "Palestinian Problems" in Beirut, Lebanon. He received various awards including the Lenin Peace Prize. He passed away in Houston, Texas, in 2008. He is regarded as a patriot and sincere and has great affection and passion for the people of Palestine as well as a passion for justice. In his poetry, it is seen through the language that always uses nature imagery to contrast Palestine, particularly in Passport's poem. Passport's poem tells of an unacknowledged man's passport when he wishes to go outside the country. That poem is very symbolic of Palestine's current state. In the poem Passport, he defines his homeland that sacrifices its opponent identification, however, for him, Palestine's identity will always live and never finish. The poem has been composed by a legendary poet who is praised by the famous singer Marcel Khalife as well as being used as an album. An overview of how Palestine was portrayed in this poem is important. Owing to the above reasons, the researchers have a strong interest in examining the poem, Passport using Stuart Hall's theory of representation through figures of speech and imagery.

### **Literature Review**

The researchers have studied a few journals connected to this study, which tell about the nationality of Homeland for Mahmoud Darwish. As Darwish defines by his metaphor about his Home country in his poems. He uses the words and nature as a metaphor to prove his Homeland never dies. Marwan A. Hamdan (2016) in the journal Receptionist Analysis identifies the first research. This article discusses the notion of poetic expression in some of Darwish's poetry as an instrument of struggle for the Palestinians. Passport is one of them. This research paper shows that the language of the poetry of Darwish uses expressions and syntax that reveal and denounce the injustices perpetrated by the invaders of all kinds. His poetry is full of images of the motherland-nature which supports the language of resistance and resistance against the invasion. HamoudYahya Ahmad and RuzySulizaHashim, students from the Kebangsaan Malaysia University School of Language Studies and Linguistics, created the second publication. Their journal is titled Mahmoud Darwish's an Ecopoctcolonial Viewpoint of Home. This paper dissects how Darwish perceives in his poems the concept of home using Ecocritical and postcolonial approaches. The research shows that Palestinian recognition and identity are strongly associated with the idea of homeland. Poetry could be described as a type of language that expresses more strongly than everyday language. Poems can sound enigmatic or mysterious at times. Complexity and anger aren't fundamental poetry characteristics. Our understanding requires more than just knowing the meaning of the words while reading poetry. It comprises our anticipation of the form of a poem, the sound and meaning pattern, its sound and sense pattern, and its regulated thought structure. Poetry enhances our view and understanding of the world we live in because the fresh discovery of life draws its power. Poetry

shows stuff we don't know or even barely know about. Poetry enables us to feel more than there is to feel, and it enables us to respond to our imagination.

### **Purpose of the Study**

This study aims to know the representation of homeland in the poem Passport.

### **Problem Statement**

Based on the study, the researchers endeavor to address the issue of representation of homeland in the poem Passport

### **Research Question**

How the land of Palestine is depicted in the poem, Passport by the poet Mahmoud Darwish using by using personification and similes?

### **Significance of the Research**

The findings of the study are expected to give very informative knowledge for the students of literature, who desire cultural research within the range of theory of representation in the poem, Passport. The researchers hope that this study will enhance the comprehension of the literary study of the poem Passport.

### **Research Methodology**

Based on the research problem and the importance of the analysis of the poem, the researchers employ qualitative research method. Taylor and Bogdan (1984: 5) put it this way: The qualitative approach is a way to obtain data about what the writers write and speak. With that, the approach of the study is to analyze literature in a quality manner.

### **The Instrument of Data Collection**

The tool of the research is the way employed to collect data that is necessary for the research. In this study, the researchers read recite, and find the facts which help in the research related to the representation theory

### **Data Analysis Technique**

The researchers in this study employ the method for data analysis that includes in first instance the researchers' close reading of the poem followed by selection of the integral components of the poem Passport by applying the theory of Representation given by Stuart Hall (1997)..

### **Stuart Hall (1997) Theory of Representation**

Stuart Hall's Theory of Representation argues that representation is not a simple reflection of reality, but rather an active process where meaning is constructed through language, images, and symbols, shaping how we understand and interact with the world; essentially, meaning is not fixed but produced and defined by society through the way things are represented, often with power dynamics influencing how groups are portrayed in media.

### **Key points about Hall's theory:**

- **No single "true" representation:**  
There is no one accurate way to represent people, events, or places in media as meaning is always open to interpretation and contestation.
- **Representation as a construction:**  
Media actively constructs meaning by selecting and framing information, which can reinforce existing ideologies or challenge them.
- **Power dynamics in representation:**  
Dominant groups often have more power to shape representations, potentially leading to stereotypes and marginalized perspectives.
- **Importance of context:**

Understanding the social and cultural context is crucial to interpreting how something is represented.

- **Encoding and decoding:**

The process of creating a message (encoding) and interpreting it (decoding) can lead to different meanings depending on the audience's perspective.

Example application:

- A news report on a crime might disproportionately focus on individuals from a specific ethnic group, reinforcing a stereotype about that group as criminals, even if the statistics do not support this portrayal

Meaning is generated through the representation of language. Two significant meanings of the word are proposed by the Oxford English Dictionary.

a. To depict anything is to characterize or depict it, through explanation or representation or imagination to bring it up in the mind; to put a representation of it before us in our eyes or the sense;

b. A portray also means a symbolize, substitute for, to be an example of, or to try substituting for;

Giles and Tim Middleton further elaborate on representation in their book *Studying Culture* 1999 by giving by granting it three senses. This would be to stand in for, to speak on behalf of, and re-present. Representation through language is to tell something worthwhile about or to reveal what the word means to many other persons. It is regarded as one of the essential aspects of the process by which knowledge is generated and shared among cultures, which involves using language, signs, and images to represent an object. The reflective, deliberate, and constructionist are the techniques for representation. Thus, the above discussion tells us that all the things in the universe possess meaning. It is the representation that tells how people are learning, how to use, imagine, or explain something. It unites meaning and language to culture.

### **Analysis of the Poem**

The poem introduces linguistic memories and experiences the poet author for the reader to reproduce. Our understanding requires more than just knowing the meaning of the words while reading poetry. It comprises our apprehension of the form of a poem, its sound and meaning pattern, and the guided thought arrangement. It enhances readers' understanding regarding the world around them, though the fresh discovery of life wants to draw its energy. Poetry will show stuff we didn't know or even barely heard about. This may enable them to feel stronger and more aware, and it might enable them more responsive to creative practice. "Passport" poem by Darwish, is formed and produced based on experiences with poets. He uses terms about nature to explain his experiences. The research may be in comprehending Darwish's poem; it is the way of seeing how the poet's homeland Palestine is portrayed in this poem through intrinsic elements.

### **Explanation**

Passport's poem also talks about how the state of Palestine affects Palestinians. In particular, when Palestinians decide to move to another country. Here's an explanation of stanzas which helps in understanding the poem.

They did not recognize me in the shadows  
That sucks away my colour in this Passport  
And to them, my wound was an exhibit  
For a tourist Who loves to collect photographs

In the opening lines, the poet attempts to say, that his passport was not valued and recognized at the airport by his enemy when he handed his passport to them. They also gathered his photos for the visitors to be seen to enrage the poet.

They did not recognize me,  
Ah . . . Don't leave

The palm of my hand without the sun  
 Because the trees recognize me  
 All the songs of the rain recognize me  
 Don't leave me pale like the moon!

The poet here says he wasn't upset since his presence was not acknowledged by them. Their treatment and behaviour were not cared for and valued by the poet. The poet did not lose heart but kept making efforts to convince himself to head forward without making himself weak. Without sunlight, the poet won't make himself fade away as the moon fades at night time, whereas he is loved and recognized by the trees and songs of rain which are the power sources and objects of nature.

All the birds that followed my palm  
 To the door of the distant airport  
 All the wheat fields  
 All the prisons  
 All the white tombstones  
 All the barbed Boundaries  
 All the waving handkerchiefs  
 All the eyes  
 were with me,

But they dropped them from my passport

The poet says that he is in a rage and frustrated state and situation because he does not like to express his rage and frustration. The poet is surprised that his passport is not accepted and recognized by them. The fact is that he is welcomed and greeted by the birds who come to the airport to receive him which assures him that everything is fine. Whereas, various objects including fields of wheat, jails, boundaries, and all the people are accompanied by the speaker which seems that all these acknowledge and recognize the speaker. Yet, his passport is thrown by the guard.

Stripped of my name and identity?  
 On the soil, I nourished with my own hands?  
 Today Job cried out  
 Filling the sky:  
 Don't make an example of me again!  
 Oh, gentlemen, Prophets,  
 Don't ask the trees for their names  
 Don't ask the valleys who their mother is

According to the poet, he finishes and pacifies his anger against them. Their act was disliked and criticized by the poet. He does not mind and cares about what has been done to him by others. And people even are not allowed by him to inquire about the poet and his motherland.

All the hearts of the people are my identity

So take away my passport!

In the final verse, he says that he will resume adoring his motherland, even if others do not recognize him. He feels that his homeland is not because of his passport, but it is in his heart. Therefore, the speaker sees the passport merely as a set of papers that causes difficulty. That identity is in his heart for the speaker. Then he'll keep fighting.

### **Analysis of figurative language and imagery**

In this poem, various forms of imagery have been used by the poet such as visual imagery in the following verses.

All the birds that followed my palm  
 To the door of the distant airport  
 All the wheatfields  
 All the prisons

All the white tombstones  
 All the barbed Boundaries  
 All the waving handkerchiefs  
 All the eyes  
 were with me,  
 (Passport: line 11-19)

These verses represent visual images such as the birds, my palm, the door, the distant airport, the wheat field, the jail, the white tombstone, barbed boundaries, and the waving handkerchief are examples of visual imagery that are seen with our eyes. The birds are viewed as the crowd and all the birds that make noise. Then all white graves are illustrated as the cemetery. Likewise, as many fences covering the country are visualized with all the barbed frontiers, the speaker here needs to reassure the readers it's all his pride.

Second, in line with kinesthetic imagery, the authors find:

But they dropped them from my passport  
 Stripped of my name and identity?  
 On the soil, I nourished with my own hands?  
 Today Job cried out  
 Filling the sky:  
 (Passport: line 20; 22-24)

Kinesthetic imagery is a muscle and joint movement. There, the poet is angry with the people who drop his passport, because they do not acknowledge his identity. Ultimately, the poet pacifies his rage and frustration, and cries out to the heavens, demanding vengeance and justice for the mistake, he has not committed and done.

The writer considers the symbol regarding the kinds of speech figures. Firstly, in line with:

The palm of my hand without the sun  
 (Passport: line 7)

The above verse contains the phrase the sun which signifies and stands for optimism. This symbol gives hope and encourages the speaker. Here, he tells the readers that he wants to stay determined and courageous against the bad behaviour and injustice which has been done to him by his enemies. In the next verse,

Do not leave me pale like the moon!  
 (Passport: line 10)

According to writers, the moon symbolizes happiness and grief as she shines brightly, and fades. The poet says that he does not like to be a sad, pale, and weak person like the moon, though he has been annoyed and frustrated by the people.

All the songs of rain recognize me All the wheatfields  
 All the Prisons  
 All the white tombstones All the barbed Boundaries  
 All the waving handkerchiefs and All the eyes  
 (Passport: line 9; 13-18)

In the above verses, the poet uses hyperbolic language, we come to know that the poet is satisfied and determined about his identity and recognition while saying that he recognises each thing including songs of rain, the wheat fields, the prisons, white tombstones, boundaries and even by all the people, though he is not recognized at the airport by his enemy. He makes an attachment to his homeland through the use of hyperbolic language in the poem.

From my forehead bursts the sward of light,  
 And from my hand springs the water of the river  
 and All the hearts of the people are my identity  
 (Passport: line 29- 31)

Such is also hyperbolic as the speaker believes that he alone becomes happy and proud due to his homeland, and the readers are suggested by the speaker that he cannot be taken by anybody. He is the one, with a sheet of paper, who can't be replaced or destroyed, as well as his fellows'

hearts. Based on the analysis, the researchers find and conclude that the poet wants to explain the emotions of people's unidentified existence and their homeland as a result of political disputes. The poet, through his writing, tells that they would never surrender and would continue to struggle to gain rights. As, he says in the last two verses, "All people's hearts are my identity, so take my passport away!." this indicates that passport has no significance for the poet, and it is not an absolute source of identity for him, love of people is more valuable and significant for the poet. The poet wants to tell and realize the readers that he is the one who loves his homeland. Palestinian's Representation in the poem. The poem features Mahmoud Darwish's popular poems. Palestinians are often represented in the poem Passport, fighting for their identification and recognition in the presence of a stranger, who does not know them, in protecting their identity. They did not recognize me in the shadows that suck away my colour in this Passport and to them, my wound was an exhibit.

For a tourist who loves to collect photographs  
They did not recognize me,  
Ah... don't leave  
The palm of my hand without the sun  
Because the trees recognize me

All the songs of rain recognize me do not leave me pale like the moon!

In lines from the seventh to the tenth contain symbols that the sun and moon are a representation of Palestinian courage and vulnerability. They don't want the courage to leave them and when they encounter strangers. by whom they are prevented and asked who prevents or asked them.

All the birds that followed my palm  
To the door of the distant airport  
All the wheatfields  
All the prisons  
All the white tombstones  
All the barbed Boundaries  
All the eyes  
Were with me

But they dropped my passport

The second stanza contains hyperbole. The hyperbole of metaphorical language is employed and represents and expresses what the speaker has seen in his homeland. Although he is not recognized by them, the poet says he is accompanied by all birds, fields, prisons, tombstones, barbed edges, and all the people in his homeland which represent his homeland's love and attachment, and all these things are with him. That is all the country's love so the representatives said they were all with him. But, he is insulted by them as his passport is not accepted and valued.

Stripped of my name and identity?  
On soil, I nourished with my own hands?  
Today Job cried out  
Filling the sky:

After that, in the second to fourth verses of the third stanza, kinesthetic imagery occurs, reflecting the poet's sad and worse emotions, when his passport is not recognized by the people. At this, The poet eventually yells out furiously towards heaven, saying.

Don't make an example of me again  
Oh, gentlemen, Prophets,  
Don't ask the trees for their names Don't ask  
the valleys who their mother is  
From my forehead bursts the sword of light  
And from my hand springs the water of the river  
All hearts of the people are my identity  
So take away my passport!

Hyperbole is again used from line nine to verse eleven of the poem's third stanza of a poem. The poet wishes to explain how indistinguishable he is from his motherland. The poet likes to tell us that his existence is because of his homeland, and he is nothing without his country. Each and everything in his homeland is a source of identification and recognition for him, so he does not care for the passport which was not recognized by them. Hence, Darwish's passport poem portrays Palestinian identity and their fight against the outsider. He also uses terms in this poem that relate to nature such as the sun, moon, wheat fields, birds, water, and the other to portray the Palestinian symbol of his land. He wants to tell us how the efforts of Palestinians to gain freedom for their homeland are not acknowledged and valued, the fact is that the enemy cannot isolate or separate the Palestinians from the poet's motherland. In the end, the poet reveals that Palestinian affection for his motherland cannot be substituted by a passport which is only a piece of paper. The poet wants to prove the homeland in this poem is symbolic of Palestine. He agrees that Palestinian identity can never be snatched from the people of his homeland because their homeland represents their hearts, and they are surrounded by the natural objects of their homeland, for them, the passport-like paper has no significance and value, used by their enemy. Palestinians will keep struggling and fighting to get their homeland back.

### **Conclusion**

Poetry is defined as a type of language that expresses something in a more forceful way than the common language. It is an expression of feelings. For comprehending and understanding poetry in a good way, we should understand the components of poetry such as figures of speech and poetic devices. While analyzing, Darwish's poem Passport, the researchers find and conclude that many essential and integral components of the poem are not used by the poet. Through this poem, we come to know how Palestine is represented through metaphor and other figurative language. In the poem, we are told by the poet about identity too that the speaker is in rage and anger as his enemies do not value and acknowledge his passport as a source of his identification. We are told by the poet that his recognition and identification are not because of a piece of paper in the form of a passport, but all the natural objects, he is surrounded by, represent his recognition and identity. In another aspect, based on Mahmoud Darwish's history, the researchers assume that the poem Passport represents his Palestine identity which is confiscated and snatched by the enemy. He fights and makes efforts to get back his identity and home. He wants and desires that he should be recognized by the world. According to the poet, his homeland exists on the map of the world. The poet seems optimistic that the Palestinian's emotions and feelings for their homeland should be understood and acknowledged by the world. The poet hopes that his enemy should finish, invading their homeland, and let them lead their life peacefully.

### **Recommendations**

On a result basis, the poet recommends those who want to analyze the poem, comprehend it, the first text of the poem should be understood. Later on, other various components of the poem must be comprehended by the readers. With that, the poet's will and aims in composing the poem should be understood in a good way. Furthermore, this research paper will be helpful for the lover of poetry who is eager to know and is fond of figurative language, especially for the students of English across the country.

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