

Reflection of the Phenomenon of Addiction in Contemporary Persian Poetry

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Article Info (231-254)	ABSTRACT
Article type: Research Article	One of the prevalent themes in contemporary poetry is the issue of opium addiction. Many poets have openly fallen into the trap of this deviation and, ultimately, "lost themselves in the dust." This article, compiled using a descriptive-analytical method and library sources, first explores the emergence of this phenomenon in contemporary poetry and then examines and analyzes its reflection in contemporary poetry. This topic is not only the result of familiarity with European poets but also the consequence of the August 28 coup and the failure of the national uprising. After the August 28 coup, intellectuals were mentally shattered and disillusioned, considering everything as lost and seeing nothing but darkness and destruction. Consequently, they sought remedies to alleviate their pain and momentarily alleviate the sorrow of defeat. It is worth mentioning that this issue can also be observed
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Introduction

One of the pervasive themes in contemporary Persian poetry is the poets' refuge in opiates, a phenomenon that reflects a profound socio-political crisis. This study examines the emergence and artistic reflection of addiction within the works of contemporary Iranian poets. The research posits that beyond the superficial influence of Western literature—specifically French poets like Baudelaire, Rimbaud, and Verlaine who struggled with substance abuse—the primary catalyst for this trend in Iran was the 1953 Iranian coup d'état (28 Mordad). The resulting political suppression, coupled with the collapse of national aspirations, left intellectuals and poets in a state of deep despair, hopelessness, and disillusionment. By contextualizing this issue, the paper traces the roots of addiction as a social affliction in Persian literature, noting its widespread emergence during the Safavid era, as seen in the works of poets like Sa'eb Tabrizi and Taleb Amoli, and its subsequent manifestation in the works of 20th-century figures such as Nusrat Rahmani, Mehdi Akhavan Sales, Nader Naderpour, and others.

Method

This research employs a descriptive-analytical methodology based on library research. It scrutinizes the historical and political factors contributing to the normalization of substance abuse among Iranian intellectuals and analyzes how these experiences were translated into poetic expression. The study reviews the works of key contemporary poets—most notably Nusrat Rahmani—alongside prose accounts from figures like Ahmad Kasravi, to demonstrate how addiction evolved from a personal habit into a poignant symbol of social critique and political frustration in contemporary literature.

Results

The findings of the study indicate that addiction in contemporary Persian poetry was not a hedonistic or recreational choice but a passive, reactive response to historical failure and political blockage. The following key outcomes were identified:

١. **The Impact of the 28 Mordad Coup:** This event is identified as the primary driver of existential despair among the generation of poets who had previously been active in political or reformist movements. The suppression of these movements forced poets to retreat into an internal world of nihilism and decay.
٢. **Poetic Symbolism:** Addiction emerged as a central theme, often articulated through imagery of “dust,” “smoke,” and “grayness.” Poets used the language of addiction to protest against the suffocating atmosphere of the era.
٣. **Nusrat Rahmani as a Paradigm:** Rahmani is highlighted as the most prominent voice in this movement. His works, such as “The Man Lost in the Dust,” explicitly articulate the agony of a generation that, unable to change the political landscape, turned to self-destruction.
٤. **Continuity and Transformation:** While the roots of substance use in poetry extend back to the Safavid era (where it was often associated with coffee houses and poetic taverns), the contemporary manifestation is distinctively marked by a sense of “failed idealism” and cynical social critique.

Conclusion

The study concludes that addiction in contemporary Persian poetry functions as a mirror reflecting the societal and psychological fragmentation of the Iranian intellectual class. The transition from active political engagement to passive despair—symbolized by opium and alcohol—marks a tragic turn in the history of Persian poetry. This phenomenon was an “anti-struggle,” a form of passive rebellion against a society where hope had been systematically dismantled. Ultimately, the reflection of addiction in these works serves as a historical document of the trauma, silence, and alienation experienced by a generation that felt their future had been stolen, leaving them to find solace only in the “dust” of their own destruction.