

“Readers’ awarness of Vietnamese revolutionary poetry’s image of soldiers”

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Received: 16/08/2024; Accepted: 26/08/2024; Published: 5/9/2024

Abstract: *There has been a long journey of poetry about soldiers - revolutionary soldiers spanning seventy-five years, three-quarters of a century. During period time, with many ups and downs of Viet Nam’s history, of course the image of the soldiers also was followed by mean of media around the world. Which changes in literature and poetry. But even so, in under curcumstance, we can also be aware of that the soldiers always appear not only a symbol of normal victory but also a great victory that was illustrated in many Viet Nam’s revolutionary poetry such as Chinh Huu, To Huu, Hong Nguyen, Quang Dung, ...^[1] In the revolutionary wars of the twentieth century, we can’t deny that, we did not have superiority in material strength, but we were the victors, even if that victory had to be sacrificed, with a lot of blood and bones in exchange for enough time for a young generation to grow up . No one could deny that we were received lots of attentions, encouragements, supports from physically and mentally from international friends and other neighbor countries. That means we still have to carry out revolutionary wars relying mainly on our own strength. And one of those “strength” factors is patriotism, the spirit of revolutionary optimism.*

For all above reasons, we carried out research and discussed “Readers’ awarness of Vietnamese revolutionary poetry’s image of soldiers” with the aim of Overview of Vietnamese literature through the war periods; Contribute to increasing the diversity and richness of literary works in the war period.

Keywords: *Revolution poetry, literature, patriotism.*

1. Introduction

“Poetry is a beautiful expression of people and times. Only when poetry can express the soul of the era can it become a memorial of the era.” Literature and art exist with the mission of honoring and promoting beautiful human values. The source of literature always starts from strong sympathies about people to bring many vibrations about the good things in life. Thanks to those vibrations, the image of the soldier has merged into the beating of millions of hearts from the lines of literature and poetry.^[1]

In providing a deep historical and cultural reading of Vietnam, FitzGerald was the first to argue that the Americans had limited real knowledge of the country they were invading and a generally poor conception of the Vietnamese people-who saw the conflict not as a means of liberating them from the yoke of communism, but rather as another effort at colonial subjugation. Halberstam, by contrast, set out to understand American leadership, and particularly how the “best and the brightest” could have been so wrong in Vietnam.

Most of the war poets of the Vietnam era were young volunteers who accepted the premise that they were entering a conflict deserving of their sacrifice. When they discovered otherwise, some resorted to poetry.^[2]

Xia is called “the midwife” of Vietnamese literature in China. With a deep passion for Vietnamese language and literature, she has translated and studied numerous Vietnamese literary works written from ancient times to the contemporary era. Xia told VOV: “The Vietnamese language and its literature have opened many doors for me and helped me to enrich my knowledge about Vietnam, the Chinese language and literature, the China-Vietnam relationship, and China’s relations with the world. I have made friends with many Vietnamese people and scholars of Vietnamese studies. I often say that I’m thankful to Vietnam, the Vietnamese language, and its literature. Nothing can stop me from loving Vietnamese literature and Vietnamese people much.”^[3]

2 Research content

2.1. Vietnamese literary works of the period 30-45

The earliest was the image of soldiers in the name of the National Guard. These were the first class of people to stand up and take up arms following Uncle Ho's call, go to the resistance and become pioneers, whose name alone is enough to arouse a sense of love and proud of our nation.

That means we still have to carry out revolutionary wars relying mainly on our own strength. And one of those "strength" factors is patriotism, the spirit of revolutionary optimism. Uncle Ho's soldier. These are soldiers who are mostly not formally trained, have not gone to school, and come from all backgrounds - demonstrating the solidarity of an entire nation that always knows how to hold hands together to protect their territory, weather, life, one's own destiny. These soldiers appear simple in simple everyday, and sometimes even pitiful if one does not pay attention to their heroic qualities:

"We

People from all over
Met each other when we were illiterate
Known since the days of one or two
We were not familiar with guns
Ten military lessons"

(Remerber- Hong Nguyen)

They came from the different area in our country and also have different knowledges. But they met each other and understood together in a short time because of loving their beloved country. In a boiling oil and fire stage, they were ready to sacrifice for their beloved country without any hesitation by themselves in emergency. They also had a revolutionary enthusiasm, optimism, love their life.

2.2. Some typical vietnamese literaries works, authors in the war period

Bùi Đình Diệm, penname Quang Dũng (11 October 1921 – 13 October 1988) was a Vietnamese poet. He was one of the poets associated with the Nhân Văn-Giai Phẩm movement. In his style, following Vladimir Mayakovsky, he experimented with longer poems.^[1] Quang Dũng is the author of several very famous poems such as *Tây Tiến* (Advancing Westward), *Đôi mắt người Sơn Tây* (The eyes of Sơn Tây people), *Đôi bờ* (The two banks). Apart from his work in literature and poetry, Quang Dũng was also an artist and musician. Of course, in the spirit of the entire nation setting out, it is indispensable for the "elite" members of that team: soldiers from students, intellectuals... So besides that genuine beauty, People also see

the beauty of the magnanimity and elegance of students and intellectuals - especially those from the capital. These are the elite young men who "arrange their pens according to their execution." It is not a coincidence that in Chinh HUU's song *The Return*, the image of a soldier resembles something of a traditional soldier.^[1]

Then that beauty will disappear in Chinh HUU's poetry, letting those people become revolutionary "comrades", but that elegant appearance will appear in the poetry of HUU Loan and QUANG DUNG, with the dreamy features of a young man. Scholars determined to leave without returning, KINH KHA for example, but in their hearts did not forget to linger on a beautiful dream of triumphant faith:

Eyes staring, sending dreams across the border night

Dreaming of Hanoi's graceful and fragrant figure.

(Westward Advance – Quang Dung)

The sound of the last four lines in Vietnamese makes the poetic breath continue to echo endlessly, in harmony with the path of the volunteer soldiers who set out for the country.

"Westward advancing soldiers left without promises

Their remote expedition meant in itself a separation

Those who joined the Westward Advance that spring

Had their minds set for Sầm Nưa, not the plains."

(Westward Advance) by Quang Dũng

In addition to, image of soldiers also was praised highly much in some Nguyen Đình Thi's poems for example, We can illustrate that aspects in the following verses which were composed by Nguyen Đình Thi:

Our country

The country of those who have never died

The night whispers in the sound of the earth

The expectations about the old days!

(Country – Nguyen Đình Thi).

"The country of the people who have never been defeated" - that is the voice that echoes from thousands of years of history, echoes the passionate patriotism, the sacred truth that "nothing is more precious than independence and freedom"!

2.3. Writers and poets' views on the soldiers' image during wartime.

Uncle Ho's soldiers at this time no longer

appeared with their natural beauty, sometimes even covered in mud, but became majestic, even splendid, and moved deeper into the heart of history. It's hard to forget the image of the liberating soldier in To Huu's poem:

"History of kissing the boy's barefoot
Live courageously and indomitably in life"

(Song of spring – 1968)

The image of a soldier was also appeared by Le Anh Xuan's poetry:

"From his stance on Tan Son Nhat's runway
The Fatherland flies up into the vast spring"

(Vietnamese Posture - Le Anh Xuan)

Among the many poems depicting the image of soldiers, perhaps "Vietnamese Posture" by Le Anh Xuan was one of the most successful in the war against French colonialism (1946 -1954) and American Empire (1955-1975) so as to have a liberational country as today (1975).

Praising the mother and the deep, intimate mother-child love between the soldier on the front line and the hard-working mother, full of love for her child at home. Time leaving of the soldiers for the sake of combat in protection their country was so long and they didn't know when the specific coming back day was. We can illustrated in the following verses:

I went through hundreds of mountains and thousands of streams

Not as much as the pain in Mother's heart

I have went to war for ten years

Not as much as the hardships of Mother's life at sixty.

(Bam! - Tô Hữu)

Despite having difficulties, hardships, and full of danger, the love of Vietnamese mothers and boundless patriotism have created a strong bond, helping their children to have the confidence to fight and regain independence for the Fatherland. Above point of view was showed in the following verses:

My mother, the mother of the national defense army.

I go far as also near.

.....

I cherish you, I cherish my brothers

(Bam! - Tô Hữu)

After reading To Huu's poems, I love my homeland even more. In spite of the difficulties, hardships, and strangeness, the love of Vietnam's mothers and boundless patriotism have created

a strong bond, helping the children to have the confidence to fight and regain independence for the beloved Fatherland. The above idea also represented in To Huu's poetry. We could illustrated in the following verses:

His shirt is torn at the shoulder

My pants have a few patches

A cold smile, Barefoot

Loving each other, hand in hand.'

(Comrades – Chinh Huu)

3. Conclusions

With a journey of seventy-five years, the soldier's image has become an indispensable part of Vietnamese revolutionary poetry. It is impossible not to have torments and concerns about choices, about the situation and fate of soldiers in works written at a certain step back since the South was completely liberated and the country was completely liberated. All are unified, starting from the epic. That is the law of perception. But the inspiration of praise and affirmation in poems about soldiers is still an important inspiration.

It is that inspiration, that spirit of praise that is the most timely, enthusiastic and passionate source of encouragement and encouragement for the soldiers, and the entire nation. At one time, poetry was in the soldier's backpack, on the butt of the soldier's gun, on the soldier's arm and in the soldier's memory. Even today, an old person in a rural area can recite many poems about soldiers and revolution, especially To Huu's poems. That's a fact. And that truth is the result of the journey of creation and reception from heart to heart.

Contributing to increasing the source of precious materials for Vietnamese literature and promoting the patriotic spirit of the Vietnamese people through the war periods.

Praising the patriotic spirit of the old soldier during the war against American imperialism and French colonialism.^[1]

Through reading this paper, readers also learn English not only enhance grammar structure but also gain an abundant of source English vocabulary.

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