



INTERNATIONAL RESEARCH JOURNAL OF HUMANITIES AND INTERDISCIPLINARY STUDIES

(Peer-reviewed, Refereed, Indexed & Open Access Journal)

DOI : 03.2021-11278686

ISSN : 2582-8568

IMPACT FACTOR : 7.560 (SJIF 2024)

Literary Reflections on Marginalization of Academicians: An Analytic Study on Two Selected Poems of Dr. Mubarak Al-Yaduomi

Dr. Khaled Ahmed Ali Al-Swmaeai

Associate Professor,
Department of English,
Faculty of Education /Yafea and
Director-General of Educational Affair,
Lahj University, Yemen

DOI No. **03.2021-11278686**

DOI Link :: <https://doi-ds.org/doilink/02.2024-19126449/IRJHIS2402008>

Abstract:

Marginalization has become a global phenomenon affecting a large number of social classes in which literature has played a major role in showing it. Several Yemeni academics have carried out the suffering of academic and living marginalization caused by the civil war in their poetry. Thus, this study explores an example of literary creativity resulting from the marginalization of a large number of Yemeni academics due to the Yemeni war. In two poems, Dr. Mubarak Al-Yaduomi expressed the suffering of the Yemeni researcher, first in obtaining and funding a PhD scholarship, and second in employing outstanding researchers in the academic field, which has been dominated by elite politicians and war-mongers. The first poem has dealt with how the brilliant research scholars suffer and struggle to be financially supported as they are due to get such rights, whereas the scholarships are maintained only for the relatives of the political leaders, the bribe-based applicants and those with high mediations even if they are neither due nor eligible to pursue higher studies. That is, the scale of justice has been gone awry in terms of distributing the rights to the right individuals. Actually, that is the pretty burden and suffering the true research scholars' face on the journey of higher studies like MA and Ph.D. What is more, the second poem has depicted how those genius and talented Ph. D. holders have been marginalized, neglected and rather deprived from having academic positions in the lines of and based on their qualifications and specializations at the minimum level of deserved national rights, whereas the high positions have been gifted to the above-mentioned relatives, the bribe-based, etc. That is by all means, the intellectuals and academics have been badly suffering from such type of cruel and dead-ending marginalization.

KEYWORDS: Marginalization, scholarship, job future, academician, poetry.

Introduction:

Marginalization has been explored widely in literature. This study explores an example of the consequences resulted from marginalizing Yemeni academicians amid the war. The study found that academicians suffered from miserable situations resulted from the war. Some of them try to resist and

find work to meet the expenditure of their families. They work in different occupations which may not be suitable to their statuses; others travel to gulf countries to work at their universities which left Yemeni universities ghosted. Still some travel to Europe and face their fate there. The most dangerous marginalization is the marginalization of intellectual and talents because it effects and impact not only the person himself but the institution and the society in general. Previous studies focused on the marginalization of black woman (Hinton, 2010); overweight children (Strauss, & Pollack, 2003), no previous study to the researcher's knowledge explores the marginalization of academicians, nor a study focuses on how poetry defects how academicians are marginalized.

Marginalization is defined as "the act of treating someone or something as if they are not important" (Cambridge dictionary, 2020). Marginalization happens whenever a person or a group could not have access to an opportunity or social service (Liberties EU, 2021). Marginalization can be intentionally or unintentionally in which the first stands for the exclusion of certain group of a society whereas the second occurred as a result of the benefits that some social groups get on the interest of many others (Master Class, 2022). The second type will be focused in this study, i.e., the marginalization talent individuals in Yemen due to the wars and uprising of certain social groups on the interest of others.

What Is Marginalization?

Marginalization, also referred to as social exclusion, occurs when certain groups of people get denied access to areas of society. Many factors can lead to this denial of access to institutions and opportunities, including historical bias and lack of funding (Master Class, 2022).

Marginalized people don't necessarily belong to one particular demographic: Marginalization occurs due to ethnicity, gender, sexual orientation, disability status, socioeconomic level, political, education and age. Marginalized groups are often at a disadvantage when it comes to obtaining health care, decent education, and employment that would improve their well-being.

Who is the marginalized?

In general, the marginalized are groups who deliberately experience discrimination and exclusion (social, political and economic) from a predominant social, cultural and human entity. We can clarify that the marginalized person is different from the exiled one; the exiled person may have chosen the exile location by his / her purely human choice, but the marginalized person is deliberately isolated. The marginalized one is present but is absent from the mind of society for several reasons. Such reasons are: The lack of sense of the importance of the individual; and this is the lesser of these reasons, and the rest of the reasons are ranging between envy, jealousy, competition for a certain position in the society, and fear of the marginalized person's cognitive authority. So he / she is excluded so as not to uproot those who see themselves a superior caste. The marginalization may be the result of difference, where the distinguished person is not desirable among

human groups. Let's think and have a clear norm that those persons who are marginalized, because the others are afraid of their power of influence. Consciousness only isolates what it considers to be the force that threatens and shakes persisting self, except rare and weak creative states, where they cling to their places and do not isolate (Al-enzy, 2013).

Reasons and types of marginalization-

It has been narrated that marginalization is classified into four types: social, political, Educational and economic marginalization.

a. Economic marginalization: Economic marginalization refers to disparities in amassing wealth or getting a job. For example, many forms of employment marginalize racial minorities due to harmful stereotypes about what types of people make good managers or workers (Master Class, 2022).

b. Political marginalization: Politically marginalized communities struggle to participate in parts of the civic process, like voting or gaining access to their political representatives. Jim Crow–era laws that prevented Black Americans from voting were examples of political marginalization (MasterClass, 2022).

c. Social marginalization: When someone can't participate in everyday leisure activities, it's known as social marginalization. Denial of access to clubs and organizations is an example of social marginalization.

d. Educational marginalization: Educational marginalization is both an outcome and a process through which individuals or groups are systematically denied their right to acquire academic or social capabilities through education, that results in their exclusion from social institutions, civic processes and economies.

Causes of Marginalization:

Marginalization can result from intentional campaigns that exclude certain people (like ethnic groups) from society. It can also occur unintentionally due to structures that benefit some members of society while making life challenging for others (Master Class, 2022).

1. Discrimination and bias:

Social forces, like racism, sexism, can lead policymakers or community members to create structures that keep certain groups from participating fully in society. Apartheid is an example of this, as are institutional boundaries like the prohibition of marriage between people of the same sex (Master Class, 2022).

2. Poverty:

Poverty is a major contributor to marginalization. Impoverished people often don't have the time or resources to advocate for their interests, either because they live in marginalized communities and lack access to necessary resources or spend excessive time and energy trying to provide for themselves and their families. The outsized effect money has in the political system exacerbates this

situation. For example, many people burdened by homelessness cannot access mental health services or other social benefits that could improve their lives (Master Class, 2022).

3. Structural disadvantages:

Sometimes, society marginalizes people by denying them the space or accommodations they need to advocate for their needs and make their voices heard. For example, the lack of accessible housing for people with disabilities has increased poverty levels for this group (Master Class, 2022). In Yemen, the cause of marginalization due to political, social, economic and war. Because of war all the above causes' accurse and most of the people become under marginalization especially the teachers, talents, intellectuals and creative's.

Examples of marginalizing creative and talented persons:

In Yemen, due to the war that has been being erupted since seven years and until now, no clear sight is seen. People fight in behalf of other regional and international power. The society is reclassified according to the benefits that sectarian groups received due to their supremacy of the political scene. Teachers and instructors are the ones who received marginalization in this mad war. No one pays any attention to their miserable conditions. This category is divided into two types in Yemen. In North Yemen, they did not receive their salaries from four years. They on the other hand, receive half a monthly salary every two months (World Bank, 2020). Many university teachers try to get any work to feed their children. They work in street to support their families (Rreliefweb, 2021). Many are obligated to work without receiving salary since 2015 (Alqadasi, 2021).

On the other hand, many teachers travelled fleeing the miserable conditions in a mind drains which left the universities ghosted (Bin-Hady & Al-Tammi, 2021). It has been found that brain drains are the consequences of "ineffective application of sabbatical leave regulations; failure to equalize returning teachers' salaries with those of their colleagues; lack of resources to support research; and the presence of internal and external conflicts." (Muthanna & Sang, 2018, p. 296). Still some other Yemen academicians tried to travel illegally to Europe. They face worse situation while passing into the borders of European countries. Some lost in the forest while other draw in the sea. Lately, a Yemen PhD carrier drew by the coast of Spine while their boat capsized (Al-Batati, 2022).

Analysis:

Mubarak Ali Ahmed Al-Hammadi, Al- Yadoumi (08 July 1986) was born in Daf village, Maber city, Thamar governorate, the Republic of Yemen. He is originally from De Yadoum village, Khulan province, Sana'a_ the Capital of Yemen. He is a poet, literary and academic writer, social activist, and a college teacher of English literature. The poet did his M. A. in English at S.R.T.M. University, India. His Ph. D. Degree had been from BAMU, India. He has published 13 research papers in Literature. His book titled *Shackles on the Ladder of Light* is the second poetry collection in English and having one more unpublished collection in Arabic. His first poetry collection in English

is *Hell of Shebaland* (6 June 2018) in which the poet pictures the hard circumstances in Yemen in thesecond decade of the twentieth century. In addition, he has published four novels, three short stories, and two literary books. Nowadays, he has been teaching at some private universities and Sana'a University. However, he has not been given any formal position and he has been teaching on an hourly teaching contact.

In his poems Alyadoumi (2018) writes about the suffering of the people in Yemen because of war in all fields, social, political, economic and education. In the poem named "The Scholarship": the poet reveals out the hard circumstances and harsh conditions of the Yemeni students studying abroad. He describes how the aspired and inspired youth are being shocked and confronted by the political figures. The poet draws the picture of the brilliant students full of hope and aspiration but with the flavor of struggles and sufferings from the financial backlessness. He declares in the second stanza of the poem, "The Scholarship":

Tremendous rivers over livers
Flowing wavers with some quavers
I had the license to see such scenes
In financial sense wearing sharp lens
I was ready but so steady
I was heady but so needy.
(Alyadoumi, "Scholarship", 2018)

By means, the youth are not poor of knowledge, abilities or ambitions; however, they are poorly supported or rather badly disappointed. The poet painfully expresses the case of the ambitious students who is deprived from his own rights as human before national. However, the political parties and religious groups do not value and estimate anything or anyone but those who are sincere and having references in the governing regime. That is their eligibility test and the respected criterion of selection and granting, he proclaims:

So much liquid from leg to head
But should be led by beard-Mazjid!
I did not have beard to get that heard
What a splendid! Was it absurd?
I was eligible for test capable
That was liable to its foible
(Alyadoumi, "Scholarship", 2018)

The poet finalizes the poem of "The Scholarship", stating:

My dedication to my nation
Empty-handed, never been funded

Hollow-minded, always rewarded ***

(Alyadoumi, “Scholarship”, 2018)

That is, he means to say that the highly educated and highly homeland-dedicated are victimized and neglected and prohibited to have their rights or from any support. Whereas, the sons of officers and political leaders, even though they are fools and have nothing to do education, they are granted grants and scholarships as well as supported from several sides.

Alyadoumi, in other expressions, in “Job Future” explains the struggle and suffering of the Ph.D. holders due to political corruptions, mediating compliments, bribery, discrimination, etc. That is to say, the Yemeni Dream may be evaporated and the deserved can be excluded and the dream sounds to be cream for the politicians and the educated have to catch the beam. Certainly, in very ambiguous situations their future is killed mercilessly with being marginalized away with anonymous future for one and all.

Job future remains in fate auspices

Future job stays among one’s purposes

The latter is an obsession of optional choice

The former is a submission to audible voice

To choose Or To be chosen

The future patronage is the merely human privilege

The functional adherence is the super sponsorship

The future’s main percentage is not set to encourage

Job future is in coma coming out of celestial censorship

(Alyadoumi, “Job Future”, 2018)

Definitely, the poet is portraying the ugly face of the political systems that has been marginalizing the intellectuals and academic scholars with depriving them from their very rights. In the previous stanza, the poet reveals how the highly educated, university professors, academic researchers, creative writers, etc. have strived to have a better future. However, when the future comes, they find it a drought mirage. He proclaims that there are no concrete or abstract standards to receive, appoint or nominate the educated people. Yet, the politicians discourage them under the pretext of the divine destiny of every individual descended from certain sort of human series – nothing to do with the certificates or rather with the experienced and specialized men and women.

Foggy future of the job spraying soul with dew drop

Phobic illusions of the allusions to get a long-distance hop

Right acquirement hearting maintenance in my presence

Signing negative to get motive in an active future reference

Straight direction Or Zigzag detours

The job-oriented for their maintained sustainability

They are targeted to get the light in their insights

We are chosen for their reason in the sudden mobility

For their rights we are right, for that just we have fights

(Alyadoumi, “Job Future”, 2018)

The poet in the above-stated stanza has been defining how despondent the educated people become for the disillusionments uncover the reality beyond the decorated stage of politics. Their missions in life are considered to be at the services of the political parties in conflict. Thence, either to work for them and support them no matter what or one is going to be classified negatively and neglected to get a job, salary, or any national and social rights. All in all, the politicians may feel that jealousy of the intellectuals and scholars because they doubt that the positions they mount on are due to the educated ones as being capable and competent for such vital tasks. Therefore, they choose to marginalize the educated so as to have their clear future lasting for them and their children.

Transformations to speculations in such a time

Same imaginations on situations covered with rime

No amelioration in my nation in job-rescue

Like pythons swallowing just for their issue

Death in life Or Life in death

We have not yet forgot the target to that moon

The soul-stars in their wars glitter shines

The black clouds will come down with rain soon

The black town could be brown with beige lines

(Alyadoumi, “Job Future”, 2018)

In the stanza set above, the poet interprets the hard situation of the intellectuals and academic scholars that hopelessly stays stagnant at the disposals of the political hands with no improvement or better change. Hence, the highly educated people feel “death in life or life in death” which is the most severe feeling for any humans rather than those who spent their lives erecting the heaven of knowledge and enlightenment, then easily with no awareness the candle of their effort can be blown off with no attention of its significance. In other words, the poet refers literally to the “wars” that can be the most evil; Although it has been shown as the angel of light, it is ironically meant to be the devil of the darkness overwhelming the poet’s time and place with a complete oppression.

True aspiration in the relation of job future
 In decline to the red line of soul-torture
 No encouragement of mediation with its birds
 In the promises and the decoration of their words
 By the bribes Or Through pipes

(Alyadoumi, “Job Future”, 2018)

Here the poem in the stanza hanged above on the wall of despair, the poet depicts the “soul-torture” the intellectual, creative and talented figures have on the great loss of their role for their society and their attitude before their future generation. Only “money makes donkey go” policy can proceed for prejudice and bias they must swallow them raw with fatal chokes.

Yemeni dream with vigilance can be shattered
 In its theme when one dreams can be covered
 Medical poison in dark season, the bulb of Edison
 Mental tension when those mention for self reason
 To be Or Not to be
 The motto on whose rock, despair can be smashed out
 The self-vow to fly so high in stormy sky with holy hope
 All the features of the future can be hidden to get a doubt
 We can tread on the knuckle of the shackle in steady lope

(Alyadoumi, “Job Future”, 2018)

In the last stanza, the poet complains that “Yemeni Dream” has been not only shocked with ignorance and corruption but also deliberately empoisoned in a very treacherous manner “in dark season”. Anyhow, the poet, nevertheless his total despondency and frustration with the difficult circumstances and rough situation the highly educated and talented people have been running with depression, attempts to create the hope in the minds and hearts of others in the Phoenix’s mythological way – rebirthing from ashes. He elucidates that despite those harsh conditions of the elites, from the womb of the darkness the light can be born, and the pretty patience with insistence and determination can modify to some extent. In the conclusion, the poem has explained the critical situation of marginalization the intellectuals and talented beacons have been suffering from, struggling with and being challenged by.

Conclusion:

The inferential conclusion of the analytic study on the two selected poems of Dr. Alyadoumi is but to have a mirroring show to the world through literature and on the tongues of the marginalized

how marginalization has been snapping the minds to get the society light off. It is merely a sample of the severe condition of the intellectuals and academics in Yemen during the political conflict in these early decades of the 20th century. The present study is critical one in the sense that it reflects on the burdens and sufferings the Yemeni scholars and intellectuals has been struggling with due to the deteriorating situations in the political and economic levels. In fact, this is because the absence of the aware leaders that understand well how disastrous the future will be in such a country due to the marginalization of the academic and creative elites. That is to say, the study has illustrated the current crisis facing the most important part of the society and what will have its consequences (if not has been) with the minds drains of Yemen that may double the size of loss and marginalization in the future generation in various other fields.

References:

1. Al-Batati, S. (Dec 15, 2022). *Yemeni Academic Drowns off Spanish Coast After Boat Carrying Illegal Immigrants to Europe Capsizes*. Arab News. <https://www.arabnews.com/node/2216261/middle-east>
2. Al-Enzy, Suaad.(Octo 30,2013) The Marginalization in Literature. Thaqafat. [https://thaqafat.com/2013/10/21811Into extreme](https://thaqafat.com/2013/10/21811Into%20extreme)
3. Alqadasi, Z. (2021). *How Yemen's Teachers are Being Forced into Extreme Poverty*. openDemocracy. <https://www.opendemocracy.net/en/north-africa-west-asia/yemen-ramadan-teachers-poverty/>
4. Al-Yadoumi, M. A. (2018). *Shackles on the Ladder of Light: A Narrative Poetry*. Createspace Independent Publishing Platform
5. Bin-Hady, W.R.A. and Al-Tamimi, N.O.M. (2021). The Use of Technology in Informal English Language Learning: Evidence from Yemeni Undergraduate Students. *Learning and Teaching in Higher Education: Gulf Perspectives*, 17(2), 107-120. <https://doi.org/10.1108/LTHE-09-2020-0037>
6. Dictionary, C. E. (2020). Domestic. *Cambridge English Dictionary*. <https://dictionary.cambridge.org/dictionary/english/marginalization>
7. Hinton, D. (2010). Creating Community on the Margins: The Successful Black Female Academician. *Urban Rev* 42, 394–402. <https://doi.org/10.1007/s11256-009-0140-3>
8. LibertiesEU, (October 05, 2021). *What is Marginalization? Definition and Coping Strategies*. <https://www.liberties.eu/en/stories/marginalization-and-being-marginalized/43767>
9. MasterClass, (Sep 16, 2022). *What is Marginalization? Types, Causes, and Effects*. <https://www.masterclass.com/articles/marginalization-explained>
10. Muthanna, A., & Sang, G. (2018). Brain Drain in Higher Education: Critical Voices on Teacher Education in Yemen. *London Review of Education*, 16(20), 296-307.

<https://doi.org/10.18546/LRE.16.2.09>

11. Reliefweb, (Nov 10, 2021). *Teachers in Yemen Take to Street Work With More Than Half Without Regular Pay*. <https://reliefweb.int/report/yemen/teachers-yemen-take-street-work-more-half-without-regular-pay>
12. Strauss, R. S., & Pollack, H. A. (2003). Social Marginalization of Overweight Children. *Archives of Pediatrics & Adolescent Medicine*, 157(8), 746-752.
13. Worldbank. (2020). *Yemen Continuous Needs Assessment: Phase Three*. <https://documents1.worldbank.org/curated/en/210741607971072301/text/Yemen-Dynamic-Needs-Assessment-Phase-3-2020-Update.txt>

