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### CONTEMPORARY COMEDY POETS AND MODERN VOCABULARY: AN ANALYTICAL STUDY

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#### **ABSTRACT**

Humorists and comedy writers, especially the poets, have always played a vital role in not only highlighting the contradictions and hypocrisies of the society in a funny, subtle and light-heartedly and most effective manner, but also successfully attempting to self-accountability of individual and society as a whole. While providing through this literary genre pure form of amusement to people, these poets can rightly be credited with creating, innovating and expanding the scope of a language itself and enriching its vocabulary. In this article, an attempt has been made to highlight the valuable literary contribution made such stalwart comedy poets as Akbar Allahabadi of the 20<sup>th</sup> century to Dr. Faisal Aziz, Abid Mehmood and Athar Shah Khan Jaidi etc. of our contemporary world. Focus has been made on their unique art, technique and special skill of employing modern technological terms and buzz words in comic expressions thus creating entirely new shades of meanings and context.

Contemporary comedy poets have given a new meaning to the words used in the social level of the inventions of the modern age. During the reign of Akbar, pipes, rail train, miss etc. are seen to have played a role in forming and shaping a new social scenario. In our modern age, the way and manner in which the humorist poets have incorporated in literature such terms as "Selfie", "CV", "Online", "Wi-Fi", "Indoor Sit-in" and "WhatsApp" etc. has not only enriched the vocabulary but these new techniques, idioms, similes and metaphors reflect this era. Moreover, they introduce a new color to humor, which precisely is intended to be studied in this paper.

Humor is an important part of literature. In every literary scenario, social activities, personal life irregularities, bitterness, political intrigues and all the negligence and mistakes of the people in power are transformed into humor in one way or another. Sometimes, these creative poets just entertain avoiding

affliction, and at other times they try all the skills of criticism in an aggressive manner aimed at improving the situation.

Akbar Allahabadi has described impact on the society made by new inventions, social contexts and wider social changes that took place in his time. He provides a documentary presentation on society's evolving values by mentioning "Double Bread, Park, Miss, BA-graduate, Gentleman, Rail and Pipe" etc. The electronic and rather the scientific revolution in the 21<sup>st</sup> century has provided a new look to life. Communication, relationships and links have adopted have adopted new means and styles so rapidly that their reference in literature has become inevitable. The comedy poets of this era have developed a comic linkage even between Ranjha and Heer. This new vocabulary consists of the such modern metaphors, similes and techniques as "online, CV, selfie, message and Facebook", with which the poet has not only presented a reflection of modern age but has also described in a pleasant and comic manner the changes taking place in the society.

Generally, humor is presented in a subtle aspect of joy and element of surprise, where there are found both sides of smile under the moustache and laughter. That is why Rashid Ahmed Siddiqui has called humor and satire the deadliest weapon. It is worth mentioning that the humor is always free from taunt and disdain. In it, the unevenness, unreasonableness and discrimination of all areas of life are described in such a charming way that the listener or reader becomes like-minded with the poet in this pleasure. Apart from humor and jest, satire is also a part of this genre. Though, it is entirely a different thing that a comedian tickles and a satirist stings.

In the modern era, there are few names in the tradition of humor and jest who deserve to be called the founders of this new school. The miraculous changes in technology at the larger scale in life have affected its all areas. New things and changes in our social life have given entirely new subjects and themes to literature. These changes are also reflected in the humor of the 21<sup>st</sup> century. These references have widened the vocabulary of humor and jest where new metaphors and similes are seen and it also gave humor a new meaningfulness. Like Akbar, the modern comedy poets have also provided new meanings to the English vocabulary, terms and techniques of their era, thus created a variety of humor by using them. Humor also serves to correct the situation by describing social deviations with cheerfulness. The wonderful way with which Aziz Faisal has described the modern and electronic terms is quite unique. Just note the following beautiful analogy of Aziz Sahib:

یوں سر پہ چند بال سنوارے ہیں آپ نے  
جیسے یہ وائی فائی کا مونو گرام ہو (1)

Many new techniques and words became available to the contemporary Urdu poets during the Corona period. They have employed these terms in such comic and pleasant manner that they not only reflect today's realities but also describe slaves of this era. The couplets by Abid Mehmood "Jerm" illustrates this situation which has made the life quite cumbersome:

اب کہاں ہیں وہ سبھی علم نہیں ہے کسی کو  
 بانٹتے پھرتے تھے ہم میں جو شفا یاد نہیں  
 ساری دنیا کو کرونا نے کیا ہے تسخیر  
 جانے کس جرم JERM کی پائی ہے سزا یاد نہیں (2)

Similarly, we note that the incidents of being house imprisoned by the Corona and the sufferings faced in that era have been described in such a lively and light-hearted manner by these comic poets rendering them so funny which is fully enjoyed by reader. During the “lockdown”, Abid Mehmood said:

وائرس جبر طلب اور لور ہے بے تاب  
 ”دل کا کیا رنگ کروں خون جگر ہونے تک“  
 مانا رکشہ تو سپیشل ہی کرو گے لیکن  
 ”لاک“ ہو جائیں گے ہم، تم کو خبر ہونے تک (3)

In fact, the literature performs the duty of interpreting every sphere of life. The serious literature, while portraying these hard facts, events, difficulties and confusions of life, becomes a cause of bitter sadness, despair, boredom, irritation and depression. In such state of failure and despair, the reader begins to lament hardships of life. Here comes the role of a humorist who teaches the skill and art of smiling at the bitterness of life, incites self-responsibility and the accountability of a society. He gives motivation to try to improve the situation. It is this quality of humor which according to the Wazir Agha:

"Satire and comic literature are tolerable because of a pleasant combination of mildness and sarcasm and do not provoke any unpleasant reaction." (4)

Contemporary poets also wrote about the economic problems of this era, but did not use the popular techniques of that era. For example, Aziz Faisal's poem "Assistant" is a proof of his keen eye on different aspects of life:

دشت کے مالیاتی سسٹم میں  
 مسکراہٹ فری نہیں ملتی  
 آنسوؤں کے تو، لون ملتے ہیں  
 درد پر سبسڈی نہیں ملتی (5)

Immoderations and injustices, whether they take place locally, socially or internationally, are a source of laughter and keen interest for the comedy writers and they describe their major events with great skill. Athar Shah Khan Jaidi has given a new form and shape to the accesses committed by America:

برس گزرے کئی پھر بھی ”ٹوین ٹاور“ نہ بھولے  
 وہاں ہر شخص اُس اک واقعے میں کھو گیا ہے  
 حساب ایسا، انہوں نے اک کے بدلے بیس مارے  
 ٹوینٹی بھی وہاں نائن الیون ہو گیا ہے (6)

The jokes told by a nation also reflect the national mood and, according to Jameel Khawar, a description of our history. The humorist adds literary flavor to the narration of these jokes. The national history and mood as well as the specific trends of this period has also been described by the contemporary poets. Athar Shah Khan Jaidi, thus reflects in his poem “میل ملاپ” :

کام اسی کے آئی ہے ٹیکنالوجی  
فی عاشق وہ کرتی ہے دو دو EMAIL  
اس سے کیسا ہوگا اپنا MAIL ملاپ  
بہتی گنگا ہی بن جائے جو FEMALE (7)

The way in which Abid Mehmood has narrated the famous issue of “Easy Load” of our time by giving it a literary color is certainly admirable:

منتیں ترلے التجا فریاد  
واسطے بھی خدا کے آتے ہیں  
فون میں لوڈ کے لیے اکثر  
مجھے میسج صبا کے آتے ہیں (8)

Aziz Faisal has also described in a light hearted and funny manner the social tragedy or mood which Allama mentioned saying “women are riding nerves of poets and artists of India”:

کیمرے رکھتے ہیں موبائل پہ آن  
روڈ پہ ہوں یا کہ وہ دفتر میں ہوں  
تب بناتے ہیں فوراً سیلفیاں  
لڑکیاں جب ان کے پس منظر میں ہوں (9)

Contemporary poets have also employed some similes:

باندھ کے رکھ کہ اس طرح سر تاج کو  
ماسک جیسے باندھتے ہیں کان پر (10)

وہ بھی دیکھے کچھ کنوارے گوری بیوی کے لیے  
زندگی جن کی تلاش و جستجو میں کھو گئی  
ان کی وہ رنگت کہ جب ہوں آئینے کے سامنے  
یوں لگے کہ آئینے میں لوڈ شیڈنگ ہو گئی (11)

Contemporary poets have mentioned the merits, benefits and disasters of mobile phone in many aspects. While mentioning the relevance of this modern invention in the society, they also point out our reckless and irresponsible actions. For example, how the preoccupation with “selfie” by mobile phones in today's times, selfies, have made people suffer:

پورا منہ کھول کر بناؤ تم  
ہوگا چرچا مدام سیلفی کا

ہر نکمے کو خوب آتا ہے  
بس یہی ایک کام سیلفی کا (12)

Aziz Faisal has described the phenomena of this digital age as follows:

ڈیجیٹل دور کا بے آوازہ  
اتفاق اس پہ ہمیں کرنا ہے  
فیس بک پر کئی گھنٹوں ہونا  
اک انڈور منی دھرنا ہے (13)

The manner in which the comic poets have used modern vocabulary to express diversity and variety while meeting the artistic requirements is in itself a worthy thing. The new forms of metaphors, similes and metonyms have not only greatly widened the scope of humor but it has enriched the literature itself. It carries a glimpse of contemporary sensibility. Here are some examples of this innovation:

اب بشیراں کی یاد کا رکشہ  
دل کے رن وے پہ میں چلاؤں گا (14)

ایکسیڈینٹ کی تفصیلات سے علم ہوا ہے  
جنگ چی میں بھی پندرہ بندے آسکتے ہیں (15)

نہیں ہم مستقل اب تک محبت کے گزٹ میں  
وہ کہتی ہے ابھی تو وصل بھی ایڈ ہاک چھوڑے (16)

وقت ”کل KILL“ کرنے کی ماہر ہے وہ قتالہ  
خود کو واٹس ایپ پہ گھنٹوں جو بٹھا سکتی ہے (17)

آن لائن خدا کی بات کریں  
آن لائن ہیں معتكف سارے (18)

Comic poets in the modern era have created a new color by organizing the modern dictionary and enriching the vocabulary and it has become something very special due to its relevance to this era. On the other hand, this element has created a novelty in humor. These poets have given a new meaning and shade to the phenomenon of electronic and digital world and the vocabulary attributed to them. This is why, the description of our contemporary life in modern comic poetry is closer to reality and it has become more interesting for and relevant due to the words and techniques familiar to the common man. In future also, reflection and glimpse of this era could certainly be seen quite visibly in this comic poetry.

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