

A literary view to the road chronotope in modern American poetry

Yunusova Ganjina Rustamovna,
BSU, Doctorate student
g.r.yunusova@buxdu.uz

ABSTRACT

The following article takes a deep dive into the chronotope phenomenon, specifically the road chronotope, and analyses poetic features of it through exploring modern American poetry. Variety of versions and metaphorical aspects of the road chronotope have been observed with the help of the poem "The Road not taken" by Robert Frost. The poet, as a human being, sees and understands the world in three dimensions as well as the writer does. Consequently, the concern of the road chronotope becomes one of the pivotal issues in poetry that we try to shed the light through literary analyses

ARTICLE INFO

Received: 1st February 2024

Accepted: 24th March 2024

KEY WORDS: "The Road Not Taken", chronotope of the road, emotional environment, symbolism, metaphor, literary construction, plot development, cultural reflection, individualism.

Introduction. Chronotope, specifically the road chronotope, in lyrics as modern sources on the theory of literary studies is relatively less covered sphere. There are also mainly eventful poems used relatively rather than small- scaled ones. However, the lyrical experience is an image of the vast universe in precise units of time within, it differs from epic or dramatic works by expressing it in a short form. In recent years, attention to small-scale lyrical poetry is increasing, it is said that our poets strive to express great content in a small space indicates the need to speed up the scientific research of the problem.

Within poetry, the road chronotope is a compelling and vivid motif that appears in a great number of lines and stories. The literary theorist Mikhail Bakhtin introduced the term "chronotope," which describes the innate relationship between time and place in a piece of art. The road chronotope is a powerful symbol in poetry, signifying a journey that is both literal and metaphorical, captivating readers' attention and striking a deep emotional chord. [2, 399]

The road has featured frequently in literature throughout history, taking on diverse shapes in many cultures and eras. Poets have used the image of the road to express a wide range of ideas, from societal development to personal transformation, from old epics to contemporary poetry. The road chronotope includes the psychological and emotional environment that emerges throughout the journey in addition to the actual path that is traveled.

In poetry, the road basically represents the spirit of travel and discovery. It represents the human drive to explore new areas, go into uncharted territory, and take on upcoming difficulties. Whether it is portrayed as a busy urban thoroughfare, a wandering country lane, or an unknown wilderness track, a road portrays the journey of life, which is full of chances and challenges.

Literature review. In lyrical literature, theoretical problems of artistic time and artistic space, and literary poetics of the chronotope have been studied for a number of years. The issues of chronotope were first discussed in scientific and theoretical works by M. Bakhtin, and later in Russia by D. Likhachev, N. Shutaya, N. Gai, A. Nikolaev, B. Meilakh, E. Meletinsky, V. Khalizev; In Europe, H. Meyerhoff, A. James, A. Rodriguez, N. Bemong, J. Culler, M. Atkins; In North America, J. Blommaert, B. Koinen and others analyzed the categorical and scientific-theoretical problems of the chronotope. [13, 79]

We can proudly say that in Uzbekistan, for the first time in Central Asia, special studies of the chronotope were carried out from a scientific and theoretical point of view. N. Shodiev, Kh. Boltaboev, E. Abutalieva, U. Jorakulov, B. Karimov, D. Kuronov, A. Toychiev, K. Kadirov, M. Umarova, U. Karshibaeva, U. Nazarov, B. Toraeva covered the problems of this issue in their research. In the work of N. Chodiev "Horizons of the Epic," the unique genre features of the poetics of the artistic era in large epic, lyric forms existing in the literature of the region are scientifically generalized in a typological and conceptual way [1, 148].

Methods and materials. This following paper is written through qualitative data collection. The scientific works of M. Bakhtin, A. Temirbolat, B. Turayeva and other scholars are analyzed, compared and summarized through the analyzing extracts from American poetry, precisely, the poem by Robert Frost "The Road not taken". All materials have been compared typologically. The practical value of the paper is investigating the phenomenon of the chronotope essence, theoretical foundations of the forms of it, the influence and connection of genre evolution on the verse, the architecture of the poetry, the basis for creating a plot, drawing up a composition based on the poet's creative intent and the ideological content of the work of art and the perception of reality in the work as a literary process.[12, 58]

Discussions. The road chronotope emerges as a powerful symbol of reflection and personal development throughout many poems. The journeyer experiences breakthroughs and moments of reflection along the way, learning more about their own identity and mission. Poets encouraging readers to travel on a transforming journey with the protagonist by capturing the essence of this inner excursion with rich imagery and expressive language.

Furthermore, larger themes of historical development and societal change are frequently reflected in the road chronotope. This subject has been used by poets to illustrate the rise and fall of civilizations, the collision of cultures, and the development of human communities. The road becomes a witness to the drama of human history as it plays out, noting upheavals, revolutions, and triumphs as well as tragedies.

In addition, the route is introduced with nostalgia and desire in poetry. It stands for the desire to return to special memories, see loved ones again, or travel to far-off places. Poets create stories that touch readers deeply on an emotional level by expressing the bittersweet feelings connected to departures and homecomings through beautiful verse. [4, 6-7]

Another effective metaphor for the flow of time is the road chronotope. Travelers experience the changing of the seasons, the transforming scenery, and the unstoppable passage of time as they follow its path. Poets adeptly depict this temporal facet of travel, imbuing their poetry with a deep understanding of impermanence and change. The road captures the various feelings and realizations that come with setting out on a journey, whether it be physical, emotional, or spiritual. It also embodies the universal human experience of doing so. The road, via its enduring presence in poetry, never fails to capture our imaginations and entice us to embark on new adventures, both inside and outside of verse.

We analyze the poetics of the road chronotope with the assist of poems. One of the most well-known and frequently read pieces of American literature is the poem "The Road Not Taken" by Robert Frost. The poem, which was published in 1916, addresses issues of independence, choice, and the results of choices. Frost encourages readers to reflect on the relevance of our decisions and the complexities of life's journeys through its surprisingly straightforward story. The speaker of the poem starts out by thinking about a fork in the road in a yellow grove where he has to decide between two different paths. Each path represents a distinct course in life; the less-traveled way is less worn and traditional than the other. The speaker expresses the fact that he must choose between the two pathways and that doing so will determine the course of his future.

Two roads diverged in a yellow wood,
And sorry I could not travel both

And be one traveler, long I stood
And looked down one as far as I could
To where it bent in the undergrowth;

"The Road Not Taken" can be viewed as an acknowledgment of individualism and the bravery to choose the less-traveled path. Many see the speaker's decision to take the less traveled path as a metaphor for deciding on an unusual and distinctive life path, even if it involves overcoming obstacles and uncertainties along the way. Readers who aspire to follow their own paths and challenge authority find connection in Frost's emphasis on individual responsibility and autonomy.

Then took the other, as just as fair,
And having perhaps the better claim,
Because it was grassy and wanted wear;
Though as for that the passing there
Had worn them really about the same

But a further examination shows a more complex reading of the poem. Frost's use of uncertainty and irony adds complexity to individualism's seemingly simple message. The poet agrees that all routes are equally fair and grassy, implying that there might not be much of a practical distinction between them. The focus on the less "just as fair" route begs the question of how important the speaker's decision was and if it will actually matter in the end.

And both that morning equally lay
In leaves no step had trodden black.
Oh, I kept the first for another day!
Yet knowing how way leads on to way,
I doubted if I should ever come back.

Frost's poem also questions conventional ideas of regret and retrospect. With a sigh "somewhere ages and ages hence," the author says he will be relating this narrative, suggesting that he will look back on his choice with regret or nostalgia. This feeling of ambivalence implies that the author might not be totally content with his decision and might be considering the other route he did not choose.

I shall be telling this with a sigh
Somewhere ages and ages hence:
Two roads diverged in a wood, and I—
I took the one less traveled by,
And that has made all the difference.

The poem "The Road Not Taken" challenges readers to consider the difficulties in making decisions, the unpredictability of life's events, and the certainty of lost possibilities. Viewers who are debating their own choices and life trajectories find connection in Frost's exploration of choice and consequence. "The Road Not Taken" by Robert Frost is a classic study on personal choice, uniqueness, and the paths we take in life. With its deep symbolism, subtle language, and insightful subjects, the poem never fails to charm readers and stimulate discussion on the nature of self-discovery and decision-making.

To sum up, the road chronotope serve as a timeless and compelling motif in poetry—a symbol of exploration, alteration, and the ceaseless passage of time. Its presence in verse demonstrates to the enduring power of this evocative image, involving readers to explore on a poetic odyssey that resonates with the depths of human experience.

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