Life and Death in Persian Poetry: A Conceptual Study of Metaphors in the Persian Language

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Metaphor is understanding and experiencing one kind of thing in terms of another. The present study is an attempt to investigate the life and death metaphors in classical and modern Persian poetry. This study demonstrates the conceptual metaphors of Persian classical and modern poetry through the poems of Ferdowsi, Naser Khosrow and Hafez as three classical poets and Akhavan Sales, Sepehri and Shamlu as three Persian modern poets. This survey is also concerned with whether modern poets followed classical ones in the use of metaphors or not. Likewise, it considers the classical and modern poet's approaches to the life and death as metaphors and their frequencies. The results suggest that there are some mismatches between classical and modern metaphorical use. All in all, the modern poet seems to conceive life in terms of dark and negative metaphors. To them, death is freedom from pain, while the classical poet considers this world as a transient path to attain everlasting life. Keywords: Metaphor, Classical Persian poetry, Modern Persian poetry, Life metaphor and death metaphor