



**ALEKSANDR FAYNBERG'S POEM "TOSHKENT. 1943":
AN ANALYSIS IN THE CONTEXT OF WAR-TIME
SOCIAL ENVIRONMENT AND CULTURAL MEMORY**

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ANNOTATION: This scientific article analyzes Aleksandr Faynberg's poem "TOSHKENT. 1943" in the context of cultural memory, urban environment, and psychological experience during wartime. The work portrays the daily life of Tashkent residents during World War II through small domestic details, personal tragedies, and fragmentary images. The study combines historical-social, semantic, and psychoanalytic approaches, demonstrating how Faynberg's minimalist poetics conveys the emotional impact of war and reflects both the collective and individual memory of a generation.

Keywords: Aleksandr Faynberg, war poetry, cultural memory, psychological trauma, minimalism, poetic detail, fragmentariness, 1943, Tashkent, urban environment.

АННОТАЦИЯ: В данной научной статье анализируется стихотворение Александра Файнберга «ТОШКЕНТ. 1943» в контексте культурной памяти, городской среды и психологического опыта военного времени. Произведение раскрывает повседневную жизнь жителей Ташкента во время Второй мировой войны через малые бытовые детали, личные трагедии и фрагментарные образы. Исследование сочетает историко-социальный, семантический и психоаналитический подходы, показывая, как минималистическая поэтика Файнберга передает эмоциональное воздействие войны и отражает коллективную и индивидуальную память поколения.

Ключевые слова: Александр Файнберг, военная поэзия, культурная память, психологическая травма, минимализм, поэтическая деталь, фрагментарность, шестьдесят третий год, Ташкент, городская среда.

ANNOTATSIIYA: Mazkur ilmiy maqolada Aleksandr Faynbergning "TOSHKENT. 1943" she'ri madaniy xotira, shahar muhiti va urush davridagi psixologik tajriba kontekstida tahlil qilinadi. Asar Ikkinchi jahon urushi davrida Toshkent aholisi hayotini mayda maishiy detallari, shaxsiy fojialar va fragmentar obrazlar orqali ochib beradi. Tadqiqot tarixiy-ijtimoiy, semantik va psixoanalitik yondashuvlarni uyg'unlashtirib, Faynbergning minimalistik poetikasi urushning hissiy ta'sirini qanday yetkazishini va avlodning individual hamda kollektiv xotirasini aks ettirishini ko'rsatadi.

Kalit so'zlar: Aleksandr Faynberg, urush she'riyati, madaniy xotira, psixologik travma, minimalizm, poetik detal, fragmentarlik, 1943-yil, Toshkent, shahar muhiti.

INTRODUCTION



Aleksandr Faynberg's work is considered a distinct literary phenomenon in 20th-century war literature. The poet does not depict war directly through battle scenes, but rather through the disrupted rhythm of human life, social trials, and personal tragedy (Abdullaev, 2010). He portrays the simple, unflashy, yet psychologically weighty aspects of life behind the front line through poetic imagery.

The poem "TOSHKENT. 1943" reflects Faynberg's creative vision of urban and human life under war conditions. In this poem, the poet combines cityscapes, personal tragedies, and ordinary social situations, allowing the reader to deeply feel the impact of war.

The aim of this article is to analyze the poem as a single, continuous scholarly text and to reveal its historical, semantic, psychological, and cultural significance. The relevance of the study lies in the fact that Faynberg's poetry still retains its value as a cultural text preserving the memory of war.

Historical and Social Context. The year 1943 was one of the difficult stages of World War II, and life behind the front line was marked by severe trials. In Tashkent, citizens faced not only the psychological pressure of the war but also difficulties in food, clothing, and education (Karimov, 2015).

Details in the poem — David's workshop, disabled carts, and Aunt Lydia waiting for a letter — reflect the everyday life of the city, disrupted by the impact of war. For example:

"Hot. Toward the brewery, the fences
On the stone road, a disabled cart"

These lines indicate that ordinary life continued under wartime conditions, but people had to confront vulnerability and shortages (Abdullaev, 2010).

Furthermore, Aunt Lydia — a mother whose sons have died — and other characters reflect the psychological state of women during the war. This personal tragedy highlights the individual dimension of wartime experiences (Lotman, 1992). Working with worn-out clothes and old items at the final door symbolizes temporary living conditions and people's adaptability.

Through depicting urban space, the poem reveals the social and psychological context. According to historical sources, during the war, Tashkent faced economic restrictions, food shortages, and daily challenges related to evacuees and wounded soldiers (Karimov, 2015).

Poetics and Phonetic Analysis. Faynberg's poetics is based on minimalism. Short lines, broken thoughts, and phonetic details reflect the sharp, fragmentary nature of wartime life (Jakobson, 1960).

For example:

"On the wire above, the leaves tremble"

In this line, auditory effects are combined with visual imagery, creating a multisensory impression of the environment. Phonetic repetitions and rhythmic patterns convey to the reader the continuous movement and dynamics of urban life. The



minimalist style gives the poem a strong emotional impact and allows the depiction of fragmentary events.

At the semantic level, the most important element of the poem is the human being and their emotional state. Through Aunt Lydia, the disabled carts, and old objects, human vulnerability, loss, and despair are symbolically represented. At the same time, lines such as “Ranevskaya found kerosene out of nothing” and “a wide open room for Akhmatova” highlight the scarcity of resources during the war, reflecting both the urban and cultural memory context.

Semantic Layers and Analysis of Images. The personal tragedies, urban space, and everyday details depicted in the poem each carry symbolic significance. Aunt Lydia’s waiting for a letter expresses both personal and collective despair, human vulnerability, and the anxiety of not receiving the expected message (Lotman, 1992).

Disabled carts and old objects symbolize temporary living conditions, adaptability, and human endurance in the face of wartime hardships.

Through images of the city and its inhabitants, Faynberg does not show war directly to the reader; instead, he conveys it through personal and social spaces. In this respect, the poem, using a fragmentary and minimalist style, creates a strong semantic layer (Abdullaev, 2010).

Psychological and Traumatic Memory Analysis. Faynberg’s poem “TOSHKENT. 1943” is constructed on a model of traumatic memory. Depictions of childhood and urban life, personal tragedies, and elements of deprivation collectively create a strong psychological impression on the reader (Caruth, 1996). For example, Aunt Lydia waiting for a letter — a mother who has lost her sons — reflects post-traumatic emotional processes. This scene evokes empathy in the reader and provides a quiet yet powerful understanding of wartime suffering.

Disabled carts, old objects, and temporary living conditions (worn-out clothes, kerosene) symbolize signs of trauma. Through them, personal loss, limited resources, and the daily impact of war are felt by the reader. From the perspective of a child or reader, these depictions serve as a direct model of confrontation with real tragedy (Caruth, 1996).

Additionally, the poem’s fragmentary structure and short lines reflect the psychological experience of the child. The abrupt interruption of lines and gaps between images reinforce psychological distress. At the same time, visual and phonetic details — the workshop, trembling leaves, carts — convey the trials and hardships of real life (Jakobson, 1960).

Cultural Memory and Collective Experience. The poem moves beyond individual memory and reaches the level of collective memory. Faynberg, through his depiction of Tashkent during wartime, Aunt Lydia, and other personal tragedies, reflects the psychological state of an entire generation (Halbwachs, 1992).

According to cultural memory theory, such texts serve as tools for preserving the memory of society (Assmann, 2011). For example, the line “a wide open room for



Akhmatova” illuminates urban culture and living conditions during wartime. At the same time, the kerosene found by Ranevskaya indicates scarce resources and symbolically represents the adaptability of city residents in daily life.

The poem also harmonizes individual and collective memory. Through the images of Aunt Lydia and disabled carts, Faynberg conveys the impact of war to the reader deeply, yet the tragedy is not depicted directly. This approach in literary studies is referred to as “unmediated dramatism” (Lotman, 1992).

Analysis of Symbols and Signs. The poem contains several key symbolic elements:

Disabled carts — symbolize the physical and social consequences of war, as well as human vulnerability.

Aunt Lydia — represents personal tragedy, motherhood, and despair.

David’s workshop and the trembling leaves — signify the continuity of urban life, as well as the persistence of social activity and art even under wartime conditions.

Kerosene found by Ranevskaya — indicates limited resources, human adaptability, and temporary solutions.

A wide open room for Akhmatova — reflects cultural memory and the social details of urban life.

Each symbol conveys the complexity of human and urban experiences during wartime. At the same time, through minimalist poetics, these symbols create a strong emotional impact on the reader (Jakobson, 1960; Abdullaev, 2010).

Phonetic and Rhythmic Analysis. In Faynberg’s poem, the acoustic aspects of the environment are enhanced through sound and rhythm. Onomatopoeic elements in the lines — for example, “the leaves tremble” — convey the continuous movement of the city and workshop through phonetic effects (Jakobson, 1960). The repetition of sounds, abrupt rhythmic breaks, and short lines give the poem a minimalist tone and allow the reader to feel the harshness and intensity of wartime conditions.

The rhythm and phonetic patterns present fragmented events in a continuous manner. For example:

“Hot. Forests toward the brewery
Disabled cart on the stone road”

These lines combine visual and acoustic imagery, creating a vivid impression of events for the reader. Through a minimalist approach, short lines, and repetition, Faynberg intensifies the sense of tension and discontinuity characteristic of the wartime experience (Jakobson, 1960; Abdullaev, 2010).

Fragmentation of Childhood and Urban Life. The poem reflects the fragmented nature of city life and childhood. Disabled carts, David’s workshop, and Aunt Lydia waiting for a letter — each of these represents small details of urban life. Through these images, Faynberg demonstrates how personal and social events interweave during wartime, highlighting the disorderly and fragmented character of life (Karimov, 2015).



The fragmentation of childhood and urban life plays an important role in psychological analysis. Childhood experiences, personal tragedy, and the limitations of daily life together reveal the impact of war on the human psyche. Through these depictions, Faynberg evokes an emotional response in the reader without directly showing the tragedy of war (Caruth, 1996).

Symbolic and Semantic Layers of the Poem. In the poem's semantic layer, symbols and social as well as personal events are intertwined. Aunt Lydia represents personal tragedy and loss, disabled carts symbolize human vulnerability, and David's workshop signifies the continuity of urban activity and art (Lotman, 1992).

Details such as the kerosene found by Ranevskaya and the wide open room for Akhmatova illustrate the limited resources and the socio-historical conditions of the urban environment during wartime. In this way, the poem conveys both personal and collective wartime experiences to the reader through minimalist poetics (Assmann, 2011).

Conclusion and Contemporary Significance. The poem "TASHKENT. 1943" depicts the everyday yet harsh aspects of wartime life in a quiet and minimalist tone. Aleksandr Faynberg conveys the emotional and psychological impact of war to the reader through personal tragedy, the intensity of urban life, and the scarcity of resources.

The poem remains a significant literary source today for understanding issues of war, memory, and human endurance. Through minimalist poetics, Faynberg unites personal memory with collective experience, making the poem valued as both a literary and socio-cultural document of wartime life (Halbwachs, 1992; Caruth, 1996).

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