

Nematjonova Nafisa Boxodirovna
Farghona State University, Teacher
nnematjonova1996@gmail.com

Olimova Feruzaxon Iqboljon qizi
Farghona State University, 1st-year student

CATEGORIES OF SPACE AND TIME IN A. A. AKHMATOVA'S POETRY (AN ANALYSIS OF ONE POEM)

Abstract: This article examines the use of space and time categories in the poetry of Anna Akhmatova, one of the most prominent Russian poets of the 20th century. In her works, space and time serve not only a functional role, reflecting external reality, but also act as essential means for expressing her inner world, philosophical reflections, emotional experiences, and tragedies. The author explores how Akhmatova uses natural motifs and metaphors to create symbolic spaces, as well as how time in her poems takes on a layered character, often associated with loss, memory, and philosophical quests. Through the spatial-temporal dynamic, the author reveals how these categories convey profound human experiences and the collective tragedy of the people.

Keywords: Akhmatova's poetry, space, time, symbolism, philosophy, tragedy, memory, nature, Requiem, emotional experiences.

Introduction

A. A. Akhmatova is among the greatest Russian poets of the 20th century, whose work significantly influenced Russian literature. A key feature of her poetry is her unique approach to the categories of space and time, which she uses to convey emotional depth, tragedy, and eternal values. In her poems, space and time often not only mirror reality but also symbolize the heroine's inner world, her experiences, and her philosophical musings on life, fate, and love.

Space in Akhmatova's Poetry

The spatial categories in Akhmatova's poems are diverse and multifaceted. Natural motifs like "forest," "sea," "sky," and "earth" play an important role but often serve as a backdrop for profound personal experiences. Space in her work transcends physical boundaries, filled with symbols and metaphors that enhance emotional perception.

One striking example is her poem Requiem, where space not only depicts physical realities but also embodies tragedy. Akhmatova paints a hellish picture of deprivation and fear linked to Soviet terror and repression. Space and time intertwine, creating an unbearable sense of confinement and helplessness.

Space in her poetry often represents a "confined world" full of longing, despair, and solitude. In My Petrograd (Petersburg), for example, the city symbolizes loss and the impossibility of finding oneself in a world that has ceased to be home.

Time in Akhmatova's Poetry

Time is a central theme, closely tied to her perception of fate and personal tragedy. Time often appears fluid, unpredictable, and far from linear. For Akhmatova, time transforms into lived experiences, emotional memory, and personal history.

In her early works, time is seen as destructive and tragic. For instance, in the poem I Am Not Given to Be with You, the poetess expresses the fleeting nature of time, feelings of loss, and inevitable

separation. Time moves forward, leaving only memories. Akhmatova also creates her own temporal world, where she exists in multiple realities—past, present, and future. In *I Will Return as If I Never Left*, time and space merge, making reality ephemeral.

Space-Time Dynamics

Akhmatova masterfully blends space and time to heighten drama in her poetry. Space, often burdened with heavy emotions, complements time, which conveys intense feelings while capturing fleeting moments of existence. Her works depict a progression from confined, tragic spaces to a quest for freedom through memory, loss, and the search for meaning.

The spatial-temporal dynamic in *Requiem or Poema Senza Eroe* illustrates how life, death, past, and present intertwine. Akhmatova uses these categories to express both personal experiences and the collective tragedy of a people subjected to harsh historical events. Space and time convey her philosophical reflections on life, love, suffering, and hope for the future.

Conclusion

Akhmatova's poetry uniquely employs space and time not as mere backdrops but as central elements shaping profound philosophical and emotional experiences. These categories, both objective realities and subjective perceptions, emphasize human suffering, spiritual struggle, and universal values. Through them, she captures timeless pain while also conveying renewal, return, and spiritual rebirth.

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