

The Wind Symbol in Luu Quang Vu's Poetry

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Abstract— *Luu Quang Vu is one of the great poets of modern Vietnamese literature. In his works, wind is not just a natural phenomenon but carries many rich layers of meaning. Wind symbolizes freedom, the desire to explore and overcome all limitations. Wind also represents the constant change and fluctuation of life. At the same time, it expresses loneliness, the deep sadness in the human soul, and is an image of opposition, of internal contradictions in life, a symbol of the artist's soul, of creativity and soaring in art. This contributes to highlighting the richness in artistic thinking and the profound meanings of the wind symbol in Luu Quang Vu's poetry.*

Keywords— *Symbol, Luu Quang Vu's poetry, wind symbol, modern Vietnamese literature.*

I. INTRODUCTION

Luu Quang Vu is one of the outstanding poets of modern Vietnamese literature. He is not only known for his famous plays but is also a poet with great influence in poetry. Luu Quang Vu's poetry is not only beautiful in words but also contains profound meanings about life, people, and society. In his poetry, the "wind" symbol frequently appears, carrying many rich and multifaceted meanings. Wind in Luu Quang Vu's poetry is not just a natural phenomenon but also a symbol of aspiration, change, freedom, and the fragility and uncertainty of life. This article will explore the wind symbol in Luu Quang Vu's poetry, aiming to clarify the meanings he wanted to convey through this symbol.

II. RESEARCH CONTENT

2.1. Wind - freedom and aspiration

In Luu Quang Vu's poetry, wind is often described as a free force, wandering everywhere, unbound by any limits. Wind carries within itself the power of movement, of the aspiration to reach far, to overcome current limitations to reach new horizons. This is one of the important meanings that Luu Quang Vu conveys through the wind symbol.

In the poem "Wind and I", Luu Quang Vu writes:

*"The wind sweeps me away forever
To distant horizons*

I befriend the wind

No longer afraid of any

"Gió cuốn tôi đi mãi

Tới những chân trời xa

Tôi với gió làm bạn

Không còn sợ điều gì nữa."

Here, the wind is described as a companion, traveling with "I" to distant places, overcoming all fears. Wind is a symbol of freedom, of the desire to explore and conquer new things. In the context of Vietnamese society during Luu Quang Vu's

time, when the country still faced many difficulties and limitations, the wind symbol carried a great meaning about the desire to live freely, unbound by prejudices and limitations.

Moreover, wind in Luu Quang Vu's poetry also expresses the desire for freedom of thought and creative freedom. During the difficult years of his life, Luu Quang Vu always maintained the flame of creativity, constantly seeking new ways of expression in poetry and drama. Wind, with its ceaseless movement, symbolizes the flow of thought, ideas, and borderless creativity. This is also why in many of his poems, wind often appears as a symbol of innovation, of searching and discovering the new.

2.2. Wind - change and fluctuation

Besides the meaning of freedom and aspiration, wind in Luu Quang Vu's poetry also carries the meaning of change, the fluctuation of life and society. Wind is an unstable natural phenomenon, always changing direction, intensity, and affecting everything around it. This corresponds to the fluctuations in life, the unpredictable changes that people have to face.

In the poem "Which Direction Does the Wind Blow", Luu Quang Vu described wind as a force bringing change:

"Which direction does the wind blow

Taking away old things

Bringing new strange things

But why does my heart still feel sad."

"Gió thổi từ hướng nào

Mang đi những điều đã cũ

Mang lại những điều mới lạ

Nhưng sao lòng ta vẫn thấy buồn."

Wind here is a symbol of change, of new things coming and old things going. However, this change doesn't always bring joy, but sometimes evokes feelings of sadness and regret. Life is a continuous flow of changes, and wind is the symbol of that flow in Luu Quang Vu's poetry. It constantly pushes people forward, but at the same time makes them face losses, things that cannot be kept.

Wind is also a symbol of uncertainty, of unpredictable fluctuations. In the poem "The Wind Still Blows", he writes:

"The wind still blows every night

Carrying secret whispers

Who knows what the wind will bring

Tomorrow is something no one knows yet."

"Gió vẫn thổi từng đêm

Mang theo những lời thì thầm bí mật

Ai biết được gió sẽ mang đến gì

Ngày mai là một điều chưa ai hay."

Wind here is not just a natural phenomenon but a symbol of unpredictable changes in life. The wind blows through, carrying mysteries, whispers that no one can predict. This expresses the uncertainty of life, when people cannot know what will happen in the future. Wind is a symbol of instability, of unpredictable changes, but at the same time is the driving force pushing people forward, facing new challenges and opportunities.

2.3. Wind - loneliness and sadness

Another aspect of the wind symbol in Luu Quang Vu's poetry is loneliness and sadness. Wind, with its wandering, solitary nature, is often used by him to express feelings of loneliness, deep sadness in the human heart.

In the poem "Wind and Longing", Luu Quang Vu writes:

*"The wind blows through the long night
Carrying distant longing
Memories dissolve into the wind
Only I remain with the night."*

*"Gió thổi qua đêm dài
Mang theo nỗi nhớ xa xăm
Những kỷ niệm tan vào gió
Chỉ còn lại mình ta với đêm."*

Here, the wind carries memories, longings for the past, but at the same time is a symbol of emptiness, loneliness. The wind blows through the long night, but when the wind passes, only silence and emptiness remain. This evokes a sense of loneliness, alienation of people in life, when what has passed only remains in memory, and the present is left with emptiness and sadness.

Wind is also a symbol of indescribable sorrows. In the poem "Where Does the Wind Blow", he writes:

*"Where does the wind blow
Carrying nameless sorrows
How can I know
When my heart is also losing direction."*

*"Gió thổi về đâu
Mang theo những nỗi buồn không tên
Làm sao ta biết được
Khi lòng ta cũng đang lạc hướng."*

Wind here is a symbol of vague, unclear sorrows, but makes people feel lost, not knowing where to go. Where does the wind blow, and people's hearts are also losing direction, not knowing where to find to escape sorrow. This is a haunting image of loneliness, of being lost in life, when people cannot find a way out of their negative emotions.

2.4. Wind - opposition in life

In many of Luu Quang Vu's poems, wind is also a symbol of opposition, of internal contradictions in life. Wind can bring coolness, gentleness, but can also become stormy, fierce. This corresponds to the contradictions, the oppositions in human life, between beauty and ugliness, between joy and sorrow, between freedom and constraint.

In the poem "Seasonal Wind", he writes:

*"The northeast monsoon comes
Cold to the bone
But makes us sober
Like failures in life."*

*"Gió mùa đông bắc về
Lạnh buốt đến tận xương
Nhưng lại làm ta tỉnh táo
Như những lần thất bại trong đời."*

The northeast monsoon here is a symbol of harshness, coldness, but at the same time is an awakening, a motivation for people to stand up after failures. Wind brings coldness, but it is in that cold that people realize their strength, feel more sober, stronger. This expresses a profound philosophy in Luu Quang Vu's poetry about the opposition in life, that it is difficulties, challenges that make people mature and stronger.

2.5. Wind - the artist's soul

Finally, wind in Luu Quang Vu's poetry is also a symbol of the artist's soul, of emotions, artistic thinking. Wind, with its wandering, free nature, is an image of creative ideas, of soaring in art. Luu Quang Vu, with the sensitive and rich soul of a poet, used the wind symbol to express his artistic emotions and thoughts.

In the poem "Wind in the Soul", he writes:

*"Wind blows in my soul
Carrying unwritten verses
Soaring ideas
Like wings in the high sky."
"Gió thổi trong hồn ta
Mang theo những vần thơ chưa viết
Những ý tưởng bay bổng
Như cánh chim giữa trời cao."*

Wind in the soul is a symbol of creativity, of artistic ideas. It is the driving force pushing the poet to write verses, an endless source of inspiration in art. Wind, with its freedom and soaring nature, is an image of an artist's soul, always seeking and exploring new things, new ways of expression in art.

III. CONCLUSION

The wind symbol in Luu Quang Vu's poetry is one of the richest and most diversely used images in his works. Wind is not just a natural phenomenon but carries many profound layers of meaning, from freedom, aspiration, to change, fluctuation, and even loneliness, sadness. Through the wind symbol, Luu Quang Vu has expressed complex thoughts and emotions about life, people, and art.

Through exploring the wind symbol in Luu Quang Vu's poetry, we can see the richness and diversity in the poet's artistic thinking. Wind is not just a beautiful image linguistically but also a symbol with deep philosophical meaning, reflecting the thoughts and experiences of a great artist in a turbulent period of history and society. Luu Quang Vu's poetry, with symbols like wind, has left a deep impression on readers, becoming an important part of modern Vietnamese literature.

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