



3
السنة



Literary Texts

1ST Semester – 7th Lecture

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Political Terms Reading & comprehension
Consecutive Translation phonetics
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Contrastive Analysis Dictionaries عربي
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نصوص أدبية س3 ف1 م7

شرح قصيدة الشاعرة KATHERINE PHILIPS

“A MARRIED STATE” وبعض التطبيقات عليها.

Hello everyone...

Professor: What is the age we were talking about?

Student: Seventeenth and eighteenth century.

Professor: The seventeenth and the eighteenth centuries, what age is this?

Student: Elizabethan age.

Professor: Ok. Is it still the Elizabethan age?

Student: No..

Professor: I think that we have crossed the Elizabethan age, and we're talking about the seventeenth and the eighteenth centuries. Now let's just imagine the situation during that age. We have puritans, royalists, men, and we have women...

What about the state then, how do you imagine the state of women in that period, 17th and 18th centuries?

Student: The society respected the women if she was engaged in marriage only.

Professor: So, the society respects women in case they were married, so if they were not married, if they were single, were they not respected?

Student: They were disrespected.

Professor: No one mentions that actually but it was not normal at all to have a single woman, not only in England, actually all over the world. If a woman is not married then this is a miracle “how does that happen?!” so a woman should get married, and they prefer to let their daughters get married at an early age. And the woman poet we are talking about today is a woman who married at a very early age -just like Arabs did in their past- she married when she was 16.

This lady who's called Katherine Philips married when she was 16 years old. She was married a 38-year man senior to her. (I understand what's written in the book as he was 38-years older than her but actually if you made a search on google you will discover that he was 38 and she was 16 when they got married. So, ~~he was not 38-year senior to her~~. This is what I found on the internet actually). And I care only for one point which is the big difference (**the hole age**) between both of them but though there was a big age just

separating the two couples they used to have this marriage actually, because women were not allowed just to stay single.

Let me say that the term 'single' was not common at that period of time, nowadays we have a lot of singles, we have celebration of being single, 😊😊 and they just make a lot celebrations for being a single man or a single woman. We have also single mothers if you just notice, just like in Morocco, in the recent years we have a lot of single women and single mothers in particular.

What I care for is a **woman poet** in that period, she maybe the first one about whom we hear in this period, so she is not the first or they would have written about her, but she was one of the early women poets who just contributed to poetry of that period. Maybe there was another one before and she was ambiguous, but later on, we had a lot of women writing poetry and writing a lot of things. Like **Virginia Woolf** who appeared at a later stage and began just defending the roles of women, but this was one of the most important women poets who raised something very important; **she was against marriage.**

Just imagine, at an age which obliged all girls to get married or they will be rejected by the whole society because they were assume to be suffering from something or they were not fit for marriage or they were disabled or mentally disordered or haunted by a phantom. But just notice at that period of time in particular the majority of women were married; she was against marriage and she expressed that openly not figuratively. If you read the poem that we are going just to deal with today, you will discover that she was openly urging a lot of single women or as she said "virgins" just to relinquish the idea of marriage and getting married so that was a revolution at that time actually.

Professor: What caused her just to reject marriage, what do you think?

Student: The difference between her and her husband.

Professor: Yes, the age difference between her and her husband. This might be one of the reasons why she rejected marriage.

Student: She struggled with him, because she was a child when she gets married.

Professor: Let's say that she was not a child, she was a teenager when she married. She was already leaving the stage of childhood.

Student: She was very happy before she got married.

Professor: Did she mentioned that openly?

Student: Actually, not openly.

Professor: Not openly, but we understand that she prefers the previous stages of her life; the unmarried state.

Student: And her first child died.

Professor: So, this a turning point in her life which may have caused her rejection of marriage. This is something else.

Student: She was not engaged in the society.

Professor: How did you get to know this? Since she is a woman poet and if you notice, her poems were published after she died. But they were circulated this means she was engaged in society.

Student: I think that her husband was too jealous to engage the public society, because of that she did not publish when she was married.

Professor: Nothing were published during her life, her husband was a puritan actually, so he had a very strict mentality that restricted her from having a lot of activity in public.

So just notice, we are only analyzing before we get to read. Let's now go to the poem itself.

Professor: How many lines do we have?

Student: sixteen.

Professor: Yes, **sixteen lines**. The sixteen-line poem is actually **three stanzas**. **Two sestets** and a **quatrain**.

The **two sestets** means that we have **a stanza** consisting of six lines each and then we have a stanza consisting of four lines this means **a quatrain**.

- Now look at the first stanza: **(ease, please) (spell, well) (content, innocent)**.
The meter is not (a)(b) (a)(b), (c)(d) (c)(d). It is (a)(a) (b)(b) (c)(c) (d).
- Let me go down: **(fears, tears) (ears, prayers) (do, too)** this is actually the same except for **(prayers)** maybe they just change the sound a little bet.
- And then we have **(me, levity) (rebel, hell)**.
- Just notice in **(rebel, hell)** there is something final; silent at the end it means something like final, **(ease, ears)** a longer period of time.
- **(Ease, hell)** there is a difference between the beginning and the end.

Let's see...

A Married State¹

A married state affords but little ease²
The best of husbands are so hard to please³.
This in wives careful faces you may spell⁴
Though they dissemble their misfortunes well⁵.
A virgin state is crowned with much content⁶;
It's always happy as it's innocent⁷.
No blustering husbands to create your fears⁸;
No pangs of childbirth to extort your tears⁹;
No children's cries for to offend your ears¹⁰;
Few worldly crosses to distract your prayers¹¹:
Thus are you freed from all the cares that do¹²
Attend on matrimony and a husband too¹².
Therefore Madam, be advised by me¹³
Turn, turn apostate to love's levity¹⁴,
Suppress wild nature if she dare rebel¹⁵.
There's no such thing as leading apes in hell¹⁶.

1. She is giving an example of a marriage of person.
2. “But” here is giving the function of contradicting what has come before. Usually the word ‘but’ has this function. For example, when you say, “it was raining, but I went out” it means you are contradicting the state that you have already stated, “it’s raining”. All people know that it’s raining then you have to stay at home, but when you use the word “but” it means that you are contradicting what you have just said by say “but I went out”. It means there is a contradiction. And here “a married state **affords**”, does marriage afford? “but little ease” it means you are going to work hard all the time, you are not going to relax and have this relief of mind, always engaged on something which is not going to be that easy.
3. Here we can have two interpretations تأويلين اثنين, one interpretation is that: “**the best of husbands**”: my husband is the best man of all. “**Are so hard to please**” it means no matter how hard I work or things I just do for him, he is hard to please he is not content. Or the best of husbands even if there is a man who just comes on top of all men, this man in particular is hard to please. It means all men are hard to please even

the most generous of them. So, we have double meaning here; either she is speaking about her own husband, or she is speaking about one in particular who is the symbol of all. It means men are hard to please. But there is something else, “**Are so hard to please**”: ‘my job as a wife is to please that man’ so this is first physical allusion, so now she is talking about something physical, she wants to please that man in all faces. But we understand that one part of pleasing is ‘the physical part’.

4. Even if the women are trying hard to hide and to cover all this disappointment and all this un-pleasure, it appears on their faces “**you may spell**” you can see this if you are a very witty person you can see it and say “this person is not happy”. Actually, all women can discover who is in love with who, who is not happy with who and tell a lot of events they have not heard about but they can just guess. This is called the intuition of women حدس المرأة. They can just tell about things they have no idea about, but it also appears on the faces it is not only a kind of intuition, even if they try hard just to cover this disappointment of marriage, their unhappiness or their inability to continue, but they just hide and they are uncovered.
5. They try to hide. “**Their misfortunes**” they are not living a very happy life; they are feeling that they are unlucky in their lives, they are trying just to hide all these things well but they are uncovered.
6. Just notice first we have “**a marriage state**” and then we have “**a virgin state**” so now we have this comparison/contradiction between the two states. “**is crowned with much content**” if I live a virgin life, if I’m not married at all, if I remain single, I’ll just have this serenity of mind, I will be a lot relieved and I will be content in my life. This is what she imagines.
7. This means that when you just get engage in the daily activities of married life then you are not going to be that innocent person. Everything should be calculated well, every word should not be uttered unless it has its specific significance or you will suffer because you said something and it might not will have received by others, and they are going just to punish you for this word. So “**a virgin state**” it is “**much content**”; a virgin, a single lady is going to be really content because she doesn’t care when she speaks about whoever she likes or whoever she wants to speak about.
8. **Blustering: shouting people. People who just have something inside and just spell it out with anger.** So, this a negative word. “**No blustering husbands to create your**

fears” ‘if you are virgin/a single lady then you are not going just to suffer from any outrageous husband. you are not going to fear any word anything at all, because you have to please that man and if you don’t please him then you are going just to suffer, there are a lot of hardships. So, it is not only one single hardship, you have to take it but it’s rarely that you really leave it at that period.

9. Now she has spoken about is the first real suffering in her life, which is “childbirth”. If we just go back to her background, we know that she has lost a child two weeks after his birth. So, she suffered from the loss of her baby so soon after giving birth to him. So ‘if you were not married you wouldn’t have to suffer from a husband just shouting and you wouldn’t have suffered from the death of any child, or from all the suffering that can this little child cause to his mom. Just notice the word “**pangs**” it’s also negative, it implies that there are a lot of circumstances accompanying the childbirth, there are a lot of pains accompanying the childbirth. So, it’s really a very turning point in every woman’s life. But notice when we speak about a childbirth as women, you say: oh my God I feel that child inside me I can feel the movement of the baby. –Even if you are not married you can just have these feelings before you have it really-, you can feel the kicks of the baby, you can speak about the connection between the mom and the embryos. And when you give birth to a baby, you can speak about this relationship that is connecting you with it. Now this is the general state of women. But for this lady, she even rejects this case; she doesn’t want suffering at all, from pleasing a man, from being afraid of a man, she doesn’t want to be suffering from all the pain that a child can bring her. She is against that state That’s why she advises ladies not to get married because she is now saving them the suffering that she has already undergone.
10. “**No children’s cries**” no one is going to cry to wake you up or if you want just to relax, no children’s cries are going just to annoy you and let you just get out of your relaxation to do them something. “**For to offend your ears**” how hard this lady is, the cries of a baby offend her ear, it means she don’t like even to hear the cries of babies. Here we might be speaking about a psychological state that she was undergoing at that period, no one knows and no one have mentioned that on the internet by the way, but this maybe correct and this is hidden.

11. Now she is speaking about the church again, ‘if you want to be so close to your Lord. It’s so easy for a single woman to do that, she can go to the church, read her prayers. She can just contact to a priest and confess; she can do whatever she like and she will have this very close relationship to her lord. but if this lady is married and she has a child, then all her prayers just going to be interrupted because she doesn’t have enough time to think of god. giving the instructions what to do and what not to do. Just notice this is really weird, we don’t have any lady who express that openly at that period of time in particular.
12. ‘If you have a child, if you don’t have a husband, you have nothing that cuffs your hands. You are free, no duties as a mother and as a wife, you are free completely’. I think in these two lines she is going against the human nature of woman, if you are a woman you feel that there is something inside you just provoking you toward getting married to have a child, because there are some needs that you have just to fulfil. In these two lines, she is going against the human womanly nature, she expresses her rejection of motherhood and being a wife.
13. “**Madam**” is not a title for married woman here; she is just speaking to the unmarried ladies. “**Therefore Madam, be advised by me**”, so ‘just take my advice as a big tip in your life, don’t listen to anyone else, I’m a married woman and I have suffered a lot...’. So, did you notice that from the beginning of the poem we have already been hearing something in general, but now this is the first time that the person of the poet appears when she says “**by me**”, ‘this is me talking, I’m not afraid of anything’. There is a change in her life, now she wants to appear to the public, she is not hidden anymore now she is facing the whole world of women and even men.
14. ‘Don’t ever think of love, what will love bring you??. Love will lead you to marriage, so don’t think of that romantic passing period’. “**Turn, turn apostate**” ‘turn against love, you have the ability, you are free now, don’t think of love and turn against it’.
15. In the beginning you notice that we had here “**hard to please**”, there was a very sparking allusion to something physical, but now “**Suppress wild nature**” ‘even if you have a wild desire, even if you are feeling the sexual desire inside you, suppress it. Don’t get married, don’t give an ear and try hard using your will just to have control over this sexual desire. “**Suppress wild nature if she dare rebel**” ‘if you have this ability just to face the whole world, go and don’t get married. If you cannot and you

have this feeling affections' –these are not only feelings or affections of love, because they are just going to augment, it means going to get bigger and bigger-. 'If your feelings augment and they turn from a feeling to a real desire, try to suppress it, to kill it or you are going just to get married and to start the cycle of suffering again.

16. “Apes” it means monkeys, between monkeys and gorillas. “Leading apes in hell”.

Student: “apes”. Is it means us as human beings?

Professor: it means us as MEN, I’m sorry to say that.

“There's no such thing as leading apes in hell” she likens the husbands to apes. Why husbands? Because they are the leaders in the house and in any woman’s life, that’s why they have the lead. They can just giving instructions and all will follow, all the women have to follow, But “leading apes in hell” she knows that they are going to hell, but there is no such, no heaven, and she is expressing something which is unusual, which is ‘there are no marriages in hell’. She prefers not to have been married at all. She expresses her unbelief in marriage, and even in hell, there is no marriage at all. So here, also, a reference to a church to the bible, to all the instructions given by the clergymen, there is hell and there is heaven. But she didn’t speak about the heaven, maybe she doesn’t believe in the existence of heaven. That’s why “leading apes in hell” they are suffering and living the hell here and maybe if after death they are just going to a place is going to be hell again, but in that place there is no marriages.

Student: maybe she believed in hell when she gets married.

Professor: maybe, it’s another point of view. Maybe she is a disbeliever but she believed in hell, but we notice that she is really a rebellious person. She is not content with her reality; she wants just to step over it. But because she cannot, she has started the first stage which is writing something, announcing this to the public “be advice by me” but she is giving the things that she cannot do to others, so they may have the ability just to adopted in their life.

***Let me read something for you about the poem:**

**The opening lines, they say: “This poem A Married State, by Katherine Philips is quite shocking for its time period”.*

Professor: That time during which the poem was written, is really conservative to some extent, but it was shocking just to be announced during that period of time because of the

revolutionary ideas that she has initiated; she is just revolutionizing all women not to get married and this is can go against the norm in their society.

**“Philips lived in the 17th century, and in her time and culture it was uncommon for a woman to remain unmarried”.*

Professor: We discovered that the speaker for the first time was the poet herself, when she said, “be advised by me”.

**“The speaker may or may not symbolized the author herself but the words of this particular poem seemed to represent how Philips felt about her own marriage”.*

Professor: This is actually depiction of her own and personal experience in life. She is talking about her child, about her husband and her marriage state in particular, not any other marriage state. She is making a mess-similarity between all marriages, but she is talking her own marriage in particular.

**“Katherine was married to a man who was 38, ...”.*

ملاحظة: في الكتاب ذكر أنّ زوجها يكبرها ب 38 سنة.

**“and she was only 16. This marriage was arranged by her stepfather. Thus, one can easily see why Philips would view marriage as burden rather than a joy”.*

Professor: She was really a very small and immature person when she got married.

**“The speaker doesn’t accuse her husband of being mean or hateful, but rather claims that she believes even the best of marriages must be worse than the single life”.*

Professor: So, in line number two “the best of husbands are so hard to please...” either she is talking about her husband in particular or she is talking about the best man in any marriage institution.

*“The opening lines of **A Married State**, by **Katherine Philips** reviles a rather negative outlook on marriage”.*

Professor: so, all the words are negative we don’t feel that there is a positive word, even “**be advice by me**” this is a negative word. When she finished all the poem with the word hell, we understand that the first word is closely connected with the last word/line: **a married state, hell**. So, there is a kind of connection.

“While the majority of young girls dream about their wedding day few think about the realities of what marriage really means. Many poems were written about love, they contain romanticize notions of marriage”.

Professor: So, this is in general, if you hear any poem about love, this is romantic. Marriage romantic, love is crowned with marriage. So, we have never heard about relinquished love, live alone, don't step into marriage. So, this is the first time that we heard about this.

**"She also makes the proclamation that even the best of husbands cannot make marriage easy, for they "are so hard to please". It becomes clear at this point in A Married State (line2) that the speaker believes that her job in marriage is to please her husband, and she clearly believes that he is hard to please".*

**(lines 3, 4) "with these lines the speaker reviles that this unfortunate circumstance is one that is well kept secret".*

Professor: Women were not assumed just to revile their discontent with their marriage life. That's why it's uncommon just to revile and speak about this issue in public.

**"However, she also implies that the discontent can be seen on the faces of wives. If only people would look more closely, they would see that the faces of wives are "careful".*

**(Lines 5, 6) "in these lines the speaker contrasts the state of marriage with the state of a virgin, in this time a respectable lady was either a virgin or she was married".*

**"Thus, the speaker in this poem assumes as much, and proclaims that virgin girls experience more satisfaction than that of their married counterparts.".*

Professor: So, both are respected and this is unlike our Arabian societies, she was respected but she was more content than the married ladies.

**"Now (lines 7, 8), when she cries of any matter, she would cry in a very usual way, and some people enjoy crying".*

Professor: But here she says "without extorting your tears" I feel that there is an interruption of crying, (you cannot cry your eyes out in a very good and satisfying way, even crying is not satisfying if you have a child). Now there is a distortion for the tears, just notice how rebellious she is and how she rejects being a mother. She might be a psycho; a woman just rejecting being a mother and having a child she doesn't want to have these bangs of children.

Student: Maybe because her son died.

Professor: Yes maybe, you know this is a reaction actually. But after the death of her child she became a psycho, she is not suffering from a psychological disorder, not a real psycho, that might be a temporary or permanent after the child death.

* *“The speaker does not mention childbirth as miraculous and joyful as many women do. Rather, she presents the other side of this experience, and paints a picture of a woman in the pangs of childbirth, crying tears of pain”.*

Professor: The use of the word “your tears” also this is the first time that she is linking and using a possessive pronoun, so she is talking to a woman, not a woman in particular, but to women in same particular.

* *“The use of the word “your” in the 8th line allows the reader to step into this position”.*

Professor: I mean feeling the pain, crying with pain distorting your tears because they are out of real pain.

*“A **Married State** in fact, seems to be written for the sake of virgins who pine for marriage. Here the speaker explains that they will live in fear of their husbands and will have to experience the pain of childhood which will extort their tears”.*

***(lines 9, 10)** *“In these lines the speaker continues describe marriage and the result of marriage (Motherhood)”.*

Professor: So, she is speaking about motherhood in particular, she doesn’t speak of the joy that her child brings to her, rather she tells the young virgins that if they remain single, they will never have to here children crying all the time.

* *“Then, the speaker references the Bible in her pleas with virgins to remain single. She claims that without a husband, there are “few worldly crosses to distract your prayers”.* This inadvertently corresponds to 1 Corinthians 7:8 which says, *“To the unmarried and the widows I say that it is good for them to remain single as I am. But if they cannot exercise self-control, they should marry. For it is better to marry than to burn with passion.”.*

Professor: here we have the real connotation of the sexual desires, we have only PLEASE, also we may understand/take it as desire or something else, but now we have the real indication of the sexual desire, because if they cannot have this self-control it’s better to marry than to burn with passion.

***(lines 11, 12)** *“in these lines the speaker continues on the theme of the freedom”.*

Professor: **“matrimony”* related to motherhood. Here we have **rejection, revolution** and **freedom**, and notice that she and her husband are puritans, which means they are conservative, so she is going against the principles.

* *“She explains that an unmarried woman is “freed from all the cares that do attend on matrimony and a husband too”. Thus, rather than viewing marriage as something*

to be sought after, the speaker views it as something to be given up in favor of the freedom offered by the single life.”.

**(lines 13, 14) “until this point the speaker has pointed out all of the difficulties of marriage, but she had not out rightly advised against it. Therefore, the reader could still wonder whether the speaker would shift tone and begin to expound often the blessings of marriage”.*

Professor: even if she still talking about marriage, but maybe we are going just to say that she will just make some kind complementary closes, she is maybe going to talk about the positive point of marriage. Now she turns and says, “be advised by me”, she doesn’t speak about the blessings of marriage. In these lines, she explicitly advises her single counterparts against marriage, she asks them to against the idea that love is a frivolous. She asks the single women in here audience to renounce love and to give up the idea of marriage in favor of the single life or a virgin. So, she is talking about the same idea from the opening line until the concluding line, she doesn’t change, the idea is the same, the theme is rejection of marriage.

**(the last two lines) “With these closing lines, the speaker leaves the reader wondering what her exact meaning really is. It is clear that she calls her single counterparts to suppress any sexual feeling that may arise within them. She calls sexual desire “wild nature” and pleads with virgins to suppress her “if she dare rebel”. The last line of A Married State is vague. Reader’s wonder what the “apes” refer to and why it matters that there is no “leading [them] in hell”. It is possible that the speaker views marriage as leading her husband, and then claims that there is no marriage in hell, ...”.*

Professor: From my point of view, there are no marriages, stop marriages on earth because there are no marriages in hell.

“And so, there will be no need to lead her there”.

Professor: Her husband to lead her again in hell, he is already leading her on earth, so again he will be her leader in hell.

**“it’s also possible that the ape refers to the wild sexual desire”.*

Professor: So, the ape is the wild sexual desire, there is nothing that is going just to erupt when you are in hell. That’s why there are no marriages.

**“In this case, the last line would mean that there is no sex in hell. It is interested that she uses the term “hell” rather than “heaven” for it would seem that both would make her point”*

Professor: if in hell there are no marriages are there going to be marriages in the afterlife in heaven? So, she doesn't believe in hell this doesn't mean that she believes in marriages in heaven, that's first of all. The second of all she is speaking about hell from the beginning until the end, so she doesn't believe that there is a satisfying life after death, maybe she doesn't believe in all this life. Maybe also that this hell is the hell that she is already living in.

**“After all the bible doesn't say there is no marriage of man and wife in heaven. It's also implied secretly inside -in the content that doesn't appear to us in the superficial meaning - it's also implied that there is no sexual intercourse in heaven. There for it's possible that the speaker intends to proclaim not only her content for marriage but also lack of believe in god, so this is very inherent”.*

Professor: maybe the idea is correct if we read the other poems by Katherine Philips. We can't say this is the final idea depending on one poem.

**“Therefore, she ends her poem by stating that her single counterparts should refrain from marrying, because it will only cause this content on earth, and because there is no marriage in hell, the place she believes she will be going if there is such thing as in after life”.*

NEXT TIME WE WILL TALKING ABOUT ALEXANDER POPE.

😊 نكتفي بهذا القدر، نراكم في المحاضرة القادمة بإذن الله

عنوان مكتبة الكمال: ((كلية الآداب - داخل الحرم الجامعي - بناء الصحافة/
جانب المدرج السابع

The end ♥