Social Pathology of Trust in Car Written Manuscripts

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Abstract Poetry can be considered as a means of expressing emotions and also represents the personality, beliefs, and even social class. From poems proposed one can get others emotional status at the moment. Normally we recite happy songs when we are in a good mood and definitely by expressing sad verses we convey our unhappiness. This is actually a kind of emptying positive or negative energy and is seen in all members of society. Among these members of society are the car owners, from whose written on car many ideas can be revealed. Car written manuscripts are part of culture and folklore of people so, by studying them, culture of ordinary people can be detected. To express the feelings and ideas car owners use these verses, also they can communicate in this way with ordinary people without considering the style of poems. Sometimes, these verses teach a lesson and to tell the truth its effect is more, as there is no bitterness of advice and as a result it is a kind of moral literature. Present article indicates a new research in the field of pathology analysis of social trust which present in car written manuscripts. It seems that the lack of attention to the important factors of human personality cause mistrust in the community. Some of these factors such as, hopelessness, ignorance, greediness, jealousy and ... will be tackled in this article.

Keywords: road literature, car written manuscripts, moral literature, folklore, distrust, social pathology.

1. Introduction

"Folklore" is an English term consists of two parts of "folk" and "lore" means general knowledge that can be contrasted to the classical knowledge or culture. The origin of this word is from Germany, means population (Watkins 2000, Mahjub 2005). The word "folklore" was first coined in 1846 and began as a study of antiquities. In the public mind it appears largely to be viewed as either a subject for scholars or vaguely as something to do with ancient Greek myths and legends. Others might associate folklore with folksongs, with ancient ballads, with Native Indian tales or with tall stories. Folklore is all of these things but it is much more and a great deal of it relates to our daily lives (Ballantyne 2001).

Folklore is common to all people. Understanding, appreciating and sharing another culture's folklore transcends race, colour, class, and creed more effectively than any other single aspect of our lives and, as an element of our past and present society it is something we can all relate to. Its value is no less than any other part of our history and heritage and as such must be documented and preserved as a legacy for our future (Richard Mercer Dorson, 1972)

It is related to all aspects of living, without any boundary. It exists in all societies and like colors with different specter it has unlimited specter. Folklore in developed countries is used more while, in less developed counties it is used less. Folklore literature comes from the root of society. It is clear that if people use folklore voluntarily then, it will be said that it is the manifestation of society.

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It has different genre such as, rhymes, literature, beliefs, proverbs, stories, The folklore of each society and tribe is related to all the members and not to a specific person; it goes mouth by mouth (Georges 1995).

Sentences written on mirrors, back and body of vehicles are among folklores. These written manuscripts are actually the gist of beliefs, wishes and desires of theirs owners. They are from the heart of chuffers, and sometimes can bring tears, sometimes laughter. Some of these sentences are innovative.

Car written manuscripts can bring peace and since they come from heart linger to heart. They are in the form of proverbs, songs and they teach lessons directly or indirectly.

One of the characteristics of this kind of literature is that they are a part of a whole. Car written manuscripts not only reveal the drivers' emotions, mindsets and creativity but also show the problems of society. In some of them one can see the fear of separation, anxiety, stress, hopelessness and a kind of believing in faith. Being far from home, having a difficult job in the dangerous roads needs a superpower. Also, there are some themes such as, love and hate, pray and plea. So, resulted all of these problems the drivers have to take refuge to the superpower and Meta physics. Hence, we can see a lot of religious verses from holy Quran, religious quotes. They believe that these sentences can reduce drivers' anxiety and give them peace as one can see trust and belief in them. Sometimes these manuscripts will give some pieces of advice to the readers which have more affects because it is a direct training and lacks the bitterness of direct advice. Because these verses were changed from direct advices into morality literatures.

Car written manuscripts can be seen in other countries as well with the names of 'Car window stickers', 'Bumper stickers' and 'Sticker slogans'. A bumper sticker is an adhesive label or sticker with a message, intended to be attached to the outside of cars, vans, trailers, as well as outdoor machinery and sporting equipment. These stickers are an excellent tool for getting your message across to people. Nowadays, bumper stickers have become a route for advertising. Then, few companies offer to match car owners to advertisers willing to pay for the ad.

Generally speaking, sticker slogans in most of countries such as Iran, USA, Sweden, India, Pakistan, Syria, etc. are formulated in a condensed poetics which refer to a common world of images and associations. Documenting the stickers as a contemporary folkloric genre suggests an intricate link between form and content, medium and message, elements which cooperate on the hermeneutic level. Complex social and political realities are distilled in the stickers into short slogans, which then are deciphered through equally complex processes, and are far from uniform or transparent for participants.

Hagar Salamon (2001) worked on Political Bumper Stickers. According to the writer relations between form and content, messenger and audience, tradition and innovation, global and local, and, above all, among folklore, emotions, and power, challenge traditional limits of the folkloric scope, and call for a refinement of its interpretive tools. For the writer the daily journey was more than a routine act of commuting.

Thomas (1999) examined the decorative traditions and accompanying folk expressions surrounding pickup trucks in Utah. She believed that decorations added to trucks don't always follow solely utilitarian functions. Rather they help negotiate and present group membership, notions of masculinity and more (David Stanley, 2004).

This article is based on empirical research which included the documentation of car written manuscripts or bumper stickers over a period of several years from different provinces of Iran including Tehran (Capital of Iran), Alborz and Mazandaran. It is intended to understand the popular expressions of these manuscripts regarding different views of social phenomena which affect social trust. It should be mentioned that in the examples of the present manuscript, it is tried to find appropriate equivalent of dictionary of proverbs in English as much as possible and quotes, sayings and proverbs from all around the world and all religions; otherwise, the literal translation of the written proverbs is given.

2. Social trust and the consequences of untrustiness

Human being is a social creature and needs to be related to others. Nowadays, relationship can be observed in all developed and undeveloped countries. Therefore, due to the distance among groups, people and different organizations the need for trust is more vital. Trust is an important part of this relationship and lack of it can lead to disorder and crime.

Trust is attributable to relationships within and between social groups (families, friends, communities, organizations, companies, nations etc.) and is an important factor that can create cooperation in society and among members. It is a way to success and can be used to reduce malfunctions in society. Trust can be seen positively so to create social relationships. Then, it is a popular approach to frame the dynamics of inter-group and intra-group interactions in terms of trust.

Social trust is a social-cultural phenomenon which is rooted in the social-historical experiments of a society. It can be as a powerful element with a lot of consequences. When it will be expanded in a society it can act as a powerful element which can affect different levels of society. Without trust, life has no meaning. According to Seligman (1998),

trust is an index in society. It is important as water or air, we consume. Dasgota (2009) stated that trust facilitates cooperation is society. Sociologists have demonstrated that cultural beliefs and values play an important role in determining what triggers social trust and what constitutes socially acceptable expressions of social trust. Cultural learning can influence the situations that trigger social trust and the manner in which social trust is expressed.

Trustless is a psychological problem in which a person will lose its trust and imagine himself/herself weak. Lack of trust can change an energetic person to inactive as well as a neutral element in society. Political, social and economical turmoil can create lack of trust is society. If this condition becomes worse it will lead to not considering social and personal manners. Also, lack of trust in can lead to malfunction and loneliness in a society.

On the contrary having trust in a society can act as a cure, as a healing and as a doctor to available pains. It can recover the sick society. Though it has its own danger it can change the world into a more peaceful, active and nicer society. According to Barbalet (1996) trust is the spiritual foundation of cooperation. Hence it can be a crucial issue to be thought about.

The important point is to consider literature especially poems to solve the problem of being untrust in a society since there is a positive relationship in this regard.

3. Indications of being untrust from the point of view of the car owners

In this section the most salient elements of being untrust will be stated. Some of these elements are hopelessness, ignorance, greediness, obstinacy, jealousy, selfishness and pride, disloyalty, wildness and aggression, materialism, futility, antifeminism due to irresponsibility, regret and envy, faithlessness, cruelty, fault finding, backbiting and calumny, hostility and revenge, association with vicious, ungratefulness, injudicious statements, ingratitude and dishonesty and falsity. In sprite of illiteracy of the most car owners, it is surprising that we can see the deep concepts of social phenomena in car written manuscripts or bumper stickers as an excellent tool for transferring their messages across to people which affect social trust.

3.1 Hopelessness

Miller and Powers (1988; 6) has been defined hope as the "anticipation of a future which is good, based on mutuality, a sense of personal competence, coping ability, psychological well-being, purpose and meaning in life, and a sense of the possible". It reflects a belief that a personal tomorrow exists. Hopelessness comes from misunderstanding of the concept of life. It has been associated with negative outcomes including violence, depression, substance abuse and risky social behaviors. Then, hopelessness's result is the decrease of social trust. The following sentences can clear the point:

To live is to always be hopeful
People are by nature hopeful, and must always be so, because when they lose hope, they will depress.
Alas it was all a legend
I searched for it, you don't do
In search of Utopia
Hope for the best, expect the worst
Hope is life
Hope is the last thing that we lose
Hope springs eternal
Life is sweet
Without hope (if it were not for hope), the heart would break

3.2 Ignorance

Common metaphors for ignorance are negative. For example, ignorance is blindness; to know is to see. Or knowledge is power; ignorance is helplessness and impotence.

Ignorance can be contrasted to knowledge in car written manuscripts. By means of knowledge one can find the meaning of life, and it cause improvement. Consider these examples:

The result of escaping from school! (This sentence was written on the rubbish trucks).

Sometimes, these sentences show moral customs that ruined. In this case people get upset and are looking for the best condition.

Never too old to learn

History repeats itself

People tend to repeat mistakes made by others over the generations, not learning from them

Brain is better than brawn

Ignorance is bliss (You can be happy when you do not know there are problems around you)

Ignorance of the law excuses no man (Not knowing what you did was wrong does not excuse you from suffering the penalty)

3.3 Greediness

Greediness is an unpleasant personality which is prohibited. Taking the following proverbs and sayings shows that greediness will bring suffer and have no result.

Greediness will cause suffer
The higher the greediness the more suffer
It has no result except requirement.
Grasp all, lose all.
Catch not at the shadow and lose the substance

A greedy man brings trouble to his family, but he who hates bribes will live.

He who is greedy is always in want (Horace Quotes)

3.4 Jealousy

Jealousy typically refers to the negative thoughts and feelings of insecurity, fear, and anxiety over an anticipated loss of something that the person values, particularly in reference to a human connection. Being jealous is the source of loss and will destroy social relationships. This unaccepted personality is due to being belittled; it hinders success and has no fruit at all. The gist of all the following care written manuscripts is the same. Jealousy is nothing more than a fear of abandonment, and a competent and self-confident person is incapable of jealousy in anything. Jealousy is invariably a symptom of neurotic insecurity.

A jealous person won't have peace The result of jealousy is nothing just loss Jealous person is in the state of suffering

3.5 Selfishness and pride

Pride is the root of selfishness and thus the root of all evil. Pride is hidden but manifests as selfish acts. Being selfish brings disagreement. Human beings like to control others. Its result is misery for self and annoyance for others. From the point of view of religious the root of all these terrible personalities lie in evils temptation that leads to selfishness and pride. Being selfish can make enemies in the society. According to Bible (Proverbs 18:1) Isolation and separation Can Be signs of selfishness and pride.

The next proverbs also can clarify the point.

Don't be proud of yourself which leads to catastrophe Don't be selfish nor pessimist Flattery brings friends, truth enemies (people don't really want to hear the truth)

3.6 Disloyalty

In any form disloyalty is prohibited in all religious and faiths. Its frequency is high in manuscript written on cars.

Touch it but don't betray
I am afraid of scorpion but not cockroach, I am afraid of friends but not enemies
Remembering friendship is now a bitter story for me (because of disloyalty of friends)

There are also a lot of verses in bible regarding disloyalty reads as follows:

The disloyal will get what their conduct deserves, and a good man, what his [deeds deserve.] 15 The inexperienced believe anything, but the sensible watch their steps. 16 A wise man is cautious and turns from evil, but a fool is easily angered and is careless. 17 A quick-tempered man acts foolishly, and a man who schemes is hated. 18 The gullible inherit foolishness, but the sensible are crowned with knowledge. 19 The evil bow before those who are good, the wicked, at the gates of the righteous. 20 A poor man is hated even by his neighbor, but there are many who love the rich. 21 The one who despises his neighbor sins, but whoever shows kindness to the poor will be happy. 22 Don't those who plan evil go astray? But those who plan good find loyalty and faithfulness. 23 There is profit in all hard work, but endless talk leads only to poverty. 24 The crown of the wise is their wealth, but the foolishness of fools produces foolishness (Proverbs 14:13, Proverbs 14:14-24, Proverbs 14:25)

3.7 Wildness and aggression

In psychology, as well as other social and behavioral sciences, aggression refers to behavior between members of the same species that is intended to cause pain or harm. Although humans share aspects of aggression with non-human animals, they differ from most of them in the complexity of their aggression because of factors such as culture, morals, and social situations.

Human relationship is not based on observable features rather it relies heavily on spirituality. Also, based on ideology, there is no other way to join the hearts except relationship. Some more examples are:

The more I know human beings, the more I admire wolfs. Wolf is always hungry
The child of wolf is wolf
Wolf breed wolf

3.8 Materialism

According to Mark Twain definition, Aany so-called material thing that you want is merely a symbol: you want it not for itself, but because it will content your spirit for the moment. Materialism coarsens and petrifies everything, making everything vulgar, and every truth false (Henri Frédéric Amiel).

Materialism is a major danger to human society. It can lead to injustice, oppression, selfishness among members of society. Being materialistic can cause that one be devoted to this material world instead of spirituality. More sentences are given below:

Human being will get attached to the world.

How long the pain of the this nasty world

From the word of stable nature, seek not uprightness of covenant. For, this old woman is the bride of a thousand lovers Don't hang on to this world, as it is a bride of thousand grooms

In the stated examples bride is a metaphor for this world.

3.9 Falsity

Falsity means to show off one's self in a pleasant way. If somebody does something good the public to show off himself/herself it can be considered as falsity. It is a prohibited personality in all cultures and religions. Consider the following examples.

All colors are fine except the falsity
Better an open enemy than a false friend
A good faculty in lying is a fair step to preferment.
A good lie finds more believers than a bad truth.
A great talker is a great liar.
A half-a-truth is better than a whole lie.

3.10 Antifeminism due to irresponsibility

Being single with its own characteristics can cause irresponsibility. Despite the importance of marriage and family life in Islam there are still some manuscripts indicating lack of interest in marriage. It happened due to the wrong concept of the environments and as a result a person dislikes marrying.

Be careful! Don't marry!!

As far as you can don't marry, marriage is like a loop don't take it around your neck Marry in haste, repent at leisure (Do not rush for marriage since if you marry the wrong person, you will regret all your life)

3.11 Regret and envy

One should uses the opportunities happen for him/her but once he/she missed the time, he/she will start to regret. Its result is being in trouble and losing trust. As a result it is problematic for the society. Having a look at the following proverbs will confirm the issue.

History tends to repeat itself (What has happened once is liable to happen again.)
Let bygones be bygones
Who knows what happen next?
I wish there was a reverse gauge in life
Be careful, don't plea
I did not get what I expect
We never miss the water till the well runs dry (You only realize the importance of something when it is gone)
Prevention is better than cure (It is better to be careful beforehand than to try to solve a problem after it has arisen.)
The envious person is the least happy
The worst emotion is envy

3.12 Cruelty

Being successful is useful when its result is expanded for all the members of a society. When there is justice, the situation is the same for all the members and it does not advocate the minority or a special group. There is a saying that those who live in a glass house should not throw stones. This idiom can clear the point that if you don't like to see cruelty doesn't be creul. As a result, when there is no justice, the society will be accompanied by cruelty.

Don't be cruel to lower class people
Such a nice person is that won't bother anyone else
Don't bother a small ant
Up-pluck the bush of enmity, which countless troubles bringeth
So many times of wrong-doing did not do you may good, why don't you do it for once?

3.13 Faithlessness

Not keeping ones word is the sign of unfaithfulness and happens as a result of cruelty. Keeping ones word even for a small kid is a valued characteristic and should be taught from childhood. In Quranic verses also loyalty of lovers and beloved is reiterated. This subject is of high importance.

Unfaithfulness is not accepted
I did not know that you are unfaithful
Being faithful is nice
Mentor said: "The society of covenant-breakers, shun"
Stay away from promise- breakers

3.14 Fault finding

It just can be mentioned that the more mystical view toward world, the more beauty is observable. There is more chance of praying in a society where there is less fault finding. It is clear from the following examples that fault finding is a part of personality of weak and worthless group.

You pious, don't fault find Don't find fault of others as it is the job of feeble Fault finders will find fault out of nothing If you find fault of others, others will also find yours Don't find fault with what you don't understand

It is clear that fault finding is an important element in weak people and as a result will cause disloyalty among all members of a society

3.15 Backbiting and calumny

Backbiting refers to speaking in the absence of others. It doesn't matter if the mentioned shortcoming or flaw is true or false. If it is true then it is back biting, if false then it is an accusation, which also is a grave sin. In Islamic perspective it is the worst. Considering the following notes from Islam is illustrative enough.

Backbiting and slander is so widespread that it has become the topic of people's meetings and an avenue for expressing their anger, misgivings and jealousy. Those who indulge in backbiting are oblivious of the fact that they are only harming themselves. This is because of the fact that on the Day of Resurrection both the wrongdoer and the wronged will stand before God, Who is the Just Judge, God will then give this wronged person from the good deeds of the person who wronged him in accordance with his wrong by backbiting. (From Backbiting & Slander, an Islamic perspective, http://www.islamfortoday.com/backbiting01.htm)

Jorjani (1938) in his book under the title of "Tarifat" stated that backbiting is a bad habit of counting bad personality of a person in his/her absence, otherwise it is calumny.

It is such a terrible behavior that in holey Quran it refers to eating the flesh of dead brother ("For you it is better to eat its flesh than the flesh of your dead brother." verse12 of *Surah Al-Hujural*).

Do you want to be honored, don't backbite

Honesty is the best policy

The necessity of joy and suffer together

Every flow must have its ebb (Life has its ups and downs; neither good fortune nor ill fortune lasts forever.)

There are also a lot of verses in holy Quran in this regard such as

And why did you not, when you heard it, say? "It is not right of us to speak of this: Glory to God, this is a most serious slander" (Quran 24:16)

O you who believe! Avoid much suspicion, in deeds some suspicions are sins. And spy not neither backbite one another. Would one of you like to eat the flesh of his dead brother? You would hate it (so hate backbiting). And fear God, verily, God is the one who accepts repentance, Most Merciful. (49: 12)

I asked the Messenger of God: Who is the best Muslim? The Messenger of God replied, "He is the one from whom Muslims are safe from the evil of his tongue and hands." (Muslim)

3.16 Joy and suffering

In car written manuscripts the paradox of joy and suffering comes together. One can learn lessons from the paradoxes of ease and difficulty of life. Though they are written simply they are very deep and interesting. In Quranic verses as well, ease and suffering mixed with each other. Definitely, being aware of the fact that, joy and suffering comes together can bring peace. It is of high cultural value and can teach a lot.

Life is like a river passing through the suffer village Who is without suffer No rose is without thorn No one can pluck flowers easily

3.17 Hostility and revenge

Hostility refers to the statues of being enemy. A person with such personality is bad-wisher, bad-thinker, and is after revenge and definitely will respond in the wrong way. It is always sweet to forgive than to revenge. This can have a negative effect on society.

Do well and don't revenge

It is hostility to take revenge from a person who was kind to us

If you don't take revenge it is pleasant

Pluck the root of enmity

Revenge is a dish best served cold

Revenge is sweet

3.18 Complaining about relatives and oppression of life

Complaining is a concept with high frequency in these manuscripts. They are from the drives regarding this nasty life such as:

I am afraid of relatives At the period of poverty relatives are not there No one will overcome us except our relatives Just hi and bye now a days Oh life! You are my oppression

3.19 Association with vicious

An important part of folkfore is dedicated to etiquettes.

The result of association with vicious is infamy that can be a salient element in social relationship. Being aware of the bad side-effect of association with vicious can bring fortune. Considering the next proverbs and sentences:

Don't accompany with vicious

Who keeps company with wolves, will learn to howl (If we associate with bad companions we, too, will become bad)

From bad fellowship separation, separation!

Evil communications corrupt good manners

God defend (or deliver or preserve) me from my friends

Better to be alone than in bad company

3.20 Ungratefulness

This expression simply means being unthankful, it can be seen in anybody and can cause major problems. Ungratefulness can be seen in anybody. It happens as a result of not considering others' kindnesses to us. It can create a sense of being untrust in society.

A grateful dog is better than an ungrateful human being

Give credit where credit is due (Appreciate someone for the good work he has done)

Judge not, lest ye be judged (Do not judge others as you are not perfect yourself, so be merciful in the hope that others will show you mercy one day)

3.21 Injudicious statements

This can be referred to saying nonsense, as a result destroying the fame of a person. It is clear that "Whatever is meaningless will reveal itself."

You won't regret of what you don't say, but will regret of what you say
If you don't have anything nice to say, don't say anything at all (Avoid being negative)

If you keep your mouth shut, you won't put your foot in it (Keep quiet, and you will say nothing wrong Speech is silver, silence is golden (Talk may be beneficial, but sometimes acquiescence may be the best option to take)

3.22 Ingratitude and dishonesty

ult is clear that human being is a social creature and he or she should accept that this type of group living. Everyone should accept that He/she has a social life and cannot live in isolation. As a result and to have a better life in group one should observe some principles such as gratitude and honesty. If one can live in peace with others it is the sign of wisdom and knowledge of ones and others. These quotes and proverbs are illuminating this important factor in social life.

Don't expect honesty from mean people
Birds of a feather flock together (People of the same sort of character or belief always go together.)
Which one is better, knowledge of money? None of them just honesty
Honesty is just like a rare pearl few can have it
Peacock feather won't be given to vulture
If you tell the truth you don't have to remember anything. (Mark Twain)

4. Conclusion

According to wikipeida definition (http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Folklore) Folklore consists of legends, music, oral history, proverbs, jokes, popular beliefs, fairy tales and customs that are the traditions of that culture, subculture, or group. It is also the set of practices through which those expressive genres are shared. The study of folklore is sometimes called folkloristics. A simple example of folklore in daily life can be seen and heard when touring. In this study, car written manuscripts were selected as a part of folklore reflecting some problems of society. Dealing with social issues such as social pathology is an important topic. Hence, one can take advantage of literature to this end.

Morality is important in social perfection and can make social relationships easy and as a result can act a role in the evolution and development of a society. Considering this can create personal trust and as a result social trust. Bearing in mind social issue sociologically speaking is crucial. Fear of devaluation of social relations is among topics which were discussed frequently however the function of literature should not be neglected in this regard.

Also, it can be said that since our society is faced with social troubles and social dangers such as aggression, injustice, uncertainty, being strangers to the environment and its bad side effect taking care of this issue and work on these topics is of great importance. It is interesting that these realties which were shown on the manuscripts written by members of lower social level with great heart.

Some other works are done on bumper stickers and truck plug on other culture and societies. In this article car written manuscripts were selected to reach the goal. Car written sentences which are full of emotions and sensations can lead us to the correct path of social pathology. These sentences stated by the lower social class group are the realities and shortcomings of members of a society reflected in the form of sentences. By studying these manuscripts one can improve his/her behavior namely, freedom, selfishness, honesty, patience, contentment,.... From among these cars written manuscripts one can get a precious wealth of words, meaning, philosophy, and advice which are useful for the next generation. In them one can get the right way and salvation as well as improving in morality.

Delving into the litterateur, such as car written manuscripts, which is a reflection of inside thought and personality can help the researchers. Since in any society members are just like connected chains, having good or bad characteristics can affect all the members of a society one by one and finally the whole. These sentences and proverbs can bring into vogue loyalty, kindness, truthfulness, honesty, patience, humility and other respected mid set which were neglected by the society. The sentences can teach lessons so that members of a society try to be useful members for the society. These values are wealth of a society which can shape generations.

What was intended in this article was to show social pathology of a society. Hence, it is recommended that social wounds will be detected and considered by authorities and ways of removing them will be proposed. In this article, the writers just touched the tip of the iceberg with huge addressee while it is hoped that other researchers will continue.

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