

Article

Illumination of the Concept of Homeland in I. Troyanov's Work "The Collector of Worlds" (Using the Example of the Life of Richard Burton, The Hero of The Work)

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Abstract: This article explores the central theme of *homeland* in the works of Ilya Troyanov, particularly highlighting how his experiences of migration and exile shape his conception of identity and belonging. It underscores Troyanov's treatment of homeland as a fluid, evolving concept rather than a fixed notion, which is influenced by the dynamics of migration and cultural change. The article connects this thematic exploration to the novel *The Collector of Worlds*, where the character of Richard Francis Burton embodies the complexities of homeland. Burton's lack of attachment to any one place or culture, due to his extensive travels, serves as a lens through which Troyanov examines the ambiguity of national identity and belonging in a globalized world.

Keywords: Homeland, Migration, Identity, Exile, Cultural Change, Belonging, National Identity, Globalization, Displacement, Cultural Ambiguity, Literary Themes, Rootlessness, Belonging and Loss, Exploration, Cultural Separation

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1. Introduction

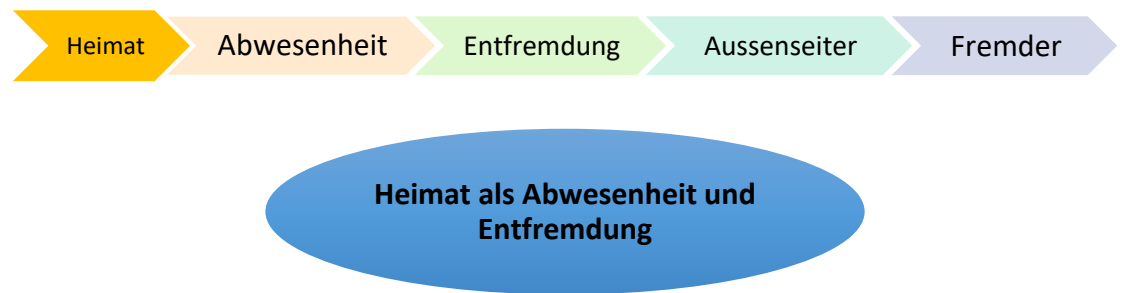
As in the works of the Ilya Troyanov, homeland is the central concept, with migration, identity and the frequently bloody separation of places and cultures. Born in Bulgaria and as a child emigrated with his family to Germany, Troyanov wrote about his homeland from heterogeneous angles in many of his works. It might be generally stated that Troyanov's works conceive homeland without definitions, on the contrary, as a process which renew constantly in the experience of migration, exile and cultural change. This is a deep perspective on one's homeland, while many can also relate to the reality of those being uprooted from their 'homeland' through political, social or personal reasons having to then search for alternative ways to belong in the new place. Troyanov's works in general show that in a globalized world, homeland cannot only mean a geographical place, or a national affiliation, but instead a complex, variable and often ambivalent idea that oscillates between loss and the will to belong.

2. Materials and Methods

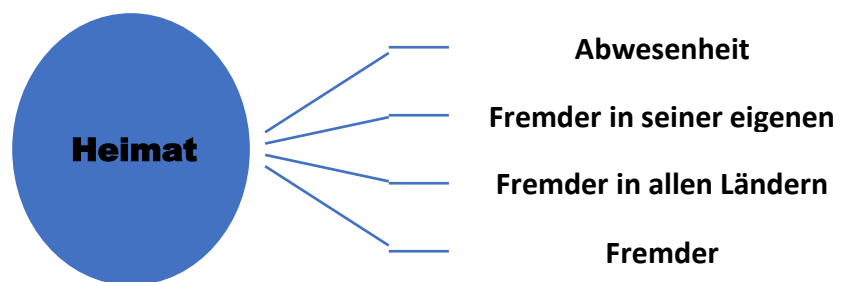
In Ilya Troyanov's novel "The collector of worlds" the theme of homeland is differently explored in general but especially in the case of the hero of the novel - British explorer and traveler Richard Francis Burton. Burton never felt he belonged to any place or culture as he had traveled all over the world. The complexity and ambiguity of the term 'homeland' that Troyanov tackled in putting his work together is present in this.

3. Results

The main aspects of the book "The collector of worlds" reflecting the concept of homeland: The feeling of non existence of the homeland and alienation.



Richard Burton was a man who never found his homeland. The son of an English nobleman, he grows up in an environment where he is never truly accepted or understood. His homeland is more like an absence - he feels like he lives in a place where he never belonged. This state of alienation will last him throughout his life, as he begins to travel the world at a young age. For him, his travels are an escape from the confines of his English background and unhappy childhood. He is forever looking for "another" place that can offer him a homeland, but he will never find a solid place, a homeland.



"Er war ein Fremder in allen Länder und ein Fremder in seiner eigenen Haut."

"He was a stranger in all lands and in his own body, in his whole being."

This sentence expresses the absence of a homeland as an emotional state. Burton lives in countries as diverse as India, Africa, and the Middle East, but he doesn't feel like he belongs to any of them. In England, his homeland, he will never feel accepted. Despite his travels, he remains a wanderer in the world, without a solid base, without a real "mother city". In a sense, homeland for Burton is not just a geographical location, but a state of inner peace and security that he will never find.

I. Troyanov describes in his novel that Burton sees his journeys as a search for self-realization and identity - a search that never leads to a definite result. Homeland is presented here not as a fixed geographical location, but as an aspiration that is never fully realized. In the many countries Burton travels to, he is always seen as a "guest", never feeling a real part of the culture or country. The constant movement between different places makes the idea of a permanent homeland for Burton an unattainable ideal. Homeland as cultural transgression and hybrid identity. This hybridity can be exemplified in the novel by Burton's interest in and familiarity with Arabic and Persian culture. Despite this cultural knowledge and the ability to live in several cultures, he remains a "foreigner" in each society:

"He wandered the earth, but he never found a place to stay." "Er hatte die Erde bereist, doch nie hatte er einen Ort gefunden, an dem er bleiben konnte."

This sentence shows that his cultural knowledge and ability to travel in different countries does not provide him with a real homeland. Homeland, here, is not a fixed

place, but a process of cultural adaptation and integration—one that Burton never fully achieves. Its identity remains fragmented and hybrid between cultures. Burton's life is a constant shift between different cultures, and in some ways his personality is increasingly understood as a hybrid construct. Troyanov himself, a writer and ex-immigrant who lives between different countries, in *The collector of worlds* reflects the opinion that the homeland does not have to be tied to a certain geographical area. Burton's character embodies crossing boundaries and experiencing multiple identities. His multilingualism and ability to act in different cultures lead to an identity that exists outside the concept of a "national homeland". Burton's deep connection with cultures from India to the Middle East to Africa is an example of this. Despite his closeness to different peoples, Burton remains an outsider who is never fully accepted. The central theme of this novel: the homeland as a form of cultural transgression and a state of hybridity that allows neither complete belonging nor complete alienation. The homeland as memory and loss. In Troyanov's work, the homeland is also a death that exists only in memory. described as a kind of paradise lost. For Burton, this is the memory of his homeland - England, which he visits again and again, although at the same time he feels a deep hatred for British society. The loss of his "real" homeland, rooted in his childhood and youth, shaped him throughout his life. However, this memory of England is never a source of comfort; rather, it relates to the nostalgia and sense of loss that accompanies him on his travels.

In the play, this is reinforced by the depiction of Burton's travels, which fail to provide him with a real homeland or estate. Here, the homeland is presented less as a fixed place and more as a lost ideal that lives on in memory but is never achieved.

Homeland as a search for belonging. Burton's constant travel and passion for experience and knowledge represent a deep, perhaps unconscious, longing for where he truly belongs. But this search always fails. One of the central scenes of the novel concerns Burton's decision between taking his place in British society, or pursuing his voyages of discovery. This proves that homeland isn't always physical place; Burton can never reach that emotional state.

4. Discussion

In *The collector of worlds* the idea of homeland as both twin and unachievable ideal. This is actually the experience of alienation and having the search for a place which might be 'home' in a classical sense, which is never attained, represented by Burton's character. Troyanov's reflection of issues of identity, migration, and cultural belonging which apply to so many people in today's world. In this sense, the homeland is a process by which the self discovers itself in the midst of contact with the world, a process that is constantly embedded, at times painfully so, in its process, unconnected to a specific location.

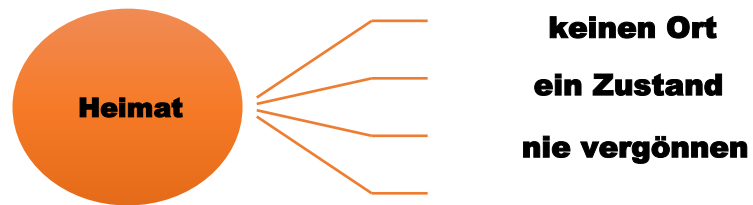
A short sentence from "The collector of worlds " that reflects the theme of homeland and alienation in the life of Richard Burton:

"He had no homeland, he was at the house of all countries, but he never felt at home in any of them." "In keinem wirklich war er zu Hause, in allen Länder zu Hause hatte er keine."

This sentence well expresses the ambivalence and internal conflict of Burton's character: home has become something else other than a location in a pre-agreed geographical place, here it is something being worked on within a displaced condition which allows for travel and constant alienation.

"The collector of worlds " is another sentence that reflects Burton's theme of homeland and internal conflict:

He thought: Homeland is not a place, but a state, and never given to him.



"We have a saying here, he thought, 'The home is not a place, but a condition, and given him never was'." The meaning here is that homeland is neither a physical entity, nor just a physical place, but also an emotional one. When he finally realizes he has never quite made it, it would have been easy to take this as a statement of the novel's central theme: that he never quite belonged in England or in the many other countries he has now traveled to.

5. Conclusion

In the work "The collector of worlds " Ilya Troyanov describes the concept of homeland as something apart from a predetermined geographic location. The homeland for Troyanov is a never completely realized, but always moving and colliding with other cultures aspiration. For Burton, unlike a country of origin, homeland is no goal in reach, but a state of permanent alienation and a search. Burton's character shows his land as a complex, sometimes unattained state, with geographic as well as emotional and cultural features in the world of globalized and multicultural. A place of living/living but also a place of deep personal, often elusive inner peace and belonging.

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