



“I’m looking for the way to you.”; Expressions of criticism and protest of immigrant absorption in Israel, according to Yossi Alfi’s poetic

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Abstract

Yossi Alfi, a member of the performing arts, known as the founder of the popular theater in the Israeli cultural space and also as the establisher of the “Storytellers Festival”, is also a poet and a writer. One of the most prominent themes in his poetry is in the socio-historical context in which he expresses his views, regarding the issue of absorption and acceptance of families immigrants by the Israeli authorities, a year after the establishment of Israel. As a native of Iraq who immigrated at a young age and like many other immigrants then, he marks the onboarding process as a formative experience. Except for the authorities care in several areas, almost no consideration was given, nor for their individual needs, neither for their preferences. The purpose of this study is to examine how this experience is reflected in Alfi’s poetry and how the expressions of criticism and protest are expressed in this subject.

Reviewing the poems which were written during the years of his activity as an artist, suggests that alongside the protest and criticism, considering the absorption of his family, Alfi tends to express considerably a forgiving tone to the various governmental mechanisms. Some expressions are characterized with humor alongside with sincerity and sharp descriptions. Alongside with the double-faced cultural image depicted in the poems that deal with Alfi’s immigration to the State of Israel, his wishes both to keep his cultural identity from home and yet, also be a coherent part of the Israeli society.