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THE REPRESENTATION OF HUMAN FRAGILITY AND STRENGTH IN THE POEMS OF ALEXANDER FEINBERG

Adhamova Mohlaroy Nodirbek qizi

mohlaroyadhamova29@gmail.com

UzSWLU, Faculty of 3rd English Philology

Tashkent, Uzbekistan

Abstract. This article explores how human fragility and inner strength are portrayed in selected poems by Alexander Feinberg. It examines how emotional experiences, a sense of moral awareness, and the search for self-understanding shape the lyrical voice. A close and in-depth reading of the poems shows that fragility in Feinberg's work is not presented as simple weakness. Instead, it appears as a deeply human state connected with inner struggle and ethical reflection. Strength, in turn, does not emerge through dominance or outward power, but through patience, inner firmness, and the ability to remain spiritually steady. The study suggests that in Feinberg's poetry, human experience unfolds through the natural connection between vulnerability and resilience.

Keywords: Inner experiences, human psychology, inner resilience, poetic thought, spiritual stability, human fragility.

Аннотация. В статье рассматривается, как в избранных стихотворениях Александра Файнберга раскрываются человеческая уязвимость и внутренняя сила. Особое внимание уделяется тому, каким образом эмоциональные переживания, нравственное осознание и стремление к самопониманию формируют образ лирического героя. Глубокий анализ показывает, что уязвимость в поэзии Файнберга не сводится к слабости. Она предстает как естественное и глубоко человеческое состояние, связанное с внутренними переживаниями и нравственными размышлениями. Сила же проявляется не во внешнем превосходстве, а во внутренней стойкости, терпении и способности сохранять духовное равновесие. Таким образом, в поэтическом мире Файнберга человеческий опыт раскрывается через единство уязвимости и внутренней устойчивости.

Ключевые слова: Внутренние переживания, человеческая психология, внутренняя стойкость, поэтическое мышление, духовная устойчивость, человеческая уязвимость.

Annotatsiya. Mazkur maqolada Aleksandr Faynbergning tanlangan she'rlari asosida insonning zaifligi va ichki bardoshliligi badiiy jihatdan tahlil qilinadi. Tadqiqotda hissiy holat, vijdoniy mas'uliyat va insonning o'zini anglash jarayoni lirik qahramon obrazini qanday shakllantirishi yoritiladi. Chuqur qilingan she'rlar tahlili natijalari shuni ko'rsatadiki, Faynberg she'riyatida zaiflik ojizlik sifatida emas, balki ichki iztirob va axloqiy ong bilan bog'liq murakkab ruhiy holat sifatida namoyon bo'ladi. Kuch esa tashqi ustunlikda emas, balki ichki matonat, sabr-toqat va ma'naviy barqarorlik orqali ifodalanadi. Tadqiqot Faynberg ijodida insoniy tajriba zaiflik va kuchning o'zaro bog'liqligi asosida yoritilganini ko'rsatadi.



Kalit soʻzlar: Ichki kechinmalar, inson ruhiyati, ichki matonat, poetik tafakkur, maʼnaviy barqarorlik, inson zaifligi

INTRODUCTION. Alexander Feinberg (1939–2009) is remembered as one of the most thoughtful and introspective voices in twentieth-century Uzbek poetry. Both a poet and a translator, he brought a quiet depth to modern poetic expression. His writing does not rely on loud emotion or dramatic storytelling. Instead, it invites the reader into an intimate space of reflection. Through simple yet meaningful images and carefully measured language, Feinberg explores questions that touch the core of human existence.

At the center of his poetry stands the human being — not as a flawless hero, and not as a helpless victim, but as a fragile and searching presence in a complicated world. His lyrical voice often wrestles with guilt, doubt, memory, and responsibility. The individual in his poems feels deeply and thinks seriously. There is hesitation, sometimes regret, and moments of inner darkness. Yet there is also persistence. Even in uncertainty, the human spirit does not disappear.

What makes Feinberg's work especially powerful is the way he brings fragility and strength together. Weakness in his poetry is not shameful. It appears in vulnerability, in the willingness to feel pain, in the courage to admit fault. Strength, in turn, is not loud or triumphant. It is quiet and steady. It lives in conscience, in endurance, and in the determination to remain honest even when hope seems distant. These two qualities exist side by side, shaping the emotional rhythm of his poems. This article explores how Feinberg represents this delicate balance between human fragility and inner strength. Through careful reading of selected poems, the study seeks to show that in his poetic world, vulnerability does not weaken the individual. On the contrary, it becomes the foundation from which dignity and resilience grow.

LITERATURE REVIEW AND METHODOLOGY

The tension between fragility and strength has long attracted the attention of philosophers and literary thinkers. Existential philosophy, in particular, places the vulnerable individual at the center of reflection. Soren Kierkegaard views anxiety and inner struggle not as signs of failure but as essential moments in personal growth (Kierkegaard, 1844/1980). Jean-Paul Sartre likewise emphasises that freedom brings responsibility, and with it the burden of choice (Sartre, 1943/2003). From this perspective, human fragility becomes a natural consequence of awareness rather than a sign of weakness.

In literary theory, vulnerability and resilience are often expressed through symbolic language rather than direct statement. Paul Ricoeur suggests that poetic texts create a space where individuals reinterpret themselves and their experiences (Ricoeur, 1976). Northrop Frye shows how recurring symbolic patterns transform personal conflict into broader human meaning (Frye, 1957). These ideas help explain why fragility and strength in poetry rarely appear as simple opposites. Instead, they tend to exist together, shaping the emotional depth of a text.

Although Feinberg's poetry is widely recognised for its reflective and philosophical tone, the interaction between weakness and inner strength has not always been treated as a central focus. This study approaches his work with that specific aim, exploring how vulnerability and resilience coexist within the same poetic voice.

The research is based on qualitative textual analysis. Selected poems were carefully examined through close reading, paying attention to imagery, metaphor, tone, and thematic development. Rather than separating fragility and strength into distinct categories, the analysis considers how they emerge within a single lyrical consciousness. This method allows for a more balanced understanding of how Feinberg portrays the complexity of human experience.

RESULTS. The analysis reveals that Feinberg consistently portrays fragility not as weakness in the ordinary sense, but as heightened sensitivity and moral awareness. In the poem often translated as "I Am Guilty," the speaker states:

"I am guilty...
innocent, yet guilty before the whole world."

This paradox expresses profound internal conflict. The speaker feels responsible beyond personal fault, which exposes emotional vulnerability. Yet this willingness to acknowledge responsibility reflects moral courage. Indifference would be easier than confession. The acceptance of guilt becomes an act of ethical strength.

In "The Star," fragility appears in existential uncertainty. The speaker stands in darkness, aware of mortality and limitation. The absence of hope underscores vulnerability. However, the request for personal light reveals endurance. Strength is presented not as conquest over darkness but as persistence within it.

"Even if there is no hope...
lamplighter, light my own star."

In "The Word," fragility emerges through the delicate nature of communication. The delayed word symbolises irreversible loss. Human beings depend on timely expression, and this dependence reveals emotional exposure. Yet recognising the weight of words indicates responsibility and maturity. Awareness itself becomes strength.

"True misfortune, a deep disaster
is when the awaited word arrives too late."

DISCUSSION. Feinberg's poetic philosophy suggests that true strength is inseparable from vulnerability. He challenges conventional associations of power with dominance or emotional hardness. Instead, resilience appears in self-awareness, empathy, and the capacity to endure uncertainty.

In "I Am Guilty," the speaker's fragility stems from empathy and responsibility. The burden of collective guilt reflects a deeply ethical consciousness. Such sensitivity makes the individual vulnerable, yet it also prevents moral numbness. Strength lies in refusing indifference.



In “The Star,” darkness symbolises existential isolation. The speaker’s request to keep his star lit represents the preservation of identity. Even when hope diminishes, the individual insists on inner light. This persistence defines resilience. It is quiet, restrained, and inwardly directed.

Similarly, in “The Word,” the fragility of communication reflects the precarious nature of human relationships. The possibility of speaking too late reveals a limitation. However, understanding this limitation encourages responsibility. Strength becomes attentiveness to consequence. Feinberg’s restrained language reinforces this philosophy. He avoids dramatic proclamations of heroism. Emotional intensity is conveyed through simplicity. The absence of exaggeration allows fragility to appear authentic and strength to emerge organically. In his poetic world, resilience is not loud but steady.

Thus, Feinberg presents human beings as ethically responsible participants in an uncertain world. Their fragility is not a flaw but a sign of depth. Their strength lies in remaining sincere despite doubt, grief, and limitation.

CONCLUSION. The analysis confirms that human fragility and strength form a central thematic and structural axis in Alexander Feinberg’s poetry. Through images of guilt, darkness, speech, and personal light, he portrays vulnerability as an essential component of dignity.

In “*Qoralanmaga qasida*”, weakness appears through doubt, grief, and existential awareness. Strength emerges through conscience, perseverance, and the preservation of inner integrity. Feinberg does not separate these qualities. Instead, he reveals their interdependence.

In conclusion, his poetry suggests that true resilience is not the absence of suffering but the ability to endure it without losing moral clarity. Fragility deepens humanity, and strength grows from that depth. Through quiet reflection and symbolic precision, Feinberg offers a balanced and profound vision of the human condition.

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