

Perspectives of the Time in Minh Chuyen's Memoirs

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Abstract: Literature written about the war after 1975 not only focuses on the joy of victory but also shows realism in the post-war period. Soldiers rushing into battle are also explored from a multi-faceted, multi-dimensional perspective. Minh Chuyen's memoirs have successfully built two senses about the era: the magnanimity and the spirit of determination to serve the Fatherland and the sadness and misfortune of soldiers as a result of war.

Keywords: perspectives of the Time, heroic era, tragic era, Minh Chuyen's memoirs

1. Introduction

The war has receded, and the battlefield has quieted the sound of guns. But issues of war still linger in social life, especially in literary life. The post-war theme is a topic that has been mentioned by many poets and writers. Minh Chuyen is one of them. He used to be a soldier. When the war ended, he returned to life as a reporter, so he had the opportunity to go to many places and meet many comrades. Witnessing the lives of his teammates, he always felt tormented about his "debt to his teammates".

Choosing the memoir genre - a genre capable of directly reflecting life as well as conveying a rich amount of information, truly reflecting the reality of life, Minh Chuyen has successfully built two senses of The era is about magnanimity, the fighting spirit to serve the Fatherland and the sadness and misfortune of soldiers as a result of war.

2. Content

2.1. Heroic era

The resistance war against America was special, the Vietnamese people had to fight against the most powerful empire in the world. This was the bloodiest, most brutal, and most persistent war in Vietnamese history. In that special situation, patriotism, and national spirit arose, patriotic Vietnamese people promoted the nation's patriotic tradition, and they vowed to dedicate their youth to the Fatherland. The soldiers in this period came from many different classes, they were intellectuals, students, pupils, and farmers, they were also young men and women who always carried awareness and responsibility. yourself and your country.

Fighting against foreign invaders is a noble quality that makes up the core spiritual values of the Vietnamese people. Each soldier in Minh Chuyen's writings, when going into battle, is aware of his position and responsibility when fighting against foreign invaders: he must sacrifice his life for the Fatherland and must rush forward where the arrows and bullets are. with a courageous and tenacious fighting spirit, "On December 25, 1969, your unit 468 of Military Region 1 in Saigon was ordered to attack the American GMC military convoy carrying weapons from Trang Bang to Ben Cat. He patiently waited for the enemy vehicles to approach him before he opened fire, setting two of their tanks on fire. The Americans frantically counterattacked fiercely, and Thuc was seriously injured. One wound hit his head, another wound hit his chest, and Thuc lost consciousness" [4,45]. Mr. Le Van Class in Not Becoming Someone "used to carry a B41 and rush to shoot enemy tanks. He used to steal an AK gun and freeze himself in a hail of bullets, shooting at the enemy" [4,146]

After fulfilling their responsibility to the nation, they also performed their international duty when they were dispatched to the 16th Regiment to coordinate with the Cambodian revolutionary army to destroy the Phot invaders and save the Cambodian people from the disaster of annihilation. race, for more than four years, living on the land of Siphon next to the Kamelai mountain range, famous for being a sacred forest with poisonous water." [4,121]. Yet those soldiers persevered and endured, "Thang's unit is still struggling here from one campaign to another" [4,122]. The true soldier has fulfilled his noble mission, and that responsibility comes from the love of peace and compassion of the Vietnamese people.

Even after being injured, you don't even remember who you are, but your qualities are always engraved in the soldier's subconscious. Mr. Nguyen Dinh Thuc in the work Those Who Are Not Alone is such a soldier, "His head and face are full of scars, the ladies often call him Uncle Kich scar. Although he was mentally ill, he did not destroy or curse but only worked hard to help, so everyone loved him and gave him food and drink"[4,18].

The heroism of the era is expressed through the soldiers' victories, which have been affirmed and

recognized by the Party and the state through the orders, medals, and certificates of merit that soldiers have received from soldier Tran Van Ngo in his work. Father and son, a soldier who fought for 19 years in the Central Highlands, were awarded 5 medals and 3 badges for bravery against the Americans. Mr. Thang in *The Animal-Colored Child* participated in more than 30 battles, he received a 2nd class Victory medal from his superior unit, a medal for international service... And many other glorious victories. Of soldiers Nguyen Dinh Thuc and Tran Quyet Dinh... From the image of soldiers in Minh Chuyen's work, we have seen a heroic era of the nation associated with soldiers with noble living ideals; brave and resilient fighting spirit; always carrying great responsibility towards the people and country; and responsible implementation of international obligations. Thereby, readers better understand a period of the country's heroic history.

2.2. Tragic era

In war, there is victory but also misfortune and tragedy of loss and sacrifice. In Minh Chuyen's works, especially the collection of Minh Chuyen's Selected Collections (volume 3), Minh Chuyen did not avoid the reality of pain and loss, but let that reality filled with pain and loss be clearly shown. authentic, specific, detailed. Journalist Huynh Dung Nhan commented, "While some writers are still used to writing with happy endings, with praise and criticism, in a roundabout way, avoiding painful realities, Minh Chuyen addresses it with a different attitude. Responsible attitude and a sharp pen" [4,593]. Therefore, the pages filled with realism and emotion have helped readers understand more about the lives and struggles of soldiers in the anti-American resistance war as well as their lives and their families after the war. It is a song full of sadness.

The fierce and fierce reality of war is recreated by Minh Chuyen through images of battlefield scenes including scenes of bombs and bullets, natural landscapes, and human lives torn apart by bombs and bullets. "That day the convoy As soon as we reached the top of Chu Linh slope, enemy planes came and bombarded us. Bomb smoke and red dirt filled the sky. The convoy hit by the bomb stopped, many caught fire, overturned, and plunged into the abyss [4,96]. It seems that terrifying scenes of bombs and bullets like this have become very familiar to soldiers, taking place everywhere on the battlefield in South Vietnam. "Black bombs were launched from airplanes, throwing up dirt and turbid smoke like the color of fire clouds on the forest surface" [4,122] "Planes roared, bombs fell, villages were desolate and trees were bare" [4,155]

Not only using advanced modern weapons, the US and its vassal countries also used chemical weapons on the battlefields of South Vietnam, Laos, and Cambodia. Author Minh Chuyen takes readers around the battlefields through the stories of soldiers to see the brutality of the US and its vassal countries. On the Cambodian battlefield, "American imperialism and reactionary forces did not give up any ambition, including spraying toxic chemicals" [4,121]. "Several times, American planes sprayed toxic chemicals, and all the leaves fell, leaving only dry branches hanging up into the sky. Thang was not hit by any shrapnel or shrapnel, but many times he fainted due to exposure to toxic chemicals"[4,122]. Going to the Laos battlefield, "the forests in Muong Phin, Xieng Khouang and the Plain of Jars... were sprayed with poison by American planes during the war years. Many patches of forest are dead, dry, bare, and the soil is filled with black smoke" [4,136]. In the Vietnam battlefield, "after the bombs dropped on Tien Phuoc base, two American planes rushed in to spread toxic chemicals. A cloud of orange smoke enveloped him. His eyes were stinging, his neck was burning, and his body was reeling and reeling. Then Class fell, his eyes sunk in darkness" [4,155], in the wound without shrapnel, Mr. Mai Van Hoat recounted "The first time... on the afternoon of May 6, 1967, after the battle at Sa Tre base, My unit withdrew to the rear base by the Sa Thay river. As soon as they arrived, enemy planes arrived to spray toxic chemicals. The green forest where the troops were stationed was engulfed in milky white dust. Many brothers in the unit fainted and were stunned. I was seriously infected and had to be in the emergency room for several days before I woke up. A few days later, the forest where we lived turned yellow, and the leaves fell, leaving only bare branches...The second time, at noon on August 9, 1970, we were ambushed on Lai Cho hill in the south of Gia Rai province, the enemy discovered them, and they rushed to fire artillery shells, the hill surface was filled with smoke. At the same time, two American planes rushed in to spray poison to destroy the trees and destroy our forces. At that time, tears filled my eyes, my throat was sore and bitter. A moment later, I collapsed and didn't know anything"[4,179]. Through this, we can see the barbaric massacres of the US and its vassal countries on the battlefield in South Vietnam. "According to data from the US Department of Defense, during the Vietnam War, US troops were deployed in the forest areas. and residential areas in southern Vietnam 72 million liters of herbicides and defoliants. Including 44 million liters of Agent Orange containing extremely toxic Dioxin. In addition to chemicals that kill weeds and plants, to detect and destroy the liberation army. The US also solved 15 different types of chemicals such as the inflammable substance Phosphorus, the asphyxiating agent CS, the nerve agent VX, and the insecticide DDT,...[4,201]. This American massacre was the seed that caused the dioxin poisoning disaster in Vietnam. "The American Academy of Sciences and the World Health Organization have recognized that there are 11 types of diseases caused by dioxin poisoning. dioxins such as cancer, cerebral palsy, tremors, and deformities... based on the map, there are 15 points with very high

dioxin concentrations: A Sau, A Luoi, A So, Bien Hoa... In the Bien Hoa airport area, dioxin concentrations were detected 1,000 times higher than the world's prescribed level for decontamination" [4,203]. Most of the post-war soldiers in Minh Chuyen's work have to bear the consequences of war, especially since they are all victims of the Agent Orange disaster.

The soldier also had to face the cruel torture of imprisonment in the work "He is not alone" according to his comrades: the injured Thuc was taken to the field surgery team for treatment, where they were treated. The enemy ambushed several staff members and 25 wounded soldiers were captured and taken by helicopter to prison in Bien Hoa. Here they injected and treated our wounded soldiers who regained consciousness to exploit and extort information for 7 years [4,46]. In Mr. Thuc's subconscious, both when he was awake and when he was dreaming, he remembered "They took me, they beat me, and they gave me a paper forcing me to declare my hometown" [4,28].

Stationed in the sacred forest and poisonous water, the soldiers also had to endure bouts of wild malaria that tortured their bodies. Through the words of monk Dam Than, the author helped readers feel that reality: "Just finished distributing medicine that day, Than severe malaria, coma, unconsciousness. Covered with two blankets, he was still shaking. Malignant fever is very dangerous, some people only have one attack and they leave this world forever" [4,89].

Any war brings people the loss and sacrifice of many soldiers in Minh Chuyen's memoirs who sacrificed their lives, and were injured, leaving parts of their bodies on the battlefield, including relatives. Deformities can lead to lifelong disabilities. According to Mr. Tran Van Ngo's account in the work "Tears in a Time of Peace" in Quang Minh Commune, there were 926 people who went to war in the resistance war against America, but only more than 100 people returned alive and other 585 people did not return. The soldiers became martyrs, some soldiers lost their lives and their families received death notices, but they were lucky to return to their homeland alive but with lifelong disabilities like Mr. Nguyen Dinh Thuc in "He is not alone". or Mr. Quan in the work "Let's Meet Again in the Temple". "The Army unit attacked a company of puppet soldiers on the slopes of Ba Den mountain. Exposed, the enemy called in planes to bombard and destroy our forces. Many soldiers were hit by bombs and their bodies were broken. The soldier was injured and the wind from the bomb nearly knocked him into a rock crevice, causing him to lose consciousness. Later that night, the unit held a memorial service for the entire platoon, including the Red Army. Waiting for death in a crevice in the rock until the fourth day, the stench of the wound made the foresters stop and search. Following the rotten smell, they traced the grove of trees next to the rock and found Quan barely alive. They carried Quan to Ta Keo village, ran him for medicine, and then handed him over to a nearby treatment team" [4,103]. Also in a similar situation to Mr. Tran Quyet Dinh: "On the night of June 15, 1978, Dinh's unit surrounded and pressed against both flanks of peak 62, a peak in Tan Bien (Tay Ninh) that was attacked by terrorists. Pho Pot invaded and invaded. At dawn the next morning, just after our artillery barrage had ended, from both hillsides, Dinh's unit rushed up to recapture the peak. Phon Pot's soldiers hid in the trenches and rushed up to the resistance point. He was holding the gun while firing and rushing forward when a powerful wind blew, and he fell, only to notice the sky darken" [4,52]. When he woke up, he was in the division's field surgery team. Three days later, he was transferred to the 10th Division's hospital. At the same time, his family received a death notice. He was then transferred for treatment at a higher-level military hospital and was given the policy for wounded and sick soldiers. On September 31, 1979, he returned to his homeland, but it was not until 2007 that he completed the procedure for converting from martyr to invalid to become a living person. Such ironic and rare events can only happen in war. And Mr. Tran Quyet Dinh had to live as a martyr for nearly 30 years.

When the war ended, many healthy soldiers served, demobilized, and returned to their homeland to get married and have children. But Agent Orange - Dioxin penetrated deeply into their bodies, and when they got married and had children, the poison broke out in the soldiers' bodies, especially in the following generations. The pain of Agent Orange is a pain that has left painful hauntings in the hearts of readers. According to statistics from the Vietnam Association of Victims of Agent Orange - Dioxin, 26,000 villages in Vietnam suffered from this disaster and over 4.8 million people died. Vietnamese people are victims of toxic contamination. There are many families with three or four generations sharing the same pain. In his memoir, Minh Chuyen honestly recorded the pain of Agent Orange in the family of soldier Tran Van Ngo in the work "Soldier Father and Son", the family life of Nguyen Van Buu in "Village Tears", that is the tragic scene in Mr. Nguyen Van Thang's family through "Animal-colored child", is the pain in Mr. Lai Van Hang's family with "The Earthly Crib", is the tragedy "Not being human" in a family of soldier Le Van Class... And there are many other families in Thai Binh in particular and in Vietnam in general who are victims of the Agent Orange disaster. The effects of Agent Orange are a type of wound "A wound without shrapnel, without bleeding, but persistent, painful and silently destroying their children's lives for decades" [4,172].

In war, the achievements of each soldier contribute to the victory of the entire nation. The victory of the resistance war against America was a glorious victory for the Vietnamese people. The soldiers in Minh Chuyen's

memoirs contributed in their small way to creating the heroic beauty of the Ho Chi Minh era. But the dark side of war is loss and pain. When the war ends, it seems like a triumphant victory surrounds the soldiers. But otherwise, they have to face pain and suffer the consequences of the legacy of war. Minh Chuyen's memoirs truthfully recorded the lives of soldiers and their families after the war. Through Minh Chuyen's selected collection (volume 3), we will have a multi-dimensional view of war, to always sympathize, understand, and share the pain of the soldiers and their families who are suffering. Since then, we have become even more appreciative of the silent sacrifices of the soldiers in the resistance war against the US, along with their fighting to demand that US chemical companies compensate the victims of the Agent Orange-Dioxin disaster in Vietnam. Vietnam. I think that's what the selected Minh Chuyen Anthology (Volume 3) wants to spread to readers.

3. Conclusion

Poet Huu Thinh's assessment of writer Minh Chuyen: "With tireless efforts, writer Minh Chuyen, among the very few writers, pursued a very urgent topic, which is writing about the post-Vietnam war. Male. Under the influence of his pen, Minh Chuyen protected and honored the silent victories of the anonymous and famous heroic soldiers who sacrificed their lives for the cause of national liberation. Writer Minh Chuyen's pen from the beginning had a great impact on the literature-loving public, and was an important contribution to promoting and teaching our people's patriotism and love for the Fatherland." It is worth considering Minh Chuyen's literary career in association with the memoirs of Minh Chuyen's Selected Collection (volume 3).

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