

**A Critical Study of Selected Trench Poems by Wilfred Owen, Siegfried  
Sassoon, and Mikhail Naimy**

By

**Salsabeel Jihad Hassan Abu Zalata**

Supervisor

**Prof. Ibrahim M. Abu Shihab**

**Al-Zaytoonah University of Jordan, 2023**

**Abstract**

The First World War (WWI) or “The Great War” was a traumatic global conflict that began on 28th July 1914 and ended on 11th November 1918. Following the indicated war, there were radical cultural, economic, political and social changes. In fact, these changes created a new literary genre called “Trench Poetry”. This literary genre was inspired by the poets soldiers` daily life on the front, with ensues of interacting with horrifying scenes. Many trench poets who emerged during the 1960s shed light on several issues concerning the First World War (WWI). Since that time, they focused on the horror of war, tragedy, suffering, and traumatic experience of war poets in the trenches. This study discusses the anti-war poets such as Mikhail Niamey, Siegfried Sassoon, and Wilfred Owen, who wrote their poems depending on their real-life experience of the global tragedy. In fact, they acted as key players, and shifted their attitudes from being war poets, and have conveyed their extremely risky lives through descriptive poems to anti-war ones.

The aim of this study is to investigate the suffering, rebellion, honor, and heroism in the trenches and the consequences of the First World War (WWI) through the lenses of the soldiers themselves by using a selection of the most prominent poems of the period such as Siegfried Sassoon's "The Poet as Hero", (1916), "Suicide in the Trenches", (1918), and "The Last Meeting", (1916), Wilfred Owen's "Arms and the Boy", (1918), "Futility", (1918), "Anthem for Doomed Youth", (1917), and "Dulce et Decorum Est" (1920), and Mikhail Niamey's "My Brother", (1917). Additionally, it investigates as to whether wars serve most people or only special people where many people are victims of these wars. The study also focuses on the attitudes of civilians towards the war.

**Keywords:** Anti-war poems, Mikhail Niamey, Siegfried Sassoon, Trench poetry, Wilfred Owen.