

## The voice in “Anne Frank's diary” and “Hélène berr's diary”

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**ABSTRACT** : “Anne Frank's diary” and “Hélène Berr's diary” are personal diaries that capture the attention of readers around the world. The Diary of Anne Frank is a Jewish girl's view of events that happened around her during the more than two years of German occupation (World War II). Anne Frank is a symbol of the desire to live, of the love of freedom, of peace, against war, genocide, violence, injustice, and discrimination. The Diary of Hélène Berr is a 22-year-old French girl's look at life in occupied Paris. The diary is also a touching story of a heroic young woman, indomitable in the face of prejudice and war. Understanding the narrative tone of these two diaries has practical significance in approaching literary works in the general form of writing, and at the same time, we also have contrasting eyes in understanding the tone of the two authors. products on the same topic.

**Keywords** -Anne Frank's diary, Hélène Berr's diary, voice, Jewish girl's

### I. INTRODUCTION

Tran Dinh Su affirmed that “Tone is a characteristic element of the author's image in the work. If in life we often only hear voices to recognize people, then it is the same in literature. Tone helps us to find the author, the tone here is not simply a sound signal with a specific timbre to recognize the speaker, but a tone that carries the content, emotions, attitudes, and behavior. before the phenomena of life”.

“Anne Frank's diary” and “Hélène Berr's diary” are personal diaries that capture the attention of readers around the world. The Diary of Anne Frank is a Jewish girl's view of events that happened around her during the more than two years of German occupation (World War II). Anne Frank is a symbol of the desire to live, of the love of freedom, of peace, against war, genocide, violence, injustice, and discrimination. The Diary of Hélène Berr is a 22-year-old French girl's look at life in occupied Paris. The diary is also a touching story of a heroic young woman, indomitable in the face of prejudice and war.

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### II. CONTENT

#### 1. Anne Frank's diary - naturalness in voice

The diary's distinguishing feature is that it is written specifically for oneself, so the words are written in a very free manner, free of outside influence. Writers can freely express their feelings and opinions on current events, as well as discuss and express their attitudes on personal issues. This linguistic feature is fully converged in Anne Frank's diary. Because these diary lines belong to the individual, Anne expresses herself and writes in a very simple, free, and close to everyday language. These are diary pages written about the difficult life with contradictions of 8 people while hiding in a secret house, lines of self-dialogue with themselves, pointing out their shortcomings and hoping to change. “Anne” to express her thoughts and views. “Three months ago who would have guessed that restless Anne would have to sit quietly for hours on end, and what's more, she would be able to do it?” [p.70]. “Oh my, my list of sins has another entry” [p.130]. “Yesterday, people kept talking about my eyes because my mother urged me to go get an eye exam with Mrs. Kleiman” [p.144]. “And so he brought up the myth, knitting. And little Anne was humiliated again. However, I didn't show my emotions and let Mr. Dussel do the talking” [p.147]. “Mr. Dussel's position is getting lower and lower on my ladder of esteem,

and now he is negative” [p.158]... There are passages where Anne comments on her own strong, optimistic self in a very natural tone: “My advice is: ‘Go out, into the country, enjoy the sun and the whole thing. what nature offers. Go out and try to rekindle your happiness; think of all that is beautiful in us and in everything around us to feel happy’ [...] beauty remains, even in unfortunate circumstances. If we keep looking for it, we will discover more happiness and regain balance. A happy person will make others happy; a man of courage and faith will never die in pain” [p. 277-278]. Or “I’m young and have a lot of potentials; I’m young, healthy, and have had a great adventure. I’m in the middle of that adventure so I can’t complain all day that I haven’t had any fun! I have many lucky things: happiness, a cheerful disposition, and strength. I feel I am growing up day by day, I feel that the day of freedom is coming, and I feel the beauty of nature and the goodness of the people around me. Every day I think about how exciting this adventure is! With all of that, why should I be disappointed?” [p.366]; “Honestly, not a lie: when I look up at the sky, the clouds, the moon, and the stars, I feel truly serene and full of hope. It is better medicine than valerian root and bromide. Nature makes me feel more humble and ready to face all calamities bravely! Fortunately, I could only watch nature - except on rare occasions - through the dusty curtains on the dusty windows, and all the excitement vanished. Nature is something that cannot be replaced!” [p.412]. Or Anne’s angry words when people scolded her: “They criticize everything, and I mean everything about me: my behavior, my manners, my character; Every inch of my body, from head to toe and back again, is the subject of gossip and discussion. Unpleasant words and scoldings kept pouring down my head, even though I wasn’t used to hearing them at all. According to those authorities, I have to smile and endure. But I can’t stand it! I didn’t mean to suck on a sweet soap like that. I’ll show them Anne Frank isn’t a newborn baby. They’ll have to raise their ears when I prove to them that they need to pay attention to their behavior, not mine. How dare they behave like that! Extremely brutal. I am amazed again and again at such rudeness and above all... such stupidity (by Mrs. van Daan). But as soon as I get used to the thought, and it shouldn’t take too long, I’ll take the poison and give them a taste, then they’ll have to change their voices! Am I really that bad-behaved, stubborn, unruly, boastful, stupid, lazy, etc. like the van Daan family said? No, of course not. I know I have my flaws and flaws, but they exaggerate it all! If only you knew how angry I got when they scolded and mocked me, Kitty. It won’t be long before the pent-up anger in my heart will explode” [..., pp.64-65]; “This morning I had to get another rain of curses. Grumpy words like “how bad Anne” and “how nice the van Daan is” rang out like thunder, so much so that my ears were ringing. It is hell!” [p.118]...

There were times when Anne questioned herself: “I hid in myself, thought of myself without regard for anyone else, and calmly wrote down all my joys, ironies, and sorrows in it. his diary. Since this diary has become a kind of memory keeper, it means a lot to me...I’m angry at my mother (still angry at times). It’s true that she doesn’t understand me, but I don’t understand her either. Because she loved me, she was gentle and affectionate, but it was only because of the difficult situations that I pushed her into, and the sad situations she found herself in, that she became stressed and irritated. She’s so obnoxious, so I can understand why she’s often grumpy with me. I get annoyed by that, let my stomach and then be insolent and misbehave with my mother. These things make me sad. My mother and I fell into the vicious cycle of misunderstanding and sadness” [p.209]. Anne sees two people in herself: An innocent, cheerful Anne and a deep, lonely Anne: “It’s funny, but sometimes I can see myself the way other people do. ...” [p.221]. “That’s all I am: a flirt, charismatic, and interesting.” [p.274]. “That Anne Frank, in my flashback, was a cute, interesting girl” [p.274]. “I am my own best and most demanding critic” [p.327].

Or the diary pages where Anne innocently talks about her teenage feelings: "Perhaps you will be a bit surprised to hear me talking about fans at such a young age. Unfortunately, or fortunately, depending on the case, this game has spread throughout my school. As soon as a boy asked if he could ride his bike home with me and we started talking, I was ten in ten sure that he would be hit by a lightning bolt of love and wouldn't leave. your eyes away from me for a second." [p.22]. "Mom always asks me who I'm going to marry when I grow up, but I bet she'll never guess it's Peter because I convinced her to forget the thought, without blinking once. I've never loved anyone like I love Peter and I told myself that he hung out with all the other girls just to hide his feelings for me." [p.30]. "When I was a little girl in kindergarten, I liked Sally Kimmel. His father died early, and he and his mother lived with an uncle.....For a long time, we went everywhere together, but my love was not reciprocated until Peter appeared. . I'm dead tired of you. He likes me, too, and we've been stuck together all summer. I still remember how we walked hand in hand in my block, Peter was wearing a white cotton vest and I was wearing a summer mini skirt...Peter was the ideal guy: tall, handsome and slim, with a serious, calm, and intelligent face. He has black hair, beautiful brown eyes, rosy cheeks, and a cute pointed nose. I'm crazy about his smile. It makes you look manly and sly...I love you so much that I don't want to face the truth...The years have gone by. Peter hangs out with girls his age and doesn't bother to say hello to me. I started going to the Lyceum Jewish school, and some boys in my class liked me. I quite like it and feel proud when they notice but that's it. Later, Hello fell in love with me, but I told you, I can never love anyone again" [pp.217-218]. "Oh, if only I could rest my head on his shoulder and not feel so desperately lonely and abandoned! Who knows, maybe

he doesn't care about me and also looks at others with such gentle eyes. Maybe I imagined that those eyes were only for me. Oh, Peter, if only I could hear or see you." [p.255].

The natural tone helped Anne express all her feelings and emotions.

## 2. **Hélène Berr's diary – the interweaving of many voices**

In the pages of "Hélène Berr's diary", we find the writer's philosophically reflective tone. Philosophical reflection is the expression of philosophical generalizations about a certain issue or phenomenon of social life or the human realm. In the diary, the writer sometimes expresses the tone of philosophical reflection. The tone of philosophical thinking shows the diary writer's contemplations and philosophical thoughts, proving the author's insight into life and people. Some philosophies are sharp, but there are philosophies that are not so sharp, but they are still contemplative, contemplative contemplations that are equally valid, and worthy of respect because it is "grand" out from the author's own life experiences. Depending on the way of looking at life with different eyes, each diary writer expresses different philosophies about life and people. Turning through the pages of "Hélène Berr's diary", we see philosophies about life and people: "In me, there are two parallel emotions, although they are very different: The first emotion is the feeling of cowardice when leaving, the cowardice imposed on the family, the cowardice of other incarcerated people and also the poor and unhappy; and the second emotion is the sacrifice of the joy of fighting, the sacrifice of happiness because, in addition to this pride, there is also the compensation of friendship and the community in combat. I am in between two points of view: For me, leaving is not cowardly, because it is a great sacrifice and I will still suffer there, but I cannot force other people to think like me. To others, it is cowardice" [p.102]. "There is certainly a beautiful, happy life elsewhere on this planet and for the future; As for me, if I live, it's definitely for other people. But the sense of life will never fade, and in any case, the evil nature of man, when awakened, becomes cruel and powerful." [p.295]. "The terrible machine spins and spins and snaps non-stop. Its claws take over sometimes strangers, sometimes close ones, and create a tangled world full of pain and anxiety" [p.293]. "What a ruin! The victory of evil over good, evil over beauty, strength over harmony, material over spirit" [p.300].

Besides, through the survey, we also found that in the "Hélène Berr's diary", the tone of optimism and confidence told herself to overcome sadness and loneliness to cheer herself up: "The evening has not yet passed. end. The story of the concentration camps returns to the whole family. As usual, during those times, we mixed laughter with sadness by saying jokes to forget that scary kite" [p.105]. "So I need to write so that later people can know how this era has turned out. I know that a lot of people have bigger things to say, more terrible things to say. I think of all those imprisoned, those who die in prison, and those who will become experimental subjects in exile. But all that does not discourage me, each person in his little world can do something. If they could, they would have to." [p.185]. "From the bottom of my heart, I have always wanted to give my life to others – to my classmates or other friends!" [p.202]. "Right now, I'm not afraid of death, because I think that when I'm in front, I won't think anymore. I will know how to bring back the meaning of what I have lost because I know how to forget what I want [...]. I don't want to think of death as a personification like the death of the Durer family, of the Middle Ages, or the death of Axel Munthe. Death must not be thought of as a separate entity but as an expression of divine power" [p.218-219]. Thereby seeing a person full of energy live, a beautiful and intelligent student of Sorbonne University is not sentimental and weak, but in her person is full of the intense desire of youth with a heart full of enthusiasm. She knows that life at this stage is full of dangers, and death is always lurking, but people still do not back down, but on the contrary, are very optimistic. When hundreds of thousands of people tried to flee, she remained in Paris to devote herself to helping other Jews, she volunteered for social assistance, serving people incarcerated in the prison, especially children whose parents were arrested. Hélène Berr regularly took care of the children, took them for walks, and when they were sick, she took them to the Children's Medical Center. She feels confident in the face of pain and unhappiness with the strength of courage and optimism.

"Hélène Berr's diary" was born under very special circumstances: life in occupied Paris. The arrival of the Nazis turned the lives of Hélène Berr's family and all the Jews upside down had to flee, be taken to concentration camps exclusively for Jews, and be brutally murdered. It was a time of grief and sadness hidden under the golden star badge that every Jew was required to wear. War has taken away human happiness. The bones and blood of so many Jews were shed by the cruel hand of the enemy. Even Hélène Berr herself is always facing danger, the line between life and death is thin. In particular, she always had a premonition that her death could happen. Then what will be left for my life, for my family when I have to leave, only these diary lines. Those are the last memorabilia that Hélène Berr left to her fiancé. Therefore, the tone in the diary is painful, sincere, and repressed voice. The words in the diary are words of a sincere and earnest heart. Therefore, the diary always evokes many strong vibrations and emotions in the reader. It always haunts the reader and arouses in the reader many deep emotions and feelings. Many times in her diary, Hélène Berr had to utter painful, heartbreaking words: "Death is everywhere in the world. For those killed in the war, it is said that they are heroes. Why do they die? Those on the other front think they also die for that reason when life itself has so much value" [p.219]. "It's brutal! Death comes pouring in from every direction, it is this race that is opposed by

the whole world that blindly spreads death and everyone does not accept their dominant racial views.” [p.279]. Ethics and respect for people disappear quickly when a few limits are crossed! With a single jump, one can return to the stage of being an animal. The Nazis have long since returned to this stage. They play with pistols, with death like a handkerchief” [p.271-272]. Living in the middle of the occupied capital of Paris, witnessing so much pain, loss, persecution, and massacre of her friends, the Jewish people, H el ene could not help but feel grief and pain. Those pains are visible on each page of the diary: "I still have a wave of not hatred in me, because I don't know hatred but anger, nausea, and contempt. People who do not understand that they have taken away the joy of living in Europe” [p.212]. The questions continued to flow like indignation: “13 people - both parents and children - what are they going to do with these children? If they take them away to put them to work, what are the children used for? Is it true that they leave the children in Germany's public health service? The other workers that they brought to Germany, did not allow them to bring their wives and children. The unbearable monstrosity, the terrible absurdity” [p.305]. She lamented when she thought of the future, feeling that she lived hour by hour, not week by week: “I think about history, about the future. When will we all die? Life is too short, too precious. And now, around me, life is wasted sinfully and uselessly, so what should I rely on? Everything becomes meaningless when we have to face death every second of every minute” [p.193].

### III. CONCLUSION

Voice is one of the important factors that help readers grasp the writer's attitude and feelings towards the things and phenomena described in the work. With two prominent voices in the two diaries, natural tone, and multi-tone complexity, the work has partly expressed the desire to live, the love of freedom, peace, and resistance to war and extinction. race, violence, and racism. Two diaries in two cultures are also the most effective way to fight forgetfulness, to purify people's souls and communities.

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