**Eavan Boland: “The Harbour” and “A Habitable Grief”**

Both poems have the same theme but from different fields. In “The Habour”, there are two sides: the Irish side that is represented by “the builders of the harbour” and the invaders represented by “builders of a nation”. Both sides co-exist together, even though one is imposed “They came and cut a shape out of ocean”. Then, in “A Habitable Grief”, there is a person confused with his/her identity, as he was “a child in a strange country”. He/She no longer feel home, as he/she was not in his country, he/she was forced to learn a new language.

In both poems, the mayor feeling is the pain of loosing their identity, their language, their land… “hurst just enough to be a scar and heals just enough to be a nation”. Also, in both poems, both are, in a way, contributing to the English imperial project.

Therefore, both poems can be divided in 2 parts. In the case of “The Harbour” the first part would be from line 1 to line 20, as it talks about the creation of the harbour with the different opinions from “invaders” and the “citizens”. The other part is about the colonial past and how the empire decadence: “and ready to record its contradiction”.

In the case of “A Habitable Grief”, the first part would be from line 1 to line 9, where is given the information about the language from the lost land and the other. The second part would be from line 10 to the end, which talks about the transformation “a turn of speech” of the society because of the language even though it hurts.

On both poems imagery is present. In “A Habitable Grief” the principle one is “the scar”, making a referring to the reminder of what happened, and the other poem, the harbour that cut a shape out of ocean, is also going to be a reminder of what have happened.

Also, there are some repetitions on both poems. In “The Harbour”, lines 5 and 6 both start with “Lord”, in order to mark both sides. Also, on the other poem, the repetition of “I was” on lines 2 and 3, represent also both sides, both parts: “I was Irish in England”.

In both poems there is alliteration, in “A Habitable Grief” is “Lost land”, that is probably to understand that “lost land makes a reference to the loss of the Irish identity. And, in “The Harbour”, “rising and rising” the repetition of the “r” and the “s” gives the feeling of expanding, an clarifies that means the increasement of the English authority.