BG Pulse Journal USA
ISSN:1947-2536 http://www.bgpulseusa.com/index.php/bg

# MYTHOLOGCAL CHARACTERS N ENGLSH AND UZBEK LTERATUREA COMPARATVE ANALYSS

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**Abstract**

Mifologiya millatning madaniy merosining ajralmas qismi bo‘lib, u xalqning jamoaviy xotirasi, qadriyatlari va dunyoqarashini o‘zida mujassam etadi. Adabiyotda mifologik qahramonlar kuchli ramzlar sifatida xizmat qiladi, qadimiy an’analar bilan zamonaviy hikoyalarni bog‘lab, qahramonlik, axloq, yaxshilik va yomonlik o‘rtasidagi kurash kabi umuminsoniy mavzularni yoritadi. Both English and Uzbek literatures possess rich mythological traditions that not only preserve the past but also shape the literary consciousness and cultural identity of their societies.

This article provides a comparative analysis of mythological characters in English and Uzbek literature. By examining their origins, development, and characteristics, the study aims to understand how different cultural and historical factors shape heroes, magical beings, and other archetypal figures. The research reveals both similarities and differences between the two literary traditions.

**Keywords.** Mythology, English literature, Uzbek literature, comparative analysis, mythological characters, cultural heritage, Arthurian legends, Alpamish, heroism, magical beings, symbolism, dualism, narrative analysis, folklore, intercultural studies.

**Annotation**

Mythology is an integral part of a nation’s cultural heritage, embodying its collective memory, values, and worldview. In literature, mythological characters function as powerful symbols, linking ancient traditions with modern narratives and illuminating universal themes such as heroism, morality, and the struggle between good and evil. Both English and Uzbek literatures possess rich mythological traditions that not only preserve the past but also shape the literary consciousness and cultural identity of their societies.

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English mythology is a complex system that emerged from the confluence of Celtic, Scandinavian, and Christian traditions. Its development was shaped by the interaction of local beliefs and external influences.

**1.1. Celtic Roots and Early Traditions.** The earliest layers of English mythology trace back to the Celtic peoples who inhabited the British Isles before the Roman conquest. These myths are connected to nature worship, the cycle of life and death, and the magical qualities of the natural world. A deep bond between humans and nature is reflected [1,44].

**1.2. Scandinavian and Norman Influence.** With the arrival of the Scandinavians and later the Normans, English mythology was enriched with new meaning. Themes of courage, fate, and cosmic struggle emerged. This process stimulated the development of chivalric ideals and heroic narratives.

**1.3. The Arthurian Cycle.** The legends of King Arthur and the Knights of the Round Table have become symbols of justice and courage. This tradition combines Celtic magic, Scandinavian heroism, and Christian morality. The figure of Merlin represents the union of magic and wisdom, serving as a bridge between the human and supernatural worlds [2,56].

**1.4. Magical Beings and Dualism.** English mythology features many beings such as fairies, elves, and spirits. They are capable of both good and evil. This expresses the idea of balance in life.

**1.5. Literary Interpretation and Heritage.** Over the centuries, English literature has continued to reinterpret these figures. They embody humanity's striving for self-understanding, justice, and moral elevation.

Uzbek literary mythology is composed of a harmonious blend of Turkic, Persian, and Islamic influences. It reflects both the nomadic and settled cultures of Central Asia [3,6].

**2.1. Turkic Roots.** The foundation of Uzbek mythology traces back to the ancient Turkic cultural heritage. This heritage is characterized by deep reverence for nature, animistic beliefs, and shamanic practices. Because the nomadic lifestyle of early Turkic tribes was closely intertwined with the natural environment, they conceived of the world as a place inhabited by spirits and deities responsible for various natural phenomena. This belief system gave rise to myths glorifying the harmonious relationship between humans and nature. In it, mountains, rivers, and celestial bodies were regarded not as mere natural objects, but as sacred symbols imbued with life and power [4,80].

These early traditions emphasized the cyclical nature of life, the importance of ancestral wisdom, and belief in a mysterious force uniting all elements of the cosmos. Such ideas are vividly manifested in epic traditions passed down orally from generation to generation, forming the foundation of Uzbek mythological narratives.

**2.2. Persian and Islamic Influence.** As Central Asia became a crossroads of diverse cultures, the region's mythological landscape deeply absorbed Persian and Islamic influences. The high artistic and poetic traditions of Persian literature introduced new narrative forms and symbolic structures into Uzbek mythology. Persian epics depicting heroism, love, and tragedy in a complex manner enriched local storytelling traditions and contributed to the formation of a more developed mythopoetic system [5,40].

The advent of Islam further transformed the mythological worldview. Sufism (mysticism) in particular left a deep imprint on Uzbek literature. Sufi poets and scholars imbued traditional myths with symbolic (allegorical) meanings, illuminating profound spiritual truths and moral questions through mythological plots. The synthesis of Islamic doctrine with pre-Islamic Turkic beliefs gave rise to a distinctive form of mythological expression. This expression often reflects ideas of seeking divine truth, inner purification, and the eternal struggle between worldly desires and spiritual ascent.

**2.3. Key Characters.** Uzbek mythology is rich in legendary heroes and figures portrayed as extraordinary beings, whose deeds have been immortalized in epic poems and folk oral tradition. One of the most celebrated heroes is Alpamish, whose adventures and battles against great trials embody ideals such as courage, loyalty, and honor. His story has been passed down orally through

generations over centuries, reflecting not only the virtues cherished by Turkic peoples but also the experience of historical struggles and migrations in Central Asia [6,44].

Another notable figure is the mystical hero associated with the archetype of the wise guide or protector. Such figures are sometimes depicted in alignment with the Islamic concept of the saint or wali. They appear as intermediaries between humans and the divine realm, serving as moral exemplars and custodians of ancient wisdom. They also guide people along the path of spiritual growth and moral elevation.

**2.4. Magical Beings.** Beyond heroic figures, Uzbek mythology also features a wide range of magical beings and supernatural characters that embody the region's rich symbolic traditions. Nature spirits — beings imagined to dwell in rivers, deserts, and mountains — are often depicted as both protective and dangerous forces. These figures express the unpredictable power of nature and the dual nature of existence, which is a key aspect of Central Asian mythological thinking [7,156].

The struggle between good and evil, order and chaos, is a recurring central theme in these narratives. As in English mythology, the presence of supernatural elements here also demonstrates that the material world is inextricably connected to a hidden, metaphysical realm. This dualism is not only a literary device but a reflection of a cultural worldview that sees life as a delicate balance between opposing forces.

**2.5. Development and Continuity.** Over time, Uzbekistan's mythological traditions evolved, adapting to the social, political, and religious changes that occurred in the region. Although contemporary Uzbek literature reinterprets these ancient myths from the perspective of modern concerns, core themes such as heroism, spiritual quest, and connection with nature have retained their relevance. Contemporary writers and poets frequently draw from the source of mythological imagery to illuminate issues of modern identity, social justice, and the preservation of cultural heritage in the age of globalization [8,203].

This section has examined the origins and distinctive characteristics of Uzbek mythology, and has demonstrated the interplay between ancient Turkic traditions, the influence of Persian literature, and Islamic thought. The following section of the article will provide a comparative analysis of key mythological characters in English and Uzbek literature, examining similarities and differences in their symbolic meanings, narrative roles, and cultural significance.

Both traditions acknowledge the perpetual presence of good and evil. However, in English literature this struggle is depicted more in terms of clear opposition and heroic spirit, typically resolved through courage and sacrifice. In Uzbek mythology, by contrast, moral conflicts are resolved through harmonizing opposing forces and achieving balance. This approach reflects a distinctive cultural conception of the cosmos, in which dualities are accepted as an inseparable part of the natural order.

**Comparative Analysis.** Both literatures feature the presence of good and evil, but while in English literature this is presented in more oppositional terms, Uzbek mythology places emphasis on balance.

Both traditions feature archetypal heroes:

- Arthur – the ideal king
- Alpamish – the hero in harmony with nature [9, 10]

Magical beings are also depicted in both literatures as forces influencing human destiny. Along with similarities, there are also differences between English and Uzbek mythology. They reflect different cultural and historical conditions. While the English tradition emphasizes individual heroism, the Uzbek tradition regards harmony with nature as paramount. In general, mythological narratives reflect humanity's striving for self-understanding, justice, and moral

elevation. They have not lost their significance today and continue to serve as a source of inspiration for future generations.

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