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THE REPRESENTATION OF SPIRITUAL AND MORAL PROBLEMS IN 20TH-CENTURY UZBEK PROSE

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Abstract

The twentieth century occupies a unique place in the history of Uzbek literature because it was a period of radical political, cultural, and ideological transformation. One of the most significant themes explored in twentieth-century Uzbek prose was the issue of spiritual and moral crisis. Uzbek writers used literature as a means of protecting national identity, preserving ethical values, criticizing injustice, and exploring the inner world of individuals experiencing moral conflict.

This article examines the representation of spiritual and moral problems in twentieth-century Uzbek prose through the works of major writers such as Abdulla Qodiriy, Cho‘lpon, Oybek, Abdulla Qahhor, and O‘tkir Hoshimov. The study analyzes how these writers depicted conscience, justice, human dignity, patriotism, family values, oppression, corruption, and spiritual decline within society. Special attention is given to the influence of historical circumstances, including colonial policy, Soviet ideology, political repression, and modernization.

The research applies literary analysis, comparative methodology, and historical interpretation to identify the artistic mechanisms through which moral and spiritual problems were represented. The findings reveal that twentieth-century Uzbek prose served not only as artistic expression but also as a form of social criticism and moral education.

Keywords: Uzbek prose, spirituality, morality, ethical conflict, national identity, Soviet literature, psychological realism, humanism, Uzbek writers, literary criticism.

XX ASR O‘ZBEK NASRIDA MA’NAVIY VA AXLOQIY MUAMMOLARNING TASVIRI

Annotatsiya

XX asr o‘zbek adabiyoti tarixida o‘ziga xos davr hisoblanadi, chunki bu davr keskin siyosiy, madaniy va mafkuraviy o‘zgarishlar bilan xarakterlanadi. XX asr o‘zbek nasrida yoritilgan eng muhim mavzulardan biri ma’naviy va axloqiy inqiroz masalasidir. O‘zbek yozuvchilari adabiyotdan milliy o‘zlikni himoya qilish, axloqiy qadriyatlarni saqlash, adolatsizlikni tanqid qilish hamda ma’naviy ziddiyatlarni boshdan kechirayotgan insonning ichki dunyosini tasvirlash vositasi sifatida foydalandilar.

Mazkur maqolada Abdulla Qodiriy, Cho‘lpon, Oybek, Abdulla Qahhor va O‘tkir Hoshimov kabi yirik adiblar ijodi misolida XX asr o‘zbek nasrida ma’naviy va axloqiy muammolarning tasviri tahlil qilinadi. Tadqiqot davomida ushbu yozuvchilarning vijdon, adolat, inson qadr-qimmati, vatanparvarlik, oilaviy qadriyatlar, zulm, korrupsiya va jamiyatdagi ma’naviy tanazzul kabi masalalarni qanday yoritganiga e’tibor qaratiladi. Shuningdek, mustamlakachilik siyosati, sovet mafkurasi, siyosiy qatag‘on va modernizatsiya jarayonlarining adabiyotga ta’siri ham alohida ko‘rib chiqiladi.

Tadqiqotda badiiy tahlil, qiyosiy metod va tarixiy talqin usullaridan foydalanilib, ma’naviy va axloqiy muammolarning badiiy ifoda mexanizmlari aniqlanadi. Natijalar shuni ko‘rsatadiki, XX asr o‘zbek nasri nafaqat badiiy ifoda vositasi, balki ijtimoiy tanqid va axloqiy tarbiya vositasi sifatida ham muhim ahamiyat kasb etgan.

Kalit so‘zlar: o‘zbek nasri, ma’naviyat, axloq, axloqiy ziddiyat, milliy o‘zlik, sovet adabiyoti, psixologik realizm, insonparvarlik, o‘zbek yozuvchilari, adabiy tanqid.

ИЗОБРАЖЕНИЕ ДУХОВНЫХ И НРАВСТВЕННЫХ ПРОБЛЕМ В УЗБЕКСКОЙ ПРОЗЕ XX ВЕКА

Аннотация

XX век занимает особое место в истории узбекской литературы, поскольку этот период характеризовался радикальными политическими, культурными и идеологическими преобразованиями. Одной из важнейших тем, отражённых в узбекской прозе XX века, стала проблема духовного и нравственного кризиса. Узбекские писатели использовали литературу как средство защиты национальной идентичности, сохранения нравственных ценностей, критики несправедливости и раскрытия внутреннего мира человека, переживающего моральный конфликт.

В данной статье рассматривается изображение духовных и нравственных проблем в узбекской прозе XX века на примере творчества таких выдающихся писателей, как Абдулла Кадыри, Чулпан, Ойбек, Абдулла Каххар и Уткир Хашимов. В исследовании анализируется, каким образом эти писатели отражали вопросы совести, справедливости, человеческого достоинства, патриотизма, семейных ценностей, угнетения, коррупции и духовного упадка общества. Особое внимание уделяется влиянию исторических обстоятельств, включая колониальную политику, советскую идеологию, политические репрессии и процессы модернизации.

В исследовании применяются методы литературного анализа, сравнительного исследования и исторической интерпретации с целью выявления художественных механизмов изображения духовных и нравственных проблем. Результаты показывают, что узбекская проза XX века служила не только формой художественного выражения, но и средством социальной критики и нравственного воспитания.

Ключевые слова: узбекская проза, духовность, нравственность, нравственный конфликт, национальная идентичность, советская литература, психологический реализм, гуманизм, узбекские писатели, литературная критика.

INTRODUCTION

Literature reflects the spiritual atmosphere of society and reveals the moral condition of humanity. Throughout history, literary works have addressed issues such as justice, honesty, compassion, freedom, and human dignity. In Uzbek literature, especially twentieth-century prose, spiritual and moral problems became central artistic themes because society itself experienced dramatic historical transformations.

The twentieth century was a difficult and contradictory period for the Uzbek people. Colonial domination, Soviet political ideology, repression against intellectuals, collectivization, urbanization, and cultural modernization changed both social structures and individual consciousness. Writers witnessed the destruction of traditional lifestyles, the weakening of moral values, and the emergence of new ideological conflicts. Consequently, Uzbek prose became deeply concerned with questions of identity, conscience, spirituality, and ethical responsibility.

Uzbek prose writers portrayed not only external social realities but also the psychological suffering of individuals facing moral dilemmas. They explored conflicts between tradition and modernity, materialism and spirituality, personal happiness and social duty. Literary characters often symbolized the struggle of the nation itself, attempting to preserve humanity and dignity in oppressive conditions.

At the same time, twentieth-century Uzbek prose reflected universal human concerns. The moral questions raised by Uzbek writers transcend national borders because they address timeless themes such as freedom, conscience, oppression, and the search for meaning in life. Therefore, the study of spiritual and moral problems in Uzbek prose contributes not only to Uzbek literary scholarship but also to world literature studies.

This article aims to analyze the representation of spiritual and moral problems in twentieth-century Uzbek prose and to identify the artistic methods through which writers expressed ethical concerns. The study also examines how historical conditions influenced literary representations of morality and spirituality.

Literature Review

The development of Uzbek prose in the twentieth century has attracted significant scholarly attention. Researchers have examined literary realism, Jadid enlightenment ideology, Soviet influence, national identity, and psychological narration. However, spiritual and moral problems as a separate literary phenomenon require more comprehensive analysis.

Scholars studying Abdulla Qodiriy emphasize his role in introducing realism and psychological depth into Uzbek prose. His novels are considered important examples of social criticism and national awakening. Literary critics note that Qodiriy's characters often represent moral ideals struggling against ignorance and corruption.

Studies devoted to Cho'lpon focus on freedom, individual consciousness, and spiritual tragedy. Researchers argue that Cho'lpon portrayed the psychological consequences of political oppression and cultural decline. His prose is recognized for its philosophical reflections on liberty and human dignity.

The works of Oybek are frequently analyzed from the perspective of humanism and patriotism. Scholars point out that Oybek attempted to combine socialist ideals with national ethical traditions, creating literary works centered on moral responsibility and social justice.

Modern researchers also recognize the importance of O'tkir Hoshimov in depicting family relationships and everyday morality. His prose explores compassion, kindness, and spiritual loneliness in modern society.

Despite numerous studies on Uzbek prose, there remains a lack of systematic analysis focused specifically on spiritual and moral conflicts. This article seeks to fill that gap by examining morality and spirituality as central literary categories in twentieth-century Uzbek prose.

METHODOLOGY

This study employs several methodological approaches:

1. Literary-Analytical Method. The selected literary texts are analyzed in terms of themes, character development, symbolism, and artistic language. Particular attention is given to moral conflicts and psychological representation.

2. Comparative Method. The article compares different writers and literary periods in order to identify similarities and differences in the portrayal of spiritual and ethical issues.

3. Historical Approach. The research examines the relationship between literature and historical context, including colonial influence, Soviet ideology, and political repression.

4. Psychological Analysis. Special focus is placed on the inner experiences of literary characters, including conscience, guilt, fear, hope, and moral suffering.

The primary sources include novels, stories, and essays written by major Uzbek prose writers of the twentieth century.

Political repression during the 1930s created an atmosphere of fear and censorship. Many intellectuals, including Cho‘lpon and Abdulla Qodiriy, became victims of repression. Consequently, themes of silence, fear, spiritual suffering, and lost freedom appeared frequently in Uzbek prose.

During the later Soviet period, writers increasingly focused on everyday morality, family relationships, and spiritual emptiness caused by materialism and bureaucracy. This transition expanded the thematic range of Uzbek prose and strengthened psychological realism.

The prose of O‘tkir Hoshimov focuses on ordinary life and human relationships. His literary world is built upon kindness, sincerity, compassion, and emotional sensitivity.

Hoshimov explores moral problems within families and communities. His characters frequently experience conflicts between material success and spiritual fulfillment. Many suffer from loneliness, misunderstanding, or regret despite external stability.

Family occupies a sacred place in Hoshimov’s prose. Respect for parents, love between generations, and responsibility toward children are presented as essential moral values. At the same time, the writer criticizes selfishness, indifference, and emotional coldness.

Unlike writers focused primarily on political themes, Hoshimov emphasizes everyday morality. He demonstrates that spiritual decline can occur not only through political oppression but also through the loss of compassion and empathy in daily life. Twentieth-century Uzbek prose employed various artistic techniques to portray moral and spiritual conflicts.

Writers explored the inner consciousness of characters through monologues, emotional reflection, and symbolic dreams. Psychological realism allowed authors to reveal moral suffering and spiritual anxiety.

Objects, landscapes, and events often symbolized moral conditions. Darkness represented oppression and fear, while light symbolized hope and enlightenment.

Realistic depiction of social life enabled writers to expose corruption, injustice, and inequality. Everyday details strengthened the authenticity of moral conflicts.

Conversations and internal monologues helped reveal ethical dilemmas and conflicting emotions. Through speech, writers expressed philosophical ideas about conscience and humanity.

The research reveals several major conclusions:

Spiritual and moral problems occupied a central position in twentieth-century Uzbek prose. Uzbek writers used literature as a tool for preserving national identity and ethical traditions. Historical circumstances significantly influenced literary representations of morality and spirituality. Psychological realism became one of the primary artistic methods for portraying moral conflict. Uzbek prose combined national cultural values with universal humanistic ideas. Family, conscience, justice, and freedom emerged as dominant moral themes. Writers criticized both social oppression and individual moral weakness.

The findings confirm that Uzbek prose functioned not only as literature but also as a moral and philosophical discourse.

CONCLUSION

Twentieth-century Uzbek prose represents an important stage in the development of national and world literature. Uzbek writers explored profound spiritual and moral questions related to human dignity, conscience, justice, freedom, and national identity. Through realistic narration, psychological analysis, and symbolic imagery, they revealed the ethical contradictions of their historical period.

The works of Abdulla Qodiriy, Cho‘lpon, Oybek, Abdulla Qahhor, and O‘tkir Hoshimov continue to remain relevant because the moral issues they addressed still influence contemporary society.

Their literary heritage demonstrates that genuine literature is inseparable from spirituality and ethical reflection. Uzbek prose of the twentieth century became a powerful expression of national consciousness and universal humanity, preserving moral values during periods of political and ideological pressure.

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