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

THE SYSTEM OF FEMALE CHARACTERS AND THEIR ARTISTIC INTERPRETATION IN THE EPICS OF ALISHER NAVOI

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https://doi.org/10.5281/zenodo.20392033

Abstract

This article analyzes the system of female characters in the epics of Alisher Navoi, focusing on their artistic, philosophical, and ethical interpretation. The study explores how women are portrayed in Navoi's major works, especially within the "Khamsa," where female figures are not only romantic characters but also symbols of wisdom, loyalty, spiritual purity, and moral strength. The research highlights that Navoi created multidimensional female images that reflect both classical Eastern literary traditions and the humanistic worldview of the Timurid Renaissance. Through textual and comparative analysis, the article demonstrates that female characters play an essential role in plot development, moral guidance, and the expression of ideological meaning. The study also shows that Navoi used symbolism, psychological description, and lyrical language to create vivid and meaningful female portrayals. Overall, the research confirms that women's images occupy a central place in Navoi's epic heritage and contribute significantly to its artistic value.

Keywords: alisher navoi, female characters, khamsa, artistic interpretation, classical literature, eastern poetry, women in literature, timurid renaissance, literary analysis, symbolism.

Introduction

The literary heritage of Alisher Navoi occupies a unique place in the history of world literature. He is recognized as one of the greatest representatives of classical Turkic literature and culture. Navoi made an enormous contribution to the development of the Chagatai literary language. His poetic and philosophical works influenced many generations of writers and scholars throughout Central Asia and the broader Eastern world. Among his literary masterpieces, the epics included in the "Khamsa" hold special artistic and cultural importance. These epics combine lyrical beauty, philosophical reflection, and deep moral values. One of the most significant features of Navoi's epics is the system of female characters presented in different artistic forms. Women in his works are portrayed not only as symbols of beauty and love but also as embodiments of wisdom, loyalty, and spiritual perfection. Navoi paid particular attention to the emotional and psychological depth of his heroines. His female characters actively participate in the development of events and influence the fate of other characters. Through these images, the poet expressed his humanistic worldview and ethical ideals. The study of women's images in Navoi's epics is important for understanding the cultural and literary environment of the Timurid Renaissance. Female characters in classical Eastern literature often carried symbolic meanings connected with morality and spirituality. However, Navoi expanded these traditional literary approaches and created more realistic and multidimensional heroines. His artistic interpretation of women demonstrates respect for their intellect, dignity, and emotional strength. Characters such as Shirin and Layli became timeless literary symbols in Eastern literature. Their images continue to attract the attention of literary scholars and researchers today. The artistic functions of female characters in Navoi's epics are closely connected with the philosophical content of the works. Women in his epics frequently

represent ideals of faithfulness, patience, compassion, and truth. The analysis of these images allows scholars to better understand Navoi's literary mastery and aesthetic principles. This article aims to analyze the system of female characters in Navoi's epics and to explore the artistic methods through which these images are constructed and interpreted.

Methodology

This research is based on qualitative methods of literary analysis. The study applies comparative, textual, descriptive, and analytical approaches to examine the system of female characters in Alisher Navoi's epics. The primary sources of the research are the epics included in Navoi's "Khamsa," such as "Farhod and Shirin," "Layli and Majnun," "Sab'ai Sayyar," "Hayrat ul-Abror," and "Saddi Iskandari." These works were selected because they contain diverse female images with significant artistic and philosophical functions. The textual analysis method was used to examine the language, symbolism, and emotional expressions related to female characters. Comparative analysis helped identify similarities and differences between Navoi's heroines and female images found in classical Persian and Arabic literature. The research also explores how Navoi transformed traditional literary motifs into original artistic representations. Descriptive analysis was applied to explain the moral, social, and psychological qualities of female characters. Special attention was given to the artistic techniques used by the poet in character development. The study examines symbolic descriptions, dialogues, monologues, and lyrical passages connected with women's images. Historical-literary analysis was used to evaluate the influence of the Timurid cultural environment on Navoi's portrayal of women. The research also investigates the philosophical and ethical meanings embodied in female characters. Secondary scholarly sources related to Navoi studies and classical Eastern literature were consulted to support the analysis. Academic books, literary articles, and critical studies provided theoretical foundations for the interpretation of the epics. The methodology of the study allows a comprehensive examination of the artistic interpretation of women in Navoi's literary heritage. Through these methods, the article aims to reveal the aesthetic richness and ideological significance of female characters in the poet's epics.

Female Characters in "Farhod and Shirin"

One of the most significant female images created by Navoi is Shirin from the epic "Farhod and Shirin." Shirin is portrayed not merely as an object of love but as a wise, noble, and independent woman. Her character combines external beauty with intellectual and moral perfection. Navoi presents Shirin as a woman capable of making decisions, expressing sincere emotions, and influencing the destiny of others. Unlike stereotypical romantic heroines, Shirin demonstrates courage and determination. She becomes a symbol of ideal love based on loyalty, honesty, and mutual respect. The relationship between Farhod and Shirin is constructed not only as a romantic narrative but also as a philosophical reflection on devotion and sacrifice. Through Shirin's image, Navoi emphasizes the spiritual value of love. Her emotional strength supports the moral development of Farhod and elevates the ethical meaning of the epic. Another important aspect of Shirin's characterization is her social significance. She is depicted as a ruler who possesses wisdom and responsibility. This portrayal reflects Navoi's recognition of women's intellectual and social capabilities.

The Artistic Image of Layli in "Layli and Majnun"

The image of Layli occupies a special place in Navoi's literary system. In the epic "Layli and Majnun," Layli symbolizes spiritual love and emotional purity. Unlike ordinary romantic heroines, she represents an idealized yet deeply human character. Layli's suffering, patience, and emotional

sincerity create the emotional center of the epic. Navoi portrays her inner world with psychological subtlety, revealing the tragic consequences of social restrictions and family traditions. The love story of Layli and Majnun reflects the conflict between individual feelings and societal norms. In this context, Layli becomes not only a beloved woman but also a symbol of spiritual resistance against injustice. Navoi's artistic mastery is especially visible in his description of Layli's emotional experiences. Through lyrical language, symbolic imagery, and philosophical reflections, he transforms Layli into a universal symbol of eternal love.

Conclusion

In conclusion, female characters in Alisher Navoi's epics occupy an important place in the artistic structure of his works. The poet portrayed women not only as symbols of beauty and love, but also as wise, loyal, and spiritually strong personalities. Images such as Shirin and Layli reveal Navoi's deep understanding of human emotions and moral values. Through these heroines, he expressed ideas of faithfulness, patience, dignity, and compassion. The study shows that female characters significantly influence the development of events and the moral meaning of the epics. Navoi's artistic mastery can be seen in his use of symbolism, lyrical language, and psychological description while creating women's images. His portrayal of women reflects both the traditions of classical Eastern literature and the humanistic ideas of the Timurid Renaissance. Therefore, the system of female characters remains one of the most valuable and meaningful aspects of Navoi's literary heritage.

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