COMPARATIVE STUDY OF FEMALE IMAGES IN UZBEK AND ENGLISH LITERARY TEXTS

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Annotation. *This thesis explores the comparative study of female images in Uzbek and English literary texts. It analyzes how women are portrayed in different cultural and historical contexts, focusing on their social roles, identity, and representation in literature. The research highlights similarities and differences in the depiction of female characters, revealing the influence of national values, traditions, and societal expectations. The study also examines the evolution of female images and their contribution to the development of literary discourse in both literatures.*

Key words.*female image, comparative analysis, Uzbek literature, English literature, gender representation, cultural context, literary analysis, women's identity, social roles, characterization*

Annotatsiya. *Mazkur tezis o'zbek va ingliz adabiy matnlarida ayol obrazlarining qiyosiy tahliliga bag'ishlangan. Unda ayollarning turli madaniy va tarixiy sharoitlarda qanday tasvirlangani, ularning ijtimoiy roli, shaxsiyati va adabiyotdagi ifodasi o'rganiladi. Tadqiqotda ayol obrazlarining o'xshash va farqli jihatlari aniqlanib, milliy qadriyatlar, an'analar hamda jamiyat talablari ta'siri yoritiladi. Shuningdek, ayol obrazlarining rivojlanish jarayoni va ularning adabiy jarayondagi o'rni tahlil qilinadi.*

Kalit so‘zlar. *ayol obrazi, qiyosiy tahlil, o‘zbek adabiyoti, ingliz adabiyoti, gender tasviri, madaniy kontekst, adabiy tahlil, ayol shaxsi, ijtimoiy rol, xarakter yaratish*

Аннотация. *Данная работа посвящена сравнительному анализу женских образов в узбекской и английской литературе. В исследовании рассматривается, как изображаются женщины в различных культурных и исторических контекстах, их социальная роль, идентичность и художественное воплощение. Особое внимание уделяется сходствам и различиям в представлении женских персонажей, а также влиянию национальных традиций и общественных норм. Также анализируется эволюция женских образов и их вклад в развитие литературного процесса.*

Ключевые слова. *женский образ, сравнительный анализ, узбекская литература, английская литература, гендерное представление, культурный контекст, литературный анализ, женская идентичность, социальная роль, характеристика персонажа*

Introduction. In recent decades, the study of gender representation in literature has gained increasing scholarly attention, particularly in the context of cross-cultural analysis. The image of women in literary texts serves as a reflection of societal norms, cultural values, and historical transformations. A comparative exploration of female characters in Uzbek and English literature reveals both universal patterns and culturally specific features in the construction of women’s identities.

In Uzbek literature, the portrayal of women is deeply rooted in national traditions and moral values. The works of Abdulla Qodiriy, especially *“O‘tkan kunlar”*, present complex female characters such as Kumush, who embodies

loyalty, intelligence, and moral strength within a patriarchal society. Similarly, Zulfiya in her poetry glorifies the spiritual beauty, resilience, and dignity of women, emphasizing their role in both family and society. In contrast, English literature offers a wide spectrum of female representations shaped by different historical periods and ideological movements. For instance, Jane Austen in *"Pride and Prejudice"* portrays Elizabeth Bennet as an intelligent and independent woman challenging social conventions. Likewise, Charlotte Brontë in *"Jane Eyre"* creates a strong female protagonist who seeks autonomy, self-respect, and emotional fulfillment despite societal constraints.

By examining these literary works, this study aims to analyze how female images are constructed, developed, and transformed within different cultural frameworks. The comparison highlights how Uzbek literature often emphasizes moral integrity and social harmony, while English literature tends to foreground individualism and personal freedom. Such an approach allows for a deeper understanding of the interplay between gender, culture, and literary expression.

The representation of female characters in Uzbek and English literature demonstrates both convergence and divergence shaped by cultural, historical, and ideological contexts. A close reading of selected works by Abdulla Qodiriy, Zulfiya, Jane Austen, and Charlotte Brontë reveals how female identity is constructed through narrative, symbolism, and character development.

First, in Uzbek literature, female images are often portrayed within the framework of social responsibility, family values, and moral integrity. In *"O'tkan kunlar"*, Kumush is depicted as an embodiment of patience, loyalty, and emotional intelligence. Her character reflects the expectations placed upon women in traditional Uzbek society, where harmony within the family and

respect for social norms are highly valued. However, Kumush is not a passive figure; she demonstrates agency through her wisdom and ability to navigate complex interpersonal relationships. This duality—submission to tradition alongside inner strength—forms a central feature of Uzbek female characterization. Similarly, in the poetry of Zulfiya, the female image evolves into a more symbolic and elevated representation. Women are depicted not only as caretakers but also as духовно strong individuals who contribute to societal progress. Zulfiya's lyrical voice often emphasizes resilience, dignity, and emotional depth, thus expanding the traditional boundaries of female roles in literature. In contrast, English literature, particularly during the 19th century, foregrounds the theme of individualism in the portrayal of women. In Jane Austen's *"Pride and Prejudice"*, Elizabeth Bennet challenges the rigid class structure and gender expectations of her time. Her wit, critical thinking, and independence mark a shift from traditional submissive female roles to more self-aware and assertive identities. Austen uses irony and dialogue to expose the limitations imposed on women, thereby advocating for intellectual and emotional equality.

Likewise, Charlotte Brontë's *"Jane Eyre"* presents a more radical vision of female autonomy. Jane, as a protagonist, resists oppression not only socially but also psychologically. Her insistence on self-respect and moral independence reflects the emerging feminist consciousness of the Victorian era. Unlike Kumush, whose strength is often expressed within the boundaries of tradition, Jane actively seeks to transcend those boundaries, asserting her right to equality and personal fulfillment.

A comparative analysis of these texts reveals several key differences. Uzbek literary heroines tend to embody collective values such as family honor, patience, and social harmony, while English heroines are more closely

associated with individual rights, personal freedom, and self-expression. At the same time, there are notable similarities: both traditions portray women as morally strong, intellectually capable, and central to the narrative structure. Furthermore, the evolution of female images in both literatures indicates a gradual shift from traditional roles to more complex and dynamic identities. This transformation reflects broader social changes, including the influence of modernization, education, and changing gender norms. Thus, literary texts serve as both mirrors and agents of cultural transformation.

Conclusion. In conclusion, the comparative analysis of female images in Uzbek and English literary texts demonstrates that literature serves as a powerful medium for reflecting and shaping societal attitudes toward women. The works of Abdulla Qodiriy and Zulfiya reveal that Uzbek literary tradition emphasizes moral values, family responsibility, and spiritual strength in the portrayal of women. At the same time, the writings of Jane Austen and Charlotte Brontë highlight the importance of individuality, personal freedom, and self-realization in female characters. Despite these differences, both literary traditions present women as central figures who possess intellectual depth, emotional resilience, and ethical strength. The evolution of female images in both literatures reflects broader social and cultural transformations, including changing gender roles and increased awareness of women's rights. Thus, this comparative study not only deepens the understanding of literary representations of women but also contributes to the broader discourse on gender, culture, and identity in world literature.

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