

injustice and remains an important text for understanding social history and gender dynamics of the nineteenth century.

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TRADITION AND MODERNITY IN EASTERN AND WESTERN YOUNG ADULT LITERATURE: A COMPARATIVE STUDY OF UZBEK AND ENGLISH CONTEXTS

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Abstract: This article explores the artistic interpretation of tradition and modernity in literature for young adults (YA), focusing on the comparative analysis of Uzbek and English literary traditions. While English YA literature often emphasizes individual agency and the deconstruction of social norms (modernity), Uzbek literature traditionally centers on moral guidance and national identity (tradition). However, contemporary trends show a convergence where both cultures navigate the complexities of globalization.

Key words: Young adult literature, tradition, modernity, comparative analysis, Uzbek literature, English literature, artistic interpretation, globalization, cultural identity, didacticism.

Annotatsiya: Ushbu maqolada o‘smirlar adabiyotida an‘ana va modernlikning badiiy talqini o‘zbek va ingliz adabiy an‘analari qiyosiy tahlili misolida tadqiq etiladi. Ingliz o‘smirlar adabiyotida ko‘pincha

shaxsiy iroda va ijtimoiy normalarning dekonstruksiyasi (modernlik) ustuvorlik qilsa, o‘zbek adabiyoti an‘anaviy ravishda axloqiy tarbiya va milliy o‘zlikni anglash (an‘ana) masalalariga e‘tibor qaratadi. Biroq, zamonaviy tendensiyalar har ikki madaniyat globallashuv jarayonining murakkabliklarini o‘zlashtirgan holda bir-biriga yaqinlashayotganini ko‘rsatmoqda.

Kalit so‘zlar: O‘smirlar adabiyoti, an‘ana, modernlik, qiyosiy tahlil, o‘zbek adabiyoti, ingliz adabiyoti, badiiy talqin, globallashuv, madaniy o‘zlik, didaktika.

Аннотация: В данной статье исследуется художественная интерпретация традиций и современности в литературе для подростков (YA) на основе сравнительного анализа узбекских и английских литературных традиций. В то время как английская литература для молодежи зачастую акцентирует внимание на личной свободе действий и деконструкции социальных норм (модерн), узбекская литература традиционно фокусируется на моральном наставничестве и национальной идентичности (традиция). Тем не менее, современные тенденции демонстрируют сближение, при котором обе культуры преодолевают сложности процесса глобализации.

Ключевые слова: Подростковая литература, традиция, современность, сравнительный анализ, узбекская литература, английская литература, художественная интерпретация, глобализация, культурная идентичность, дидактика.

Introduction. The transition from childhood to adulthood, often referred to as the "Coming-of-Age" process, is a universal human experience that has been captured in literature for centuries. However, the artistic representation of this transition varies significantly depending on the cultural, social, and historical landscape of the region. In the contemporary literary world, the dialogue between tradition and modernity has become a focal point of scholarly debate, particularly when comparing Eastern and Western paradigms. This article aims to explore this dynamic by focusing on the comparative analysis of Young Adult (YA) literature in the Uzbek and English contexts.

English YA literature, the narrative often centers on the individual's struggle against societal constraints. Rooted in the Western philosophical tradition of individualism, these works frequently employ "modernity" as a tool for deconstructing established norms. From the rebellious undertones in classic English YA novels to the complex, identity-driven narratives of the 21st century, the emphasis remains on the protagonist's personal agency and their right to redefine themselves outside of traditional boundaries.

Conversely, Uzbek literature for teenagers has historically been shaped by a deeply rooted "didactic" tradition. Drawing from the rich heritage of Central Asian enlightenment and oral folk creativity, Uzbek YA works traditionally prioritize the preservation of national identity, family honor, and moral integrity. In this context, "tradition" is not viewed as an outdated relic of the past, but as a vital moral compass that guides the youth through the turbulence of maturation. The artistic interpretation in Uzbek prose often seeks to harmonize the aspirations of the youth with the collective values of the "Mahalla" (community) and the family.

However, the 21st century has introduced the inevitable force of globalization, which is reshaping both literary landscapes. English literature is beginning to rediscover the importance of cultural roots and heritage in an increasingly fragmented world, while Uzbek literature is gradually adopting modern narrative techniques—such as psychological realism and non-linear storytelling—to address the complexities of the digital age.

This study examines how these two distinct literary traditions interpret the concepts of "old" and "new." By analyzing the stylistic and thematic shifts in both Uzbek and English YA prose, the article seeks to identify the points of convergence where tradition meets modernity, creating a new, hybrid artistic reality for the modern teenage reader.

Comparative Analysis of Thematic and Stylistic Elements

The Concept of "Heroism" and Individual Agency

In English YA literature, the protagonist is often an "outsider" or a rebel who finds strength by breaking away from societal expectations. For instance, in classic and contemporary British youth prose, the "modernity" of the character is defined by their ability to question authority (parents, schools, or government). The artistic interpretation focuses on self-discovery—the hero must find out who they are independently of their background.

In contrast, the Uzbek literary context traditionally interprets the "hero" through the lens of social responsibility. A protagonist's success is often measured by their ability to uphold family honor or contribute to the community. Modernity in Uzbek prose (e.g., works by Erkin A'zam or Xurshid Do'stmuhammad) manifests not as a rejection of tradition, but as a psychological struggle to remain "human" and "faithful to roots" in a rapidly changing, materialistic world.

Narrative Techniques: Tradition vs. Innovation

The stylistic approach to these themes also shows a distinct divide:

English Context: Employs modern and postmodern techniques such as unreliable narrators, non-linear timelines, and "open endings." This reflects the uncertainty and complexity of modern life.

Uzbek Context: While moving towards psychological realism, it still maintains a strong connection to didactic storytelling. The use of symbolism—often involving nature, the "bread" (rizq), or the "motherland"—serves to ground the modern story in traditional values. However, younger Uzbek authors are increasingly using meta-fiction and inner monologues, signaling a shift toward global modernism.

Globalization and the "Hybrid" Identity

A significant point of convergence is how both literatures handle globalization.

In English literature, there is a growing trend of "diaspora literature" where young characters navigate multiple cultures (e.g., British-Asian experiences), blending Western modernity with Eastern traditions.

In Uzbek literature, the "modernity" is often represented by the influence of technology and the Internet. The artistic conflict arises when the "digital lifestyle" (modernity) clashes with the "national lifestyle" (tradition). Authors now portray teenagers who use smartphones and social media but still face the age-old questions of respect, "sharm-hayo" (modesty), and duty.

Conclusion. The artistic interpretation of tradition and modernity in Uzbek and English young adult literature reveals a fascinating cross-cultural dialogue. While English literature uses modernity to empower the individual, Uzbek literature uses tradition to preserve the soul.

However, the "modernity" of the 21st century is acting as a bridge. Contemporary Uzbek YA prose is becoming more psychologically complex and less "preachy," while English YA prose is searching for deeper meaning beyond mere individualism. Ultimately, both traditions aim to help the adolescent reader navigate a world that is increasingly small yet infinitely complex. The synthesis of Eastern moral depth and Western creative freedom offers a rich territory for future literary development.

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