

“RESEARCH-BASED TRANSFORMATION OF TEACHER EDUCATION: TRADITION AS A BASIS FOR INNOVATION” International Conference on Teacher Education

NOTION OF DEATH IN AMERICAN AND UZBEK LITERATURE

**Ilhomova Sarvinoz Yosinjon qizi,
Bozorova Sevara Sanjar qizi,**
*Uzbekistan State World Language
University English Philology Faculty
2- course*

Abstract. *This article delves into the portrayal of death in American and Uzbek literature, exploring the cultural, historical, and philosophical perspectives that shape each society's interpretation of mortality. Through an examination of prominent literary works and authors from both traditions, the article highlights the diverse ways in which death is conceptualized and depicted, ranging from existential contemplation to spiritual reflection. By comparing and contrasting these representations, the article seeks to illuminate the universal themes and cultural nuances surrounding the human experience of death in two distinct literary traditions.*

Keywords: *death, literature, American, Uzbek, culture, existentialism, cultural beliefs, Islamic traditions, mortality.*

The concept of death is a profound aspect of human existence and prompts reflection on death, the afterlife and the meaning of life. As the concept of death exists in the literature of every nation, the cultural and historical background of every society shapes the image and interpretation of this concept in its own way. The notion of death in literature often reflects cultural beliefs, societal attitudes, philosophical perspectives. In American and Uzbek literature, the concept of death is often explored in ways that reflect the cultural, social, and historical contexts of each society. In early American literature, such as the works of Puritan writers like Anne Bradstreet, death is often portrayed as a grim reminder of human sinfulness and the fleeting nature of life. During the 19th century, American literature often grappled with the theme of death in the context of the rapidly changing social and cultural landscape, with authors like Edgar Allan Poe and Nathaniel Hawthorne exploring themes of mortality, grief, and the afterlife. In modern and contemporary American literature, authors like Toni Morrison, Cormac McCarthy, and Marilynne Robinson continue to explore the theme of death, often using it as a means to examine issues of identity, memory, and the human condition. In Uzbek literature, death is also a prominent theme, influenced by Islamic traditions and Central Asian cultural values. Uzbek literature often incorporates themes of fate, destiny and the afterlife, with death seen as a natural part of the cycle of life. Classical Uzbek Literature:

Traditional Uzbek literature often views death through the lens of Islamic teachings, seeing it as a natural part of life and a passage to the afterlife. Poets like Alisher Navoi and Babur often reflected on the transient nature of life and the

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inevitability of death. During the Soviet era, Uzbek literature often portrayed death in a more social and political context. Death is often portrayed as a catalyst for introspection, transformation and the search for meaning. Writers like Abdulla Qahhor and Odil Yoqubov have explored the human condition in their works, delving into themes of mortality, spirituality and the transient nature of existence. The notion of death in American and Uzbek literature differs in several key aspects, reflecting the unique cultural, historical, and philosophical perspectives of each society:

Cultural and Religious Influence: American Literature: Reflects a diverse range of cultural and religious influences, including Christian, Native American, and secular perspectives. This diversity leads to a variety of views on death, such as the Christian concept of an afterlife or the cyclical view found in some Native American traditions. Uzbek Literature: Rooted in Islamic traditions, which often emphasize the transient nature of life and the belief in an afterlife. Death is seen as a natural part of a larger spiritual journey. **Historical Context:**

American Literature: Often reflects the impact of historical events such as wars, pandemics, and social movements on perceptions of death. For example, works from the Civil War era often explore themes of death and mourning. Uzbek Literature: Similarly, reflects the impact of historical events such as the Soviet era and the transition to independence on perceptions of death, often portraying it in the context of sacrifice and struggle.

Social and Philosophical Perspectives: American Literature: Reflects a range of social and philosophical perspectives on death, including existentialist views that see death as a fundamental aspect of the human condition and a source of meaning. Uzbek Literature: Often emphasizes the communal and familial aspects of death, highlighting the importance of rituals and traditions in coping with loss.

Literary Themes and Motifs: American Literature: Often explores themes of individualism, self-reliance, and the search for meaning in the face of mortality. Motifs such as the "death of the American Dream" are common. Uzbek Literature: Focuses more on themes of fate, destiny, and the spiritual dimensions of death. The concept of "fanaa," or the annihilation of the self in the divine, is a recurring motif. Overall, while both American and Uzbek literature grapple with the universal theme of death, the specific cultural and historical contexts of each society lead to distinct perspectives and portrayals of this concept. In addition, in American literature, for instance Jack London's characters often face death in the form of wild animals, harsh weather conditions, or accidents, highlighting the precariousness of human existence

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in the face of nature's forces. In "Love of Life" by Jack London, death is portrayed as an inevitable part of the struggle for survival in the harsh wilderness. The protagonist fights against death, seeing it as an adversary to be overcome through sheer willpower and determination. In the story you can see that a person is ready for anything to live. The following verses show that even the fear of the wolf could not dampen the desire to live: "The patience of the wolf was terrible. The man's patience was no less terrible. For half a day he lay motionless, fighting off unconsciousness and waiting for the thing that was to feed upon him and upon which he wished to feed. Sometimes the languid sea rose over him and he dreamed long dreams; but ever through it all, waking and dreaming, he waited for the wheezing breath and the harsh caress of the tongue." On the other hand, some notable Uzbek literary works that explore the theme of death include Abdulla Qodiriy's "O'tkan Kunlar" (Days Gone By), Chinghiz Aitmatov's "Jamilia". These works offer diverse perspectives on death within the context of Uzbek culture, history, and society. For example, O'tkir Hoshimov's works offer a nuanced exploration of the notion of death within the context of Uzbek society, history, and culture. Through his vivid storytelling and keen observation of human experiences, he brings a poignant and thought-provoking perspective to this universal theme. "Between Two Doors" ("Ikki eshik orasi") by Utkir Hoshimov delves into the internal struggle of the protagonist as he contemplates life and death. The story explores themes of choice, regret, and the search for meaning in life. The protagonist finds himself caught between two doors, representing different paths in life, while grappling with the inevitability of death. Hoshimov's narrative delves into existential questions about the purpose of life and the significance of the choices we make. In the novel you can read the dreams of a person who prefers the lives of others to his own. The thoughts of a real person will make you think, you will feel sorry for him, and the writer will show you a side of life that you have not seen before. "What is life?.. A gift given by God. But people are different. One shares this insight with others. Someone wants to add someone else's. It seems that life will be extended with this. When is it about dying? How to die!

A companion who lived for a thousand years said, "I don't remember which door I entered and which door I left." So, my child... No one thinks about dying. But man is given a limited life. Therefore, a person's life is not measured by how many years he has lived. There are the same people: he does what he can when he walks in and walks out of this door. At least one brick is laid in the building called life. There are others: he wants to steal at least one brick from that building. Stealing, he can't go anywhere, when he gets to the other door, he leaves anyway. It remains to demolish

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the building in two seconds... While both stories confront the concept of death, they do so from different perspectives and with distinct thematic focuses, showcasing the diversity of literary explorations of mortality. In contrast, despite their differences, American and Uzbek literature share some similarities in their treatment of the concept of death: Universal Theme: Both American and Uzbek literature recognize death as a universal human experience, and both traditions use literature to explore the various aspects of mortality, including grief, loss, and the afterlife. Emotional Depth: Both traditions use literature to delve into the emotional complexities surrounding death, portraying the impact of loss on individuals, families, and communities. Spiritual and Philosophical Reflection: Both American and Uzbek literature often use the theme of death as a means to reflect on larger spiritual and philosophical questions, such as the nature of existence, the meaning of life, and the possibility of an afterlife. Narrative Techniques: Both American and Uzbek literature use a variety of narrative techniques, such as symbolism, allegory, and metaphor, to explore the concept of death in depth and to convey its significance in human life.

Overall, while American and Uzbek literature approach the concept of death from different cultural and historical perspectives, they share a common recognition of death as a profound and universal aspect of the human experience. Despite these differences and similarities, both American and Uzbek literature ultimately grapple with the profound significance of death in human existence. Whether as a solitary struggle against nature's forces or as a communal endeavor towards societal transformation, the portrayal of death in literature serves to illuminate the complexities of the human experience and the diverse ways in which individuals and societies confront mortality. [1]

Conclusion

In conclusion, this article highlights the rich tapestry of perspectives on death found in American and Uzbek literature. By examining the cultural, historical, and philosophical dimensions of mortality in these two traditions, the article deepens our understanding of the universal themes and cultural nuances surrounding the human experience of death. Through further exploration and analysis, scholars can continue to uncover the complexities of death as portrayed in literature and its profound impact on society and individual consciousness.

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