

PSYCHOLOGICAL CHARACTERIZATION IN RAHNAVARD ZARYAB'S SHORT STORIES: A COMPARATIVE LITERARY ANALYSIS

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Abstract. This article examines the artistic representation of psychological states in the short stories of Rahnavard Zaryab, one of the most prominent representatives of modern Afghan literature. The study focuses on the depiction of inner conflicts, emotional experiences, and psychological transformations in the stories "The Enchanted City," "The Cry," "The Dagger," and "The Dancer." Through textual and comparative literary analysis, the research explores the narrative techniques employed by the writer and identifies similarities and differences between Zaryab's works and selected stories by the Uzbek writer Abdullah Qahhor. The findings reveal that psychological portrayal constitutes one of the defining features of Zaryab's artistic style. The author successfully depicts human emotions through symbolism, internal monologue, landscape imagery, and psychological dialogue. The study contributes to a deeper understanding of psychological prose in Afghan literature.

Keywords: Afghan literature, Rahnavard Zaryab, psychological prose, characterization, narrative techniques, comparative literature, Abdullah Qahhor.

Annotatsiya. Ushbu maqolada zamonaviy afg'on adabiyotining yirik namoyandalardan biri bo'lgan Rahnavard Zaryab hikoyalarida psixologik holatlarning badiiy tasviri tahlil qilinadi. Tadqiqotda adibning "Sehrlangan shahar", "Faryod", "Xanjar" va "Raqqosa" hikoyalarida ichki ziddiyatlar, hissiy kechinmalar hamda ruhiy o'zgarishlarning ifodalanishiga alohida e'tibor qaratilgan. Matnshunoslik va qiyosiy adabiy tahlil usullari asosida yozuvchining badiiy tasvir vositalari o'rganilib, uning asarlari bilan o'zbek adibi Abdulla Qahhorning ayrim hikoyalari o'rtasidagi o'xshash va farqli jihatlar aniqlangan. Tadqiqot natijalari psixologik tasvir Rahnavard Zaryab ijodining asosiy badiiy xususiyatlaridan biri ekanligini ko'rsatadi. Muallif inson ruhiyati va kechinmalarini ramziy obrazlar, ichki monolog, peyzaj tasviri hamda psixologik dialoglar orqali mahorat bilan ifodalaydi. Mazkur tadqiqot afg'on adabiyotidagi psixologik prozaning mohiyatini chuqurroq anglashga xizmat qiladi.

Kalit so'zlar: afg'on adabiyoti, Rahnavard Zaryab, psixologik proza, xarakter yaratish, narrativ usullar, qiyosiy adabiyotshunoslik, Abdulla Qahhor.

Аннотация. В данной статье рассматривается художественное изображение психологических состояний в рассказах Рахнаварда Зарьяба — одного из наиболее выдающихся представителей современной афганской литературы. Исследование сосредоточено на изображении внутренних конфликтов, эмоциональных переживаний и психологических трансформаций в рассказах «Заколдованный город», «Крик», «Кинжал» и «Танцовщица». На основе текстуального и сравнительно-литературного анализа изучаются повествовательные приёмы, используемые писателем, а также выявляются сходства и различия между произведениями Зарьяба и отдельными рассказами узбекского писателя Абдуллы Каххара. Результаты исследования показывают, что психологическая характеристика является одной из определяющих черт художественного стиля Зарьяба. Автор мастерски раскрывает человеческие эмоции посредством символизма, внутреннего монолога, пейзажных образов и психологического диалога. Исследование способствует более глубокому пониманию психологической прозы в афганской литературе.

Ключевые слова: афганская литература, Рахнавард Зарьяб, психологическая проза, характеристика персонажей, повествовательные приёмы, сравнительное литературоведение, Абдулла Каххар.

Introduction. The representation of human psychology has become one of the central concerns of modern literary studies. Contemporary prose increasingly focuses on the inner world of individuals, exploring emotions, consciousness, and personal experiences rather than merely describing external events. In this regard, psychological prose occupies a significant place in world literature.

Afghan literature has undergone considerable development during the twentieth century, especially in the field of short-story writing. Afghan authors have sought innovative artistic methods to portray social realities and human emotions. Among these writers, Rahnavard Zaryab occupies a distinguished position due to his profound psychological insight and original narrative style.

Zaryab's stories focus on the emotional and mental experiences of ordinary individuals confronted with social difficulties, loneliness, uncertainty, and existential anxiety. His literary works demonstrate a remarkable ability to reveal hidden dimensions of human consciousness. Therefore, the study of psychological characterization in his stories is essential for understanding both his artistic mastery and the development of modern Afghan prose.

The purpose of this article is to analyze the artistic methods used by Rahnavard Zaryab in portraying psychological states and to evaluate their literary significance through comparative analysis.

Methodology: The research employs several complementary methods:

1. Textual Analysis – close reading of selected stories by Rahnavard Zaryab to identify psychological themes and narrative techniques.
2. Comparative Literary Analysis – comparison of Zaryab's stories with selected works of Abdullah Qahhor in order to determine common artistic tendencies and distinctive features.
3. Psychological Criticism – examination of the emotional and mental experiences of literary characters.
4. Descriptive and Interpretative Methods – interpretation of symbols, dialogues, landscape descriptions, and internal monologues used in the narratives.

The primary sources include Zaryab's stories "The Enchanted City," "The Cry," "The Dagger," and "The Dancer."

Results. The analysis demonstrates that psychological depiction forms the core of Zaryab's artistic system.

Psychological Function of Landscape. One of the most characteristic features of Zaryab's prose is the use of natural landscapes to reflect the emotional condition of characters. In "The Enchanted City," stormy weather, dust-filled streets, and a gloomy atmosphere symbolize the protagonist's inner turmoil and psychological instability.

Landscape descriptions are not merely decorative elements but active components of characterization. They create emotional parallels between the external environment and the internal state of the characters.

Internal Monologue and Self-Reflection. Zaryab frequently employs internal monologues to reveal the hidden thoughts and feelings of his protagonists. Through self-reflection, characters express their fears, disappointments, and moral dilemmas.

This technique allows readers direct access to the psychological processes occurring within the characters' minds and creates a strong sense of emotional authenticity.

Symbolism and Psychological Conflict. The stories contain numerous symbolic elements that intensify psychological meaning. Everyday objects, spaces, and recurring images often symbolize loneliness, fear, uncertainty, or emotional suffering.

In "The Dagger," the hidden secret functions as a psychological burden that gradually destroys the protagonist's inner peace. Similarly, in "The Dancer," the closed gate becomes a symbolic representation of emotional isolation and personal insecurity.

Characterization Through Emotional Experience. The protagonists of Zaryab's stories are generally portrayed as individuals experiencing emotional pressure and existential anxiety. Rather than presenting heroic figures, the author focuses on ordinary people struggling with personal and social problems.

The psychological depth of these characters enhances the realism of the narratives and increases their emotional impact on readers.

Discussion. The findings indicate that Zaryab's artistic approach corresponds to major developments in modern psychological prose. His stories emphasize consciousness, memory, and emotional experience rather than external action.

A comparison with Abdullah Qahhor reveals several similarities. Both writers utilize landscape imagery and psychological details to uncover the inner world of their characters. However, significant differences can also be observed.

Qahhor's stories generally focus on social and moral issues within everyday life, whereas Zaryab pays greater attention to existential concerns and internal emotional conflicts. His characters often experience alienation, loneliness, and uncertainty in response to changing social realities.

Furthermore, Zaryab's extensive use of internal monologue and symbolic imagery demonstrates a stronger inclination toward modernist narrative techniques. These features distinguish his works within contemporary Afghan literature.

The psychological complexity found in Zaryab's stories contributes to their universal significance. Although rooted in Afghan society, the emotional experiences of his characters resonate with readers across different cultural contexts.

Conclusion. The study concludes that psychological characterization is one of the most important features of Rahnavard Zaryab's short fiction.

The analysis has demonstrated that:

Landscape descriptions function as reflections of emotional states;
Internal monologues reveal hidden dimensions of character psychology;
Symbolic imagery strengthens psychological meaning;
Emotional conflicts serve as the primary driving force of the narratives;

Zaryab's stories contribute significantly to the development of psychological prose in Afghan literature. The comparative perspective further reveals common artistic tendencies between Afghan and Uzbek prose traditions while highlighting Zaryab's distinctive literary voice. His works remain valuable examples of psychological realism and continue to offer important insights into the complexity of human emotions and consciousness.

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