

RELATIONSHIPS BETWEEN THE INDIVIDUAL AND SOCIETY IN UZBEK AND RUSSIAN REALISM

Norimbatova Zuhra Oyshuhrat qizi

is a second-year undergraduate student at the Faculty of Oriental Philology of the Uzbekistan State World Languages University.

Email: norimbatovazuhra@gmail.com

Academic Supervisor: **Feruz Sapayeva Davlatovna**

Professor at the Department of World Literature, Uzbekistan State World Languages University.

Email: feruzasapayeva86@gmail.com

Orcid ID: 0009-0004-1079-8754

Abstract

This article provides a comparative analysis of the artistic interpretation of social problems in Uzbek and Russian realist literature. It examines the factors behind the formation of realism, its role in reflecting social life, and the artistic representation of issues such as social injustice, inequality, and moral crisis. Drawing on the works of prominent representatives of Russian realism – N.V.Gogol, L.N.Tolstoy, and F.M.Dostoevsky – as well as leading figures of Uzbek realism, Abdulla Qodiriy and Cho'lpon, the study reveals both national and universal aspects of the portrayal of social problems. The findings demonstrate that realism in both literary traditions functioned as a significant artistic phenomenon that contributed to understanding and reforming society.

Keywords

realism, social problem, Uzbek literature, Russian literature, comparative analysis, artistic image, society and the individual.

The literary movement of realism sets as its primary goal the truthful depiction of social life together with its inherent contradictions. Representatives of this movement sought to reveal the complex relationship between the individual and society through artistic works. Particularly in nineteenth-century Russian literature and early twentieth-century Uzbek literature, realism became the principal means of addressing social issues.

Although Uzbek and Russian realism emerged under different historical conditions, they are united by a shared refusal to remain indifferent to social injustice and by a commitment to defending human dignity. For this reason, the comparative study of these two literary traditions holds significant scholarly value for literary studies.

Russian realism took shape in the nineteenth century amid the crisis of the feudal system, the problem of serfdom, and sharp social stratification. Literature of this period aimed to openly expose the shortcomings of social life. In the works of N. V. Gogol, social problems are illuminated through humor and satire. His comedy *The Government Inspector* criticizes careerism, bribery, and moral degradation, while *Dead Souls* elevates the spiritual emptiness of society to the level of a generalized artistic symbol. Gogol's realism is distinguished by its exposure of society through laughter.

The realism of Leo Tolstoy analyzes social problems from a moral and philosophical perspective. In the novel *Anna Karenina*, social hypocrisy, the crisis of family relations, and the issue of personal freedom are explored. In *Resurrection*, injustice within the judicial system and social inequality are revealed through the fate of individuals. In Tolstoy's realism, the roots of social problems are traced back to human spirituality.

In the works of Fyodor Dostoevsky, social issues are revealed through profound psychological analysis. The novel *Crime and Punishment* portrays poverty, social inequality, and ideological confusion in close connection with the human psyche. Dostoevsky's realism links the



individual's spiritual crisis organically with broader social problems. The novel openly depicts poverty, injustice, the gap between the rich and the poor, the humiliation of women (as exemplified by the character of Sonya Marmeladova), and alcoholism (represented by Marmeladov). These issues are presented without romantic embellishment, conveying the harsh truth of life as it is. The most significant feature of Dostoevsky's realism lies in its deep exploration of the human psyche. Raskolnikov's inner experiences—his doubts, fears, inner conflicts, and remorse—are depicted in exceptional detail and psychological credibility, allowing readers to experience his spiritual torment firsthand. In this respect, *Crime and Punishment* stands as one of the highest achievements of world realist literature.

In Uzbek realism, the depiction of social problems was primarily shaped in the early twentieth century under the influence of the Jadid movement. Literature of this period promoted ideas of national awakening and sought to expose social issues such as ignorance, illiteracy, and colonial oppression. The works of Abdulla Qodiriy are considered among the finest examples of Uzbek realism. In the novel "O'tgan kunlar" outdated social relations, feudal customs, and their negative impact on human destiny are portrayed in a realistic manner. In *Scorpion from the Altar*, political and spiritual oppression is exposed. In Qodiriy's realism, social problems are inseparably connected with historical reality.

In the works of Cho'lpon, social issues are closely linked with questions of personal freedom and national consciousness. His novel "Kecha va Kunduz" depicts social oppression, injustice, and spiritual enslavement in a tragic mode. Cho'lpon conducts a deep psychological analysis of his characters' inner experiences, including fear, hope, suffering, and internal conflict. In particular, the spiritual agony and inner silence embodied in the character of Zebi intensify the realist portrayal. Cho'lpon's realism is distinguished by its revelation of social problems through the inner world of the individual.

In Uzbek realism, enlightenment, education, and the idea of a conscious society are proposed as the primary means of resolving social problems. This feature constitutes one of the key distinctions between Uzbek and Russian realism.

A comparative analysis of Uzbek and Russian realism demonstrates that social injustice and human destiny occupy a central position in both traditions. While Russian realism tends to address social problems on a universal, philosophical, and psychological level, Uzbek realism interprets them within the context of national awakening and specific historical circumstances. Russian realism emphasizes profound social analysis and exposure, whereas Uzbek realism advances the idea of transforming society through enlightenment. Nevertheless, in both literary traditions, realism serves the ideals of humanism.

In conclusion, Uzbek and Russian realism have produced significant artistic achievements in the depiction of social issues. Russian realism revealed social contradictions through deep philosophical and psychological analysis, while Uzbek realism interpreted them in harmony with the ideas of national consciousness and enlightenment. Both literary traditions play an essential role in understanding society, affirming human dignity, and promoting the ideals of justice.

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