

SPIRIT OF THE ERA IN THE NOVEL OF BALANCE BY ULUGHBEK KHAMDAM

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Abstract

This article analyzes the psychological and philosophical interpretation of the spirit of the age in Ulug‘bek Hamdam's novel Muvozanat. The study focuses on the complex relationship between the individual and society in the context of post-independence Uzbek literature, highlighting issues such as axiological crisis, spiritual imbalance, and the ontological loneliness of modern man. Using concepts of psychological prose, internal conflict, and identity formation, the article examines the conceptual and semantic role of the notion of “balance” as a central category for understanding the spiritual condition of the era. The research emphasizes the novel's significance as a literary reflection of contemporary socio-spiritual transformations.

Keywords

Ulug‘bek Hamdam, Muvozanat, spirit of the age, psychological prose, philosophical interpretation, axiological crisis, balance concept, individual and society.

Аннотация

В данной статье на материале романа Улугбека Хамдама «Муовозанат» анализируется психологико-философская интерпретация духа эпохи в современной узбекской литературе. В центре внимания находятся проблемы взаимоотношений личности и общества, аксиологического кризиса, духовной неустойчивости и онтологического одиночества современного человека. На основе понятий психологизма, внутреннего конфликта и проблемы идентификации раскрывается концептуально-семантическая роль категории «равновесие» как ключевого средства осмыслиения духовного состояния эпохи. Делается вывод о значимости романа как художественного отражения социокультурных процессов периода независимости.

Ключевые слова

Улугбек Хамдам, роман «Муовозанат», дух эпохи, психологическая проза, философская интерпретация, аксиологический кризис, концепт равновесия, личность и общество.

Annotatsiya

Mazkur maqlolada Ulug‘bek Hamdamning “Muvozanat” romani asosida mustaqillik davri o‘zbek jamiyatida shakllangan davr ruhiyatining psixologik-falsafiy talqini tahlil qilinadi. Asarda davr va shaxs o‘rtasidagi murakkab munosabatlar, aksial inqiroz, ruhiy muvozanatsizlik hamda zamonaviy insonning ontologik yolg‘izligi masalalari badiiy tafakkur nuqtayi nazaridan yoritilgan. Tadqiqot jarayonida psixologizm, ichki konflikt, identifikasiya muammosi kabi adabiy-nazariy tushunchalarga tayangan holda roman g‘oyaviy-konseptual jihatdan tahlil etiladi. Muallif tomonidan ilgari surilgan “muvozanat” konsepti davr ruhiyatini anglashning asosiy semantik markazi sifatida talqin qilinadi.

Kalit so‘zlar

Ulug‘bek Hamdam, “Muvozanat” romani, davr ruhiyati, psixologik proza, falsafiy talqin, aksial inqiroz, muvozanat konsepti, shaxs va jamiyat, ontologik yolg‘izlik, zamonaviy o‘zbek adabiyoti.

Introduction

In modern Uzbek literature, the issue of studying the spirit of the era from an artistic and philosophical perspective is becoming increasingly relevant. In particular, the spiritual shifts that the socio-cultural transformations after independence have brought about in the human mind have given rise to new poetic research in literature. Ulugbek Hamdam's novel "Balance" is one of the important works that summarizes these processes through the spirit of the individual and reveals the inner drama of the era. Not only the novel "Balance", but also his other works such as "Rebellion and Obedience", "Loneliness", "Stone" discuss how people perceived the situations and changes in the transition to independence, and their relationships.

This article comprehensively analyzes the spiritual and educational changes of Uzbek society after independence, the psychological and philosophical interpretation of the spirit of the era, using the example of Ulugbek Hamdam's novel "Balance". Within the framework of the study, first of all, the general psychological picture of the era is revealed through the spiritual experiences of the heroes of the novel, their internal conflicts and spiritual searches formed under the influence of the social environment. Also, the semantic layers of the concept of "balance", which is manifested as the central idea in the work, its symbolic and figurative content, and the ideological and philosophical functions it performs within the literary text are separately scientifically analyzed.

The novel explores the complex dialectics of the relationship between the individual and society, the inner world of the individual and the external social. The inconsistency between requirements, as well as the contradictions on the way to achieving spiritual harmony, also become an important object of research. The social situations described by the author, the artistic expression of signs of spiritual crisis, and the process of personal self-awareness serve as an important theoretical basis for understanding society-individual relations at the macro and micro levels. Thus, the article, through the artistic and philosophical interpretation of the novel "Balance", sheds light on the complex layers of the psyche of the era, the semantic load of conceptual concepts, and the psychological mechanisms of the role of the individual in society and the processes of adaptation to it on a scientific basis.

Results. In literary criticism, the concept of "zeitgeist" is interpreted as a set of collective consciousness, social mood and spiritual and moral criteria formed at a certain historical stage of society. Thinkers such as G. Hegel, K. Jaspers, M. Heidegger connect the spirit of the era with the ontological basis of human existence.

In the novel "Equilibrium", the spirit of the era is manifested not through a direct social image, but through internal processes occurring in the minds of the characters. The author emphasizes the artistic study of the traces left by it in the human psyche rather than external reality [1]. This allows us to evaluate the novel as an example of psychological and philosophical prose. As a person grows older, he tries to understand and comprehend the world. He no longer thinks like a 4-year-old child, but like a 35-year-old, adult. But there are some people who cannot see the reality that is happening before their eyes, such people are incapable of thinking and do not see. In popular parlance, they are from the group of those who say - "Do not see, do not burn." U. Hamdam vividly portrayed such individuals through Yusuf and Amir. Yusuf studied history, is a university teacher, and is a modern hero in line with the demands of the times. His opposite, AMIR, is embodied as a character who is disconnected from this time and is only concerned about the afterlife. However, the post-1991 period in which the work is described needed not only religious views from a person, but also educated people with modern thinking. In life, a young family faces various difficulties when it separates from the larger circle and gains its independence. To overcome it, both husband and wife must work together. Therefore, the state was in the same conditions during this period. Amir was one of those who lost his balance.

The period reflected in the background of the events of the novel is a transitional period when the system of values was disrupted (through the relationships between Yusuf and his friends), traditional moral standards were weakened (Amir's view of the era), and new socio-



spiritual criteria had not yet stabilized. This situation is explained in literary criticism by the concept of "axial crisis" [2].

The heroes of the work live in this axial gap. Their inner experiences, hesitations, and mental instability reflect the general state of the era. The hero cannot understand himself through the roles that exist in society, as a result of which the problem of identification arises. Yusuf seeks balance, but balance was a phenomenon that should be present not only for himself, but also for everyone at that time. This situation is manifested in the novel as the main sign of the spirit of the era [3].

The concept of "balance" at the center of the novel is manifested as a multi-layered philosophical category. It represents the relationship between the following opposing pairs:

- individual and society,
- reason and faith,
- materiality and spirituality,
- freedom and responsibility.

Throughout the work, the author shows that the violation of this balance causes confusion, alienation and inner emptiness in the human psyche. Therefore, balance is interpreted in the novel not as an individual problem, but as a socio-philosophical problem specific to the era.

In the novel "Balance", psychologism is manifested as a leading artistic principle. The inner monologues of the heroes, elements of the stream of consciousness, silence and pauses create a spiritual picture of the era. External conflicts are contrasted with internal conflicts.

This aspect is in harmony with the psychoanalytic theories of Z. Freud and K. Jung and serves to reveal hidden contradictions in the human psyche [3]. As a result, the novel became an artistic and philosophical text that explores not social reality, but the spiritual consequences of this reality.

The author's position and modern literary thought

Ulugbek Hamdam does not absolutize the author's judgment in the work. He does not give ready-made conclusions, but rather poses questions. This style is characteristic of modern and postmodern literary thought and calls on the reader to active observation.

The author neither idealizes nor denies the era. On the contrary, he encourages us to understand it through the human psyche. This circumstance further increases the scientific and aesthetic significance of the novel.

Conclusion. This article is aimed at analyzing Ulugbek Hamdam's novel "Balance" as an important artistic phenomenon in modern Uzbek literature that sheds light on the spirit of the era from a psychological and philosophical perspective. During the research, it was found that the work expresses the complex relationship between the era and the individual, the external crisis inherent in the transitional period, mental imbalance, and the mental state of modern man through the prism of individual consciousness.

During the work, the concept of "spirit of the era" was interpreted based on literary criticism and philosophical concepts, and it was scientifically revealed that in the novel "Balance" this category is artisticized through psychologism and internal conflicts rather than through open social images. The spiritual shifts taking place in society, instability in the value system, and problems of identification were summarized through the psyche of the heroes.

The results of the study show that the concept of "balance", which is the central ideological axis of the novel, is manifested as a multi-layered philosophical category that determines the relationship between the individual and society, reason and faith, materiality and spirituality. The fact that the violation of this balance causes alienation, inner emptiness and spiritual suffering in the human psyche is consistently analyzed in the work.

The article shows that in the work of Ulugbek Hamdam, the traditions of psychology of the psychological period are combined with modern literary thinking, and the author gives priority to describing its spiritual consequences rather than external reality. This brings the novel



closer to post-traditional and partly existential literary paradigms. The author's refraining from open conclusions and the artistic position based on asking questions are significant in that they encourage the reader to active observation.

The scientific conclusions obtained during the research showed that the novel "Balance" is an important artistic and aesthetic source for understanding and analyzing the spirit of the era in Uzbek literature of the independence period. The work serves as an important material for studying not only the literary process, but also spiritual transformations in social consciousness. In general, Ulugbek Hamdam's novel "Balance" is a mature work that explores the relationship between the individual and the era at an artistic and philosophical level, and it occupies an important place in the aesthetic and ideological development of modern Uzbek literature.

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