

REFLECTION OF ARTISTIC-AESTHETIC PRINCIPLES AND SPIRIT OF THE PERIOD IN THE NOVEL "BALANCE"**Abdurasulova Mokhlaroy Abdukadir qizi**

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Abstract: The article studies the artistic interpretation of the socio-spiritual environment formed during the years of independence on the basis of one of the important examples of modern Uzbek prose - Balance. The study analyzes the inner searches of the individual, the transformational processes of society, and the aesthetic modelling of the psyche of the era within the framework of the spiritual-aesthetic space created by the author Ulugbek Hamdam. The disclosure of phenomena such as psychologism, internal collision, identity crisis, and spiritual instability in the poetics of the novel through the principles of artistic and philosophical thinking is interpreted on a scientific basis. The concept of "Balance" is interpreted in the work as a central aesthetic category that serves to understand the spiritual state of the era and is considered as the main criterion in illuminating the author's ideological and conceptual intention.

Keywords: Ulugbek Hamdam, novel "Balance", spirit of the era, psychological prose, philosophical interpretation, axial crisis, concept of balance, individual and society, ontological loneliness, modern Uzbek literature.

Introduction.

The artistic interpretation of post-independence socio-spiritual processes in Uzbek literature is one of the areas that requires special scientific attention. Because the political, economic and cultural changes that occurred during this period have led to significant spiritual shifts in the thinking of society, the system of values and the consciousness of the individual. In the literary process, research aimed at the aesthetic perception of these changes, the re-understanding of human identity and the artistic modeling of the spirit of the era has intensified.

In this sense, Balance stands out as an important work that reflects the complex spiritual landscape of the era through the artistic and philosophical interpretation of the spiritual experiences, identity crisis and internal suffering of a person during the independence period. The author Ulugbek Hamdam illuminates the internal conflicts between the individual and time in psychological depth and offers a new conceptual approach to expressing the spirit of the era in literature.

In the writer's other works, such as "Rebellion and Obedience", "Loneliness", "Stone", the impact of the transition to independence on the human psyche, the forms of accepting changes and the artistic expression of spiritual deviations in society are widely analysed. These studies show that the issue of illuminating the psyche of the era has acquired a deep conceptual content in literature and further clarify the role and significance of the novel "Balance" in this process.

Literature Review and Methodology

The evolution of the Uzbek novel at the turn of the 21st century marks a transition toward profound philosophical inquiry and stylistic experimentation. Central to this period is Ulugbek Hamdam's seminal work, Balance (2012, 2018), which serves as a literary mirror reflecting the spiritual and social fluctuations of a society in transition. To understand the significance of this work, one must look at the broader poetic shifts explored by Karimov (2018), who illustrates how the Uzbek novel moved from traditional forms toward the complex poetics of the modern



era. This shift is grounded in the fundamental principles of literary studies as defined by Kuronov (2020), whose theoretical frameworks provide the necessary tools to decode the structural layers of contemporary prose.

The analytical depth of this research is further enriched by examining the internal world of Hamdam's characters through the lens of psychologism. As Mirzaev (2005) notes, psychologism in Uzbek novels has evolved into a sophisticated tool for depicting the "inner man," a technique Hamdam masters to portray the protagonist's quest for equilibrium. This study utilizes a multidisciplinary methodology to dissect the text. Primarily, it employs the hermeneutic and structural-systemic approaches advocated by Abdurakhmonov (2017) and Qazoqboyev (2010). These methods allow for a rigorous analysis of the literary text, where the concept of "balance" is treated not just as a title, but as a systemic aesthetic category that binds the novel's composition, character psyche, and philosophical message into a unified whole. Through this integrated approach, the research highlights Hamdam's role in bridging traditional values with the existential anxieties of the modern age.

Results.

In literary criticism, the term "zeitgeist" is interpreted as a category that represents the collective consciousness, socio-emotional mood, and system of spiritual and moral views formed at a certain historical stage of society. This concept is directly related to the historical existence and thinking of man, and in the process of interpreting it, it is approached based on philosophical concepts. In this regard, thinkers such as Georg Hegel, Karl Jaspers, and Martin Heidegger interpret the spirit of the era in connection with the ontological content of human existence, conscious attitude to historical processes, and forms of understanding existence. In their opinion, the spirit of the era is not only a set of historical experiences, but also a conceptual criterion that determines the internal harmony or conflict of a person with his time.

In the novel "Balance", the spirit of the era is manifested not directly through social images, but through internal experiences, spiritual collisions, and intellectual searches taking place in the minds of the characters. The author pays special attention to the artistic interpretation of the external reality itself, rather than its impact on the human psyche [1]. In this regard, the work can be considered an example of psychological and philosophical prose. As a person's life experience increases, his ability to perceive the world also becomes more complex; he moves from naive views of childhood to the stage of mature thinking. However, in life, there are also people who do not seek to see or understand the changes taking place around them, who consciously ignore reality. In popular parlance, such people, who adhere to the principle of "do not see, do not burn," constitute a certain category in society [2].

Discussion.

Ulugbek Hamdam vividly interprets these types of opposing mental states in the novel through the images of Yusuf and Amir. Yusuf is an enlightened hero who studied history, works at a university, has a developed worldview, and responds to the demands of the times. His opposite, Amir, is depicted as an image that has lost harmony with the times, has narrowed intellectually, and is mainly obsessed with the issues of the afterlife.

The period after 1991, reflected in the work, is highlighted as a historical stage that requires people not only religious views, but also modern thinking, scientific worldview, and social responsibility. This process is compared by the author with the difficulties of a young family in the process of achieving independence: just as a husband and wife must work together to live independently, so society also needs joint conscious action to ensure its development.

The image of Amir is interpreted in this sense as a person who has lost his spiritual stability and is unable to find his life balance. The author artistically summarizes the complex, unbalanced conditions in the psyche of the era through his internal suffering and inability to accept external reality. The historical background in which the events of the novel take place represents a complex transitional period when the system of values has been disrupted,



traditional moral standards have weakened, and new socio-spiritual criteria have not yet been formed. In literary criticism, such a situation is interpreted as an “axial crisis”, in which aspects such as a gap in the consciousness of society, spiritual suffering, and a breakdown in the identification process are considered the main factors. The heroes of the novel live in this axial gap and reflect the general psychological state of the era through their internal fluctuations, mental instability, and intellectual hesitations. In the work, the individual's self-understanding through traditional roles in society becomes complicated, resulting in an identity crisis. The heroes' search for a stable position in the process of self-awareness is manifested in the novel as one of the leading signs of the psyche of the era [3].

Throughout the work, the author shows that the disruption of these proportions creates instability, alienation and inner emptiness in the human psyche. In this sense, balance is interpreted not as an individual psychological state, but as a specific socio-philosophical problem of the era.

In the novel "Balance", psychologism is elevated to the level of a leading artistic principle. The inner monologues of the heroes, the stream-of-consciousness technique, silence, pause and gesture, form the spiritual landscape of the era. The transfer of external conflicts to internal collisions deepens the philosophical content of the work. These aspects, in harmony with the psychoanalytic ideas of Z. Freud and K. Jung, serve to artistically reveal the unconscious layers of the human psyche. As a result, the novel becomes an artistic and philosophical text that explores not the external appearance of social reality, but the spiritual consequences it creates in the human mind. The author's position is also one of the important factors determining the aesthetic value of the work. Ulugbek Hamdam does not make firm judgments in the novel, does not present clear conclusions. On the contrary, by posing questions about the relationship between man and the era, he encourages the reader to think actively. This approach creates an open compositional model characteristic of modern and postmodern literary thinking. The author neither idealizes nor denies the era; rather, it allows us to understand it through the psyche of the individual. Therefore, the novel is evaluated as a high artistic experience from a scientific and aesthetic point of view.

Conclusion.

The main purpose of this study was to analyze Ulugbek Hamdam's novel "Balance" as a psychological and philosophical interpretation of the spirit of the era in Uzbek literature of the period of independence. During the research, it was found that the axial crisis inherent in the transitional period, instability in the value system, conflicts in the relationship of the individual with the social environment, and mental imbalance were artistically expressed in the novel through the prism of individual consciousness. During the work, the concept of "spirit of the era" was explained from the point of view of literary criticism and philosophical concepts, and it was scientifically shown that in the novel "Balance" this concept was artistically embodied through psychologism, internal conflicts, and stream-of-consciousness techniques rather than through open social images. The spiritual shifts taking place in society, the crisis of identity, and the ratio of personal and social criteria were illuminated through the psyche of the heroes.

The analysis showed that the concept of “balance” at the center of the novel is formed as a multi-layered philosophical concept that determines the relationship between opposing categories such as individual-society, reason-belief, materiality-spirituality. The fact that the violation of this relationship creates alienation, inner emptiness, suffering and mental instability in the human psyche is consistently analyzed in the work.

During the study, it was revealed that the principles of psychological prose in Ulugbek Hamdam's work are combined with modern literary thinking, and the author gives priority to the artistic analysis of its spiritual consequences, not external reality. The author's abstention from ready-made conclusions, the artistic position that calls on the reader to independent observation were assessed as an important feature of the novel's aesthetics. The obtained scientific results



show that the novel “Balance” serves as an important artistic and aesthetic source for studying the spirit of the era in Uzbek literature of the independence period. The work is a valuable object of research not only in the study of the literary process, but also in the study of spiritual transformations taking place in social consciousness.

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