



## THE IMPACT OF MODERNISM ON UZBEK LITERARY WORKS

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**Abstract:** Special attention is paid to the issue of character creation in world literature, and there is a need to reveal the psychological foundations and factors of artistic character creation. After all, a work of art cannot be perfectly imagined without an artistic character and its psychological foundations. That is why in literature, especially in Uzbek literature, it is of scientific-theoretical importance to study, analyze and draw conclusions about the works of writers in the form of examples. Therefore, a mature work of art is considered important as an expression of the change and evolution of people's consciousness, thinking.

**Key words:** Modernism, consciousness, storytelling, literature, modernist, transformation, landscape, framework, lifestyle.



**Аннотация:** Особое внимание уделяется проблеме создания персонажей в мировой литературе, возникает необходимость раскрытия психологических основ и факторов художественного создания персонажей. Ведь произведение искусства невозможно прекрасно представить без художественного характера и его психологической основы. Вот почему в литературе, особенно в узбекской литературе, имеет научно-теоретическое значение изучение, анализ и выводы о произведениях писателей в виде примеров. Поэтому зрелое произведение искусства считается важным как выражение изменения и эволюции сознания, мышления людей.

**Ключевые слова:** Модернизм, сознание, повествование, литература, модерн, трансформация, пейзаж, рамки, образ жизни.

**Annotatsiya:** Jahon adabiyotida personaj yaratish masalasiga alohida e'tibor qaratilib, badiiy xarakter yaratishning psixologik asoslari va omillarini ochib berish zarurati tug'iladi. Zero, badiiy asarni badiiy xaraktersiz va uning psixologik asoslarisiz mukammal tasavvur etib bo'lmaydi. Shuning uchun ham adabiyotda, ayniqsa, o'zbek adabiyotida adiblar ijodini o'rganish, tahlil qilish, ular haqida misollar ko'rinishida xulosa chiqarish ilmiy-nazariy ahamiyatga ega. Binobarin, yetuk san'at asari kishilar ongi, tafakkuri o'zgarishi va evolyutsiyasi ifodasi sifatida muhim sanaladi.

**Kalit so'zlar:** Modernizm, ong, hikoya, adabiyot, modernist, transformatsiya, landscape, ramka, turmush tarzi.

## Introduction

The influence of modernism on Uzbek literature has been profound, shaping the literary landscape of the region and ushering in a new era of experimentation and



innovation. “As Uzbekistan underwent significant social, cultural, and political transformations during the 20th century, writers and intellectuals sought to reflect these changes in their works, leading to the emergence of a Modernist movement in Uzbek literature”<sup>1</sup>. Drawing inspiration from global literary trends and challenging traditional forms and themes, Uzbek Modernist writers like N. Eshonqul and O. Mukhtor pushed the boundaries of storytelling and explored complex existential and psychological themes.

This introduction will delve into the impact of modernism on Uzbek literature, examining how it has influenced the development of literary styles, narrative techniques, and thematic concerns in the works of Uzbek writers. Through an exploration of key Modernist figures and their contributions to Uzbek literature, this study aims to shed light on the ways in which modernism has shaped and transformed the literary landscape of Uzbekistan. Modernism emerged in the late 19th and early 20th centuries as a literary and artistic movement that challenged traditional forms and conventions. Modernist writers and artists aimed to push boundaries and experiment creatively, focusing on individual consciousness, fragmentation, and nonlinear narratives. They rejected traditional plot structures and character development in favor of exploring themes like alienation and disillusionment in the complexities of modern life. Modernist literature delves into the uncertainties of the era, capturing the fragmented nature of experience through innovative techniques like stream-of-consciousness writing. This movement represents a radical shift from conventional forms, emphasizing new ways of depicting reality and human experience. Its impact on literature and art worldwide has led to the development of fresh styles and storytelling approaches.

## Main body

In the twentieth century, Uzbek literature underwent significant growth and transformation due to the influence of the Jadid reformers, who were instrumental in

<sup>1</sup> Modernist studies journal wins award 2002, p.98-110.



shaping the future of Uzbekistan through their national revival movement. These reformers viewed print media as a powerful tool for propagating their ideas and initiating reforms across various aspects of society, leaving a lasting impact on Central Asia. Embracing progressive European ideologies, the Jadids introduced a wave of European literature and philosophy to the region, blending these concepts with local traditions to create a unique synthesis that resonated throughout Central Asia. This fusion of national and global perspectives led to a flourishing of literary output. Notably, Abdulla Qadiri, a renowned writer of his time, crafted the inaugural Uzbek novel, "Days Gone By," showcasing exquisite prose and an unflinching examination of history, setting a high standard for Uzbek literature. Concurrently, the eminent poet Abdulhamid Cholpan transformed Uzbek poetry by moving away from the traditional Arabic 'aruz' meter. Mahmudhodja Behbudi, another influential Jadid advocate, introduced the 'new method' by penning the first Uzbek play, "The Patricide," thereby ushering in new literary genres. Through their literary works, the Jadids disseminated their beliefs in national sovereignty, justice, advancement, and enlightenment, particularly to those living under colonial rule.

Despite facing severe repression, with many prominent figures like Qadiri and Cholpan falling victim to Stalin's Great Purge, talented writers such as Aibek, Abdulla Kahhar, and Askad Muhtar persisted and produced works of artistic significance.

Although constrained by the dictates of Soviet realism, these writers managed to create compelling literature that reflected their enduring artistic prowess and resilience in the face of adversity. In the literature of the 1970s and 1980s, ideas of justice and patriotism prominently feature, resonating with themes of national identity within the works of writers like Shavkat Rahmon (1950-1996), Murod Muhammad Dust (1949- ), Usmon Azim (1950), and Hurshid Davron (1952- ) among others. This period witnesses a reexamination of Uzbek identity within the framework of the Soviet Union, delving into the essence of being Uzbek. Through the lens of short stories, Erkin Azam (1950- ) portrays the impacts of



modernization and the gradual erosion of traditional lifestyles. The literary landscape reflects a cultural introspection where notions of Uzbek identity, justice, and love for the homeland are explored against the backdrop of a changing societal and political fabric. These writers capture the spirit of their time, grappling with the complexities of preserving tradition amidst the currents of modernity within the Soviet era. Following Uzbekistan's independence in 1991, a significant transformation unfolded across all aspects of society, including literature. Liberated from the constraints of oppressive state ideologies, Uzbek literature experienced a rejuvenation. Writers ventured into uncharted territories, exploring new genres such as post-modernism and the absurd.

This spirit of experimentation persisted into the 21st century, which brought about a wave of globalization and advancements in information technology, unveiling fresh perspectives on profound issues. The dawn of the 21st century marked a period of increased interconnectedness and technological progress that illuminated new horizons for Uzbek literature. This era prompted a reevaluation of national identity and a critical examination of historical narratives. Contemporary Uzbek writers delve into themes like the role of women in Uzbekistan, the impact of migration, the preservation of traditional lifestyles, spiritual contemplations, and the evolving essence of modern humanity. These topics have become focal points in modern Uzbek literature, reflecting the evolving societal landscape and the quest for understanding and articulating the complexities of contemporary Uzbek identity and culture. The influence of modernism on Uzbek literature has been a transformative force, reshaping the traditional literary landscape and ushering in a new era of experimentation and innovation. Modernist tendencies have infused Uzbek literature with a spirit of avant-garde creativity, challenging established literary norms and conventions.

One of the key aspects of modernism in Uzbek literature has been the adoption of unconventional narrative techniques and structures. Writers have moved away from linear storytelling and explored fragmented narratives, non-linear plots, and stream-of-



consciousness styles. This departure from traditional storytelling methods has allowed for a more nuanced and complex representation of characters, themes, and emotions. Moreover, modernism has facilitated a deeper exploration of psychological complexities, existential dilemmas, and the impact of societal changes on individuals. Uzbek writers have delved into themes such as alienation, identity crisis, the search for meaning in a rapidly modernizing world, and the tension between tradition and modernity. The embrace of modernist elements has not only enriched Uzbek literature aesthetically but has also enabled writers to engage with contemporary issues and reflect on the challenges of the present day. Through their experimental approach, Uzbek authors have been able to capture the complexities of human experience, societal transformations, and cultural shifts, offering readers a fresh perspective on the evolving nature of Uzbek identity and society.

In essence, the influence of modernism on Uzbek literature has been instrumental in pushing the boundaries of creativity, fostering literary innovation, and highlighting the vibrancy and dynamism of Uzbek literary expression in the context of a changing world. Modernism had a significant influence on Uzbek literature, particularly during the early 20th century. This literary movement, characterized by a break from traditional forms and norms, and a focus on individualism, experimentation, and a departure from realism, brought about a profound shift in Uzbek literature. The influence of modernism can be seen in the works of prominent Uzbek writers such as Abdulla Qahhar, Olloqul Omon, and Fitrat. These writers incorporated modernist elements in their prose and poetry, such as non-linear narratives, stream-of-consciousness techniques, and a rejection of strict realism.

Furthermore, modernist literature provided a platform for Uzbek writers to explore themes of cultural identity, social change, and political upheaval, reflecting the turbulent times in which they were writing. This period of literary innovation and experimentation opened new avenues for artistic expression and contributed to the development of a distinct Uzbek literary identity.



Additionally, the influence of modernism on Uzbek literature was profound, leading to a departure from traditional literary forms and themes, and paving the way for a new era of artistic expression and cultural exploration. The Alisher Navoi State Museum of Literature of the Academy of Sciences of Uzbekistan is a prestigious institution dedicated to preserving and promoting Uzbekistan's rich literary heritage. The museum houses a vast collection of historical materials and objects related to Uzbekistan's literary history, including rare documents and manuscripts from the Middle Ages. Through its research and educational programs, the museum plays a crucial role in the cultural development of young generations in Uzbekistan, providing valuable insights into the country's literary traditions and history. By showcasing these treasures, the museum helps to inspire and educate visitors about the importance of literature in shaping Uzbek identity and culture. “The Uzbeks are a Turkic ethnic group originating from Central Asia and are one of the largest Turkic ethnic groups in the region. They form the majority population in Uzbekistan, alongside Kazakh and Karakalpak minorities”<sup>2</sup>. Additionally, Uzbek communities can be found as minority groups in countries such as Afghanistan, Tajikistan, Kyrgyzstan, Kazakhstan, Turkmenistan, Russia, and China. Uzbek diaspora communities also exist in countries like Turkey, Saudi Arabia, the United States, Ukraine, and other nations around the world. 5902Do you like to read books? What is about Uzbek literature? Here is a little history. From the ancient times, the people of Uzbekistan composed and passed by word of mouth the colorful legends about good and evil, about fearless heroes – pahlavons, who defended the honor and dignity of their land, about the cruelty and wisdom of their rulers. The famous legends about Alpomysh, Siyavush and Afrosiab and many other colorful examples of the oral folk art laid the foundation for our literature. There was also a place for humor in the history of Uzbek literature. So in the folk epic appeared the genre of Latifa – anecdotes. The world famous hero of comic stories Nasreddin Afandi, a comic character who cleverly conducts ingenious combinations with the rich and rulers of cities, has gained

<sup>2</sup> Solijonov.Y. Fergana: "Fergana" publishing house, 2020. - 324 pages.



worldwide fame. The ancient folklore stories such as “Takhir and Zukhra”, “Farhad and Shirin”, “Leyli and Majnun”, etc. are classics of Uzbek literature. During the reign of the Temurids, the greatest poet and statesman, the founder of Uzbek literature, Alisher Navoi, played a colossal role in the development of literature. His priceless manuscripts are still preserved in many manuscript collections of world-famous museums, such as the State Hermitage Museum, the Louvre and the British Museum, and have been translated into many languages. In the works of famous authors, you can read the historical events of various eras of Uzbekistan.

Thus, the work “Baburnoma” by Zakhiriddin Babur (1483-1530) describes the life of the country during the rule of two empires – the Temurids and Baburids. Since the XIV century, Samarkand, Bukhara, the cities of the Ferghana valley and Khorezm were important literary centres of Central Asia. Poetry and artistic skills developed rapidly here. Such poets as Jami (1414-1492), Lutfi (1367 - 1466), Mashrab (1653-1711), Agakhi (1809-1874) were particularly popular. The famous poets Nadira (1792-1842), Uvaysi (1780-1845) and Makhzuna made an invaluable contribution to Uzbek women's poetry. At the beginning of the XX century, the best works were written by Mukhammad Sharif Gulkhani, Agakhi, Mukimi, Zavki, Furkat, Abdulla Kadiri, Fitrat, Khamza. They laid the foundation for social realism in Uzbek literature and introduced social and political themes to it. Among the works of modern literature, we recommend to read the works of Abdulla Kahhar, Gafur Gulyam, Oybek, Erkin Vahidov, Abdulla Oripov and many other writers. They are really fascinating and interesting. The impact of modernistic influences on Uzbek literature has been profound, reshaping the essence and articulation of contemporary literary creations in significant manners. These modern trends have introduced a fresh vitality and range to Uzbek literature, fostering inventive experimentation, creativity, and a redefinition of literary frontiers. Modern writers who continue modernistic manifestation in Uzbek literature. Modern Uzbek literature has evolved to embrace diverse and bold forms and



styles, allowing for creative freedom and a range of opinions. However, this openness also poses a risk of producing mediocre work. In the 20th century, Uzbek literature drew on national epic traditions and neo-mythological elements, as well as existential themes. The use of metaphor and symbolism in Uzbek short stories at the end of the 20th century is expected to continue shaping the literature of the early 21st century. The existential themes in Uzbek stories often present the inner world of characters as tragic rather than realistic.

The literature of the 21st century reflects a new artistic mindset that seeks to counter the dehumanization of the previous century and focus on human experiences. Mythological elements are prevalent in Uzbek prose, with mythological imagery influencing the poetics and worldview of the writing. Writers like Ulugbek Khamdam and Aman Mukhtar blend reality and myth seamlessly in their novels, creating a rich tapestry of storytelling. The literary landscape of Uzbekistan in the 21st century is complex and multifaceted, showcasing a synthesis of various literary trends and a push towards a more holistic approach to storytelling. Modernist writers did not fail to conduct endless creative experiments on form, means, method, style in order to give a new look to the artistic image, to paint an irreversible picture of the psyche of people who are not similar to each other. But they were close to each other in terms of portraying the main character as a person who is confused in front of the society or has an internal or external protest against it. The description of this person, who is alone and defenseless in the face of a cruel existence, becomes alienated from society due to the fact that the world of feelings cannot withstand the pressure of the surrounding reality.

Modernism, unlike all previous literary trends, focused on depicting the inner world of an ordinary person. Modern artists either did not depict the reality and social environment surrounding a person, or they tried to change it to suit their artistic intentions. In this case, non-observance of vital precision, anachronism were commonplace. Most literary critics consider modern literature to be an artistic phenomenon that evokes feelings



of sadness, helplessness, and darkness. In fact, such imaginative writings are often created as a result of the moods of authors who want to fully understand the essence of life and are dissatisfied with the order of the world because of their inability to achieve it. The uniqueness of modern literature is manifested, first of all, in abandoning the attempt to achieve harmony between the views of the author and the reader in the artistic image, as required by previously formed literary traditions. If the life-likeness of the artistic image in the stage of classical literature, the representation of reality and interpersonal relationships in the context of causal connections were rejected by modern prose writers, then in modern poetry, the strict poetic system and existing expressive arsenals are free was denied by the variety of poetic form and expression. Modernist writers threw away previous artistic values and tried to use complex and new literary forms and methods that forced the readers to think deeply and to some extent become partners with the author. Modernist writers also broke the chronological expression of the development of events in works of art. Most of the modernist works did not show events that take place in an orderly manner, but rather a flow of people's thoughts and confused experiences. The image of the evening of emotions and thoughts is not as before with internal discipline, but as a flow of consciousness that closes in a chaotic way.

## Conclusion

The transition from oral to written literary customs in Uzbekistan gained traction in the early 20th century during the modernization efforts of the Soviet era. Writers such as Abdulla Qahhar, G‘afur G‘ulom, and Hamza Hakimzade Niyazi drew on oral traditions and folklore to create works that honored Uzbekistan's cultural heritage while engaging with contemporary social and political issues. The coexistence of oral and written traditions has fostered a nuanced interplay between these two forms of literature. Despite the impact of writing on oral traditions, both mediums coexist in various societies, each offering distinct qualities and influences on literary expression. Appreciating the nuances between oral and



written literature is fundamental for understanding the array of literary expressions across cultures and historical eras

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