

"THE IMPORTANCE OF INCORPORATING FOLKLORE ELEMENTS IN AMERICAN AND UZBEK LITERATURE"

Bafoyeva Rokhila Valijonovna

Scientific Supervisor: (PhD). Asia International University
Department of Foreign Language and Social Sciences
Assistant teacher.

Mirzayeva Makhliyo Shukrullayevna

Researcher. Asia International University 1st-year Master's student.

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Abstract. *This article explores the significance of the usage of folklore in American and Uzbek literature, focusing on how traditional oral narratives influence literary creativity, cultural identity, and social values in both literary traditions. It examines the role of folklore elements such as myths, legends, epics, proverbs, and folk tales in shaping narrative structure, character development, and thematic expression. The article also analyzes the similarities and differences in the adaptation of folklore within American multicultural literature and Uzbek national literary heritage. Furthermore, it highlights how folklore serves as a bridge between historical traditions and modern literary interpretation, demonstrating its continuing relevance in contemporary cultural and literary studies.*

Keywords: *Folklore, archetype, cultural memory, narrative structure, symbolism, American literature, Uzbek literature, postmodernism.*

Introduction. Folklore represents humanity's earliest narrative system, predating written literature and functioning as a primary medium for transmitting collective knowledge, beliefs, and ethical values. As literary forms evolved, folklore did not disappear; instead, it became deeply embedded within literary imagination, shaping narrative structures, symbols, and character typologies. In contemporary prose, especially within postmodern contexts, folklore emerges not as passive heritage but as an active narrative strategy. Writers draw upon myths, legends, proverbs, and ritual motifs to articulate identity, reconstruct cultural memory, and respond to historical disruptions. This is particularly visible in American multicultural prose and Uzbek national prose, where folklore serves as a bridge between past and present consciousness.

This study undertakes a comparative analysis to demonstrate how folklore functions as a narrative mechanism rather than mere thematic content.

Main body:

Corpus selection is an essential methodological stage in studying the significance of folklore usage in American and Uzbek literature. A carefully selected corpus allows researchers to analyze how folklore elements function within literary texts, reflect cultural identity, and influence narrative techniques. The corpus usually consists of representative literary works, folklore sources, and comparative materials from both traditions. When studying folklore in literature, scholars select texts based on several important criteria. First, the works must clearly contain folklore elements such as myths, legends, oral traditions, folk songs, proverbs, and epic narratives. Second, the selected texts should represent different historical periods to demonstrate the development and transformation of folklore usage. Third, the corpus must include influential and widely recognized authors whose works significantly reflect national literary traditions.

Analytical procedures are essential in studying how folklore functions in American and Uzbek literature.

They provide systematic methods that help researchers examine the structure, meaning, cultural value, and transformation of folklore elements in literary texts. These procedures allow scholars to identify similarities and differences between the two literary traditions and evaluate the role of folklore in shaping artistic expression and cultural identity.

Comparative analysis is one of the main procedures used to study folklore in American and Uzbek literature. This method involves comparing themes, characters, symbols, and narrative techniques found in folklore-based literary works from both traditions. Researchers examine how similar folklore motifs, such as heroism, morality, or supernatural elements, are represented differently according to cultural and historical contexts. Comparative analysis helps identify universal folklore patterns as well as unique national characteristics.

The analytical study of folklore usage in American and Uzbek literature reveals important findings about cultural preservation, literary development, and social expression. Through comparative, thematic, structural, and contextual analysis, researchers can identify how folklore contributes to the formation of national identity, artistic creativity, and intercultural dialogue in both literary traditions. The analysis demonstrates that folklore plays a crucial role in preserving cultural heritage in both American and Uzbek literature. Uzbek literary works strongly rely on folklore to maintain historical traditions, moral values, and national worldview. Epics, legends, and folk tales continue to influence character development, plot structure, and thematic focus. In American literature, folklore preserves the cultural memory of diverse ethnic groups. Native American myths, African American oral traditions, and immigrant folklore reflect historical experiences and cultural survival. The analytical results show that folklore functions as a cultural archive that maintains collective memory and strengthens cultural continuity.

Folklore plays an important role in American short stories by reflecting cultural traditions, social experiences, and national identity. American writers often use folklore elements such as myths, legends, oral storytelling, and traditional characters to create meaningful and culturally rich short stories.

Because American society is multicultural, folklore in American short fiction represents various ethnic, regional, and historical traditions. American short stories are strongly influenced by oral storytelling traditions. Early American folklore developed through Native American myths, African American slave narratives, and European immigrant folk tales.

These oral traditions shaped the structure of short stories by introducing simple but powerful plots, repetition, symbolic storytelling, and moral lessons. Many American authors adopted the conversational and narrative style of folk storytelling in their short fiction.

The methods of using of folklore in both American and Uzbek literature plays an important role in preserving cultural identity, expressing social values, and shaping literary creativity. Writers from both traditions actively integrate folklore through different literary methods that help connect past traditions with modern storytelling.

One of the main methods of using folklore in literature is the preservation of national traditions and cultural memory. In Uzbek literature, folklore elements such as epic tales, myths, proverbs, and legends are incorporated into literary works to maintain historical and cultural continuity. For example, traditional Uzbek epics like *Alpomish* influence themes of heroism, loyalty, and family honor in modern Uzbek storytelling. Similarly, American literature preserves cultural heritage through Native American myths, African American oral traditions, and immigrant folklore.

These stories help maintain the historical experiences and cultural identity of different ethnic groups in the United States. Folklore is often used symbolically in both literatures. Uzbek writers use mythical characters, symbolic animals, and traditional motifs to represent moral lessons, social conflicts, and philosophical ideas. Folklore symbols often reflect national beliefs and ethical values. In American literature, folklore symbols appear in works that explore themes such as freedom, survival, and identity. For instance, African American folklore frequently uses trickster figures like Br'er Rabbit to symbolize resistance, intelligence, and survival under oppression.

The Result of the analytical study of folklore usage in American and Uzbek literature reveals important findings about cultural preservation, literary development, and social expression. Through comparative, thematic, structural, and contextual analysis, researchers can identify how folklore contributes to the formation of national identity, artistic creativity, and intercultural dialogue in both literary traditions. The analysis demonstrates that folklore plays a crucial role in preserving cultural heritage in both American and Uzbek literature. Uzbek literary works strongly rely on folklore to maintain historical traditions, moral values, and national worldview. Epics, legends, and folk tales continue to influence character development, plot structure, and thematic focus. In American literature, folklore preserves the cultural memory of diverse ethnic groups. Native American myths, African American oral traditions, and immigrant folklore reflect historical experiences and cultural survival. The analytical results show that folklore functions as a cultural archive that maintains collective memory and strengthens cultural continuity.

Discussion of the study of the usage of folklore in American and Uzbek literature demonstrates that folklore remains a powerful and influential element in literary creativity, cultural preservation, and social expression. The comparative analysis of both traditions reveals that folklore functions not only as a source of artistic inspiration but also as a reflection of national identity, moral values, and historical experience. One of the key findings of the discussion is that folklore serves as a bridge between past and present cultural traditions. In Uzbek literature, folklore is closely connected with national heritage, historical memory, and traditional social values. Epics, legends, and folk tales continue to shape literary themes such as heroism, loyalty, family honour, and respect for cultural traditions. Uzbek writers often preserve folklore elements in their original or slightly modified form, which helps maintain cultural continuity and national identity.

Conclusion

The study of the significance of the usage of folklore in American and Uzbek literature demonstrates that folklore is a fundamental element of literary creativity, cultural preservation, and social expression. Throughout the analysis, it becomes clear that folklore functions as a valuable cultural resource that connects historical traditions with modern literary development.

Folklore plays a major role in preserving cultural heritage and maintaining national memory. In Uzbek literature, folklore strongly reflects traditional values, historical experiences, and national identity. Epics, legends, proverbs, and folk tales serve as important sources for literary themes, characters, and narrative structures. Uzbek writers often rely on folklore to preserve cultural authenticity and strengthen national consciousness. In American literature, folklore reflects the multicultural nature of society. Native American myths, African American oral traditions, and immigrant folklore traditions contribute to the diversity of American literary expression.

Folklore in American literature often explores themes of identity, cultural interaction, social justice, and historical experience. This diversity demonstrates how folklore helps represent the voices of different cultural groups.

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