

THE WORKS OF SHUKUR XOLMIRZAYEV: THE HARMONY OF REALISM, PSYCHOLOGICAL DEPTH, AND NATIONAL IDENTITY

(Based on Literary Analysis and Theoretical Methodology)

Abdumurodova Mohinur Panji qizi

Student. Termez State University

Faculty of Pedagogy and Social Work

Department of Library and Information Activity.

Tel: +998505088004 moxinurabdumurodova223@gmail.com

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Abstract. *This article analyzes the literary features of Shukur Xolmirzayev, one of the leading figures of modern Uzbek literature. The study focuses on realism, psychologism, and national identity in his stories and novels. The narrative structure, character system, inner psychological portraits, and use of dialects are examined through literary and comparative methodologies. The paper concludes that Xolmirzayev's works represent a mature example of Uzbek literary realism.*

Keywords: *Shukur Xolmirzayev, realism, psychologism, national identity, poetic analysis, literary methodology.*

Introduction

The second half of the twentieth century marked a period of ideological maturity and artistic refinement in Uzbek literature. Innovations in plot construction, poetic imagery, and psychological characterization brought the genres of short stories and novels to a new stage of development. Shukur Xolmirzayev emerged during this period as one of the writers who introduced a new direction of realism into Uzbek literature. His works vividly depict real-life conflicts, the human psyche, childhood experiences, and traditional folk thinking through richly developed artistic characters.

This article examines Xolmirzayev's literary legacy using methods of literary analysis, focusing specifically on the interplay of realism, psychological depth, and national identity in his works.

Literature Review and Methodology

Among Uzbek writers who deeply expressed the principles of realism and vividly reflected human psychology, Shukur Xolmirzayev occupies a unique place. He made a significant contribution to the development of Uzbek short stories and novels in the second half of the twentieth century and the early twenty-first century. His works are distinguished not only by their literary value but also by the unique harmony of national consciousness, historical memory, and modernity.

Shukur Xolmirzayev was born on March 24, 1940, in Boysun district, Surkhandarya region. In 1963, he graduated from the Faculty of Journalism at Tashkent State University and worked in various publishing houses and literary organizations. He contributed to journals such as *Yosh Gvardiya*, *Guliston*, and *Sharq Yulduzi*, and also served as a literary advisor in theater.

At the core of Xolmirzayev's literary work is the human being. He analyzed everyday life events simply yet with deep psychological insight. His early stories, including "*Oq o'tli*", "*To'liqlar*", and "*Who Has Not Reached Eighteen?*", introduced a fresh voice to Uzbek literature, while novels such as "*So'nggi bekat*", "*Qil ko'prik*", "*Yo'lovchi*", "*Olabo'ji*", and "*Dinozavr*" reflect the mature stage of his creative development.

The nature, lifestyle, and values of the people of Boysun serve as central themes in Xolmirzayev's works. In particular, the novel "*Olabo'ji*" stands as a literary symbol of the author's effort to preserve collective memory and cultural heritage.

Shukur Xolmirzayev based his literary style on realism. He did not aim to be poetic in his depictions; rather, he sought to portray events truthfully, honestly, and with profound analysis. In his works, dialogues are lifelike, and the characters are vivid and diverse. Often, he conveyed grand ideas through small, everyday events.

Xolmirzayev's contributions did not go unrecognized. In 1991, he was awarded the title of People's Writer of Uzbekistan, received the Hamza State Prize, and was also awarded the Order of Labor Glory. These honors reflected the high regard for his place in Uzbek literature.

The writer's entry into literature occurred in the early 1960s. His story "*Oq otli*" (1962) attracted literary attention due to its compositional conciseness and poetic clarity. Subsequent stories such as "*To'lqinlar*", "*Who Has Not Reached Eighteen?*", and "*Hayot abadiy*" marked a new stage in the development of Uzbek short story writing.

Xolmirzayev was also active in the novel genre. His novels—including "*So'nggi bekat*" (1976), "*Qil ko'prik*" (1984), "*Yo'lovchi*" (1987), "*Olabo'ji*" (1992), and "*Dinozavr*" (1996)—occupy a special place in the history of Uzbek literature. These works stand out for their deep psychological analysis, well-developed characters, and the artistic reflection of social issues.

At the core of Xolmirzayev's creative work is a desire to depict life authentically, highlighting human struggles and inner conflicts. Through simplicity, he achieves profound conceptual depth. For example, his story "*Og'ir tosh ko'chsa...*" serves as a social analysis of everyday life, while in the novel "*Olabo'ji*", historical memory is combined with contemporary themes. The settings and characters in his works are realistic, logically developed, and display complex inner experiences, in line with the main principles of realism.

In his stories and novels, Xolmirzayev gives deep artistic interpretation to the psychological states of children, lonely people, women, and socially marginalized individuals. In particular, the story "*Who Has Not Reached Eighteen?*" vividly portrays the protagonist's dreams and inner struggles with great psychological depth. In studying this aspect, Hamroyev I.A. employed psychological analysis methodologies to better understand the characters' inner worlds.

Xolmirzayev's distinctive approach lies not in external actions, but in creating psychological drama through inner monologues.

The role of the Surkhandarya dialect in his literary texts is an integral part of his style.

These dialectal elements bring readers closer to the realistic environment and enhance the national color of the language. E.Y. Islomova has thoroughly studied this aspect, emphasizing that the writer creates art through "naturalness."

Shukur Xolmirzayev's works are closely connected to the social and psychological themes of the Russian writer Valentin Rasputin. Both authors rely on realism to depict local life, folk philosophy, and inner emotional experiences. This comparison serves to reveal typological similarities and national differences in literature.

Conclusion

Shukur Xolmirzayev's literary work represents a unique phenomenon in Uzbek literature, embodying the artistic harmony of realism, psychological analysis, and national identity.

Beneath the seemingly simple plots of his works lies a profound conceptual layer. His masterful use of literary techniques and skillful depiction of psychological experiences establish him as one of the leading figures of contemporary Uzbek realism.

Xolmirzayev has left an indelible mark on Uzbek literature, portraying the spirit and psyche of the people through his artistic characters. Reading his works allows us to witness not only the experiences of an individual but also the emotions, struggles, and aspirations of an entire nation.

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