

SYMBOLIC ANALYSIS IN THE WORKS OF TOHIR MALIK

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Abstract. This article examines the use of symbolism in the works of the renowned Uzbek writer Tohir Malik. By analyzing his novels and short stories, the paper explores how Malik employs symbols to convey complex social, psychological, and philosophical meanings. The study aims to uncover the deeper layers of meaning behind his use of symbolism, demonstrating how these elements enrich the narrative and engage readers on multiple levels.

Keywords: Tohir Malik, symbolism, Uzbek literature, narrative analysis, social critique, cultural symbols, psychological depth.

Introduction

Tohir Malik is one of the leading figures in modern Uzbek literature, known for his profound exploration of social, moral, and psychological themes. His works not only capture the spirit of contemporary society but also delve into timeless questions about human nature. Central to Malik's storytelling is his strategic use of symbolism, which allows him to convey deeper meanings beyond the literal interpretation of his narratives.

Symbols serve as powerful tools in literature, enabling writers to express ideas indirectly and add layers of depth to their stories. This article seeks to analyze the symbolic elements in Tohir Malik's novels and short stories, focusing on how these symbols are used to reflect societal issues, explore the human psyche, and provide insight into cultural and moral values.

Literature review and methods

Symbolism in literature has been widely studied by scholars, particularly in the context of Central Asian and Uzbek literary traditions. Researchers like Rustamov (2010) and To'ychiyev (2019) have explored how symbols are used to express complex ideas in Uzbek literature. However, Tohir Malik's works offer a unique approach to symbolism, characterized by their subtlety and psychological depth.

This study utilizes a literary analysis methodology, focusing on a selection of Tohir Malik's key works, including "Shaytanat", "So'nggi o'q", and "Iblis devori". The analysis involves identifying and interpreting recurring symbols, examining their thematic significance, and exploring how they contribute to the overall narrative. The study also considers Malik's cultural background and its influence on his symbolic language.

Discussion and results

Symbolism in Tohir Malik's novels

In Malik's widely acclaimed novel "Shaytanat" (The Kingdom of Evil), the struggle between good and evil is central. The characters embody various symbolic meanings, with Rahmat representing moral integrity in a corrupt society. The character of Shaytan, on the other hand, serves as a symbol of pervasive greed and societal decay. Throughout the novel, light and darkness are used symbolically to highlight the moral dilemmas faced by the characters. For instance, scenes set in darkness often reflect moments of confusion, betrayal, or moral ambiguity.

Malik's use of the moon as a symbol in "Shaytanat" is particularly significant. The phases of the moon reflect the inner turmoil of the characters, symbolizing their shifting motivations and moral struggles. The recurring imagery of water serves as a metaphor for purification and the possibility of redemption, emphasizing the characters' attempts to cleanse themselves of past mistakes.

Natural elements as symbols

Nature plays a crucial symbolic role in Malik's storytelling. In "So'nggi o'q" (The Last Bullet), the protagonist's journey through a barren desert mirrors his emotional isolation and internal struggles. The harshness of the environment is symbolic of the difficulties he faces, both externally and within himself. The desert represents not just physical desolation but also the moral barrenness of the society he navigates.

The appearance of storms in Malik's narratives is often used to foreshadow conflict or emotional upheaval. In "Iblis devori" (The Wall of the Devil), a sudden storm signifies the protagonist's internal crisis, marking a turning point in his journey toward self-realization. The cleansing rain symbolizes moments of catharsis and new beginnings, indicating the potential for moral rejuvenation.

Cultural and religious symbols

Malik draws heavily on cultural and religious symbols to deepen the impact of his stories. In "Shaytanat", traditional objects like the dastarxon (tablecloth) and the chiroq (oil lamp) carry deeper meanings related to familial ties, hope, and the passage of time. The extinguishing of a lamp in critical scenes symbolizes the loss of hope or the encroachment of despair.

Religious symbolism is used to explore themes of faith, morality, and redemption. The use of mosques and the call to prayer in Malik's works are not simply background details but serve as reminders of the characters' moral and ethical obligations. These religious symbols often highlight the internal conflicts faced by characters who are torn between their faith and the realities of their circumstances.

Dreams and psychological symbolism

In "Iblis devori", dreams serve as a window into the subconscious minds of the characters. The dream sequences are rich with symbolic imagery, such as labyrinths, locked doors, and collapsing walls, which reflect the characters' unresolved fears and internal conflicts. The recurring symbol of mirrors in Malik's stories often represents self-reflection, identity, and the search for truth.

Dreams in Malik's works are not mere narrative devices but are integral to the psychological depth of his characters. For example, the breaking of a mirror often signifies a shattering of self-perception, forcing characters to confront uncomfortable truths about themselves.

Conclusion

Tohir Malik's use of symbolism is a testament to his literary genius, allowing him to tackle complex social and psychological themes in a nuanced way. By integrating cultural, religious, and psychological symbols into his narratives, Malik enriches his stories, making them not just engaging tales but also profound reflections on human nature and societal issues.

The analysis presented in this article highlights how Malik's symbolic language serves to explore the complexities of human behavior and the moral challenges faced by individuals in a rapidly changing world. His works offer readers a deeper understanding of the social dynamics of his time, while also providing timeless insights into the human condition. Tohir Malik's contribution to Uzbek literature is invaluable, both for his storytelling prowess and for his ability to convey profound messages through symbolic language.

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