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**ВУХОРО ДАВЛАТ УНИВЕРСИТЕТИ
ИЛМИҲАВБОРОТИ**



6/2020

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ANALYSIS OF ORPHAN IMAGES AND ORPHAN HOOD
IN CHILDREN'S LITERATURE

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Abstract:

Background. Choosing the orphaned children as a protagonist and describing orphan hood is not a rare case in children's literature. Researches on topic prove that even in the ancient elements of folklore people started to describe the sorrows and hard life of orphan children. The purpose of choosing such images is not only to arouse in people a sense of compassion, but also to teach them how to fight for life and believe in happy future. For this reason, in most works of this type orphan hero is alone in the beginning and finds family or friends at the end.

Methods. The following article provides comparative analysis of orphan heroes and discusses the similar features in depicting orphan hood in some English and Uzbek literary works starting from folklore genres upto modern fictions.

Results. As the analysis show, the motif of orphan child was frequently expressed in fairytales, myths, proverbs of both nations, and it should be admitted that the similarities between them can be noticed surprisingly often. On the other hand, contemporary children's literature is also not an exception on this matter, particularly, some adventure novels and the novels created on realistic approach are more likely to have the same themes and ideas in both English and Uzbek literary works.

Conclusion. Though being from different geographical units of the world, works created in English literature share some exact resemblance with the works written by Uzbek writers, especially, in the depiction of orphan psyche, in the choice of images that support or oppress the protagonist. The works of prominent writers such as, Khudoyberdi Tukhtaboev, Gafur Gulyam, Charles Dickens, Mark Twain and many others can be listed as the sources that served as an object in proving the views discussed in the article.

Keywords: motif, orphan, orphan hood, novel, fairy tale, theme, protagonist, literary work, character, main hero.

Introduction. Depiction of orphan and lonely children has been popular in literature for centuries and this is especially frequent in children's literature. Orphan stories usually reflect the experiences of abandoned or orphaned children in understanding their identity, past and social status, trying to survive, achieving emotional stability, and sometimes they depict the formulation of the hero from inexperienced child to a mature adult. These features can be noticed in the initial elements of literature like "myth". An African myth "The first tears" can justify the closeness of this opinion to reality. The characters of the myth are the Moon and orphan boy. The legend tells about how a sad orphan boy was alone in the world without any care or attention being unable to weep because tears were not appeared in that time. While reading through the lines of the myth one can feel the loneliness of a child and the affection of the Moon:

"Weep, orphan child! But do not let your tears fall on the earth, from which people get their food, for that would make the earth unclean. Let your tears fall on me. I shall take them with me back to the sky."[3]

The Moon didn't let the tears of the boy to fall on the ground as the ground was considered to be sacred. It shows that the sorrows and tears of innocent children are very hard to bear. By this way the myth encourages readers to be merciful towards orphans and to treat with care and compassion. Children's writer Khudoiberdi Tukhtabayev's book "Jannati odamlar" ("Paradise People") contains the hadith which tells how morally great deed is to be kind to the orphan: *"If you please the heart of an orphan, you will get the reward of seven haj."*[13]

Admittedly, there are some proverbs created by people of different nationalities that reflect above mentioned attitude. The following Uzbek proverbs can be taken as an example:

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Anne Shirley in "Anne of Green Gables" (by Lucy Maud Montgomery)

Mary Lennox in "Secret Garden" (Frances Hodgson Burnett)

Adopted sisters Pauline, Petrova and Posy Fossil in "Ballet Shoes: A Story of Three Children on the Stage" (by Noel Streatfeild)

Lucy Graham in Victorian bestseller "Lady Audley's Secret" (by Mary Elizabeth Braddon)

Tom in "Uncle Tom's Cabin or Life Among the Lowly" (by Harriet Beecher Stowe)

Jane in "Jane Eyre" (by Charlotte Bronte) and so on.

Results and discussion. We should admit that while making a research on resemblances of Uzbek and English literary works about the life of orphan heroes the most frequent similar features were noticed in some fairy tales and in novels depicting the adventures of street children.

The prominent theorist of comparative literature V. Zhirmunsky's ideas can also support this point of view: "*Typological similarities in the development of literature appear rather distinctly in those cases, when separate works, genres and styles in literature that are not connected with one another with direct relations or influences, discover the features of more or less significant similarities.*" [19]

An analysis of a number of fairy tales proved that the most common motifs in depiction of orphan hood are as follows:

1) hatred of a stepmother.

This feeling was expressed by heroes of every tale that has an orphan protagonist no matter to what nation it belongs. Here are the examples from some of them:

... *She could not bear the goodness of this young girl, because it made her own daughters appear the more odious.* (Cinderella, English fairy tale) [20]

... *The orphan girl was oppressed by her stepmother, day by day her face became pale from hardships. A stepmother gave her own daughter greasy bread every day, but to step daughter she gave only stale bread and ordered very hard work.* (The daughter of a herdsman, Uzbek fairy tale) [5]

2) image of the stepmother's ill-mannered lazy daughter.

The image of lazy and bad-tempered daughter of a stepmother can be found in both English and Uzbek fairy tales. In most of them the character of this capricious girl is portrayed in a completely opposite way to the personality of the protagonist.

... *But those flowers didn't like Kimmat, because she always trampled them.* [5]

The purpose of using such stylistic description is to emphasize the goodness and kindness of a positive hero and to show how ugly is the negative hero's inner world.

3) Stepmother's plans to get rid of the stepdaughter. In the tales of this type a stepmother usually tries to get rid of her orphaned daughter. In most cases she orders her husband to take and leave his daughter to the wood or to other distant places, but in some of them she even tries to kill a poor orphan. In the tale "Snow White" she orders this task to the hunter:

"Take Snow White out into the woods. I never want to see her again. Kill her, and as proof that she is dead bring her lungs and her liver back to me. [20]

The merciless stepmother in Uzbek tale "Zumrad and Kimmat" makes a poor old Father take his daughter to the far forest and leave her there:

- *Your daughter is very lazy and rude. Tell her to leave or I will not live with you. Go and lead astray her. I cannot live with her.* [5]

It is clear from these lines that stepmothers in both English and Uzbek tales always treated their stepdaughter in a ruthless manner; they never showed any kind of affection towards the orphan girl.

4) A mysterious image that helps the protagonist.

One of the common motifs that is met in all fairy tales which have been mentioned in the article is the help and support from an unexpected kind woman. These rescuers provide the hero with clothes, jewelry, cart and horse and at the end the character achieves the happiness. And this support changes the events of the story completely.

... *Her godmother simply touched her with her wand, and, at the same moment, her clothes*

were turned into cloth of gold and silver, all decked with jewels. (The Godmother in "Cindrella") [20]

The interpretation of Uzbek and English adventure novels has also confirmed that they share distinct resemblances in the themes and ideas. In this article some views about the comparison of the novels of Mark Twain and Gafur Gulyam will be illuminated. As the analysis shows, in the novels of these writers, which are known by depicting a vivid picture of the life of street children, "The adventures of Tom Sawyer", "The adventures of Huckleberry Finn" and "Shum Bola" ("Naughty Boy") a reader can notice surprisingly many similar features both in writer's style of describing events and in actions of the protagonists. The characteristic features of above mentioned works can be seen in the followings:

1) an orphaned hero runs away from home; a sense of shame from the childish sin of the hero causes to his escape; The protagonist in Gafur Gulyam's work "Shum Bola" - Koravoy is forced to leave home in disgrace when his mother reveals that he secretly stole oil and egg from his home, the hero of "The adventures of Huckleberry Finn" Huck, experiences the same embarrassing feeling when he steals butter and bread.

2) the hero serves in the hands of the greedy rich man, who usually beat him;

3) the main conflict of the works is described by the motif of encountering with thieves;

4) the hero gains great experience by tasting the bitterness of life;

5) Author describes the hardships and sufferings of abandoned, homeless orphan hero by using satire and humor; these works are usually small in size, but satirically powerful. [17]

Both writers used the same style in the depiction of social injustice of their time. In their works the rich men openly exploit poor people and live in a comfort being respected by everybody. No one except the young heroes revolts against the fact that they were flourishing by plundering the poor common people.

In the works written by Uzbek writer Khudoiberdi Tukhtabayev a great attention was paid to the expression of the inner world of orphaned heroes. The characters created by the writer are distinguished by their diversity. In "Besh bolali yigitcha" (The Lad with five children) the author describes will-power of a young boy who remained with his 5 siblings alone after the death of his parents. The content of the work is enriched by the effective expressions of the psychological state, inner feelings and dreams of a young child. Despite his young age, Orifjon does his best to fulfill his mother's will, defends the rights of his brothers with all his heart. [14]

Another work of the author tells about the sufferings of a child who was missing his mother. The image of Rakhmonberdi in "Jannati odamlar" (Paradise people) was created by the writer as the shining symbol of innocence and simplicity. The boy remains with his grandparents after his father dies and mother marries to another man. By this character Khudoiberdi Tukhtabayev tries to explain that it is very hard for the young children to be without mother or father, despite the kindness and care of his grandparents the hero cannot feel himself in a complete safety. It can be clearly felt in the childish words of the hero:

- I missed you too. I missed you with these eyes. I miss you in the night. I miss you when I play. I want to see you every day. Then I weep silently without showing to my granny. Won't you leave me anymore? [13]

As it was mentioned before, the orphaned images created by English writer Charles Dickens take a deep place not only in English but also in World literature. The most popular among them are:

1) Pip – the protagonist of the novel "Great expectations", is an orphan raised by his cold sister and her kind-hearted husband. The novel considered to be a Bildungsroman, depicting the life of the hero in three stages of his development: childhood, youth and maturity. In this work the main character experiences feelings such as the destruction of dreams and the pain of unrequited love.

2) Oliver – the protagonist of the novel "Oliver Twist" is a young child without parents, who is raised in the Workhouses of London. The destiny of this hero is quite different from other images of Dickens as he was only nine years old and completely abandoned. While wandering the crowded streets Oliver meets the group of criminals that exploit children as pickpockets and thieves. The best

known Dickens' orphan Oliver doesn't lose his innocence in spite of being alone and helpless in the hands of cruel criminals.

3) Esther – a female character in “Bleak House” an orphan girl raised by her aunt who eventually dies. This hero is portrayed as being capable of standing up for herself, who has her own opinion on what is right and what is wrong.

4) David – the character of “David Copperfield”, unlike Oliver Twist, David has a happy childhood with his mother, until she marries to a tyrannical and wicked man, at David's seventh age. After this event the hard life starts for him, and the rest part of his life he spends struggling to find his place in the world.

In short words, it can be admitted that all Dickens' orphans live trying to find their place in the cruel world, and attempt to achieve happiness and peace.

The image of orphan hero has been reflected in the poetry as well. In Uzbek literature the poem “Onajon” (“Dear Mother”) by Abdulla Oripov can be taken as a bright example of the works written on this theme. The poem has been narrated by an orphaned child who addresses to the dead mother. Another poem by Erkin Vohidov called “Nido” (“The Appeal”) also has the similar meaning. It describes the sorrow and grief of a young boy who lost his father during the war.

The poems with the description of orphaned children are created by English writer William Blake in his collection “Songs of Innocence”. Poet narrates his poems from the child's tongue, emphasizing the hardships and feelings of angelic children:

*When my mother died I was very young,
And my father sold me while yet my tongue*

Conclusion. The orphan, above all, is the character that makes reader think, feel and suffer. In literary works each orphan hero carries the task of influencing the people's soul. As it has been discussed above, orphan heroes are alone children who try to find their place in life, struggling against evil, believing in bright future, and simultaneously keeping their grief in their heart. Although the period and place are quite different, the literary works reflecting orphaned and abandoned children in Uzbek and English literature are similar to each other by their meaning, style and purpose. Most of them illuminate the struggle between good and evil, eventually showing the triumph of good over evil. The protagonists of the novels overcome the same difficulties and experience the same feelings. In conclusion, the works of Uzbek and English children's literature teach the youth to the best characteristics that a human being can possess.

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