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A Scientific Analysis of the Concept of Love in "Almost Heaven" by Judith McNaught and "Days Gone by" by Abdulla Qadiriy

Usmonova Z. H.

The senior teacher of English Linguistics Department

Yodgorova M. U., Azimova M.

1st year students of master degree

Abstract: The concept is the object of study of both cognitive linguistics and linguoculturology. The concept is a mental structure that is a basic unit of the human thinking code that has a relatively ordered internal structure, a complex, encoded information about the subject or event that is reflected and expressed as a result of cognitive activity.

Keywords: linguoculturology, language, interpretation, analyses, spiritual-cultural, national-cultural, linguistic features, aesthetic category.

In linguoculturology, the cultural concept, apart from the foregoing, is unique in its national-cultural character¹. In world linguistics, special attention is paid to the national, aesthetic, linguistic picture of the world, the correct interpretation of aesthetic values in it, the study of universal and differential aspects of different cultures, and the study of the features of the expression of aesthetic thinking of different nations in a language. One of the important tasks of modern linguistics is a comparative analysis of the national-cultural characteristics of each language to identify and analyze the harmony between the universal and spiritual-cultural values of peoples, the analysis of the linguistic features of units adopted in some languages at the level of an aesthetic category.²

Love, a complex and multifaceted emotion, has been a subject of fascination and study across various disciplines, including psychology, sociology, and cognitive linguistics. In this article, we explore the portrayal of love in two renowned literary works: "Almost Heaven" by Judith McNaught and "Days Gone By" by Abdulla Qadiri. Through a comparative analysis, we examine how these novels depict the concept of love, including its psychological dimensions, interpersonal dynamics, and cultural influences. Love is a fundamental aspect of the human experience, shaping relationships, influencing behavior, and impacting well-being. In literature, authors often explore the theme of love to provide insight into human nature and society. "Almost Heaven" by Judith McNaught and "Days Gone By" by Abdulla Qadiri are two works that offer rich depictions of love in different cultural and historical contexts. By analyzing these novels through a scientific lens, we aim to deepen our understanding of the concept of love and its significance in human life. Both "Almost Heaven" and "Days Gone By" delve into the psychological dimensions of love, exploring its cognitive, emotional, and behavioral aspects.

¹ Allanzarova M, Tashtemirova M, VERBALIZATION OF CONCEPT "WATER AND FIRE" IN ENGLISH LINGUOCULTUROLOGY. // Journal of critical reviews. Vol 7, Issue 2, 2020.

² Rakhmatova, M.M. (2018). Reflection of aesthetic values in the language: Uzbek "Go`zal" and English "Beautiful". //Impact:International journal of research in Humanities, Arts, and Literature. Vol.6. Issue 6. India, p. 40.

McNaught's novel portrays love as a transformative force that shapes the characters' identities and motivations. For example this excerpt depicts the beauty of true love *"In moments of vulnerability, Elizabeth found solace in Ian's embrace. His gentle touch and reassuring presence offered her comfort and strength, easing the burdens of her troubled heart. With him, she felt safe to open up, to share her fears and dreams without reservation."*³ Elizabeth and Ian's love in "Almost Heaven" evolves through stages of attraction, attachment, and commitment, reflecting contemporary theories of love such as Sternberg's Triangular Theory. Similarly, Qadiri's novel explores the intricacies of love in the context of Uzbek culture, highlighting the role of familial expectations, social norms, and personal agency in shaping romantic relationships. This article explores the concept of "love" and its representation in the language picture of the world based on the novel "Days Gone by" by Abdulla Qadiri and identifies linguistic-cognitive and linguistic-cultural specification of its comprehension by Uzbek people. The concept of love is multifaceted and varies across individuals and cultures. It encompasses deep affection, care, and emotional attachment towards someone or something. It can manifest in different forms such as romantic love, familial love and often involves a combination of emotions, including empathy, compassion. The concept of "love" is one of the main categories of ethical character that determines the spiritual values of a national culture. From the plot of the novel "Days gone by", the reader witnesses the sacred love of two main personages – Atabek and Kumush. Their love is ideal but tragic. Equally to their love, inner and outer beauty of them is eulogized by the author in the highly poetic form. The main heroine is the symbol of ideal beauty, purity and tenderness. Her transcendent beauty and feelings are demonstrated by the author in each of her gesture, speech and actions.⁴ Here we will delve deeper into "Days Gone by" meaning of love.

"You are right," said Hasan Ali.

"For many days the nature of his sickness remained obscure even to me."

"All right, what kind of sickness does he have?"

"Love."

"Love?"

"Love!" repeated Hasan Ali"⁵.

In "Almost Heaven," the relationship between Elizabeth and Ian is characterized by dynamic interpersonal dynamics, including communication patterns, power dynamics, and conflict resolution strategies. Through their interactions, the novel illustrates the importance of effective communication, mutual respect, and empathy in fostering healthy relationships. *"Ian's willingness to sacrifice everything for Elizabeth was a testament to the depth of his love. He faced adversity with unwavering determination, risking his own safety and reputation to protect her. His devotion knew no bounds, as he pledged his heart and soul to her without hesitation."* In contrast, "Days Gone By" examines love within the framework of traditional Uzbek society, where interpersonal dynamics are influenced by hierarchical structures, gender roles, and familial obligations. This novel analyzes the concept of "love," based on traditions, family ties and relations that reigned within society at that time. Not only the love of two young people, but also love for the parents, the love of a girl for parents, the love of one person for his homeland. For example, in a conversation between Otabek and his parents: *My son, have you heard yet? We arranged something on your behalf...-Of course, a clever person would never willingly commit to something harmful to their son's best interests.*

³ Almost Heaven by Judith McNaught. Published September 1st 1997 by Pocket. Mass Market Paperback, 544 pages.

⁴ Khajiyeva F.M. DECODING OF STYLISTIC DEVICES IN RUSSIAN AND ENGLISH TRANSLATIONS OF THE UZBEK NOVEL "DAYS GONE BY" BY ABDULLA QADIRI (STYLISTIC CORRESPONDENCES AND TRANSFORMATIONS).//International Scientific Journal Theoretical & Applied Science. Vol.72. Issue.04.2019.

⁵ Reese M.E. ByGone Days. – Nashville, TN: Muloqot Cultural Engagement Program, 2018. – 342 p.

In this example, Otabek, although he knew that his parents were disappointing, "but because of love and respect for them, he answered appropriately. The novel portrays love as a complex interplay of individual desires and societal expectations, highlighting the tension between personal autonomy and cultural conformity. Cultural factors play a significant role in shaping the experience and expression of love in both novels. In "Almost Heaven," the characters navigate the rigid social hierarchy of nineteenth-century England, where class distinctions and aristocratic norms dictate acceptable forms of romantic relationships. Elizabeth and Ian's love transcends societal barriers, challenging conventional notions of love and marriage. *"Through their love, Elizabeth and Ian underwent a profound transformation. They emerged stronger and more resilient, their bond forged in the crucible of adversity. Together, they discovered the true meaning of love – a force capable of transcending hardship and inspiring personal growth."*

These excerpts capture the various aspects of love depicted in "Almost Heaven," including passion, vulnerability, conflict resolution, sacrifice, and personal growth. Through the journey of Elizabeth and Ian, McNaught portrays love as a transformative and enduring force that enriches the lives of those who experience it. It is known that different cultures are based on systems of value orientations, which are reflected in novels and the linguistic analysis of these statements makes it possible to objectively establish some value priorities of the compared cultures. The words for love in English and Uzbek differ in the way they are used almost identically.

*"At last he blinked and though he continued to daydream about the mysterious angel whom he had encountered for a fleeting moment, reality finally imposed itself. A love story was born from that moment only growing stronger day by day"*⁶

In this example, the description of love at first sight is expressed by writer in a very beautiful way. Rather than slowly falling in love over time, you feel like you love the person from your very first encounter. Some describe this feeling as an instant connection, a deep attraction, a sensation of "butterflies in their stomach," or a belief that they have met the person that they are destined to be with forever.⁷

Similarly, "Days Gone By" explores the cultural nuances of love in Uzbekistan, where traditions, customs, and religious beliefs influence courtship rituals and marriage practices. The novel underscores the importance of cultural sensitivity and understanding in interpreting expressions of love across diverse contexts. "Almost Heaven" by Judith McNaught and "Days Gone By" by Abdulla Qadiri offer compelling insights into the concept of love from both Western and Eastern perspectives. Through a scientific analysis, we have examined the psychological dimensions, interpersonal dynamics, and cultural influences of love as portrayed in these novels. By exploring the universal themes of love through the lens of literature, we gain a deeper appreciation for its complexity and significance in shaping human relationships and society.

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