



CANADA

INTERNATIONAL SCIENTIFIC
ONLINE CONFERENCE

INNOVATIVE DEVELOPMENTS AND RESEARCH IN EDUCATION



**23 MAY
2025 YEAR**

CANADA, OTTAWA



The background of the lower half of the poster features a photograph of the Ottawa skyline. The CN Tower is the most prominent structure, rising from the waterfront. To its left are several modern glass skyscrapers. In the foreground, there are green trees and a body of water with a few boats. The entire image is framed by a red border.



INNOVATIVE DEVELOPMENTS AND RESEARCH IN EDUCATION

International scientific-online conference

**Part 39
May 23rd
COLLECTIONS OF SCIENTIFIC WORKS**

CANADA 2025

INNOVATIVE DEVELOPMENTS AND RESEARCH IN EDUCATION: a collection scientific works of the International scientific online conference (23rd May, 2025) – Canada, Ottawa : "CESS", 2025. Part 39–360 p.

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The collection consists of scientific research of scientists, graduate students and students who took part in the International Scientific online conference

"INNOVATIVE DEVELOPMENTS AND RESEARCH IN EDUCATION".
Which took place in Ottawa on May 23, 2025.

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A PSYCHOLINGUISTIC INTERPRETATION OF ABDULLA KADIRY'S "MEHROBDAN CHAYON"

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Abstract: *This study explores the psycholinguistic elements in Abdulla Qodiriy's Mehrobdan Chayon, a seminal Uzbek novel that intricately portrays the psychological and linguistic complexities of its characters. By employing a qualitative approach rooted in discourse analysis and cognitive linguistics, this research investigates how language reflects mental states, social roles, and emotional tensions. The study identifies key linguistic markers such as inner speech, metaphorical expressions, and character dialogues to uncover the psychological underpinnings of social norms, resistance, and identity formation. Findings suggest that Qodiriy's linguistic choices encapsulate not only the internal struggles of individuals but also the socio-political tensions of early 20th-century Turkestan.*

INTRODUCTION

Abdulla Qodiriy stands as one of the most influential figures in Uzbek literature, known for his psychological depth and socio-political insight. *Mehrobdan Chayon*, written in 1929, is more than a historical novel; it is a narrative rich with emotional and psychological complexity, situated in a time of intense cultural and political transition. The work encapsulates themes of honor, repression, resistance, and the role of women in a patriarchal society. While much scholarly attention has been given to its historical and literary aspects, a psycholinguistic reading provides a fresh lens through which to analyze how language functions as a medium of psychological and emotional expression.

Psycholinguistics, the intersection of psychology and linguistics, offers tools to analyze how language reflects cognitive processes, emotional states, and social identity. This study employs a psycholinguistic approach to understand the linguistic behaviors of Qodiriy's characters, particularly focusing on their inner speech, metaphorical expressions, and the sociocultural implications of their dialogues.

By analyzing *Mehrobdan Chayon* through a psycholinguistic lens, this research contributes to a deeper understanding of how literary language encapsulates not just narrative but also mental and emotional experiences. It offers a model for how cognitive and emotional processes are embedded in linguistic forms, especially in literature emerging from postcolonial and transitional societies.

METHODOLOGY

This study adopts a qualitative, interpretive methodology grounded in psycholinguistics and discourse analysis. The primary text, *Mehrobdan Chayon*, serves as the sole data source. The novel is examined in its original Uzbek and supplemented with relevant English translations for clarity and analytical depth.

ANALYTICAL FRAMEWORK:

1. **Discourse Analysis:** Focuses on how language constructs social and psychological realities.
2. **Cognitive Linguistics:** Examines metaphorical and conceptual structures that reveal mental models.
3. **Speech Act Theory:** Analyzes how language performs psychological and social functions.
4. **Theory of Mind:** Explores how characters interpret and respond to others' mental and emotional states.

PROCEDURE:

Key excerpts featuring emotional tension, internal monologue, or conflict were selected. These passages were analyzed for:

- Emotional vocabulary and self-reference
- Syntax and language complexity
- Use of metaphor and symbolism
- Pragmatic elements (e.g., politeness, face-threatening acts)

The analysis is contextualized within the socio-political landscape of early 20th-century Turkestan, including gender norms, colonial pressures, and cultural shifts.

RESULTS

The analysis yielded several significant findings about how language reveals psychological depth and sociocultural dynamics in *Mehrobdan Chayon*.

The protagonist Zebi's internal dialogues often include emotionally loaded terms, indicating her inner turmoil. Her frequent use of words related to shame ("eyb"), fear ("qórqú"), and longing ("oxirgi umid") reflects an acute awareness of her social environment and emotional fragility. Her thoughts are often fragmented, symbolizing a divided self caught between personal desire and societal expectations. The novel's syntax varies based on the psychological states of its characters. In moments of distress, characters often resort to short, clipped sentences or rhetorical questions, which highlight confusion and emotional overload. In contrast, moments of introspection are marked by complex, multi-clausal structures, indicating deep cognitive processing.

Metaphors related to imprisonment, darkness, and fire are recurrent throughout the novel. For example, Zebi often describes her life as a "zanjirli qamoq" (chained

prison), a metaphor that captures her psychological entrapment. These linguistic choices are not merely decorative but serve as windows into her mental landscape.³³

Dialogue between male and female characters reflects embedded power dynamics. Men often use imperatives and declaratives, while women, particularly Zebi, use interrogatives and mitigated statements, indicating subservience and negotiation of agency. Yusufbek Haji's speech is marked by assertiveness and traditionalist vocabulary, emphasizing generational and ideological divides. Terms of address, honorifics, and culturally specific metaphors (e.g., references to Islamic virtues or Turkestani honor codes) shape the psychological identity of the characters. These markers ground the characters in a specific cultural consciousness that is both restrictive and identity-forming.

Through the speech of the characters, the author expresses his worldview, thoughts, reflections, and ideas. Often, the character's personality is not clearly understood through speech alone. However, based on the event-bound nature of dialogic speech, we can clearly observe the character's traits. Now, let us focus on the images of Anvar and Ra'no—the main protagonists of the work—their inner emotions, and the individualization of their speech. According to literary scholar Begali Qosimov: "The most enchanting pair in *Mehrobdan Chayon*—Anvar and Ra'no—have been widely discussed in literary studies. A review of the history of these discussions, interpretations, and analyses reveals a variety of opinions and different perspectives."³⁴

DISCUSSION

The results indicate that language in *Mehrobdan Chayon* functions as a cognitive and emotional map. Qodiriy's linguistic techniques not only build narrative and character but also express layered psychological realities.

The fragmented, emotionally loaded inner speech of characters like Zebi highlights their cognitive dissonance. This aligns with theories of psycholinguistics which suggest that emotional and psychological turmoil disrupt language fluency and coherence.

Language use is deeply influenced by social hierarchies and gender roles. The deferential tone of female characters and the assertive tone of male characters reflect societal norms. Psycholinguistically, this indicates how language is used to navigate power and vulnerability.

The recurring metaphors of entrapment, blindness, and burning are indicative of the characters' emotional and psychological landscapes. From a cognitive linguistic perspective, such metaphors are not mere stylistic choices but fundamental ways of structuring experience.

Despite her subjugation, Zebi occasionally employs subtle linguistic resistance, such as irony or evasive replies. These serve as coping mechanisms and reflect an

³³ Madirimov, Baxram ABDULLA QODIRIY QAHRAMONLARIDA INDIVIDUAL NUTQ TALQINI // ORIENSS. 2022. №6. URL: <https://cyberleninka.ru/article/n/abdulla-qodiriy-qahramonlarida-individual-nutq-talqini>.

³⁴ Madirimov, Baxram ABDULLA QODIRIY QAHRAMONLARIDA INDIVIDUAL NUTQ TALQINI // ORIENSS. 2022. №6. URL: <https://cyberleninka.ru/article/n/abdulla-qodiriy-qahramonlarida-individual-nutq>.

underlying psychological resilience, consistent with theories of language as a tool for both submission and subversion.

The novel encourages readers to engage in theory of mind by interpreting the unspoken thoughts and feelings of characters. This is facilitated by Qodiriy's skillful use of indirect discourse and narrative empathy, aligning with psycholinguistic models of reader engagement and empathy.

CONCLUSION

This psycholinguistic interpretation of *Mehrobdan Chayon* reveals the profound interconnection between language, thought, and culture. Through careful linguistic choices, Kadiriy constructs a rich psychological landscape that mirrors the internal and external struggles of his characters. The study underscores the value of psycholinguistic approaches in literary analysis, particularly in contexts where language reflects both personal and collective histories.

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