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## THE CONCEPT OF ABSURD IN ARTISTIC LITERATURE. AN ANALYSIS OF E. HEMINGWAY'S WORKS

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### ABSTRACT

This article examines the thematic and stylistic parallels between the works of Ernest Hemingway and notable Uzbek writers, including Abdulla Qadiri, Chulpan, and Hamid Alimjan. Both literary traditions explore themes of absurdity, isolation, and the consequences of war, reflecting the complexities of human existence. While Hemingway's minimalist style contrasts with the rich imagery of Uzbek literature, both approaches effectively convey profound emotional experiences. This comparative study emphasizes the universal nature of literary themes and invites readers to consider the shared struggles of humanity across cultural contexts.

### KEYWORDS

Absurdity, Isolation, War, Ernest Hemingway, Uzbek Literature, Abdulla Qadiri, Chulpan, Hamid Alimjan, Existentialism, Literary Comparison.

### INTRODUCTION

The concept of the absurd occupies a significant place in artistic literature, particularly in the works of 20th-century writers who grappled with existential themes. Among these writers, Ernest Hemingway stands out for his profound exploration of the absurd within the

human experience. His narratives often reflect the inherent conflicts between individuals' searches for meaning and the indifferent universe that surrounds them. This article examines the concept of absurdity in Hemingway's literature, focusing on how he articulates



the complexities of human existence through his unique narrative style, thematic concerns, and character development.

In literary terms, absurdity refers to the philosophical consideration of the conflict between humans' innate desire for significance and the chaotic, often indifferent nature of existence. This theme gained prominence in the wake of World War I, as writers began to question traditional narratives and moral frameworks. Absurdist literature often features protagonists who confront existential dilemmas, exploring themes of isolation, futility, and the search for meaning amidst chaos. The influence of existentialist philosophy, particularly the ideas of Albert Camus and Jean-Paul Sartre, is evident in the portrayal of characters struggling against absurd circumstances.

In works such as "The Old Man and the Sea," Hemingway vividly portrays nature's indifference to human suffering. The protagonist, Santiago, embarks on a harrowing journey to catch a marlin, symbolizing humanity's struggle against the forces of nature. Despite his determination and skill, Santiago ultimately faces the harsh reality of nature's brutality. After an arduous battle, he returns home, only to find that the sharks have devoured his catch. This outcome underscores the futility of his efforts and highlights the absurdity of human endeavors in the face of an uncaring universe. Hemingway uses this narrative to

reflect on the existential struggle inherent in the human experience.

Hemingway's characters frequently experience deep feelings of isolation and alienation, key aspects of absurdity. In "A Farewell to Arms," Lieutenant Frederic Henry navigates the horrors of World War I while grappling with a profound sense of disconnection from his surroundings. His relationship with Catherine Barkley provides a temporary respite from the chaos of war, yet the tragic conclusion emphasizes the inevitability of loss and the futility of human connections. The absurdity of their love story lies in its fleeting nature; despite their profound feelings, external forces ultimately dictate their fate. This theme of alienation resonates throughout Hemingway's oeuvre, as his characters often seek connection in a world that seems intent on keeping them apart.

The quest for meaning is a recurring motif in Hemingway's works, often culminating in disillusionment. In "The Sun Also Rises," the so-called "Lost Generation" grapples with the aftermath of World War I, seeking purpose in a fragmented society. The characters engage in hedonistic pursuits—drinking, travel, and relationships—yet these activities ultimately fail to provide lasting fulfillment. Their existential crises reflect the absurdity of their search for meaning in a world that appears devoid of it. Hemingway's sparse prose and understated dialogue serve to amplify this sense of futility, compelling



readers to confront the underlying emptiness of the characters' lives.

Hemingway's distinctive writing style significantly enhances the themes of absurdity in his literature. His "Iceberg Theory," or theory of omission, suggests that the deeper meaning of a story lies beneath the surface, encouraging readers to engage with the text on multiple levels. By omitting explicit emotional expressions, Hemingway invites readers to infer the absurdity of situations through subtext. This technique mirrors the complexities of human experience, as individuals often grapple with unspoken fears and desires in an indifferent world. The minimalist style, characterized by short sentences and simple language, contrasts with the profound themes explored, creating a tension that reflects the absurdity of life itself.

The concept of absurdity is a central theme in the artistic literature of Ernest Hemingway. Through his exploration of nature's indifference, the themes of isolation and alienation, and the search for meaning, Hemingway articulates the complexities of human existence in an absurd world. His unique narrative style, marked by the Iceberg Theory and minimalist prose, enhances these themes, creating a rich tapestry of meaning that resonates with readers. By examining the absurd in Hemingway's work, we gain deeper insights into the human condition, prompting reflection on our struggles for meaning in an unpredictable universe. Hemingway's literature

remains a powerful lens through which to explore the absurdities of life, inviting readers to confront the existential questions that define our shared humanity.

Ernest Hemingway, a towering figure in 20th-century literature, is known for his succinct prose and exploration of existential themes. Uzbek literature, rich in history and cultural significance, features notable writers such as Abdulla Qadiri, Chulpan, and Hamid Alimjan, who similarly grapple with themes of human struggle, identity, and the absurd. A comparison of their works highlights both thematic and stylistic parallels and contrasts.

In terms of thematic exploration, both Hemingway and Uzbek writers delve into the concept of absurdity and existentialism. In works like "The Old Man and the Sea," Hemingway explores the absurdity of life through the character of Santiago, who battles against nature's indifference. This futility reflects existential concerns about meaning and purpose in an indifferent universe. Similarly, Abdulla Qadiri's "Days Gone By" examines the absurdity of human existence against the backdrop of societal change, with characters facing disillusionment that mirrors the struggles of Hemingway's protagonists. Chulpan's poetry also reflects the absurdity of life through themes of loss and longing. Additionally, isolation and alienation are prominent in both authors' works. Characters in Hemingway's narratives, such as Frederic Henry in "A Farewell to Arms," frequently experience profound



isolation, exacerbated by war and personal loss. This sense of alienation resonates deeply with readers. Hamid Alimjan's poetry captures feelings of isolation, particularly amid political and social upheaval, paralleling Hemingway's exploration of characters who feel disconnected from their environments.

War and its aftermath are recurrent themes in both Hemingway's and Uzbek literature. In Hemingway's works, the impact of war is vividly portrayed, particularly in "A Farewell to Arms" and "For Whom the Bell Tolls," where characters grapple with the physical and psychological scars left by conflict. Likewise, Uzbek literature addresses the consequences of war and upheaval, with Qadiri's works reflecting the struggles during the early 20th century as Uzbekistan underwent significant social and political changes.

Stylistically, Hemingway's narrative technique is characterized by his "Iceberg Theory," where a minimalist style allows readers to engage deeply with the subtext of his narratives. His succinct sentences and understated dialogue emphasize the emotional weight beneath the surface. In contrast, Uzbek literature often employs rich imagery and lyrical styles. For example, Chulpan's poetry is noted for its emotional depth and musicality, creating a stark contrast to Hemingway's terse prose; yet both styles effectively convey profound emotional experiences. Character development also reveals similarities and differences. Hemingway's characters often face moral

dilemmas in a chaotic world, with their internal struggles revealing their humanity. In Uzbek literature, characters embody cultural and social values, navigating their identities amid change. Qadiri's protagonists, for instance, grapple with the tensions between tradition and modernity, reflecting broader societal challenges.

## CONCLUSION

In conclusion, while Ernest Hemingway and Uzbek writers like Abdulla Qadiri, Chulpan, and Hamid Alimjan come from different cultural contexts, their works resonate through shared themes of absurdity, isolation, and the impact of war. Hemingway's minimalist style contrasts with the lyrical richness of Uzbek literature, yet both approaches effectively convey the complexities of human experience. This comparison highlights the universal nature of literary themes, demonstrating how writers from diverse backgrounds explore similar existential concerns. Through their narratives, both Hemingway and Uzbek authors invite readers to reflect on the human condition, making their works timeless and relevant across cultures. In exploring the works of Ernest Hemingway alongside those of prominent Uzbek writers such as Abdulla Qadiri, Chulpan, and Hamid Alimjan, we uncover a rich tapestry of thematic concerns that transcend cultural boundaries. Both Hemingway and Uzbek authors grapple with the absurdity of human existence, the profound sense of



isolation, and the lasting impacts of war, all while employing distinctive narrative styles. Hemingway's minimalist prose, characterized by its emotional depth and subtextual richness, stands in contrast to the lyrical and vivid imagery found in Uzbek literature. Despite these stylistic differences, both literary traditions resonate with universal themes that speak to the complexities of the human condition. Ultimately, this comparative analysis highlights the shared struggles of humanity, inviting readers from diverse backgrounds to reflect on the existential dilemmas that define our lives.

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