

Symbolic and Satirical Representation of Society: Social Vices In “The Little Prince” And “Riding the Yellow Giant”

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Abstract: This article focuses on the artistic interpretation of social vices in Antoine de Saint-Exupery's "The Little Prince" and Khudoyberdi Tokhtaboyev's "Riding the Yellow Giant". The article examines the writers' attention to social issues and their depiction through symbolic and satirical images.

In "The Little Prince" various characters symbolically represent issues such as the neglect of spiritual values, materialism, careerism, and egotism. Meanwhile, Khudoyberdi Tokhtaboyev's "Riding the yellow giant" satiricaly portrays careerism, deceit, and the indifference of adults toward children.

The article provides a comparative analysis of the characters in both works, highlighting their role in revealing social problems. Additionally, it emphasizes the authors' call for the moral rejuvenation of society. The article underscores the importance of artistic interpretation of societal moral issues and the lessons conveyed to readers.

Keywords: Social vices in society, satirical symbolic images, writers' attention to social issues, careerism, egoism, fraud, comparative analysis.

Introduction: Literature serves as a mirror reflecting society. Through their works, writers not only reveal the internal emotions and feelings of individuals but also shed light on various societal vices. Literature helps society understand itself by highlighting shortcomings and their consequences. Social vices often contradict fundamental human values such as justice, humanity, and spirituality. By addressing these flaws, authors aim to influence readers' hearts and inspire them toward goodness.

Literature serves as a critical tool in world literature.

Literature frequently serves as a critical tool. By depicting shortcomings, writers demonstrate the need for societal reforms. This critical approach fosters change and motivates readers to become more enlightened, cultured, and conscious. Works of literature that focus on social flaws not only criticize but

also encourage readers to reject these harmful behaviors.

Numerous great writers in both world and Uzbek literature have explored societal flaws in their works. They often use symbolic characters to reflect these issues.

For instance, Lewis Carroll's "Alice's Adventures in Wonderland" uses symbolic imagery to critique societal rules, the pursuit of power, and the erosion of moral norms.

Jonathan Swift's "Gulliver's Travels" similarly explores social shortcomings through symbolic characters. Though regarded as a children's book, it delves into societal flaws and human imperfection through its allegorical narrative.

In "The Little Prince" by Antoine de Saint-Exupery, moral degradation, adults' obsession with material

wealth, and the neglect of human values are depicted symbolically.

Uzbek children's literature also employs symbolic forms to portray societal flaws and issues, offering young readers entertaining yet thought-provoking stories.

For example, Togay Murod's "oydinda yurgan odamlar" highlights the erosion of compassion and human values through symbolic characters.

Another example is Mirzakalon Ismoilov's "Farg'ona O'g'lonlari", which teaches children patriotism and self-worth while symbolically exploring responsibility and duty to society.

Khudoyberdi Tokhtaboyev's "Riding the Yellow Giant" and other works like "The magic hat" and "The land of sweet melons" also use symbolic characters to criticize greed, deceit, and other vices. In "Riding the yellow giant", themes such as selfishness and the pursuit of wealth are humorously portrayed, making the message accessible to young readers.

Comparative analysis of both works.

In "The Little Prince", Antoine de Saint-Exupery uses philosophical and symbolic approaches to portray societal flaws through various characters. For instance, materialism and greed are depicted through the "Businessman" character. This character is obsessed with counting stars and claiming ownership over them. He symbolizes the excessive attachment to material possessions, showing how this lifestyle leads to moral and spiritual decline.

"It is improper to yawn in the presence of a king", said the King. "I forbid you to yawn".

"I... I couldn't help it", replied the Little Prince, feeling embarrassed. "I've been traveling a long way and haven't slept". "Well, then", said the King, "I order you to yawn. It's been years since I've seen someone yawn. It's fascinating. Come now, yawn for me. That's an order!" "But... now I'm too shy to yawn", said the Little Prince, blushing deeply. "Hmm... hmm... then I order you to yawn at times and not yawn at others", the King proclaimed.

The above excerpt illustrates how the King character represents an obsession with power and control. His insatiable desire to issue orders reflects authoritarian tendencies and the misuse of authority. Through this character, the isolation that comes with unchecked ambition.

The "Drunkard" characters symbolizes escapism and self-dissatisfaction. His habit of drinking to forget his shame represents society's tendency to avoid confronting its flaws.

As proof of my statement above, I will present the following excerpt:

"On the next planet lived a drunkard. The Little Prince didn't stay there long, but within a short time, he felt deeply distressed.

When he stepped onto the planet, the drunkard was silently staring at the empty and full bottles in front of him. "What are you doing?" asked the Little Prince.

"I'm drinking," replied the drunkard with a frown.

"Why?"

"To forget."

"Forget what?" asked the Little Prince, feeling sorry for him.

"That I'm ashamed of myself," admitted the drunkard, bowing his head.

"Ashamed of what?" asked the Little Prince, eager to help the poor man.

"Of drinking!" said the drunkard, and he fell silent again.

The "Vain Man" symbolizes egotism, and a thirst for admiration. He cares only about being praised and places himself above others. This character embodies humanity's excessive self-centeredness.

Through the "Geograoher", the author critiques theoretical knowledge without practical application. This character collects information about the world but never explores it himself, symbolizing a disconnect between theory and action.

Lastly, the "Lamp Lighter" represents meaningless activity and a lack of purpose. He lights and extinguishes a lamp every minute, yet he doesn't understand the reason behind his actions. This reflects individuals who engage in activities without a clear sense of their goals.

The Little Prince, as a character, embodies simplicity, love, and responsibility. He critiques adults' obsession with trivial matters and their neglect of meaningful values. The story as a whole highlights pressing societal issues through symbolic characters, urging readers to value human connections, sincerity, and moral integrity.

In "Riding the yellow Giant", khudoyberdi Tokhtaboyev uses satire and humor to explore several societal vices. By presenting these issues through the eyes of children, the authors critiques the adults world and its flaws.

The character "Qoziyev" embodies greed, corruption, and selfishness. He is portrayed as a cunning and ambitious individual who prioritizes his personal gain above all else. Through qoziyev, the authors critiques corruption, dishonesty, and moral decay in positions of

authority.

Another character is “Sora Soothsayer”,. Through this character, the author illustrates the existence of liars and fraudsters in society, individuals who disregard the rights of others, and emphasizes that such people ultimately face disgrace and humiliation for their deeds. “this is also vividly exemplified by the conversation between Hoshimjon and Mirobiddinkhoja”.

Other characters represent societal indifference and irresponsibility. For example, adults in the story often dismiss children’s perspectives and fail to address their needs. This highlights the lack of care and attention adults give to the younger generation.

Through the portrayal of Hoshimjon’s relatives, the author reveals societal vices such as neglect and indifference. Adults in the story ignore children’s problems, showing a lack of accountability and empathy.

The citizens of the town reflect the loss of moral values. Many are portrayed as being preoccupied with material interests and self-serving behavior, neglecting the broader responsibilities of community life.

Despite the flaws in the adults world, the story contrasts these characters with the children, who embody honesty, bravery, and a sense of justice. Hoshimjon and his friends fight against deceit and uphold positive values, emphasizing the importance of truthfulness and integrity.

CONCLUSION

As a conclusion I can say that both “The Little Prince” and “Riding the Yellow Giant” use symbolic and satirical methods to critique societal flaws. While Saint-Exupéry adopts a philosophical and symbolic approach, Tokhtaboyev employs humor and satire to convey his message. Despite their different styles, both authors focus on the moral and ethical challenges of society, urging readers to embrace positive values such as love, sincerity, and responsibility.

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