

# Through the Eyes of a Woman: Realism and Resistance in Oydin's Fiction

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**Abstract:** This article provides information about the work of Uzbek writer Aydin Sobirova. Adiba's stories analyze the image of women and their role in society. The influence of the social environment on women's dreams, aspirations, and dreams has been studied.

**Keywords:** Woman, feminism, gender equality, artistic world, aesthetic ideal, spirit of the time, national spirit, subject and composition.

**Introduction:** The depiction of women's lives and the creation of their vivid images are central to Oydin's storytelling (and his overall literary creativity). Therefore, it would not be incorrect to call Oydin's oeuvre an artistic chronicle and unique annal of the life of Uzbek women. Oydin not only influenced society through his works but also served as a role model for the women of his time through his personal virtues, thereby providing impetus through his literary legacy.

Oydin remained faithful to the principle of revealing life's truths through the portrayal of women's images even in the post-war period. His books such as "Courage and Honor", "Stories and Sketches", and "Stories" testify to this fact. In these works, the author creates images of the simple, kind, obedient, patient, and loyal Uzbek woman and mother. The heroines of the stories are portrayed as mothers, wives, and daughters of the era. Their striving for knowledge and enlightenment is depicted, and ignorance is criticized as the main cause of social regression. In the story "From Infant to Toddler", included in the "Stories" collection, the author reveals the era's social environment through the tragic fate of women. The protagonist, Erqoziyeva, is an active collective farm worker. Having been engaged in labor from a young age, she marries a worthy young man but suffers the death of not one, but four children soon after birth. Due to the lack of medical facilities, the children are born

and die at home with the assistance of local elder women, whose superstitious advice only worsens the situation. For instance, they advise, "Your child is under a curse. Spirits have cast a spell. Hold a black chicken three times, scream and frighten the spirits away..." [3,4]. Despite their efforts, the child still dies [3,4]. This tragic repetition of fate is attributed to the women's ignorance of proper medical care. Fear of social gossip prevents them from going to hospitals. Erqoziyeva's husband urges her to give birth in a hospital, but she resists due to societal prejudices. Eventually, when she does deliver in a hospital, she successfully gives birth to four healthy children. Through such stories, the author reveals the spirit of the time, when many women lost their children due to ignorance and superstition. Answering the demands of the era and advocating for modern life changes, especially encouraging women to stop "wilting away behind four walls" (as Oydin phrases it) and actively participate in social life, forms the main ideological message of Oydin's work. In the story "Let Him See for Himself", Nazirjon, an educated and worldly young man, is contrasted with Shakarkhon, a girl influenced by her mother who quits her studies and stays at home. The author skillfully reveals their characters, with each figure occupying its own poetic world. Shakarkhon's mother believes that studying is not a woman's business, thus obstructing her daughter's education. Shakarkhon's ignorance and

distance from education prevent her and Nazirjon's mothers' dreams from coming true. Nazirjon wishes to marry an educated girl. Through Nazirjon's words—"Is it shameful for people to chat with their peers? Girls fight alongside boys in wars, stand side by side, and heal the wounded! This is not shame, this is humanity, proof of being truly human" [3,56]—the author exposes the outdated thinking of the time as a sign of societal decline rather than progress. The story's main idea emphasizes that both men and women should have equal access to education. At the end of the story, Shakarkhon returns to the institute voluntarily and takes confident steps towards a new era. Clearly, Nazirjon's influence was significant in changing Shakarkhon's worldview. She realizes that clinging to outdated ideas would cost her happiness and future. Having faced such a situation once, she resolves never to let it happen again, choosing instead the bright path of education. The plot and composition of the story are also well-crafted. The narrative is cohesive and complete, without superfluous episodes or details. The degree of conflict escalation is appropriate, so the story flows without sluggishness [2,68]. The language of the story is simple. The author effectively uses lively and folk language. Concise descriptions enrich the beauty of the story and help reveal its ideological content. In the story "Her Eyes Are Like This", the themes of childbirth and child-rearing are presented. The story condemns some women who consider children an obstacle to social activity, while the role of mothers is glorified. Gulnor, a woman who refuses motherhood with statements like "Artists should not give birth" and "Having children and raising them spoils the figure and hinders dancing," is portrayed in opposition to the dancer Sunbula, who is a loyal, sincere, kind mother and a talented dancer. Her husband, docent Olimjon, sees life without children as meaningless. This contrast in female characters vividly reveals the main idea of the story. Oyidin's story "Is Your Heart Satisfied, Good Man?" also depicts family life. The narrative shows how responsible official Mahmudov neglects his wife Lalikhon, who becomes isolated from social life and community activities. Bored with idleness, Lalikhon begins to doubt her husband, leading to a cooling of their relationship and a crisis threatening their family. Mahmudov, unaware of his role in this, blames his wife: "Only one option remains – divorce" [3,161]. The story reveals the root causes of family problems and ways to resolve them through vivid imagery. The plot is natural, engaging, and the characters are striking. The author combines plot development with character creation effectively.

Oyidin's stories are valuable not only for their themes,

ideas, and images but also for their language and artistic mastery. The author skillfully depicts national characteristics, values, customs, and traits specific to the Uzbek people. He portrays mothers as only mothers can be, elderly women as only elderly women can be, and children with behavior, psychology, and individual speech true to their nature. His stories show a strong tendency to express new themes artistically and to create new images.

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