

Analysis Of National Realities In The Works Of A. Qadiri's Days Of The Past And C. Dicken's Oliver Twist

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Abstract: This article analyzes the expression of national realities in Abdulla Qadiri's novel Days of the Past and Charles Dickens' Oliver Twist. Both works reflect the social, cultural, and moral realities of their respective nations during significant historical periods. Through a comparative analysis, the study explores how national identity, social injustice, traditions, and everyday life are portrayed through characters, setting, and narrative techniques. The findings show that although the authors belong to different cultures and literary traditions, both use literature as a means to critique social problems and preserve national consciousness.

Keywords: National realities, comparative literature, Abdulla Qadiri, Charles Dickens, social criticism, national identity.

Introduction: Literature is one of the most effective means of reflecting national realities, as it captures the spirit of a nation through artistic representation. Writers often portray the social conditions, moral values, traditions, and historical experiences of their people, turning literary works into cultural documents of their time. The concept of national realities in literature refers to the depiction of a nation's unique social structure, worldview, customs, and collective experiences.

Abdulla Qadiri's Days of the Past (O'tkan kunlar) and Charles Dickens' Oliver Twist are prominent examples of literary works that vividly express national realities. Although written in different cultural, historical, and geographical contexts, both novels reveal the social problems of their societies and emphasize human dignity, justice, and moral values.

This article aims to analyze and compare how national realities are reflected in these two novels, focusing on social structure, character portrayal, setting, and thematic concerns.

Historical and Cultural Background of the Works

National Context of Days of the Past

Days of the Past, written in the early 20th century, is considered the first Uzbek novel and a cornerstone of

Uzbek realistic prose. The novel reflects the social and cultural life of Central Asia in the 19th century, particularly during the decline of the khanates. Qadiri portrays a society struggling with outdated traditions, feudal relations, and internal conflicts.

The novel reflects Uzbek national realities such as family relations, marriage customs, religious influence, and social hierarchy. Qadiri's work is deeply rooted in national history and aims to awaken national consciousness and reformist thinking among readers.

National Context of Oliver Twist

Charles Dickens' Oliver Twist depicts the harsh realities of 19th-century England during the Industrial Revolution. Rapid urbanization, poverty, child labor, and social inequality dominate the novel's background. Dickens presents English society's darker sides, especially the suffering of orphans and the poor.

The novel exposes flaws in the English social system, including workhouses, criminal underworlds, and class discrimination. Dickens' portrayal of London reflects the national realities of Victorian England and highlights the moral responsibilities of society toward its vulnerable members.

Depiction of Social Structure and Class Division

Social Hierarchy in Days of the Past

In Days of the Past, social hierarchy plays a crucial role in shaping characters' destinies. The novel presents a stratified society where wealth, family background, and power determine one's position. Traditional customs and patriarchal norms strongly influence social relationships.

Through characters such as Otabek and Kumush, Qadiri illustrates the conflict between progressive ideas and conservative traditions. Forced marriages, polygamy, and social pressure reflect the national realities of Uzbek society at the time. Qadiri criticizes these social norms while remaining deeply connected to national culture.

Class Division in Oliver Twist

Class division is a central theme in Oliver Twist. Dickens portrays a society divided into the rich and the poor, where social mobility is limited. Orphans like Oliver are subjected to cruelty and neglect, symbolizing the failure of social institutions.

Workhouses, criminal gangs, and slums represent the harsh realities of lower-class life in England. Dickens uses satire and realism to criticize the indifference of authorities and highlight the moral decay caused by poverty and inequality.

Characterization as a Reflection of National Realities

Characters in Days of the Past

Qadiri's characters embody national mentality and cultural values. Otabek represents enlightenment and progress, advocating for reform and justice. Kumush symbolizes purity, loyalty, and traditional feminine virtues admired in Uzbek culture.

Secondary characters reflect various aspects of society, including conservatism, greed, and resistance to change. Through these characters, Qadiri presents a comprehensive picture of Uzbek national life and moral struggles.

Characters in Oliver Twist

Dickens' characters are vivid representations of English social types. Oliver embodies innocence and moral integrity despite harsh circumstances. Characters like Fagin and Bill Sikes represent the criminal underworld, reflecting social neglect and moral corruption.

Dickens often exaggerates traits to emphasize social criticism. His characters collectively portray the complexities of English society and reveal the national realities of Victorian England.

Setting and Everyday Life

Setting in Days of the Past

The setting of Days of the Past includes traditional Uzbek homes, markets, and social gatherings. Detailed

descriptions of daily life, clothing, customs, and rituals enhance the national flavor of the novel.

These settings provide insight into the values and lifestyle of Uzbek society, making the novel a cultural archive of its time.

Setting in Oliver Twist

London serves as the primary setting of Oliver Twist. Dickens vividly describes streets, workhouses, and slums, creating a realistic picture of urban life. The setting reflects industrial society's challenges and the national realities of England during rapid social change.

Themes and Moral Values

Both novels emphasize themes of justice, morality, and social responsibility. Qadiri focuses on national awakening, reform, and preservation of cultural values. Dickens highlights compassion, charity, and the need for social reform.

Despite cultural differences, both authors use literature to criticize injustice and advocate for human dignity. Their works demonstrate that national realities, while unique, often share universal human concerns.

Comparative Analysis

A comparative analysis reveals both similarities and differences in how national realities are portrayed. Qadiri's narrative is deeply rooted in tradition and national identity, while Dickens employs social realism and satire. Qadiri seeks reform through cultural awakening, whereas Dickens emphasizes institutional reform and moral responsibility.

Both authors successfully transform national experiences into universally relevant literary works.

CONCLUSION

In conclusion, Days of the Past and Oliver Twist are powerful representations of national realities in Uzbek and English literature. Through social structure, characters, setting, and themes, both novels reflect the historical and cultural conditions of their societies. The comparative analysis highlights literature's role in preserving national identity while addressing universal human issues. Studying these works enhances our understanding of how national realities shape literary expression and contribute to world literature.

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