

The Artistic Interpretation Of Character Evolution And Personal Decline In “The Picture Of Dorian Gray And Night And Day”

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Abstract: This article examines the artistic interpretation of character evolution and personal decline in *The Picture of Dorian Gray* and *Night and Day*. The research focuses on psychological transformation, moral corruption, social pressure, and symbolic representation in both novels. Through comparative literary analysis, the article identifies similarities and differences in the depiction of internal conflict and spiritual crisis. The study also includes textual excerpts and critical analysis to support the interpretation of character development.

Keywords: Character evolution, personal decline, moral corruption, internal conflict, symbolism, comparative literature, social criticism, aestheticism, artistic interpretation.

Introduction: Literature reflects the moral, social, and psychological condition of humanity through artistic representation. Writers often portray the transformation of characters in order to reveal the consequences of personal choices, social pressure, and internal conflict. Among the literary works that deeply investigate these themes are *The Picture of Dorian Gray* by Oscar Wilde and *Night and Day* by Cho'lon.

Although the novels belong to different cultures and literary traditions, both works explore the gradual decline of human morality and the destruction of spiritual values. Wilde's novel focuses on aestheticism and hedonism, while Cho'lon's work reflects the social and cultural conflicts of early twentieth-century Uzbek society. In both novels, character evolution is closely connected with psychological suffering and ethical instability. The protagonists attempt to achieve freedom or happiness; however, their desires eventually result in tragedy and spiritual destruction.

As Oscar Wilde writes: “The only way to get rid of a temptation is to yield to it.”

This quotation demonstrates Lord Henry's philosophy,

which strongly influences Dorian Gray's transformation. The statement encourages moral irresponsibility and pleasure-seeking behavior.

Similarly, in *Night and Day*, emotional suffering and social oppression shape the destiny of the characters. Cho'lon describes the psychological condition of individuals trapped between traditional expectations and modern aspirations.

Methodology of research

This research is based on comparative literary analysis and psychological criticism. The study applies several methods to analyze the artistic interpretation of character transformation in the selected novels. The following methods were used: Comparative analysis, psychological analysis, symbolic interpretation, historical and cultural analysis, textual analysis

The comparative method allows examination of similarities and differences between Western and Uzbek literary traditions. Psychological analysis helps explain the internal conflicts experienced by the characters, while symbolic interpretation reveals the deeper meanings of artistic images and motifs. Primary

sources include the original texts of the novels, and secondary sources consist of literary criticism and theoretical works related to comparative literature and character studies.

Results and discussions

In *The Picture of Dorian Gray*, Dorian Gray begins as an innocent and idealistic young man. However, Lord Henry's philosophical influence changes his understanding of life, beauty, and morality. One of the most significant passages in the novel states: "Behind every exquisite thing that existed, there was something tragic."

This quotation foreshadows Dorian's tragic destiny. Wilde connects beauty with destruction and demonstrates that external perfection often conceals internal corruption.

The portrait functions as a symbol of Dorian's hidden conscience. While Dorian remains physically young, the painting becomes increasingly ugly and frightening. Wilde uses this artistic device to separate outward beauty from spiritual morality.

Another important excerpt illustrates Dorian's realization of his moral decay: "Each of us has Heaven and Hell in him."

This statement emphasizes the duality of human nature. Dorian possesses both innocence and corruption, yet his selfish choices gradually strengthen the darker aspects of his personality. The psychological decline of Dorian Gray is also reflected through isolation and fear. Although he attempts to escape guilt through pleasure and luxury, he becomes emotionally empty and spiritually destroyed.

Wilde criticizes Victorian society's obsession with appearance and superficiality. Through symbolism and psychological portraiture, the author reveals the destructive consequences of aestheticism without morality.

In *Night and Day*, character evolution is strongly influenced by social injustice and cultural limitations. Unlike *Dorian Gray*, whose decline emerges from personal indulgence, Cho'lpon's characters suffer because of oppressive traditions and unequal social structures. One passage he states: "Inson qalbi ozodlikni istaydi, ammo jamiyat unga kishan soladi."

This excerpt reflects the central conflict of the novel:

the struggle between personal freedom and societal expectations. The symbolic contrast between "night" and "day" represents ignorance and enlightenment. Darkness symbolizes hopelessness and oppression, while light represents knowledge and spiritual awakening. Female characters in the novel experience severe emotional and social pressure. Their desires and identities are restricted by patriarchal traditions. As a result, psychological suffering becomes inevitable.

Another important passage states: "Baxtsiz insonning ko'zida dunyo qorong'u ko'rinadi."

This quotation highlights the connection between emotional suffering and perception of reality. Cho'lpon uses emotional narration to reveal the tragic psychological condition of the characters. The novel also reflects national and cultural concerns. Through realistic description and symbolic imagery, Cho'lpon criticizes social injustice and encourages intellectual awakening. Both novels examine the destruction of human morality and identity; however, the causes of decline differ significantly.

In *The Picture of Dorian Gray*, personal decline emerges from narcissism, hedonism, and philosophical temptation. Dorian voluntarily abandons ethical responsibility in pursuit of pleasure and eternal beauty.

In contrast, *Night and Day*, portrays decline as the result of social oppression and cultural restrictions. Cho'lpon emphasizes the influence of external conditions on psychological suffering. Despite these differences, both novels present internal conflict as a central element of character evolution. The protagonists struggle between desire and morality, freedom and responsibility, hope and despair. Both authors also employ symbolism as an artistic tool. Wilde uses the portrait as a symbol of conscience and corruption, while Cho'lpon uses the imagery of night and day to symbolize ignorance and enlightenment.

Another similarity is the psychological depth of characterization. Both writers carefully describe emotional suffering, fear, guilt, and spiritual instability. This artistic approach allows readers to understand the complexity of human nature.

Conclusion And Recommendations

The comparative study of *The Picture of Dorian Gray* and *Night and Day*, demonstrates that literature from different cultures can explore universal human

problems such as morality, identity, freedom, and psychological suffering. Oscar Wilde portrays moral decline through aestheticism and excessive devotion to pleasure, while Cho'lpon focuses on the destructive effects of social injustice and cultural oppression.

The analysis reveals that symbolism, psychological portraiture, and emotional narration are effective artistic methods for representing character evolution. Both novels continue to remain relevant because they reflect timeless conflicts between human desire and ethical responsibility.

Comparative literary studies between Eastern and Western literature should be expanded. Researchers should analyze the relationship between society and psychological identity in literary texts. Further studies may focus on gender inequality and emotional suffering in Uzbek literature. Scholars can investigate symbolism and philosophical ideas in Wilde's works more deeply. Literature courses should include comparative analysis to develop critical thinking and intercultural understanding.

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