

# The Expression Of Time And Personality In Elbek's Stories

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**Abstract:** This article examines the short story "The Sun of the Future" by Elbek, one of the major representatives of early twentieth-century Uzbek Jadid literature, as well as the poem "The Candle" appended to it, within the framework of the interpretation of time and the human being. The author analyzes opposing concepts such as darkness and light, oppression and enlightenment through symbolic images (the child, the mother, the sun, the candle). From an artistic and philosophical perspective, the article highlights issues of the struggle of human spirituality against the pressure of time, moral and ethical development, and hope for the future. In addition, the ideological and thematic harmony between the short story and the poem is systematically substantiated by means of a comparative table.

**Keywords:** Elbek, Jadid literature, "The Sun of the Future", time and the human being, symbol, image of the child, image of the mother, poem "The Candle", enlightenment.

**Introduction:** The early twentieth century served as a period of radical transformation, renewal, and national awakening for Uzbek literature. It was precisely during this time that the Jadid movement sought to instill new spiritual and aesthetic values in the younger generation and to ensure the educational and cultural advancement of the Uzbek people. As one of the most significant artistic forms of this period, the short story genre began to take shape, and issues such as the human psyche, social problems, and national identity were fundamentally reexamined in Uzbek literary texts.

Jadid short story writing, at the end of the nineteenth and the beginning of the twentieth century, developed its distinctive stylistic and thematic features, creating opportunities for works aligned with new ideas and aesthetic demands. In their literary works, the inner experiences of the individual, the socio-political changes of the time, and the need for national spirituality occupied a central place. Through their stories, the Jadids promoted important ideas such as the hopes and aspirations hidden in the hearts of the people, the стремление toward a new life, and the

pursuit of enlightenment. One of such figures is Elbek. Regarding Elbek's творчество, Salimkhan Tillakhonov states: "Elbek is Uzbekistan's national poet after Cholpon. However, Elbek is not as simple as Cholpon; he is very refined. Therefore, many of his poems were written in accordance with the demands of the time" [1. 147].

The short story writing of this period mainly focused on illuminating the complexities of the socio-cultural environment and the conflicts between national and religious traditions and innovation. At the same time, the human psyche, the inner world, and personal growth were raised as central themes in these stories. This, in turn, made the works an important stage in the development of modern Uzbek literature.

The short story writing of Uzbek Jadids in the early twentieth century is examined within intellectual and aesthetic contexts, and the issues of time, individual, society, and spirituality reflected in their works are analyzed in depth. In addition, the stories of that period are intended to be studied from the perspective of artistic style and systems of symbolism. This

contributes to a fuller understanding of the historical and cultural context of Uzbek literary texts. Fiction is a field of art that penetrates the most delicate layers of human thought and profoundly expresses the spiritual processes occurring in society. One of its primary tasks is to illuminate the human psyche, inner experiences, and hopes in close connection with time and space. Especially in literary works, the images, expressive means, and symbols created by the author reflect social conditions and spiritual transformations in society. In this regard, focusing on the issues of the individual and time in the analysis of any literary text is considered one of the important methodological approaches in literary studies.

Elbek's short story "The Sun of the Future" [2. 74] also deserves attention as a work that uniquely interprets the artistic representation of time and the individual. In the story, opposing states such as darkness and light, oppression and hope, tranquility and suffering are used to express the most delicate experiences of the human psyche. In the literary text, the author symbolically depicts the dark aspects of the era, while in the image of the individual he succeeds in creating a symbol of hope, faith, and willpower. In analyzing this story, the depiction of time and space, the system of characters, the artistic and philosophical content, symbols, and the methods of expressing the human psychological state are examined from a scholarly perspective.

The issue of time and the individual in the story can be analyzed as follows, based on examples from the text:

#### 1.The Expression of the Dark Spirit of the Era:

"The sun set. Its rays lingered for a while as if waiting for something, then suddenly ran away" [2. 74]. Symbolically, this sentence may represent values such as "light – hope" and "sunlight – goodness, knowledge, enlightenment." With the setting of the sun, darkness expands — presenting the oppression of the era, uncertainty, anxiety, and an atmosphere of fear. "The glow of the lamps set against the army of darkness, unable to struggle for long, surrendered in defeat" [2. 74]. This symbolizes resistance, despair, and the weakness of light (knowledge, truth) in the face of hardships. The dominance of oppression in the era is expressed. Through these examples, the story reveals the spirit of the time marked by tyranny and darkness, while also showing how knowledge enters that

darkness as light. This process recalls the words of Fitrat: "... our nation, our people, have fallen into such degradation and such difficult days because of ignorance; therefore, we must cling to education and enlightenment, let our homeland, our country, and our nation be illuminated by the light of knowledge, and be equipped with both religious and worldly sciences" [3. 4].

#### 2.The Human Psyche and the Question of Personality:

"I resolved to wander through this quiet night..." [2. 74]. In these words, an active subject appears who does not remain detached from events but joins and moves within them. Although it is dark, he walks, searches for what can be seen, and seeks meaning. This symbolizes human willpower and the spirit of inquiry. "This time my eye caught something moving near the lamp... a young boy was sitting on a small stool reading a book" [2. 76]. This boy symbolically appears as the sun of the future. He is associated with light, knowledge, and illumination. The narrator demonstrates inner affection and hopeful regard toward the child. "I realized that she was the boy's mother." These words further strengthen the image of the mother. The mother symbolizes compassion, devotion, and upbringing. The hope and attention given to the child demonstrate the power of human values removed from the oppression of the era. Through these examples, the human psyche is vividly depicted in the story: not yielding to darkness, and expressing the will toward hope and enlightenment through the images of the illuminating child and the mother.

#### 3.The Conflict and Harmony between Time and the Individual:

In the story, the contrast between a dark era and the bright human light (knowledge and compassion) becomes the central issue. The oppression and darkness of the time move steadily forward, yet the individual's aspiration toward inner light and knowledge shows that one can discover one's own worth. Furthermore, symbols such as "light," "sun," and "darkness" are employed to reflect the spiritual struggle between the influence of the era and human willpower.

#### 4.The Significance of the Human Image:

In the story, particular emphasis is placed on the images of the child and the mother. This significance

can be explained in several aspects:

a) Symbolic center: The child is placed at the symbolic center as a “sun-like luminous figure.” This image represents hidden hope in the darkness of the era and points toward the future. Without the human being, darkness would remain dominant.

b) Emotional center: The reader forms an emotional connection through these images — within a dark environment, the luminous child and the compassionate mother become close to the reader’s heart.

c) Ideological center: The central idea of the story (the psychology of a person living in a certain era, striving toward hope and knowledge) is expressed through this image. The individual faces the pressure of the time but simultaneously resists it.

d) Universality: These images may belong to a specific time and place, yet the idea of striving toward light is relevant to all eras. In every age, the human being resists a dark environment and seeks to preserve inner light.

Thus, through “The Sun of the Future,” the author philosophically and artistically expresses how, despite the oppression of the era, the individual can bring light to the future through inner spirituality, willpower, and hope. This allows for a deep aesthetic analysis of the harmony between time and personality in literature.

At the end of the story, the writer also includes a poem, and the essence of the story is reflected in the poem titled “The Candle” [4. 75]. In a comparative analysis of “The Candle” and “The Sun of the Future,” both works are artistically and spiritually close, complementing each other, and embody fundamental oppositional themes such as time and the human psyche, darkness and light, hope and sorrow.

#### 1. Symbolic-Thematic Harmony:

In the story, the conflict between darkness and light, hope and fear, functions as the central metaphor. “The Sun of the Future” symbolizes the light of the future, enlightenment, and a new life, while the candle in the poem “The Candle” represents the inner light of the human heart — a symbol of hope, patience, and struggle against difficulties.

In the poem, the presence of tears, sorrow, and fear reflects the darkness and inner conflicts depicted in the

story. The lines “Telmulib har tomon boqar erdi” (“He looked around anxiously in every direction”) show a person’s fear of the surrounding darkness, yet at the same time his patient endurance. This is closely connected to the central idea of the story — striving toward hope and light despite the darkness.

#### 2. Poetic Devices and Mood:

The poem “The Candle” conveys emotional depth and a melancholic mood. Tears, sorrow, and the struggle between darkness and light illuminate the subtle aspects of the human psyche. The story likewise portrays similar psychological processes and the struggle between darkness and light. In the line “Yondurub qo’ydim, kelturib bir sham” (“I lit and placed a candle”), the lyrical hero attempts to kindle a new light of hope within his heart. Through the light of this candle, an inner spiritual struggle is depicted, which is closely connected with the symbol of hope represented in the story through the images of the child and the mother.

#### 3. Commonality of Symbols and Metaphors:

In both the story and the poem, symbolic images such as darkness, candle, sun, and lamp serve as important artistic devices. The setting of the sun and the dominance of darkness in the story symbolize the trials of human life, while the poem expresses the effort to overcome these trials through inner patience and hope.

#### 4. Humanistic and Moral-Spiritual Idea:

In both works, the strength of the human spirit, patience, hope, and spiritual growth are central themes. The poem “The Candle” poetically emphasizes and strengthens the main idea of the story — igniting inner light despite hardships, achieving spiritual salvation, and maintaining faith in the future.

The poem “The Candle” serves as a thematic and artistic continuation of the story “The Sun of the Future,” further deepening its ideological core. Both works are harmoniously connected through a philosophical and humanistic perspective on the struggle of the human spirit against darkness and its aspiration toward hope and light. This harmony enhances the artistic power of the works and leaves a profound spiritual impression on the reader.

Below, a comparative analysis of the story “The Sun of

the Future” and the poem “The Candle” is presented in comparison of the main artistic and spiritual aspects of table form. This table allows for a systematic the two works.

**Table 1:**

Aspect of Analysis	“ The Sun of the Future” story	“The Candle” (poem)
Theme	The darkness of the era, the human psyche, hope for the future	Inner sorrow, fear, patience, and hope
Main Symbols	Darkness, sun, child, mother, book	Candle (lamp), tears, sorrow
Mood	Fear and despair, yet filled with hope and patience	Melancholy, sadness, inner light, and spiritual struggle
Expression of the Human Psyche	Struggle against external and internal darkness, spiritual aspiration	Inner struggle, endurance, striving toward light through sorrow
Socio-Spiritual Idea	Enlightenment, hope for the future, attention to the younger generation	Preserving inner spiritual light despite hardships
Artistic Devices	Metaphors (darkness, sun), images (child, mother), symbols	Metaphors (candle, lamp), repetition (sorrow, patience), imagery
Relationship between the Story and the Poem	The story presents reality, spiritual struggle, and hope for the future	The poem expresses the inner psychological state, sorrow, and patience reflected in the story

Conclusion	A symbol of future light and enlightenment	Inner light — the hope and patience that burn within the human heart
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## CONCLUSION

In conclusion, analyzing the issue of time and the individual in literature makes it possible to understand more deeply the artistic and aesthetic content of a work. The story “The Sun of the Future” not only depicts the socio-spiritual environment of its era, but also foregrounds the strength of the human psyche, intellect, and hope. In the work, darkness is portrayed as a symbol of oppression and ignorance, while the human being is interpreted as a symbol of light, hope, and enlightenment. This contrast forms the philosophical foundation of the story. The representation of time in the story is conveyed through symbolic imagery: expressions such as “The sun set... the army of lamps set against the army of darkness...” reflect the heavy, uncertain, and oppression-prone spirit of the era. This condition can be explained in literary studies through the concept of the “chronotope” — the unity of time and space as a means of revealing the philosophical content of a work [5. 43–44].

The image of the human being — especially the symbolic interpretation of the child and the mother — expresses the central idea of the story. The child is depicted as the “sun of the future,” embodying light, knowledge, and hope. The figure of the mother symbolizes love and spiritual support, appearing as the formative force that shapes the individual. Through these images, the author conveys the belief that, despite any oppression and darkness, the light within the human being will ultimately bring illumination. In the work, the human psyche is revealed through thought, feeling, and inner experience. Philosophical reflections such as “What would light look like when joined with light?” uncover the deeper layers of human consciousness.

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