



ANALYZING THE PORTRAYAL OF TEACHERS IN SHORT STORIES

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ABSTRACT

The article delves into the nature of the artistic image in short stories, with a particular focus on the depiction of teachers. It specifically examines the portrayal of teachers in the works of Ch. Aytmatov, Sh. Botaev, and L. Borikhon.

KEYWORDS

Artistic image, content, story, poetics, text, teacher, science.

INTRODUCTION

The intricate connections among living beings form a complex tapestry that, when understood, brings wisdom. Kurrai reflects a delicate balance in the world, from the microscopic to the macroscopic levels. Their qualities, signs, and features always point to craftsmanship. An artist evaluates the meaning of life through the power of words, emphasizing principles such as precision, accuracy, and depth. Therefore, it is fair to say that an artist's existence and talent are mirrored in their work. "The sophistication of the text depends primarily on the artist's talent, the truthfulness of their message, the weight of the meaning conveyed by the words, and the elegance of the expression."

The short story genre explores a person's character from various perspectives. Through the hero's development, it brings together their virtues and flaws. This genre reveals the hero's ethical and aesthetic world, showcasing the mysterious vibrations and chaotic emotions within.

DISCUSSIONS

Humanity will achieve a noble status through the pursuit of knowledge and enlightenment. The role of teaching science imposes significant responsibility on the teacher. Through their intelligence, both secular and religious teachings are instilled in people's consciousness. Therefore, individuals with great

potential and blessings—teachers—are always held in high esteem. Alisher Navoi extolled the status of teachers with these words:

Haq yo'linda kim senga bir harf o'qitmish ranj ila,

Aylamak oson emas oning haqin yuz ganj ila.

(In the way of Allah, a single letter taught,

Is worth more than treasures, no price can be bought.)

The role of a teacher is significant and demanding. A student who values the sincere and diligent efforts of a teacher will remember them for a lifetime. Intellectuals who have dedicated themselves to noble causes have consistently contributed to the advancement of society. In contemporary narratives, the figure of a teacher or mentor continues to play an important role. Writers often portray these educators with deep insight, highlighting their expertise, experience, and integrity.

Chingiz Aitmatov's "Birinchi muallim" ("First Teacher") and Luqman Borikhan's "Sirli muallim" ("Mysterious Teacher") share many similarities. In "First Teacher" a young man named Duyshen dedicates his life to educating children in the village. He single-handedly repairs the school building, motivating uneducated parents to help. He teaches the children and, out of his own pocket, buys school supplies and teaching materials to provide a thorough education. Courageously, Duyshen introduces the children to the teachings of the new world, organizing journeys through the material and spiritual realms, expanding their minds. The children are deeply impacted by the significance and power of learning. A teacher who understands the students' living conditions pays close attention to their presence, well-being, and education

at school. The teacher's dedication becomes evident as he cares for students like his own children, enduring all hardships out of appreciation and respect for people. In the cold of winter, Duyshen crosses a river to lead the children to dry land and warm the cold classroom. He attends classes diligently, focusing on strengthening the students' will. He saves the fifteen-year-old orphan Oltinoy from the ignorance of a cruel man, overcoming great injury to end the evil. Importantly, the justice that family could not provide is delivered by the teacher. The story contrasts illiteracy with enlightenment, showing that without understanding one's purpose in life, one cannot reach the truth. The fate of backward, ignorant, indifferent characters in the work highlights their illogical way of life, like a shadow. Parents, indifferent to their child's future, insult the teacher instead of expressing gratitude. People cannot distinguish truth from falsehood due to their lack of intelligence. In the story, the teacher's noble and selfless character is highlighted by the recognition he receives from other characters. He remains undeterred by his surroundings, striving instead to enlighten souls with the light of wisdom. In Chingiz Aitmatov's work, symbolism and expressiveness enrich the artistic text. The image of poplars, which fill the hero's life and imagination with spiritual hope, carries poetic significance. When the teacher Duyshen and his student Oltinoy plant a poplar branch on the hill, the deep connection and unbreakable bond between them symbolize true happiness. Over the years, the growth of the poplar brings stability, confidence, determination, and fortitude to their lives.

"There are many trees along the street, but these poplars are unique, possessing a distinct character and language. Sometimes a person comes to the shore and

hears them like the sound of waves, humming softly. Other times, they stand silent, evoking a deep longing in the heart, as if filled with blood and sighs, reminiscing about the past. When strong winds drive the clouds and rain bends their branches, the poplars support each other, becoming even more resilient, as if to break and embrace, sharing their pain. Standing on a high hill, open on all four sides, they constantly face the wind, responding to every movement of the air”.

The writer uses natural phenomena to depict the storms within the human heart. A tall poplar symbolizes majesty, strength, and bold defiance against life’s events. The sound of two poplars, carried by the wind, conveys the world’s truths to distant places, transforming the lament of a troubled soul into a melody of life. Symbols emerge from the story’s internal elements to the external scene, with words that illuminate the essence by capturing the spirit of the times and the spiritual and social climate.

In the work, the author crafts images and joyful moments polished through the prism of the heart. The changing seasons turn the pages of a person’s life story. The spring breeze sweeps away winter’s fury into memory. The young people who received their first lessons from the teacher grow up to achieve success in various fields. They should, in fact, express gratitude and honor their dedicated teacher. Academician Oltinoy likens the teacher to a golden spring, recognizing that a soul enjoying this metaphor may get lost. Although the teacher lives a modest life, sacrificing himself for the benefit of others, his noble trust and unceasing kindness reflect the wisdom of justice. The writer artistically portrays the teacher as a standard-bearer among literary heroes. “An artistic image is a distinctive and broad representation that captures key elements of the human psyche, such as

specific objects, emotions, and experiences. This image is created through the artist’s consciousness, reflecting their aesthetic ideals, worldview, goals, and ideas. It offers an aesthetically valuable perspective on important aspects of human experience”.

Luqman Borikhan’s “Mysterious Teacher” employs irony towards the school community, detailing the gradual evolution within rural educational settings. It explores the teacher’s perspective and the profound responsibilities tied to their profession, drawing from the author’s personal insights. The short story is prefaced with Abdulla Oripov’s verse, which describes the teacher as a reflection of perfection: “Muallim haqida so’zim ushbudir, Muallim kamolot ichra ko’zgudir”. The author employs a mosaic technique to reflect the lives of esteemed professions. Various confessional narratives enrich the poetic texture of the work, blending scenes that collectively form a comprehensive vision. Through unfolding events, the virtues and flaws of human nature gradually emerge. The introduction of new situations into everyday life prompts characters to reflect deeply on themselves. As the writer delineates the figure of the teacher, unconventional images are seamlessly integrated into the text’s poetic framework. The narrative unfolds with the mysterious arrival of a selfless young man, evoking echoes of goodness reminiscent of fairy tales and legends, breathing life into the plot’s events. In the short story, a young teacher, who has truly grasped the secret of knowledge and remains committed to his original goals, encounters resistance from lazy and irresponsible individuals. The author channels his frustration, revealing a bitter truth at the story’s core. The names chosen for the characters in the narrative carry specific poetic meanings, reflecting the writer’s attention to aligning them with their roles and

personalities. Characters like Erkaboev, the head of education, and Qalqonov, the school head, are portrayed as adept at maintaining harmony within their environment, resolving issues efficiently, and executing orders promptly. Their “it’s okay” attitude is evident in various episodes. The team’s dynamics truly require someone like Najot Ghaibulla, who swiftly and effectively resolves problems because of his genuine concern for the students' well-being. “His appearance, demeanor, and actions carried a peculiar quality that unsettled us”.

The author captures the reader’s interest by painting an artistic portrait of the hero, whose appearance and demeanor deviate from the usual norms and conventions. This uniqueness causes the educators who view the young man as an outsider to resist adapting to him, preferring instead to maintain their indifference and negligence. Those who cannot discern the meaning behind scattered words in darkness struggle to confront reality. The essence of the unseen is aptly portrayed for someone who bridges the gap between the enlightened world and the inner circle they have entered. As a miracle unfolds in social life, the team gradually acknowledges their distance from scientific rigor and the potential harm to children’s futures. The writer underscores the characters' actions with irony and humor, such as the ironic situation of textbooks stored away while crucial rooms like the geography classroom remain locked to necessary visits, revealing a state of deception. Throughout the story, the narrative examines Najot’s suitability as a teacher in terms of ability, dedication, and responsibility.

This statement suggests that societal changes impact individual consciousness, often causing collective

suffering due to delays in knowledge and enlightenment processes.

In works of art, the teacher’s role often proves pivotal in shaping events at the story’s core. Sometimes, the teacher’s guidance serves as the catalyst for a significant turning point in the protagonist’s fate.

An illustrative example from Shoyim Botaev’s short story “Sho‘rodan qolgan odamlar” (People who lived in Soviet Union) highlights the role of an intellectual figure. In this narrative episode, when teenagers face court for theft, the teacher intervenes, pleading for forgiveness on their behalf. He delivers a speech urging understanding: “I ask you to forgive these children’s mistakes. They themselves are resolved not to repeat this act”. This scene underscores how a teacher’s compassion and advocacy can profoundly influence the moral and ethical dimensions of a community’s response to wrongdoing.

This compassionate teacher consistently forgave students, even if they repeated their mistakes countless times, believing they would mend their ways. His wish to offer young people a chance through forgiveness stemmed from concern that harsh punishments could harden their hearts. When the teacher extended a helping hand to troubled youth, he faced ridicule from those around him. He couldn't ignore the fate of his aspiring students, demonstrating a passionate commitment to protecting them despite the personal turmoil it caused. In contrast, a less empathetic and weaker authority figure refused to forgive youthful indiscretions, highlighting the imperfections of human nature as events unfolded. The teacher’s ability to empathize with and comprehend the suffering of children, while understanding their mistakes and standing by his

principles in challenging circumstances, showcases his depth of character.

CONCLUSION

The teacher who, despite carrying personal burdens and being troubled by the hardships of others and the struggles of youth, strives earnestly to guide those who are lost and spiritually blind toward goodness. However, despite their efforts, these endeavors often seem futile or unappreciated. On the other hand, there are individuals with a deep sense of sacredness in their hearts and lofty aspirations. For them, giving meaning to life and dedicating oneself to virtuous deeds bring genuine joy and fulfillment. Artists and writers consider it a privilege to depict such individuals who, through their roles as teachers and mentors, impart wisdom and enlightenment to others. These figures are honored for their ability to inspire and lead others toward higher ideals and moral growth.

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