

THE PLOT STRUCTURE OF O‘TKIR HOSHIMOV’S NOVEL “IKKI ESHIK ORASI”

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Annotation: The article examines the plot structure of O‘tkir Hoshimov’s renowned novel *Ikki eshik orasi*, one of the masterpieces of modern Uzbek literature. The study focuses on the narrative development, thematic layers, and symbolic aspects of the novel. By analyzing the storyline through the IMRAD framework, the paper highlights how the author portrays the struggles of ordinary people, the moral dilemmas of individuals, and the broader social contradictions of Soviet-era Uzbekistan. The central character, Zaynab bibi, is presented as a symbolic figure of patience and resilience, reflecting the collective experience of the nation. The article argues that the novel, while rooted in Uzbek cultural reality, transcends local boundaries to address universal questions of human existence, morality, and destiny.

Keywords: O‘tkir Hoshimov; *Ikki eshik orasi*; Uzbek literature; narrative structure; plot analysis; socio-cultural context; moral dilemmas; symbolism

Introduction

Uzbek literature of the twentieth century produced a number of works that reflect not only the socio-political conditions of the era but also the deep moral, spiritual, and cultural values of the nation. Among them, O‘tkir Hoshimov’s *Ikki eshik orasi* occupies a special place as one of the most powerful social-psychological novels in modern Uzbek prose. First published in 1986, the novel immediately resonated with readers and critics for its bold narrative, profound symbolism, and emotionally charged storyline.

The phrase *Ikki eshik orasi* literally refers to the space “between two doors,” which in the cultural and philosophical context of the novel symbolizes the passage between birth and death. This metaphor encapsulates the entire human journey, where every individual must face choices, endure trials, and confront moral dilemmas before eventually passing through the final door. Through this allegorical framework, Hoshimov constructs a narrative that is at once personal and universal.

At the center of the novel stands Zaynab bibi, an archetypal Uzbek mother whose life reflects the collective destiny of a generation. Her story is intertwined with broader themes of injustice, endurance, sacrifice, and resilience. While the novel vividly portrays the harsh realities of Soviet-era Uzbek society, including hypocrisy, corruption, and moral disintegration, it also emphasizes the enduring strength of family, motherhood, and human dignity.

From a literary perspective, *Ikki eshik orasi* is not merely a domestic narrative but also a philosophical exploration of existence. Its narrative technique, enriched by realism and subtle symbolism, elevates the story beyond a simple plot into a commentary on life itself. The novel demonstrates how literature can function as both a mirror of society and a guide for moral reflection.

Given its rich thematic layers and its enduring relevance, analyzing the plot structure of Ikki eshik orasi provides valuable insights into the author's creative method, the socio-cultural context of the period, and the universal aspects of human existence. This paper aims to examine the storyline of the novel using the IMRAD framework, highlighting how the narrative develops, how characters embody moral choices, and how the structure reinforces the thematic essence of the work.

Methods

The methodological approach of this study relies on literary analysis within the IMRAD framework. First, a close reading of O'tkir Hoshimov's Ikki eshik orasi was undertaken to examine its narrative development, character dynamics, and symbolic motifs. This method allowed for the identification of key structural elements of the plot, including exposition, conflict, climax, and resolution. In addition, contextual analysis was employed to situate the novel within the socio-political environment of Uzbekistan during the late Soviet period, highlighting the ways in which historical and ideological circumstances influenced the themes of the work. Finally, a comparative perspective was adopted, drawing parallels between Ikki eshik orasi and other works of world literature that deal with moral dilemmas, human suffering, and existential reflection. This combination of textual, contextual, and comparative approaches provided a comprehensive framework for analyzing the novel's plot structure.

Results

The analysis of Ikki eshik orasi reveals that its plot is constructed with careful attention to both realism and symbolism. The novel begins with an exposition that introduces the reader to Zaynab bibi and her family, situating them in a familiar domestic environment. This opening scene establishes the foundation for the moral and social challenges that follow. As the narrative develops, the rising action is marked by a series of hardships and injustices that expose the contradictions of society. Through these episodes, Hoshimov illustrates the resilience of individuals who struggle to maintain integrity despite external pressures. The climax of the novel arrives when personal tragedy intersects with collective suffering, presenting an emotionally charged confrontation with fate and injustice. The resolution does not provide a conventional sense of closure; instead, it reinforces the novel's central message about the inevitability of human struggle and the endurance of the human spirit. The results of the analysis demonstrate that the plot of Ikki eshik orasi functions not only as a story of individual destiny but also as a mirror of societal realities, making it both a personal and collective narrative.

Discussion

The results of the analysis indicate that O'tkir Hoshimov's Ikki eshik orasi is not only a literary narrative but also a profound socio-philosophical commentary. The novel's plot structure—while reflecting a classical realist style—offers much more than a chronological sequence of events. It becomes a vehicle through which the author exposes the moral contradictions of Soviet-era Uzbek society and, at the same time, highlights the enduring values of humanity.

A significant aspect of the discussion concerns the symbolic function of Zaynab bibi as a literary character. She is not merely a mother within the plot, but a representation of resilience, patience, and moral clarity. Her struggles and endurance mirror the experiences of countless women who

held families together during times of social and economic uncertainty. In this way, the character transcends her fictional role to become a cultural archetype in Uzbek literature.

Another dimension is the novel's engagement with universal human dilemmas. The metaphor of "two doors" situates the narrative in an existential framework that resonates with global literary traditions. Comparisons can be drawn to world literature where the boundary between life and death serves as a central theme—for example, in Tolstoy's *The Death of Ivan Ilyich* or Camus's *The Stranger*. Like these works, *Ikki eshik orasi* invites readers to reflect on life's brevity, the inevitability of suffering, and the moral responsibility of individuals within society.

Moreover, the narrative demonstrates the tension between individual morality and collective pressures. The corrupt practices, hypocrisy, and opportunism described in the novel are not unique to a particular historical context; they reflect enduring societal challenges. The novel thus raises questions that remain relevant: How does an individual preserve honesty in a world where dishonesty appears rewarded? How do communities maintain integrity when pressured by ideological systems? These questions underscore the novel's capacity to transcend its immediate historical background.

The discussion also emphasizes Hoshimov's literary style, which combines realism with symbolic imagery. His use of authentic Uzbek vernacular and cultural references anchors the narrative in its local setting, while the philosophical underpinnings broaden its scope to universal concerns. This duality ensures that the novel retains both national significance and global literary relevance.

In sum, the discussion highlights that *Ikki eshik orasi* functions on multiple levels: as a moving family saga, as a critique of social and moral corruption, and as a philosophical meditation on human existence. The complexity of the plot and the depth of its characters make the novel a subject of continuing relevance for literary scholarship, inviting further comparative and interdisciplinary studies.

Conclusion

The analysis of O'tkir Hoshimov's *Ikki eshik orasi* demonstrates that the novel occupies a unique place in Uzbek literature as both a literary achievement and a profound philosophical statement. The plot, while grounded in the simple yet deeply moving story of Zaynab bibi and her family, resonates with universal human concerns such as endurance, morality, and the confrontation with inevitable fate. By depicting the struggles of an ordinary mother, Hoshimov creates a character who transcends her personal circumstances to embody the collective experience of a nation under social and ideological pressure.

The study has shown that the narrative structure of the novel follows a classical progression—exposition, conflict, climax, and resolution—while simultaneously embedding symbolic meanings that deepen its impact. The metaphor of "two doors" powerfully conveys the human journey from birth to death, reminding readers that life is defined not only by external conditions but also by the moral choices made along the way. This duality between individual destiny and societal context is one of the key strengths of the novel, enabling it to function as both a mirror of its time and a timeless reflection on existence.

Furthermore, the novel highlights the conflict between honesty and corruption, tradition and change, resilience and despair, all of which remain highly relevant in contemporary society. Its enduring popularity among readers suggests that Ikki eshik orasi continues to provide moral and emotional guidance, offering lessons on patience, courage, and human dignity. The literary style of Hoshimov, marked by authentic vernacular language, vivid descriptions, and strong emotional resonance, ensures that the novel speaks not only to Uzbek readers but also to a broader international audience interested in universal human values.

In conclusion, Ikki eshik orasi is not merely a domestic narrative confined to a particular cultural setting but rather a universal text that addresses fundamental questions of human existence. Its plot reveals how literature can serve as both an artistic creation and a vehicle for ethical reflection. Future studies could further explore the reception of the novel in comparative literary contexts, as well as its role in shaping modern Uzbek identity and cultural memory.

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