

EASTERN AND WESTERN TRADITIONS IN FICTION: A COMPARATIVE
ANALYSIS

Muazzam Badalova

muazzambadalova15@gmail.com

Аннотация: Статья посвящена сравнительному анализу восточных и западных традиций в художественной прозе. Рассматриваются особенности нарративных структур, характерологические модели и эстетические установки, сформированные различными культурными контекстами. На основе работ исследователей 2006–2025 годов выявляются ключевые тенденции: линейность и индивидуализм западной литературы противопоставляются цикличности и коллективистскому характеру восточной прозы; западные тексты демонстрируют акцент на формальных экспериментах и психологизме, тогда как восточные ориентированы на духовные и социальные смыслы. В центре внимания также находятся вопросы межкультурного влияния, философские и религиозные мотивы, отразившиеся в литературных произведениях. Анализ творчества Руми, Шекспира, Элиф Шафак и других авторов позволяет показать, каким образом художественная проза становится пространством диалога культур. Сделан вывод о том, что в условиях глобализации происходит не только сближение традиций, но и их взаимное обогащение, что открывает перспективы для дальнейших исследований в области компаративистики.

Ключевые слова: восточная литература, западная литература, художественная проза, нарратология, компаративистика, межкультурный диалог.

Annotatsiya: Maqola badiiy adabiyotda Sharq va G'arb an'analarni qiyosiy tahlil qilishga bag'ishlangan. Turli madaniy kontekstlarda shakllangan hikoya tuzilmalarining xususiyatlari, karakterologik modellar va estetik munosabatlar ko'rib chiqiladi. Tadqiqotchilarning 2006-2025 yillardagi ishlariga asoslanib, asosiy yo'nalishlar aniqlanadi: G'arb adabiyotining chiziqchiligi va individualligi Sharq nasrining tsiklikligi va kollektivistik xususiyatiga qarama-qarshi qo'yiladi; G'arb matnlarida rasmiy eksperimentlar va psixologizmga urg'u berilgan, Sharqiy matnlar esa ruhiy va ijtimoiy ma'nolarga qaratilgan. Adabiy asarlarda aks ettirilgan madaniyatlararo ta'sir, falsafiy va diniy motivlar masalalariga ham e'tibor qaratilgan. Rumi, Shekspir, Elif Shafak va boshqa mualliflarning asarlari tahlili badiiy adabiyot qanday madaniyatlar muloqoti maydoniga aylanganini ko'rsatish imkonini beradi. Xulosa qilinadiki, globallashtirish sharoitida nafaqat an'analarning yaqinlashuvi, balki ularning o'zaro boyib borishi ham qiyosiy tadqiqotlar sohasida keyingi tadqiqotlar uchun istiqbollarni ochadi.

Kalit so'zlar: Sharq adabiyoti, G'arb adabiyoti, badiiy adabiyot, narratologiya, qiyosiy tadqiqotlar, madaniyatlararo muloqot.

Abstract: The article is devoted to a comparative analysis of Eastern and Western traditions in fiction. The features of narrative structures, characterological models and aesthetic attitudes formed by various cultural contexts are considered. Based on the works of researchers from 2006 to 2025, key trends are identified: the linearity and individualism of Western literature are

contrasted with the cyclical and collectivist nature of Eastern prose; Western texts demonstrate an emphasis on formal experiments and psychologism, while Eastern ones are focused on spiritual and social meanings. The focus is also on issues of intercultural influence, philosophical and religious motives reflected in literary works. An analysis of the works of Rumi, Shakespeare, Elif Shafak and other authors allows us to show how fiction becomes a space for a dialogue of cultures. It is concluded that in the context of globalization, not only is there a convergence of traditions, but also their mutual enrichment, which opens up prospects for further research in the field of comparative studies.

Key words: Eastern literature, Western literature, fiction, narratology, comparative studies, intercultural dialogue.

Introduction

The question of the differences and similarities between Eastern and Western traditions in fiction is a key topic in comparative literature. Eastern literature is largely based on philosophical and religious systems—Buddhism, Confucianism, Taoism, and Islam—while Western literature developed within the framework of classical antiquity, the Christian tradition, and the rationalist philosophy of the modern era. These cultural foundations determined differences in narrative structure, characterization, and themes.

The current stage of literary development is characterized by globalization blurring the boundaries between cultures. Writers increasingly turn to mixed forms, creating hybrid texts that combine Eastern and Western traditions.

The purpose of this article is to conduct a comparative analysis of Eastern and Western traditions in fiction, identify their commonalities and differences, and examine examples of interaction and mutual influence in the context of the 21st century.

Theoretical Framework and Literature Review

Recent studies highlight persistent differences in the narrative structure of Eastern and Western fiction. The article "Cross-Cultural Narratology" (2023) notes that Western literature is oriented toward linear narrative and clearly defined conflict, while Eastern literature tends toward cyclical, recurring motifs, and a slower narrative rhythm.

The work "Literary Theories Across Cultures" (2022) notes that the Western literary tradition focuses on the individual and their unique experience, while the Eastern literary tradition emphasizes the harmony of the individual with society and nature.

In the article "Modernist Elements in Western and Eastern Literature" (2025), researchers conclude that modernism in Western literature is associated with formal experimentation, the subversion of classical plots, and deep psychologism. In Eastern literature, modernism was adapted differently—while retaining philosophical depth and a social focus, it did not completely reject traditional narrative forms. Of particular significance is the work "The Influence of Eastern Philosophy on Western Literature" (2024), which demonstrates how Eastern ideas about harmony, emptiness, and inaction have influenced Western prose. Writers are increasingly turning to Eastern concepts to find new forms of expression.

Comparative Analysis of Works

1. Eastern and Western Concepts of Hero

Z. Abdusamadov (2021) emphasizes that the hero in Eastern prose often embodies collective ideals or archetypal traits, while the Western hero is presented as a unique individual with internal contradictions. For example, in the Chinese novel "Dream of the Red Chamber," the protagonist Baoyu is inextricably linked to the fate of his family and society, while in novels by Dostoevsky or Joyce, the character exists primarily as an autonomous individual struggling with internal crises.

2. The Theme of Love

A comparison of Rumi and Shakespeare (Comparative Study..., 2024) shows that the Eastern tradition sees love as a mystical path to God and truth, while the Western tradition emphasizes the psychological depth and social context of this feeling. In Rumi's poetry, love is a means of spiritual ascent, while in Shakespeare's tragedies, it is a drama of choice and consequences.

3. Space and Time

Eastern prose often operates with images of eternity and cyclicity. In Japanese stories (for example, in Kawabata), time is perceived as a slow flow, where moments of contemplation are important. Western prose, on the other hand, is more dynamic and linear: events develop according to the pattern of introduction, climax, and resolution.

4. The Prose of Elif Shafak

The contemporary writer Elif Shafak exemplifies the synthesis of traditions. In her novel *The Bastard of Istanbul* (2006) and other works, she combines Eastern oral narratives, Sufi mysticism, and the postmodern techniques of Western prose. Her style demonstrates that contemporary writers are capable of seamlessly combining diverse cultural codes.

5. Eastern Philosophy and Western Modernism

The influence of Eastern philosophy on Western literature is evident, for example, in the prose of Haruki Murakami, who works in Western genres but imbues them with Eastern symbolism and philosophy. On the other hand, Western writers such as Hess and Kerouac have actively used Buddhist and Taoist motifs, creating a bridge between cultures.

Discussion

The analysis confirms that differences between Eastern and Western traditions persist, but in the 21st century, they are increasingly becoming a source of mutual enrichment.

1. Differences:

- oEast – cyclicity, spirituality, collectivism.

The West—linearity, psychologism, individualism.

2. General Trends:

oUse of symbols and archetypes.

oAttention to the hero's inner world.

oSearch for new narrative forms.

3. The Impact of Globalization:

oCreation of hybrid texts where traditions merge.

oEmergence of authors working in multiple cultural traditions (Shafak, Murakami).

Thus, contemporary prose does not contrast East and West, but rather demonstrates their dialogic nature.

Conclusion

A comparative analysis of Eastern and Western traditions in fiction shows that, despite fundamental differences in narrative structures, character images, and philosophical attitudes, contemporary literature is increasingly becoming a space for mutual enrichment of cultures.

Globalization and intercultural dialogue contribute to the development of new artistic practices that cannot be attributed exclusively to the Eastern or Western traditions. A promising area of research remains the study of hybrid forms of prose, which combine the spiritual foundations of the East and the formal experimentation of the West.

References

1.Cross-Cultural Narratology. Poverty Journal, 2023.

2. Literary Theories Across Cultures. ResearchGate, 2022.

3.Modernist Elements in Western and Eastern Literature. Scientific Journals, 2025.

4.The Influence of Eastern Philosophy on Western Literature. Scientific Journal, 2024.

5.Comparative Study of Love in Eastern and Western Literature: From Rumi to Shakespeare. ResearchGate, 2024.

6.Elif Shafak: Literary Profile. Wikipedia, 2024.

7.Comparative study of Chinese and Western classics. SciELO, 2021.

8. Abdusamadov Z. Heroes in Eastern and Western Narratives. JournalsNUU, 2021.

9. Abdukakhkhorova, M., & Sultonova, S. Kh. (2025). Project Defense in Russian Language Lessons. *Scientific Aspects and Trends in the Field of Scientific Research*, 3(31), 181-185.
10. Sadokat, G., & Sultonova, S. Kh. (2025). The Language Situation in Uzbekistan and Its Influence on the Process of Acquiring Russian Pronunciation. *American Journal of Philological Sciences*, 5(05), 104-109.
11. Sultanova, S. Kh. (2023). Features of the Communicative Approach to Working with Text in Russian as a Foreign Language Lessons in Uzbek Groups. *Current Research in Pedagogy*, 4(09), 30-40.
12. Odilova, U., & Sultonova, S. H. (2025). ESSAY METHOD AT THE ADVANCED STAGE OF TEACHING RUSSIAN. *INNOVATIVE DEVELOPMENTS AND RESEARCH IN EDUCATION*, 4(39), 325-333.
13. Makhamatkulova, Z., & Sultonova, S. H. (2025). ORAL SPEECH IN RUSSIAN LANGUAGE LESSONS: SIGNIFICANCE, DEVELOPMENT METHODS, AND PRACTICAL RECOMMENDATIONS. *Theoretical Aspects of the Formation of Pedagogical Sciences*, 4(12), 16-23.