

**THE METAPHORICAL ROLES OF ARCHETYPAL EPOCH HEROES IN
LITERATURE**

Samieva Nozima Umidovna
Linguistics (English) 2401 2nd cours

Abstract: This article analyzes the metaphorical (symbolic) roles of archetypal epoch heroes in literary works. Through Jung's psychology-based theory of archetypes, the historical, cultural, and universal meanings of heroic images are revealed. Also, their place as expressive means in the contemporary literary process is illuminated.

Keywords: archetype, hero, metaphorical, myth, literature, Jung, symbols.

Introduction

Literature is a reflection of humanity's spiritual and cultural memory, and within it archetypal heroes occupy a unique position. These heroes have continuously lived from ancient myths and legends to contemporary works. They serve not only as forces driving the plot, but also as universal symbols hidden deep within the human psyche. The archetype, first proposed by Carl Gustav Jung, is inherited from generation to generation through the "collective unconscious." In literature, characters like "Hero," "Sage," "Seeker," "Mother," "Conqueror," "Tempter" belong to the class of archetypal heroes. In different literary eras these figures manifest in their own metaphorical sense.

In Uzbek literature, too, such characters are widely used. In works by Alisher Navoi, Ogahi, Abdullah Qodiriy, Cho'lpon, Hamid Olimjon and others, heroes express national spirit, historical thinking, and ethical views. Particularly through them, the processes of internal growth, conflicts, and social and spiritual struggles are artistically depicted.

From this perspective, this article studies the metaphorical roles of archetypal epoch heroes in literature, their artistic-philosophical weight, and interprets Uzbek literary symbols. The goal is to reveal archetypal meanings through literary heroes and to show their continuity in contemporary literature.

Methods

This article is written using the comparative-analytical method. First, the theoretical foundations of archetypal theory were analyzed (Jung and his followers). Then, examples from Uzbek and world literature were examined to observe how heroic archetypal images are used. The ways in which they serve as metaphorical expressive means and what ideological and aesthetic load they carry were determined.

In studying the metaphorical roles of archetypal epoch heroes in literature, this article is based on the scientific-analytical, comparative, mythological, and psychological approaches. The research relies on the following methods:

1. Analytical method — The main literary texts (especially Uzbek literary samples) were analyzed to identify hero images and their symbolic-metaphorical meanings.
2. Comparative method — Hero images in Uzbek literature were compared with archetypal symbols in world literature (for example, Homer's Odysseus, Dante, Shakespeare, Tolstoy, Hermann Hesse, etc.). This shows the levels of universality and nationality of archetypes.
3. Mythological approach — As roots of hero images, archetypal forms from ancient myths, legends, and legends (for example: the hero's journey, passing trials, helper figures, antagonists) were analyzed.

4. Psychoanalytic method (Jung's approach) — Based on Jung's theories of the collective unconscious, archetypes, and individuation, the psychological changes within the hero images and their metaphorical load were studied.
5. Structural analysis — How archetypal roles are used in the plots and compositional structures of works was examined. For example, the hero's stepwise change, confrontation with the enemy, sacred mission, etc.

As sources were used:

- The works of Carl Gustav Jung on archetypes and the collective unconscious;
- Classical and modern samples of Uzbek literature;
- Scientific articles and studies in the fields of mythology, literary studies, psychology, and art history.

Results

The conducted analyses show that in literature, archetypal hero images exist not only as characters who drive the plot, but as deep metaphorical, universal symbols. These heroes embody the historical memory, spiritual feelings, and universal values of a people. Their repeated appearance in artistic works and their new incarnations indicate that archetypes have not lost their aesthetic and philosophical power. In Uzbek literature this process is clearly seen: characters such as Farhod, Ravshan, Omon, Shum bola, created in different eras, maintain their essential meaning — i.e. they represent the struggle between good and evil, the human yearning to find one's self.

Also, the fact that heroes set goals, go through complex trials, and walk the path of spiritual growth manifests a "heroic archetype" in literature. Their journey or struggle reflects not only external reality but also the inner world — spiritual maturation, transformation of consciousness. These aspects harmonize especially well with Jung's views on archetypes. Through examples it becomes evident: no matter how individual a hero is, through his deeds he awakens shared symbols in the human mind. Through these images, authors artistically express contemporary problems, psychological-spiritual experiences.

The research results reveal that archetypal heroes remain relevant in the modern literary process; especially in the works of contemporary authors they appear in new interpretations, harmonized with modern reality. Thus, archetypes are not only integral parts of the traditional literary heritage, but also become a principal metaphorical expressive means of current literature.

The analyses show that:

- Hero-archetypes (such as Hero, Sage, Seeker) have similar functions across literary epochs and spaces.
- Such characters are universal symbols, through which authors reflect internal experiences, conflicts, and human maturity.
- Archetypes are employed metaphorically: through hero images national and spiritual values are expressed.
- As an example: Farhod in Navoi's works, Omon in Hamid Olimjon's *Zaynab va Omon*, the main hero in G'afur G'ulom's *Shum bola* traverse the path of heroic archetype.

Discussion

Hero images in literature are not mere individuals, but universal archetypes — symbolic figures in the spiritual dimension. Through them, authors can convey multi-layered meanings. Mythological and religious sources of archetypes — such as the hero's journey, undergoing trials, battling evil — continue to reflect in modern literature. Their repetition and interconnection in literary texts stem from humanity's collective unconscious, and through these heroes the reader receives profound psychological and cultural impressions. Jung's archetype theory especially

brings new approaches to literary criticism and gives possibility to psychologically analyze images.

While archetypal heroes in Uzbek literature are shaped on the basis of national traditions and values, they simultaneously harmonize with the universal spiritualities of all humankind. Therefore, by studying them, one can understand not only the features of national literature, but general traits of human thought and culture. In the research process, many cultural and historical sources were analyzed to understand the metaphorical role of archetypes deeply, which helped to make literary images richer and more multi-faceted.

Also, the new interpretations of archetypes in modern literature show that their historical significance is not lost, but rather, in new social-psychological conditions, they retain their actual and multi-faceted meanings. This fact testifies to the continuous renewal of literature and the complexity of the human spirit. It also allows us to view archetypes not merely as historical or mythological heritage, but as artistic means that renew themselves in harmony with the times.

Conclusion and Recommendations

Based on the research results, it is confirmed that archetypal epoch heroes' metaphorical roles in literature are an important artistic means revealing universal dimensions of the human psyche. Through these hero images, literature effectively expresses national and universal values, internal experiences, spiritual growth, and ethical-spiritual conflicts. Archetypes are not only tied to historical or mythological sources, but also possess new interpretations in contemporary literature.

Therefore, it is recommended:

- To introduce archetype theory-based analytical methods in literature courses in schools and higher education;
- To expand scientific research comparing archetypal hero images in Uzbek and world literature;
- To pay special attention to the new interpretations of archetypes in contemporary literature.

These recommendations serve the development of scientific research in literary studies, and also help readers to understand the essence of literary works more deeply.

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