

THE IMAGE OF WOMEN IN CONTEMPORARY NOVELLA WRITING

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Annotation: This article analyzes the artistic interpretation of the female image in contemporary Uzbek novella writing, examining how it develops in connection with modern socio-cultural processes and how the psychological, spiritual, and social identity of women is changing. It explains, on a scholarly basis, how the portrayal of women in novellas has shifted from traditional images of duty, loyalty, and devotion to representations enriched with the modern woman's inner world, social engagement, desire for freedom, and processes of self-awareness.

Keywords: female image, contemporary novella writing, psychological analysis, social consciousness, artistic representation, gender, personality, internal monologue.

Introduction.

Modern Uzbek literature, particularly novella writing, is steadily developing as one of the key genres that artistically reflects ongoing socio-political, spiritual, and ideological changes in society. In the literature of the 21st century, the reinterpretation of gender relations, the expansion of women's roles in society, and the deepening of processes related to personal freedom and self-awareness have led to a fundamental renewal of female characters in novellas. In today's literary process, the position of the female protagonist is interpreted not only within the family sphere, but also as an active participant in society. Moreover, the strengthening of psychological analysis enriches the inner layers of female representation, enabling the natural and profound depiction of women's emotional experiences, conflicting feelings, and life choices. The leading principle of contemporary novella writing is the understanding of women as subjects — not merely as parts of society, but as individuals endowed with independent thought.

Main Part.

Modern Uzbek novella writing distinguishes itself through several important approaches to depicting the female image. Above all, the process of women's self-realization as individuals is placed at the center. While earlier literature often portrayed women primarily as loyal family members, devoted mothers, or self-sacrificing spouses, contemporary novellas increasingly focus on women taking responsibility for their own lives, making independent decisions, choosing their own paths, and striving toward their dreams and ambitions. In this process, the psychologically complex nature of modern women is explored: they seek balance between societal pressure and modern values, and attempt to resolve conflicts between familial duties and personal aspirations. Psychological analysis has become a defining artistic feature of today's female image. Novellas make extensive use of internal monologues, stream-of-consciousness techniques, and the gradual revelation of emotional states as essential tools to portray women's psychological growth. The modern female protagonist is often depicted as someone searching for her identity and trying to find her place in society. During this journey, she faces both internal and external obstacles — stereotypes, societal restrictions imposed on women, responsibilities

between family and society, issues of economic independence, ethical norms, and the need for self-understanding — all of which create complex inner conflicts.

The artistic interpretation of social reality also plays an important role in constructing the female image in contemporary novellas. Themes such as women's participation in the labor market, opportunities for professional development, access to education, aspirations for leadership, and self-realization in professional settings are central to many works. Modern female characters undergo profound emotional phases as they search for their path, seek self-worth, and fight against social injustice or gender inequality. These portrayals artistically reveal how the social position of Uzbek women is being reshaped in the new era. The role of women within the family is also reinterpreted in modern novellas. Female characters are often depicted as individuals striving to understand their rights, demanding equality and respect in marital relationships, and maintaining their individuality even within child upbringing. Sometimes, their domestic lives are shown to be connected with psychological pressure, imposed stereotypes, or forced compromises. The artistic analysis of these relationships helps reveal women's emotional experiences more deeply, allowing authors to portray them as multifaceted personalities. Thus, the genre provides a space for exploring the complex psychological dimensions of family life.

The active social role of women is also prominently depicted in contemporary novella writing. Among the protagonists are entrepreneurs, researchers, doctors, teachers, artists, and employees in state institutions. In these representations, themes such as finding one's place in professional environments, adapting to competition within work teams, and resisting gender stereotypes encountered in the workplace receive artistic expression. Additionally, women's moral and ethical quests, worldviews, and aspirations for independence and respect are becoming central motifs for modern authors. One of the main principles of contemporary novella writing is the careful depiction of emotional experiences. Conflicting emotions, life challenges, love, loyalty, suffering, hope, self-blame, and self-discovery are placed at the center of artistic analysis. Individual psychological exploration, the expression of thought and emotion, and the detailed portrayal of inner states hold a leading place in literature. A woman's inner world often becomes one of the main driving factors of the plot, which frequently develops in close connection with her internal psychological evolution.

Contemporary novellas also widely portray women's social activity and their role in the moral renewal of society. Through these characters, not only women's personal development but also the social changes in society's attitudes toward them are reflected. Concepts such as gender equality, social justice, and respect for human dignity are integrated into the ideological core of novellas. The connection between women's self-awareness and societal transformation has become an important artistic theme for authors.

Discussion

In analyzing the formation and artistic interpretation of the female image in contemporary Uzbek novella writing, several significant issues emerge. First, it becomes evident that the development of the modern female image takes place within the search for balance between traditional literary frameworks and modern social processes. On the one hand, authors of novellas preserve national values, historical respect, and cultural attitudes toward women; on the other hand, they place strong emphasis on the modern woman's active social role, her desire for independent thinking, and her process of self-expression as an individual. As a result, the female image appears as a multifaceted and complex artistic phenomenon shaped by both social and psychological factors.

Second, female characters in novellas often find themselves at the intersection of conservative social norms and the demands of the new era. This collision intensifies the protagonist's inner conflicts: she is compelled to choose between tradition and modernity, duty and desire, social expectations and personal values. The strengthening of psychological analysis serves as an effective tool to depict such internal and external contradictions. Moreover, contemporary novella writing portrays not only women's emotional experiences but also their struggles in the social sphere, their participation in professional competition, and their search for self-realization as essential components of artistic representation. Third, themes of solidarity among women are increasingly appearing in modern novellas. This includes friendship, empathy, spiritual closeness, as well as rivalry, misunderstandings, and the reproduction of stereotypes among women. Through such depictions, gender relations in society are presented in a deeper and more nuanced way, enriching the social significance of the female image.

Fourth, contemporary novellas underscore not only the woman's adaptation to society but also her aspiration to transform it. Through female protagonists, authors frequently express artistic responses to pressing social issues such as injustice, inequality, domestic violence, and gender stereotypes. This extends the importance of the female image beyond the artistic domain and enhances its social relevance. Another important aspect is the growing individuality of female characters. Whereas women in earlier literature were often depicted as generalized symbolic figures, modern novella writing increasingly presents each woman as a distinct individual with her own fate, personality, worldview, and life path. This strengthens the authenticity, credibility, and realism of the characters.

Ultimately, the discussion demonstrates that the female image in contemporary novella writing is actively evolving as an artistic reflection of social change. The female figure has become one of the central thematic elements in modern Uzbek literature, expressing the processes of moral and cultural renewal taking place within society.

Conclusion.

The image of women in modern Uzbek novella writing differs radically from traditional representations. Contemporary literature shows that the female image has evolved into a reflection of the complex psychological world of modern women, their social engagement, personal growth, and self-realization. Women are now portrayed not only through their familial duties, but also as active members of society, independent thinkers, equal participants in professional environments, and individuals with rich inner worlds. By making the female image one of the central artistic themes, contemporary novella writing expresses the spiritual renewal processes of today's society. This demonstrates that the place and significance of the female character in modern literature continues to expand.

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