

**RECONCEPTUALIZING COMPARATIVE LITERATURE IN THE ERA OF
GLOBAL WORLD LITERATURE: CHALLENGES, CULTURAL DIALOGUE, AND
NEW PERSPECTIVES**

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Abstract

The article explores the transformation of comparative literary studies in the context of globalization and the expanding concept of world literature. Particular attention is devoted to the imbalance between Western and non-Western literary traditions in academic discourse. The research analyzes how comparative literature increasingly moves beyond Eurocentric approaches toward intercultural and transnational perspectives. Literary examples from Uzbek and English literature are used to demonstrate similarities and differences in representations of love, social inequality, and national identity. The study also highlights the importance of translation, regional literary interactions, and digital humanities in shaping contemporary literary scholarship. The findings suggest that comparative literature should adopt more inclusive and interdisciplinary methodologies to ensure broader representation of world literary traditions.

Keywords: comparative literature, world literature, intercultural dialogue, globalization, literary translation, cultural identity, digital humanities.

INTRODUCTION

In the twenty-first century, comparative literary studies have become one of the most dynamic fields within the humanities. The rapid growth of globalization, intercultural communication, and digital technologies has significantly transformed the understanding of world literature. Traditionally, comparative literature focused mainly on European literary traditions, while many Asian, African, and Latin American literary works remained outside mainstream academic research¹.

Today, scholars increasingly recognize the necessity of studying literary interactions beyond Western frameworks. Modern world literature is no longer understood only as a collection of canonical European texts; instead, it includes literary works that circulate across languages, cultures, and national borders².

However, important challenges still remain. Many literary traditions written in national or minority languages receive limited international recognition due to insufficient translation and unequal representation in global academic institutions. Consequently, comparative literary studies continue to face issues related to cultural hierarchy and Eurocentrism³.

This article aims to investigate the major challenges and future directions of comparative literary studies in the context of global world literature. The research particularly focuses on intercultural literary dialogue between Uzbek and English literature.

The study applies comparative, cultural-historical, and textual analysis methods. Literary texts from Uzbek and English literature were selected to analyze similarities and differences in themes, cultural values, and social representation.

The primary sources examined in this study include:

O'tgan kunlar* by Abdulla Qodiriy;

Mehrobdan chayon* by Abdulla Qodiriy;

selected short stories by Abdulla Qahhor;
Romeo and Juliet* by William Shakespeare;
Oliver Twist* by Charles Dickens;
selected novels by Jane Austen.

The analysis focuses on three central literary dimensions:

1. representations of love and destiny;
2. depictions of social injustice;
3. expressions of national and cultural identity.

The findings demonstrate that comparative literature is gradually moving toward a more inclusive and intercultural model of analysis.

One of the major findings concerns the unequal position of Western and non-Western literary traditions. Western literary texts often receive greater academic attention and wider international circulation due to historical and linguistic dominance⁴.

For example, Shakespeare's **Romeo and Juliet** and Abdulla Qodiriy's **O'tgan kunlar** both explore tragic love. Nevertheless, the social function of love differs significantly between the two works. In Shakespeare's tragedy, love mainly represents individual emotional conflict and personal sacrifice. In contrast, Qodiriy connects love with broader social reforms and the transformation of Uzbek society during a period of historical change.

Another important finding relates to the portrayal of social inequality. Charles Dickens in **Oliver Twist** depicts poverty, orphanhood, and class injustice within nineteenth-century English society. Similarly, Abdulla Qahhor's stories portray the hardships of ordinary people and criticize social inequality in Uzbek society. Despite cultural differences, both writers use literature as a tool for social reflection and moral criticism.

The study also confirms that translation plays a decisive role in shaping world literature. The works of Alisher Navoi possess enormous cultural and literary significance within Turkic civilization, yet their international visibility remains relatively limited because many texts have not been sufficiently translated into global languages⁵. By contrast, Shakespeare's worldwide influence largely stems from extensive translation and institutional promotion.

Additionally, digital humanities and electronic archives are creating new opportunities for literary scholarship. Digital platforms allow researchers to access manuscripts, historical sources, and intercultural literary materials that were previously inaccessible⁶.

The results indicate that comparative literature must continue expanding beyond traditional Eurocentric paradigms. Contemporary literary scholarship increasingly supports the idea of "regional neutrality," which promotes equal attention to all literary systems regardless of geopolitical influence⁷.

This shift encourages scholars to explore:

- * literary relations within Asia and other non-Western regions;
- * intercultural dialogue among marginalized literary traditions;
- * texts written in local and national languages;
- * the impact of translation on literary circulation;
- * interdisciplinary approaches combining literature, history, sociology, and digital humanities.

Furthermore, digital technologies are transforming literary research methodologies. Online databases, digital archives, and computational text analysis provide new possibilities for identifying hidden literary connections across cultures.

The integration of digital humanities into comparative literature can therefore contribute to a more democratic and accessible global literary scholarship.

CONCLUSION

In conclusion, comparative literary studies are currently experiencing substantial methodological transformation in response to globalization and intercultural exchange. Although Eurocentric structures still influence academic discourse, modern scholarship increasingly recognizes the importance of non-Western literary traditions.

The future of comparative literature depends on broader inclusion of national literatures, stronger translation practices, interdisciplinary methodologies, and the active use of digital technologies.

Through intercultural dialogue and balanced literary representation, comparative literature can contribute to a more inclusive understanding of world literary heritage and global cultural identity.

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