



THOUGHTS ON THE STORY “THE HOTLINE”

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Abstract: This article provides a concise and comprehensive analysis of the story “The Hotline” by Khayriddin Sultanov, emphasizing its artistic, thematic, and compositional features. The study examines the story from the perspective of modern literary criticism, focusing on the poetics of the characters, the symbols in the story, and the internal dynamics that shape the plot. Particular attention is paid to how the author uses symbolic elements to reflect internal emotional states and social reality. The article also draws comparisons between “The Hotline” and other works by Sultanov in this genre, revealing common stylistic features and differences in his work. The analysis shows that the story not only reflects the psychological and moral complexity of the characters, but also demonstrates the author's skill in creating meaningful literary structures. Ultimately, the study confirms that “The Hotline” is a significant contribution to modern Uzbek prose.

Keywords: tendency, character, writer’s style, epistolary method, chronology

Introduction

One of the creators who has taken a significant place in the current Uzbek prose with his prose is Khayriddin Sultanov. Khayriddin Sultanov is considered a creator who has been able to express his “word” to the literary community, along with writers such as Murod Muhammad Dost, Sobir Onar, Erkin A’zam, Isajon Sultan, Khurshid Dostmuhammad, and Nazar Eshonqul, in the current literary process. The writer further enriched Uzbek prose with his works such as “The Sun is Equal to All”, “Babur’s Dreams” and “Baburiynoma”. The writer’s skill in storytelling is particularly noteworthy, and his stories such as “The Lonely Monument of Summer”, “The Heart is Clear”, “On One of Your Wonderful Days” and “The Shore of Happiness” are considered unique events in Uzbek literature. This is evidenced by the fact that the story “The Heart is Clear” received recognition from literary critics upon its publication in the press. The above work, which we are analyzing, is also in the genre of a short story, and it can be said that it found its readers in the first issue of the journal “World Literature” in 2023. Khayriddin Sultanov’s work “The Hotline” allows us to rediscover some aspects of the writer’s work.

Research Methodology

Several literary scholars have conducted research on the writer’s work. I. Hasanov studied the issue of the writer’s skill, H. Boltaboyev studied the stylistic aspects of the writer’s work, and B. Nazarov conducted research on the issues of the poetics of Khayriddin Sultan’s stories. Although the features of Khayriddin Sultan’s work have been studied in a monographic plan, the fact that the features of the language of the work of art, composition, system of images, and aspects related to the creator’s concept have not been studied due to the novelty of the story “Hotline” practically proves the relevance of the research, as a result, it is possible to draw a general

conclusion about new trends in the genre of short stories in prose. The great writer Abdullah Qahhor said: “If writing were to copy life, there would be no easier task in the world. Translating the reality of life through the prism of art, transforming it into an artistic form, demonstrates the writer’s ability and talent” [Kuranov, 2019]. Khayriddin Sultan is considered a writer who has already demonstrated his “talent”. The talented poet Gayrat Majids high assessment of the work, saying: “This work by Khayriddin Sultan is completely based on real-life events and is presented to the reader in an unusual way. The adventures and conversations of each bell-ringer give the impression of an independent novella, which are interconnected through Mohidil. They can also be likened to beads strung together on a thread. If you turn the rosary and devote yourself to remembrance, if you start reading as if you have not stopped, you will enter the mysterious and magical world of the work. No, you will no longer read a work, you will see yourself in this life” confirms the high artistic value of the work [Boboyev, 2021].

Results and Discussion

In our small study, the artistic features of this story are studied in comparison with other stories of this type in Uzbek literature by the writer in a comparative manner, using the method of commentary. Also, the reasoning is based on the opinions of literary scholars and the foundations of literary analysis.

Analysis and results. First, let’s dwell on the poetic function of the title of the work “Hotline”. Why did the writer choose such a title, why was a single detail in the work elevated to the title level, what artistic load does it carry? Usually, people contact hotline numbers with unresolved problems, so what is the problem that torments our heroes, and can they positively resolve their appeal? The main character of the work is Mohidil Ismatova, and the story consists of short and long stories that are interconnected by a single character, like Otkir Hoshimov’s “The Works of the World”. Just as the events revolve around the character of MOTHER in “The Works of the World”, the story is connected to the character of Mohidil. In a certain sense, the compositional structure of the two stories can be said to be partially similar.

There are some innovations and approaches in the composition of the story. Although the author uses the traditional composition method, realism, there are deviations, in particular, the chronological order of the events of the work is not consistent, but the gallery of images and compositional elements are preserved in a certain connection. The writer, addressing the present day, draws attention to the processes that negatively affect the development, culture, and well-being of society. Obiddin Mahmudov correctly described the characters of the work: “You can meet the heroes of this book at every step, the artistic expression of life and the human psyche fascinates every reader” [Sultanov, 2024]. In the story, Mohidil Ismatova is approached by 22 people, including strangers and her own relatives and acquaintances. The reader, getting acquainted with the work, lives with 22 different fates until the last page, rejoices with them, sometimes gets angry at their actions, sometimes feels sorry for them... The writer’s skill in describing and creating characters is noteworthy; the writer uses not portraits of characters, but their words and actions that show their inner world. For example, in the speech of the character of Oygul, the sister of Mohidil and the mother of his nephew Umid, depicted in the work, a woman, a person unworthy of the name of mother, is embodied: “A dog is not fit for sacrifice. I send you a few dollars a month and take care of you two, thank you. What, you’re so tired, won’t you shut up?” [Sultanov, 2024]. Or let’s take the character of Kadir, whom Mohidil once courted and now oppresses the people around him to the point where he can’t trust the people around him: “Why can’t I have a job? Maybe you’ve found a beggar like you? Hey, look at me, don’t think I’m going to make fun of you! I’ve seen a lot of games like this, huh!” [Sultanov, 2024]. The work undoubtedly holds a mirror to our society today, and the problems that cause families and relationships to break down are written down. Poverty alleviation, single mothers, women’s rights, theater, medicine, the banking sector and the fate of those working in these sectors, and

the lives of those with a bitter fate are presented in a realistic way. The story's protagonist, Sardor, uses the example of Umid to powerfully illustrate the sanctity of family, the rise of concepts of loyalty and honor in today's society, and the ways in which mistakes made by parents can destroy the happiness of their children.

Conclusion

In the work "The Hotline", the author's gaze is so meticulous that he even assigns a symbolic mission to the names of the characters. Kadir is a person capable of all evil and vices, who went to the extent of distributing Mohidil's photos on the Internet, the cause of his death is the image, or Mohidil's nephew - Umid. Umid is the future, but it is not for nothing that the future ends up in prison, enters the criminal street, as if there is a hint of caution here. Also, in the style of narration of the work, the author uses the "telephone call", which is close to the method of letter in our literature, in our opinion, this method of narration, like the "telegram letters" in Iqbal Mirzo's novel "Bonu", is a unique "discovery" of the writer.

In conclusion, it can be said that in the story "Hotline", Khairiddin Sultanov has depicted the psychological image of the social environment of the present day at a high level, and by creating images of people he saw directly, the realistic spirit of the work is further enriched, which can be considered an achievement of the author.

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