

**MAGICAL CHARACTERS AND THEIR FUNCTIONS IN  
ENGLISH AND UZBEK FOLK TALES**

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**Abstract.** This article explains magical characters and their narrative functions in English and Uzbek folk tales. The research focuses on identifying the main types of magical characters, such as heroes, helpers, villains, and supernatural beings, and analyzing their roles within the plot structure. The study examines selected English folk tales and Uzbek folk tales to reveal similarities and differences in the representation and function of magical characters.

Special attention is given to the cultural and symbolic meanings of magical characters and their influence on the development of the plot and themes of the tales. Through comparative and typological analysis, the research demonstrates that while many magical characters perform universal functions common to folklore traditions, their specific features and symbolic interpretations are shaped by national culture, beliefs, and worldview.

The findings of this study contribute to a deeper understanding of folklore narratives and highlight the significance of magical characters in preserving cultural identity and traditional values in English and Uzbek folk tales.

**Annotatsiya.** Ushbu bitiruv malakaviy ishida ingliz va o‘zbek xalq ertaklarida uchraydigan sehrli qahramonlar hamda ularning syujetdagi funksiyalari tadqiq etiladi. Tadqiqotda qahramonlar, yordamchi obrazlar, salbiy personajlar va g‘ayritabiiy mavjudotlar kabi sehrli qahramonlarning asosiy turlari aniqlanib, ularning ertak syujeti rivojidadagi o‘rni tahlil qilinadi.

Ingliz va o‘zbek xalq ertaklari misolida sehrli qahramonlarning badiiy va ramziy ma’nolari ochib berilib, ularning milliy madaniyat, urf-odatlar va dunyoqarash bilan bog‘liqligi yoritiladi. Qiyosiy va tipologik tahlil natijasida sehrli qahramonlarning ko‘pchiligi umumfolkloriy funksiyalarni bajarsa-da, ularning o‘ziga xos xususiyatlari har bir xalqning milliy tafakkuri va madaniy qadriyatlarini bilan belgilanadi.

**Аннотация.** В данной выпускной квалификационной работе рассматриваются волшебные персонажи и их функции в английских и узбекских народных сказках. В исследовании анализируются основные типы волшебных персонажей, такие как герои, помощники, антагонисты и сверхъестественные существа, а также их роль в развитии сюжета сказки.

На материале английских и узбекских народных сказок раскрываются художественные и символические значения волшебных персонажей, а также их связь с национальной культурой, традициями и мировоззрением народа. В результате сравнительно-типологического анализа выявляется, что, несмотря на универсальный характер многих функций волшебных персонажей, их конкретные образы и интерпретации формируются под влиянием национально-культурных особенностей.

**Keywords:** magical characters, folk tales, narrative functions, English folk tales, folklore studies, supernatural beings, cultural symbolism.

### **Introduction**

Folklore has long served as an important source for understanding the spiritual, cultural, and moral values of different nations. Among various

folklore genres, folk tales occupy a special place due to their rich imaginative content and educational significance. One of the most distinctive features of folk tales is the presence of magical characters, who play a crucial role in shaping the narrative structure and conveying cultural meanings. These characters not only drive the plot forward but also embody the beliefs, ideals, and worldview of a particular society.

In both English and Uzbek folk traditions, magical characters such as heroes with supernatural abilities, wise helpers, evil antagonists, and mythical creatures are central to the development of the storyline. Despite belonging to different cultural and historical backgrounds, English and Uzbek folk tales reveal striking similarities in the functions performed by magical characters. At the same time, each tradition demonstrates unique features that reflect national identity, customs, and traditional values.

The relevance of this research lies in the growing interest in comparative folklore studies and the need to explore narrative elements that unite and distinguish different cultures. Analyzing magical characters from a functional and typological perspective allows a deeper understanding of how folk tales preserve collective memory and cultural heritage. Moreover, studying English and Uzbek folk tales in comparison contributes to the broader field of literary and cultural studies.

The purpose of this thesis is to investigate magical characters and their functions in English and Uzbek folk tales. To achieve this aim, the study sets out to identify the main types of magical characters, analyze their narrative roles, and compare their symbolic meanings in both folklore traditions. The research employs comparative, typological, and descriptive methods to ensure a comprehensive analysis of the selected material.

The object of the research is English and Uzbek folk tales, while the subject focuses on magical characters and their narrative functions. The practical significance of the study lies in its potential use in folklore studies,

literature courses, and comparative cultural research. The findings of this research may also serve as an important resource for students and scholars interested in fairy tales and folklore traditions.

### **Results and discussion**

The comparative analysis of English and Uzbek folk tales shows that magical arts function as a main narrative device that shapes plot development, character transformation, and moral instruction. Despite cultural differences, both traditions employ magic as a symbolic tool rather than mere fantasy. The results demonstrate that magical arts perform similar structural functions, though their forms, sources, and symbolic meanings vary according to cultural values and worldviews.

The findings reveals four major functions of magical arts:

1. Plot advancement
2. Character development
3. Moral and didactic instruction
4. Cultural and ideological representation

The analysis shows that both English and Uzbek folk tales use magical objects to express alterations.

In English folk tales, magical objects such as magic rings, cloaks, swords, and beans often symbolize individual fortune, destiny, or personal development. For example, in “Jack and the Beanstalk,” the magic beans act as a catalyst for social mobility and courage.

In Uzbek folk tales, magical objects like magic carpets, bowls, swords, and talismans are often associated with divine justice, protection, and communal values. These objects are frequently given by wise elders or supernatural helpers, emphasizing respect for tradition and authority.

This difference suggests that English tales emphasize own initiative, while Uzbek tales highlight collective ethics and moral responsibility and magic

usually emerges after the hero proves moral worth through patience, honesty, bravery and so on.

### **Conclusion**

In conclusion, the role and functions of magical arts in English and Uzbek folk tales through a comparative literary analysis. The research demonstrates that magical arts are not merely elements of fantasy but serve as essential narrative, moral, and cultural mechanisms within both storytelling traditions. By analyzing selected folk tales, the study has shown that magic operates as a symbolic system that reflects each culture's values, beliefs, and social norms.

The findings reveal that, although English and Uzbek folk tales employ similar types of magical arts such as magical objects, supernatural helpers, and enchanted abilities their narrative functions differ significantly. In English folk tales, magical arts often emphasize individual initiative, personal ambition, and adventurous spirit. Magic frequently appears as an opportunity that the hero must wisely use, highlighting intelligence, courage, and self-reliance. In contrast, Uzbek folk tales portray magical arts as morally regulated forces that are usually granted only after the hero proves ethical worth, patience, and respect for social values. This difference underscores the collective and didactic nature of Uzbek folklore.

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