

## COGNITIVE APPROACHES TO LITERARY CHARACTER ANALYSIS

**RAZZAQOVA MADINAXON IQBOLJON QIZI**

Student at Uzbekistan State World Languages University

Tashkent, Uzbekistan

E-mail: [madinarazzaqova14@gmail.com](mailto:madinarazzaqova14@gmail.com)

### **Annotatsiya**

Mazkur maqolada badiiy qahramonlarni tahlil qilishda kognitiv yondashuvlarning oʻrni va ahamiyati oʻrganiladi. Zamonaviy adabiyotshunoslikda qahramon xarakteri, tafakkuri va ruhiy holatini anglashda kognitiv tahlil usullarining samaradorligi yoritiladi. Shuningdek, qahramonning hissiy kechinmalari, ong jarayonlari va individual dunyoqarashi badiiy matn asosida tahlil qilinadi.

**Kalit soʻzlar:** kognitiv yondashuv, badiiy qahramon, adabiy tahlil, psixologizm, tafakkur, zamonaviy adabiyot, badiiy matn.

### **Аннотация**

В данной статье рассматривается значение когнитивных подходов в анализе литературных персонажей. Анализируются методы когнитивного исследования характера, мышления и психологического состояния героя в современном литературоведении. Особое внимание уделяется эмоциональным переживаниям, процессам сознания и индивидуальному мировоззрению персонажей.

**Ключевые слова:** когнитивный подход, литературный персонаж, литературный анализ, психологизм, мышление, современная литература, художественный текст.

### **Abstract**

This article examines the role and significance of cognitive approaches in literary character analysis. The study explores cognitive methods used to understand characters' psychology, thinking processes, emotional experiences, and individual worldviews in contemporary literary criticism. Special attention is given to the relationship between cognition, perception, and artistic representation in literary texts.

**Keywords:** cognitive approach, literary character, literary analysis, psychologism, thinking process, contemporary literature, literary text.

## Introduction

Contemporary literary criticism increasingly focuses on interdisciplinary approaches that connect literature with psychology, linguistics, philosophy, and cognitive science. Among these approaches, cognitive literary studies occupy an important place because they examine how literary texts represent human consciousness, perception, and emotional experience.

Cognitive approaches to literary character analysis aim to understand how fictional characters think, perceive reality, remember experiences, and emotionally react to the surrounding world. Modern literature pays particular attention to inner consciousness and psychological depth, making cognitive analysis especially relevant.

Unlike traditional literary criticism that mainly focused on plot and external characterization, cognitive approaches examine mental processes and subjective perception. Literary characters are analyzed as psychologically complex individuals whose actions are influenced by memory, emotions, imagination, and personal worldview.

The study of cognition in literature is important because literary texts themselves function as representations of human thought and emotional experience. Through artistic language, writers create fictional consciousness that readers interpret cognitively and emotionally.

## Main Part

One of the central principles of cognitive literary analysis is the idea that literary characters possess individual mental worlds. Readers attempt to understand characters' intentions, emotions, fears, and motivations through textual details and narrative structure.

Cognitive approaches emphasize the role of perception in character formation. Different literary heroes perceive the same events differently depending on their psychological condition, personal memories, and emotional experiences. Therefore, reality in literary texts often appears subjective rather than objective.

Inner monologue serves as one of the primary artistic devices for cognitive characterization. Through internal speech, writers reveal thought processes, emotional reactions, doubts, and subconscious fears. Such techniques allow readers to observe the mental activity of literary heroes directly.

Memory occupies an especially important place in cognitive analysis. Characters frequently interpret present experiences through the influence of past events and emotional memories. Childhood experiences, trauma, family relationships, and personal disappointments shape individual consciousness and behavior.

Another important aspect is emotional cognition. Literary characters not only think rationally but also emotionally interpret reality. Fear, loneliness, love, anxiety, and hope influence perception and decision-making. Cognitive literary studies therefore examine the relationship between emotion and consciousness.

Contemporary fiction often portrays fragmented consciousness and psychological instability. Literary heroes may experience confusion, uncertainty, or emotional contradiction. Through interrupted thoughts, symbolic associations, and subjective narration, writers reflect the complexity of human cognition.

Narrative perspective also plays a significant role in cognitive analysis. First-person narration creates emotional closeness and allows readers to experience events directly through the consciousness of the protagonist. Third-person narration, meanwhile, may provide broader psychological observation.

Cognitive approaches additionally explore how readers mentally construct literary characters. Readers interpret gestures, dialogue, silence, and symbolic details to form psychological understanding. This interaction between text and reader becomes part of the cognitive literary process.

Symbolic imagery often reflects subconscious emotional states. Dreams, landscapes, colors, and objects may reveal hidden psychological meanings connected with memory and perception. Cognitive analysis therefore examines not only direct narration but also symbolic structures within literary texts.

Social and cultural factors also influence cognition in literature. Characters' thoughts and emotional reactions are shaped by family traditions, moral values, gender expectations, and historical context. Cognitive literary criticism recognizes that consciousness develops within cultural environments.

The relationship between language and cognition is another important aspect. Writers use metaphors, associations, and emotional vocabulary to represent mental experience artistically. Literary language becomes a reflection of human thought processes.

Modern literary criticism increasingly values psychological realism and emotional authenticity. Cognitive approaches help explain why certain literary characters appear believable and emotionally convincing. Readers recognize human thought patterns and emotional complexity within fictional consciousness.

Another significant feature is empathy. Through cognitive engagement with literary characters, readers emotionally identify with fictional experiences. Literature therefore contributes to emotional understanding and psychological awareness.

The artistic value of cognitive characterization lies in its ability to portray human consciousness realistically while maintaining aesthetic richness. Contemporary writers combine psychological depth with symbolic and philosophical meaning.

## **Conclusion**

In conclusion, cognitive approaches occupy an important place in contemporary literary character analysis. Through the study of perception, memory, emotion, and consciousness, literary criticism gains deeper understanding of fictional characters and artistic representation.

Cognitive analysis demonstrates that literary heroes function as psychologically complex individuals shaped by emotional experiences, cultural context, and subjective interpretation of reality. Such approaches strengthen psychological realism and intellectual depth in literary studies.

The development of cognitive literary criticism reflects the growing interdisciplinary nature of modern humanities research. Therefore, cognitive approaches remain essential for understanding contemporary fiction and the representation of human consciousness in literature.

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