

A COMPARATIVE ANALYSIS OF ENGLISH AND UZBEK CHILDREN'S LITERATURE

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Annotation: This article provides a comparative analysis of English and Uzbek children's literature, focusing on their historical development, thematic content, and cultural values. The study explores how each literary tradition reflects national identity, moral education, and social ideals through stories, characters, and language. While English children's literature highlights imagination and individualism, Uzbek children's literature emphasizes morality, respect, and community values.

Аннотация: В данной статье проводится сравнительный анализ английской и узбекской детской литературы, рассматриваются их историческое развитие, основные темы и культурные ценности. Исследование показывает, как каждая литературная традиция отражает национальную идентичность, нравственное воспитание и социальные идеалы через сюжеты, персонажей и язык. Английская детская литература подчеркивает воображение и индивидуализм, тогда как узбекская — мораль, уважение и коллективные ценности.

Annotatsiya: Ushbu maqolada ingliz va o‘zbek bolalar adabiyotining tarixiy rivojlanishi, asosiy mavzulari hamda madaniy qadriyatlari qiyosiy tahlil qilinadi. Tadqiqotda har ikki adabiyot an’anasi milliy o‘zlik, axloqiy tarbiya va ijtimoiy g‘oyalarni obrazlar, voqealar hamda til vositasida qanday ifodalashi o‘rganiladi. Ingliz bolalar

adabiyoti tasavvur va individuallikka urg‘u bersa, o‘zbek bolalar adabiyoti axloq, hurmat va jamoaviy qadriyatlarni targ‘ib etadi.

Keywords: Children’s literature, English literature, Uzbek literature, comparative analysis, culture, morality, national values.

Ключевые слова: Детская литература, английская литература, узбекская литература, сравнительный анализ, культура, мораль, национальные ценности.

Kalit so‘zlar: Bolalar adabiyoti, ingliz adabiyoti, o‘zbek adabiyoti, qiyosiy tahlil, madaniyat, axloq, milliy qadriyatlar.

Introduction. Children’s literature plays a vital role in shaping a child’s worldview, moral understanding, and imaginative capacity. Both English and Uzbek children’s literature serve as reflections of their respective societies, carrying cultural values, traditions, and educational purposes. Although both traditions share universal themes such as friendship, honesty, and courage, they differ in narrative style, cultural representation, and pedagogical focus. This article presents a comparative analysis of English and Uzbek children’s literature, highlighting similarities and differences in themes, characters, and moral values[1, 2].

Historical Development. English children’s literature began to flourish during the 18th century, with writers like Daniel Defoe and Jonathan Swift incorporating elements of adventure and fantasy. Later, the 19th century saw the rise of classical works such as *Alice’s Adventures in Wonderland* by Lewis Carroll and *Peter Pan* by J.M. Barrie, which combined imagination with moral instruction.

In contrast, Uzbek children’s literature developed more actively in the 20th century, especially during the Soviet era, when education and literature were used as tools for social and moral development. Early contributors such as Abdulla Qodiriy, G‘afur G‘ulom, and Xudoyberdi To‘xtaboyev created stories rich in national values, humor, and didactic lessons. Uzbek children’s books often emphasized respect for elders, patriotism, and the importance of hard work[2, 4].

Themes and Moral Values. English children’s literature often focuses on individualism, curiosity, and adventure. Characters like Alice, Peter Pan, and Harry Potter

embody the spirit of exploration and self-discovery. These works encourage critical thinking and personal growth through imaginative experiences. Uzbek children's literature, on the other hand, emphasizes collectivism, moral duty, and family ties. In To'xtaboyev's *Sariq devni minib* ("Riding the Yellow Giant"), for instance, humor is used to teach moral lessons about honesty and responsibility. The stories often depict the importance of community harmony and cultural traditions.

Cultural and Linguistic Features. Language and folklore play a central role in both literatures. English children's literature draws heavily on fairy tales, nursery rhymes, and myths from Western folklore, while Uzbek literature incorporates proverbs, folk tales, and epics such as *Alpomish*. The linguistic richness of Uzbek stories reflects the oral storytelling tradition, with rhythmic language and cultural expressions.

In contrast, English children's books often use playful and imaginative language that appeals to a child's creativity and sense of wonder. The humor, wordplay, and fantasy elements are central to engaging young readers[3, 3].

Educational and Social Functions. Both literatures aim to educate as well as entertain. English children's books often promote intellectual curiosity, empathy, and independence. Uzbek children's books, while also entertaining, are more explicitly didactic, aiming to cultivate moral virtues, respect, and national identity.

Pedagogical and Social Roles. *Both literatures aim to educate and form character, but in different ways:*

- English children's books foster **independent thinking** and **emotional intelligence**.
 - Uzbek children's books emphasize **moral upbringing**, **social harmony**, and **respect for elders**.
 - For example, in To'xtaboyev's works, humor is used not just for entertainment but as a **moral corrective**, teaching lessons about honesty, courage, and empathy[6, 3].

• **Modern Developments: In English literature**, diversity and inclusivity have become major themes—stories now feature characters from different ethnicities, abilities, and backgrounds (*Jacqueline Woodson, MalorBlackman, Philip Pullman*). **In modern Uzbek literature**, writers explore the challenges of globalization and technological change while maintaining national identity. Digital storytelling and children’s magazines are helping promote reading among the younger generation[4, 5].

Conclusion. While English and Uzbek children’s literatures differ in style, language, and thematic focus, both share the universal goal of nurturing young minds. English children’s literature emphasizes imagination and individualism, whereas Uzbek children’s literature stresses morality and social harmony. Together, they represent two distinct yet complementary approaches to guiding children through the worlds of imagination, knowledge, and values. The comparative study of English and Uzbek children’s literature reveals that while both serve the universal purpose of educating and entertaining children, their methods reflect their unique historical, cultural and linguistic contexts. English literature celebrates individual imagination, whereas Uzbek literature preserves collective wisdom and moral integrity. Together, they demonstrate the power of storytelling in shaping the values and dreams of future generations. The comparative study of these two traditions reveals that, despite their differences, both serve the common purpose of educating, entertaining, and shaping children’s understanding of the world. English literature inspires individuality and creative freedom, whereas Uzbek literature preserves collective wisdom, moral strength, and cultural continuity. Together, they demonstrate the enduring power of storytelling as a universal tool for transmitting knowledge, ethics, and imagination to future generations[5, 4].

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