

**LITERARY ANALYSIS OF "JANE EYRE" BY CHARLOTTE
BRONTË AND "O'TKAN KUNLAR" BY ABDULLA QODIRIY: A
COMPARATIVE STUDY**

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Abstract

This article focuses on thematic structure, genre, characterization, and literary devices of "Jane Eyre" by Charlotte Brontë and "O'tkan kunlar" by Abdulla Qodiriy to explore how both novels portray love, social inequality, and personal struggle. Although written in different cultural contexts—Victorian England and 19th-century Central Asia—the novels share universal concerns about morality, independence, and social expectations. Special attention is given to the role of women in society and the extent to which this theme aligns with each work's main message. The findings show that both novels use strong female characters to critique restrictive societal norms, making the theme of women's role crucial to both narratives.

Keywords: comparative literature, characterization, literary devices, women in society, gothic style, symbolism, independence, polygamy, patriarchal society.

INTRODUCTION

"Jane Eyre" by Charlotte Brontë and "O'tkan Kunlar" by Abdulla Qodiriy are literary classics that depict the emotional and moral development of their protagonists. Despite originating from different cultures, the novels highlight universal themes such as moral integrity, love, class inequality, and struggles against societal expectations. In the case of Brontë's work, critics often emphasize that the preeminent theme of the novel is the rebellion of the

female spirit, vividly expressed through the tempestuous life of a solitary girl who rejects indignity, resists subordination, and demonstrates the courage to struggle for self-respect. This perspective frames the narrative as “a cry and accusation of an oppressed soul,” embodying the aspiration of an individual who appears insignificant yet strives toward greatness (Jiayu Zhao, Chengyao Jian , 2024). Both works explore tensions between individual desires and social norms, but arrive at different outcomes: "Jane Eyre" ends with moral triumph and personal freedom, while "O‘tkan Kunlar " concludes tragically due to harmful traditions and jealousy.

METHODS

This study employs a qualitative comparative literary methodology integrating close reading, thematic analysis, character evaluation, and contextual interpretation. The aim of this approach is to systematically examine the structural, stylistic, and ideological elements of "Jane Eyre" and " O‘tkan kunlar", and to identify both convergences and divergences between the two literary works.

Close reading:

Close reading was used as the foundational method to examine narrative construction, symbolic patterns, stylistic features, and the internal logic of each novel. This method enabled the identification of recurring motifs, narrative tensions, and authorial strategies shaping the central conflicts and thematic developments. The detailed engagement with the texts facilitated a deeper understanding of the authors' narrative techniques and the aesthetic principles underlying both works.

Thematic analysis:

Thematic analysis was applied to classify and compare the central themes present in both novels, with particular attention to concepts such as love, independence, moral responsibility, and social constraint. Each theme was analyzed in terms of its narrative function and contribution to the overarching

message of the work. The thematic approach allowed for the identification of shared literary concerns and highlighted how divergent cultural and historical contexts shape the treatment of similar ideas.

Character mapping and comparative characterization:

Character mapping was conducted to evaluate the roles, psychological depth, relational dynamics, and narrative purposes of the major and secondary characters. This method facilitated a systematic comparison of protagonist development, representations of gender, and the functions of antagonistic forces. Character mapping also provided insight into how personal journeys mirror social realities and ideological underpinnings within each narrative tradition.

Contextual and historical analysis:

Contextual analysis was used to situate each novel within its specific cultural, social, and historical environment. This included examining relevant scholarly literature on Victorian England and 19th-century Central Asia, as well as considering literary movements that influenced the authors. By integrating contextual perspectives, the study was able to interpret narrative decisions, character portrayals, and thematic emphases in relation to broader societal conditions and intellectual currents.

Cross-cultural comparative framework:

A cross-cultural comparative framework was employed to synthesize findings from the previous methodological steps. This framework enabled the identification of structural parallels, thematic intersections, and ideological contrasts between the two novels. It also provided a systematic approach for evaluating how differing cultural environments shape narrative outcomes, conceptualizations of individual agency, and representations of social order. Through this integrative method, the research establishes a coherent basis for cross-literary comparison.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSIONS

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The comparative analysis of "Jane Eyre" and "O'tkan Kunlar" reveals that despite their differences in cultural background, period, and narrative form, the two novels share several thematic links concerning love, social norms, and moral struggle. In Jane Eyre, the central theme revolves around the search for personal identity, independence. Jane's journey—shaped by her childhood trauma in the Red Room, her treatment as an orphan and governess, and relationship with Mr. Rochester—illustrates a narrative in which individual dignity triumphs over social limitations. This moral victory forms the novel's optimistic conclusion.

In contrast, "O'tkan Kunlar" portrays a world in which social forces overpower the characters' internal desires, leading to tragic results. the love between Otabek and Kumush is destroyed by harmful customs and jealousy entrenched in 19th-century Uzbek society. Unlike Jane, whose internal strength brings her toward emotional and social fulfillment, Kumush becomes a victim of societal expectations and malicious manipulation. The tragedy of "O'tkan kunlar" thus arises not from individual weakness but from rigid cultural structures, illustrating how social norms can determine personal fate.

The literary devices form an essential foundation for understanding each novel's deeper meaning. In "Jane Eyre", symbolic elements such as the Red Room and the contrasting imagery of fire and ice play a significant role in shaping the protagonist's emotional journey. These symbols reflect Jane's fear, moral passion, and internal struggles. By contrast, "O'tkan Kunlar" uses symbols grounded in Uzbek cultural experience, especially representations of harmful traditions, jealousy, and family honor. These elements symbolize the restrictive social environment surrounding Otabek and Kumush. The differences in symbolism as a literary device —psychological and internal in Brontë, social and external in Qodiriy—were analyzed to determine how each author uses symbolism to advance the main themes.

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In terms of genres "Jane Eyre" as a blend of bildungsroman, romance, and gothic fiction, noting how Jane's personal growth, the emotional development of her relationship with Mr. Rochester, and the mysterious atmosphere of settings like Thornfield Hall all contribute to the novel's structure. In contrast, "O'tkan Kunlar" is categorized as a historical romance and social novel, emphasizing its depiction of 19th-century Turkestan, political tensions, and cultural norms. This difference in genre—psychological development versus social and historical realism—was used to compare how each novel frames its narrative conflicts.

Characterization formed a third major point of comparison. Jane Eyre as an independent, morally strong, and principled heroine whose struggles arise from both social inequality and personal integrity. Her characterization is built on internal development. Meanwhile, Otabek and Kumush from "O'tkan Kunlar" are portrayed as loyal, emotionally sincere, and morally upright characters whose conflicts emerge not from inner dilemmas but from the external pressures of tradition, jealousy, and family expectations.

When comparing the outcomes of both novels, the results clearly show two opposing trajectories: "Jane Eyre" ends with the triumph of individual agency, while "O'tkan Kunlar" ends with the collapse of love under the burden of tradition.

The findings suggest that both novels, though produced in different cultural and historical environments, explore similar human concerns through contrasting narrative strategies. Jane Eyre's persistent pursuit of self-respect, equality, and emotional honesty, all of which contribute to her growth into an autonomous woman capable of choosing her destiny. For example, she leaves Mr. Rochester after discovering the existence of Bertha Mason. "I care for myself"—Jane's this sentence illustrates that true love requires moral integrity and independence.

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Meanwhile, "O'tkan Kunlar" presents a different social reality, one in which individuals cannot fully escape communal expectations. Otabek and Kumush face not only emotional struggles but also systemic obstacles, including rigid customs, family pressures, and the destructive jealousy symbolized by characters such as Zaynab. Kumush's suffering and eventual death, highlight the oppressive conditions placed on women in traditional society. Qodiriy's narrative exposes how these social limitations prevent love and personal happiness from flourishing.

Overall, "Jane Eyre" concludes with the triumph of dignity and equality, while "O'tkan Kunlar" ends in tragedy due to destructive customs and jealousy. This comparative lens was used to evaluate how literary devices, genre, and characterization collectively contribute to each work's final message.

Thus, the discussion demonstrates that both novels, despite their different cultural contexts, ultimately address the same central concern: the struggle of individuals, especially women, to defend their identity.

CONCLUSION

The comparison demonstrates that both novels use different cultural settings to address similar human struggles. Brontë's work presents a feminist perspective uncommon for its time, portraying Jane as a woman who insists on equality and autonomy. Qodiriy, meanwhile, portrays women like Kumush as dignified and morally strong but trapped by rigid traditions and patriarchal structures. The role of women in society is central to both "Jane Eyre" and "O'tkan Kunlar". In Brontë's novel, Jane challenges social norms and achieves emotional and moral equality, suggesting that women's independence is essential and achievable. In contrast, Kumush's tragic fate in "O'tkan Kunlar" reveals how harmful traditions can suppress even the strongest of women.

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