



PECULIARITIES OF THE DEPICTION OF NATIONAL STEREOTYPES IN THE STORY "A THOUSAND SPLENDID SUNS" BY KHALED HOSSEINI

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Annotation: In this article, one of the works of the talented Afghan writer H.Hosseini, the book "A Thousand Splendid Suns," reflects on the peculiarities of the description of his people. We all know that civil wars have been raging in Afghanistan for a quarter of a century. We know more than ever that these people are trying to preserve their nationality, traditions, and even their art as a spiritual heritage for future generations, even during the period of endless wars, because this is a country bordering the southern region of Uzbekistan. We know that the folks, the people of the world have a rich heritage, witness to their story, origin, development[2].

Key words. Afghan, Hosseini, "A Thousand Splendid Suns", peculiarities, people, ethnic groups, lifestyle

To come in

Since all peoples have a rich literary heritage, the people living in Afghanistan, like all ethnic groups, have a rich and ancient literary history. The writers' works reflect the way of life of the Afghan people, representatives of all nationalities living there, everyday life, women's work, and other situations. Local Afghans were engaged in farming, animal husbandry, weaving, gardening, jewelry, pottery, blacksmithing, grocery, jewelry making, embroidery, etc., so their literature is often associated with these areas - it consisted of songs, proverbs, riddles, fairy tales and epics[1].

Through Hosseini's works, we can get to know the real life, lifestyle, work, and activities of the local people. This land on which you and I live protects our dignity, value, honor, pride, and most importantly, our identity. The children of your country, which is not far from us, have the right to hear such words about themselves. But the bloody wars that have been going on in Afghanistan for several decades have changed the fate of millions of people so that dreams of a beautiful life have become a dream for them. Khaled Hosseini, who witnessed such wars, spoke vividly of what he saw and experienced, the events that shook his heart in the form of his heroes[10].

Main part

In the introduction to this small study, we considered it permissible to provide information about the life and creative path of the talented Afghan writer Khalid Hosseini. Writer was born in Kabul, Afghanistan. His father worked for the Afghan Ministry of Foreign Affairs. In 1970, his father settled with his family in Tehran, Iran due to his work at the Afghan Embassy. In 1973, on the occasion of the birth of his younger brother Khalid, his family returned to Kabul. A few months after the family returned to Afghanistan, the 40-year-old Afghan leader was overthrown by Zahir Shah's cousin Dawood Khan. Due to the political situation in the country, in 1976, Hosseini's father found work in France and moved his entire

family to this city. The reason why the Hosseini family chose Paris over Kabul was the communist oppression of Afghanistan at the time. For this reason, members of this family received political asylum in the United States in 1980 and settled in San Jose, California.

During Writer's teenage years, that is, after finishing from Independence High School in 1984, Hosseini was accepted into the biology department at Santa Clara University. Hosseini graduated in 1988, and the following year he entered the Faculty of Medicine at the University of California. A surgeon in 1993, Hosseini completed his residency in internal surgery at Cedars-Sinai Medical Center in Los Angeles in 1996. Hosseini continued to work as a doctor until a year and a half after writing his first book, *The Kite Pilot* (2004). At the same time, our writer is helping refugees as a goodwill ambassador for the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees[11].

"A Thousand Splendid Suns" by writer tells the story of two Afghan women, young and beautiful Leila and Mariam, born before marriage. The story depicts the lives of two women who grew up in two different worlds. These are characters who can support each other in any situation[11].

Leila is a wonderful and talented woman. Indeed, he did not see difficulties in his family, where he grew up, and his heart was full of love. However, life also threw him into many difficulties. He was also deceived... At that moment, only Mariam could hold his hands. They went through all the difficulties and suffering together. "A Thousand Splendid Suns" - Maryam. He was able to illuminate Leila's heart and save her from darkness. In addition, the work also reflects mutual wars, coups d'etat, and internal economic systems in the Afghan state. And all this has caused harm to people[12].

In the process of writing this study, we saw the work of our colleagues who were interested in the life of the writer, read his works, and conducted scientific research. We will give some of them as examples. Everyone has faith and hope for the future, but no one can predict their fate. Their fate is clear only to the Creator. But in any situation, everyone should count on a good life. A person reading the work understands that it reflects the fate of two women. These are characters who can support each other in any situation. These are Maryam and Leila[13].

From birth to death, Maryam experienced many hardships, suffering, pain, and trials. She was able to give her ardent love to the people she trusted and relied on, but in return, they caused her a lot of injustice. Despite this, she did not give up her obedience and devotion, looked to the future with hope, and persevered. She may not be blessed to be a mother, but she was able to give motherly love to Leila and her children. While reading the work, the reader will witness that the characters of the heroines reflect traits characteristic of the Afghan nation. For example, Maryam can be called submissive to her husband, a caring mother, a wise housewife, and many other similar qualities. For the sake of the future of her kids, so that they could live well, she exposed herself to death. She found herself worthy of death because she killed her husband[13].

What about Leila? What kind of person was she? She is also a miracle and an amazing woman. It is true that she did not see difficulties in her family, where she grew up, and her heart was full of love. However, life also drowned her in many difficulties. She was also deceived... Only Maryam could hold her hands at this time. They went through all the difficulties and suffering together. From the above verses we can see that Afghan women are patient, tolerant, devoted to their families and even sacrifice themselves for a good marriage.

"A Thousand Splendid Suns" - Maryam. She was able to illuminate Leila's heart, save her from darkness. Such a virtue is also a sign of the kindness and softness of heart of an Afghan woman. It would not be a mistake to say that Writer is a kind writer who was able to clearly convey to the reader, the book reader, the features of the description of national patterns through the work "A Thousand Splendid Suns"[13].

Methods/Results

In "A Thousand Splendid Suns" by Khaled Hosseini, the depiction of national stereotypes takes a unique and nuanced approach. Instead of focusing solely on reinforcing or perpetuating stereotypes, Hosseini presents complex and multifaceted characters that challenge these preconceived notions. Here are some peculiarities in the depiction of national stereotypes in the story:

Submissive character: Through the characters' development, the novel challenges readers to question their initial assumptions and stereotypes about Afghan society. Initially, Mariam and Leila are portrayed as archetypal representations of Afghan women - submissive and oppressed. However, as the story progresses, their strength, resilience, and determination shatter these stereotypes, suggesting that there is much more to Afghan women than meets the eye.

Diverse female experiences, "A Thousand Splendid Suns" explores the lives of two women from different generations and backgrounds, allowing for a broad representation of the experiences of Afghan women. The novel demonstrates that women in Afghanistan are not a monolithic group, but individuals with distinct journeys, aspirations, and responses to their circumstances.

Complex male characters, the story does not solely focus on the suffering and oppression of women but also challenges stereotypes surrounding Afghan men. Hosseini presents male characters like Rasheed, who initially embodies stereotypes of patriarchal control and violence. However, as the story unfolds, readers also witness the portrayal of male characters like Tariq, who defy these stereotypes by displaying empathy, kindness, and love.

Humanization of characters, one of the most significant peculiarities in the depiction of national stereotypes in "A Thousand Splendid Suns" is the humanization of all characters, regardless of their nationality or background. Hosseini portrays the universal struggles, emotions, and desires of his characters, emphasizing their shared humanity rather than reducing them to national stereotypes. This approach allows readers to connect with the characters on a deeper level and challenges preconceived notions about Afghanistan and its people.

Writer's novels are polyphonic, featuring characters from different ethnic backgrounds in Afghanistan, such as Pashtuns, Tajiks, and Hazaras. The study shows that the writer's choice of characters with their voice and the roles assigned to them is political, ideological, and to some extent biased. Pashtuns have been stereotyped, classifying them as social, well-educated, and more or less liberal Pashtuns, tribal and traditional Pashtuns, and extremist and fundamentalist Pashtuns such as the Taliban. The misrepresentation of tribal and fundamentalist Pashtuns as racists, ethnic nationalists, ideologues, sexists, exclusionists, radiationists, and abusers of power shows the bias and exaggeration of the novelist.

The novels of Khalid Hosseini studied represent more or less authentic depictions of Afghan ethnic communities. Her discourses are multivocal, and the purpose of this study is to

question why and how Pashtun characters are assigned roles and how politics influence the selection and (mis)representation of their voices[8].

A Thousand Splendid Suns traces the history of Afghanistan from the 1960s to the 2000s, as the land of tradition and belief witnessed political upheavals, from Soviet occupation to Taliban rule, that changed the dynamics of the entire country. The A Thousand Wonderful Suns novels focus on gender discrimination, violence, oppression, and the fight against it.

In A Thousand Splendid Suns, there was a restriction on women's activities. Women are prohibited from education and must remain at home. Maryam and Leila are oppressed and abused by their husbands. Their struggle was reflected in the murder of her husband Rashid[8].

Many characters in the novel are directly or indirectly involved in the politics of Afghanistan. First of all, they were exploited by the Soviet Union in the name of communism and later faced terrible violence from various religious and ethnic groups such as the Taliban and the Mujahideen.

In "A Thousand Splendid Suns" by Khaled Hosseini, the author portrays various national stereotypes in a nuanced and complex manner. Here are some of the peculiarities in the depiction of national stereotypes in the story. In this novel, there are several national patterns described by H. Hosseini. These patterns reflect the political and social climate of Afghanistan during different periods of time[2].

Afghan Stereotypes. The novel challenges common stereotypes about Afghanistan and its people. While the country is often associated with war, violence, and extremism, Hosseini presents a more multifaceted view of Afghan society. He portrays the rich cultural heritage, traditions, and resilience of the Afghan people, highlighting their capacity for love, compassion, and endurance.

If we talk about political Instability in Afghanistan, one of the prominent national patterns depicted in the story is the constant political instability in Afghanistan. The novel spans several decades, starting from the Soviet invasion in the 1970s, followed by the civil war, Taliban rule, and the US invasion. This instability leads to frequent changes in power, resulting in violence, oppression, and a lack of stability for the Afghan people[7].

Gender Stereotypes, the story also tackles gender stereotypes prevalent in Afghan society. It explores the traditional roles and expectations placed on women, such as being obedient wives and mothers. However, Hosseini subverts these stereotypes by presenting strong female characters who defy societal norms and fight for their rights and independence. Mariam and Leila, the two main protagonists, challenge the idea that Afghan women are passive victims, instead showing their agency and resilience in the face of adversity. Another national pattern highlighted in the story is the pervasive gender inequality present in Afghan society. The novel portrays the patriarchal nature of Afghan culture, where women are oppressed, marginalized, and subjected to various forms of abuse. This pattern is seen through the experiences of the female protagonists, Mariam and Leila, who face discrimination, domestic violence, and limited opportunities due to their gender.

Western Stereotypes, the novel also addresses Western stereotypes about Afghanistan and its people. It challenges the notion that all Afghans are terrorists or extremists. By humanizing the characters and providing insight into their personal lives, Hosseini shows the diversity and complexity of Afghan individuals, highlighting their desires, dreams, and

struggles. This challenges the simplistic and often negative portrayal of Afghan people in Western media. The story also emphasizes the recurring pattern of war and conflict in Afghanistan. The country has been ravaged by decades of war, starting from the Soviet invasion, followed by the civil war between different factions, and finally the US invasion. These conflicts result in the destruction of homes, displacement of families, loss of loved ones, and a constant state of fear and uncertainty for the Afghan people[4].

Socioeconomic Stereotypes. Hosseini also explores socioeconomic stereotypes within Afghan society. He portrays characters from different social classes, ranging from the wealthy and educated to the impoverished and illiterate. By doing so, he challenges the assumption that all Afghans are homogenous and highlights the disparities and inequalities that exist within the country.

Resilience and Survival. Despite the challenges faced by the Afghan people, the novel also showcases a pattern of resilience and survival. The characters in the story, particularly Mariam and Leila, demonstrate immense strength and determination in the face of adversity. They find ways to navigate through the difficult circumstances, support each other, and strive for a better future[6].

Conclusion

Overall, "A Thousand Splendid Suns" presents a nuanced and humanizing portrayal of Afghan society, challenging common national stereotypes and providing a more comprehensive understanding of the people and their experiences. Writer description of national patterns in "A Thousand Splendid Suns" sheds light on the complex and tumultuous history of Afghanistan, highlighting the political instability, gender inequality, war, and conflict that have shaped the lives of its people. "A Thousand Splendid Suns" challenges national stereotypes by presenting complex, multidimensional characters and highlighting their shared humanity. Through this portrayal, Hosseini invites readers to question their assumptions while simultaneously fostering empathy and understanding..

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