



ARTISTIC MASTERY IN THE WORKS OF XURSHID DO'STMUHAMMAD

Zarina Jalilova Sadriddinovna

Assistant at Bukhara Innovation University of
Education and Medicine

jalilovazarina9389@gmail.com

Tel: +998912456812

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Abstract: The short story and novella writing of the Independence period in Uzbek literature are developing alongside the achievements of 20th-century Uzbek prose and the most prominent works of world literature. As a result, the advanced principles of world literature are having an impact on Uzbek prose, particularly in short stories and novellas. This article discusses some reflections on the fate and tragedy of the characters in the short stories and novellas of the author Xurshid Do'stmuhammad, who contributed to the development of modern Uzbek prose.

Keywords: short story, novella, character, personality, conflict, artistic quality, symbolism, metaphor, national character, creative intention, realistic depiction, tradition and artistic mastery, polyphonic interpretation.

Introduction: The creative works of Xurshid Do'stmuhammad in Uzbek literature and his place in contemporary literature have been the subject of various scholarly studies. Many scholars have written critical articles about his works. Despite his works being the focus of several recent studies, a comprehensive examination of all his short stories and novellas has yet to be conducted. Furthermore, the importance of the depictions and unique features of his characters in the development of modern Uzbek prose remains underexplored.

In Uzbek literature, much has been discussed regarding the themes, unique features, psychological depth of characters, and symbolic elements in Do'stmuhammad's short stories and novellas. The fact that his works are actively studied by literary critics, linguists, and scholars indicates his significant place in contemporary literature. The stylistic innovations that characterized the prose of the Independence period also affected modern writers and authors. Uzbek prose is continuously evolving, enriched by the best experiences and traditions of world literature. It is important to note that great writers such as Qodiriy, Cho'lpon, Oybek, Ayni, and Fitrat not only wrote creative works but also thoroughly studied the historical context before undertaking their literary tasks. Xurshid Do'stmuhammad, one of the most prominent and active modern Uzbek prose writers, has contributed significantly to the fields of novel, short story, novella. In Uzbek literature, much has been discussed regarding the role of Do'stmuhammad's short stories and novellas, particularly in terms of the richness of their themes, the psychological complexity of their characters, and the incorporation of symbolism. The fact that his works are continuously studied by literary critics, linguists, and scholars is a testament to his prominent position in contemporary literature.

The stylistic innovations seen in the prose of the independence period have also influenced modern writers. Uzbek prose has been continuously evolving, enriched by the best practices and traditions from world literature. It is important to note that famous writers such as Qodiriy, Cho'lpon, Oybek, Ayni, and Fitrat not only created literary works but also

thoroughly studied the historical context of the periods they depicted in their writings. One of the most significant and active contemporary Uzbek prose writers is Xurshid Do'stmuhammad, who has contributed extensively to the development of novels, short stories, novellas, and essays. He is also known for his translations, including his adaptation of Japanese author Akutagawa Ryūnosuke's *Rashomon*.

Main Body: In modern Uzbek literature, prose works, particularly short stories and novellas, stand out for their thematic richness, artistic depth, and the complexity of the ideas they convey. In the works created during the Independence period, whether long or short, the use of artistic techniques and narrative devices, as well as the depiction of the human psyche and inner experiences, became a priority. These works invite readers to reflect on social and historical life, as well as universal themes of love, emotions, and human experiences. In contemporary Uzbek short stories, there is a significant focus on understanding individual characters and their psychological experiences. This trend in modern storytelling, which allows readers to engage deeply with the inner lives of characters, reflects a broader global literary movement. As noted by Abdulla Qodiriy, "Although a writer may not be personally known, readers can often guess his personality and nature simply by reading his works, since an author primarily expresses his own nature and psychological state in his stories." This idea is particularly evident in Do'stmuhammad's works, where understanding the psychological landscape of the characters is central to the storytelling. In the Independence period, stories were created around both historical and contemporary themes, with a focus on celebrating human values, national traditions, and emotional depth. These themes are often explored through the relationships between characters and their interactions with the society they inhabit. Writers during this period have drawn on world literary experiences while making these universal themes relevant to the Uzbek context. The stories created during this time contribute to a deeper understanding of human nature, and Do'stmuhammad's work is no exception.

Xurshid Do'stmuhammad has played an instrumental role in advancing the genre of the novella. The novella, positioned between the short story and the novel, is particularly effective in capturing the nuanced experiences of characters. In this genre, the development of a character's inner world is portrayed with exceptional depth, and readers are provided with insight into the complexity of human emotions and moral dilemmas. This is evident in Do'stmuhammad's works, where the portrayal of human characters in both ordinary and extraordinary circumstances reveals complex layers of personality.

The novella genre in modern Uzbek literature has undergone significant development, and the works of writers like Do'stmuhammad have demonstrated its artistic potential. In this regard, the contribution of modern writers to the genre of the novella is invaluable, as it reflects the complexity of contemporary life and the psychological realities of individuals in a rapidly changing world.

Discussion and Results: The short stories written during the period of independence have a distinct characteristic: they explore the psychological depths of characters with an emphasis on internal conflict. This is particularly evident in Do'stmuhammad's stories, where the personal and emotional struggles of the characters are central to the narrative. These stories often present a nuanced view of human nature, exploring both the darkness and the light in people's lives. In stories like "*Karvon*" by Ghulom Karimov and "*Shukuhli Karvon*" by Gozi Rahmon, we see an exploration of the moral and psychological complexities of

individuals caught in a tumultuous historical moment. Similarly, Do'stmuhammad's work explores such complexities, often leaving the interpretation of moral judgment to the reader, rather than directly stating whether a character is good or evil. This approach allows readers to engage more deeply with the text and consider their own values and judgments.

Do'stmuhammad's short stories, such as *"Hijronim Mingdir Mening"* and *"Panoh"*, are often grounded in ordinary life events and interactions, yet they possess an extraordinary depth of meaning. For example, in *"Panoh"*, the protagonist Ahmadali's reactions to a natural disaster—an earthquake—serve as a vehicle for exploring broader themes of human resilience, national identity, and the importance of community.

The symbolism in Do'stmuhammad's works further enhances their depth. His use of natural phenomena, such as the earthquake in *"Panoh"*, is not just a plot device; it serves to symbolize the inner turmoil of the characters and their emotional journeys. By embedding these metaphors into the fabric of the narrative, the author invites readers to reflect on the larger meaning of human existence and the relationship between individuals and their environment.

Moreover, Do'stmuhammad's approach to narrative technique demonstrates his skill in blending realism with symbolism. His characters are grounded in everyday life, yet their experiences carry deeper philosophical and existential meanings. This blend of realism and symbolism is a hallmark of his style, and it has contributed to his standing as one of the foremost modern writers in Uzbek literature.

Conclusion: Xurshid Do'stmuhammad's contribution to modern Uzbek prose, particularly in the short story and novella genres, has been significant. His works have not only enriched the literary landscape of Uzbekistan but have also introduced innovative narrative techniques and themes that resonate with a global audience. By focusing on the psychological depth of characters and exploring themes of human resilience, morality, and national identity, Do'stmuhammad's works reflect the complexities of contemporary life. Through his mastery of artistic techniques, he has successfully combined realism with symbolism, creating stories that offer both emotional depth and philosophical insight.

As Uzbek literature continues to evolve, Do'stmuhammad's works will remain a vital part of the literary canon, offering valuable insights into the human condition and the ongoing development of modern Uzbek prose.

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