



UNVEILING NATIONAL IDENTITY IN SHUKUR KHOLMIRZAYEV'S SHORT STORIES.

Gaybullayeva Vazira Shokirovna

Asia International University, English Chair

vaziragaybulloyeva@gmail.com

Annotatsiya. Ushbu tadqiqot Shukur Xolmirzayevning “O‘zbekning soddasi” va “O‘zbek xarakteri” hikoyalaridagi milliy o‘zlikni anglash tasvirini o‘rganadi. Ushbu maqola Xolmirzayev qo‘llagan personajlar, mavzular va hikoya qilish uslublarini tahlil qilib, ushbu asarlarda aks etgan o‘zbek milliy o‘ziga xosligining fundamental jihatlarini ochib berishni maqsad qilgan. Izlanishlar shuni ko‘rsatadiki, hikoyalar o‘zbek xalqining madaniy an‘analari, qadriyatlari va psixologik teranligini yoritib, pirovardida jamoaviy milliy ongini mustahkamlaydi. Tadqiqot matn tahlilidan foydalanib, Xolmirzayevning soddalik, chidamlilik, axloqiylik va jamoaviy qadriyatlar orqali o‘zbek xalqi qiyofasini qanday shakllantirgani o‘rganiladi. Natijalar shuni ko‘rsatadiki, muallif o‘zbek jamiyatining ezgu fazilatlari va kurashlarini aks ettiruvchi, madaniy davomiylik va milliy xususiyatni mustahkamlovchi realistik hikoyalardan foydalangan.

Kalit so‘zlar: Milliy o‘zlik, o‘zbek adabiyoti, madaniy timsol, soddalik, chidamlilik, an‘analari.

Аннотация. В этом исследовании изучается изображение национальной идентичности в рассказах Шукура Холмирзаева, таких как “O‘zbekning Soddasi” и “O‘zbek Xarakteri”. Анализируя персонажей, темы и повествовательные приемы, используемые Холмирзаевым, эта статья направлена на раскрытие фундаментальных аспектов узбекской национальной идентичности, отраженных в этих произведениях. Результаты показывают, что рассказы подчеркивают культурные традиции, ценности и психологическую глубину узбекского народа, в конечном итоге укрепляя коллективное национальное сознание. Используя текстовый анализ, исследование изучает, как Холмирзаев конструирует образ узбекского народа через простоту, стойкость, мораль и общинные ценности. Результаты показывают, что автор использует реалистичные повествования для отражения добродетелей и борьбы узбекского общества, укрепляя культурную преемственность и национальный характер.

Ключевые слова: Национальная идентичность, узбекская литература, культурная репрезентация, простота, стойкость, традиции.

Annotation. This study explores the depiction of national identity in Shukur Kholmirzayev's short stories such as “O‘zbekning Soddasi” and “O‘zbek Xarakteri.” By analyzing the characters, themes, and narrative techniques employed by Kholmirzayev, this article aims to uncover the fundamental aspects of Uzbek national identity reflected in these works. The findings indicate that the stories highlight cultural traditions, values, and the psychological depth of Uzbek people, ultimately reinforcing a collective national consciousness. Using textual analysis, the study examines how Kholmirzayev constructs an image of the Uzbek people through simplicity, resilience, morality, and communal values. The results reveal that the author employs realistic narratives to reflect the virtues and struggles of Uzbek society, reinforcing cultural continuity and national character.

Key words: National identity, Uzbek literature, cultural representation, simplicity, resilience, traditions.

Introduction. Uzbek literature has long relied on the short story genre, which allows for the embodiment of contemporary reality, social phenomenon and national identity. Among the many authors who wrote in this genre, Shukur Kholmirzayev occupies a special place. Shukur Kholmirzayev is one of Uzbekistan’s most prominent writers, whose works have consistently focused on the themes of national identity, cultural heritage, and the social psychology of Uzbek people. His short stories stand out for psychological insight, realistic sketches, and social commentary on Uzbek society. Transcending mere storytelling, the works of Kholmirzayev reflect the cultural evolution and the challenges faced by the Uzbek nation, striking a balance between preservation of tradition and embrace of modernity. His short stories “O‘zbekning Soddasi” and “O‘zbek Xarakteri” provide a deep insight into the values and characteristics that define Uzbek identity. This study aims to analyze how these works contribute to the understanding of national identity by examining their characters, narrative techniques, and thematic elements.

Literature review and methodology. The concept of national identity has been widely discussed in literary studies. Anderson (1983) defines a nation as an “imagined community,” where cultural narratives play a crucial role in shaping identity. Smith (1991) emphasizes the role of historical memory and shared values in defining national identity. Many articles and studies have been published on Shukur Kholmirzayev’s work, including H. Karimov’s treatise “Shukur Xolmirzayev ijodiy portreti”, and scholar B. Nazarov’s creative portrait “Shukur Kholmirzayev”. In addition, articles by U. Normatov, S. Mamajonov, Q. Yo‘ldoshev, H. Boltaboev, O. Otakhonov, R. Kochkarov about the writer’s stories, M. Koshjonov, A. Rasulov, M. Olimov about the writer’s short stories; articles by U. Normatov, O. Togaev, I. Gafurov, S. Sodikov and other literary scholars about his novels have been published. However, these studies and articles only covered some aspects of Sh. Kholmirzayev’s work. This study employs a qualitative literary analysis approach, focusing on textual interpretation and thematic examination. The primary sources are Kholmirzayev’s short stories “O‘zbekning Soddasi” and

“O‘zbek Xarakteri.” Secondary sources include literary critiques and theoretical frameworks on national identity in literature.

Results and discussion. The story “O‘zbekning Soddasi” portrays an archetypal Uzbek character who embodies simplicity, honesty, and resilience. The protagonist, a humble farmer, is depicted as deeply connected to his land and traditions. Through his interactions with other characters, the story illustrates key elements of Uzbek identity. One of them is respect for elders: The protagonist consistently seeks advice from older generations, emphasizing the importance of wisdom passed down through oral tradition. The second element is Uzbek nation’s hospitality: A recurring motif in the story is the Uzbek tradition of warmly welcoming guests, symbolizing the cultural value of generosity. The next element can be named spiritual resilience: Despite hardships, the protagonist maintains an unwavering faith in fate and justice, reflecting the moral strength of Uzbek people. “O‘zbek Xarakteri” delves into the psychological and emotional depth of the Uzbek national character. The story highlights collectivism vs. individualism: The protagonist faces a moral dilemma where communal expectations conflict with personal desires, showcasing the tension between traditional collectivism and emerging individualism in Uzbek society. The story emphasizes the importance of keeping one’s word and maintaining personal integrity, reinforcing the idea that Uzbek identity is built on trust and honor. Connection to nature can be seen in his short story, that is, symbolism related to the natural landscape, such as references to cotton fields and vast steppes, strengthens the portrayal of Uzbeks as people deeply tied to their environment. Kholmirezayev’s storytelling is marked by realistic dialogue: The characters’ speech patterns reflect authentic Uzbek expressions, making their interactions more relatable. The frequent use of traditional Uzbek symbols, such as the choyxona (teahouse) and dasturxon (table setting), reinforces cultural themes. The writer employs subtle irony to critique social changes that challenge traditional values, adding depth to the stories’ messages.

In *O‘zbekning Soddasi*, the protagonist is a simple village man who lives modestly and remains content with what he has. He never seeks luxury or power but values sincerity and honesty above all. This reflects the Uzbek cultural ideal that true wealth lies in one’s morality and inner peace rather than material possessions. In one scene, the protagonist is offered a chance to move to the city for a better life, but he refuses, stating that his heart belongs to the village, where he feels true happiness. His decision highlights the deep-rooted connection Uzbeks have with their homeland and their traditional way of life. “*Men shunday yashayman, mayli, boy bo‘lmay. Lekin ko‘nglim to‘q, hech kimdan narsa kutmayman. Yer bor, suv bor, mehnat qilsang, noning halol*”- these excerpts can be the examples for Uzbek nation’s simplicity and humility. This reflects the traditional Uzbek belief that self-sufficiency and hard work bring true satisfaction, not wealth or luxury.

The national identity can be seen in some dialogues of the short story, such as, “*Otabobolarimiz shunday qilishgan, biz ham shunday yashashimiz kerak. Katta kishining gapini ikki qilmaslik kerak.*”. This demonstrates the Uzbek cultural principle of respecting elders and

following traditions. Respect for elders is a fundamental value in Uzbek society, and Kholmirzayev reflects this in the protagonist's interactions with older community members. The protagonist always seeks advice from an elderly man in his village before making important decisions. This demonstrates the belief that wisdom is passed down through generations and that elders hold a guiding role in society.

Uzbek national identity is deeply tied to notions of loyalty, honor, and keeping one's word. In *O'zbek Xarakteri*, the protagonist finds himself in a situation where his personal desires conflict with societal expectations, yet he chooses honor over self-interest. When the protagonist is tempted to act dishonestly for personal gain, he ultimately refuses because betraying trust would mean losing his dignity. This reflects the Uzbek belief that personal integrity is more valuable than material success. "*Agar men aldashni bilsam, odamlar mendan yuz o'giradi. O'zbekiston degan nom orqamizda turganda, biz hamisha to'g'ri bo'lishimiz kerak.*" - these words mean that the protagonist associates personal honor with national honor, reinforcing the idea that individual actions reflect the dignity of the entire Uzbek nation.

Hospitality is one of the most defining traits of Uzbek culture. In *O'zbek Xarakteri*, this is portrayed through the protagonist's interactions with guests. When a traveler arrives in his village, the protagonist, despite not being wealthy, offers him food and shelter without expecting anything in return. This reflects the Uzbek tradition of treating guests with utmost respect, as seen in the proverb: "*Mehmon otangdan ulug'*" - which means a guest is greater than your father. Another example can be seen in these sentences "*Uyim tor bo'lsa ham, mehmon uchun joy bor. Mehmon rizqi bilan keladi, u bilan xonadonimiz fayz topadi.*" This statement illustrates the strong Uzbek hospitality culture, where guests are considered a blessing regardless of the host's financial situation. They are always grateful for having a guest at their house.

Uzbek culture traditionally values collectivism, where the well-being of the community is prioritized over personal ambitions. However, Kholmirzayev also shows how modern influences challenge this principle. In one part of *O'zbek Xarakteri*, the protagonist struggles with a decision that would benefit him personally but could negatively affect his community. He ultimately chooses the community's welfare, showcasing the strong communal spirit that defines Uzbek national identity. For instance, "*O'zimni o'ylasam, uyim, bolalarim yaxshiroq yashardi. Lekin mahallam, qishlog'im mendan ko'p narsa kutadi. O'z nafsimni deb ularni unutilmayman.*" highlights the deep-rooted collectivist values in Uzbek society, where personal desires often take a backseat to community obligations.

Many Uzbek literary works emphasize the deep relationship between people and nature. In *O'zbekning Soddasi*, Kholmirzayev uses rural imagery to highlight this bond. The protagonist frequently expresses admiration for the fields, rivers, and cotton farms, seeing them as an extension of his identity. This reflects the traditional Uzbek view that land is not just a resource but a sacred part of one's heritage. "*Bu dalalar ota-bobolarimniki edi, endi meniki. Men bu yerda tug'ildim, bu tuproqni sevaman. Bu yer menga tinchlik beradi*" - this passage reflects the

strong emotional and cultural bond Uzbeks have with their land, viewing it as an inheritance and a source of identity.

Conclusion. Shukur Kholmirzayev’s short stories “O‘zbekning Soddasi” and “O‘zbek Xarakteri” serve as literary reflections of Uzbek national identity. Through rich character portrayals, cultural symbolism, and thematic depth, these works capture the essence of Uzbek traditions, values, and collective consciousness. This study highlights the significance of Kholmirzayev’s contributions to Uzbek literature, demonstrating how his stories preserve and shape national identity. Future research could explore comparative analyses with other Central Asian writers to further understand the literary representation of national identity in the region. A key aspect of Kholmirzayev’s portrayal of national identity is his ability to balance tradition and modernity. His characters often find themselves at the crossroads between preserving ancestral values and adapting to societal changes. This tension reflects a fundamental aspect of Uzbek identity, where historical memory and contemporary realities coexist. By showcasing the moral dilemmas, communal expectations, and personal sacrifices of his characters, writer presents a nuanced perspective on what it means to be Uzbek. In conclusion, Shukur Kholmirzayev’s short stories not only document Uzbek identity but actively shape and reaffirm it. His ability to capture the essence of Uzbek character through compelling narratives ensures that his works remain relevant and influential in discussions on cultural heritage and national self-perception.

REFERENCES:

1. Hamroyev, I.A. (2024). “Shukur Xolmirzayev hikoyalarida bola obrazi tahlili.” *Journal of Academic Research and Trends in Educational Sciences*, 35-37.
2. Mukhammadiev, A. (2021). “Shukur Xolmirzayev as an Interpreter of National Identity” in *Cultural Studies Journal*, 13(1), 45-58.
3. Omonov, S. (2022). “Shukur Xolmirzayev va o‘zbek qisqa hikoyalarining evolyutsiyasi” [Shukur Xolmirzayev and the Evolution of Uzbek Short Stories]. *Literary Studies of Central Asia*, 5(2), 60-72.
4. Qosimov, O. (2018). *The role of traditional values in modern Uzbek literature*. *Central Asian Literary Journal*, 5(2), 112-130.
5. Qulmatov, U.P. (2023). “Shukur Xolmirzayev hikoyalariga tahlil.” *PEDAGOGS Journal*, 31(4), 41–49.
6. Rajabov, S. (2020). *Shukur Kholmirzayev and the portrayal of Uzbek character in short fiction*. *Journal of Uzbek Literary Studies*, 7(3), 89-105.
7. Tursunov, H. (2021). *Symbolism and realism in contemporary Uzbek literature: A case study of Shukur Kholmirzayev’s works*. *Literature and Society*, 10(1), 56-74.
8. Shokirovna, G. V. (2025). THE EVOLUTION OF THE SHORT STORY: FROM ORAL TRADITIONS TO THE DIGITAL AGE. *JOURNAL OF SCIENTIFIC RESEARCH, MODERN VIEWS AND INNOVATIONS*, 1(4), 183-186.