

# *Naturalistic Features In Abdulla Qodiriy's "Bygone Days"*

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**Abstract** – *The article is dedicated to the study of the naturalistic features in the novel “Bygone Days” (“O’tkan kunlar”) by the Uzbek writer Abdulla Qodiriy. The author of the article proves that the protagonists of the novel “Bygone Days” Otabek, Kumush and Zaynab are naturalistic images.*

**Keywords** – *Naturalism, Realism, Critical Realism, Protagonist, Literary Method, Literary Trend, Literary Movement*

## I. INTRODUCTION

Abdulla Qodiriy was an Uzbek writer, poet, playwright and translator; born in 1894 and died in 1938 as a victim of Great Terror, convicted as “an enemy of the people”. He introduced realism into Uzbek literature and influenced not only many other Uzbek novelists, but Central Asian writers as well. “Bygone Days” (“O’tkan kunlar”) is the first Uzbek published by Abdulla Qodiriy in 1925-1926, in which the historical events, family, marriage, customs, attitudes to parental consent of that period are described with unique skill. The events described in the novel, as the author himself admits, begin in 1847-48 and end in 1852.

Abdulla Qodiriy’s novels “Bygone Days” and “Scorpio from the Altar” (“Mehrobdan Chayon”) were accepted with great enthusiasm and are still being read with interest, These books cause an unbanishing interest from scientific point of view too. The Uzbek literary critics have written many monographs and articles by analyzing these novels. The works written by literary critics Normatov U.[ 6 ],

Karim B.A. [ 1 ], Karimov N.[ 2 ], Klimovich A. [ 3 ], Mirvaliyev S.[ , Haqqul I.[ 10 ], Сирожиiddин A.[ 7 ] are among them.

## II. MAIN PART

One of Qodiriy’s researchers Bahodir Karim noted, that when “Bygone days” appeared in the Uzbek literary world, it was a success : the readers enjoyed reading and discussed it with great interest, but literary critics were silent. So how could one explain the silence of literary criticism, the lack of reaction to the novel? According to the genre of the work, it was definitely a novelty in Uzbek literature. In Bahodir Karim’s opinion, the scientific-theoretical concepts of special research of works of art of such a large genre had not yet been formed in Uzbek literary criticism of that time. [ 1, p.256 ]

Among a few critical works on Abdulla Qodiriy’s novels in 1030s we may consider Sotti Husayn’s research focused on the writer's creative method where writes "Abdullah Qodiriy is essentially romantic and partly realistic. There are also elements of naturalism in his creations." [11, p. 66] At this point, Sotti Hussain’s mention of naturalism and how he had interpreted it, caught our attention. Sotti Hussain points out, that Abdulla Qodiriy, when describing nature, certainly refers to how his heroes feel. The position of the protagonists is harmonious with nature. It is clear that Sotti Hussain understood naturalism differently from modern literary interpretation, mainly as a depiction of nature and its harmony with the protagonist’s psyche. Although the critic

took a one-sided approach to the concept of the creative method of naturalism, it was a much more advanced idea for Uzbek literature in the 1930s, when there were still no generalizations about naturalistic works of art. Even today, there are Uzbek literary critics who link naturalism to the image of nature.

If indeed the essence of naturalism was concerned only with the skilful depiction of nature, then the American romantic writer Fenimore Cooper would have been the most prominent naturalist. But Cooper is not recognized as a naturalist in any literary source. Fenimore Cooper's works often depict American nature in detail, but his protagonists are extremely combative, and end up fighting to the end. This example shows that the depiction of nature is not the primary feature of naturalistic works.

One of the main features of naturalism (or naturalistic realism) is that it depicts the helplessness of the protagonists in the face of nature and the environment. In the course of studying Abdulla Qodiriy's novels "Bygone Days" and "Scorpio from the Altar", we came to the conclusion that the novel "Scorpio from the Altar" is related to critical realism, and "Bygone Days" -- to naturalism. To prove this point, we turn to the images of the main characters in these novels. Although the protagonists of these novels are similar in many respects, there is a big difference between them in their giving in to the influence of society, in their struggle for life. In particular, both Otabek of "Bygone Days" and Anvar of "Scorpio from the Altar" are among the leading and intelligent youth of their time. Although Otabek was born in a rich family and Anvar in a poor family and later rose to prominence, they both are polite, religious, modest, kind-hearted and courageous young men who earn the respect of those around them.

Kumush and Rano are clever, educated, beautiful, angel-faced girls who respect their parents and relatives. But there is one major difference in the nature of Otabek and Anvar, Kumush and Rano, which caused their lives to turn upside down. The difference is that Otabek and Kumush always swim in the direction of the current of life, while Anvar and Rano may swim against the current when it is urgent. The same difference can be attributed to the fact that Abdulla Qodiriy's novel "Bygone Days" is associated with naturalism (or naturalistic realism), and the novel "Scorpio from the Altar" with critical realism. Given that naturalism, as a literary trend, in Uzbek literature is almost unstudied, we will try to express this idea more clearly through examples.

First of all, we will find out the reasons why we included Otabek and Kumush in the list of naturalistic images. The above given descriptions of Otabek and Anvar can be summarized as follows:

№	№ Qualities in human nature	Otabek	Anvar
1	tactful	+	+
2	religious	+	+
3	modest	+	+
4	educated	+	+
5	courageous	+	+
6	fascinating	+	+
7	strong-willed	-	+
8	struggling	-	+
9	smart	+	+

As can be seen from the table above, the nature of Otabek and Anvar are similar in many respects, differing only in their will and struggle. In fact, Otabek is also strong-willed and struggling, but he is only reluctant in one place, and he cannot fight for his love because he is helpless in the face of his parents' consent. It is this weakness and unwillingness that causes him to make three people unhappy.

The author skillfully describes how Otabek tried to resist his parents' dream and was defeated at the end:

“ – Бизни кутдирма, ўғлим.

Отабек мағлуб бир боқиш билан бу сўзни айтгувчи отасига қаради ва ялинчок бир оҳангда жавоб берди:

– *Мен сизларнинг орзуларингизни бажаришга – агар хурсандчилигингиз шу билан бўлса – ҳар вақт ҳозирман. Аммо бир бечорага кўра-била туриб жабр ҳам хиёнат...*

*Ҳожи ўғлининг мақсадига дарров тушина олмади ва сўради:*

– *Кимга, хотининггами?*

– *Йўқ, сизнинг оладирган келинингизга. Ўғлингизнинг вужуди билан орзуингизни қондириши осон бўлса ҳам келинингиз қаршиида мени бир жонсиз ҳайкал ўрнида тасаввур қилингиз”.[9, p.46]*

Apparently, Otabek tries to call his parents to mercy and fairness to dissuade from the idea of re-marrying him, but when he is convinced that everything is useless, he reluctantly gives in to their intentions. It was here that his life would not have ended tragically if he had been more determined, more able to stand up to his parents' dream. If this was Otabek's second mistake, his first mistake was to marry Kumush without informing his parents and without their consent. The reason why this young man, who was so well-mannered, respected by his parents, and respected national traditions, was in such a hurry and impatient, was also due to his emotional weakness. Perhaps without the first error, the second error would not have occurred. This reluctance, weakness, vulnerability to the influence of the environment, emotions, and the resulting terrible tragedy in the image of Otabek show that he is a naturalistic hero.

Kumush and Zaynab in the novel "Bygone Days" can also be considered naturalistic characters. Kumush, like Otabek, is a thoughtful young woman who does not go beyond the line of his parents and follows national traditions. Although she loves Otabek and doesn't want him to marry a second time, she agrees because she has to. Even with a pain in her heart she tries to encourage Otabek. At a time when Otabek was expecting reprimands from her, even was going to stand against his parents' wishes she surprised him by saying yes. The author describes this episode so convincingly and impressively that Otabek's amazement extends to the reader:

*“Отабек гарангсиз қолган, ўзини овутмоқчи бўлган бу олийжаноб гўзалга нима дейишни билмас, қаердан сўз бошлашқа ҳайрон эди:*

– *Ким йиғлатди сизни?*

– *Йиглабманми?*

– *Кўзингиз, кипригингиз...*

– *Ўзи шунақа...*

– *Йиғлатган мен эмасми?*

– *Китобни нега ёпдингиз? Очиб ўқунг, мен эшитай.*

– *Ота-она ризолигини бир томчи кўз ёшингизга арзитдимми?*

– *Мен рози, мен кўндим, – деди дафъатан Кумуш, бу сўзни нимадандир қўрққандек шошилиб айтди.*

– *Кўндингиз... нега, а?*

*Отабек ҳайрат ва таажжуб ичида эди.*

– *Негаки, – деди Кумуш, – мен сизга шионаман...*

– *Шунинг учун...*

– *Шунинг учун кўндим.” [9, p.47]*

There are such works of art that you can hardly finish them once you read and you close it and never return to it, but there are works of such quality that you read them over and over again and every time you read you discover new meanings and new feeling.

"Bygone Days" is one of the most widely and repeatedly read works, and with each reading a new angle is revealed. The passage quoted above also evokes different emotions in the first reading and in subsequent readings.

The above context evokes in the reader in the first reading a sense of admiration and respect for Kumush's selflessness, gentleness, as he does not know yet that the result of this consent will end in tragedy, and in later readings the feelings of regret and pain are added to the previous emotions. Now the reader imagines that Kumush's life would not have ended in tragedy if she had been a little more courageous and did not agree to her husband's second marriage. This extreme flexibility, altruism, and the fact that Kumush has given way to the flow of life make it a helpless particle of nature and the environment, which is also a sign of the naturalistic nature of her character.

Comparing the images of Kumush, Rano and Zaynab created by Abdulla Qodiriy, we came to the conclusion that Kumush and Zaynab are naturalistic images and Rano is a realistic one. Below is a table with the characteristics of Kumush, Rano and Zaynab

№	Qualities in human nature	Kumush	Rano	Zaynab
1	tactful	+	+	+
2	religious	+	+	-
3	modest	+	+	+
4	beautiful	+	+	+
5	envious	-	-	+
6	fascinating	+	+	+
7	strong-willed	-	+	+
8	struggling	-	+	+
9	reasonable	+	+	-
10	andishali	+	+	-
11	selfish	-	+	+
12	altruist	+	-	-

Zaynab in "Bygone Days" is the most tragic naturalistic character. Although she has the quality of a "quiet" from a young age, she later changed to a murderer under the influence of her sister. The author describes the difference between Zaynab and her elder sister Khushroy as follows:

*“Зайнаб эгачиси Хушрўйдан етти ёш чамаси кичик эди. Гарчи бу икки эгачи-сингил бир қориндан талашиб тушкан бўлсалар ҳам, сажия – характерда таниб бўлмааслик даражада бир-бирларидан фарқлик эдилар. Сажиядагина эмас, сурат ва сиймо важида ҳам катта ўзгаликлари бор эди... Хушрўйга болалик чоғиданоқ уй ичи ва қўни-қўшни “шаддо” деб исм берганлар, чунки ул кимдан бўлса-бўлсин, айтканини қилдирмай қўймас, агар бирарта иш унинг тилагига тескари кетсаишовқин суронни худди бошига кийиб олар эди. ...” [9.р.48]*

In the context above the author writes that Zaynab was about seven years younger than her elder sister Khushroy. Although the two girls were sisters, they were so different from each in character and countenance.

In fact, poisoning Kumush was not even in Zaynab's mind. Her "smart" sister hints to her to commit the murder. Zaynab, on the other hand, is reluctant and weak and cannot resist such dangerous dreams and works. This is her naturalistic feature.

Rano and Anvar, on the other hand, do not have naturalistic qualities; they fight to the end for their goals and happiness without reluctance.

### III. CONCLUSION

As a result of studying the works of Abdulla Qodiriy, the first writer to introduce the realistic novel genre to Uzbek literature, we noticed that his work also showed the features of naturalism. The protagonists of his novel "Bygone Days" are naturalistic images, and the work itself belongs to the creative method of naturalism. The novel "Scorpio from the Altar" does not have any features of naturalism and it belongs to critical realism. In both novels, the existing social atmosphere and relations of the time are severely criticized, with the main difference going to the nature of the protagonists.

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