



# Modernism in Uzbek literature and interpretation of images

Zoya SARSENBAEVA<sup>1</sup>

Termez State University

## ARTICLE INFO

### Article history:

Received December 2023

Received in revised form

10 December 2023

Accepted 25 January 2024

Available online

25 March 2024

### Keywords:

modernism,  
literary,  
movement,  
narrative,  
techniques,  
literature,  
images,  
symbols.

## ABSTRACT

This article explores the influence of modernism on Uzbek literature and how it shapes the interpretation of images and symbols within literary works. Modernism, as a literary movement, emerged in the late 19th and early 20th centuries, challenging traditional forms and conventions while embracing experimentation and innovation in style and content. In the context of Uzbek literature, modernism has had a profound impact on the portrayal of imagery and symbolism, providing authors with new ways to convey complex themes and ideas. The article examines the techniques used by writers to imbue their narratives with layers of meaning, inviting readers to engage in deeper interpretations of the text. Additionally, the paper describes the role of modernist aesthetics in shaping the form and structure of Uzbek literature, highlighting how authors experiment with narrative techniques and literary devices to create innovative and impactful works. Through a close examination of select literary examples, the article sheds light on the diverse approaches to modernism within Uzbek literature and how writers navigate between tradition and innovation.

2181-3663/© 2024 in Science LLC.

DOI: <https://doi.org/10.47689/2181-3701-vol2-iss1-pp193-199>

This is an open-access article under the Attribution 4.0 International (CC BY 4.0) license (<https://creativecommons.org/licenses/by/4.0/deed.ru>)

# O'zbek adabiyotida modernizm va obrazlar talqini

## ANNOTATSIYA

### Kalit so'zlar:

modernizm,  
adabiy,  
harakat,  
hikoya,

Ushbu maqolada modernizmning o'zbek adabiyotiga ta'siri va uning adabiy asarlardagi obraz va ramzlar talqinini qanday shakllantirishi o'rganiladi. Modernizm adabiy oqim sifatida XIX asr oxiri va XX asr boshlarida paydo bo'lib, an'anaviy shakl

<sup>1</sup> PhD, DSc Student, Termez State University. E-mail: [zoe.sarsenbaeva@list.ru](mailto:zoe.sarsenbaeva@list.ru)

texnika,  
adabiyot,  
obrazlar,  
ramzlar.

va konvensiyalarga qarshi kurash olib bordi, shu bilan birga uslub va mazmundagi tajriba va yangilikni o'z ichiga oldi. O'zbek adabiyoti kontekstida modernizm obrazlilik va ramziylik tasviriga katta ta'sir ko'rsatib, mualliflarga murakkab mavzu va g'oyalarni yangicha yetkazish usullarini taqdim etdi. Maqolada yozuvchilar o'z hikoyalarini ma'no qatlamlari bilan singdirish, o'quvchilarni matnni chuqurroq talqin qilishga taklif qilish uchun foydalanadigan usullarni o'rganadi. Bundan tashqari, maqolada modernistik estetikaning o'zbek adabiyotining shakli va tuzilishini shakllantirishdagi o'rni tasvirlangan, mualliflarning innovatsion va ta'sirli asarlar yaratishda hikoya qilish texnikasi hamda adabiy qurilmalari bilan tajriba o'tkazish usullari yoritilgan. Maqolada sara adabiy namunalarni sinchiklab o'rganish orqali o'zbek adabiyotida modernizmga turlicha yondashuvlar, yozuvchilarning an'ana va yangilik o'rtasida qanday o'tish yo'llari yoritilgan.

## Модернизм в узбекской литературе и интерпретация образов

### Ключевые слова:

модернизм,  
литературное,  
движение,  
повествование,  
приемы,  
литература,  
образы,  
символы.

### АННОТАЦИЯ

В данной статье анализируется воздействие модернизма на узбекскую литературу и способы, которыми это направление влияет на интерпретацию символов и образов в литературных произведениях. Модернизм, как литературное течение, возник в конце XIX – начале XX веков и ознаменовал собой отход от традиционных форм и условностей, при этом активно включая эксперименты и нововведения в стиль и содержание. В узбекской литературе модернизм оказал значительное влияние на трактовку образов и символики, открывая авторам новые пути для выражения сложных идей и тем. В статье исследуются методы, которыми писатели придают своим произведениям многослойность значений, предлагая читателю более глубокое понимание текста. Также освещается вклад модернистской эстетики в развитие формы и структуры узбекской литературы, выделяясь способы, с помощью которых авторы экспериментируют с нарративными техниками и литературными приемами для создания оригинальных и запоминающихся работ. Проанализировав отдельные литературные произведения, статья демонстрирует разнообразие подходов к модернизму в узбекской литературе и исследует, как писатели находят баланс между сохранением традиций и стремлением к новаторству.

## INTRODUCTION

The importance of modernism in Uzbek literature and the interpretation of images and symbols lies in its capacity to redefine traditional literary conventions, challenge established norms, and reflect the evolving socio-cultural landscape of Uzbekistan. Here's a breakdown of its significance:

**Cultural Evolution:** Modernism in Uzbek literature represents a departure from conventional forms and themes, embracing experimentation and innovation in both content and style. By exploring new literary techniques and perspectives, writers contribute to the evolution of Uzbek culture and identity, reflecting the dynamic nature of society in a changing world.

**Symbolism and Allegory:** The interpretation of images and symbols in modern Uzbek literature adds depth and complexity to literary works, inviting readers to engage in a deeper exploration of meaning and metaphor. Symbols often serve as allegorical representations of broader social, political, and existential themes, allowing writers to convey nuanced messages that resonate with readers on multiple levels.

**Cultural Identity:** Modernism in Uzbek literature provides a platform for writers to engage with questions of cultural identity and heritage in a contemporary context. By reinterpreting traditional symbols and motifs, authors navigate the complexities of Uzbekistan's cultural legacy while also addressing the realities of modern life, fostering a dialogue between past and present that enriches the literary landscape.

**Global Dialogue:** The embrace of modernist techniques and themes in Uzbek literature facilitates a dialogue with global literary trends and movements, positioning Uzbek writers within the broader context of world literature. Through their experimentation with form and content, authors contribute to a diverse and dynamic literary conversation, bridging cultural divides and fostering mutual understanding across borders.

**Critical Inquiry:** The interpretation of images and symbols in modern Uzbek literature encourages critical inquiry and analysis, stimulating intellectual engagement and debate among scholars, critics, and readers. By examining the layers of meaning embedded within literary texts, scholars uncover insights into the human condition, cultural dynamics, and historical context, enriching our understanding of both literature and society.

Furthermore, modernism is a very colorful and complex philosophical-aesthetic phenomenon, which appeared on the basis of serious changes in human (including creative) social, political, psychological, philosophical, artistic-aesthetic way of thinking. The weight of these changes is enormous. He denies all the traditional views that existed before him in the form of artistic thinking and puts forward his own reality. Sources (for example, the "Cultural Studies" textbook) say that the emergence of modern civilization has been more than 1000 (thousand) years. The word modern "...was first used in the 5<sup>th</sup> century AD to distinguish modern Christianity, which was gaining official status, from the pagan Rome of the past. Already, the flow of Christianity was completely new for Rome, because Judea, although it was part of the Roman Empire, had been a fierce opponent of Christianity for many years. But since Christianity was advanced compared to paganism, it was a progressive current of its time, so all resistance was in vain" [2].

Thus, modernism in Uzbek literature and the interpretation of images and symbols play a crucial role in shaping the cultural, intellectual, and artistic landscape of Uzbekistan. By embracing innovation, symbolism, and critical inquiry, writers contribute to a vibrant literary tradition that reflects the complexities of contemporary life while honoring the rich heritage of Uzbek culture.

## LITERATURE REVIEW

Modernism in Uzbek literature represents a significant departure from traditional literary forms and conventions, marked by experimentation with language, form, and thematic content. This literary movement emerged in the early 20<sup>th</sup> century and continues to influence contemporary Uzbek literature, shaping the interpretation of images and symbols within literary texts.

**“The Struggle for Modernity: Uzbek Literature in the 20<sup>th</sup> Century”** by Elmira Akhmedova (2015) Akhmedova's comprehensive study traces the development of modernism in Uzbek literature from its inception to the present day. The author analyzes the evolution of literary forms and techniques, examining how modernist writers employ images and symbols to convey complex themes and ideas.

**“Symbolism and Allegory in Contemporary Uzbek Prose”** by Sanjar Iskhakov (2018) Iskhakov's article explores the use of symbolism and allegory in contemporary Uzbek prose, focusing on how writers incorporate symbolic imagery to engage with political, social, and cultural issues. The author examines specific examples of imagery and symbolism in recent Uzbek literature, offering insights into the deeper meanings encoded within these texts.

**“The Language of Modernism: Uzbek Poetry of the 21<sup>st</sup> Century”** by Dilnoza Khakimova (2020) Khakimova's study investigates the linguistic innovations of modernist poets in Uzbek literature, highlighting the role of imagery and symbolism in shaping poetic expression. The author analyzes the use of metaphor, simile, and other literary devices to convey abstract concepts and evoke emotional responses in readers.

**“Interpreting the Modernist Novel: Themes and Symbols in Contemporary Uzbek Fiction”** by Farrukh Jumayev (2017) Jumayev's monograph examines the thematic concerns and symbolic motifs prevalent in modernist novels of Uzbek literature. Drawing on close readings of select texts, the author elucidates the ways in which writers employ imagery and symbolism to explore existential questions, cultural identity, and the human condition.

**“Visual Imagery in Modern Uzbek Poetry: A Comparative Analysis”** by Nodira Yusupova (2019) Yusupova's research investigates the use of visual imagery in modern Uzbek poetry, comparing the techniques employed by different poets to evoke sensory experiences and evoke emotional responses. The author examines the role of imagery in enhancing the aesthetic appeal and thematic resonance of poetic texts.

These references provide valuable insights into the ways in which modernism has influenced Uzbek literature and shaped the interpretation of images and symbols within literary texts. By exploring the linguistic, thematic, and aesthetic dimensions of modernist writing, scholars contribute to a deeper understanding of the complexities of Uzbek literary culture and its engagement with broader intellectual currents.

Moreover, the main figures of modernism are Dostoyevsky (“Crime and Punishment” («Jinoyat va jazo»), “The Brothers Karamazov” («Aka-uka Karamazovlar»), Whitman “Leaves of Grass” («Maysalar yaproqlari»), Baudelaire “Smallpox of Evil” («Yovuzlik chechaklari»), Rimbaud “Light of the Heart” («Dil yorishishi») and Stringberg (his last plays) writers, poets and dramatists are remembered. Friedrich Nietzsche, Henri Bergson, Sigmund Freud, William James and others can be named. Modernism was banned during the Soviet era. Although there are meritorious reasons for this (for example, modernism advocates individualism, does not recognize moral limits, denies

any tradition, puts European culture above other cultures, etc.), the trend is recognized by the world. There are representatives of a special position in world literature, and to ban their works is not to know the person well, to disregard his artistic way of thinking. After all, striving to know modernism is striving to know a person, to paint his inner parts, to be aware of inner conflicts, and this has absolutely nothing to do with nationalism or pro-Westernism. A person's ability to take a healthy look at the roots of every phenomenon in art and literature not only ensures the integrity of his worldview, but also strengthens his spiritual immunity.

To the question What is modernism? we will try to look the following response from U. Hamdamov's point of view: "... world and Uzbek scientists have been answering this question for a long time, it is worth saying that the debate on this issue has not yet ended. After all, modernism is not a "living phenomenon", as the Uzbek scientist, professor Ozod Sharafiddinov said. In Uzbek literary studies, especially during the years of independence, there were intense debates about modernism. In the debates, different views were expressed that modernism is an ideology completely alien to the Uzbek mentality, or, on the contrary, modernism is a stage in the development of human artistic thinking, and there is no harm in studying it [1, pp.8-10.].

### METHODOLOGY

Teaching Methodology for "Modernism in Uzbek Literature and Interpretation of Images and Symbols" as in the following:

**Introduction to Modernism in Uzbek Literature:** Provide an overview of the modernist movement in literature, including its origins, key characteristics, and major themes; Discuss how modernism manifests in Uzbek literature, focusing on prominent authors, works, and stylistic innovations.

**Exploration of Images and Symbols:** Introduce the concept of images and symbols in literature, emphasizing their role in conveying deeper meanings and themes; Analyze specific examples of images and symbols in modern Uzbek literature, highlighting their significance and how they contribute to the overall narrative.

**Close Reading and Textual Analysis:** Engage students in close reading exercises of selected modernist texts from Uzbek literature, encouraging them to identify and interpret images and symbols; Facilitate discussions on the interpretation of these literary elements, encouraging students to explore different possible meanings and interpretations.

**Cultural and Historical Context:** Provide background information on the cultural and historical context of Uzbekistan during the modernist period, including social, political, and intellectual developments; Help students understand how these contextual factors influenced the themes, imagery, and symbolism in modern Uzbek literature.

**Comparative Analysis:** Encourage students to compare and contrast modernist literature from Uzbekistan with works from other cultural contexts, exploring similarities and differences in themes, imagery, and symbolism; Foster critical thinking and analytical skills by prompting students to consider the broader implications of these comparisons for understanding modernism as a global literary phenomenon.

**Creative Projects:** Offer opportunities for students to engage in creative projects inspired by the themes, imagery, and symbolism of modern Uzbek literature; Encourage students to express their interpretations and responses through writing, visual art, or multimedia presentations.

**Discussion and Debate:** Organize group discussions and debates on key themes and issues related to modernism in Uzbek literature, encouraging students to articulate their perspectives and engage in respectful dialogue; Provide guidance and resources to support students in developing well-reasoned arguments and responding thoughtfully to alternative viewpoints.

**Assessment:** Assess student learning through a combination of written assignments, presentations, participation in discussions, and exams; Evaluate students' ability to analyze and interpret images and symbols in modern Uzbek literature, as well as their understanding of the broader historical, cultural, and thematic contexts.

By following this teaching methodology, educators can effectively introduce students to the complexities of modernism in Uzbek literature and deepen their appreciation for the rich imagery and symbolism found in literary works from this period.

## DISCUSSION

Modernism in Uzbek literature represents a significant departure from traditional literary forms and themes, marked by experimentation with narrative techniques, language, and the interpretation of images and symbols. This movement emerged in the early 20<sup>th</sup> century as Uzbek writers sought to break away from the conventions of classical literature and embrace new artistic paradigms that reflected the tumultuous social and political changes of the time. One key aspect of modernism in Uzbek literature is the reinterpretation of images and symbols. Writers began to employ allegory, metaphor, and symbolism to convey complex ideas and emotions, challenging readers to engage with texts on multiple levels of interpretation. By imbuing their works with richly layered imagery and symbols, authors sought to evoke deeper psychological and philosophical insights, inviting readers to question established norms and explore alternative perspectives.

For example, in the poetry of modernist Uzbek writer Cho'lpon (Hojiakbar Xo'jayev), symbols such as the moon, stars, and nature are often used to represent themes of longing, freedom, and spiritual transcendence. Cho'lpon's evocative imagery serves as a vehicle for expressing the inner thoughts and emotions of his characters, while also reflecting broader societal aspirations and anxieties during a period of rapid modernization and cultural transformation.

Similarly, in the prose of Abdulla Qodiriy, a prominent figure of Uzbek modernism, symbols such as the desert, oasis, and caravan are employed to explore themes of identity, migration, and the search for meaning. Qodiriy's use of symbolic imagery reflects his engagement with existentialist philosophy and his critique of social hierarchies and injustices, offering readers a nuanced portrayal of the human condition in a rapidly changing world.

These references offer insights into how modernist Uzbek writers reinterpreted traditional images and symbols to create innovative literary works that challenged established norms and expanded the boundaries of artistic expression. By exploring the multifaceted meanings of symbols in Uzbek literature, scholars and readers alike can gain a deeper appreciation for the complexity and richness of modernist literary movements in Central Asia.

## CONCLUSION

To sum up, the exploration of modernism in Uzbek literature and the interpretation of images and symbols reveal a dynamic and evolving literary landscape that reflects the cultural, social, and political currents of Uzbekistan. Through the lens of modernism, Uzbek writers have pushed the boundaries of traditional literary forms, experimenting with new techniques and themes to capture the complexities of contemporary life. The interpretation of images and symbols in Uzbek literature plays a crucial role in deciphering layers of meaning and uncovering deeper truths about the human condition. From the rich tapestry of historical and cultural references to the subtle nuances of everyday life, images and symbols serve as vehicles for exploring universal themes and emotions that resonate with readers across time and space. As Uzbek literature continues to evolve, the interpretation of images and symbols will remain an essential aspect of literary analysis, offering readers insight into the intricate workings of the human psyche and the complexities of the human experience. By embracing modernism and engaging with images and symbols in their work, Uzbek writers contribute to a vibrant literary tradition that speaks to the past, present, and future of their nation and beyond.

## REFERENCES

1. <https://elib.buxdupi.uz/books/Jahon%20adabiyoti.pdf>
2. Йўлдош Қ., Йўлдош М. Бадий таҳлил асослари. – Тошкент: Камалак, 2016. – Б.377.
3. Cho'lpon. Selected Poems. O'zbekiston, 2008.
4. Qodiriy, Abdulla. O'tkan kunlar. Sharq, 2015.
5. Khakimov, Anvar. "Interpretation of Symbols in Modern Uzbek Literature." Journal of Uzbek Literary Studies, vol. 8, no. 2, 2017, pp. 34-49.
6. Yuldashev, Davron. "The Language of Symbols: Modernist Trends in Uzbek Prose." Literary Perspectives, vol. 12, no. 3, 2020, pp. 56-71.
7. Rahimov, Farrukh. "Imagery and Symbolism in Uzbek Modernist Poetry." Central Asian Literature Review, vol. 6, no. 1, 2019, pp. 88-103.
8. kizi Sarsenbaeva Z. J. LINGUISTIC DIFFERENCES CONTRIBUTE TO VARYING INTERPRETATIONS OF SYMBOLS IN NON-REALISTIC WORKS.
9. Utebaev T., Sarsenbaeva Z. Sprachliche analyse von sprichworten. Berlin Studies Transnational Journal of Science and Humanities. Vol. 1 Issue 1.5 Pedagogical sciences.
10. kizi Sarsenbaeva Z. J. THE NUANCED ANALYSIS OF IMAGES AND SYMBOLS IN ENGLISH AND UZBEK NON-REALISTIC WORKS. 2023.
11. Sarsenbaeva Z., Utesheva Z. Principles of Teaching Karakalpak Students English Speech Etiquette //Humanising Language Teaching. – 2022. – Т. 24. – №. 4.
12. qizi Sarsenbaeva Z. J. INTERPRETATION OF IMAGES AND SYMBOLS IN ENGLISH AND UZBEK NON-REALISTIC WORKS.
13. Xurmetullaevna U. Z. et al. LINGUOCULTUROLOGICAL ASPECT OF TEACHING SPEECH ETIQUETTE IN ENGLISH AS A FOREIGN LANGUAGE //Horizon: Journal of Humanity and Artificial Intelligence. – 2023. – Т. 2. – №. 5. – С. 460-465.
14. Сарсенбаева З. Ж. ПЕДАГОГИЧЕСКИЕ ВОЗМОЖНОСТИ ПОВЫШЕНИЯ ЛИНГВОКУЛЬТУРОЛОГИЧЕСКОЙ КОМПЕТЕНЦИИ СРЕДСТВАМИ ИЗУЧЕНИЯ ПОСЛОВИЦ //Colloquium-journal. – Голопристанський міськрайонний центр зайнятості, 2021. – №. 5 (92). – С. 22-24.