

Comparative Discourse on English and Uzbek Characters

Mukhammedova Khulkar, Ph.D

Uzbekistan State World Languages University,
hulkar_m@yahoo.com

Annotation: This article examines the use of satire in the works of two realist writers as Charles Dickens and Abdulla Kahhor. These two writers belong to two different nations and lived in different centuries in different parts of the world but both of them effectively used satire and humor to illustrate convincingly the life of women and children, the unprotected elements, of their time. The article makes a comparative study of women and children characters in the novels “The Tales from the Past” by Uzbek writer Abdulla Kahhor and “Oliver Twist” by English writer Charles Dickens by analyzing positive and negative features of characters in two narratives. Though these two writers lived in different times they shared the same purpose in literature which was to make their government aware of the life of oppressed people in their society.

Keywords: realistic, novel, characters, features, literature, Uzbek, English.

People call great poets, writers and composers magicians for their creative works in literature and music. There are two reasons why they deserve this title. The first one is that the life of any person is limited in any century and when they die their life becomes history. The second one is that if there were no books their contributions to society would have disappeared and people wouldn't be familiar with what they have done. Thanks to books, human creativity passes from century to century. We cannot imagine the ninetieth century English literature is unimaginable without Charles Dickens and twentieth century Uzbek literature without Abdulla Kahhor's works.

The works of Charles Dickens came to former USSR during 1960-62 years. The readers of the former USSR were introduced to writer's life and works during 1960-62. Charles Dickens novels were translated skillfully into Russian. Russian literary critics like E. Lann, U. Kagarliskiy, I. Katarlskiy, B. Tomashevskiy and M. Lorye became active translators of Dickens' works. Another important event related to Charles Dickens is that his 100, 150, 170, 175 anniversaries were celebrated widely in the former USSR. This way the creation of Charles Dickens was a base for many research articles and works in English literature in the USSR. Many Russian literary critics compare the features of Charles Dickens' works to Russian writer F. M. Dostoyevskiy.

In 1991 Uzbekistan became an independent country. Since that years Uzbekistan started new development of its own culture. We could also notice changes in literature. If works of foreign writers were translated into Uzbek through Russian, after independence Uzbek translators started to translate from foreign language into Uzbek directly. Many soap-movies broadcasts on Uzbek TV were translated directly into Uzbek. Another example could be a film “Little Dorrit”, “Oliver Twist”, “David Copperfield” based on Charles Dickens's novel “Little Dorrit”, “Oliver Twist”, “David Copperfield”.

One of the English realist writers Charles Dickens knew very well the condition of orphan children who needed a bit of kindness and one piece of bread. He revealed the real face of mean people who thought only about themselves and took advantage of children whom they damaged both physically and mentally. Charles Dickens' novel “Oliver Twist” is based on such a story and is considered as

one of the masterpieces both in English and in world literature. The novel was written in 1837-1838 and was translated through Russian into Uzbek in 1984 by the skillful Uzbek translator Erkin Mirobidov. It remains the only work of Charles Dickens translated into Uzbek.

“Charles Dickens` novel “Oliver Twist” hasn’t still lost its value, - writes reviewer Siddika Azamova, – because the world hasn’t still got rid of dishonest people such as Fagin, Saks, and Monks.... The translation of this novel will always be an important event in the history of Uzbek literature and cultural life” says S. Azamova in the introduction to the translated version of “Oliver Twist”.

The critics say that the sources for Dickens works come from the humor in Washington Irving’s short stories and jokes in Charles Lam`s book “Artworks about Elea”. The development of industry in the ninetieth century in England strengthened human control over nature and as a result people became slaves of their meanness”. We can encounter such kinds of situations in the development of capitalist society in the novel “Oliver Twist”. While the English government was boasting saying “We are showing the best examples of humanism and charity”, Dickens managed to show convincingly that all these statements were nothing but hypocrisy.

The main character of the novel is a young, clever and attentive boy Oliver. As soon as he was born he was taken to a workhouse that was a shelter for orphans in Mrs. Mann`s farm or in other words, in a subdivision which was three miles from the workhouse and which was full of twenty-thirty children during the whole day.

Old Mrs. Mann is an intelligent and experienced woman, in other words a person who proves that she is a great philosopher by finding other means of economizing. Dickens described her character as following: *“The elderly female was a woman of wisdom and experience; she knew what was good for children; and she had a very accurate perception of what was good for herself. So, she appropriated the greater part of the weekly stipend to her own use, and consigned the rising parochial generation to even a shorter allowance than was originally provided for them. Thereby finding in the lowest depth a deeper still; and proving herself a very great experimental philosopher” and “who had a great theory about a horse being able to live without eating, and who demonstrated it so well, that he had got his own horse down to a straw a day, and would unquestionably have rendered him a very spirited and rampacious animal on nothing at all, if he had not died, four-and-twenty hours before he was to have had his first comfortable bait of air” [5. p 25].*

From this example, we can imagine the amount of money that Mrs. Mann could economize. Even money that was given by the authorities of the workhouses was spent on Mrs. Mann`s personal expenses. The authorities could always see only neatly dressed and self-satisfied children whenever those authorities came to the workhouse. The writer could describe Mrs. Mann`s behavior skillfully.

Another type of woman character who likes to Mrs. Mann is Mrs. Corney. In this woman character Dickens also described negative features of woman character. Charles Dickens showed us the real life of wok-houses in two characters dialogue.

In a bitter-cold winter night two matron of work-houses were speaking:

“ Hard weather, Mr.Bumble”, said the matron. “Hard indeed ma’am,” replied the beadle. “Antiporochial weather this, ma’am. We have given away, Mrs. Corney, we have given away a matter of twenty quarters loaves and a cheese and a half, this very blessed afternoon: and yet them paupers are not contented”. “Of course not. When would they be, Mr. Bumble?” said the matron, sipping her tea.

“Mrs. Corney”, said the beadle, smiling as men smile who are conscious of superior information, “out-of-door relief, properly managed, ma’am: is the parochial safeguard. The great principle of out-of-door relief is, to give the paupers exactly what they don’t want: and then they get tired of coming”. [5. p. 232].

From this chapter we can see the works of matrons in work-houses. Famous Russian writer V. V. Ivasheva is named this work “humoristic novel” Because the writer of this novel is used many humoristic style in novel. It is not a secret that Charles Dickens came in literature with the humoristic novels.

In “Oliver Twist” the character of Fagin – an old swindler – is a person who gathers children around him and teaches them how to steal and beats them severely or takes a disobeying child to the police station. The criminal Fagin earns money by stealing and cheating. He is similar to the character Turakul Vofurush in Abdulla Kahhor’s narrative “Tales from the past”.

Fagin’s friend Saks is also very cruel, he is interested only in money. He is a person who is rude to everyone and who does not know what kindness is. Because of his ignorance, he becomes the murderer of the innocent girl Nancy. Despite the difficulties that Nancy encounters, she tries to save Oliver’s life.

Characters which are not very clearly conceived as regards their own psychology are yet, at certain moments, managed so as to shake to its foundations our own psychology. Bill Sikes is not exactly a real man, but for all that he is a real murderer. Nancy is not really impressive as a living woman; but (as the phrase goes) she makes a lovely corpse. Something quite childish and eternal in us, something which is shocked with the mere simplicity of death, quivers when we read of those repeated blows or see Sikes cursing the tell-tale cur who will follow his bloody foot-prints. And this strange, sublime, vulgar melodrama, which is melodrama and yet is painfully real, reaches its hideous height in that fine scene of the death of Sikes.

Even though Nancy lives in a place which is full of robbers there are no evil things in her inner world. Nancy, like Savriniso, follows her intuition. While Savriniso dies from the beatings of her cruel father, Sikes kills Nancy. Sikes is as merciless as Abdulla’s uncle. Destroying the destiny of children who are unprotected people of society is in the main focus in both novels.

We can say that, while Charles Dickens lived as a writer in the period when resistance to capitalism strengthened, Abdulla Kahhor lived in the time when new antagonistic contradictions were developed in the former Soviet Republic of Uzbekistan.

Charles Dickens and Abdulla Kahhor strictly criticized the antihuman features of society with the help of characters, images, and situations in their novels. As we have analyzed above the characters of both novels are children and women — the unprotected elements of society.

Many literary critics of Uzbekistan such as M. Kushjonov, X. Abdusamatov, M. Sultanova, U. Normatov, and O. Sharafiddinov analyzed Abdulla Kahhor’s oeuvre. Abdulla Kahhor’s works could be considered as “the best examples of world realistic novella” [1. p. 262]. One noticeable characteristic that made his works famous was his talent of using satire. The writer laughed at all unjust and evil things through satire. His works had always been reason for serious debates, arguments and sometimes readers could easily recognize people whose negative features were shown in his novels.

Famous Russian writer K. Simonov shared the following about the writer’s use of satire: “Usually, satire and humor in the writer’s works are mixed. The proportion of satire and humor is different according to what the writer is focusing on” in the book “*Satire and humor in Abdulla Kahhor’s works*” [2. p. 58].

Abdulla Kahhor's revealed the weakest points of society with the help of satire. Satire should not make fun of people's weakest traits, evil actions, but it should become "the attack of an angry soul, a flash of lightning" [3. p. 448]. Humor is a social filter that shows people about their mistakes and drawbacks. Society reminds its members of moral issues with the help of satire and humor, and it helps society to take measures against anything that is out of the norms. While analyzing Abdulla Kahhor's oeuvre, we should take into consideration those characteristics that were mentioned above. Abdulla Kahhor had a particular sense of humor so that he managed to choose opposite characters in his works and showed a great talent in this skill. In addition, he managed to create interesting characters that had real great power.

Abdulla Kahhor's realism is well represented in his novel "Ўтмишдан эртақлар" ("The Tales from the Past"). This book consists of stories about the author's childhood memories and people who had influence on him. The main purpose of the narrative is to reveal the hardships that Uzbek people faced in their past. The writer could create unique and wonderful characters in this work. The central character of the novel is the attentive, bright and smart young boy Abdulla; his diligent, honest and educated father the blacksmith Abdukahhor; his mournful, generous, kind mother; the naive girl Savriniso, the victim of spite; the poor boy Babar whose tragic life shocked everyone; the mean and mercenary Valixon sufi; and the swindler and oppressor Turakul Vofurush.

Abdulla Kahhor could realistically describe the difficult and sorrowful life of women and girls of his childhood period. The life of women in the past was shown through the characters like Savriniso, Hayri, Abdulla's mother, and his grandmother.

Savriniso and Hayri's destiny is similar to each other: both of them have tragic and sorrowful lives. Hayri is made to marry Turakul Vofurush, who is much older and who beats her every day. Savriniso's father makes her to marry Azim, a stammerer, but the girl protests against this marriage. Finally, her severe father became the causes of Savriniso's death after beating her multiple times. Young attentive Abdulla understands Savriniso's emotional state and the changes in her behavior through details: "When I came I saw that Savriniso's eyes were swollen because she cried a lot. Nevertheless, in order not to show it she was talking to me as if nothing had happened and was laughing"[4. p. 45].

Abdulla did not see how her severe father beat his poor daughter, but he understood it through the girl's voice: "First I heard how Savriniso cried "Daddy", and then I heard her cries and moans; then there was silence." The murderer father's regret is also described through two important details: "When the coffin was raised my uncle stumbled and fell down. People took him into his house" [4. p. 78].

Abdulla Kahhor strongly criticized ignorance and prejudice in each of his novels. We can see how they are revealed mercilessly in the narrative "The tales from the past". The writer does not curse prejudice, does not preach about its disadvantages, but provides stories with details, which illustrates that ignorance. The chapters such as "The nobleness of misfortune", "Watermelon peel", "Valixon Sufi" contain the main events that play an important role in the development of Abdulla's character and the sketches that reveal the prejudice and ignorance of those times.

Abdulla Kahhor is one of the realist writers in Uzbek literature. He came in literature also such as Charles Dickens with humoristic novels. When the "The Tales from the Past" was published many Uzbek critics says that the novel is not consist of real facts. But Abdulla Kahhor said that he wrote what he saw in his early life in past.

The writer's use of satire is similar to how the English realist writer Charles Dickens employed satire in his works. Charles Dickens was a writer of outstanding reputation of the ninetieth century English literature and his works are still attracting the attention of many scholars in literature. His

oeuvre has been studied and analyzed by many literary critics such as M. Slater, B. Angus, F. Collins, J. Forster, G. George, V. X. Bowen, J. William, J. Elliot, etc, but taking into consideration the huge size and wonderful colorfulness of the writer's oeuvre, one can say that it can become the topic of many further discussions.

Together with criticizing his contemporaries and the period in which he lived Charles Dickens succeeded in describing people's experiences utilizing various characters of moral and aesthetic ideals. Charles Dickens lived and wrote in the XIX century England and he was the one who contributed greatly to the development of English literature. His works are still being read and studied with great interest. His works, that are considered as masterpieces of world literature, take readers of future generation to Victorian England tell them about him and his life of that period. His women characters which he described in novels present us the situation of females at that period and show us the picture of Victorian England. His works introduced Uzbek readers to the English people and their social life, especially, the life of women and children.

The comparative study of women's and children's lives in "The Tales from the Past" and "Oliver Twist" tells us that imperfect people in society can be in every moment, in every nation. Satire as a weapon reveals contradictions among individuals. Both these novels represent the power of this weapon.

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