

THE INTERPRETATION OF SOCIAL ISSUES IN CHILDREN'S LITERATURE

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Abstract

This article provides a scientific and theoretical analysis of the artistic interpretation of social issues in children's literature. It reveals the educational and aesthetic functions of children's literature and explains how social problems are expressed in a form adapted to children's psychology—simple in presentation yet profound in meaning. Based on examples from Uzbek children's literature, particularly the works of Gafur Ghulam, Khudoyberdi Tokhtaboyev, and Anvar Obidjon, the article analyzes the artistic representation of such social issues as compassion, orphanhood, injustice, poverty, labor education, and social responsibility. Through excerpts from literary works, the impact of social problems on a child's consciousness and their educational significance is substantiated.

Keywords: Children's literature, social issue, artistic interpretation, education, child psychology, image, idea.

Introduction

Main Text

Children's literature is an important component of the spiritual life of society. It not only provides aesthetic pleasure but also plays a significant role in shaping social perceptions in the minds of the younger generation. In children's literature, social issues are expressed not directly but through artistic images, events, and symbolic representations. Therefore, the interpretation of social problems in children's literature requires special scholarly attention.

In children's literature, social issues are often depicted through a child's everyday life, family environment, school, and relationships with peers. In this process, the writer artistically shapes social problems in accordance with the child's inner

experiences, simple thinking, and emotional perception. As a result, complex social issues are not presented in a didactic manner but are interpreted naturally and convincingly through life-based events. This ensures the harmony of education and aesthetic pleasure, which is one of the fundamental principles of children's literature.

In Uzbek children's literature, the problems of orphanhood and compassion occupy a special place in the works of Gafur Ghulam. In particular, the novella "Shum Bola" ("The Mischievous Boy") artistically portrays social inequality, poverty, and the longing for affection through the character of Qoravoy. The hardships hidden behind the orphan boy's mischievous behavior and his struggle to adapt to life reveal the impact of social injustice on a child's psyche. Each action of the protagonist leads the reader toward the ideas of social responsibility and humanism.

In the works of Khudoyberdi Tokhtaboyev, social issues are mainly expressed through relationships within the school and family environment. In works such as "Sariq Devni Minib" ("Riding the Yellow Giant") and "Besh Bolali Yigitcha" ("The Young Man with Five Children"), children's dreams and aspirations, their attitude toward the adult world, and the opposing concepts of truth and falsehood, labor and irresponsibility are interpreted as social issues. Through the child's imaginative world, the author reveals certain shortcomings of society in a humorous yet deeply meaningful way. This method helps convey important social ideas while preserving the artistic lightness characteristic of children's literature. The modern interpretation of children's literature is clearly visible in the works of Anvar Obidjon. In his poetic and prose works, social issues such as environmental problems, irresponsibility, indifference, and attitudes toward labor are expressed through symbolic images. The author strives to reveal the essence of social problems in a concise and impactful form suitable for children's thinking. As a result, the works acquire not only educational but also aesthetic value.

In general, the interpretation of social issues in children's literature is carried out not through direct propaganda but through artistic images, events, and characters. This contributes to the development of independent thinking in children, helps them distinguish between good and evil, and enables them to understand their place in society. In this respect, children's literature becomes an important factor

in the spiritual development of society through the artistic interpretation of social issues.

The issues of labor education and social responsibility are interpreted as important social problems in children's literature. This aspect is clearly reflected in Khudoyberdi Tokhtaboyev's "Besh Bolali Yigitcha." Through the early responsibilities placed on the protagonist, his role in the family, and his relationship with society, the importance of labor in personal development is revealed. The conflict between the protagonist's childlike perceptions and life's obligations intensifies the artistic expression of the social issue. This encourages the formation of diligence, patience, and a sense of family duty in the reader.

Additionally, the problems of injustice and indifference are interpreted in a manner suitable for children's perception through humor in some of Anvar Obidjon's satirical works. For instance, the carelessness or irresponsibility of adults is exposed through the innocent questions of children depicted in symbolic characters. This approach encourages children not to remain indifferent to social phenomena and helps develop critical thinking skills.

Another noteworthy aspect is the issue of friendship and equality, which is widely addressed in children's literature. In the works of Gafur Ghulam, relationships among peers and differences between wealthy and poor children are depicted through realistic scenes. Through these contrasts, social stratification is conveyed at the level of a child's perception, promoting the ideas of humanity and compassion.

These examples demonstrate that social issues in children's literature are interpreted in harmony with the child's psychological world, combining artistic simplicity with ideological depth. This defines the significant social and educational importance of children's literature alongside its aesthetic value.

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