



## **CONCEPT OF TEMPORALITY IN UZBEK AND ENGLISH LITERARY WORKS**

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### **Abstract**

The concept of temporality occupies an important place in literary studies because time functions not only as a chronological dimension but also as an artistic and narrative category. In literary works, temporality organizes the sequence of events, shapes narrative perspective, and influences the reader's perception of characters and themes. This article investigates the concept of temporality in Uzbek and English literary works from a comparative perspective. The research examines narrative strategies used to represent time, including chronological narration, flashbacks, cyclical time structures, and psychological temporality. Examples from Uzbek and English prose are analyzed in order to reveal similarities and differences in the representation of time in the two literary traditions. The study shows that while both traditions employ various temporal techniques, Uzbek literature tends to emphasize historical continuity and cultural memory, whereas English literature often highlights subjective and experimental representations of time.

**Keywords:** temporality, artistic time, narrative time, chronotope, Uzbek literature, English literature, narrative structure, cultural memory.

### **Introduction**

Time is one of the most fundamental categories through which human beings perceive reality. In literature, time becomes an artistic construct that shapes narrative structure and influences the interpretation of events. The representation of time in literary works is closely connected with cultural traditions, philosophical ideas, and narrative techniques. The concept of temporality refers to the ways in which time is organized, represented, and experienced within a literary text. Literary temporality includes chronological time, psychological time, historical time, and symbolic time. Writers use these different forms of time



to create narrative tension, reveal character development, and convey thematic meanings. In many literary works, temporality is closely linked with space, forming a unified artistic structure that determines the atmosphere and context of the narrative. This relationship between time and space has been described in literary theory as the *chronotope*.

Uzbek and English literary traditions demonstrate different approaches to the representation of time. Uzbek literature frequently reflects historical continuity, collective memory, and national identity, while English literature often experiments with narrative structure and psychological perception of time. The aim of this article is to analyze the concept of temporality in Uzbek and English literary works and to identify the narrative strategies used by writers to represent time.

### **Literature Review**

The study of temporality in literature has been widely discussed in narratology and literary theory. One of the most influential scholars in this field is Gérard Genette, who developed a detailed model of narrative time. According to his theory, narrative temporality consists of three main dimensions: order, duration, and frequency. These elements determine how events are arranged and presented in the narrative. Another important theoretical contribution belongs to Mikhail Bakhtin, who introduced the concept of the *Chronotope*. The *chronotope* describes the intrinsic connection between temporal and spatial relationships in literature. According to Bakhtin, every literary genre develops its own specific *chronotope* that reflects cultural perceptions of time and space.

Research on temporality has also been developed in the works of Seymour Chatman and Shlomith Rimmon-Kenan, who analyzed narrative structures and the relationship between story and discourse. In Uzbek literary studies, scholars have explored the representation of time mainly in connection with historical narratives and cultural identity. Uzbek literature often presents time as a reflection of social development and collective experience. Comparative literary research demonstrates that temporal representation varies across cultures while still sharing universal narrative principles.



## **Methodology**

This research applies several analytical methods. The descriptive method is used to identify the main forms of temporality present in literary texts. Various narrative structures in Uzbek and English prose are examined in order to describe their temporal characteristics.

The comparative method allows the analysis of similarities and differences between the two literary traditions. Through comparison, the study identifies how cultural and historical contexts influence narrative time.

The narrative analysis method is applied to examine how writers construct temporal frameworks through plot organization, narrative perspective, and character development.

Examples for analysis are taken from well-known works of Uzbek and English literature.

## **Materials and Discussion**

The materials of the present study consist of selected examples from Uzbek and English literary prose that demonstrate different ways of representing temporality in narrative texts. The analysis focuses on well-known literary works that illustrate various temporal structures such as chronological narration, retrospective narration, flashbacks, and psychological time. Among Uzbek literary texts, the study considers works such as “Utkan Kunlar” (Past days) by Abdulla Kodiriy and “Kecha va Kunduz” (Night and Day) by Chulpon. These works are particularly valuable for examining the representation of historical time and the relationship between individual experience and social transformation.

For English literature, the materials include examples from Mrs Dalloway by Virginia Woolf, Great Expectations by Charles Dickens, and Ulysses by James Joyce. These texts demonstrate different narrative strategies used to portray chronological time, psychological temporality, and retrospective narration. The selection of these works allows the study to compare how Uzbek and English literary traditions conceptualize and structure time within narrative discourse. The analysis of the selected materials reveals several important aspects of temporality in Uzbek and English literary works. First, both literary traditions employ time as a fundamental organizing principle of narrative structure. In many literary texts, temporality determines the sequence of events and influences the reader’s perception of the plot. However, the way time is structured may vary



significantly depending on the author's narrative strategy and cultural background.

In Uzbek literary works, temporality is often closely connected with historical reality and collective memory. For example, in *O'tkan Kunlar*, the narrative is constructed around historical events and social transformations in Central Asia during the nineteenth century. The representation of time in this novel reflects not only the personal destinies of the characters but also the broader historical processes that shape society. This demonstrates that temporality in Uzbek literature frequently functions as a medium for expressing cultural identity and historical consciousness.

Similarly, the novel *Kecha va Kunduz* presents time through symbolic contrasts between different historical periods. The transition from "night" to "day" metaphorically reflects ideological and social changes within society. Thus, temporality becomes an important artistic tool for expressing historical transformation. In contrast, many English literary works emphasize the subjective perception of time. In the novel *Mrs Dalloway*, the narrative unfolds during a single day, yet the protagonist's memories and reflections continuously shift the narrative between past and present. This narrative technique illustrates how psychological time may differ from chronological time.

Similarly, in *Ulysses*, temporality is presented through the stream-of-consciousness technique. The narrative reflects the flow of thoughts and memories in the minds of the characters, creating a fragmented and nonlinear representation of time. Another important example is *Great Expectations*, where the story is narrated retrospectively by the protagonist. The events are described from the perspective of an older narrator who reflects upon his past experiences. This retrospective structure allows the author to combine different temporal layers within the narrative. The comparative analysis demonstrates that although both Uzbek and English literary traditions use various narrative techniques to represent time, their approaches often reflect different cultural perspectives. Uzbek literature tends to emphasize historical continuity and social development, whereas English literature frequently explores the psychological and subjective dimensions of temporality. At the same time, both traditions demonstrate that temporality is not merely a chronological framework but a complex artistic category that shapes narrative meaning and influences the reader's interpretation of literary texts.

## Results

The comparative analysis reveals several important observations regarding the representation of temporality in Uzbek and English literary works.

First, both literary traditions treat time as an essential narrative element that shapes plot development and character evolution. Writers in both traditions use techniques such as flashbacks, narrative pauses, and temporal shifts.

Second, English literature often emphasizes psychological temporality. Modernist writers frequently explore subjective experiences of time, presenting memory and consciousness as key narrative elements.

Third, Uzbek literature frequently highlights historical temporality. Many works connect personal stories with historical transformations, reflecting collective cultural experiences.

Another important difference lies in narrative experimentation. English modernist literature often employs fragmented and nonlinear structures, while Uzbek literary works more commonly follow chronological or historically structured narratives.

However, despite these differences, both traditions demonstrate the universal role of temporality in shaping literary meaning.

## Conclusion

The concept of temporality plays a crucial role in literary discourse because it organizes narrative structure and shapes the reader's perception of events and characters. The comparative analysis of Uzbek and English literary works demonstrates that temporality functions as both a structural and cultural element in literature. English literary works frequently emphasize psychological and experimental representations of time, while Uzbek literature often focuses on historical continuity and cultural identity. Nevertheless, both traditions employ various narrative techniques to create artistic depth and emotional resonance. The study of temporality contributes to a deeper understanding of narrative organization and cultural worldview in literature. Further research may explore the interaction between time, space, and narrative perspective in different literary traditions.

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