

FANTASY GENRE IN UZBEK LITERATURE

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Abstract: The fantasy genre has gained popularity and influence in world literature, including Uzbek literature. Authors in Uzbek literature have embraced elements of magic, folklore, and fantastical storytelling, creating captivating realms that allow readers to embark on extraordinary journeys through the realms of imagination. Fantasy literature often involves the presence of magic, which shapes the narrative and adds wonder and enchantment. It also explores themes of light and darkness, creating a moral and ethical framework. Fantasy worlds can take various forms and may be based on different time periods or alternate realities. In Uzbek literature, the genre has seen growth with authors like Mahkam Mahmudov, Murad Khidir, and others contributing to the genre. The fantasy genre allows authors and readers to explore limitless possibilities and escape the constraints of reality, immersing themselves in enchanting and imaginative realms.

Keywords: fantasy genre, magic, folklore, fantastical storytelling, extraordinary journeys, imagination, virtual worlds, moral and ethical framework, diverse settings, parallel worlds, limitless possibilities, escapism,

Introduction

Today, one of the most popular literary genre which is gaining popularity, importance and influencing the world literature is considered the fantasy genre, as well as in Uzbek literature. Fantasy genre has had found its place in Uzbek literature, with authors embracing elements of magic, folklore, and fantastical storytelling. Fantasy as a literary genre is indeed a captivating realm that allows readers to embark on extraordinary journeys through the realms of imagination. It offers a rich tapestry of virtual worlds that are often filled with magic, mythical creatures, and fantastical settings.

Methods:

One of the defining features of fantasy literature is the presence of magic. In these worlds, magic is a fundamental force that shapes the narrative and often plays a central role in the lives of the characters. It can be used to achieve great feats, cast spells, or summon otherworldly beings. The presence of magic adds an element of wonder and enchantment to the story, allowing readers to explore possibilities beyond the limitations of the real world.

Another common theme in fantasy literature is the existence of clear boundaries between Light and Darkness [1]. This can be manifested through various means, such as the struggle between good and evil, the clash of opposing forces, or the quest for balance. These themes provide a moral and ethical framework within the fantasy world and often serve as a driving force behind the narrative.

Fantasy worlds can take various forms and may be based on Earth in different time periods, alternate realities, or entirely original creations [4]. They can be set in the distant past, resembling ancient civilizations or medieval kingdoms, or in the distant future, showcasing advanced

technology or post-apocalyptic landscapes. Additionally, fantasy literature often explores parallel worlds that exist alongside or in connection with our own, offering glimpses into alternate dimensions or hidden realms.

Research:

The genre of fantasy allows authors and readers to explore limitless possibilities and escape the constraints of reality. It invites us to suspend our disbelief and embrace the supernatural, the extraordinary, and the magical. Whether it's through epic quests, intricate world-building, or the portrayal of mythical creatures, fantasy literature continues to captivate readers by immersing them in enchanting and imaginative realms [2].

Uzbek Dictionary of literary studies defines fantasy genre as “ФАНТАСТИКА (юн. phantastike - тахайюл санъати) – ҳақиқатда мавжуд бўлмаган, тахайюл кучи билан тасаввурдагина яратилган нарса-ҳодисалар тасвири, шунга асосланувчи адабий асарлар жами.”[3]

In 1977 with the initiation of the famous writer Tohir Malik a fiction (since fiction) committee was established under the influence of magazine "Science and Life" “Фан ва турмуш”. As a result of the active work of the council, literary works and stories of science fiction fans from Uzbekistan were published in the magazine. There were more and more people being creative in fantasy genre, such as Mahkam Mahmudov (philological scientist), Murad Khidir (journalist), Abduhakim Fazilov (physicist), Askar Kasimov (writer), Sahiba Abdullaeva (cybernetic scientist), Muhabbat Yoldosheva (journalist), Fazilat Hajikulova, Obidjon Yusupov and others [5].

Analyses:

A prominent Uzbek and Kyrgyz writer, Chingiz Aitmatov has incorporated elements of magical realism and folklore into his works. His novel "The Day Lasts More Than a Hundred Years" blends science fiction and fantasy elements with Central Asian traditions and mythology. Aitmatov's storytelling often intertwines the real and the fantastical, creating a unique blend of genres.

Hamid Ismailov is known for his experimental writing style, has explored elements of fantasy and magical realism in his works. His novel "The Dead Lake" delves into a mystical realm where time stands still, blurring the boundaries between reality and imagination.

Abdulla Qahhor: Abdulla Qahhor is an Uzbek author who has written several fantasy novels. His novel "The Beast" combines elements of myth, magic, and adventure, drawing inspiration from Uzbek folklore and legends. Qahhor's works often feature mythical creatures, supernatural powers, and epic quests.

Oybek Ostanov is a contemporary Uzbek author known for his fantasy novels. His book "The Gates of Time" explores a world where parallel dimensions exist, and characters embark on a journey to unravel the mysteries of time and space.

Sherzodbek Rakhmatullaev is an Uzbek writer who has contributed to the fantasy genre. His novel "The Mysterious Castle" takes readers on a magical adventure as the protagonist discovers a hidden castle filled with enchantment and secrets.¹³⁶

These are just a few examples of how fantasy elements have been incorporated into Uzbek literature. Uzbek authors have embraced the genre to create imaginative and captivating stories that blend traditional folklore, magical elements, and contemporary themes. The fantasy genre in Uzbek literature continues to evolve, offering a unique and culturally rich perspective on

¹³⁶ Адабиётшунослик луғати. P.342

fantastical storytelling [5].

An explanatory dictionary of the Uzbek language defines “fantasy - Хаёлида, тасавурда туғилган, ажойиб, ғайритабиий ходиса, образ ва ш.к. ҳамда шундай хаёлий ходиса ва образлар тасвири.” - a wonderful, supernatural event, image, etc. and the depiction of such imaginary events and images [3].

Conclusion

In conclusion, the fantasy genre has gained immense popularity and influence in both world literature and Uzbek literature. With its elements of magic, folklore, and fantastical storytelling, it offers readers the opportunity to embark on extraordinary journeys through rich and imaginative realms. Uzbek authors have embraced this genre, contributing to its growth and diversity. Through the exploration of themes like light and darkness and the creation of diverse settings, fantasy literature provides a moral and ethical framework while inviting readers to escape the confines of reality.

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