

THE ROLE OF ARTISTIC DETAIL IN CHARACTER CREATION IN THE SHORT STORIES OF ERNEST HEMINGWAY AND ODIL YAKUBOV

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<https://doi.org/10.5281/zenodo.20703352>

ABSTRACT

This article investigates the functional role of artistic details in character creation in the short stories of Ernest Hemingway and Odil Yakubov from a comparative-typological perspective. Descriptive, portrait, landscape, symbolic, ethnocultural, and psychological details are analyzed as important means of character representation. The study reveals that Hemingway mainly employs artistic details for symbolic and psychological purposes, whereas Yakubov uses them to express national identity and ethnocultural values. The research highlights both common and distinctive features of artistic details in the works of the two writers.

Keywords: artistic detail, character, psychologism, portrait detail, symbolic detail, ethnocultural detail, Ernest Hemingway, Odil Yakubov.

INTRODUCTION

In world literary studies, the issue of artistic detail is regarded as one of the essential components of poetics. The aesthetic impact of a literary work, the realism of its images, and the completeness of its characters largely depend on the system of details employed by the writer. Artistic detail reflects a small yet semantically significant fragment of reality and embodies the ideological and artistic burden of the work. Therefore, literary scholars often interpret detail as a "key" to understanding the content of a literary text and revealing the character of its heroes. According to Professor B. Sarimsakov, a literary image is not a simple copy of reality but a form reworked and artistically generalized according to the author's aesthetic ideal. In this process of generalization, detail performs an important poetic function. Through detail, a writer portrays a character's appearance, inner experiences, worldview, and social status. The problem of artistic detail has been studied in Russian and world literary criticism by scholars such as Belinsky, Bakhtin, Lotman, Ginzburg, and Khalizev. In Uzbek literary studies, special attention has been paid to this issue in the works of B. Sarimsakov, N. Hotamov, A. Rasulov, Y. Solijonov, and Q. Yoldoshev. The short story genre is characterized by its brevity. Consequently, every detail plays a significant role in character creation. The stories of Ernest Hemingway and Odil Yakubov deserve special attention in this regard. Although both writers extensively employ details to reveal character traits, their systems of detail differ because of their distinct aesthetic views, national-cultural environments, and creative styles. Ernest Hemingway, one of the leading representatives of twentieth-century American literature, is renowned for his laconic style, hidden meanings, and the "Iceberg Theory." In his stories, details often function as means of expressing unspoken meanings. Odil Yakubov, on the other hand, is known in Uzbek prose for his mastery in creating national characters. In his stories, details serve to illuminate folk life, traditions, and spiritual values. The relevance of this study lies in the fact that the functions of artistic detail in character creation in the stories of Hemingway and Yakubov have not yet been sufficiently explored from a comparative-

typological perspective. The findings of this research contribute to a deeper understanding of the poetics of artistic detail and to the study of world and Uzbek literary relations.

MATERIALS AND METHODS

The primary sources of this research are Hemingway's short stories *Old Man at the Bridge*, *The Killers*, *A Clean, Well-Lighted Place*, *Big Two-Hearted River*, and *Nobody Ever Dies*, as well as Odil Yakubov's stories *Yaxshilik* ("Kindness"), *Tilla Uzuk* ("The Golden Ring"), *Vido* ("Farewell"), and *Matluba*. The study employs comparative-typological, structural-semantic, descriptive, and literary-analytical methods. The comparative-typological method was used to identify the common and national characteristics of artistic details in the stories of both writers. The structural-semantic method enabled an analysis of the functional roles of details within the texts. The descriptive method facilitated the classification of details revealing character traits and the examination of their poetic features. During the research, artistic details were classified according to the following criteria: Portrait details; Descriptive details; Landscape details; Symbolic details; Ethnocultural details; Psychological details. This classification was developed based on the functional significance of details in character creation.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

The Function of Portrait Details in Character Creation

Portrait details reveal a character's inner world through physical appearance. As literary scholar A. Rasulov emphasizes, a portrait should illuminate the soul of a character and determine the direction of character development. In Hemingway's *Old Man at the Bridge*, the protagonist is described as "an old man wearing steel-rimmed spectacles and shabby clothes." This description reflects not only his appearance but also the devastation of his life caused by war. Through only a few details, Hemingway conveys the character's age, social status, and psychological condition. In Yakubov's *Yaxshilik*, the image of Munavvar is revealed through details such as her "slightly sorrowful black eyes," "thoughtful gaze," and "sad face." These portrait details expose the inner suffering of an Uzbek woman experiencing separation due to war. Thus, both writers employ portrait details as a means of depicting the psychological state of their characters.

The Poetic Function of Symbolic Details

A symbolic detail is an artistic device that helps readers gain a deeper understanding of events and characters. In Hemingway's *Old Man at the Bridge*, the bridge itself possesses profound symbolic significance. It represents the boundary between past and future, life and death, danger and safety. The old man's inability to cross the bridge symbolizes his tragic destiny. In *Big Two-Hearted River*, the river and fish symbolize the protagonist's psychological recovery. Nick Adams seeks emotional balance in nature after experiencing the horrors of war. The fish in the river represent continuity of life and hope. In Yakubov's *Tilla Uzuk*, the ring symbolizes love and fidelity, while the hollow apple tree represents the protagonist's shattered dreams. These details perform an important poetic function in revealing the central idea of the story.

The Role of Ethnocultural Details in Creating National Character

Ethnocultural details reflect a nation's lifestyle, traditions, and values.

In Hemingway's stories, details such as cognac, beer, fishing, and cafés represent important aspects of Western culture. For example, in *A Clean, Well-Lighted Place*, the café environment serves as a space symbolizing loneliness and spiritual emptiness. In Yakubov's stories, however, details such as the Uzbek skullcap (*doppi*), *chillaki* grapes, traditional platforms (*suri*), yogurt, and the neighborhood community (*mahalla*) create a national atmosphere. In particular, the *chillaki* grapes

in Yaxshilik symbolize the affection and care of an Uzbek mother. Through ethnocultural details, the writers portray not only individual characters but also the spiritual image of an entire nation.

The Importance of Psychological Details in Character Interpretation

Psychological details directly express a character’s inner experiences. These include silence, pauses, direction of gaze, changes in voice, and movement. In Hemingway’s *Hills Like White Elephants*, the girl’s silence expresses her inner conflict and helplessness. In accordance with the “Iceberg Theory,” Hemingway reveals emotions indirectly through silence rather than explicit description. In *The Killers*, Ole Anderson’s act of staring at the wall functions as a psychological detail expressing his helplessness in the face of fate. In Yakubov’s *Matluba*, Nusratjon’s gaze toward the sky after rejection reflects his emotional depression. Likewise, the postman’s silence in *Yaxshilik* conveys the horrors of war and the burden of tragic news.

CONCLUSION

The analysis demonstrates that artistic detail is one of the most important means of character creation in the short stories of Ernest Hemingway and Odil Yakubov. However, due to differences in their aesthetic views and national environments, their systems of detail differ considerably. In Hemingway’s works, details primarily carry symbolic and psychological significance. He strives to express the inner world of his characters in an implicit manner. Yakubov, in contrast, uses details to illuminate national character and social environment. Nevertheless, for both writers, artistic detail serves as a fundamental poetic device for revealing the inner world of the character and enhancing artistic expression.

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