



POETIC CHARACTERISTICS OF THE “MOTHER” CONCEPT IN MODERN ENGLISH AND UZBEK POETRY

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ABSTRACT

The concept of “mother” occupies a central place in the poetic traditions of many cultures. In both English and Uzbek literature, the maternal image symbolizes love, sacrifice, spirituality, and moral guidance. This article explores the poetic characteristics of the “mother” concept in modern English and Uzbek poetry through comparative literary analysis. The research examines the linguistic, emotional, and symbolic representation of motherhood in selected poetic texts. The study reveals that while English poetry often emphasizes psychological intimacy and individual emotional experience, Uzbek poetry tends to highlight sacredness, respect, and cultural values associated with motherhood. Despite these differences, both traditions portray the mother as a universal symbol of compassion, moral strength, and unconditional love.

Keywords: mother concept, poetry, English literature, Uzbek literature, symbolism, comparative analysis.

INTRODUCTION

The image of the mother is one of the most enduring and universal symbols in world literature. Across cultures and historical periods, poets have used maternal imagery to express themes of love, protection, sacrifice, and spiritual guidance. In literary studies, the concept of “mother” is often analyzed within the framework of linguocultural and cognitive approaches, which consider how cultural values shape the symbolic meaning of key concepts.

Researchers such as Svetlana Askoldov and Valentina Maslova emphasize that cultural concepts reflect the worldview of a particular linguistic community. According to their

theoretical framework, the concept of “mother” functions not only as a family role but also as a powerful cultural symbol representing morality, tenderness, and continuity of generations.

Comparative studies show that the maternal concept appears widely in both English and Uzbek literary traditions. In Uzbek culture, the mother is frequently associated with sacred values and moral authority, while English literature often presents the mother as an emotional and psychological center of the family.

The purpose of this article is to analyze the poetic characteristics of the “mother” concept in modern English and Uzbek poetry and identify similarities and differences in its artistic representation.

Theoretical Background.

The study of literary concepts is closely connected with cognitive linguistics and linguoculturology. Scholars such as Elena Kubryakova and Alexander Babushkin define a concept as a mental structure reflecting cultural knowledge and emotional experience.

Within this theoretical framework, the “mother” concept is considered a multidimensional cultural symbol that combines several semantic components:

- emotional (love, care, tenderness)
- moral (sacrifice, devotion)
- spiritual (blessing, sacred respect)
- social (family unity and upbringing)

Research comparing Uzbek and other poetic traditions demonstrates that the image of the mother often functions as a symbolic representation of cultural identity and moral ideals.

The Image of the Mother in English Poetry

In modern English poetry, the image of the mother frequently reflects personal emotional experience and psychological depth. English poets often describe motherhood through themes such as memory, childhood, and identity.

For example, the works of Sylvia Plath and Seamus Heaney demonstrate how maternal imagery can be used to explore complex emotional relationships between parents and children.

Typical poetic features include:

1. Emotional Intimacy

English poets frequently portray the mother as a source of emotional support and inner strength. The poetic language emphasizes feelings such as nostalgia, gratitude, and longing.

2. Psychological Reflection

Modern English poetry often presents motherhood through personal memories and reflections on childhood experiences.

3. Symbolism

The mother can also symbolize:

- protection
- emotional stability
- moral guidance

These symbolic meanings reveal how English poetry tends to focus on individual emotional experience rather than collective cultural values.

The Image of the Mother in Uzbek Poetry

In Uzbek poetry, the concept of “mother” carries profound cultural and spiritual significance. The maternal image is closely connected with traditional values such as respect for elders, family unity, and moral upbringing.

Uzbek poets frequently portray the mother as a sacred figure who embodies kindness, wisdom, and sacrifice. The poetry of Erkin Vohidov and Abdulla Oripov reflects deep reverence toward maternal love and spiritual guidance.

Several distinctive features characterize the Uzbek poetic representation of motherhood:

1. Sacredness

In Uzbek culture, the mother is often associated with spiritual purity and divine blessing.

2. Moral Authority

The mother is portrayed as the primary educator and moral guide of the family.

3. Cultural Symbolism

The maternal image frequently symbolizes:

- homeland
- tradition
- continuity of generations

Uzbek literary aphorisms and poetic expressions often connect the mother with spiritual values and blessings, emphasizing her elevated status in society.

Comparative Analysis. A comparative analysis of English and Uzbek poetry reveals both similarities and differences in the representation of the maternal concept.

Similarities

Both poetic traditions portray the mother as:

- a symbol of unconditional love
- a protector and moral guide
- an emotional center of the family

These shared characteristics demonstrate the universal nature of maternal symbolism in literature.

CONCLUSION

The concept of “mother” remains one of the most powerful and universal symbols in poetic discourse. The comparative analysis of modern English and Uzbek poetry shows that both traditions celebrate maternal love, devotion, and moral guidance.

However, cultural differences influence how this concept is represented. English poetry primarily focuses on personal emotional experience and psychological reflection, whereas Uzbek poetry emphasizes sacredness, cultural traditions, and moral authority.

Understanding these poetic characteristics contributes to a deeper appreciation of how literature reflects cultural values and human emotions across different linguistic traditions.

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