



EXPLORING SOCIAL CRITICISM IN ENGLISH AND UZBEK SHORT STORIES THROUGH ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE TOOLS

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ANNOTATION

The exploration of social criticism in English and Uzbek short stories through the lens of artificial intelligence demonstrates the enduring relevance of literature as a tool for understanding and challenging societal structures. Across both traditions, short stories serve not only as artistic expressions but also as powerful vehicles for addressing issues such as inequality, cultural tension, identity, and moral responsibility. Despite differences in historical context, narrative style, and thematic emphasis, both English and Uzbek writers share a common commitment to reflecting social realities and provoking critical thought.

Keywords: social criticism, short stories, english literature, uzbek literature, comparative literature, artificial intelligence, natural language processing (nlp), sentiment analysis, cultural identity, literary analysis.

INTRODUCTION

Literature has long served as a mirror reflecting the complexities, contradictions, and tensions of society. Among its many forms, the short story stands out as a particularly potent medium for social criticism due to its brevity, intensity, and focus. Across cultures, writers have used short fiction to interrogate injustice, challenge dominant ideologies, and give voice to marginalized perspectives. In both English and Uzbek literary traditions, short stories have played a crucial role in exposing social realities and inspiring reflection and reform.

In recent years, the emergence of artificial intelligence (AI) tools has opened new avenues for literary analysis. These technologies allow researchers to process large corpora, detect patterns, analyze themes, and compare stylistic features across languages and cultures with unprecedented efficiency. By integrating traditional literary criticism with computational methods, scholars can deepen their understanding of how social criticism operates within and across different literary traditions. This introduction aims to explore the intersection of social criticism, short story traditions in English and Uzbek literature, and the application of artificial intelligence tools in literary analysis. It outlines the historical and cultural contexts of both traditions, examines the nature and function of social criticism in short fiction, and discusses how AI technologies can enhance comparative literary studies. Social criticism in literature refers to the practice of using narrative, character, and thematic elements to critique societal structures, norms, and injustices. It often addresses issues such as class inequality, gender roles, political oppression, cultural conflict, and moral decay. Rather than presenting abstract arguments, literature embodies these

critiques in human experiences, making them emotionally resonant and intellectually engaging. Short stories are particularly effective vehicles for social criticism. Their concise form demands precision and focus, often resulting in powerful narratives that highlight a specific issue or moment of tension. Through symbolism, irony, and narrative voice, authors can convey complex critiques within limited space. Moreover, the accessibility of short stories allows them to reach a broad audience, amplifying their impact.

In English literature, social criticism has been a central concern for writers from the nineteenth century to the present. Authors such as Charles Dickens, George Orwell, and Katherine Mansfield used short fiction to address issues ranging from industrial exploitation to totalitarianism and gender inequality. Similarly, in Uzbek literature, writers have employed short stories to explore themes such as colonialism, tradition versus modernity, and social justice.

English short stories have a rich tradition of social engagement. During the Victorian era, rapid industrialization and urbanization created stark social inequalities, which writers sought to expose. Charles Dickens, though better known for his novels, also wrote short stories that highlighted poverty, child labor, and the failures of social institutions. His works often combined realism with moral urgency, urging readers to recognize and address societal problems. In the twentieth century, social criticism in English short stories evolved in response to changing political and cultural contexts. George Orwell's stories, for example, critique authoritarianism and the manipulation of truth, reflecting the anxieties of a world shaped by war and ideological conflict. Meanwhile, writers such as James Joyce and Katherine Mansfield explored the subtler dimensions of social constraint, focusing on the psychological effects of societal norms on individuals. Contemporary English short story writers continue this tradition, addressing issues such as globalization, migration, environmental crisis, and digital surveillance. The diversity of voices in modern literature has expanded the scope of social criticism, incorporating perspectives from different cultural, ethnic, and socioeconomic backgrounds. Uzbek literature, with its deep historical roots and rich oral traditions, has also been a powerful medium for social critique. The development of modern Uzbek short stories in the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries coincided with significant social and political changes, including Russian colonization and the subsequent Soviet period. Early Uzbek writers used literature to promote enlightenment and reform. They addressed issues such as education, gender inequality, and the need for modernization. During the Soviet era, literature was often shaped by ideological constraints, yet many writers found ways to incorporate subtle forms of social criticism within accepted frameworks. Through allegory, symbolism, and nuanced characterization, they explored the tensions between individual identity and collective ideology. Following Uzbekistan's independence in 1991, writers gained greater freedom to address previously suppressed topics. Contemporary Uzbek short stories often examine themes such as national identity, cultural heritage, economic challenges, and the impact of globalization. These works reflect the ongoing transformation of Uzbek society and the complexities of navigating tradition and modernity. A comparative analysis of English and Uzbek short stories reveals both similarities and differences in their approaches to social criticism. In both traditions, writers use narrative techniques to expose injustice and provoke reflection. Themes such as inequality, oppression, and

the struggle for identity are common across cultures, demonstrating the universal relevance of social critique.

However, the specific contexts in which these stories are produced shape their content and form. English literature, influenced by industrialization, colonialism, and liberal democratic ideals, often emphasizes individual agency and moral responsibility. Uzbek literature, shaped by its unique historical experiences, including colonialism and socialism, may place greater emphasis on collective identity and cultural continuity. Language and symbolism also play a crucial role in shaping social criticism. Cultural references, idiomatic expressions, and narrative conventions differ between English and Uzbek, affecting how themes are conveyed and interpreted. Comparative studies must therefore consider not only thematic parallels but also linguistic and cultural nuances. Artificial intelligence has emerged as a transformative tool in the humanities, offering new methods for analyzing texts. AI technologies, including natural language processing (NLP), machine learning, and data mining, enable researchers to process large volumes of literary data and identify patterns that may not be immediately apparent through traditional analysis.

In the context of social criticism in short stories, AI tools can be used to:

- **Identify Themes and Motifs:** By analyzing word frequency, semantic relationships, and narrative structures, AI can detect recurring themes related to social issues.
- **Sentiment Analysis:** AI can assess the emotional tone of a text, providing insights into how authors convey critique and engage readers.
- **Stylistic Analysis:** Machine learning algorithms can compare writing styles across different authors and traditions, highlighting similarities and differences in narrative techniques.
- **Cross-Linguistic Comparison:** AI tools can facilitate the comparison of texts in different languages by translating and aligning them, enabling more comprehensive comparative studies.

These capabilities allow researchers to complement close reading with quantitative analysis, creating a more holistic understanding of literary works. Despite its potential, the use of AI in literary analysis presents several challenges. One major issue is the complexity of language, particularly in literary texts that rely on metaphor, irony, and cultural references. AI systems may struggle to accurately interpret these elements, leading to incomplete or misleading conclusions. Another challenge is the availability and quality of data. While English literary texts are widely digitized and accessible, resources for Uzbek literature may be more limited. This can affect the scope and reliability of AI-based analysis. Additionally, there is a risk of over-reliance on quantitative methods. Literature is inherently subjective and context-dependent, and numerical data cannot fully capture its richness and nuance. Therefore, AI should be used as a complementary tool rather than a replacement for traditional critical approaches. To maximize the benefits of AI in literary studies, it is essential to integrate computational methods with established critical frameworks. Close reading, historical analysis, and theoretical interpretation remain fundamental to understanding literature. AI can enhance these approaches by providing new perspectives and supporting evidence. For example, a researcher might use AI to identify patterns in the depiction of social class across a corpus of short stories, then conduct detailed textual analysis to interpret these patterns in their cultural and historical context. Similarly, AI-generated translations can facilitate cross-cultural

comparison, but they must be carefully reviewed to ensure accuracy and sensitivity to nuance. This interdisciplinary approach requires collaboration between scholars in literature, linguistics, and computer science. By combining expertise from different fields, researchers can develop more sophisticated and meaningful analyses. The application of AI to the study of social criticism in English and Uzbek short stories can take many forms. For instance, researchers might analyze a corpus of English short stories to identify how themes of industrialization and class conflict are represented over time. They could then compare these findings with a corpus of Uzbek stories addressing issues such as modernization and cultural change. Another possible study could focus on gender representation, examining how female characters are portrayed in both traditions and how these portrayals reflect broader social attitudes. AI tools could be used to analyze dialogue, narrative voice, and character relationships, providing quantitative data to support qualitative analysis. Such studies not only deepen our understanding of individual works but also contribute to broader discussions about the role of literature in society. The exploration of social criticism in English and Uzbek short stories offers valuable insights into the ways literature reflects and shapes societal values. By examining these traditions through both traditional and computational methods, researchers can uncover new dimensions of meaning and connection. Artificial intelligence tools, while not without limitations, provide powerful means of analyzing literary texts and facilitating cross-cultural comparison. When used thoughtfully and in conjunction with established critical approaches, they can enhance our understanding of how social criticism operates within and across different literary traditions. As technology continues to evolve, the integration of AI into literary studies is likely to become increasingly important. This development presents both opportunities and challenges, requiring careful consideration of methodological and ethical issues. Ultimately, the goal is not to replace human interpretation but to enrich it, enabling deeper and more nuanced engagement with literature. In the context of English and Uzbek short stories, this interdisciplinary approach holds particular promise. By bridging linguistic and cultural divides, it allows us to appreciate both the diversity and the universality of social criticism in literature. Through this lens, short stories become not only artistic expressions but also vital tools for understanding and transforming the societies in which they are created.

CONCLUSION

The exploration of social criticism in English and Uzbek short stories through the lens of artificial intelligence demonstrates the enduring relevance of literature as a tool for understanding and challenging societal structures. Across both traditions, short stories serve not only as artistic expressions but also as powerful vehicles for addressing issues such as inequality, cultural tension, identity, and moral responsibility. Despite differences in historical context, narrative style, and thematic emphasis, both English and Uzbek writers share a common commitment to reflecting social realities and provoking critical thought. The comparative analysis reveals that English short stories often emphasize individual experience, psychological depth, and subtle forms of critique, frequently employing irony and ambiguity. In contrast, Uzbek short stories tend to foreground collective values, cultural traditions, and ethical clarity, often presenting social criticism in a more direct and didactic manner. These differences highlight the influence of cultural,

historical, and linguistic contexts on literary expression, while also underscoring the universality of literature's critical function. The integration of artificial intelligence tools into literary analysis marks a significant advancement in the field of comparative literature. Techniques such as natural language processing, sentiment analysis, and thematic modeling enable researchers to identify patterns, quantify textual features, and conduct cross-cultural comparisons with greater efficiency and scope. AI enhances traditional methods by offering new perspectives and supporting evidence-based interpretations, particularly when dealing with large corpora or multilingual texts. However, this study also emphasizes the limitations of AI in capturing the full depth of literary meaning. Elements such as metaphor, symbolism, irony, and cultural nuance often require human interpretation and contextual understanding. Additionally, disparities in digital resources—especially for less widely represented languages like Uzbek—pose challenges for comprehensive computational analysis. Therefore, AI should be viewed as a complementary tool that enriches, rather than replaces, traditional literary criticism. Ultimately, this research highlights the value of an interdisciplinary approach that combines technological innovation with humanistic inquiry. By bridging artificial intelligence and literary studies, scholars can gain a more nuanced and holistic understanding of how social criticism operates within and across cultures. English and Uzbek short stories, when examined together, reveal both diversity and commonality in their engagement with societal issues, reinforcing the idea that literature remains a vital medium for dialogue, reflection, and transformation. As artificial intelligence continues to evolve, its role in literary studies is likely to expand, offering new opportunities for research and discovery. Future studies may further refine computational methods, improve linguistic resources, and explore additional literary traditions, contributing to a more inclusive and dynamic field. In this context, the study of social criticism in short stories not only deepens our appreciation of literature but also enhances our awareness of the societies in which these stories are created and received.

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