

THE POETICS OF SYMBOLISM AND ARTISTIC DETAIL IN AMERICAN MODERNIST PROSE AND UZBEK LITERATURE (A CASE STUDY OF THE WORKS OF W. FAULKNER AND SH. XOLMIRZAYEV)**Ne'matova Dilyora Sunnatullayevna**

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Annotation. This thesis explores the poetics of symbolism and artistic detail in American modernist prose and Uzbek literature through a comparative analysis of selected works by William Faulkner and Shukur Xolmirzayev. The study focuses on how symbolic imagery and meaningful artistic details function as essential poetic devices in revealing psychological depth, philosophical ideas, and cultural values within literary texts. Particular attention is paid to the role of artistic detail in expressing themes such as time, memory, moral responsibility, national identity, and human inner conflict. The comparative approach allows for the identification of both common features and distinctive characteristics in the use of symbolism and artistic detail across different literary traditions. The findings demonstrate that despite differences in historical and cultural contexts, both authors employ similar poetic mechanisms to transform concrete details into universal symbolic meanings, thereby enriching the aesthetic and semantic structure of modern prose.

Keywords: Symbolism; artistic detail; modernist prose; American literature; Uzbek literature; William Faulkner; Shukur Xolmirzayev; comparative literary studies.

Introduction

Modernist prose is characterized by a deep focus on the inner world of the individual, fragmented narrative structures, and an intensive use of symbolism and artistic detail as key poetic devices [1]. In American modernist literature, symbolism functions not only as an aesthetic tool but also as a means of expressing complex psychological states, social crises, and existential concerns [2]. Similarly, in Uzbek literature of the late twentieth century, writers increasingly employed symbolic imagery and meaningful artistic details to convey national identity, moral values, and the inner conflicts of human beings within a rapidly changing society [3].

The works of **William Faulkner**, a central figure of American modernism, exemplify the sophisticated use of symbols and artistic details to represent time, memory, decay, and the collapse of traditional values [4]. Faulkner's prose is notable for its multilayered symbolism, where objects, settings, and seemingly minor details acquire deep philosophical and psychological significance [5]. Through such poetic elements, the author reveals the tragic contradictions of human existence and the historical trauma of the American South [6].

In Uzbek literature, the prose of **Shukur Xolmirzayev** occupies a special place in the development of symbolic thinking and the poetics of artistic detail [7]. His works are distinguished by their subtle realism combined with symbolic depth, where everyday details, landscapes, and human actions reflect broader ethical, social, and spiritual meanings [8]. Xolmirzayev's artistic details often serve as a bridge

between the individual experience and collective national consciousness, enriching the semantic structure of the text [9].

The comparative study of symbolism and artistic detail in the works of William Faulkner and Shukur Xolmirzayev is particularly relevant in the context of comparative literary studies [10]. Despite differences in historical background, cultural environment, and literary traditions, both writers demonstrate a shared tendency to transform concrete details into powerful symbolic elements [2,7]. This approach allows for a deeper understanding of how modernist and post-modernist prose across different cultures employs similar poetic mechanisms to address universal human problems [11].

The aim of this thesis is to analyze the poetics of symbolism and artistic detail in American modernist prose and Uzbek literature through selected works of William Faulkner and Shukur Xolmirzayev. The study seeks to identify common features and distinctive characteristics in their use of symbolic imagery and artistic detail, as well as to determine their role in shaping the aesthetic and philosophical content of the literary text [10,12].

Main Part

Symbolism and Artistic Detail in American Modernist Prose

Symbolism occupies a central position in American modernist prose, serving as a key artistic method for representing psychological depth, historical memory, and existential uncertainty. Modernist writers sought to move beyond realistic narration by transforming concrete objects, spaces, and actions into carriers of abstract meaning [1]. Within this literary context, symbolism becomes a means of conveying fragmented consciousness and the crisis of traditional values.

The prose of **William Faulkner** exemplifies the complex interaction between symbolism and artistic detail. In his novels, time, memory, and decay are expressed through recurring symbols such as houses, landscapes, family objects, and physical deterioration [4]. These artistic details are not merely descriptive elements but function as symbolic markers of moral collapse and historical trauma. For example, spatial details often reflect the psychological states of characters, while natural elements symbolize the irreversible flow of time and the decline of the Old South [5].

Faulkner's use of artistic detail is closely connected to his narrative technique. Fragmented chronology, stream of consciousness, and shifting perspectives intensify the symbolic function of details, requiring the reader to actively interpret their meaning [6]. Through this method, Faulkner transforms individual experiences into universal reflections on human suffering, guilt, and responsibility. Thus, symbolism in his prose serves both aesthetic and philosophical purposes, revealing the inner conflicts of individuals within a broader social and historical framework [2].

Poetics of Symbol and Detail in Uzbek Prose

In Uzbek literature, particularly in the second half of the twentieth century, symbolism and artistic detail became important tools for expressing national identity, ethical values, and spiritual concerns. While maintaining elements of realism, Uzbek prose writers increasingly incorporated symbolic

imagery to deepen the semantic structure of their works [3]. Artistic details in this tradition often derive from everyday life, nature, and social relations, yet acquire broader symbolic meanings.

The prose of **Shukur Xolmirzayev** demonstrates a distinctive approach to the poetics of artistic detail. His works are characterized by concise narration, psychological subtlety, and a careful selection of meaningful details that reflect the inner world of characters [7]. Ordinary objects, gestures, and natural descriptions in Xolmirzayev's prose frequently symbolize moral choice, personal responsibility, and the tension between tradition and modernity [8].

Unlike overt symbolism, Xolmirzayev's artistic details are often understated, allowing symbolic meaning to emerge gradually through context. Landscapes may symbolize spiritual isolation or harmony, while minor бытовые детали (everyday details) reveal deeper social and ethical issues [9]. This method strengthens the emotional impact of the narrative and establishes a close connection between individual experience and collective cultural memory.

Comparative Analysis of Symbolism and Artistic Detail

A comparative analysis of William Faulkner and Shukur Xolmirzayev reveals both common features and significant differences in their use of symbolism and artistic detail. In both cases, artistic detail functions as a key structural element that enriches the semantic depth of the text and guides the reader toward philosophical interpretation [10]. Both writers transform concrete details into symbolic representations of universal human problems such as identity, memory, and moral responsibility.

However, the nature of symbolism differs due to cultural and historical contexts. Faulkner's symbolism is often complex, multilayered, and deeply connected to historical trauma and existential anxiety characteristic of Western modernism [6]. His artistic details tend to reflect fragmentation, decay, and temporal instability. In contrast, Xolmirzayev's symbolism is more restrained and closely linked to ethical reflection, national values, and social reality [8]. His artistic details emphasize moral clarity and spiritual balance rather than existential despair.

Despite these differences, both authors demonstrate that symbolism and artistic detail are powerful poetic tools capable of transcending cultural boundaries. Their works illustrate how modern prose employs symbolic language to express the inexpressible and to connect individual narratives with universal meanings [11].

The Function of Artistic Detail in Shaping Poetic Meaning

Artistic detail plays a decisive role in shaping the poetic structure of both American modernist and Uzbek prose. It serves not only as a descriptive element but also as a semantic nucleus around which the ideological and emotional content of the work is organized [12]. Through carefully selected details, writers achieve narrative economy while simultaneously expanding interpretative possibilities.

In the works of Faulkner and Xolmirzayev, artistic detail acts as a mediator between form and content. It enables the authors to convey complex philosophical ideas without explicit commentary, relying instead on symbolic suggestion and reader interpretation. This approach reflects a shared modern literary tendency toward indirect expression and semantic depth [1].

Conclusion

The present study demonstrates that symbolism and artistic detail play a fundamental role in shaping the poetic structure and semantic depth of both American modernist prose and Uzbek literature. Through the analysis of selected works by William Faulkner and Shukur Xolmirzayev, it becomes evident that artistic detail functions not merely as a descriptive element but as a key carrier of philosophical, psychological, and ethical meaning [1,10].

The findings show that in American modernist prose, particularly in Faulkner's works, symbolism is closely connected with themes of time, memory, decay, and historical trauma. Multilayered symbols and carefully chosen artistic details reflect fragmented consciousness and existential anxiety, requiring active interpretation from the reader [4,6]. Such an approach allows Faulkner to transform individual experiences into universal reflections on human suffering and moral responsibility.

In contrast, the prose of Shukur Xolmirzayev reveals a more restrained yet deeply meaningful use of symbolism and artistic detail. His works emphasize moral values, national identity, and spiritual reflection through everyday details and realistic settings [7,8]. Artistic details in Xolmirzayev's prose often serve as a bridge between the individual and the collective, reinforcing the connection between personal experience and cultural memory [9].

The comparative analysis confirms that despite differences in cultural context and literary tradition, both writers employ similar poetic mechanisms to address universal human problems. Symbolism and artistic detail enable them to convey complex ideas indirectly, enriching the aesthetic and philosophical content of the text [11,12]. Therefore, the study of these poetic elements contributes significantly to comparative literary studies and enhances our understanding of cross-cultural literary processes.

In conclusion, the poetics of symbolism and artistic detail in the works of William Faulkner and Shukur Xolmirzayev illustrates the enduring relevance of these artistic devices in modern prose. Further research may focus on expanding the comparative framework to include other national literatures and exploring the evolution of symbolic poetics in contemporary narrative forms.

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