

The Practical Interpretation of Artistic Harmony in the Short Stories of Khayriddin Sulton

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Abstract: *This article examines the practical manifestation of artistic harmony in the short stories of Khayriddin Sulton, a prominent figure in contemporary Uzbek literature. The study explores how compositional structure, character systems, language style, and artistic devices are harmonized to create coherent and emotionally resonant narratives. Particular attention is given to thematic integrity and the use of symbolic imagery, especially landscape elements, as a means of expressing deep emotional and ideological messages. By analyzing selected stories, the paper reveals how Sulton's narrative strategies enhance the aesthetic value of his works and contribute to the broader tradition of Uzbek prose.*

Keywords: *Khayriddin Sulton, artistic harmony, Uzbek short story, composition, literary style, symbolism, character system, aesthetic analysis.*

Introduction

The artistic quality of a literary text is closely linked to the degree of its internal harmony. The concept of **artistic harmony** refers to the integral connection between the elements of content, idea, character system, composition, stylistic tools, and language. This harmony enables a literary work to influence the reader emotionally, intellectually, and aesthetically. According to the theory of artistic harmony, the internal logic of the plot, the consistency of characters, expressive language, and the ideological direction must be mutually coordinated.

For example, in the field of theater studies, Mukhsin Qodirov describes the "Masxaraboz lazgisi" dance as an example of artistic synthesis, in which all elements of folk performance are brought together in a unified aesthetic form. Similarly, in literature, this synthesis is reflected in the alignment of plot, imagery, symbolism, and stylistic expression. Especially in contemporary Uzbek short story writing, such harmony is of high relevance. In this context, the works of Khayriddin Sulton, particularly his short stories, serve as an exceptional source for exploring artistic harmony.

Khayriddin Sulton's Role in Short Story Writing and His Literary Vision

Khayriddin Sulton (Sultonov) is a prominent representative of contemporary Uzbek literature and has significantly contributed to the development of realistic short story writing. His literary career began in the 1970s with the story "Chol" ("The Old Man"), which opened the way for his distinct literary voice. His early story collections such as "*Quyosh barchaga barobar*" (1980), "*Bir oqshom ertagi*" (1983), "*Onamning yurti*" (1987), "*Umr esa o'tmoqda*" (1988), and "*Boburning tushlari*" (1992) enriched the modern Uzbek literary canon. His stories reflect social and moral truths, human emotions, national identity, and the dignity of ordinary lives. These works are profound in meaning, stylistically expressive, and ideologically significant.

Compositional Harmony and the System of Characters

Sulton's short stories are built upon a clearly structured narrative framework, following classic dramaturgical components such as exposition, rising action, conflict, climax, and resolution. For example, in "*Oradagi umr*" ("The Time Between"), the protagonist's emotional turmoil between past and present is narrated within a well-defined compositional structure.

The character system is shaped by realistic prototypes: children, workers, mothers, and rural dwellers — each character embodies national characteristics, moral values, and a rich inner world. These characters are in dialectical interaction and help advance the plot while maintaining the overall artistic harmony of the story. In "*Qor bosgan izlar*" ("Footprints in the Snow"), the symbolic portrayal of parents reflects values such as love, respect for elders, longing, and wisdom.

Linguistic, Stylistic, and Artistic Device Harmony

Khayriddin Sulton skillfully combines literary sophistication, sincerity, and simplicity in his language and style. His stories make extensive use of folk expressions, proverbs, and symbolic language. Artistic devices such as epithets, metaphors, similes, parallelism, and gradation serve as effective tools to enrich the narrative.

In the story "*Oq bulutlar*" ("White Clouds"), the line "*the clouds are as heavy as my heart*" expresses the protagonist's emotional state through landscape imagery. In "*Onamning yurti*" ("My Mother's Homeland"), the maternal figure is blended with the image of the homeland, creating a symbolic layer. The author's use of language tools to build imagery, maintain tone, and amplify the message is consistent and purposeful. Narrative perspective shifts — including authorial commentary, internal monologues, and dialogues — also add dynamism to the plot.

Harmony Between Theme and Aesthetic Expression

In Sulton's stories, artistic harmony is deeply connected with the thematic core of the work. He explores themes such as national values, social responsibility, spiritual crisis, and family ethics through harmonized literary tools. His method of combining artistic expression with thematic intent creates a powerful reading experience.

According to scholar Ugiloy Musidinova, Sulton's landscape descriptions symbolically represent emotions such as love, loyalty, and connection to the homeland. These landscape elements mirror the emotional states of the characters and contribute to the thematic and aesthetic unity of the text. Through this synthesis, each image and artistic element reinforces the author's intended cultural and moral message, thereby ensuring the story's overall literary integrity.

Conclusion

In Khayriddin Sulton's stories, **artistic harmony** manifests as a product of deep literary thought. His skillful use of composition, language, character construction, and artistic devices creates a coherent and emotionally resonant narrative. The themes of his works — love, time, loyalty, national identity — are strengthened through the harmonious integration of aesthetic elements.

Sulton's approach expands the artistic capabilities of the modern Uzbek short story genre. His pursuit of internal coherence in plot, style, and symbolism demonstrates a high level of literary craftsmanship. Thus, **artistic harmony** in Sulton's stories represents a meaningful phenomenon in Uzbek literature, providing insight into the unity of form and content.

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