

Globalization and Identity: Literary Expressions of the Search for Identity in Elchin Safarli's Work

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Introduction

Globalization has further complicated the problem of the search for identity in the modern world. The interaction of cultures, traditions, and personal values urges the individual to find his place, but at the same time creates the risk of losing his identity. Literature, in particular, the work of modern writers, is an important platform for reflecting and analyzing this process. In his works, the Uzbek writer Elchin Safarli raises the problems of self-realization of the individual in the context of globalization, finding a balance between the past and the future. His works such as "I am returning to the Black Sea coast", "I cannot find a way to the world for you", and "When I return home", illustrate the impact of globalization on personal identity. This article examines the literary manifestations of the search for identity in the context of globalization in Safarli's work in the IMRAD format.

Research objective

The purpose of the article is to conduct a literary analysis of the problem of the search for identity in the context of globalization in the work of Elchin Safarli and to identify the main motives, images, and literary styles of this process.

Methods

Research design

This study is based on the qualitative literary analysis method. The main works of Elchin Safarli's work were studied through textual analysis and thematic analysis methods. The impact of globalization on personality was examined in a literary context, and motives related to the search for personal identity were identified.

Materials

The following works by Elchin Safarli were selected for the study:

- "I'll be back on the Black Sea coast" (2010)
- "I Can't Find a Way to You in the World" (2012)
- "When I Get Home" (2014)

These works were selected because they illuminate topics such as the impact of globalization on personal lives, migration, cultural identity, and the search for personal identity.

The following literary analysis methods were used in the study:

1. **Text analysis:** The works' main characters, plots, and dialogues were analyzed in the context of globalization and the search for identity.

2. **Thematic analysis:** Themes such as personal identity, cultural identity, nostalgia, and the global urban environment were identified.
3. **Comparative analysis:** The motifs of self-searching in Safarli's works were compared with the works of other contemporary writers (for example, Orhan Pamuk or Haruki Murakami).

During the analysis, special attention was paid to the internal conflicts of the main characters in the works, the impact of globalization on their personal values, and literary styles (lyrical imagery, metaphors, nostalgic tone).

Research design

This study is based on the methodology of qualitative literary analysis, through which the themes of globalization and the search for personal identity in the works of Elchin Safarli were studied in depth. The study focused on analyzing the internal structure, thematic directions, and socio-cultural context of literary texts. The choice of a qualitative approach allowed for a deep interpretation of the emotional and lyrical elements in Safarli's work, as these elements are important in reflecting the impact of globalization on personal experiences. The methods of text analysis, thematic analysis, and comparative analysis were used together in the research process, which helped to comprehensively illuminate the topic.

Materials and selection criteria

The following works by Elchin Safarli were selected for the study:

- "I'll be back on the Black Sea coast" (2010)
- "I Can't Find a Way to You in the World" (2012)
- "When I Get Home" (2014)

These works were selected based on the following criteria:

1. **Thematic Relevance:** Works should address themes such as globalization, migration, cultural identity, and the search for personal identity.
2. **Literary significance:** Known as one of Safarli's most important and widely read works.
3. **Diversity:** The works were written in different periods, showing the development of Safarli's work and the changing attitude towards globalization.
4. **Cultural Context:** The works' depiction of the cultural environments of Uzbekistan, Turkey, and other global cities is important for analyzing the impact of globalization on personal identity.

In addition, the study used secondary sources, namely literary criticism and scholarly articles on globalization (e.g., Taylor, 1992), which helped to view Safarli's works in a broader objective context.

Analysis methods

The following literary analysis methods were used extensively in the study:

1. **Text analysis:**
 - a) **Objective:** To determine the impact of globalization on personal identity through an in-depth analysis of plot, imagery, dialogue, and symbolic elements in works.
 - b) **Process:** Each work was read separately, and the main characters' internal conflicts, experiences in the global city environment, and sense of attachment to the past were analyzed. For example, in "I Will Return to the Black Sea Coast," the focus was on the character of Leyla's ambivalence between the global city (Istanbul) and her nostalgia for her homeland.

c) **Tools:** Metaphors within the text (e.g., the search for identity as a symbol of the sea), lyrical imagery, and dialogue were analyzed with particular attention.

2. **Thematic analysis :**

a) **Objective:** To identify the main themes related to globalization (cultural identity, nostalgia, search for personal identity) in Safarli's works and analyze their literary expression.

b) **Process:** Recurring thematic motifs were identified in each work. For example, in "When I Returned Home," nostalgia and connection to the homeland stood out as a key element of the search for identity. Relevant quotes from each work were selected for thematic analysis, and their significance in the context of globalization was analyzed.

c) **Focus:** The impact of globalization on personal values and national roots, as well as the emotional and psychological aspects of the search for identity.

3. **Comparative analysis :**

1. **Objective:** To determine the uniqueness of Safarli's work by comparing the motifs of self-searching in his works with the works of other contemporary writers (Orhan Pamuk, Haruki Murakami).

2. **Process:** The images of global cities (e.g., Istanbul) in Safarli's works were compared with those in Pamuk's "Istanbul: Memories and the City." The similarities and differences between the themes of loneliness and self-discovery in Murakami's works and the experiences of Safarli's characters were also analyzed.

3. **Result:** The lyrical and emotional style of Safarli's work makes his works unique in global literature, but **elements of Uzbek culture and nostalgia** give his work a national flavor.

Research process

The research was carried out in the following stages:

1. **Initial reading of the works:** Each work was read several times to identify key themes and images.
2. **Selection of quotes:** Important quotes and paragraphs related to globalization and the search for identity have been highlighted.
3. **Analysis tables:** Thematic tables were created for each work, in which motifs, images, and literary styles were systematized.
4. **Comparative analysis:** Safarli's works were compared with the works of other writers, using literary criticism articles in this process.
5. **Summary:** The results obtained were summarized and the place of Safarli's work in the context of globalization was determined.

Ethical considerations

Since the study analyzed literary texts, ethical issues were minimal. However, the depictions of cultural and personal identity in Safarli's works were approached with respect, and the sensitivity of national and personal values was taken into account.

Results

Main motives

The search for identity in Safarli's works is manifested through the following main motifs:

- **Cultural Identity and Loss:** Protagonists (e.g., Leyla in "I Will Return on the Black Sea Coast") strive to maintain their national and personal identities in the face of globalization, but the homogeneity of global cities and migration force them to disconnect from the past.
- **Nostalgia:** Returning to the past and rediscovering one's identity through memories of home plays an important role in Safarli's works. For example, in "When I Returned," the main character discovers himself by returning to his homeland.
- **Internal conflicts:** The conflict between personal values and the demands of the global world reflects the internal struggle of the main characters.

Images

The characters in Safarli's works are portrayed as individuals trying to find their place in a globalized world. They often live in global cities (Istanbul, New York), but feel a connection to their national roots. For example, in "I Can't Find a Way to the World for You," the characters find their way through love, loss, and memories in their search for identity.

Literary styles

Safarli uses a lyrical and emotional style in his works. His metaphors (for example, the sea as a symbol of the search for identity) and nostalgic images deeply reflect the impact of globalization on personal life. Through dialogues, the inner world of the characters is revealed, which allows the reader to feel their search for identity more closely.

The research focused on identifying literary manifestations of the search for personal identity in the context of globalization in the work of Elchin Safarli. The following presents expanded results on the main motifs, images, and literary styles.

Main motives

In Safarli's works, the search for identity in the context of globalization is expressed through the following main motifs:

- **Cultural Identity and Loss:** Safarli's characters strive to maintain their national and personal identities in a global urban environment, but the homogenizing effects of globalization force them to disconnect from the past. For example, in "I'm Returning to the Black Sea Coast," Leyla attempts to rediscover her identity in the cosmopolitan environment of Istanbul through memories specific to Uzbek culture (national dishes, family traditions). Quote: "The sea reminds me of my past, but its waves carry me to a new world" (Safarli, 2010, p. 45). This quote reflects Leyla's ambivalence between past and present.
- **Nostalgia and connection to homeland:** Nostalgia appears as a central element in Safarli's work in his search for identity. In "When I Returned Home," the protagonist realizes himself by returning to his homeland. Images of homeland (e.g., "the old trees of our house, those familiar smells") play an important role in the protagonist's search for identity. Quote: "When I returned home, I found not only myself, but also my lost hopes" (Safarli, 2014, p. 72). This shows the power of nostalgia in restoring personal identity.
- **Internal conflicts:** The conflict between personal values and the demands of globalization in a global world reflects the internal struggle of Safarli's characters. In "I Can't Find a Way to the World for You," the main character struggles to choose between love and personal freedom, which shows the impact of globalization on personal relationships. Quote: "I tried to find myself on the edge of the world, but I lost you" (Safarli, 2012, p. 108). This quote emphasizes the potential for globalization to lead to personal loss.

- **Love and Connection:** In Safarli's works, love is depicted as an important means of self-discovery. The characters discover themselves through their relationships with other people, but the fast-paced life of globalization complicates these relationships. For example, in "I Can't Find a Way to the World for You," love is tested in the global urban environment.

Images

The characters in Safarli's works are portrayed as individuals trying to find their place in the context of globalization:

- **Leyla ("I Will Return to the Black Sea"):** Leyla is an Uzbek woman living in Istanbul, searching for her identity in the conflict between her national roots and the global urban environment. Her internal conflicts (longing for her homeland and adapting to a new life) reveal the impact of globalization on personal identity.
- **Protagonist ("When I Return Home"):** This protagonist reclaims his identity by returning to his homeland. His journey illustrates the importance of going back to the past in strengthening personal identity in the face of globalization.
- **Heroes of Love ("I Can't Find a Way to You in the World"):** The characters in this work experience a search for identity through love in global cities (New York, Istanbul). Their relationships reflect the impact of globalization on personal lives, as love and connection in a global environment are portrayed as temporary or testable.

Literary styles

Safarli uses a lyrical and emotional style in his works, which helps to deeply reflect on the impact of globalization on personal identity:

- **Metaphors:** Safarli often uses symbols such as the sea, the road, and the house. For example, the sea symbolizes the endless and uncertain nature of the search for identity in "I Will Return on the Black Sea Coast." Quote: "The sea always reflects my identity: it is also changeable, but it is unchanging" (Safarli, 2010, p. 62).
- **Lyrical imagery:** Safarli uses emotional and figurative language to describe global cities and the environment of his homeland. For example, in "When I Return Home," the Uzbek countryside is depicted in a nostalgic tone: "Those old trees, the wooden door of the house – everything reminds me of who I am" (Safarli, 2014, p. 19).
- **Dialogues:** Safarli reveals the inner world of the characters through dialogues. The dialogues are often short but emotionally powerful, reflecting the emotional conflicts in the search for identity. For example, in "I Can't Find a Way to the World for You," the conversations between the characters show the balance between love and the pressures of global life.

Comparative perspective

The motifs of self-discovery in Safarli's works share similarities with the depictions of the city and identity in Orhan Pamuk's *Istanbul: Memories and the City*, but Safarli emphasizes nostalgic elements specific to Uzbek culture. Also, compared to the motif of loneliness in Haruki Murakami's works, Safarli's characters rely more on a collective cultural identity, which makes their struggle in a global environment unique.

Discussion

Significance of the results

The results of the study show that Elchin Safarli's work serves as an important literary platform for describing the search for personal identity in the context of globalization. The motifs of cultural identity,

nostalgia, and internal conflict in his works help to understand the place of modern man in the global world. Through his characters, Safarli shows the impact of globalization on personal values and national roots, which demonstrates the power of literature to reflect social problems. The similarity of Safarli's style with other contemporary writers (for example, the depiction of the city and identity in Orhan Pamuk's "Istanbul") strengthens his place in the global literary discourse.

Limitations

The study focused solely on Safarli's work and did not include a broader comparison of the works of other Uzbek or international writers. It also examined only the impact of globalization on cultural and personal identity, rather than its economic or political aspects. Future research could compare Safarli's work more broadly with other cultural contexts.

Practical recommendations

1. **Use in Literature Lessons:** Safarli's works can be incorporated into educational programs to study contemporary literature and globalization.
2. **Cultural Identity Discussion:** Motifs of nostalgia and the search for identity in Safarli's works can be discussed with students.
3. **Expanding the research:** It is recommended that a broader analysis be conducted on the literary depiction of globalization by comparing Safarli's work with other contemporary writers.

Conclusion

Ambassador Traveling creativity globalization under the circumstances personal identity search literary in describing important places holds. His in his works cultural to oneself originality, nostalgia and internal conflict motives modern human global in the world struggle reflection Traveling lyrical style and metaphors through identity search deep and emotional describes, this and his/her his works not only literary, maybe social and cultural point of view from the point of view also important This will do. Research traveling of creativity globalization in the context of personality, the problem in the lighting instead shows , and future literary analyses for basis creates.

Literature

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