



THE PROBLEM OF FARMERS REFLECTED IN THE GRAPES OF WRATH
BY JOHN STEINBECK AND BETWEEN TWO DOORS BY UTKIR KHOSHIMOV

Salokhiddinova Sayyora Akram kizi

Student of Master's degree Karshi Economy and pedagogical university

Abstract. *This article examines the representation of farmers' problems in *The Grapes of Wrath* by John Steinbeck and *Between Two Doors* by Utkir Khoshimov. The study adopts a comparative literary approach to analyze socio-economic hardships, moral dilemmas, and the psychological resilience of rural communities depicted in both novels. While Steinbeck portrays the devastating consequences of the Great Depression and environmental catastrophe on American farmers, Khoshimov reflects the social and ethical struggles of Uzbek rural life within a different historical and cultural framework. The article argues that despite contextual differences, both authors reveal universal aspects of agrarian suffering, emphasizing dignity, solidarity, and human endurance.*

Keywords: *farmers, social realism, rural life, comparative literature, Steinbeck, Khoshimov, agrarian crisis*

The theme of farmers' hardship has long occupied a central place in world literature, reflecting the socio-economic realities of agrarian societies. In both Western and Eastern literary traditions, writers have depicted rural life not merely as a backdrop but as a dynamic space where economic pressures, moral values, and human resilience intersect. This article focuses on two significant works: *The Grapes of Wrath* by John Steinbeck and *Between Two Doors* by Utkir Khoshimov. Steinbeck's novel, published in 1939, is widely recognized as a cornerstone of American social realism, portraying the plight of displaced farmers during the Dust Bowl and the Great Depression. In contrast, Khoshimov's work reflects the complexities of Uzbek society, particularly the ethical and social challenges faced by ordinary people, including rural families. Despite differences in historical context, both novels highlight the vulnerability of farmers and their struggle for survival, dignity, and justice. The purpose of this study is to conduct a comparative analysis of how farmers' problems are depicted in these two works, identifying both universal and culture-specific elements.

In *The Grapes of Wrath*, John Steinbeck presents a harsh picture of American farmers who are forced to leave their land due to economic collapse and environmental disaster. The mechanization of agriculture and the dominance of banks lead to mass displacement. Farmers lose not only their livelihoods but also their sense of identity.

The Joad family symbolizes thousands of dispossessed farmers. Their migration to California reflects the broader phenomenon of internal displacement. Steinbeck emphasizes structural injustice, where large institutions exploit small farmers, reducing them to powerless victims of capitalism.





TANQIDIY NAZAR, TAHLILIY TAFAKKUR VA INNOVATSION G'OYALAR



In contrast, Utkir Khoshimov portrays rural life through a moral and social lens. Farmers are not only economic agents but also carriers of tradition and ethical values. Their problems are often linked to social inequality, bureaucratic pressures, and moral dilemmas. Unlike Steinbeck's characters, who face physical displacement, Khoshimov's farmers struggle within their own communities. Their hardships are more internalized, involving conflicts between personal integrity and societal expectations. Both authors pay close attention to the psychological state of farmers. In Steinbeck's novel, suffering is collective and visible: hunger, exhaustion, and despair dominate the narrative. However, resilience emerges through family unity and solidarity among migrants.

Khoshimov, on the other hand, explores inner struggles. His characters often face ethical choices that test their humanity. The "two doors" metaphor symbolizes moral crossroads, reflecting decisions that shape personal and social destiny. Family plays a crucial role in both works. In *The Grapes of Wrath*, the Joad family represents strength and survival through unity. The breakdown of traditional family structures mirrors the broader collapse of rural society. In *Between Two Doors*, family relationships are deeply intertwined with moral values. Respect, responsibility, and honor are central themes. Community bonds are depicted as both supportive and restrictive, highlighting the dual nature of social structures. John Steinbeck uses his novel as a form of social protest. He criticizes economic systems that prioritize profit over human welfare. His depiction of farmers' suffering is intended to evoke empathy and provoke change. The novel exposes systemic inequality and calls for collective action. Steinbeck's realism is both descriptive and ideological, aiming to reveal hidden injustices.

Utkir Khoshimov adopts a more subtle approach. His work focuses on moral introspection rather than direct social criticism. Through everyday situations, he reveals deeper ethical issues affecting rural life. Khoshimov emphasizes personal responsibility and moral choice. His portrayal of farmers is less about economic struggle and more about human dignity and ethical behavior.

Despite differences in context, several similarities can be identified:

- 1) Common Themes: Both novels address poverty, injustice, and human resilience.
- 2) Humanistic Perspective: Both authors emphasize dignity and moral strength.
- 3) Social Function: Literature serves as a tool for highlighting societal problems.

However, key differences include:

Context: Steinbeck focuses on economic crisis; Khoshimov emphasizes moral dilemmas.

Conflict Type: External (economic, environmental) vs. internal (ethical, social).

Narrative Style: Direct social realism vs. reflective moral narrative.

This comparison demonstrates that farmers' problems are both universal and culturally specific. The analysis of *The Grapes of Wrath* and *Between Two Doors* reveals those farmers' struggles, though shaped by different historical and cultural conditions, share common human dimensions. John Steinbeck highlights the devastating impact of economic injustice and





environmental disaster, while Utkir Khoshimov focuses on moral and social challenges within rural communities.

Both authors contribute to a deeper understanding of agrarian life, emphasizing resilience, dignity, and the enduring strength of human values. Their works remain relevant today, offering insights into the ongoing challenges faced by farmers worldwide.

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