



**"THE EVOLUTION OF WOMEN'S IMAGE IN UZBEK LITERATURE: FROM
TRADITIONAL ARCHETYPES TO MODERN VOICES"**

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Abstract: *The representation of women in Uzbek literature has evolved significantly over time, reflecting shifts in societal values, political ideologies, and cultural expectations. Early literary works, especially in classical and folk traditions, often idealized women as embodiments of beauty, honor, and obedience. However, as Uzbekistan underwent colonial, Soviet, and post-independence transformations, literature began to reflect more nuanced female characters educators, revolutionaries, workers, and later, independent thinkers and reformers. This thesis analyzes key works across historical periods to trace how female identity is constructed, challenged, and redefined in Uzbek literary discourse*

Thesis Statement:

This thesis explores the changing image of women in Uzbek literature, tracing the transition from traditional portrayals rooted in folklore and classical poetry where women often symbolize purity, devotion, and sacrifice to contemporary representations that depict women as complex individuals navigating identity, autonomy, and social transformation. The study argues that Uzbek literature reflects not only the cultural and historical development of the nation but also its ongoing negotiation with gender roles and female agency.

Key Arguments and Structure:

1. Traditional Foundations: Women in Folk Literature and Classical Poetry

- Women as symbols of beauty and love in lyrical poetry (e.g., works by Alisher Navoi).
- Passive or sacrificial roles in epics and folk tales (e.g., faithful wives, mourning mothers).
- The ideal woman as modest, obedient, and spiritually pure.

2. Soviet Era: The 'New Woman' in Socialist Realism. State-driven narratives that promoted the emancipated woman: unveiled, educated, and working.

- Contradictions between state ideals and societal realities.
- Female characters as agents of modernization (e.g., teachers, doctors, revolutionaries).

3. Post-Independence Literature: Complexity, Resistance, and Identity

- Emergence of more personal, psychological, and critical narratives.
- Women dealing with family pressure, tradition, education, and modernity.
- Female writers (e.g., Halima Xudoyberdiyeva, Zulfiya, Sayyora, and others) bringing authentic women's voices and interior worlds into literature.

4. Modern Trends: Intersectionality and Social Critique





TANQIDIY NAZAR, TAHLILIY TAFAKKUR VA INNOVATSION G'OYALAR



- Literature addressing topics such as forced marriage, domestic violence, migration, and gender inequality.
- Women not only as characters but as authors and critics shaping national discourse.
- The growing diversity of female representation in urban and rural contexts.

Conclusion: The image of women in Uzbek literature is not static but dynamic, shaped by cultural memory, historical change, and ideological forces. From idealized muses to multidimensional protagonists, the evolving literary image of women reflects Uzbekistan's broader struggle with tradition and progress. Literature thus becomes a mirror of both societal norms and the aspirations for gender equality and human dignity.

