

**THE ROLE OF FAIRY TALES IN MODERN EDUCATION AND  
UPBRINGING: A COMPARATIVE VIEW OF UZBEK AND ENGLISH  
FOLK TALES**

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**Annotatsiya:** *Ushbu maqolada bolalar adabiyoti, xususan o'zbek va ingliz xalq og'zaki ijodining yorqin namunalaridan biri bo'lgan xalq ertaklarining yosh avlod tarbiyasidagi muhim o'rni haqida so'z yuritiladi.*

**Kalit so'zlar:** *tarbiya, ertak, syujet, estetik did, folklore, alla, qo'shiq, xalq og'zaki ijodi, realizm, doston, rivoyat, afsona, maqol, matal, kitob.*

**Аннотация:** *В данной статье рассматривается детская литература, в частности, важная роль народных сказок — одного из ярких примеров устного народного творчества узбекского и английского народов — в воспитании подрастающего поколения.*

**Ключевые слова:** *воспитание, сказка, сюжет, эстетический вкус, фольклор, колыбельная, песня, народное устное творчество, реализм, дастан, предание, легенда, пословица, поговорка, книга.*

**Annotation:** *This article discusses children's literature, focusing on the important role of folk tales — a vivid example of the oral traditions of Uzbek and English peoples — in the upbringing of the young generation.*

**Keywords:** *education, fairy tale, plot, aesthetic taste, folklore, lullaby, song, oral folk art, realism, dastan (epic), legend, myth, proverb, saying, book.*

In modern educational and upbringing systems, fairy tales continue to serve as powerful tools for shaping a child's worldview, moral values, imagination, and emotional intelligence. Despite the rapid development of technology and digital content, the importance of traditional stories remains unchanged. Fairy tales are more than just entertainment — they are deep cultural texts that teach important life lessons and social norms through engaging and imaginative narratives. Every piece of literary work written for young children must correspond to their age characteristics and intellectual level. It should evoke thoughts in the reader's heart, be rich in vivid imagery, and inspire great ideas and noble deeds. Most importantly, the topics should be presented in a simple, understandable, and engaging language.

Children's literature is a powerful tool of our independent nation in educating young people with strong faith and love for the motherland. Books help shape a child's worldview, develop character, and increase their love for science and knowledge.[1]

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Folklore has always been a wellspring of creativity throughout history. That is why humanity has expressed its highest hopes, joys, and struggles in lullabies, songs, legends, tales, and epics. Oral folk art is remarkable for its thematic diversity, deep ideas, and close connection to the life, labor, and everyday experiences of the people.

Children's folklore is often created by adults (like lullabies), but in some cases, children themselves compose songs, rhymes, and playful verses based on their toys. All of these, combined, aim to promote good moral values.[2]

Children's literature consists of a body of artistic, scientific, popular science, and journalistic works created specifically for children and adolescents. The core of this literature is formed by fictional works. Among world nations, including the Uzbek people, children's literature often begins with oral folklore genres such as tongue twisters, riddles, nursery rhymes, legends, fairy tales, proverbs, fables, and epics—many of which were originally not intended for children but later became part of children's literature.

A fairy tale is one of the main genres of oral poetic folk art. It is an epic work of fiction based on fantasy and imagination, often featuring magical and adventurous elements. Fairy tales are mostly created in prose form. In Mahmud Kashgari's work "Devonu lug'otit turk," the word appears in an early form, meaning a verbal narration of an event.

Fairy tales have different regional names in Uzbek folklore: *matal* in Surkhandarya, Samarkand, and Fergana; *ushuk* in the Bukhara region; *varsaqi* in Khorezm; and *cho'pchak* in Tashkent and surrounding areas. They differ from other genres of folklore due to their portrayal of events and actions based on fictional and magical elements. The presence of imaginary settings, fantastic occurrences, and supernatural bravery are key features. Fiction plays a central role in constructing the plot and its dynamic progression, providing the basis for the resolution of conflict. These imaginary elements serve an educational and aesthetic function and act as unique artistic tools.

Depending on the nature and role of these imaginary components, fairy tales can be divided into two groups: Fantasy-based tales (where the plot is magical and miraculous); Reality-based tales (where the plot, while fictional, reflects real-life events).

Fairy tales usually pursue one of three main objectives: The first tells of an ideal hero who defends the people's interests with supernatural bravery against evil forces. The second tells of a protagonist falling in love with and marrying a foreign princess or fairy, healing the sick, or rescuing people captured by dragons or demons. The third focuses on standing against injustice and oppression.

The first objective is achieved through the hero's physical strength and courage, the second through magical helpers, and the third through the hero's intelligence and resourcefulness.

Fairy tales have been passed down orally from generation to generation since ancient times and are one of the most widespread genres of folk oral tradition. As a distinct genre

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within children's folklore, fairy tales stand apart with their unique characteristics. Additionally, fairy tales from various nations reflect their own cultural peculiarities[5].

Linguists T. Kuznetsova and O. Orlova, in analyzing fairy tales created in the United States during the first half of the 20th century, note that a blend of fantasy and realism is typical of many American writers. This fusion of real life and magical worlds is often seen in literature for teenagers. The authors also point out that European literature—especially that based on British folklore—leans more towards fantasy without much realism, thus highlighting the differences between European and American fairy tales[3].

Children's literature plays a key role in shaping a morally mature, patriotic, knowledgeable, and virtuous generation. It forms a child's worldview, nurtures their thinking, and develops their aesthetic taste. In particular, its dynamic nature and engaging plots encourage children to read and learn. Oral folk art—especially fairy tales—is an inseparable part of children's literature. Through fairy tales, children are introduced to values such as goodness, justice, bravery, and wisdom. Plots built on imagination and fantasy enrich children's creative thinking and inspire them to dream big and strive toward those dreams.

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