



INTERCULTURAL COMPARISON OF THE FEMALE IMAGE

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Abstract: *The goal of the study is to determine how women are portrayed in various cultures and to examine the social, cultural, and ideological elements influencing these portrayals. Both universal and culturally particular aspects of the female image are revealed by the research through the use of comparative and qualitative analysis to literary and cultural sources from Eastern and Western contexts. The results show that cultural differences have a significant impact on women's social roles, autonomy, and symbolic meanings, even if they are frequently linked to values like care, morality, and continuity.*

Keywords: *female image, intercultural comparison, culture, gender studies.*

Introduction

The image of women has always been a central subject in cultural, literary, and social studies. Across different societies, women are portrayed not only as individuals but also as symbols reflecting collective values, traditions, and worldviews. These representations are shaped by historical development, religion, social norms, and power relations. In recent years, intercultural studies have gained importance due to globalization and increased cross-cultural interaction, making the comparative analysis of the female image especially relevant.

The purpose of this study is to conduct an intercultural comparison of the female image by examining how women are represented in different cultural contexts, particularly Eastern and Western cultures. The research seeks to answer the following questions: (1) What are the dominant features of the female image in different cultures? (2) What similarities and differences can be identified through intercultural comparison? (3) How do modern social changes influence traditional representations of women?⁶⁰

Methods

This study employs a qualitative research methodology based on comparative and descriptive analysis. The research materials include literary texts, cultural narratives, and scholarly studies related to gender and cultural representation. Sources from both Eastern and Western cultural traditions were selected to ensure intercultural balance.

⁶⁰ Butler, J. (1990). *Gender Trouble: Feminism and the Subversion of Identity*. New York: Routledge.





The comparative method was used to identify similarities and differences in the portrayal of women across cultures. Additionally, elements of cultural and gender analysis were applied to interpret the symbolic and social meanings of the female image. The study does not rely on statistical data but instead focuses on interpretative analysis, which is appropriate for humanities-based research.

Results

The analysis reveals several important findings. First, in both Eastern and Western cultures, women are often associated with motherhood, care, and moral responsibility. These universal features highlight the symbolic role of women in maintaining social and cultural continuity.

Second, significant differences were observed in terms of autonomy and social roles. In many Western cultural representations, women are depicted as independent individuals with personal ambitions and professional identities. In contrast, Eastern cultural representations tend to emphasize family-oriented roles, modesty, and collective responsibility.

Third, the study shows that modern influences such as education, media, and globalization have contributed to the transformation of the female image in both cultural contexts. Traditional stereotypes are increasingly challenged, leading to more diverse and dynamic representations of women.

Historically, both societies had traditional gender roles, but the trajectories differ today. In Uzbek families, traditional roles remain relatively strong: men are typically breadwinners and heads of household, women manage domestic responsibilities, and large families are common. Nevertheless, Uzbekistan is gradually changing, with more women working outside the home and seeking education. In England, older norms also expected men as providers and women as homemakers, but today many English families share roles more equally. Research notes that “traditional gender roles are less prevalent in English families than in Uzbek families. Women are more likely to work outside the home and share domestic responsibilities”. Both societies see a growing trend toward gender equality, but the pace and extent differ: British culture tends to have normalized dual-career households and male participation in childcare, whereas Uzbek culture is only increasingly balancing these roles.⁶¹

Discussion

The results of the study confirm that the female image is a culturally constructed phenomenon influenced by social values and historical conditions. The similarities observed across cultures suggest the existence of shared human experiences, while the differences reflect distinct cultural priorities and social structures.

⁶¹ Najmiddinova M.N. Comparative cultural analysis similarities and differences between values in English and Uzbek cultures // Useful proposals and innovative approaches in the development of science. Spain Journal // Impact Factor 13.67,2025.-P.1-9. <http://spanindexunisi.likesyou.org/2025/08/06/comparative-cultural-analysis-similarities-and-differences-between-values-in-english-and-uzbek-cultures> DOI: <https://doi.org/10.5281/zenodo.16754896>





The increasing impact of globalization has blurred rigid cultural boundaries, resulting in hybrid representations of women that combine traditional and modern elements. This finding supports the view that cultural images are not static but continuously evolving. The study also highlights the importance of avoiding stereotypes in intercultural analysis and emphasizes the need for contextual interpretation.

Conclusion

The intercultural comparison of the female image demonstrates that women's representations vary significantly across cultures while sharing certain universal characteristics. Understanding these representations contributes to deeper intercultural awareness and promotes respect for cultural diversity. Future research may expand this study by including empirical data or exploring specific genres such as media discourse or contemporary literature.

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