



**REALISM IN THE NOVELS OF KHALED HOSSEINI (IN THE EXAMPLE
“AND THE MOUNTAINS ECHOED”)**

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Annotation. This article examines the development of realism in both world and Uzbek literature. It highlights the movement's origins as a reaction to Romanticism in the 19th century, with authors like Flaubert, Tolstoy, and James focusing on everyday life and social issues. In Uzbek literature, writers like Abdulla Qadiri and Abdulla Qahhor used realism in the early 20th century to critique social problems, such as class disparity and outdated traditions. The article also compares realism in Uzbek works to Khaled Hosseini's “And the Mountains Echoed”, emphasizing how realism portrays complex human emotions and social realities across cultures.

Key words. Realism, Naturalism, Modernism, Postmodernism, Romanticism, Empirical Science, Philosophical Movements, Social Issues, Everyday Life, Characterization, Objective Narration, Uzbek Literature, Human Behavior, Feudalism, Colonialism, Tradition vs Modernity, Social Critique, Gender Inequality, Family Dynamics, Psychological Struggles, Multigenerational Saga, Emotional Realism, Cultural Transformation, Political Instability, Moral Complexity, Poverty, War, Personal Sacrifice, Class Disparity, Arranged Marriages

INTRODUCTION. There are several ways of depicting reality in fiction, such as realism, naturalism, sentimentalism, modernism, and postmodernism. Among them, realism is distinguished by the truthful depiction of human life in fiction.

Realism, a literary movement that emerged in the mid-19th century, developed as a direct reaction against the heightened emotions and idealized settings of Romanticism. In contrast to Romanticism's focus on the extraordinary and the emotional, realism sought to portray life as it truly is, with all its imperfections, contradictions, and



everyday struggles. Realist writers aimed to create a faithful representation of the world, concentrating on ordinary people, familiar settings, and social issues. Through detailed characterization, objective narration, and an exploration of societal and moral complexities, realism offered readers an unfiltered view of human experience. Influenced by the rise of empirical science and philosophical movements like naturalism, realist literature often served as a mirror to society, prompting readers to reflect on their own lives and the world around them [6, 150]

LITERATURE REVIEW AND METHODOLOGY. Writers like Gustave Flaubert, Leo Tolstoy, and Henry James became prominent figures in this movement, each using their unique voices to explore the nuances of human behavior and the social fabric of their times. Although realism appeared in the 19th century and has been developing until now, it is used in different ways in the world and Uzbek literature.

Realism in Uzbek literature emerged in the early 20th century as Uzbek writers sought to depict the realities of their society, reflecting both individual struggles and broader social conditions. This movement was heavily influenced by the sociopolitical changes in Central Asia during the late 19th and early 20th centuries, including the decline of traditional systems, Russian colonialism, and the rise of modernity and reformist ideas. Uzbek realist writers used their works to critique the feudal and patriarchal structures, advocate for social change, and capture the complexities of everyday life.

Key Characteristics of Realism in Uzbek Literature:

- Focus on Social Issues. Realist writers in Uzbekistan addressed themes such as class disparity, corruption, arranged marriages, women's rights, and the effects of colonial rule. They portrayed the harsh realities of life for ordinary people and highlighted the social and political challenges facing their society.
- Detailed and Realistic Characters. Uzbek realist literature is known for its depiction of multidimensional characters, often caught between tradition and modernity. These



characters struggle with societal expectations, family pressures, and personal dilemmas, reflecting the conflicts of the time.

– Ordinary, Everyday Settings. Unlike the idealized worlds of earlier literature, Uzbek realism grounded its stories in familiar, everyday settings like rural villages, cities, and family homes. Writers often used these settings to explore the lives of common people, providing a truthful representation of their experiences.

– Critique of Tradition. Many realist writers challenged the old ways of life, especially rigid social hierarchies and outdated traditions. Through their works, they expressed a desire for reform and modernization, often portraying the tension between traditional and progressive values.

– Objective Tone. Uzbek realist literature typically avoids romanticizing or embellishing life. Writers sought to depict life "as it is," with an impartial, almost journalistic tone, allowing readers to form their own conclusions about the characters and situations presented.

The following authors and their works in Uzbek literature can be used as an example of realism

Abdulla Qadiri's "O'tgan kunlar" ("Past Days".) Considered the father of Uzbek prose, Abdulla Qodiriy's "O'tgan Kunlar" is a landmark of realism in Uzbek literature. The novel depicts the lives of ordinary Uzbeks in the 19th century, especially focusing on social issues like arranged marriages, family honor, and political instability during the decline of the Kokand Khanate. Qodiriy presents a detailed, unvarnished portrayal of Uzbek society, critiquing its rigid social structures and advocating for change. [5, 3]

– Abdulla Qahhor's "Sarob" ("Mirage"): Abdulla Qahhor was another key figure in the development of realism in Uzbek literature. His works, like "Sarob", reflect the social and psychological struggles of individuals in a rapidly changing society. Qahhor's writing delves into the minds of his characters, exposing their internal conflicts while also depicting the broader societal pressures they face. [4, 75]



- Oybek’s “Qutlug‘ Qon” (“The Sacred Blood”): Oybek’s “Qutlug‘ Qon” is an important work of realism that addresses the clash between old traditions and new ideas in Uzbek society. Set in the early 20th century, it portrays the lives of a family navigating the social, cultural, and political transformations brought on by Russian influence and the collapse of traditional ways of life. The novel highlights class conflict, the struggles of women, and the impact of modernization (Oybek, 1969).
- Said Ahmad’s “Ufq” (“The Horizon”): Said Ahmad was a prominent realist writer who focused on the everyday lives of Uzbek people, exploring themes like societal change, class struggle, and the tension between rural and urban life. His novel “Ufq” is known for its realistic portrayal of village life and the challenges faced by ordinary people. [1, 60]

Influence and Legacy of Realism in Uzbek Literature:

Realism in Uzbek literature played a crucial role in shaping the modern literary landscape of Uzbekistan. Writers like Qodiriy, Oybek, and Qahhor used literature as a means to reflect societal problems and advocate for progress, modernization, and reform. Through their works, they not only depicted the realities of Uzbek life but also inspired future generations of writers to explore social issues with honesty and depth.

Realist literature in Uzbekistan often served as a mirror to society, encouraging readers to confront issues like corruption, gender inequality, and the effects of colonialism, while also pushing for social and political reforms. The movement's emphasis on truth, objectivity, and social critique has had a lasting influence on Uzbek literature, continuing to resonate with readers today.

In world literature, especially in the works of Khalid Hosseini, realism is described in a slightly different way. Realism forms can be seen in all works of the writer. But in his work "And the Mountains Echoed"[2, 86], a clear example of realism is visible.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION. Khaled Hosseini’s “And the Mountains Echoed” incorporates elements of realism through its portrayal of ordinary lives and the complex emotional struggles of its characters. While it is a multigenerational saga that



spans several countries, its core focus remains on human relationships, personal sacrifices, and the social realities faced by the characters. Here's how realism is manifested in the novel:

Hosseini creates characters who are multi-dimensional, flawed, and relatable, each dealing with real-life dilemmas and emotional conflicts:

- Abdullah and Pari , the brother and sister whose separation forms the novel's emotional center, deal with a lifelong sense of loss and longing. Their relationship is marked by deep affection, but also the pain of forced separation, which mirrors the universal theme of family bonds being tested by external forces.
- Nabi, who works as a chauffeur for a wealthy family, struggles with guilt and regret over his role in the separation of Abdullah and Pari, showing how personal choices can have long-lasting repercussions on others.
- Parwana , who pushes her disabled sister Masooma off a swing out of jealousy, depicts the raw emotions of sibling rivalry, guilt, and the burden of caring for others.

These characters are ordinary people, and their emotional struggles and personal flaws make them deeply human and relatable, a hallmark of realist literature.

- The novel primarily focuses on the everyday lives of its characters, depicting their personal relationships, struggles with family dynamics, and their experiences in different social contexts. From rural Afghan villages to urban settings in Europe and the U.S., the novel explores the mundane realities of life: family conflicts, unfulfilled dreams, and the weight of memory. The emphasis on ordinary experiences over sensationalized events grounds the novel in realism.
- For example, the narrative of Nila Wahdati , a poet who feels constrained by societal expectations, illustrates the pressures that many women face in balancing personal aspirations with traditional gender roles. Her emotional and psychological struggles feel authentic and grounded in real social issues.
- And the Mountains Echoed subtly critiques various social issues, particularly the impact of poverty, war, and gender inequality in Afghan society. The novel sheds light



on the hardships faced by those living in rural Afghanistan, where poverty often leads to difficult decisions, such as the selling of Pari to a wealthier family for financial stability.

– Additionally, the novel touches on themes of displacement and the refugee experience, especially through characters like Idris and Markos, who are connected to Afghanistan but live in the West. This reflects the realistic concerns of Afghan expatriates and the emotional pull between their homeland and their new lives abroad.

– Loss and sacrifice are central themes in the novel, and they are portrayed in a realistic, unsentimental manner:

– The central plotline of Abdullah and Pari's separation speaks to the painful reality of children being separated from their families for economic or social reasons. The lingering effects of this separation are felt throughout their lives, showing how early trauma can shape a person's identity. The novel also explores themes of abandonment, such as when Parwana abandons her disabled sister or when Nila abandons her daughter Pari, leaving behind emotional scars that never fully heal.

These realistic portrayals of loss reflect the complexity of human emotions and relationships, highlighting the personal costs of societal and family pressures.

– Hosseini's narrative style in *And the Mountains Echoed* is grounded in a sense of emotional realism. He presents events and characters' actions without romanticizing or idealizing them. For instance, there is no moral judgment placed on the characters' difficult decisions—such as Nabi's involvement in the separation of Abdullah and Pari, or Parwana's betrayal of her sister. Instead, the narrative allows readers to witness the nuanced reasons behind these actions, encouraging empathy without simplifying the characters' moral complexity. Realist literature often explores how individual lives are intertwined with broader societal forces, and *And the Mountains Echoed* does this masterfully. The novel portrays how the choices of one generation can impact subsequent generations, showing how personal and historical events shape the course of people's lives. The ripple effect of the central act of separating Abdullah and Pari is felt



across continents and decades, highlighting the interconnectedness of human experience.

CONCLUSION. Summarizing the above, it can be concluded that *And the Mountains Echoed* embodies realism through its exploration of ordinary lives, complex emotional dynamics, and the social and economic realities that shape its characters' fates. Hosseini's unflinching portrayal of loss, sacrifice, and the often painful consequences of human choices makes the novel a strong example of realism in contemporary literature. It reflects the realities of life—its beauty, its pain, and its often unresolved conflicts—without offering easy answers or romanticized resolutions.

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