

The Representation of Folk Traditions and Customs in the literature of Uzbek and English-speaking countries Literature

Kandiyorova Iroda Ixtiyor qizi
Master's student at Asia International University

Annotation: This article provides a comparative analysis of the reflection of folk art, national customs, and myths in Uzbek and American literature through Mark Twain's "The Adventures of Tom Sawyer" and G'afur G'ulom's "Shum Bola." In both works, the heroes' pursuit of freedom, defiance of societal norms, and the influence of beliefs shaped by folk traditions are evident. The article analyzes the role of folk myths, childhood traditions, folklore examples, and national songs in the works, highlighting their literary and aesthetic significance. The research results show that both works, while reflecting the cultural heritage of their respective nations, affirm the important role of folklore in children's literature.

Keywords: Folklore, folk art, customs, myths, hero, children's literature, The Adventures of Tom Sawyer, Shum Bola.

Introduction

Literature is an important tool that reflects the history, traditions, and beliefs of a nation. The literature of each people reflects its way of life, values, and national consciousness. Mark Twain's "The Adventures of Tom Sawyer" (1876) and G'afur G'ulom's "Shum Bola" (1936) are vivid examples of folk art and national traditions, preserving their unique cultural heritage through the folkloric motifs expressed in children's worldview. This article provides a comparative analysis of the legends, traditions and beliefs found in both works.

The protagonists created by Mark Twain and G'afur G'ulom – Tom Sawyer and Shum Bola – are mischievous, freedom-seeking characters who defy societal norms. In their characters, myths, religious beliefs, and superstitions play a significant role. In both works:

- Tom Sawyer – lives with the desire to avoid school, lead an independent life, and embark on adventures.

- Shum Bola – violates community rules and gets into conflicts with adults due to his various antics. In both works, the characters' lives are closely intertwined with folk traditions and customs, even as they rebel against the restrictions imposed by society. Additionally, both works feature folklore, beliefs, and traditions that serve to further nationalize the stories.

In "Shum Bola", the character expresses his yearning for freedom and the hardships of orphanhood through song. In "Tom Sawyer", the song reflects his desire to be a pirate and his passion for adventure. Therefore, songs serve as a significant folkloric element that reveals the inner world of the characters. Both works depict societal norms and traditions. In "The Adventures of Tom Sawyer", Tom rebels against compulsory schooling and religious teachings. In American society, children have historically sought to find their own paths from a young age. In "Shum Bola", Shum Bola is punished by his community for violating local traditions and societal rules.

Literary analysis and methods

Literature is a crucial tool that reflects the history, customs, and beliefs of a nation. The literature of each people mirrors their way of life, values, and national identity. Mark Twain's "The Adventures of Tom Sawyer" (1876) and G'afur G'ulom's "Shum Bola" (1936) serve as prominent

THE MULTIDISCIPLINARY JOURNAL OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY

VOLUME-5, ISSUE-2

examples of folk art and national traditions, preserving cultural heritage through the folkloric motifs found in children's literature. This article provides a comparative analysis of the myths, customs, and beliefs that appear in both works.

The main protagonists created by Mark Twain and G'afur G'ulom – Tom Sawyer and Shum Bola – are mischievous characters who strive for freedom and defy societal norms. Their characters are influenced by folk myths, religious beliefs, and superstitions. Tom Sawyer dreams of not attending school, living independently, and pursuing adventures. Shum Bola challenges local customs and finds himself in conflict with adults. Despite their rebellion against societal limitations, both characters' lives remain closely tied to folk traditions and customs. Both works incorporate folk art elements such as myths, beliefs, and traditions, contributing to the national flavor of the works.

In "The Adventures of Tom Sawyer", an example of a myth is the belief that a vow taken over the blood of a dead person will never be broken, or the idea that treasure can only be found where the shadow of a dead person falls. Additionally, there is a belief that calling on cat bones with specific words can summon spirits.

In the legends found in the novel Shum Bola, there is a belief in people possessing supernatural powers. Crossing a bridge with a prayer is similar to the idea that there are evil spirits in the water. Wearing black at a wedding is considered a bad omen, as it is believed to bring misfortune in the future. Most of these beliefs originated in the collective consciousness of the people and evoke a unique sense of curiosity in children's minds.

Both works contain folk songs and national melodies. Shum Bola hums the song Daryo toshqin, suvlar to'lqin, o'tolmayman (The river is flooding, the waters are surging, I cannot cross). This song symbolizes separation and hardship in folk tradition and reflects his emotional state:

"Daryo toshqin, suvlar to'lqin, o'tolmayman,
Otim oriq, manzilimga yetolmayman.
Otgina'mni oriq qilgan shu mayda tosh,
Rangina'mni sariq qilgan shu qalamqosh.
Oh akajonim, quralay ko'zim,
Rangina'mni sariq qilgan shu qalamqosh."

G'afur G'ulom's Shum Bola explores themes of orphanhood, a difficult life, and the struggle for survival. The line "Daryo toshqin, suvlar to'lqin, o'tolmayman" symbolically represents the hardships in Shum Bola's life and the enormous obstacles he faces.

"Otim oriq, manzilimga yetolmayman"—this may reflect Shum Bola's helplessness in life, his struggles yielding no results, and his occasional powerlessness in the face of adversity.

"Mayda tosh"—these could represent small but impactful events in his life, such as the pranks and mischief that repeatedly get him into trouble.

"Qalamqosh"—to whom is this addressed? It could be a reference to his mother, sister, or a close loved one. Since Shum Bola is an orphan, it is natural for him to long for his relatives. No matter how mischievous and playful Shum Bola is, life presents him with many hardships. The poem serves as a deep, lyrical expression of his personal emotions.

In "Tom Sawyer", Tom and his friends sing the "Yo ho ho, Pirate Ship" song, which reflects the folkloric themes of freedom and adventure. One of the most famous pirate songs, "Fifteen Men on a Dead Man's Chest," also appears in "Treasure Island", another work associated with pirate folklore:

THE MULTIDISCIPLINARY JOURNAL OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY

VOLUME-5, ISSUE-2

Pirate Song (Yo-ho-ho and a Bottle of Rum)

“Fifteen men on the dead man’s chest—

Yo-ho-ho, and a bottle of rum!

Drink and the devil had done for the rest—

Yo-ho-ho, and a bottle of rum!”

Thus, in both works, songs serve as crucial folkloric elements that reveal the inner worlds of the characters. Tom believes that in case of fever, eating spider webs can draw out the “heat” from the body, which is a belief based on folk medicine. In “Shum Bola”, myths regarding “strange people” and “ajina” (a term for people thought to possess magical powers) are also prevalent. These superstitions are taken seriously by the people in Shum Bola's community, although Shum Bola himself does not believe in them.

Discussion and conclusions

In conclusion, both works feature numerous elements of folk art, including tales, myths, sayings, songs, and widely recognized customs. *The Adventures of Tom Sawyer* reflects the folk beliefs and myths prevalent in the southern United States, such as the idea that "Drinking the blood of a sick turtle will never cause illness!" This belief is part of the folk medicine and magical traditions that have been passed down in American culture. Additionally, folk songs popular in the southern United States also appear in the work, such as the song "Tom sat by the river and sang the old sailors' 'Yo-ho-ho, Pirate Ship!'" These kinds of songs were popular among sailors and pirates in 19th-century America.

In “Shum Bola”, various forms of folk art are featured, including fairy tales and jokes. For example, “There was an old man in our yard. He used to tell us the tale of Alpomish.” This illustrates the role of national heroic epics, such as the “Alpomish” epic, in children's upbringing. Additionally, ceremonial and game songs, like “In the neighborhood, children would start playing the game ‘Goose-goose, Alabay!’” are also included. These games and songs are part of the traditional folklore that helps children learn communal values.

In short, both works contain many examples of folk art, showcasing how these elements are intricately tied to real life and the traditions of the people.

References:

1. Twain, M. “The Adventures of Tom Sawyer.” Harper & Brothers, 1876.
2. G‘ulom, G. “Shum Bola.” Tashkent: G‘afur G‘ulom Publishing House, 1936.
3. Smith, J. “Folklore in American Literature.” New York: Oxford University Press, 1999.
4. Propp, V. “Morphology of the Folktale.” Austin: University of Texas Press, 1968.
5. Karimov, U. “Folklore Traces in Uzbek Children’s Literature.” Tashkent: Uzbekistan National University Press, 2005.
6. Harris, J. C. “Uncle Remus: His Songs and His Sayings.” New York: D. Appleton & Company, 1881.
7. Bakhtin, M. “Rabelais and His World.” Bloomington: Indiana University Press, 1984.
8. Norton, D. E. “Through the Eyes of a Child: An Introduction to Children’s Literature.”
9. Norton, D. E. Through the Eyes of a Child: An Introduction to Children’s .