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Stylistic Influence of Leo Tolstoy's "War and Peace" on Later Russian and Uzbek Prose

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Abstract. This article examines the stylistic features of Leo Tolstoy's epic novel War and Peace and explores their influence on later Russian and Uzbek prose. Emphasis is placed on Tolstoy's narrative techniques, character development, philosophical interpretation of history, and psychological depth. By analyzing parallels between War and Peace, Tolstoy's later novels, and selected works of Uzbek literature – particularly those of Abdulla Qodiriy – the study highlights the continuity and adaptation of Tolstoyan stylistic traditions across literary cultures.

Keywords: literary style, Tolstoy, War and Peace, stylistics, Uzbek prose, comparative literature

1. Introduction. Literary creation is shaped by historical context, social conditions, and the prevailing literary environment. However, every complete literary work ultimately reflects the individual creative personality of its author. Literary theory not only investigates the social significance and aesthetic value of literature but also focuses on the role of authorial individuality in shaping artistic expression. Consequently, the study of an author's unique style remains one of the central concerns of literary scholarship.

Style manifests itself most clearly in an author's methods of constructing artistic images, organizing narrative structure, and expressing aesthetic and philosophical views. As defined in the Dictionary of Literary Studies, style is an anthropological category closely connected to the author's creative personality, unifying all elements of a literary work into a coherent whole (Dictionary of Literary Studies, cited in Orifjonov, 2004).

Within this theoretical framework, Leo Tolstoy's War and Peace occupies a special place as a monumental example of stylistic originality and artistic synthesis.

2. Stylistic Features of War and Peace. Tolstoy's stylistic approach in War and Peace is characterized by the complexity of its plot structure, detailed depiction of characters' inner lives, and philosophical reinterpretation of historical events. The novel presents reality through the perspectives of multiple protagonists, allowing events to unfold gradually and organically.

According to Orifjonov (2004), one of the most remarkable qualities of Tolstoy's style is its "complex simplicity." Tolstoy avoids excessive figurative language, selecting words carefully to highlight essential meanings. As a result, seemingly simple descriptions convey profound philosophical and psychological depth.





Tolstoy's narrative technique focuses primarily on human actions, emotional experiences, and the circumstances that give rise to them. This approach enables the author to portray the spiritual development of characters such as Pierre Bezukhov, Andrei Bolkonsky, and Natasha Rostova as they endure moral trials and existential crises.

3. Style, Philosophy, and History. An important feature of War and Peace is the inclusion of chapters that directly express the author's philosophical reflections on history. These sections go beyond plot development and reveal Tolstoy's personal evaluation of historical processes. Zyamzina (2010) notes that Tolstoy's philosophical-historical views play a crucial role in shaping the stylistic structure of the novel, influencing both narrative composition and character motivation.

This fusion of fictional narrative with philosophical discourse distinguishes War and Peace from traditional historical novels and contributes to its epic quality.

4. Stylistic Parallels in Tolstoy's Later Novels. Stylistic features evident in War and Peace also appear in Tolstoy's later novels Anna Karenina and Resurrection. In all three works, reality is presented through the consciousness of central characters, and events are depicted in detailed psychological sequences.

For example, Pierre Bezukhov's emotional turmoil in War and Peace parallels Konstantin Levin's inner struggles in Anna Karenina. Both characters experience profound embarrassment and emotional vulnerability when expressing love, revealing Tolstoy's mastery in portraying subtle psychological states (Bobko, 2012).

Additionally, Tolstoy demonstrates exceptional skill in depicting women of aristocratic society. Natasha Rostova and Kitty Shcherbatskaya are portrayed as young women navigating social expectations and personal emotions, particularly during pivotal moments such as their first grand balls.

5. Influence on Uzbek Prose. The stylistic traditions of War and Peace significantly influenced the development of Uzbek prose in the early twentieth century. This influence is widely discussed in the collection Leo Tolstoy and Uzbek Literature (Academy of Sciences, 1985). Scholars such as Rasuliy (1987), Sulton (1990), and Karimov (1995) emphasize Tolstoy's impact on narrative structure, psychological realism, and philosophical reflection in Uzbek literature.

Abdulla Qodiriy, who read Russian classics in the original language, absorbed Tolstoy's artistic principles. These principles are evident in Qodiriy's portrayal of character psychology, moral conflict, and social critique. Like Tolstoy, Qodiriy often expresses a personal stance toward historical events, revealing deeper social and ethical causes behind political actions.

6. Spiritual Transformation as a Stylistic Principle





Another defining characteristic of Tolstoy's style is the spiritual rebirth of characters who undergo suffering and moral испытания. Characters such as Pierre Bezukhov, Andrei Bolkonsky, and Dmitry Nekhlyudov experience profound inner transformations.

Similar processes can be observed in Qodiriy's protagonists Otabek and Anvar, whose moral awakening follows periods of loss and inner struggle. This parallel demonstrates how Tolstoy's concept of spiritual renewal became a foundational stylistic element in later literary traditions.

7. Narrative Innovation. Tolstoy's narrative innovation is further reflected in his shifting narrative perspectives. In *War and Peace*, certain chapters are presented through Pierre's diary entries. A comparable technique appears in Qodiriy's *O'tkan kunlar*, where Usta Olim temporarily assumes the role of narrator. Such shifts enhance narrative depth and provide alternative viewpoints within the text.

Conclusion. The stylistic legacy of Leo Tolstoy's *War and Peace* extends far beyond Russian literature, influencing narrative techniques, philosophical reflection, and psychological realism in Uzbek prose. Through comparative analysis, this article demonstrates that Tolstoy's stylistic principles—complex simplicity, spiritual transformation, and philosophical engagement with history—continue to shape literary traditions across cultures.

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