

**THE USE OF SOMATIC PHRASES IN NOVEL “BYGONE DAYS”**

***Rajabboeva Dinora***

***Annotation:*** This article looks at the use of body-related phrases in Abdulla Qodiriy’s important novel, *Bygone Days*, which is the first complete Uzbek novel. It discusses how these somatic expressions enhance the story, express feelings, and reflect Uzbek cultural identity. By analyzing certain examples from the book, the study demonstrates how the use of body language helps with character development, provides social commentary, and supports cultural preservation. Additionally, the article talks about how studying somatic phrases can be useful in literature and linguistics courses in educational institutions in Uzbekistan.

***Аннотация:*** В статье рассматривается использование соматических фразеологизмов в известном романе Абдуллы Кадыри «Прошедшие дни» — первом полномасштабном романе на узбекском языке. Исследуется, как выражения, связанные с частями тела, обогащают повествование, передают эмоции и отражают узбекскую культурную идентичность. На основе анализа конкретных примеров из текста показано, что соматическая лексика играет важную роль в раскрытии характеров персонажей, социальной критике и сохранении культурных ценностей. Также обсуждается значимость изучения таких выражений в преподавании литературы и языкознания в учебных заведениях Узбекистана.

***Annotatsiya:*** Mazkur maqolada Abdulla Qodiriyning o‘zbek adabiyotidagi birinchi to‘liq roman hisoblangan “O‘tgan kunlar” asarida somatik frazeologizmlarning qo‘llanilishi tahlil qilinadi. Maqolada tana a‘zolari bilan bog‘liq iboralar qanday qilib asarga obrazlilik, hissiy ifoda va madaniy o‘zlik baxsh etgani yoritiladi. Asardan olingan namunalar asosida somatik leksika qahramon xarakterlarini ochishda, ijtimoiy muammolarni yoritishda va milliy qadriyatlarni saqlashda qanday xizmat qilishi ko‘rsatiladi. Shuningdek, bu kabi



*iboralarni tahlil qilish O'zbekiston ta'lim muassasalarida adabiyot va tilshunoslik darslarida amaliy ahamiyat kasb etishi muhokama qilinadi.*

**Keywords:** *Somatic phrases, Abdulla Qodiriy, "Bygone Days", Uzbek literature, body metaphors, linguistic imagery, culture in language, phraseology.*

Somatic phrases, which are expressions related to parts of the body, greatly enhance the expressiveness of languages. In Uzbek, these phrases are strongly connected to folk culture, daily conversations, and literature. A prominent example is Abdulla Qodiriy's novel *O'tgan kunlar* (Bygone Days), which is an important work in modern Uzbek literature.

Qodiriy skillfully integrates somatic expressions into the story to show the feelings, relationships, and social issues of early 20th-century Turkestan. These phrases are not just decorative; they are cultural symbols that reflect values, beliefs, and identity. Analyzing their use in this novel gives us insights into Qodiriy's writing style and provides good teaching opportunities for literature, linguistics, and cultural studies in Uzbek education.

Somatic phrases are phrases that include body parts like "ko'z" (eye), "yurak" (heart), "bosh" (head), and "til" (tongue). They can be literal, like *bosh og'rig'i* meaning headache, or figurative, like *bosh ko'tarmoq* which means to rebel. In literature, the figurative versions are more common, conveying complex emotions and social comments.

As Mahmudov (2021) points out, "Somatic phraseology reflects not only physical experience but also cultural perceptions of the body as a site of emotion, morality, and power." This is evident in the Uzbek literary tradition, especially in *Bygone Days*, where these expressions connect abstract ideas with clear imagery.

Qodiriy uses somatic phrases to show the inner struggles, social pressures, and emotional conflicts of his characters. For instance, "*Yuragi ezildi*" (His heart ached) shows emotional pain, often linked to forbidden love or moral issues. "*Ko'zi ochildi*" (His eyes opened) represents awareness or understanding, usually following personal loss or political betrayal. "*Tiliga kelmadi*" (He couldn't bring it



to his tongue) reflects social limits or inner conflict about sharing forbidden thoughts. These phrases are not random; they come from a culturally specific system where the body represents feelings, wisdom, and defiance.

In *Bygone Days*, Qodiriy uses somatic language to create realistic and complex characters. For example, the main character Otabek is described with phrases like "boshini egdi" (he bowed his head), which indicates humility, respect, or despair, based on the situation. His love interest, Kumush, is often characterized by "ko‘zlari yoshlandi" (her eyes filled with tears), which captures her emotional depth and vulnerability.

Such expressions make the characters relatable and help readers connect with their challenges. They also highlight class distinctions, as some somatic phrases reflect formal language while others use street slang or religious speech.

The novel also critiques societal norms through somatic language. In scenes of arranged marriages, Qodiriy uses "ko‘ngli yo‘q" (her heart is not in it) to express the emotional pain of forcing women into marriages they don't want. When discussing corrupt clergy, he describes them as "bosh egib, ko‘z yumdi" (he bowed his head and closed his eyes) not to show humility, but to indicate passive compliance. In this way, somatic phrases have a socio-political role, exposing hypocrisy, revealing injustices, and expressing shared trauma. Their emotional strength adds to the novel's effectiveness as a social critique.

The importance of learning somatic phrases is very high, especially in the context of Uzbekistan. Teachers of literature and language can use parts from *Bygone Days* to:

- Teach students about phraseological units and their deeper meanings;
- Discuss the link between language and culture;
- Improve students' vocabulary and skills in understanding text;
- Encourage pride in their culture and awareness of their language.

For instance, a lesson could focus on comparing how somatic phrases are different in Uzbek and English, or how Qodiriy shows women's emotions through





body imagery. This approach not only develops language skills but also promotes a greater appreciation of literature.

Additionally, students can work on comparative exercises using similar phrases in English like "heartbroken," "head over heels," or "tongue-tied" to show both shared language features and cultural differences.

In conclusion, somatic phrases in *Bygone Days* aren't just fancy language; they are key to the novel's feelings, cultural meaning, and deeper messages. Abdulla Qodiriy skillfully uses body imagery to create a strong story about love, morals, and social changes. In Uzbek educational institutions, especially in language and literature departments, studying somatic phrases through classic works like *Bygone Days* can greatly enhance students' language skills and cultural understanding. It also opens up new opportunities for research in areas like stylistics, translation, and cross-cultural communication, as language reflects life, and the body is where meaning is expressed—and Qodiriy truly knew how to draw the essence of the human soul.

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