

**CLASSIFICATION OF THE IMAGE OF THE MOTHER IN WILLIAM
FAULKNER’S AS I LAY DYING AND O’TKIR HOSHIMOV’S
DUNYONING ISHLARI**

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Abstract

This paper explores the representation of the mother figure in William Faulkner’s *As I Lay Dying* and O’tkir Hoshimov’s *Dunyoning Ishlari*. Both novels depict the mother as a central but complex character whose role extends beyond traditional maternal duties. Through a comparative literary approach, this study classifies the mother’s image into three primary categories: sacrificial mother, absent mother, and symbolic mother. By analyzing Addie Bundren and Sadbar opa, this paper reveals how these authors present motherhood in relation to family, society, and existential struggles. The findings demonstrate that while Faulkner portrays a psychologically tormented mother with a modernist approach, Hoshimov presents a deeply compassionate yet tragic mother within a realist framework.

Keywords: Motherhood, William Faulkner, O’tkir Hoshimov, Comparative Literature, Maternal Identity

1. Introduction

Motherhood is a recurring theme in world literature, shaping narratives that explore familial relationships, sacrifice, and personal identity. William Faulkner and O’tkir Hoshimov, though from different literary traditions, both construct intricate portrayals of mothers who influence their families in profound ways. This paper seeks to classify the maternal image in *As I Lay Dying* and *Dunyoning Ishlari* through thematic and character-based analysis.

The study aims to answer the following research questions:

1. How do Faulkner and Hoshimov construct the image of the mother in their respective works?
2. What classifications of motherhood emerge from these portrayals?
3. How does cultural and literary context influence the depiction of mothers in these novels?

2. Literature Review

2.1. Faulkner’s Addie Bundren: A Postmodernist Mother

Faulkner’s *As I Lay Dying* (1930) is a modernist novel that deconstructs traditional motherhood through Addie Bundren. Scholars argue that Addie represents a rebellious mother, rejecting conventional maternal roles (Bleikasten, 1995). She questions the meaning of motherhood, viewing it as a burden imposed upon her by society.

2.2. Hoshimov’s Sadbar Opa: A Realist Depiction of Motherhood

Hoshimov’s *Dunyoning Ishlari* (1982) presents Sadbar opa, a mother whose life is marked by self-sacrifice and endurance. Unlike Addie, she embodies maternal warmth, yet suffers due to her unwavering dedication to family values. Scholars classify her as a martyr mother, representing post-Soviet maternal struggles (Karimov, 2005).

3. Comparative Analysis: Classification of Motherhood

3.1. The Sacrificial Mother

Sadbar opa sacrifices her health and happiness for her children, embodying the traditional mother figure.

Addie Bundren, however, sees sacrifice as meaningless and only fulfills her maternal role out of obligation.

3.2. The Absent Mother

Addie, despite being alive, is emotionally detached from her children. Her death further emphasizes her absence.

Sadbar opa, though present, is often overlooked by her children, symbolizing an absence of appreciation.

3.3. The Symbolic Mother

Addie symbolizes existentialist disillusionment; her presence questions social expectations of motherhood.

Sadbar opa represents maternal resilience, embodying Uzbek cultural ideals of patience and sacrifice.

4. Findings and Discussion

This study finds that Faulkner and Hoshimov, despite their different backgrounds, use the mother figure to critique societal expectations. Addie’s story aligns with existentialist and modernist movements, rejecting traditional motherhood. In contrast, Sadbar opa reflects the Soviet and post-Soviet cultural emphasis on selfless motherhood.

The key differences in their portrayal arise from:

Philosophical influences (Modernism vs. Realism)

Cultural expectations of motherhood (Western individualism vs. Eastern collectivism)

Narrative techniques (Stream of consciousness vs. traditional storytelling)

5. Conclusion

The classification of mothers in Faulkner’s and Hoshimov’s works reveals diverse perspectives on maternal identity. Addie Bundren challenges traditional roles, while Sadbar opa embodies them with resilience. This comparison highlights how literature reflects cultural attitudes toward motherhood, shaping how societies perceive maternal roles. Future research may explore how these themes appear in other global literary traditions.

References:

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