

**ANALYSIS OF SIMILARITIES AND DIFFERENCES OF  
CHARACTERS IN THE WORKS OF SOMERSET MAUGHAM AND  
ABDULLA KAHHOR**

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**Abstract:** This thesis analyzes the similarities and differences among the characters in the works of two prominent 20th-century writers - the English author Somerset Maugham and the Uzbek writer Abdulla Kahhor. The study examines the complexity of human nature, and moral issues are reflected through their characters, highlighting the influence of cultural and historical contexts. The thesis focuses on the psychological portraits of the characters, their social roles, and the likeness and contrasts in the authors' literary styles.

**Keywords:** Somerset Maugham, Abdulla Kahhor, character analysis, literary characters, English literature, Uzbek literature, psychological portrait, literary style, comparative literature

**Introduction:** Literature plays an important role as a reflection of human experience, culture, and social environment. Every writer expresses the cultural, and moral state of their time through their literary characters. The works of the English writer Somerset Maugham and the Uzbek writer Abdulla Kahhor are distinctive examples of 20<sup>th</sup> century literature, in which human psychology and moral dilemmas are explored in depth through their protagonists. This thesis explores the similarities and differences between the characters in the works of Somerset Maugham and Abdulla Kahhor, focusing on their literary style, cultural context, and social significance. The aim is to help readers understand how human nature is portrayed across different cultures and nations through the lens of these two authors.

**Main body:** The characters in Somerset Maugham's works often possess complex psychological portraits that reveal the inner contradictions of human nature. Most of them are compelled to make moral choices in real-life situations, frequently torn between their emotions and social norms. Through his characters, Maugham explores human weaknesses, desires, and anxieties. For example, in his novel *Of Human Bondage*, the protagonist Philip Carey embodies the struggle of inner turmoil and the search for self-identity. Abdulla Kahhor's characters are largely shaped by the social environment and national mentality. They often represent ordinary people who face the realities of daily life, traditional customs. In Kahhor's works, the characters' loyalty, diligence, and love for life play a central role. For example, in his short story "**Sinchalak**", the main character Siddiq reflects **inner conflict** between: **traditional village life and modern thinking, personal desires and social expectations, fear of judgment and the urge for self-expression**. The leading character doesn't search for identity in the same individualistic way as Philip Carey, but there's a strong **moral and psychological tension** as he struggles with hypocrisy, self-respect, and integrity - **a culturally rooted version of inner turmoil**. Both authors' characters share common themes such as humanity, inner struggle, and moral choices. They both portray their main heroes as realistic and relatable individuals, inviting readers to explore their inner worlds more deeply. Moreover, each writer reveals contemporary human concerns through the personal problems and social roles of their characters. While Somerset Maugham's characters are more inclined toward individualism and personal freedom, Abdulla Kahhor's characters are closely tied to social obligations, traditions, and national values. Maugham emphasizes psychological analysis in his works, whereas Kahhor focuses more on social context and historical circumstances, which greatly influence his characters' lives. These differences arise from the distinct cultural and historical backgrounds of the two authors. Somerset Maugham's works are often set within the context of Western society, particularly the culture of the British middle and upper classes. Therefore, his

characters frequently emphasize individual freedom, personal happiness, and spiritual exploration. Maugham's writings explore the human psyche in detail, especially as it struggles against social norms and moral boundaries. Abdulla Kahhor portrays the traditions, national values of the Uzbek people. His characters often stand at the center of societal transformation and experience issues related to national identity, spirituality, and customs. Therefore, the characters in Kahhor's works are typically depicted as individuals who feel a strong sense of social responsibility and are often willing to sacrifice personal interests for the benefit of the community. Maugham's literary style is simple, clear, and rich in psychological analysis. He reveals the inner world of his characters in depth and sometimes highlights their weaknesses through irony and sarcasm. In his narratives, Maugham pays particular attention to the emotional experiences of the individual. Kahhor, on the other hand, places more emphasis on realism and moral-ethical themes in his works. His style is close to national oral traditions, and his characters are closely linked to real-life events and social conditions. Alongside their internal experiences, Kahhor also highlights his characters' social roles and responsibilities with high regard.

**Conclusion:** The central characters in the works of Somerset Maugham and Abdulla Kahhor reflect the complexity of human nature and explore moral and social issues from different perspectives. Their characters share similarities such as humanity, inner struggles, and moral choices, which both writers portray in their unique literary styles. The differences mainly arise from cultural and social contexts. Maugham's characters emphasize individualism and personal freedom, while Kahhor's characters embody social responsibility, national values, and collective interests. These distinctions reflect the unique features of each writer's time and society. The literary legacy of Somerset Maugham and Abdulla Kahhor contributes to a deep understanding of human psychology, society, and culture, highlighting both the universal and unique aspects of humanity across different nations and traditions.

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