

A COMPARATIVE ANALYSIS OF THE CHARACTERS OF ELIZABETH BENNET AND KUMUSH:

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Annotation

This article explores a comparative analysis of two literary characters: Elizabeth Bennet from Jane Austen's *Pride and Prejudice* (1813) and Kumush from the Uzbek novel *Kumush* by Abdulla Qodiriy (1929). Both characters exist within distinct cultural and historical contexts—Elizabeth within Regency-era England and Kumush within early 20th-century Uzbek society. Despite these differences, both characters challenge the social expectations placed upon them, navigating complex relationships and personal growth. Through a feminist lens, the analysis highlights their respective portrayals of intelligence, independence, and self-awareness. This comparison also seeks to illuminate the ways in which both authors use their protagonists to critique societal norms and advance the discourse on women's roles in their respective societies.

Key words: discovery, culture, socio-political, national hero, intellectual, emotional, literature, impact, essential.

Аннотация

В этой статье рассматривается сравнительный анализ двух литературных персонажей: Элизабет Беннет из романа Джейн Остин «Гордость и предубеждение» (1813) и Кумуш из узбекского романа «Кумуш» Абдуллы Кодира (1929). Оба персонажа существуют в различных культурных и исторических контекстах — Элизабет в Англии эпохи Регентства, а Кумуш в узбекском обществе начала XX века. Несмотря на эти различия, оба персонажа бросают вызов социальным ожиданиям, возложенным на них, управляя сложными отношениями и личностным ростом. Через феминистскую призму анализ подчеркивает их соответствующие изображения интеллекта, независимости и самосознания. Это сравнение также стремится пролить свет на способы, которыми оба автора используют своих главных героев для критики общественных норм и продвижения дискурса о роли женщин в своих обществах.

Ключевые слова: открытие, культура, социально-политический, национальный герой, интеллектуальный, эмоциональный, литература, воздействие, существенный.

Introduction:

The exploration of female protagonists in literature often provides a lens through which the social, political, and cultural expectations of their time can be examined. Elizabeth Bennet, the heroine of Jane Austen's *Pride and Prejudice*, and Kumush, the central character of Abdulla Qodiriy's *Kumush*, are two such protagonists who, though shaped by their respective societies, demonstrate similar traits of independence, intelligence, and self-respect. This article aims to conduct a comparative analysis of these two characters, focusing on how each navigates societal expectations, family dynamics, and romantic relationships.

Set in early 19th-century England, *Pride and Prejudice* explores the theme of marriage as a social and economic necessity. Elizabeth Bennet defies the traditional expectation that women should marry for financial security, prioritizing love and personal values instead. Her decision to reject Mr. Collins' proposal, despite its potential benefits, is an act of resistance against the social norms of her time. In contrast, *Kumush* is situated in early 20th-century Uzbekistan, a period marked by political and cultural shifts. Kumush challenges the traditional roles assigned to women in her society, facing familial expectations and societal constraints. Her character symbolizes the clash between traditional values and modern ideals, reflecting the broader cultural transition in Uzbekistan at the time.

Elizabeth Bennet is perhaps one of the most celebrated characters in English literature. Her intelligence, humor, and sharp wit challenge the conventional image of the demure, passive woman of her time. Elizabeth's refusal to marry Mr. Collins, despite the advantageous nature of such a union, demonstrates her agency in making decisions that align with her personal values rather than conforming to societal pressures. Her relationship with Mr. Darcy, a man of wealth and status, evolves as a mutual recognition of each other's integrity, beyond superficial wealth and appearances. Elizabeth's critique of social norms becomes apparent in her interactions with her family, particularly with her mother and her sisters. Through her defiance, she serves as a critique of the narrow role assigned to women in Regency society, promoting the idea of marriage based on love and mutual respect rather than social or economic advantage. Kumush, the protagonist of Abdulla Qodiriy's *Kumush*, embodies the struggles faced by women in early 20th-century Uzbek society. Coming from a traditional family, Kumush is expected to fulfill the roles of a devoted daughter, wife, and mother. However, her intelligence and

aspirations set her apart from the traditional path that society and her family have mapped out for her. Like Elizabeth, Kumush resists the pressures placed on her and seeks personal freedom, demonstrating her desire for self-determination. Kumush's relationships with her suitors further illustrate her inner conflict between tradition and her evolving views on love and autonomy. Unlike Elizabeth, whose primary concern is love and respect in marriage, Kumush faces a more complicated situation, balancing her desire for personal freedom with societal and political expectations.

Both Elizabeth Bennet and Kumush, though living in vastly different contexts, reflect an early feminist discourse in literature. Elizabeth, in her rejection of marriage for convenience and her insistence on marrying for love, challenges the patriarchal structures that dictate women's roles. Her wit, intellect, and unwillingness to compromise on her principles align her with feminist ideals, making her an early representation of a woman who desires autonomy within the confines of a patriarchal society. Kumush, while emerging from a different cultural and historical context, exhibits similar traits of independence and intellectual curiosity. As the novel unfolds, she wrestles with societal and familial expectations, all the while asserting her right to personal freedom and self-expression. Her journey reflects the struggle for female autonomy in a society where women's roles are traditionally defined by marriage and motherhood.

A comparison of Elizabeth Bennet and Kumush highlights their shared rejection of conventional expectations regarding marriage. Both women refuse to conform to the idea that marriage is the ultimate goal for women, seeking instead relationships based on mutual respect and emotional connection. However, their experiences differ in the pressures they face—Elizabeth's challenges stem primarily from the social norms of Regency England, while Kumush contends with both traditional Uzbek values and the broader political and social changes of her time. Both characters are portrayed as intelligent, independent, and outspoken, subverting the typical portrayal of women as passive figures. They each engage in personal growth, learning to navigate the constraints of their societies while asserting their autonomy. Their critiques of marriage, family, and honor demonstrate their desire for greater control over their own futures.

Conclusion:

In conclusion, the characters of Elizabeth Bennet and Kumush, though separated by time and culture, offer valuable insights into the ways in which literature reflects and critiques the social structures that shape women's lives. Both characters defy traditional gender roles and

expectations, ultimately asserting their autonomy in environments that seek to limit their choices. Through these two protagonists, both Austen and Qodiriy critique the limitations placed upon women and offer a vision of female empowerment rooted in love, intelligence, and self-respect. These works not only contribute to the development of feminist literary discourse but also serve as timeless examples of women navigating and challenging the social and cultural forces of their time.

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