

The Formation of a Story as a Genre in American and Uzbek Literature

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Abstract

This article explores the evolution and importance of the short story as a literary genre; it reveals the development of the short story from its early forms in oral traditions, such as myths and legends, to its emergence as a distinct literary genre in Europe and America. The article examines literary movements and, it highlights the significance of artistic details and conciseness in writing short stories. The article shows a historical origination of short story development in Uzbek prose, illustrating the genre's adaptability and its evolving narrative techniques across different periods.

Keywords: novella, episode, plot, exposition, story, prose, components.

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INTRODUCTION.

A story is crucial to express complex ideas in a brief way in literature. People often remember stories better than complicated facts or data because they provoke their emotions. The most important part of a person's life is revealed in a story.

A story is a work of prose fiction that contains 1,600 and 20,000 words; it stands out with its characteristic feature of depicting a few episodes or scenes in human life. It does not provide information about the protagonist's social background. A story was developed as an independent genre in written form of literature. The Italian writer Boccaccio was one of the writers who made a great contribution to the evolution of the short story in European literature. In his work *The Decameron*, he narrated one hundred stories told by seven girls and three boys. In world literature, stories created by writers such as Honoré de Balzac, Jack London, Anton Chekhov, Ernest Hemingway, Leo Tolstoy, and Maxim Gorky are highly appreciated by readers.

In the 14th century, the first examples of stories in English literature can be seen in Geoffrey Chaucer's *The Canterbury Tales*. In Russian literature, Anton Chekhov is recognized as the father of modern story writing. In American literature, great attention has been paid to the short story, and in the 19th century, American writer Francis Bret Harte (1836-1902) acknowledged the short story as the national genre of American literature. In the West, the term "novella" was introduced into Literary Studies at the end of the

13th century, based on the collection *Novellino* ("One Hundred Ancient Novellas"). The word "novella" is derived from the Occitan language of the southwestern France region, which borders Spain and Italy, and comes from the word *nova*, meaning "new." In a novella, events are often narrated with a new interpretation.¹

METHODOLOGY.

Comparative Literature Analysis: The article compares the development of a story in American and Uzbek literature from early to contemporary forms, examining how this genre developed in different periods of literature.

Historical Literary Analysis: A historical approach is utilized to trace the evolution of the short story genre, both in Western and Uzbek literature. The study shows early specific milestones in the story's development, such as the contributions of writers like Boccaccio, Chaucer, Poe, and others.

Qualitative Analysis: This method focuses on determining the narrative techniques, character development, and the description of themes; the research evaluates how different writers used literary techniques to express complex ideas within a concise form; the study provides a comprehensive analysis of the short story genre's formation, tracing its evolution, examining its key features.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION.

The first collection of short stories in American literature is considered to be Washington Irving's *The Sketch Book* (1819-20), written by the father of American literature. In the 1830s and 1840s, the short story genre gained popularity in the United States, and stories began to be published in the periodicals of American journals. In the 1900s, modern short stories were published in popular magazines such as *Atlantic Monthly*, *The New Yorker*, and *Harper's Magazine*. In the stories written during this period, readers observed the authors' unique styles.

It can be noticed that stories contained ironic, humorous, and tragic elements. One of the writers who contributed to the development of the short story genre in American literature is Edgar Allan Poe. According to Edgar Allan Poe, a short story gains artistic value only when it has a psychological or emotional impact on the reader. Meletinsky listed the following types of stories: 1. A story that helps the reader re-perceive the content of the artistic work at the end. 2. A story that focuses on the plot's knot related to the past in the artistic work. 3. A story with a broad plot full of conflicts.²

The deep analysis of human mind is primarily the central theme in the short stories of 19th-20th century American literature. Additionally, during this period, logical stories established the main principles of the adventure genre. Edgar Allan Poe expressed the following view about storytelling: "A skilled writer writes short stories. A skilled author does not focus on the details of the story but he seeks ways to express the central problem clearly and distinctly. It is necessary to select words carefully that play an important role in describing the entire story."³ Through the author's efforts, the story reaches a level of perfection. The author's main concept is expressed with clarity, and the artistic intention is not obscured by anything." Edgar Allan Poe also acknowledged, "A story can be read in one sitting."⁴

One of the representatives of American short story writers of the 19th-20th centuries is O. Henry. O. Henry's short stories are considered to be full of humor and unexpected events; his stories were appraised highly by readers. Erik Miller lists these types of short stories in American literature:⁵

1. The chronotope of the story;

¹ A.Saidov. Qiyosiy adabiyotshunoslikka kirish. – Toshkent: G‘.G‘ulom nomidagi nashriyot-matbaa ijodiy uyi, 2020. – P.587.

² E.M. Мелетинский. Историческая поэтика новеллы. – Москва: Наука, 1990. – С.164.

³ .Saidov. Qiyosiy adabiyotshunoslikka kirish. – Toshkent: G‘.G‘ulom nomidagi nashriyot-matbaa ijodiy uyi, 2020. – P.589.

⁴ Jose Flavio. The Short Story: a New Literary Genre. Faculdade de Letras Universidade Federal de Minas Gerais Belo Horizonte. – 7-108p.

⁵ Eric Miller. Theories of Story and Storytelling. – 2011. P.3.

2. The participation of characters in the story;
3. The plot of the story;
4. The emotions and feelings of the characters are expressed with exact words and phrases;
5. The uniqueness of the author's style, language, and perspective;
6. The theme of the story.

The researcher Jose Flavio distinguished the differences between a novel and a short story. Brander Matthews emphasized, "The earliest forms of short stories appeared in ancient times in the form of legends, myths, and fairy tales within the oral traditions of the people. A short story presents a description of life composed of a single hero, a single event, and emotions." In a short story, the author has the opportunity to choose a broad subject matter. "A short story cannot be a true short story without a plot," Matthews continued. Brander Matthews was the first among critics to define the short story as an independent genre.⁶

Jose Flavio highlights the following important aspects of short stories in his scientific work:

- a) A short story can consist of 3000-7000 words and it has the characteristic feature of brevity, conciseness, and compactness;
- b) In short stories, time and space are combined, and the plot is formed by one or two main characters;
- c) In a short story, the author's voice leads the narrative, and its exposition, plot development, climax, and resolution are combined;
- d) The final part of stories created in the 21st century carries profound philosophical significance, where conclusions can be drawn from the character's behavior;
- e) The short story is based on a single theme or idea, and the issues of everyday life are described. In Uzbek literature, the earliest examples of short stories can be seen in the inscriptions of Kultegin, To'nyuquq, and Bilgahoqon, where events are depicted. The means of description, plot, and compositional structure of the short story are presented in a simple manner, and the plot events are narrated through the author's voice.

According to Y. Solijonov, when the term "story" is used in a broad sense, it can mean "to narrate." Over time, a story has continuously evolved, renewed, and gone through stages of development. It is evident that a story has changed both in content and form in each era.⁷

In classical literature, the main characters in stories were created in a static and unchanging way, whereas in the early 20th century, the main characters of stories seemed to have dynamically evolving personalities. Authors reflected in their stories the time and conditions in which they lived themselves. Y. Solijonov outlines these stages of development in storytelling:⁸

1. The 12th-15th centuries (From Rabg'uzi's to A.Navoi stories)
2. The 16th-20th centuries (The stories of Poshoshoxoja)
3. The 1920s of the 20th century (The stories of A. Fitrat, A. Qodiriy, Cho'lpon, A. Avloniy)
4. The 1930s-40s of the 20th century (The stories of G'. G'ulom, A. Qahhor, Oydin)
5. The 1940s-60s of the 20th century (The stories of S. Ahmad, A. Muxtor, P. Qodirov, O. Yoqubov)

⁶Jose Flavio. The Short Story: a New Literary Genre. Faculdade de Letras Universidade Federal de Minas Gerais Belo Horizonte. – P.10.

⁷ Y. Solijonov. Hozirgi adabiy jarayon. – Toshkent: Innovatsiya-Ziyo, 2020. – P.63.

⁸ Solijonov. Hozirgi adabiy jarayon. – Toshkent: Innovatsiya-Ziyo, 2020. – P.65.

6. The 1960s-90s of the 20th century (The stories of Sh. Xolmirzayev, O‘. Hoshimov, X. Sultonov)
7. The 1990s of the 20th century and 2020s of the 21st century (The stories of writers such as X. Do‘stmuhammad, N. Jaloliddin, U. Hamdam, A. Yo‘ldoshev)

Stories which are created in each period of literature had their own distinctive principles. Specifically, the stories in "Qissasi Rabg‘uziy" represent the earliest example of Turkic prose, depicting historical and religious events. In the medieval stories, more emphasis was placed on fantasy and romanticism than on realism. Furthermore, many early examples of the short story genre can be found in A. Navai's works.

In the 1910s-30s, realistic stories emerged, depicting daily life events and beginning to show the features of realism. From this period, the depiction of society's life in a realistic way began. Stories such as Cho‘lpon's "Qurboni Jaholat," A. Avloniy's "To‘g‘rilik" and "Aqlli Bog‘bon" had an educational significance. The emergence of realistic stories such as Cho‘lpon's "Qurbon Jaholat," "Do‘xtur Muhammadiyor," and A. Qodiriy's "Uloqda" can be observed in 20th-century Uzbek literature. The stories created in the 20th century also reflect the spiritual and cultural evolution of humanity, showing the expansion of thinking.

Y. Solijonov points out the following distinctive features of the short story:

- a) the ability to depict a large event with a small episode; For instance, Utkir Hoshimov narrated the events of World War II in his stories "Dehqonning Bir Kuni" and "Urushning So‘nggi Qurboni".
- b) creating dynamic characters involves – forming evolving heroes from static ones. In Z. Qurolboy's story "Tafakkur," the inner emotional world of the main character is depicted as changing, showcasing the protagonist's dynamic transformation.
- c) utilizing details in stories is important; The author strives to create a perfect story by using artistic details. Describing artistic details vividly helps enhance the story's realism.⁹

A. Qahhor was able to depict a young couple's life who was suffering from poverty in the past with his story of "Pomegranate". He was intended to show how families were going to break up due to destitution. V.G. Belinsky expressed the following opinion about a story: "A story is an episode from the endless poem of human destiny. It can be considered a novel divided into parts. Some events are difficult to portray in a single drama in life. However, within its limited frame, the story has the opportunity to select and depict an event from life."¹⁰

Jack London stated: "The story is a completed episode of life, and it expresses the unity of mood, situation, and action." L.I. Timofeyev emphasized: "The story is created based on a specific event in a person's life, where the characters are fully formed, and very few characters participate in a story; the plot of the story has its own unique climax and resolution, and through these components, the story frames an episode of human life."¹¹

Literary scholars distinguish two types of short stories: 1. Descriptive (narrative) 2. Novelistic (conflict-based narrative). In literary studies, one of these types is referred to as a short story, while the other is called a novella.

The compositional features of the novella include: a) The "observer" role of the narrator is noticeable in short stories; b) The time of the event in the story matches the time of the narration; c) The theatricality – readers imagine the events of the story and form the illusion of watching them; d) The plot of the story develops with intensity.¹²

⁹ Solijonov. Hozirgi adabiy jarayon. – Toshkent: Innovatsiya-Ziyo, 2020. – P.67.

¹⁰ T. Boboyev. Adabiyotshunoslik asoslari. – Toshkent: O‘zbekiston, 2002. – P.470.

¹¹ T. Boboyev. Adabiyotshunoslik asoslari. – Toshkent: O‘zbekiston, 2002. – P.472.

¹² D.H. Quronov. Adabiyot nazariyasi asoslari. – Toshkent: Noshir, 2019. – B.266.

CONCLUSION.

It is known that a story has a smaller volume compared to the novel. There are no compressed episodes or digressions in a story because it has a limited volume. The emotional state of the characters in a specific situation, the changing plot of the developing event, strong dramatism, and a random resolution all demonstrate the important characteristic features of a story.

According to M. Gorky's point of view, creating details in an artistic work is crucial because it helps reveal the inner world of the protagonist, the plot, and the author's conception. Anyway, attention is paid to the conciseness of detailing in the story. The artistic detail serves as a key tool for generalizing life, and it helps the events in the story develop quickly.

The short story reveals an important aspect of the character's life and, with its simplicity and compactness; it differs from other genres of the epic type. The skill of the short story writer is determined by their ability to select a socially and aesthetically valuable event.

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