

Scottish International Conference on Multidisciplinary Research and Innovation – SICMRI 2026

THE REPRESENTATION OF ADOLESCENT PERSONALITY AND PSYCHOLOGY IN G'AFUR G'ULOM'S "SHUM BOLA"

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<https://doi.org/10.5281/zenodo.22141689>

Abstract

This research examines the representation of adolescent personality and psychological development in G'afur G'ulom's well-known Uzbek literary work Shum Bola (The Mischievous Boy). The protagonist Qoravoy is portrayed as a young boy whose personality develops under the influence of poverty, social difficulties, family circumstances, interpersonal relationships, and various life experiences. The study focuses on the major psychological characteristics of adolescence reflected in Qoravoy's behavior, including curiosity, independence, resourcefulness, emotional sensitivity, fear, courage, optimism, adaptability, and the desire for freedom. Particular attention is given to the relationship between the adolescent personality and the social environment in which the protagonist grows up. The research demonstrates that G'afur G'ulom does not present Qoravoy merely as a mischievous or playful child; instead, he creates a psychologically complex young character whose adventures reveal the contradictions of childhood and the gradual movement toward adulthood. The humorous and satirical narrative style of the author plays an important role in revealing the protagonist's inner world, while the social circumstances surrounding Qoravoy explain many aspects of his behavior and decisions. The study concludes that Shum Bola represents adolescence as an important period of psychological formation in which a young individual learns to understand society, establish personal independence, overcome difficulties, and develop a distinct sense of identity. The work therefore has considerable literary, psychological, social, and educational significance for the study of adolescent personality in Uzbek literature.

Keywords: G'afur G'ulom, Shum Bola, Qoravoy, adolescent personality, adolescent psychology, adolescence, childhood, character development, social environment, independence, humor, Uzbek literature.

Introduction

Adolescence is one of the most important and complicated stages in the development of human personality, because it represents a transitional period between childhood and adulthood during which an individual gradually develops independent thinking, emotional awareness, social responsibility, personal values, and a distinct understanding of the surrounding world. During this period, a young person becomes increasingly interested in questions concerning identity, freedom, relationships, morality, and social expectations, while previous childhood perceptions of the world begin to change under the influence of personal experience. For this reason, adolescence has always been an important subject in literature, since the representation of a young character provides writers with an opportunity to explore not only individual psychological development but also broader social and moral issues. Uzbek literature contains many works in which childhood and adolescence are presented through vivid characters and realistic social circumstances, and among these works G'afur G'ulom's Shum Bola occupies a particularly important position. The work presents the adventures of Qoravoy, a young boy whose character is shaped by the difficult social and economic conditions surrounding him, as well as by his personal encounters with different people and situations. Qoravoy is lively, curious, energetic, resourceful, and sometimes mischievous, but behind his humorous actions there is a sensitive and observant young personality attempting to understand the complicated

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world of adults. His behavior cannot be explained simply by the concept of childish mischief, because many of his actions are closely connected with the desire to survive, adapt to circumstances, gain independence, and discover the rules of social life. Through Qoravoy, G'afur G'ulom presents adolescence as a period in which personality develops through direct experience, social interaction, hardship, curiosity, and self-discovery. The author's humorous style is particularly significant because serious social and psychological problems are often presented through comic situations, allowing the reader to perceive both the entertaining and the tragic dimensions of the protagonist's life. Qoravoy's adventures reveal the tension between childhood innocence and the harsh realities of life, between the desire for freedom and the need for responsibility, and between dependence on adults and the growing desire for independence. His psychological development is therefore closely connected with his social environment, and his personality changes as he encounters new people, unfamiliar situations, dangers, disappointments, and opportunities. The relevance of studying this topic is determined by the continuing importance of adolescent psychology in literary studies and education, since understanding literary representations of young people can help explain how personality develops under the influence of social conditions and personal experience. The main purpose of this study is to examine the representation of adolescent personality and psychology in G'afur G'ulom's *Shum Bola*, focusing particularly on Qoravoy's character, emotional experiences, behavior, relationships, and process of psychological maturation. The research also aims to identify the role of humor, social environment, life experience, and independence in the formation of the protagonist's personality and to demonstrate how the author transforms the adventures of one young boy into a broader artistic representation of adolescence and society.

Methodology

The research applies literary-textual analysis, psychological characterization, contextual interpretation, and comparative analysis to examine the representation of adolescent personality and psychology in G'afur G'ulom's *Shum Bola*. Literary-textual analysis is used to investigate the protagonist's speech, actions, behavior, relationships, and reactions to different events, while psychological analysis focuses on identifying the emotional and mental characteristics that define Qoravoy as an adolescent character, including curiosity, fear, courage, independence, sensitivity, adaptability, impulsiveness, optimism, and the desire for freedom. The contextual approach is used to examine the influence of the social and economic environment on the protagonist's personality, since Qoravoy's character cannot be understood separately from the difficult circumstances in which he lives and the people with whom he interacts. The study considers how poverty, social inequality, adult behavior, interpersonal relationships, and everyday difficulties contribute to the development of the protagonist's independence and resourcefulness. Comparative interpretation is also applied to examine the relationship between childhood innocence and emerging maturity, particularly by considering how Qoravoy's reactions and decisions demonstrate changes in his understanding of life and society. In addition, attention is paid to G'afur G'ulom's artistic techniques, especially humor, satire, dialogue, characterization, and everyday details, because these techniques play a significant role in revealing the psychological complexity of the protagonist. Humor is interpreted not simply as an entertaining element but as a literary device that allows the author to present serious social and psychological issues in an accessible and emotionally powerful form. The protagonist's comic actions, mistakes, fears, and adventures are therefore analyzed as expressions of a developing personality rather than as isolated episodes. The research also draws upon theoretical concepts of adolescent psychological development and literary characterization in order to connect the textual observations with broader ideas about personality formation. Through these methods, the study seeks to demonstrate that Qoravoy's development is determined by the interaction between individual characteristics and external circumstances, and that his personality gradually becomes more complex as he gains experience and develops a greater awareness of himself and the world around him.

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Results

The analysis demonstrates that Qoravoy is a psychologically complex adolescent character whose personality combines a number of seemingly contradictory qualities, including mischievousness and sensitivity, fear and courage, dependence and independence, playfulness and seriousness, curiosity and caution, and emotional vulnerability and adaptability. One of the most prominent characteristics of his personality is curiosity, because Qoravoy constantly seeks to understand the world around him and becomes involved in unfamiliar situations that provide him with new experiences. His curiosity frequently leads him into adventures and sometimes creates difficulties, but it also becomes an important source of knowledge and personal development, as he learns through direct observation and experience rather than simply accepting information from others. Another significant feature of his personality is resourcefulness, which becomes especially important because of the difficult circumstances surrounding his life. Qoravoy is often required to find practical solutions to unexpected problems, and his ability to think quickly demonstrates his intelligence and adaptability. His resourcefulness also shows that his mischievousness has a functional dimension: he does not simply act in a rebellious manner but often uses creativity and quick thinking to respond to circumstances that are beyond his control. Independence is another central characteristic of Qoravoy's personality, as he increasingly attempts to make decisions on his own and to determine his own actions rather than remaining completely dependent on adults. This desire for independence reflects one of the fundamental psychological characteristics of adolescence, when a young person begins to seek personal freedom and develops an awareness of individual identity. At the same time, Qoravoy is not represented as fearless or emotionally invulnerable, because he experiences fear, uncertainty, loneliness, anxiety, embarrassment, and emotional tension, which make his character realistic and psychologically convincing. His courage becomes meaningful precisely because it exists alongside fear; he is able to continue acting and searching for solutions even when circumstances are frightening or uncertain. The analysis also reveals that Qoravoy possesses considerable emotional sensitivity, and although his external behavior is often humorous and energetic, he is deeply affected by his experiences and relationships with other people. His interactions with adults and children influence his understanding of trust, authority, kindness, injustice, and responsibility. The social environment plays a particularly important role in his development because poverty and difficult living conditions force him to become more observant, independent, and adaptable than a child living in a more secure environment might need to be. Therefore, his mischievous behavior can be interpreted not simply as childish disobedience but also as a response to social circumstances and an expression of his active attempt to understand and navigate the world. The results further demonstrate that humor is one of the most important artistic tools through which G'afur G'ulom reveals the protagonist's psychology, because comic situations allow the reader to see both the innocence of childhood and the seriousness of the social problems surrounding the child. Qoravoy's adventures may produce laughter, but they also reveal poverty, inequality, social pressure, and the vulnerability of children, creating a contrast between the humorous surface of the narrative and its deeper psychological and social meaning. Another important result concerns Qoravoy's relationship with the adult world: he observes adults carefully, attempts to understand their behavior, and gradually develops his own judgments about their actions, which indicates the emergence of independent thinking. His experiences also demonstrate a gradual transition from spontaneous childhood behavior toward greater awareness of consequences and responsibility. Although he remains playful and mischievous, his experiences provide him with knowledge that changes his understanding of people and society. Thus, Qoravoy's character develops dynamically, and his adventures function as stages of psychological growth through which he becomes increasingly aware of himself, other people, and the social environment.

Discussion

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The representation of Qoravoy in *Shum Bola* demonstrates that adolescence should be understood not simply as a biological or chronological stage but as a complex period of psychological, emotional, and social development in which the individual gradually establishes a personal identity and learns to understand the surrounding world. One of the most important features of G'afur G'ulom's portrayal is the combination of humor and seriousness, because the adventures of Qoravoy are often amusing on the surface while simultaneously revealing difficult social and psychological realities. Through this method, the author avoids presenting the protagonist as a purely comic figure and instead creates a multidimensional character whose behavior must be understood within the circumstances of his life. Qoravoy's mischievousness is therefore not merely a negative quality; it is closely related to curiosity, creativity, independence, and the desire to explore the world. His ability to find unconventional solutions demonstrates intellectual flexibility and adaptability, which are important characteristics of a young personality developing under difficult conditions. At the same time, his mistakes and impulsive decisions demonstrate that adolescence is also a period of incomplete emotional and social maturity, when young people may act quickly before fully considering the consequences. The contrast between Qoravoy's external behavior and internal emotional world is particularly important because he may appear energetic, humorous, and confident while simultaneously experiencing fear, uncertainty, loneliness, or emotional vulnerability. This contrast reflects the complexity of adolescent psychology, in which emotional states may change rapidly and outward behavior does not always reveal inner feelings. The social environment is also essential for interpreting Qoravoy's personality, because the protagonist does not develop independently of society; rather, his character is shaped through his relationships with adults, peers, and the broader social world. Economic hardship and social difficulties encourage him to become self-reliant at an early age, while encounters with different people teach him to distinguish between kindness and cruelty, honesty and deception, authority and injustice. The tension between freedom and responsibility is another important aspect of the protagonist's development. Qoravoy desires freedom and resists restrictions, but his experiences gradually teach him that freedom is connected with consequences and responsibility. This tension is characteristic of adolescence, when a young person begins to demand greater independence while still learning how to control emotions, evaluate situations, and make responsible decisions. The work also emphasizes the importance of direct experience in the formation of personality, since Qoravoy's understanding of life is developed primarily through what he sees, experiences, and encounters rather than through abstract instruction. Every adventure becomes a kind of practical lesson, and every difficulty contributes to his psychological growth. From this perspective, the journey of Qoravoy can be interpreted as a process of informal education through which he gradually develops knowledge about human relationships, society, and himself. G'afur G'ulom's artistic style strengthens this process because the author uses lively language, humorous descriptions, dialogue, and everyday details to make the protagonist's psychological world accessible and convincing. Instead of providing lengthy psychological explanations, the writer allows readers to understand Qoravoy's emotional state through his actions, speech, reactions, and relationships. This technique makes the character more natural and realistic. The adolescent personality represented in *Shum Bola* also has important educational significance because Qoravoy demonstrates the value of adaptability, intelligence, optimism, courage, and the ability to learn from experience, while his mistakes demonstrate the importance of guidance, responsibility, and reflection. Therefore, the work can be viewed not only as an entertaining narrative about a mischievous boy but also as a meaningful literary exploration of how a young personality is formed under the influence of difficult social circumstances. Qoravoy represents a universal type of adolescent who is curious about the world, seeks independence, experiences fear and uncertainty, makes mistakes, learns from experience, and gradually develops a more mature understanding of life.

Conclusion

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The analysis of G'afur G'ulom's *Shum Bola* demonstrates that the work provides a rich and multifaceted representation of adolescent personality and psychology through the character of Qoravoy, who is portrayed as a lively, curious, resourceful, emotionally sensitive, independent, and psychologically developing young person. The protagonist's character cannot be reduced to the image of a mischievous child because his behavior reflects a much deeper process of personality formation influenced by social circumstances, personal experience, interpersonal relationships, and the desire for freedom. His curiosity encourages him to explore the world, while his difficult circumstances force him to become adaptable and resourceful; his desire for independence encourages him to make his own decisions, while his mistakes gradually teach him responsibility; and his fears and emotional vulnerabilities make his courage and optimism more meaningful. The study shows that Qoravoy's psychological development is closely connected with the social environment in which he lives, and poverty, inequality, adult relationships, and everyday difficulties become important factors in the formation of his personality. The humorous and satirical character of the narrative also contributes significantly to the representation of adolescent psychology, because G'afur G'ulom uses comic situations to reveal serious social and psychological problems without losing the natural liveliness of the young protagonist. The contrast between the humorous surface of the story and the difficult realities behind it allows the author to create a complex image of childhood and adolescence in which innocence exists alongside hardship and playfulness exists alongside the early experience of responsibility. Qoravoy's adventures can therefore be understood as stages in a gradual process of psychological maturation, through which he learns to observe people, evaluate situations, overcome difficulties, understand consequences, and develop a more independent worldview. His character also demonstrates that adolescence is a transitional period characterized by contradictions: the desire for freedom exists alongside dependence, courage alongside fear, curiosity alongside uncertainty, and childish playfulness alongside an emerging awareness of adult realities. In this sense, *Shum Bola* makes an important contribution to the representation of adolescent psychology in Uzbek literature. G'afur G'ulom succeeds in presenting the inner and outer world of a young person through a combination of realistic social observation, humor, vivid characterization, and dynamic storytelling. Qoravoy's personality is therefore significant not only as an individual literary character but also as a representation of universal aspects of adolescent development. The work remains relevant because its portrayal of curiosity, independence, emotional sensitivity, social adaptation, and the search for identity continues to correspond to important characteristics of young people. Ultimately, *Shum Bola* demonstrates that adolescence is a formative stage in which a person's character is shaped through experience, relationships, difficulties, and self-discovery, and Qoravoy's development provides a vivid literary example of how a young personality gradually moves from childhood innocence toward a more conscious understanding of life and society.

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