

EXPRESSION OF SENTIMENTALISM IN THE WORKS OF OLMAS UMARBEBKOV*Aliqulova Dildora Bakir kizi**PhD in Philological Sciences**Acting Associate Professor, Turon University**To'layeva Oydin Bokhodir kizi**Student, Turon University*

Annotation: This article analyzes the elements of sentimentalism in the works of the Uzbek writer Olmas Umarbekov. Based on the novella “Sevgim – sevgilim” (“My Love – My Beloved”), it explores the artistic portrayal of human emotions, love, conscience, honor, and inner experiences. The study highlights the distinctive features of how emotions are represented in Uzbek prose through the author’s characters. Umarbekov's use of nature imagery and psychological analysis aligns with the aesthetic principles of sentimentalism. The research also references literary critics’ opinions to present a thorough analysis of Umarbekov’s artistic approach.

Keywords: Sentimentalism, emotions, inner experience, Uzbek prose, love, conscience, nature.

Introduction

Literature is a reflection of the human soul, inner emotions, and social consciousness. Each literary movement is notable for its unique aesthetic principles and stylistic approaches. One such movement is sentimentalism, which emerged in the West in the 18th century and focused on promoting values such as humanity, compassion, love, closeness to nature, and spiritual purity. In sentimentalist literature, emotions play a central role, and the inner experiences and emotional states of characters are at the heart of the narrative.

In contemporary literary studies, an in-depth analysis of the emotional and aesthetic aspects of Uzbek prose—particularly the depiction of human emotions—has become one of the most pressing issues. From this perspective, studying the works of People’s Writer of Uzbekistan, O‘lmas Umarbekov, through the lens of sentimentalist principles helps to highlight his artistic mastery and contributes to a deeper understanding of the emotional-aesthetic direction in Uzbek literature.

In O‘lmas Umarbekov’s short stories and novellas—particularly in works such as “My Love – My Beloved”, “Child of War”, “Letters to My Daughter”, and “It’s Hard to Be Human”—concepts like the human psyche, love, purity, conscience, and honesty are revealed through artistic expression. Rather than focusing on major dramatic events, the author often conveys deep human emotions through seemingly small yet profoundly meaningful incidents. This approach is one of the defining characteristics of sentimentalism.

As a skilled writer of novellas, O‘lmas Umarbekov is well known to readers. His dozens of novellas cover a wide range of themes, including contemporary life, history, romance-adventure, and war. On this subject, academician Sobir Mirvaliyev emphasizes: "O‘lmas Umarbekov, as a writer of novellas, belongs to the ranks of those who have made a significant contribution to the development of Uzbek literature. Nearly ten of his novellas hold an important place in the literary process, and many of them have been highly praised by literary critics. Among them, "My Love – My Beloved", "Jora Village", "Desert of Iraq", "Who Has No Worries", "Child of War", "Summer Rain", and the recent essay "Letters to My Daughter" are still being read with great affection. Despite being one of his earliest works in this genre, the novella "My Love – My Beloved" sparked widespread discussion in the literary community of the 1960s. The reason was the presentation of a unique and previously unexplored issue within the story."(1:19)

In agreement with academician Sobir Mirvaliyev’s views, it can be said that O‘lmas Umarbekov is not only a master of short stories but also a writer who has made a significant contribution to the development of Uzbek prose through his novellas. In particular, his novella "My Love – My Beloved" is rightfully recognized as one of the earliest sentimental experiments in our literature. The central issue raised in this work—the clash between human emotions and societal pressure, along with internal conflicts—was a novel and innovative approach for its time.

The protagonists in Umarbekov’s works are ordinary people who dream, love, and struggle—yet they never lose their sense of self. Through this simplicity, Umarbekov masterfully touches the delicate strings of the human soul. The emotional depth conveyed through the characters of O‘ktam and Oypopuk, in particular, leaves a lasting impression on the reader. His novellas are valuable not only for their plot development but also for their internal drama, psychological insight, and poetic imagery. The wide-ranging discussions sparked by "My Love – My Beloved" reflect a growing literary tendency to explore human emotions more deeply, marking the rise of a new direction in literature. "My Love – My Beloved" is one of the most striking examples in this regard. Through the main character O‘ktam’s inner experiences and his pure love for Oypopuk, the story speaks directly to the reader’s heart. O‘ktam’s emotional turmoil, his sensitivity to nature, and the inner transformations brought about by love are portrayed with great depth and nuance.

The character of Oypopuk in the novella is portrayed as a sincere, compassionate woman in need of love and warmth. Although she cannot openly express her feelings, her silence and actions subtly reveal her emotions. The story poetically conveys themes such as love, devotion, loyalty, and patience, elevating them through artistic expression.

Literary scholars such as Gulchehra Abdullayeva, Umida Rasulova, and Sobir Mirvaliyev have also praised the emotional and aesthetic layers in Umarbekov’s works, highlighting his remarkable skill in conveying emotions through characters. According to them, the author’s creative approach has greatly enriched Uzbek prose.

Through the characters of O‘ktam and Oypopuk, O‘lmas Umarbekov deeply explores the subtle aspects of the human soul and reveals how emotions manifest in different life

situations. These characters allow readers to confront emotional experiences that are genuinely encountered in real life, making the narrative all the more relatable and impactful.

Through O'limas Umarbekov's novella "My Love – My Beloved", sentimentalism is presented in its most natural and compelling form. The characters' emotions, inner transformations, and the lessons of love invite the reader to deep contemplation. Umarbekov is a masterful writer who has created emotionally rich and artistically refined works. His exceptional ability to express feelings through characters holds a significant place in the development of Uzbek prose.

Sentimentalism is a literary movement that seeks to explore the inner world of the human soul through deep emotional expression and artistic imagery. It is not only an aesthetic approach but also a philosophical method of understanding human nature, emphasizing feelings and moral sensitivity as central values in life and literature. Through sentimentalism, literature unveils the emotional landscape of individuals, revealing their joys and sorrows, love and loss, and their pursuit of spiritual meaning.

Sentimental works may not always be rich in external events, but they are powerful in conveying the emotional experiences that resonate with the reader's own feelings. This reflects how literature prioritizes human sensitivity, moral depth, and the authenticity of emotion. In particular, the harmony between the natural world and the human inner self—frequently emphasized in sentimental literature—helps to establish a deeper connection between the individual and the universe.

In Western literature, Goethe's *The Sorrows of Young Werther*, and in Eastern and Uzbek literature, O'limas Umarbekov's *My Love – My Beloved* are vivid examples of sentimentalism. These works portray the timeless value of love, loyalty, longing, and the unity of man and nature. They deeply affect the reader's heart and encourage them to re-evaluate their own emotions and experiences. Even in modern literature, elements of sentimentalism have not lost their significance. On the contrary, in an age of rapid technological advancement and artificial lifestyles, people increasingly seek purity, genuine emotions, and inner peace—often found in works influenced by sentimentalism. Thus, sentimentalism is not merely a historical literary trend but an enduring need of human nature that remains relevant today.

Therefore, studying sentimentalism and analyzing its presence in Uzbek literature—as well as exploring the works of our authors who emphasize the sanctity of emotions—continues to be an essential task for contemporary literary criticism and theory.

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