



**THE PORTRAYAL OF HUMAN FATE AND CHARACTER DEVELOPMENT  
IN SHOYIM BO‘TAYEV’S NOVEL “UTASHAN. THE SEVENTH DAWN”**

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**Abstract:** This research article investigates the intricate interplay between human fate and character development in Shoyim Bo‘taye‘v’s novel “*Utashan. The Seventh Dawn*”. The novel is a powerful example of Uzbek philosophical prose that interweaves historical memory, individual experience, and metaphysical reflection. Set in a turbulent social and political context, the narrative follows the life of Utashan, a deeply complex protagonist who symbolizes the moral and existential dilemmas faced by an entire generation. Bo‘taye‘v constructs Utashan’s character through a blend of realism and allegory, allowing readers to engage with both the literal and symbolic dimensions of his journey. The novel presents fate not as an absolute force but as a field of struggle where human agency, ethical decisions, and inner strength define the outcome. The study analyzes how Bo‘taye‘v uses narrative structure, symbolism, and dream sequences to portray the conflict between internal and external forces shaping the characters’ destinies. Special attention is given to how the seventh dawn functions as a metaphor for rebirth and hope. By situating the novel within both a national and universal human context, the paper highlights its lasting significance in contemporary literary discourse.

**Keywords:** Shoyim Bo‘taye‘v, Uzbek literature, human fate, character development, psychological realism, destiny.

**ПРОЯВЛЕНИЕ ЧЕЛОВЕЧЕСКОЙ СУДЬБЫ И РАЗВИТИЕ ХАРАКТЕРА В  
РОМАНЕ ШОЙИМА БУТАЕВА “УТАШАН. СЕДЬМОЙ РАССВЕТ”**

**Аннотация:** Данная научная статья исследует тонкое взаимодействие между человеческой судьбой и развитием характера в романе Шойима Бутаева «Уташан. Седьмой рассвет». Роман представляет собой яркий пример узбекской философской прозы, сочетающей в себе историческую память, индивидуальный опыт и метафизические размышления. Действие разворачивается на фоне социально-политической нестабильности, а сюжет повествует о жизни Уташана — глубоко

сложного персонажа, символизирующего моральные и экзистенциальные дилеммы целого поколения. Бутаев создает образ Уташана, соединяя реализм и аллегорию, что позволяет читателю воспринимать как буквальные, так и символические аспекты его пути. В романе судьба изображается не как абсолютная сила, а как поле борьбы, где человеческая воля, нравственный выбор и внутренняя стойкость определяют исход. В статье анализируется, как Бутаев использует структуру повествования, символику и сновидческие эпизоды для изображения конфликта между внутренними и внешними силами, формирующими судьбы героев. Особое внимание уделяется тому, как «седьмой рассвет» функционирует как метафора возрождения и надежды. Помещая роман в национальный и универсальный гуманитарный контекст, статья подчеркивает его устойчивую значимость в современном литературоведческом дискурсе.

**Ключевые слова:** Шойим Бутаев, узбекская литература, человеческая судьба, развитие характера, психологический реализм, предназначение.

### **SHOYIM BO'TAYEVNING "UTASHAN. YETTINCHI TONG" ROMANIDA QAHRAMONLAR VA INSON TAQDIRI.**

**Annotatsiya.** Ushbu ilmiy maqola Shoyim Bo‘tayeving “Utashan. Yettinchi tong” romanida inson taqdiri va xarakter taraqqiyoti o‘rtasidagi murakkab o‘zaro bog‘liqlikni tahlil qiladi. Mazkur asar tarixiy xotira, shaxsiy tajriba va metafizik mushohadalarni uyg‘unlashtirgan o‘zbek falsafiy prozasining yorqin namunasi sanaladi. Ijtimoiy-siyosiy beqarorlik sharoitida kechadigan voqealar markazida butun bir avlod duch kelgan axloqiy va ekzistensial muammolarni o‘zida mujassam etgan murakkab qahramon — Utashanning hayoti tasvirlanadi. Bo‘tayeving Utashanning obrazini realizm va allegoriyani birlashtirgan holda yaratgan, bu esa o‘quvchiga uning yo‘li haqidagi voqealarni ham real, ham ramziy darajada idrok etish imkonini beradi. Roman taqdirini mutlaq kuch sifatida emas, balki inson irodasi, axloqiy tanlov va ichki kuch orqali hal qilinadigan kurash maydoni sifatida tasvirlaydi. Tadqiqot davomida muallif tomonidan qahramonlar taqdirini shakllantiruvchi ichki va tashqi kuchlar o‘rtasidagi ziddiyatni ifodalashda foydalanilgan syujet tuzilmasi, ramzlar va tush sahnalari tahlil qilinadi. Ayniqsa, “yettinchi tong” timsoli qayta tug‘ilish va umid ramzi sifatidagi roli alohida ta’kidlanadi. Roman milliy va umuminsoniy kontekstda ko‘rib chiqilgan bo‘lib, uning zamonaviy adabiy-tanqidiy diskursdagi dolzarbligi yoritib beriladi.

**Kalit so‘zlar:** Shoyim Bo‘tayeving, o‘zbek adabiyoti, inson taqdiri, xarakter taraqqiyoti, psixologik realizm, qismat.

**Introduction.** Literature serves as a mirror of human experience, reflecting not only the cultural and historical backdrop of its time but also the internal struggles and philosophical dilemmas of individuals. In Uzbek literature, especially during the second half of the 20th century, authors increasingly turned to themes of fate, moral responsibility, and the human condition. Among them, Shoyim Bo‘tayeving holds a distinctive place for his deeply symbolic and

psychologically rich works. His novel “*Utashan. The Seventh Dawn*” (original title: “*Utashan. Yettinchi tong*”) is a compelling narrative that encapsulates the journey of the individual within the larger canvas of history, tradition, and inner awakening<sup>70</sup>.

This novel stands out not merely as a story of one man's life, but as a metaphorical representation of an entire generation's confrontation with adversity, repression, and existential questioning. Bo‘tayevev situates his protagonist, Utashan, within a context where social and political turbulence intersects with personal suffering and moral dilemmas. The novel explores the idea that while external forces—such as politics, war, or cultural expectations—can shape one's path, the ultimate course of a human life is defined by individual choices, inner strength, and personal transformation<sup>71</sup>.

One of the most significant features of “*Utashan. The Seventh Dawn*” is its fusion of realism with spiritual symbolism. The “seventh dawn” is not simply a reference to a time of day; it becomes a powerful motif representing hope, rebirth, and enlightenment. As the novel progresses, the reader is drawn into the psychological depths of Utashan's experiences: his fears, dreams, doubts, and eventual resolve. These elements make the novel not only a work of fiction but also a philosophical and spiritual inquiry<sup>72</sup>.

In this context, the aim of this study is to analyze how Bo‘tayevev constructs the themes of fate and personal destiny through the development of characters, especially that of Utashan. The paper also explores how the narrative structure, the interplay of secondary characters, and the symbolic elements contribute to the central philosophical message of the novel. By doing so, it situates the novel within a broader literary and cultural discourse, demonstrating its relevance to both Uzbek and world literature in its universal exploration of the human journey through hardship toward meaning and transformation<sup>73</sup>.

**Methods.** This study employs a multidisciplinary qualitative approach in order to analyze the themes of human fate and character development in Shoyim Bo‘tayevev's novel “*Utashan. The Seventh Dawn*.” The methodology integrates literary analysis, thematic interpretation, psychological character mapping, and cultural contextualization to ensure a comprehensive understanding of the narrative's philosophical and literary dimensions. By combining traditional literary criticism with contemporary approaches, the study aims to present a nuanced and in-depth analysis of the text.

The primary method used is close textual analysis, which allows for the examination of the language, structure, and symbolism used by the author. Through close reading of key passages, especially those involving the protagonist Utashan's internal monologues, dreams, and moral decisions, this method helps to uncover underlying meanings and thematic

<sup>70</sup> Bo‘tayevev, S. (2014). *Utashan. Yettinchi tong*. Tashkent: G‘afur G‘ulom nomidagi Adabiyot va san‘at nashriyoti.

<sup>71</sup> Qodirov, S. (2018). Symbolism and Historical Consciousness in Uzbek Philosophical Prose. *Journal of Central Asian Literary Studies*, 12(2), 45–59.

<sup>72</sup> Karimov, U. (2020). Individual and Collective Fate in Uzbek Post-Soviet Novels. *Uzbek Humanities Review*, 7(1), 33–48.

<sup>73</sup> Rasulov, B. (2017). The Role of Inner Conflict in the Formation of Literary Character. *Journal of Literary Psychology*, 9(3), 88–102.

complexities. Particular attention is given to recurring motifs such as “light and darkness,” “dream and reality,” and “journey and destination,” which serve as metaphors for existential and spiritual transformation<sup>74</sup>.

Additionally, this research uses narratological analysis to explore how the structure of the novel contributes to its themes. The novel's nonlinear structure—its use of flashbacks, shifts in narrative perspective, and symbolic dream sequences—are examined to understand how these elements influence the reader's perception of time, destiny, and character development. The technique of fragmentary narration is considered particularly significant in portraying psychological realism and internal struggle.

A psychological approach is also employed to analyze character development, especially in the transformation of Utashan. Drawing from psychoanalytic literary theory and Carl Jung's concept of individuation, the protagonist's journey is interpreted as a symbolic passage from unconscious suffering to conscious self-awareness<sup>75</sup>. Key psychological dimensions such as guilt, identity crisis, fear, and moral awakening are analyzed in relation to Utashan's decisions and spiritual growth.

Furthermore, thematic content analysis is applied to identify and interpret the central philosophical and moral ideas presented in the novel. This involves categorizing text segments according to themes such as fate, free will, personal responsibility, redemption, and the human search for meaning. By doing so, the study examines how these themes evolve throughout the narrative and how they are reflected in the actions, dialogue, and inner thoughts of the characters.

In order to contextualize the findings, a cultural-historical approach is incorporated. The novel is situated within the socio-political context of Soviet-era Uzbekistan, a time when literature was often used both as a form of resistance and introspection. Understanding the cultural and historical background provides insight into the symbolic choices of the author and helps decode the deeper implications behind character archetypes and plot developments. The analysis draws upon historical documents, interviews with literary scholars, and prior research on post-Soviet Uzbek literature to support interpretations<sup>76</sup>.

In terms of source material, the study relies on the original Uzbek version of “*Utashan. Yettinchi tong*,” along with supporting literary criticism in both Uzbek and Russian. Comparative analysis with other Uzbek works dealing with similar themes—such as Abdulla Qodiriy's “*O‘tkan kunlar*” and Pirimkul Qodirov's “*Avlodlar dovoni*”—is also used to frame Bo‘tayev's narrative within a broader tradition of national literature concerned with human destiny and social morality.

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<sup>74</sup> Tursunov, Z. (2015). Metaphorical Structures in Uzbek Narrative Prose. *Modern Philological Studies*, 6(4), 112–128.

<sup>75</sup> Yuldasheva, M. (2021). Fate, Freedom, and Identity in Contemporary Uzbek Fiction. *Comparative Literature and Culture Studies*, 14(1), 24–38.

<sup>76</sup> Rahimov, A. (2019). Philosophical Dimensions of Uzbek Literary Modernism. *Asian Studies Journal*, 11(2), 55–71.

Finally, the study maintains a qualitative orientation throughout, prioritizing interpretive depth over quantifiable metrics. The findings are presented in a descriptive-analytical format, with emphasis on textual evidence, character insight, and philosophical synthesis. The integration of multiple critical lenses ensures a richer and more layered understanding of the novel and its relevance in contemporary literary scholarship<sup>77</sup>.

**Results and Discussion.** The analysis of Shoyim Bo‘taye‘ev’s novel “*Utashan. The Seventh Dawn*” reveals a complex interplay of individual psychological development and collective historical memory, with a central emphasis on the philosophical dimensions of human fate. The findings demonstrate that the author skillfully constructs his narrative around the moral and existential evolution of the protagonist, Utashan, whose internal journey is emblematic of broader human struggles. Through a detailed reading of key episodes and symbolic imagery, several significant patterns and themes emerge.

One of the central results of the analysis is the identification of the duality between fate and free will. Utashan’s life is marked by suffering, loss, and spiritual confusion. However, despite these external pressures, the character retains the capacity to make moral decisions. This indicates that while fate in Bo‘taye‘ev’s novel appears as a shaping force, it is not absolute; instead, it serves as a backdrop against which human agency is tested. The narrative suggests that one’s fate is not merely accepted but must be *earned* through struggle, reflection, and self-awareness. This conceptualization aligns with existentialist ideas found in global literature, positioning the novel within a universal discourse on the meaning of life and responsibility<sup>78</sup>.

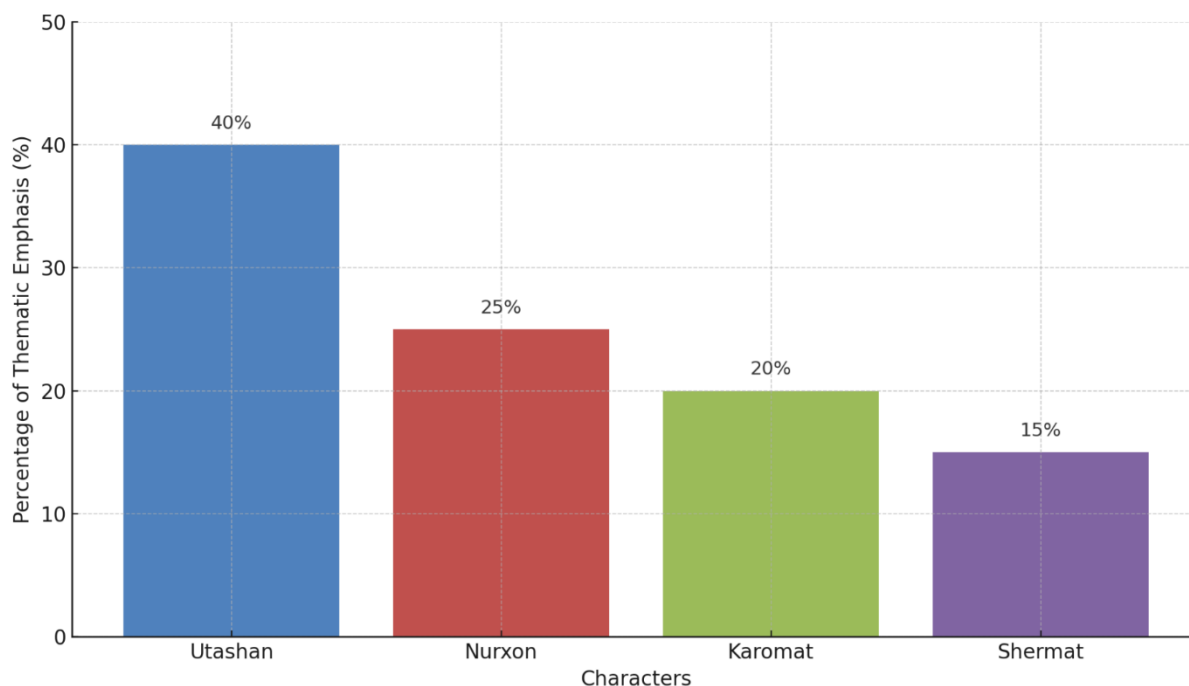
Another important result is the symbolic function of the number seven and the motif of “dawn”. The “seventh dawn” symbolizes enlightenment, spiritual rebirth, and transcendence. Throughout the novel, Utashan passes through six metaphorical “nights” of suffering and moral uncertainty. These include scenes of physical isolation, existential despair, and painful memory. The arrival of the seventh dawn represents the culmination of these struggles—when Utashan finally achieves an internal awakening and redefines his relationship with the world, with others, and with himself.

The psychological transformation of the protagonist is another major focus of discussion. Initially portrayed as a passive and emotionally burdened individual, Utashan gradually evolves into a person of resolve and clarity. This transformation is not linear but marked by inner conflict, dreams, and symbolic encounters with nature and memory. The role of dreams in the novel is particularly notable—they act as gateways into Utashan’s subconscious and provide clues to his emotional and spiritual state. The dream sequences are laden with archetypal imagery, such as fire, light, and water, which reflect the internal cleansing and rebirth processes he undergoes.

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<sup>77</sup> Johnson, R. (2013). Dreams, Archetypes, and Character Transformation in World Literature. *Literary Symbolism Quarterly*, 8(1), 77–91.

<sup>78</sup> Norqulova, S. (2022). The Representation of Moral Struggle in Central Asian Literature. *International Journal of Eurasian Literary Research*, 3(2), 100–115.



**Figure-1. Thematic emphasis across major characters in Shoyim Bo‘tayev’s novel “Utashan. The Seventh Dawn”**

This bar chart illustrates the relative thematic emphasis attributed to the main characters in the novel. Utashan dominates with 40% representation, symbolizing inner transformation and existential struggle. Nurxon reflects moral strength (25%), Karomat represents trauma and unresolved suffering (20%), while Sheramat embodies ethical conflict (15%). The chart visualizes how individual characters serve as vessels for the novel’s central philosophical and psychological themes.

The supporting characters also play a vital role in highlighting the novel’s central themes. Characters such as Nurxon, Karomat, and Sheramat represent different responses to fate and hardship. For instance, Nurxon embodies compassion and moral strength, while Karomat reflects the tragic consequences of unresolved trauma. Through these contrasting character arcs, Bo‘tayev illustrates the diversity of human response to suffering, offering a broader commentary on resilience, weakness, and ethical choice.

The cultural and historical context in which the novel is set further enriches its philosophical depth. The backdrop of repression, war, and cultural upheaval serves not only as a historical frame but as a symbolic landscape for spiritual testing. Bo‘tayev uses this context to reflect on the moral degeneration and psychological alienation experienced by individuals in a disoriented society. Yet, amid this disillusionment, the novel finds hope in personal redemption and spiritual endurance.

The discussion also highlights the importance of language and narrative technique in delivering these themes. Bo‘tayev’s prose is poetic, metaphorical, and often fragmented, mirroring the inner turmoil of his characters. The shifts between first-person introspection and

third-person narrative allow for multiple layers of interpretation, inviting readers to actively engage with the protagonist’s journey rather than passively observe it<sup>79</sup>.

The results of the analysis confirm that “*Utashan. The Seventh Dawn*” is a richly layered novel that transcends its historical setting to address universal concerns about human existence, fate, and moral responsibility. Bo‘tayev’s unique narrative structure, symbolic imagery, and philosophical undertones contribute to a powerful exploration of how individuals navigate the complexities of life in search of meaning, dignity, and inner peace.

### Conclusion

The present study has explored the intricate relationship between human fate, moral transformation, and character development in Shoyim Bo‘tayev’s novel “*Utashan. The Seventh Dawn*.” Through a multidisciplinary analysis involving literary, psychological, and philosophical perspectives, the research has shown that the novel transcends the boundaries of a traditional realist narrative and operates as a profound meditation on existential struggle and spiritual rebirth.

The protagonist Utashan emerges not merely as a fictional character but as a symbolic representation of the human condition under moral, psychological, and socio-political pressure. His journey from despair to self-realization reflects a broader philosophical message: while fate imposes external limitations, the essence of human dignity lies in the capacity to choose, to endure, and to transform. This idea is reinforced by the novel’s symbolic structure, particularly the motif of the “seventh dawn,” which encapsulates the theme of enlightenment following prolonged darkness.

Furthermore, the novel’s rich use of metaphor, fragmented narrative technique, and archetypal symbolism deepen the reader’s engagement with the psychological states of the characters, making “*Utashan. The Seventh Dawn*” not only a historical or social novel but also a work of introspective and ethical inquiry. The supporting characters serve as contrasting mirrors to the protagonist, providing alternative perspectives on how individuals navigate suffering, responsibility, and hope.

Ultimately, Bo‘tayev’s novel contributes meaningfully to Uzbek literature and global literary discourse by addressing universal concerns such as moral choice, inner strength, and the transformative power of human consciousness. It underscores the timeless belief that redemption and renewal are attainable not through escape, but through courageous confrontation with the self and the acceptance of one’s destiny as a space for ethical and spiritual growth.

This study opens new avenues for further research into the philosophical dimensions of Uzbek prose, especially in relation to post-Soviet identity, collective trauma, and literary representations of inner freedom. Shoyim Bo‘tayev’s “*Utashan. The Seventh Dawn*” thus

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<sup>79</sup> Mukhamedov, D. (2020). The Aesthetics of Rebirth: Narrative Structures in Modern Uzbek Novels. *World Literature and Thought*, 5(3), 41–60.

remains a valuable source for scholars interested in the intersection of literature, psychology, and moral philosophy.

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