

ARTISTIC DETAIL IN ULMAS UMARBKOV'S NOVEL "FOTIMA AND ZUKHRA"

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Nargizaxon Bannapova
abdulaziznargiza2@gmail.com
Andijan Branch of Turon University

Abstract: This article discusses artistic detail, which is considered a compositional device participating in the construction of a literary work. The artistic details in the famous writer Ulmas Umarbekov's novel Fotima and Zukhra are analyzed.

Keywords: compositional devices, artistic detail, character, psychology of images, depiction, detective work, style

INTRODUCTION. Literature is a mirror of life. It can be said that all the works existing and being created within its structure serve a particular purpose. Since literary works are an important object of study in literary criticism, studying and theoretically analyzing them further increases their value. A writer uses compositional devices in order to make the work artistically mature. "In creating a literary work as a whole, in connecting parts and events, and in recreating the environment in which the characters act, the writer uses various auxiliary compositional devices. Such compositional devices include lyrical digression, inserted episodes, artistic framing, epigraph, portrait, landscape, detail, and others. Not every one of these compositional devices must necessarily appear in a literary work. If portrait, landscape, lyrical digression, and detail are relatively common in literary works, others are encountered less frequently. Compositional devices possess a unique meaningfulness according to the role they play in revealing the idea of the work" [1.91]. In this regard, let us look at the analysis of artistic details existing in the works of the People's Writer of Uzbekistan, Ulmas Umarbekov.

Detail (from French detail - detail, trifle) refers to an artistic detail; in a literary work, it is a detail carrying a specific meaning and ideological-artistic burden. A detail is the material and means of creating artistic events; it concretizes the depicted object or phenomenon and animates it in a way that can be emotionally perceived [2.88]. Sometimes a writer builds an entire work around a small detail. That detail functions as a means connecting all events in the work and emphasizing the author's purpose. The great writer Abdulla Kahhor stated: "An interesting detail or a beautiful passage increases the value of a work only when its attractiveness and beauty serve to

propagate the idea.” Details are extremely diverse. A detail may appear in the speech of a character or author, during the depiction of a landscape, portrait, and so on [3.102]. The scholar Gulchekhra Abdullayeva, who researched Ulmas Umarbekov’s stories, provides the following example related to artistic detail in her brochure *Stories of Ulmas Umarbekov*.

LITERATURE REVIEW AND RESEARCH. In the story “Breath of Spring,” despite being surrounded, two soldiers rescue a little girl named Galina. One of the soldiers returns for her tulip and is wounded. After safely escaping the encirclement, the same tulip given by Galina is placed in an envelope and sent together with a letter to his comrade-in-arms. By using only the detail of a tulip in this story, the writer convinces the reader that pure human feelings can bloom, redden, and remain alive like a tulip even during wartime, when death threatens at every moment. “The writer appropriately used the tulip blooming in spring at the beginning of the story and the red tulip serving as a trigger for remembering the second event. The characters of the two soldiers are well revealed throughout the eventsof the story” [4.17]. In the writer’s story “The Watch”, there is also a story about a young man who always carefully wears the wristwatch inherited from his father. Through the detail of the watch, the writer teaches the reader to respect family traditions and values and not to allow them to disappear.

Everyday and nature-related details in literary works are important because they realistically and convincingly reflect real life. In depicting a character, the creator must correctly choose the details related to time and space. Only then can the character’s personality be portrayed clearly and convincingly. “Every literary work consists of countless artistic details related to people’s living conditions, characters, the psychology of heroes, and their constant change and development” [5.22].

An artistic detail not only conveys necessary information to the reader but also provides sufficient imagination about the character’s psychological state and external appearance. As Abdulla Kahhor said: “In a literary work, detail should not be decoration but beauty itself. Otherwise, it will resemble a miller’s boot” [6.81].

RESULTS. In the novel *Fotima and Zukhra*, artistic details also serve to reveal the content of the work, the development of events, and the characters’ personalities. Especially in detective-style works, every detail is of great significance. Therefore, all the details used by the author in this work contribute to exposing crimes. In addition, they indicate the characters’ personalities, psychology, and inner worlds. For example, let us consider the “poppy” detail mentioned at the beginning of the novel. The poppies found in the lands of the “Shifokor” collective farm actually belong to the chairman of the farm and have been his main source of income for years. They symbolize the stone-like heart of chairman Teshaboy Sultanov and his greed for wealth and luxury. Through the detail of the poppy, the writer depicts how

the chairman is spreading seeds of danger throughout society and poisoning the bodies, minds, and future of young people. For the reader, the psychology of this negative image becomes more vividly revealed.

Another artistic detail in the work is the diamond watch. "This is not an ordinary watch, it is a diamond watch. Very expensive. Look at this. The craftsman held Shakhodat's hand and showed the watch numbers. "Do you see the dots? All of these dots are diamonds! Twelve diamonds. The dot above every number is a diamond. You won't find such a watch in a store. How can I explain? The watch itself is from the store, of course. But later, a craftsman better than me pierced the places above the numbers and inserted diamonds into all of them. This watch now costs at least ten thousand soums. Not one hundred soums" [7.217].

This special watch had been given by collective farm chairman Sultanov to Shokhida Lukmonova, the head of the district cultural center. Romantic relations existed between these two characters, and when coldness arose between them, Teshaboy aka, with the help of Odamboy, got rid of Shokhida. Odamboy killed her and threw her into a cave. Her relatives suffered deeply because she disappeared. After some time, they even held a memorial ceremony. Shohida's mother found the watch among her daughter's belongings, and after learning its value, suspicion arose in her heart. She brought the watch to their neighbor, police major Kodirjon Aliyev. Sultanov also gave the same type of watch to a school graduate named Fotima. After Fotima's tragic death, this watch fell into the hands of the police, and it became clear that both watches belonged to the same person. At this point, a question arises: why did the writer choose specifically a watch? It could have been another object such as a ring, bracelet, or necklace. Here again, the author's skill in creating detail becomes apparent. The watch symbolizes time. No matter how much time passes, truth will emerge and justice will prevail. It proves to the reader that no one and nothing is eternal in this transient world. The precious diamonds symbolize the invaluable nature of time and human life and the necessity not to waste them on lust, wealth gained through immoral means, or ugly habits.

The detail of the letter is also significant. Fotima was kidnapped by hooligans. Her honor was violated. Unable to bear this humiliation, she decided to commit suicide and left a farewell letter to her sister Zuhra.

In this letter, she described the appearances of the young men who kidnapped her and wrote that she had unexpectedly heard her brother's voice in the house where she had been brought that terrible day. Regretting that she was leaving her sister alone and apologizing for being forced into such a situation, she asked for forgiveness. Through Fotima's letter, answers to many questions are found. As we know, when a crime is committed, photofits or approximate portraits of suspects are created based on witness descriptions. The important information written by Fotima

about the appearances of the young men serves as the photofit of the criminals in this detective work. It can therefore be said that Ulmas Umarbekov correctly and appropriately selected Fotima's letter as the most important compositional device influencing the development of events in the work.

Whenever the main character of the work, Teshaboy Sultanov, decided to eliminate people who posed a threat to him, he would turn to his loyal man Odamboy. Odamboy had found a cave inside the mountain near hidden paths leading to the field house in Tepabog, and he would secretly "bury" those sentenced to death there. At the end of the work, the secret of this cave is also revealed. Through the cave detail, the writer indicates that Sultanov and his accomplices had hidden their dark secrets there for years. The cave is located in a very beautiful place, but it has not only witnessed terrible tragedies but also concealed them within itself. At the beginning of the novel, Teshaboy Sultanov creates the impression of being generous, kind-hearted, and always concerned about the people. However, like the pitch-dark cave, he too is covered with "false beauty." As we continue reading the novel, we become convinced that evil lies behind the chairman's seemingly best human qualities. Here Ulmas Umarbekov portrays the image and detail proportionally to each other. He fully realizes the ideological and aesthetic purpose of depicting the character and conveying it to the reader.

DISCUSSION. "Detail is the miniature model of art" [8.304] and is the smallest component influencing the plot of a literary work. Plot events and various images and characters cannot be fully, clearly, and effectively expressed without details. If a detail is imagined as a particle within a work, every particle is important in revealing the content and portraying characters within the composition of the literary work. Therefore, "a detail is shorter than a tafsilot (description); a tafsilot is created from the combination of several 'particles'" [9.132]. Ulmas Umarbekov's mastery lies in his ability to use an apparently ordinary detail as a means of expressing a great truth and defining the idea of a detective work. "An artist must create another integrity from one integrity - a literary model of reality - and transform life material (disposition) into a literary work (composition). Therefore, the ability to transform disposition into composition belongs to the creator's innate potential, and the strength of talent is determined by the degree of this ability" [10.118].

CONCLUSION. In conclusion, the compositional device used by the writer - artistic detail - greatly contributed to making the work perfect in every respect, ideologically strong, beautifully created, and more clearly revealing the author's intended goals and tasks. For this reason, from the perspective of literary criticism, the compositional structure of works is studied and deeply analyzed aesthetically and theoretically. Indeed, every work of art written by a creator belongs to the people and

is entrusted with important tasks such as educating readers and broadening their worldview.

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