

WOMEN IN UKRAINIAN AND ARABIC LITERATURE: A COMPARATIVE STUDY OF THEIR ROLES AND PORTRAYALS

Studying literature, analyzing roles and portraying literary works are important areas that highlight the impact of culture and history on literature. The portrayal of women is particularly interesting in this context, as literary stories, poetry, and narratives reflecting society views of women and their roles within them. Thus, Ukrainian and Arab literature undoubtedly represent diverse and distinctive literary experiences, making them an important part of the world cultural heritage.

Key words: *Ukrainian and Arabic literature, society, women, portrayal, cultural development.*

Вивчення літератури, аналіз ролей та образів літературних творів є важливими аспектами, які висвітлюють вплив культури та історії на літературу. Зображення жінок особливо цікаве у цьому контексті, оскільки літературні твори, поезія та нарративи відображають уявлення суспільства про жінок та їх роль в ньому. Таким чином, українська та арабська література безсумнівно представляють різноманітні та відмінні літературні досвіди, роблячи їх важливою частиною світової культурної спадщини.

Ключові слова: *українська та арабська література, суспільство, жінки, зображення, культурний розвиток.*

The paper aims to understand how Ukrainian and Arab literature portray women in literary works and how their roles and experiences have been dealt with as well as to compare issues and topics related to women in literature and how to address them in literary works. We will also investigate the impact of culture and history on the portrayal of women in literature and how this depiction has evolved over time.

Ukrainian and Arab writers, poets and novelists used narrative and language in different ways in their portrayal of women in their work. In Ukrainian literature, they were distinguished using rich language and detailed descriptions of viewers and characters, allowing them to present detailed images of women and their roles. If they appear to be more affected by global cultural developments, reflected in the emergence of deeper and more complex representations of women, in the novel, for example, Lesya Ukrainka (Larysa Petrivna Kosach-Kvitka) addresses in depth the details of women's daily lives in Ukraine. In partnership with UNESCO, Ukraine celebrates every February 25 the birth anniversary of this moral symbol of love, peace, noble values and equality. It is one of the most prominent aspects of Ukraine's modern cultural field. This celebration acknowledges their contributions and honors women as symbols of homeland and beauty.

In Arab literature, it seems different: women have occupied an important area of Arab poetry, particularly in the age of ignorance, a period known as ignorant hair. As we conjure the poetry of Jamil Ben Muammar Bathina, whose love for her

inspired him to organize lengthy poems in which he describes her beauty and remains immortal to this day. We can only say that it is the story of Romeo and Juliet, the Arabs, although the space of time is great between them.

Next, talk will come about women who received a long tribute in the history of Islam. In particular, the wife of Prophet Muhammad (peace be upon him), Khadija, and Aisha, because of the great services she provided to Islam and Muslims. What characterizes Arabic literature in general is the linguistic and poetic power to describe characters and viewers. So that language is used to convey the emotional and spiritual aspects of women, and this is clearly reflected in the novels of Arab writers such as Najib Mahfouz, the winner of the Nobel Prize for Literature in his "زقاق المدق" or "اللس والكلاب", where he talked about women in different ways, from love to selfishness. Despite these differences in style, both Arabs and Ukrainians sought to highlight the importance of women's representation and experience in literary work and to enhance their role in society and culture. Generally, we can note that differences are only manifested in the use of narrative style and language in women's portrayals. The first is practical and accurate, while the latter tends to think deeply. However, both works of literature highlighted the importance of women's representation and experience in literary work.

A follower of the history of the development of women's roles in Ukrainian and Arabic literature will inevitably find himself in front of a clear divergence between both worlds and that they shared the roles assigned to them during the medieval period. In the Arab world, women were often perceived as weak, vulnerable, and fit only to give birth and have fun. For example, in Jahili poetry, there are poems that describe women as mere property. A well-known example is "لبيك يا لبيك" by the poet Jamil Ben Muammar Bathina.

With the advent of Islam, things will begin to change, especially with respecting the new religion of women and giving them rights that until recently were impossible, such as choosing a husband, the right to education, and inheritance. It began to portray the woman in a new, sophisticated, more profound and complex form, as in the "Thousand and One Nights" stories. For the anonymous author, Scheherazade embodies an inspirational storytelling figure who seeks to survive so as not to receive the same fate as her female predecessors at the hands of her master Shahriar.

The same was true for Ukrainian literature: women were also portrayed as purer and more beautiful. Even more powerful was Princess Olga of Kiev (920-969), who established an alliance with the powerful Byzantine state. She converted to Christianity, while her husband and son remained pagan. Olga influenced her grandson, Prince Volodymyr the Great, to accept Christianity, leading to the transformation of Kyevan Rus in 988. Historians at the time praised her strong personality and determination. It will be sanctified by the Orthodox Church. Lesya Ukrainka, for her part, showed an accurate portrayal of women and a challenge to traditional roles. Greater diversity and a deeper representation of the life challenges they face. These changes reflect advances in the cultural understanding and development of women in Arab and Ukrainian societies throughout the ages. Arabic

and Ukrainian writers and poets, among them, did not miss the portrayal of women as part of national identity, and this depiction has taken root throughout the ages. Women are an essential part of cultural and national identity. In Ukrainian literature, it was depicted as a symbol of the homeland and the earth. For example, great Ukrainian poet Taras Shevchenko has made poems extolling the role of rural women who embodied Ukrainian women as farmers or southerners linked to land and tradition and thus promoted national identity. For their Arab counterparts, women have a central role to play in building national identity, with strong and often influential female figures reflecting national values, traditions and spirit. For example, in Islam, Ms. Khadija and Fatma al-Zahra are important figures who have contributed to the construction of Islamic identity. Scheherazade, on a thousand nights, has represented the smart and playful woman, and in novels such as Ibrahim Nasrallah's "Zin al-Sabah", the female character contributes to the promotion of challenge and the formation of national identity. These examples illustrate how portraying women plays an important role in promoting national identity and emphasizing its importance as a central element of national culture and history.

A simple comparison between models of women shows us, for example, that in Lesya Ukrainka novel, a female figure is a symbol of power and independence in Ukrainian literature, a figure from a village world, characterized by her denunciation of traditional social traditions and her desire for justice and equality. This personality demonstrates women's ability to challenge the traditional roles imposed on them and seek to change society.

In contrast, the figure of "Shahrazad" in "Thousand and Night" (ألف ليلة وليلة) represents mental strength and female creativity. "Shahrazad" tells the tales to King Shahriar to survive and represents mental strength and inference. This character shows women's ability to use intellectual power to achieve cultural transformation in the Arab Middle Ages.

In sum, these two figures represent strong, independent women who are trying to transform their society. One uses physical force for challenge, while "Shahrazad" relies on mental strength and intelligence. They both share the challenge of traditional roles imposed on women and represent the power of women to bring about change and challenge in Ukrainian and Arabic literature. We can note that literature in both cultures plays a crucial role in the representation and portrayal of women. They appeared in diverse roles, ranging from strength and weakness to freedom and limitations. In this context, women have become literary figures who are embodied in their work and reflect the reality of the culture, society and time in which they are written.

Literature has become capable of transmitting social, cultural and women's issues, in particular, in a manner that transcends time and space. Despite different cultures and languages, the depiction of women in literature refers to the unity of human and spiritual experience.

Ultimately, the exploration of this issue addresses a significant and intricate theme with a varied history and diverse experiences. These narratives and stories not only

enhance the global cultural and literary discourse but also foster intercultural comprehension.

We hope that we have succeeded in bringing the visions between the Ukrainian and Arab worlds closer in dealing with women as a conscious entity that is of utmost importance in the building and prosperity of the nation. In sum, portrayal of women in Ukrainian and Arabic literature represents an important and thorny subject with a rich history and diverse experience, these novels and stories contribute to enriching global cultural and literary dialogue and promoting intercultural understanding.

References

1. https://www.academia.edu/31824145/The_Role_of_Women_in_Arabic_Literature
2. https://www.researchgate.net/publication/316786476_The_Image_of_the_Women_in_Arabic_Literature