

“THE ROLE AND CONTRIBUTION OF UMBERTO ECO AND ISAJON SULTAN TO THE DEVELOPMENT OF POSTMODERN LITERATURE “

Bafoyeva Rokhila Valijonovna

Scientific Supervisor: (PhD).

Asia International University

Department of Foreign Language and Social Sciences Assistant teacher.

Abdullayeva Sitara Erkin qizi

Researcher. Asia International University

1st-year Master's student

Abstract. This study explores the role and contribution of the Italian writer and semiotician Umberto Eco and the Uzbek novelist Isajon Sultan to the development of postmodern literature. The research examines the theoretical foundations of postmodernism and its major characteristics, including intertextuality, metafiction, plurality of meanings, and the fusion of historical reality with fictional narrative. Particular attention is paid to the distinctive artistic and philosophical features reflected in Eco's and Sultan's literary works. The study analyzes issues such as interpretation, symbolism, historical memory, and the active role of the reader in constructing textual meaning. Through a comparative approach, the research highlights the significance of both authors within global and Uzbek literary traditions and demonstrates their contribution to the enrichment of contemporary literary discourse.

Keywords: *postmodernism, literary aesthetics, semiotics, symbolism, narrative techniques, historical consciousness, philosophical reflection, textual interpretation, comparative literature, literary discourse.*

Introduction. Postmodernism is widely recognized as one of the most influential literary and cultural movements of the late twentieth century. Distinguished by its rejection of fixed meanings, linear narratives, and absolute truths, postmodern literature emphasizes ambiguity, multiplicity, intertextuality, and reader participation. Within this framework, literary texts are viewed not as closed structures but as open systems that generate diverse interpretations. Among the most prominent figures associated with postmodern literature is Umberto Eco, whose works combine semiotics, philosophy, history, and fiction. Through his innovative narrative techniques and intellectual depth, Eco expanded the boundaries of literary expression and significantly influenced contemporary literary theory. In Uzbek literature, Isajon Sultan occupies a notable position as a writer whose works integrate philosophical

reflection, symbolic imagery, and modern narrative experimentation. His literary achievements demonstrate how postmodern aesthetics can be adapted within a national cultural context while preserving traditional values and historical consciousness. This thesis aims to examine the contribution of Umberto Eco and Isajon Sultan to the development of postmodern literature. It also seeks to identify the similarities and distinctive features of their artistic approaches and evaluate their impact on contemporary literary processes.

Main Part. Postmodernism emerged as a significant literary movement during the second half of the twentieth century, challenging conventional literary norms and introducing new modes of artistic representation. One of its defining features is the rejection of a single, objective truth in favor of multiple perspectives and interpretations. Consequently, readers play an active role in constructing meaning rather than merely receiving it from the author. Umberto Eco is considered one of the leading representatives of postmodern literature. As both a novelist and a semiotician, he successfully merged theoretical inquiry with artistic creativity. His literary works combine historical settings, philosophical debates, and symbolic structures, creating complex narratives that invite diverse interpretations. Eco's fiction often employs intertextual references, multilayered meanings, and sophisticated narrative patterns that challenge readers to engage critically with the text. His contribution extends beyond literature into the fields of semiotics, cultural studies, and literary criticism.

In contemporary Uzbek literature, Isajon Sultan has established himself as a distinguished writer whose works reflect many characteristics associated with postmodern aesthetics. His narratives are enriched by symbolic imagery, philosophical contemplation, and explorations of historical and cultural identity. Through innovative storytelling techniques, Sultan addresses universal human concerns while remaining deeply rooted in national traditions and spiritual values.

A comparative examination of Eco and Sultan reveals several shared artistic tendencies. Both authors explore the relationship between reality and interpretation, employ symbolism as a means of conveying deeper meanings, and encourage active reader engagement. Their works often blur the boundaries between historical fact and literary imagination, allowing multiple layers of interpretation to emerge. Despite these similarities, notable differences can also be observed. Eco's literary universe is strongly influenced by Western philosophy, semiotic theory, and medieval intellectual traditions. In contrast, Sultan's works are shaped by Eastern thought, national cultural heritage, and ethical-spiritual concerns. These differences enrich their respective literary contributions and illustrate the diverse manifestations of postmodern aesthetics across cultures. Therefore, the literary achievements of Umberto Eco and Isajon Sultan

represent important contributions to the evolution of postmodern literature. Their works demonstrate how artistic innovation, philosophical inquiry, and cultural reflection can coexist within contemporary literary discourse.

Conclusion. The findings of this study indicate that postmodernism has played a crucial role in reshaping contemporary literary thought and artistic expression. By emphasizing interpretative plurality, narrative experimentation, and the interaction between author and reader, postmodern literature has expanded the possibilities of literary representation. The analysis demonstrates that both Umberto Eco and Isajon Sultan have made significant contributions to the development of postmodern literary aesthetics. Eco's works successfully integrate historical, philosophical, and semiotic perspectives into complex fictional structures, while Sultan's writings combine symbolic expression, cultural memory, and philosophical depth within the framework of modern Uzbek literature. Furthermore, the works of both authors illustrate the productive interaction between global and national literary traditions. Their narratives encourage critical thinking, intellectual engagement, and multiple interpretations, thereby enriching contemporary literary discourse. As a result, Umberto Eco and Isajon Sultan may be regarded as important contributors to the advancement of postmodern literature whose creative legacies continue to inspire literary scholarship and comparative research.

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