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**UNCOVER THE SURPRISING PARALLELS AND STARK CONTRASTS  
BETWEEN TWO LITERARY GIANTS FROM VASTLY DIFFERENT  
ERAS AND CULTURES**

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**Annotatsiya:**

Mazkur maqola ingliz adabiyotining klassik vakili Jeyn Ostin va o'zbek adabiyotining yirik namoyandasi Oybek (Musa Toshmuhamedov) asarlari o'rtasidagi o'xshashlik va farqlarni yoritadi. Mualliflar o'z davrining jamiyatini, ijtimoiy me'yorlarini va insoniy munosabatlarni san'at orqali chuqur tahlil qilganlar. Ostin, asosan, regensiya davridagi ingliz jamiyatining mulk egalari sinfini tanqidiy tasvirlasa, Oybek Sovet davridagi O'zbekistonning tarixiy va madaniy o'zgarishlarini badiiy aks ettiradi. Har ikki muallif asarlarida ayollar obrazlari, shaxsiy o'sish, ijtimoiy tengsizliklar va milliy identitet mavzulari muhim o'rin egallaydi. Bu qiyosiy tahlil orqali adabiyotning madaniy merosni saqlash va ijtimoiy ongni shakllantirishdagi roli yoritiladi.

**Kalit so'zlar:** Jeyn Ostin, Oybek, qiyosiy adabiyot, ijtimoiy tanqid, milliy identitet, adabiyotda ayollar, o'zbek adabiyoti, regensiya davri Angliyasi, Sovet O'zbekistoni, realizm, istehzo, obraz rivoji

**Аннотация:**

Данная статья представляет собой сравнительный анализ творчества Джейн Остин, английской писательницы эпохи Регентства, и узбекского писателя Ойбека (Мусы Ташмухамедова), жившего в XX веке. Несмотря на различие эпох и культур, их произведения объединяет глубокий социальный анализ, внимание к внутреннему миру персонажей и интерес к женской судьбе. Остин фокусируется на вопросах брака и социального положения в английском обществе, тогда как Ойбек затрагивает темы модернизации, национальной



идентичности и социальных перемен в Узбекистане. Работа подчеркивает, как литература служит средством критики, самопознания и культурной памяти.

**Ключевые слова:** Джейн Остин, Ойбек, сравнительная литература, социальная критика, национальная идентичность, женщины в литературе, узбекская литература, Англия эпохи Регентства, Советский Узбекистан, реализм, ирония, развитие персонажей

**Annotation:** This article explores the striking parallels and contrasts between Jane Austen, an iconic English novelist of the Regency period, and Oybek, a foundational figure in modern Uzbek literature. Despite differences in time, geography, and culture, both authors used literature to critique social structures, develop complex characters, and reflect on national identity. Austen's refined irony and focus on women's roles in domestic life contrast with Oybek's lyrical realism and exploration of Uzbekistan's sociopolitical transformation. Through this comparison, the article highlights literature's power as a cultural artifact, a social critique, and a means of expressing the human condition.

**Key words:** Jane Austen, Oybek, comparative literature, social critique, national identity, women in literature, Uzbek literature, Regency England, Soviet Uzbekistan, realism, irony, character development

Jane Austen (1775–1817), an iconic English novelist, and Oybek (Musa Tashmukhamedov, 1905–1968), a celebrated Uzbek writer and poet, stand as monumental figures in their respective literary traditions. Though separated by nearly a century, vast geographical distances, and divergent cultural landscapes, a comparative study of their works reveals fascinating confluences and divergences in how literature can reflect, question, and shape our understanding of society, human nature, and the individual's place within the larger world. This article delves into a comparison of Austen and Oybek, exploring their contexts, styles, thematic preoccupations, and lasting legacies.



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### **Biographical and Historical Contexts: Worlds Apart, Shared Humanity: Jane Austen: The Confines and Comforts of Regency England**

Jane Austen's literary career unfolded during the English Regency period, a time of relative social stability for the landed gentry, juxtaposed with the distant upheaval of the Napoleonic Wars. Her world was largely confined to the rural south of England, and her novels meticulously depict the lives, manners, and preoccupations of this class. Social hierarchy was rigid, and for women, life choices were often circumscribed by the pursuit of a financially secure marriage. Austen's own life as the daughter of a clergyman, never marrying, provided her with a keen observational post from which to dissect the nuances of her society with wit and precision.

### **Oybek: Navigating an Era of Tumultuous Change in Uzbekistan**

Oybek, born Musa Tashmukhamedov, witnessed and chronicled a period of immense transformation in Uzbekistan. His life spanned the final years of the Russian Empire's influence in Central Asia, the fervor of the Jadid reform movement, the establishment of Soviet power, and the subsequent socio-political and cultural shifts. This era was marked by efforts towards modernization, literacy campaigns, collectivization, and the complex negotiation of national identity within the Soviet framework. Oybek was not merely an observer but an active participant, contributing as a poet, novelist, scholar, and public figure, whose work often engaged directly with these sweeping changes.

### **Literary Styles and Narrative Craft: Voices of Their Times: Austen: Irony, Free Indirect Discourse, and Social Satire**

Jane Austen is renowned for her sophisticated use of irony, free indirect discourse (allowing deep insight into her characters' thoughts and perspectives), and polished, balanced prose. Her narrative voice is often characterized by a subtle satirical edge, gently but firmly exposing the follies, hypocrisies, and material concerns of the society she portrayed. Her realism is focused on the domestic sphere, the intricacies of social interactions, and the moral development of her characters, particularly her heroines. Dialogue in Austen's novels is a crucial tool for character revelation and plot advancement.

### **Oybek: Lyrical Realism and the National Narrative**



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Oybek's literary style evolved throughout his career but is often characterized by a lyrical realism. His prose is known for its rich descriptive passages, evoking the landscapes, culture, and emotional tenor of Uzbekistan. While influenced by Russian and European literary traditions, particularly realism, Oybek's work remained deeply rooted in Uzbek oral and poetic traditions. In some of his major novels, such as "Navoi," which fictionalizes the life of the 15th-century poet Alisher Navoi, he combines historical narrative with profound philosophical reflections. His works often aimed to foster a sense of national pride and consciousness, sometimes aligning with the broader didactic trends of Soviet-era literature, but always imbued with a deep humanism.

### **Thematic Exploration: Society, Self, and Social Critique**

At their core, both Austen and Oybek were keen observers of human behavior and the ways in which individuals navigate the constraints and opportunities presented by their social structures. They explored themes of love, duty, personal growth, and the search for meaning and happiness within specific cultural contexts. Austen's novels primarily revolve around the themes of love and marriage, which for her characters, particularly women, were inextricably linked to social standing and financial security. She masterfully dissects the class consciousness of the English gentry, the importance of property and inheritance, and the often-mercenary nature of the marriage market. Her works are also profound explorations of individual morality, sense versus sensibility, and the journey towards self-knowledge and virtuous conduct. The "small social circles" she depicted allowed for intense scrutiny of character and motive. Oybek's thematic concerns were often broader, engaging with the epic transformations his society was undergoing. His works explore themes of national identity, the tension between tradition and modernity, the impact of Soviet policies, and the role of the intellectual and artist in times of change. Novels like "Sacred Blood" ("Qutlug' Qon") depict the struggles of the Uzbek people before the revolution, highlighting social injustice. While personal relationships and individual psychology are present, they are frequently set against a backdrop of larger historical and societal forces. He grappled with questions of cultural preservation, education, and the path to a new future for Uzbekistan.



### **Portrayal of Women: Navigating Societal Expectations**

Jane Austen's heroines – Elizabeth Bennet, Elinor Dashwood, Anne Elliot, and Emma Woodhouse, among others – are celebrated for their intelligence, wit, and moral fortitude. While operating within a patriarchal society that severely limited their options, these women exhibit a remarkable degree of agency in their personal development and choices, particularly in matters of the heart and marriage. Austen critiques a society that often valued women more for their connections and dowries than their intrinsic worth, yet her narratives typically conclude with her heroines achieving happiness through marriages based on mutual respect and affection, as well as financial prudence. In Oybek's literature, female characters often embody both the endurance of Uzbek cultural traditions and the emerging roles for women in a modernizing, Soviet-influenced society. They can be depicted as strong figures within the family, repositories of cultural values, or as individuals embracing education and participation in public life. His works reflect the societal debates and transformations concerning women's roles during the 20th century in Uzbekistan, highlighting the tensions between traditional norms and the Soviet state's official (though not always fully realized) promotion of gender equality. Women characters often symbolize the changing face of the nation itself.

### **National Identity and Cultural Tapestry: Reflections of a People**

Both authors, in their unique ways, contributed to the literary articulation of their respective national and cultural identities. While Jane Austen might not have set out to explicitly define "Englishness," her novels have become quintessential representations of a certain segment of English society during the Regency. Her detailed portrayal of manners, social rituals, class distinctions, and the moral landscape of the landed gentry has profoundly shaped perceptions of English culture from that era. Her work implicitly champions values such as propriety, sense, and integrity, contributing to a specific image of English national character. Oybek played a significant role in the development of modern Uzbek literature and the articulation of Uzbek national identity during a critical period. His writings drew upon Uzbek folklore, classical poetry (especially the legacy of Alisher Navoi), language, and history to create narratives that resonated with the Uzbek people. In a time of Soviet influence, which promoted a supranational "Soviet" identity, Oybek's



work (sometimes subtly, sometimes more overtly) helped to affirm and preserve a distinct Uzbek cultural heritage, contributing to the foundation of a national literary canon.

## **Literary Legacies and Enduring Relevance**

Jane Austen's novels continue to enchant readers worldwide, celebrated for their timeless social commentary, unforgettable characters, and masterful prose. Her works are endlessly adapted, studied, and enjoyed, speaking to new generations about love, society, and self-discovery. Oybek remains a towering figure in Uzbek literature. His contributions were vital in shaping a modern literary tradition for his nation, capturing its historical struggles and cultural richness. His works are studied in Uzbekistan as key texts reflecting the nation's journey and continue to inspire discussions on identity and heritage. Comparing Austen and Oybek enriches our understanding of how literature, across diverse cultures and epochs, serves as a mirror to society, a vehicle for critique, and a testament to the enduring complexities of human experience. While their worlds were vastly different, their commitment to observing and portraying the human condition provides a compelling bridge between their legacies.

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