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Poetical Performance of the National Spirit in the Novel "Between Two Doors"

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Annotation: This article explores O'tkir Hoshimov's remarkable novel Ikki Eshik Orasi, a work that holds a prominent place in the author's literary oeuvre. Renowned for his ability to intertwine profound philosophical reflections with vivid storytelling, Hoshimov captures the intricacies of human emotions, relationships, and the complexities of life. The novel stands as a powerful commentary on the destructive impact of war, not only on nations but also on the individuals and families who bear its brunt. It masterfully delves into the dualities of existence, where hope and despair, love and loss, and courage and fear coexist. At its core, Ikki Eshik Orasi serves as a poignant condemnation of war, highlighting its ability to disrupt the fragile fabric of peace and humanity. Through its vivid imagery and emotive narrative, the novel depicts the harrowing toll that war takes on the human soul, particularly focusing on the anguish of parents who endure unimaginable grief as their children become victims of conflict. The themes of love, sacrifice, and resilience interwoven throughout the narrative resonate deeply with universal human experiences, making the novel both timeless and globally relevant.

Hoshimov's skillful portrayal of his characters—imbued with courage, strength, compassion, and endurance—transcends individual struggles, offering a broader reflection of the spiritual growth and collective endurance of a nation. By highlighting the indomitable human spirit, the novel invites readers to reflect on their own humanity and the shared journey of resilience in the face of adversity.

Keywords: war, individual stories, humanity, nine characters' journeys, universal themes, Orif the elder, Husan Duma, Robiya, Ra'no, narrative structure, the novel of destinies.

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Introduction

O'tkir Hoshimov is a highly respected author, known for his mastery of language and storytelling. His works have become an essential part of the cultural heritage of Uzbekistan and other

neighboring countries. His novels and short stories, including *Bahor Qaytmaydi*, *Tushda Kechgan Umrlar*, *Ikki Eshik Orasi*, *Nur Borki Soya Bor*, *Dunyoning Ishlari*, and *Ikki Karra Ikki – Besh*, along with over a hundred short stories, comedies, and tragedies, are beloved by many readers.

One of the works I'd like to focus on is *Ikki Eshik Orasi*. Published in 1986, this novel tells the story of life in a village near Tashkent over a span of twenty-five years. The plot begins before the war, continues through the war years, and extends into the post-war period, ending with the 1966 Tashkent earthquake. The structure of the novel is quite unique. It is divided into seven parts, with forty-seven chapters, each told from the perspective of a different character.

The narrative style of this novel is intricate, involving nine characters whose stories unfold across different timelines. This can sometimes lead to interruptions in the flow of events. However, the author expertly weaves these separate storylines together, creating a sense of unity by the novel's conclusion.

Literature review and research methodology

The events of *Ikki Eshik Orasi* unfold in a village near Tashkent, primarily during World War II, but the author also masterfully portrays the lives of the villagers before and after the war. The writer blends traditional storytelling techniques, drawing from classical literature (like the epic *Sab'ayi Sayyor*), while adding a fresh approach to the narrative and structure.

The story is told from the perspectives of nine different characters, including Robiya, Qora Amma, Kimsan Xusanov, Muzaffar Shomurodov, Munavvar Aliyeva, Ra'no, Umar Zakunchi, and Olimjon Komilov. Their individual stories are closely linked and build on each other, creating a cohesive, original, and engaging plot. The novel not only focuses on the main characters but also on secondary figures like Rashid, Abzi, Bashor Opa, Oysara, and Samadov, who leave a lasting impression on the reader.

The novel feels genuine, with no sense of artificiality, and the author's ability to tackle complex situations in a convincing way stands out. For instance, we see the desperate Qora Amma, who is forced to marry off her son Kimsan's love, Robiya, to Shomurod; Orif the Elder, who takes a bold stand for justice for a young bride who has strayed; and the tangled love story between Muzaffar and Munavvar, which is deeply moving.

Muzaffar's struggles during the war, his loss of family, and the immense pain he faces are heart-wrenching. Meanwhile, his mother Ra'no, overwhelmed by the chaos of war, betrays her husband and loses her way. Umar Zakunchi's deceitful actions also play a pivotal role in the unfolding of events.

Results and Discussion

Through these intertwined stories, the author presents a powerful moral lesson: Umar Zakunchi's cold-heartedness and deception, along with Ra'no's thoughtlessness and failure to value her own happiness, lead them to a life of sorrow and regret. They become outcasts, enduring endless emotional turmoil. In my view, they brought this fate upon themselves. Ra'no had everything — even a husband like Shomurod, who loved her deeply — but she failed to appreciate him. In the end, she became a victim of her own desires. And when she passed away, even her son Muzaffar couldn't find it in himself to see her off. Betraying your family is the same as betraying your country.

The novel *Ikki Eshik Orasi* pulls readers in with its deeply developed characters. Among them, Orif the Elder, Husan Duma, and Komil the doctor stand out. The author excels in bringing Orif the Elder to life, creating a character who commands respect in his community and can inspire others to face even the toughest challenges. Like many older Uzbek men, he embodies wisdom and initiative. He is also courageous, never afraid to speak the truth, and believes in evaluating

people based on their character—especially in how they carry themselves, symbolized by a belt, which represents honor, courage, and humanity.

Kimsan Husanov's character is also compelling, despite playing a smaller role in the novel. Through just two chapters, we see that Kimsan is a noble, brave, and honorable young man—someone who is ready to sacrifice his life for his country.

The novel also focuses on the portrayal of women, with Qora Amma standing out as a particularly strong character. She is loving, simple, resilient, and has endured a lifetime of suffering. Her character reflects the strength of Uzbek mothers during the war. Despite all the hardships she faces, she shows incredible strength and patience. Qora Amma raises her six children alone, relying only on her faith. When the war begins, she bravely sends her only son, Kimsan, off to fight, hoping he will contribute to his country. However, her son never returns, and even when she hears of his death, she refuses to believe it. Even as the years pass, she cannot bring herself to accept his loss. A mother… words can hardly capture the depth of her experience.

Another key female character in the novel is Robiya, whose life is also marked by hardship. She loses her mother at a young age and is raised by her father. Robiya is depicted as an intelligent, courageous, and beautiful young woman. Despite the war having ended years ago, she continues to wait faithfully for her love, Kimsan. Unfortunately, fate takes a cruel turn, and she is forced to marry her mute uncle. Robiya's suffering is further deepened by the wrongdoings of Ra'no. Yet, she remains a patient, compassionate, and strong Uzbek woman, setting an example for others to follow.

The novel, overall, leaves a lasting impact on its readers. The most touching moments are those I've mentioned, and anyone who reads it will be drawn into the story so deeply that it feels like they are living within it—almost as if they're experiencing it in a modern, vivid 3D format.

Conclusion

In conclusion, I can say that the novel beautifully captures village life during and after the war, showing the struggles and sacrifices of the people. It honors the courageous farmers who shouldered the burden of war, feeding the soldiers while going without food themselves. The story paints vivid pictures of brides sending their husbands to the front on their wedding night and then immediately changing out of their wedding dresses into work clothes, ready to face long, exhausting hours of labor. It also depicts children stepping in for their fathers, working the land, while the elderly take on tasks their sons would have done. You can almost hear their voices, feel their strength, and see the unwavering belief in victory that kept them going. The elderly, too, stayed awake all night praying for the safety of their loved ones.

The novel vividly conveys the pain of hunger, poverty, separation, love lost too soon, curses, grief, and anger—emotions that feel incredibly real and raw.

At this point, I want to share the writer's famous words: "I live with one dream: to write a book that, when readers pick it up, they forget everything else and live with the characters. That they can't sleep the night after finishing it, overwhelmed with emotion. And when years pass and they read it again, they feel that same excitement and discover new meanings. This is my greatest wish," says our beloved author, Otkir Hoshimov.

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