



THE THEME OF ORPHANHOOD IN DONNA TARTT'S "THE GOLDFINCH" AND GHAFUR GHULOM'S "SHUM BOLA"

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Abstract: *In Donna Tartt's "The Golden Goose" and Gafur Gulyam's "The Naughty Boy," the theme of orphanhood occupies a central place. In "The Golden Goose," Theo Decker, having lost his mother, faces life's hardships and searches for a new identity. In "Shum Bola," Gafur Gulyam depicts the struggle of an orphaned child for survival in society. In both works, the psychological experiences of a person through orphanhood, the process of loneliness and self-discovery are deeply studied.*

Keywords: *Orphanhood, loneliness, emotional experiences, society, self-discovery, life's difficulties, Donna Tartt, Ghafur Ghulom, The Goldfinch, Shum Bola, searching for identity, human psychology.*

Introduction

When considering orphanhood as the main theme, Donna Tartt's "Golden Goose" and Gafur Gulyam's "The Naughty Boy" reflect the deep ideas of loss, originality, and tolerance. Tartt cautiously tells the story of Theo Decker, whose life is completely changed by the tragic disappearance of his mother. In contrast, Gafur Gulyam's protagonist faces difficulties finding his place in a world full of nomadism and family problems. The emotional atmosphere of orphanhood in these stories not only contributes to the formation of characters but also raises questions about how society reacts to family and abandonment. In each story, it is shown that the lack of parental figures opens the way to self-awareness and self-discovery. Moreover, this shared theme emphasizes common human experiences that transcend cultural boundaries, prompting readers to reflect on the broader impact of childhood trauma and the pursuit of connection in challenging circumstances.

Methodology

Orphanhood in books is a powerful symbol, showing not only parental deprivation, but also the emotional and psychological impact of deprivation. Orphanhood, which is usually portrayed as difficult places, reflects many experiences ranging from neglect to power, acting as a small example of major social problems. This idea is found in many literary works, in which characters left without parents are preoccupied with their own personality and face abandonment and grief. In Donna Tartt's *The Goldfinch*, the protagonist's arduous journey after the death of her mother shows how loneliness affects personal growth and morality. Similarly, Ghafur Ghulom's work "Shum bola" addresses issues of orphanhood in a cultural context, showing that children often struggle with feelings of belonging and purpose.[1] Thus, the concept of orphanhood in literature, beyond being just a background element, creates a rich opportunity to discuss what survival, identity, and being human mean.

In the film "Goldfinch," Donna Tartt tells the story of a young boy, Theo Dekker, deeply saddened by the tragic death of his mother in a terrorist attack at the Metropolitan Museum of Art[2]. This tragic



event leads Theo from a grieving child to a person who feels lost and uncomfortable. Theo's painting *The Goldfinch*, taken during a time of chaos, represents the beauty and heaviness of his life. Throughout the story, Theo's path of sorrow, guilt, and survival reveals important themes such as orphanhood and abandonment - the key parts that shape his identity. Tartt skillfully depicts the emotional struggles of his characters, examining how loss and separation affect not only personal life but also broader human relationships. In this way, the novel is linked to the theme of the orphanage, giving readers a powerful gaze in the face of deep wounds[4].

G'afur G'ulom always breathed with the people, with the times, considered their fate his own, and responded to any significant event. He was always ready, like a loaded rifle, and if there was a nudge in life, he would immediately write a poem. If G'afur G'ulom hadn't been a spiritually prepared and sharp-minded writer, he wouldn't have been able to write masterpieces like "Viewing," "I Am a Jew," "You Are Not an Orphan," "Longing," and "Woman" in the early days of World War II[5]. No. A thousand times no... Millions of people died, and their children were abandoned on the streets, without parents. "How many innocent women were left in need of a piece of bread, hungry and naked, trembling in the open air," he writes and calls on the people to help these children. Gafur Gulyam himself raised and educated several orphaned children. He published the children's collection "The Prize" (1940) for free (he wrote a feuilleton "Sorry" when the publishing house didn't release it because he didn't receive royalties).

General information about Gafur Gulom's work "The Naughty Boy"

G'afur G'ulom's "The Mischievous Boy," like Donna Tartz's "The Golden Goose," examines the theme of orphanhood in detail. The story is about a young boy who abandons his family and faces difficulties in life without parental care. The image of Gafur Gulyam shows the truth of the loneliness of the orphan, shows both internal conflict and the desire for connection. The child's playful behavior, in addition to this emotional aspect, serves as a way to overcome and test the boundary. Throughout the story, the boy searches for his identity without family support, which is closely linked to Theo Dekker, who also stands on his feet as an orphan. Both characters share experiences that emphasize the profound impact of loss[3], showing how orphanhood shapes their lives and motivates them to find themselves and create power in their own world

Results

"The Naughty Boy" was first published in 1936. This work opened new horizons in the children's literature of that time and became an important event in the cultural life of the Uzbek people. When writing this work, Gafur Gulyam drew inspiration from his childhood memories and real-life events among the people. "The Mischievous Boy" depicts real-life events in a humorous style. But this work has one secret - every time you read this work, you gain new insights. It even depends on what age you read it at. For teenage readers, children's mischief and plot development might seem interesting. But there's another side to the coin. Old book enthusiasts read this work with regret over society's ignorance and inattention. This style made the work popular not only among children but also among adults. For example, the main character's various dialogues and adventures show the funny but thought-provoking aspects of ordinary life.

Discussion

If we look at this work from today's perspective, family divorces and family discord are causing many "Naughty Children" to increase in our lives. At the beginning of the work, the writer describes



children very innocently and carefree. Because it mentioned many folk games and children's favorite activities. But during the reading of the work, it is very easy to understand how difficult it is for children in the family and society. The difficulties of that time were experienced by all peoples and families. Because the cold breath of war covered the whole earth. Despite this, Gafur Gulyam enriched the story "Shum bola" with various anecdotes.

I consider it appropriate to mention one of the most astonishing events; Qorajon Qalandar, following the dervishes, arrives at Eshon Bobo's court. I had hoped that here he would come to know God and find the right path, but it didn't turn out that way. The reason for this was the stories about Eshon and his associates who used religion as a mask to live an easy and good life, taking advantage of people's trust and beliefs. If Eshon bobo, who used to recite God and remembrance in every word, had been a truly faithful person, he might have become a person who would have benefited society by becoming literate in this institution if he hadn't directly incited Qorajon to theft and the crooked path.

Conclusion

Today we all know Boomerang's Law. According to it, what we give to those around us, what we wish for people, will return to us, and we can see this law in the events where the writer accidentally met Korajon and Omon and experienced it together. Because Qorajon lies to deceive Omon, but he himself becomes a victim of Omon's lies. The saddest part is that these two wandering teenagers wanted to slaughter and steal the wealthy man's livestock who had given them shelter and food, and due to their cold intentions and lying to each other, they were left with nothing.

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