

The Image of Children in Charles Dickens and Abdulla Kahhor's Works

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Abstract

The image of children in the works of Charles Dickens and Abdulla Kahhor reflects the social and cultural contexts of their respective time periods. Both authors present children as vulnerable and innocent beings who are often mistreated and marginalized by society. However, while Dickens portrays children as victims of poverty and exploitation in Victorian England, Kahhor's depiction of children in the context highlights the impact of political instability and economic hardships on their lives. This paper explores how both authors use the image of children to shed light on larger social issues and to evoke empathy and compassion from their readers.

Keywords: children, image, Charles Dickens, Abdulla Kahhor, social issues, vulnerability, innocence, exploitation, poverty, marginalization, society, Victorian England, political instability, economic hardships, empathy, compassion.

Introduction

The portrayal of children in literature has long been a powerful tool for shedding light on social issues and conveying messages of vulnerability, innocence, and exploitation. Two authors who have masterfully captured the plight of children in their works are Charles Dickens and Abdulla Kahhor. Dickens, a renowned Victorian-era novelist, is celebrated for his vivid depictions of poverty and marginalization in society, often through the eyes of young characters. Similarly, Kahhor, a contemporary Uzbek writer, explores the challenges faced by children, marked by political instability and economic hardships. By examining the image of children in the works of Dickens and Kahhor, we gain insight into the universal themes of empathy and compassion that transcend time and place.

Charles Dickens, a prolific writer of the Victorian era, is renowned for his vivid and often poignant portrayals of children in his works. Through his novels, Dickens sheds light on the harsh realities faced by children in 19th-century England, highlighting issues such as poverty, exploitation, and neglect. The image of children in Dickens' works serves as a powerful tool for social commentary, as he illuminates the injustices and hardships endured by young individuals in a society marked by class divides and economic disparities. In Dickens' novels, children are often depicted as vulnerable and innocent beings who are caught in the crossfire of societal injustices. Characters like Oliver Twist, Little Nell, and Tiny Tim embody the struggles faced by children living in

poverty or under the care of neglectful or abusive adults. Through these characters, Dickens conveys the profound impact of poverty and neglect on the lives of children, highlighting their resilience and inner strength in the face of adversity.

Moreover, Dickens uses the image of children to evoke empathy and compassion in his readers. By portraying the suffering and hardships faced by young characters, Dickens compels his audience to confront the harsh realities of society and reflect on their own capacity for kindness and generosity. Through his nuanced portrayals of children, Dickens challenges societal norms and calls attention to the need for reform and compassion towards the most vulnerable members of society. The image of children in Charles Dickens' works serves as a poignant reminder of the power of literature to illuminate social issues and inspire change. Through his vivid and empathetic portrayals of young characters, Dickens invites readers to confront the injustices faced by children in society and to advocate for a more compassionate and equitable world for future generations. Charles Dickens is known for his vivid and often sympathetic portrayal of children in his works. He frequently depicted the harsh realities faced by young characters in Victorian society, shedding light on issues such as poverty, exploitation, and neglect. Here are some key points about the image of children in Charles Dickens' works:

Abdulla Qahhor is rightfully considered a well-known master of the short story, one of the founders of Uzbek prose. In his stories, vivid images of a person, conflicts and problems in life are deeply revealed. Abdulla Qahhor's works are relevant to this day, they describe human vices and the lives of ordinary people. Abdulla Qahhor's creative heritage is of great importance for the development of the young generation in the spirit of love and loyalty to the Motherland, and for the formation of national and universal values. His characters are closely related to the life, traditions, practices and traditions of the environment that promoted them. He entered the Uzbek literature as an incomparable master of the narrative genre, he is called the Uzbek Chekhov.

He was one of the first among Uzbek writers and critics to study the great master of words A. P. Chekhov. His articles about Chekhov are characterized by a deep understanding, because Abdulla Kahhor saw Chekhov as his teacher and role model. In the work of Anton Chekhov, Kahhor considered the main ideas of humanism, which are opposed to the life of the common people. Kahhor reveals the best features of the Uzbek people - a clear mind, everyday wisdom, and a penchant for humor. His language is laconic, full of aphorisms and has the originality and variety that is traditional for Uzbek prose.

The image of children in Charles Dickens' works reflects his deep concern for social reform, empathy for the marginalized, and belief in the transformative power of compassion and human connection. His portrayal of child characters continues to resonate with readers today, reminding us of the enduring relevance of his social critiques and moral insights.

- **Oliver Twist** - The character of Oliver Twist, a young orphan boy, is a central figure in Dickens' novel of the same name. Oliver's innocence and vulnerability as a child living in poverty are vividly portrayed, highlighting the harsh conditions faced by many children in Victorian England.
- **David Copperfield** - In "David Copperfield," Dickens explores the life of the titular character from childhood to adulthood. Through David's experiences, the author delves into themes of resilience, growth, and the impact of early experiences on a person's character.
- **Great Expectations** - Pip, the protagonist of "Great Expectations," undergoes significant growth and development from his childhood to adulthood. Dickens portrays Pip's struggles and moral dilemmas with sensitivity, shedding light on the complexities of childhood and the challenges of coming of age.

- Little Dorrit - Amy Dorrit, known as Little Dorrit, is a compassionate and selfless character who cares for her family despite her own hardships. Dickens' portrayal of Little Dorrit reflects themes of innocence, kindness, and the resilience of children in the face of adversity.
- The Old Curiosity Shop - Nell Trent, the young protagonist of "The Old Curiosity Shop," embarks on a journey filled with trials and tribulations. Dickens captures Nell's purity and optimism amidst the harsh realities of her circumstances, evoking sympathy and empathy from readers.
- Bleak House - The character of Jo, a destitute child in "Bleak House," serves as a poignant symbol of the plight of neglected and marginalized children in Victorian society. Dickens' portrayal of Jo sheds light on issues of poverty, injustice, and the need for social reform.
- A Christmas Carol - In this beloved novella, Dickens introduces the character of Tiny Tim, a disabled boy whose resilience and spirit embody the true meaning of Christmas. Through Tiny Tim, Dickens emphasizes themes of compassion, generosity, and the importance of caring for those less fortunate.
- Hard Times - Sissy Jupe, a circus performer's daughter in "Hard Times," represents the innocence and imagination that are often stifled in a utilitarian society. Dickens contrasts Sissy's warmth and empathy with the cold rationalism of her surroundings, underscoring the value of emotional intelligence and creativity in childhood.
- Dombey and Son - Paul Dombey Jr., a fragile and neglected boy in "Dombey and Son," symbolizes the emotional neglect and materialism that can harm children's well-being. Dickens' portrayal of Paul Jr. highlights the consequences of parental indifference and the need for love and nurturing in a child's life.
- Nicholas Nickleby - Smike, a mistreated and vulnerable boy in "Nicholas Nickleby," elicits sympathy and compassion from readers through his tragic circumstances. Dickens uses Smike's character to explore themes of abuse, resilience, and the transformative power of kindness and friendship in shaping a child's destiny.

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