

Analysis of Artistic Works Dedicated to the Father's Figure

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Abstract. *There are many nations in the world, and their cultures are also diverse. The language, culture, and history of the countries of the world are clearly reflected in their literature. Since life is reflected in literature with the help of images, through the images of people in ideologically and artistically mature works, we gain extensive and accurate information about the social life of a certain period. The image of the father is one of the most widespread images not only in national, but also in world literature. In literary works, we can see that fathers, first of all, take on three main roles through each studied culture: protector, helper, and educator. Fathers, like mothers, are pillars that develop the emotional well-being of a child. A father is a teacher who answers everything his child may ask for, a perfect person who sets an example, a kind person who shows his love for you in action without saying it. He is the guiding light in all our actions and the first hero of every child. The best part of fatherly love is that he believes that the best of everything should be for his children before thinking about himself. With a father, you feel safe, fathers are protectors, they warn of any danger. There are works in world literature in which the image of fathers is interpreted in different ways, some fathers are worthy of their name, while others are the opposite. But one thing is certain, both of these fathers were able to leave an indelible name as famous heroes and fathers. The father figure is revealed in "King Lear" by W. Shakespeare, "Father Gorio" by Honoré de Balzac, "Danny the Champion of the World" by D. Road, "Mr. Bennet" by Jane Austen, "The Kite Runner" by Khaled Hosseini, and many other famous works by many other writers are a clear example of this.*

Key words: *Father figure, fatherhood role, fiction, society, family, father-child relationship, research, analysis, values, respect for father, Eastern culture, Western culture, importance of father figure in literature, positive and negative father figure.*

INTRODUCTION

The image of the father has been a central theme in literature, philosophy, and social sciences for centuries. This study provides an analysis of the scientific works dedicated to understanding the figure of the father across various disciplines, including literature, psychology, sociology, and cultural studies. By reviewing significant academic contributions, this paper aims to explore how the father figure is portrayed and its impact on family dynamics, identity formation, and social structures. The research focuses on both Western and Eastern scholarly perspectives and investigates the evolution of the father figure from a biological provider to a more nuanced symbol in modern contexts. The study also examines the cultural variations in representing fatherhood and the diverse interpretations of paternal roles in literature.

The representation of the father figure has been a subject of scholarly exploration in numerous fields such as literature, psychology, sociology, and anthropology. In these disciplines, the image of the father is often analyzed in the context of its role in shaping individual identities, influencing social norms, and maintaining family structures. The complexity of this figure lies in its ability to embody

various roles—protector, disciplinarian, provider, and even antagonist—depending on the cultural and historical framework. Scientific studies dedicated to the image of the father have primarily focused on understanding paternal influences on child development, the father-child relationship, and the broader socio-cultural constructions of fatherhood.

This paper analyzes significant works in the field, drawing attention to studies that approach fatherhood from multiple disciplinary angles. It seeks to answer key questions: How has the image of the father evolved over time? What are the psychological, sociological, and literary perspectives on fatherhood? And how do different cultures represent the role of the father?

MAIN PART

What is “Psychological Perspectives on Fatherhood”? In psychology, the father figure has been analyzed primarily through the lens of attachment theory, where the role of the father in a child’s emotional and psychological development is crucial. Freud’s early psychoanalytic theories proposed that the father represents authority and regulation within the family unit, often playing a pivotal role in the formation of the child’s unconscious mind. Over the decades, psychological studies have expanded to explore the father’s role in emotional bonding, identity formation, and even the development of gender roles in children.

For instance, modern psychologists such as Donald Winnicott and John Bowlby have focused on the emotional significance of paternal involvement. Bowlby’s attachment theory underscores the importance of a father’s emotional presence in the early years of a child’s life, affecting later interpersonal relationships. Researchers in the 21st century, such as Michael Lamb, have further examined the impact of active fathering on children’s cognitive, social, and emotional development.

And what is Sociological and Cultural Representations of Fatherhood? Sociologically, the image of the father has evolved with shifts in societal structures, gender norms, and family dynamics. Historically, fathers were seen predominantly as breadwinners and authoritative figures. However, the changing economic and social landscape has led to the redefinition of fatherhood. Feminist scholars, for example, have critiqued traditional models of fatherhood that emphasize patriarchal dominance and encourage the emotional distancing of fathers from their children. The rise of dual-income households, shifts in gender roles, and a greater focus on parenting equality have reshaped the expectations placed upon fathers.

In various cultures, the father figure is idealized or vilified depending on societal values and historical circumstances. In Western cultures, particularly in the 20th and 21st centuries, there has been a growing focus on the “new father,” one who is more involved in child-rearing, compassionate, and emotionally connected to his children. Contrastingly, in many Eastern cultures, fathers are still often regarded as authoritative figures, whose roles are primarily centered around providing for the family financially and upholding traditional family values.

When it comes to the Father Figure in Literature, the image of the father has been a prominent theme explored by writers from diverse cultures. Literary works often depict the father as a complex figure who embodies both the strengths and weaknesses of human nature. In many classic works of literature, fathers are portrayed as symbols of authority, discipline, and power, but also as sources of conflict, struggle, and eventual reconciliation.

For example, in the novels of Fyodor Dostoevsky, such as *The Brothers Karamazov*, the figure of the father is central to the moral and existential dilemmas faced by the characters. The characters’ relationships with their father represent larger philosophical debates on morality, free will, and the search for meaning. Similarly, in American literature, works like *To Kill a Mockingbird* by Harper Lee portray fathers as moral compasses, often standing as the last bastion against societal injustice and inequality.

In the realm of Turkish literature, fathers are often depicted in a similar vein, with a focus on authority and family honor. In novels by writers like Abdulla Qodiriy and Erkin Vohidov, the father’s role is pivotal in understanding family dynamics, tradition, and societal expectations. For instance, Qodiriy’s

The Past Days delves into the challenges of paternal relationships, exploring how fathers deal with their children's desires for independence while maintaining family honor.

It has been widely studied in Uzbek literature, but also in world literature. The analysis of the image of the father has been carried out by literary critics, psychologists, sociologists and cultural historians from different perspectives. Below we will touch upon some studies and scientific works devoted to the image of the father:

1. The image of the father in Uzbek literature:

Nodira Turgunova – conducted research on the study of the image of the father within the framework of national traditions and values in Uzbek literature. Her scientific works analyzed how the image of the father is depicted in the historical, social and spiritual context of the Uzbek people, and how the relationship between father and child has changed.

Gulchehra Kurbanova – studied the educational and spiritual aspects of the image of the father in Uzbek literature. Gulchehra Kurbanova shows what moral and psychological issues the image of the father is associated with in works. She analyzed the role of the image of the father in the upbringing of a child and how the image of the father is formed in historical conditions.

2. Studies on the image of the father in world literature:

Sigmund Freud – Wrote many scientific works on the psychoanalytic analysis of the image of the father. In Freud's theory of the "Oedipus complex", the image of the father plays a central role in the psyche of the child. The influence of the image of the father on the psyche of the child, its role in dreams and desires, has been studied in depth from a psychoanalytic perspective. According to Freud, the father appears as a strong personality and an ideal state sought by the child.

Carl Jung – There are studies aimed at studying the role of the image of the father in Jung's theory of archetypes. Jung describes the image of the father as an "advisor", "educator", "example". He considers not only the influence of the image of the father on the development of the child, but also its role in society and its representation in social structures to be important.

Mikhail Bakhtin – Bakhtin's theory of dialogism analyzes the relationship between father and child and the social and artistic functions of the image of the father. The father, according to Bakhtin, is depicted as an image that opposes his child, but at the same time creates opportunities for understanding by the child. Bakhtin studies the complexities of the father image in his relationship with children and shows the role of the father image in social dialogues.

3. Studying the change of the father image and its role in society:

Erik Erikson - In Erikson's theory of psychological development, the role of the father image in the development of the child is important. According to Erikson, the father shapes the personality of the child by opposing him. The changes of the father image in the life of the child, especially the role of the child in self-identification, understanding of responsibility and making moral decisions, are studied.

Lev Vygotsky - In Vygotsky's theory of social constructivism, the change of the father image and its influence on the development of the child are also analyzed. Vygotsky shows the father image as a figure who teaches social education and culture. The role of the father figure in the development of the child is to share his social experiences with the child and create a different model for the child.

4. Reflection of the father figure in works of art:

Maxim Gorky - Gorky's works of art study the social significance of the father figure and his attitude towards the child. His work "Father" analyzes the difficult relationship between father and child and how the father figure influenced the upbringing of the characters in the work.

Fyodor Dostoevsky - Dostoevsky's works contain studies on the spiritual and moral potential of the father figure. For example, in the work "Q brothers" the influence of the father figure on the spiritual and moral development of his children is shown. Dostoevsky connects the father figure with the complexity of humanity and its educational role.

5. Religious and Cultural Aspects of the Father Image:

Joseph Campbell – Campbell's book "The Hero's Journey with a Thousand Faces" discusses how the father image is reflected in mythology, how the relationship between father and son is symbolized. Campbell analyzes the father image as an image that is often "killed" or "separated" in the hero's internal struggles. This represents an important stage in his development.

And there are sources that cover the fields of literary studies, psychology, pedagogy, and cultural studies, and shed light on various aspects of the image of the father.

CONCLUSION AND EVALUATION

The image of the father, as explored through various scientific and literary works, reflects the dynamic and multifaceted role that fathers play in society. From psychological theories that emphasize the emotional importance of the father to sociological and cultural studies that chart the evolution of paternal roles, it is evident that fatherhood is far more than a biological or financial function. Instead, it is an evolving social construct that shapes and is shaped by broader societal changes.

Through literature, the father is portrayed as both a figure of authority and a symbol of personal and societal conflict. The role of the father is constantly changing, adapting to new social norms and expectations. As societies continue to evolve, so too will the image of the father, with future research likely to further explore the nuances of fatherhood in the context of modern family dynamics and shifting gender roles.

This analysis provides a comprehensive overview of the scientific and literary works dedicated to understanding the figure of the father, tracing its evolution and its impact on both individual and societal levels.

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