

**OPEN ACCESS**

SUBMITTED 30 April 2025

ACCEPTED 28 May 2025

PUBLISHED 30 June 2025

VOLUME Vol.05 Issue 06 2025

COPYRIGHT

© 2025 Original content from this work may be used under the terms of the creative commons attributes 4.0 License.

The Expression of Similes in The Works of Utkir Hoshimov

Xaydarova Feruza

Lecturer at Jizzakh Polytechnic Institute, Uzbekistan

Abstract: This article explores the expression of linguocultural similes used in Otkir Hoshimov's novel *Between Two Doors* and discusses their artistic and functional aspects.

Keywords: Anthropocentric, linguoculturology, culture, linguocultural similes, individual similes, fixed similes, simile subject, simile standard, simile basis, formal indicator.

Introduction: The unique character, national mentality, culture, spirituality, psychology, cognitive style, principles of imagination, and discipline of perception of a people are reflected in their language. At the center of anthropocentric linguistics stands the human being, and this direction is based on that very truth. One of the branches of this field is linguoculturology, or linguistic cultural studies, which studies language within the triad "language – culture – person." [1,3] In recent years, linguoculturology has formed as a science that studies the issues of language and culture. The object of linguoculturology is the interrelation and mutual influence of language and culture as a unified whole. The subject of linguoculturology is linguistic units that possess symbolic, figurative, and metaphorical meaning in culture and are generalized in human consciousness, reflected in myths, legends, folklore, and religious discourse, as well as in poetic and prose literary texts, phraseologisms, metaphors, and symbols. [4,42] Certainly, the national mentality of a people finds its expression in its language. On this topic, Russian linguist V. Maslova states: "The most valuable sources of information about the culture and mentality of a people are phraseologisms, metaphors, symbols, etc., in which myths, legends, and customs are preserved in a kind of

‘conserved’ form.” [1,3]

Similes, as a product of figurative thinking, possess artistic and aesthetic value and serve to enhance the emotional-expressive impact and expressiveness of speech. There are two types of similes:

1. Individual-author similes: The willows with budding leaves on both sides of the street seem like girls who have just washed their hair and are drying it in the sun. The birds chirp, busy building nests. [5,86]

For some reason, I liken the first snowfall to a person who, after a long illness, gives up the ghost. [5,147]

Even though darkness had deepened, the bluish light of the snow lit the courtyard surface, and the cock’s-comb flowers stood under the snow like orphaned children with bowed heads. [5,160]

2. Folk or fixed similes: So the enemy fires one mine and blows ten Uzbeks to bits, drops a bomb and wraps Uncle Vasya’s intestines around his head like a turban, and I should stand here like a docile lamb, like a harmless dove? No! [5,203]

Similes consist of four elements: the subject of the simile, the standard of comparison, the basis of comparison, and the formal indicator of the simile.

Every nation has its own distinctive similes. Poets and writers use them in ways that suit their individual styles. When we look at the works of the writer O’tkir Hoshimov, we can see that fixed similes play a central role in his creative work. For analysis, we have selected O. Hoshimov’s novel “Between Two Doors.” In this work, the writer effectively uses linguocultural similes specific to the Uzbek nation. Based on the standard of comparison, we can divide them into the following thematic fields:

1. Similes related to household items: Every “eye” wore glass like a teacup. His face looked like a platter. Upon closer look, it seemed as if two teacups had been flipped over on both sides of a white porcelain tray. [5,4] My brother raised his fist like a pestle and rushed at Ochilboy, but Zuhra held onto his wrist. [5,82] He cupped his palm like a bowl under my father’s chin and shouted. [5,45] Scarlet tulips along the roadside shimmered like a carpet. [5,86] The plank wagons stood with doors wide open like gates. There were no windows—just a tray-like hole in their place. [5,103] He took off his cap that looked like a cauldron and handed it over. [5,107] My aunt, like that ant, was tiny as a fist but had a back like a tandoor oven. [5,110] A piece of smoothly cut beetroot left on the ground shone white like a platter. [5,321] A plump woman, her face puffed like a bowl with a scarf over her head, elbowed aside another woman in a veil. [5,348] Frowning, he placed his fist like a pestle on the low table. [5,361] Suddenly,

his chest rose and fell heavily like a press. [5,378] By midday, the day had heated up like a tandoor oven. [5,403] There’s a boy named Qo’zivoy. He’s as small as a fist but has a head like a clay jar. [5,459] A punch to the stomach made him double over like a lung. [5,461] Bending over, he picked up a stone like a teapot. [5,478] As soon as I entered the narrow alley with a thread-like stream of dirty water running through it, I saw Klara-opa bursting out of our door. [5,567]

2. Similes related to food and dishes: The teahouse owner’s face was pockmarked. People joke about him—some say it’s like a burnt pancake, others like a stabbed flatbread. [5,17] They still look alike: eyebrows and eyes like feathers, a face like a round bread... Only Fotimakekin has gained weight. Zuhra-kekin, on the other hand, is like a strip. [5,71] I’ve never seen such a beautiful girl in my life! Eyebrows drawn like with a pen, dark, smoldering eyes, milk-white skin, a small mole on her thin chin, a tiny mouth like a thimble—everything looks like it was drawn deliberately. [5,91] Like slicing through butter, he swung the hoe gently. [5,133]

3. Similes related to objects: The earth still rocked like a cradle, the house kept shifting back and forth, whitewash fell from the ceiling, everything creaked. [5,601] Amazing how human memory is like a storage room with its door shut. [5,13] My left arm was stiffened and tied like a stick. [5,34] Although the shed’s door was as narrow as a hole, everyone came in—there was no dog. [5,79] “Robi! Your brother can barely swallow even a spoonful of water!”—she said as she rolled the food into balls like dumplings and stuffed it into his mouth. [5,100] She began picking rice again with her thin, trembling fingers like threads. [5,11] She swung her stiffened left arm again, hanging like a stick. [5,114] With one hand she pinched her nose, with the other she punched Parcha-xola’s dome-like shoulder. [5,120] Her tattered headscarf and bell-shaped shoulders were covered in snow. [5,195] Parcha-opa, occupying a bench-sized corner of the cart, grumbled loudly. [5,125] I flew like a bullet into the dark house and threw myself on the ground. [5,131] Her hands like pitchers began to tremble. [5,137] Seeing her coin-like footprints in the snow, my heart skipped a beat. [5,150] When I saw her bulging eyes from fear, her flour-white face, I instantly understood everything. [5,405] Her eyes, always burning like fire, were now sunk like hollows, her nose thinned, her mustache drooped... [5,409] Only now I understood why recently she had been commuting to Tashkent like a cloth dealer’s bundle. [5,426] As soon as the lesson ended, Abduvali clung to me like glue. [5,443]

4. Similes related to animals and their body parts: Tabib bobo’s wife is Lazakat xola. Her nose looks like a chicken’s beak. [5,34] Though my old man’s stature was small, his heart was like a horse’s head. [5,38] “O’v!” –

he said, stretching out his neck like a rooster. [5,48]

"Who are you! Aren't you ashamed, making a girl cry like a young camel!" [5,49]

"Ordona! Who gave an atlas dress to a woman as big as a cow!" [5,72]

I never knew my docile brother Kimsan, as gentle as a lamb, could get so angry! [5,82] What use is such a bull-like guy among all these women? [5,85]

If everyone went to war and Kimsantosh sat hunched like a frog, would that be right? [5,96] When we crossed the Alvasti Bridge and I looked at the water hissing like a snake in the dark ravine, I was overcome with dread. [5,102] He had gone pale, opening his mouth like a fish, his expression as pitiful as a child afraid of being scolded after doing something wrong. [5,138] The brothers, they say, were in the same tank, crushing fascists like toads! [5,156] Why are you staring like a donkey the mullah is riding? Get up! [5,158] My sister-in-law Ra'no, the snow-covered fields, the icy potatoes stinging like scorpions when you hold them—all flash before my eyes in a blur; my head spins... [5,159] On the snowy field, tanks crawling like locusts move as if they're about to storm the trench where you're standing. [5,198] I wish I could see, just once, a fascist forced to bite the dust, hear one cry out rolling in the snow, and watch, like the sheep my father slaughtered under the apple tree, gasping its last breath. I would stand over it, smiling, saying, "Know this—I killed you." [5,202] No matter what happens, I want to escape this pitiful state, like a crow pecking once and looking around anxiously a thousand times. [5,237] Only a hawk-fast, lion-brave man can manage such a task. [5,263] I wish he were here now—I'd whip him till he howled like a dog. [5,297] A goal is like a wild horse. [5,301] A second line stood out on Parcha's face like a rope. She didn't run this time either. But she grabbed the whip writhing like a snake with a firm grip. [5,322] Olimjon slept curled up like a cat, snoring softly, his skullcap fallen from his head and his forehead damp with sweat. Nearby, a dented bucket lay overturned. [5,328]

If my son had lived, it wouldn't be surprising if Zo'ra had given birth to a ram-like boy. [5,340] He scrambled up the tree, clinging like a monkey to its branch. [5,381]

Over time, I truly came to believe that my harmless father, like a dove, was afraid of my mother. [5,544] Today, I fell to the ground shattered, like a pigeon shot by a bullet. [5,549]

5. Similes related to flowers: So many flower-like young widows, whose husbands died in the war, continue to live patiently. [5,39] Robiya—your Robiya—is withering before my eyes like a dried

flower. [5,40] Who knows, maybe he too has already gone to war, leaving behind his flower-like wife in anguish... [5,97] "Don't kick up dust before the herd, who told you to bite your bud-like wife and start a fight," they said. "Even your cousin got flustered and came back. When the time comes, they'll find you themselves." [5,99] "So what if he's a flower-like young man," came my mother's voice. "They want to enjoy a wedding too!" [5,130] His boots were covered in mud, his sparse beard had grown like thorns, his hair stuck out and curved over his ears, and though he was in uniform, there were no epaulettes on his shoulders. [5,334] Grabbing the juniper's thorn-like stiff needles, a saving thought suddenly flashed through my mind. [5,550]

6. Similes related to human beings and their body parts: Though the courtyard was wide, there wasn't a palm-sized empty space. [5,51] I saw Parcha-opa, who could easily carry two men on each shoulder, her thick lips like a sliced liver growing a mustache, sitting by the wall with her legs stretched like sticks and a platter of pilaf on her lap, devouring it. [5,100] Earlier, too, the moon was high. Why is he so ugly? Look at him grinning like a burnt skull! As if mocking me. [5,297] In the sky, toward the west, the moon stood yellowish among the haze, like the eye of a blind man—it irritated rather than illuminated. [5,372] There's a boy named Qo'zivoy. He's as small as a fist, but his head is like a clay jar. [5,459]

7. Similes related to fruits and vegetables: A stranger with a sickly complexion and a wart behind his ear like a cherry pit came and rummaged through my father's books and notebooks. [5,59] He brought out a bucket with a smear of fat on the rim like a pit. [5,75] Maybe because she stood on her hind legs, her udder stuck out stiffly like cucumbers. [5,79] When the three of us came out into the yard blushing like peaches, darkness had thickened, the moon hadn't yet risen, but the sky held a soft, faint light seen only on spring evenings. [5,80] Grandfather scolded with a fist like an apple. [5,96] If I find the man who stuffed a potato the size of a pit into his pocket, I'll bring him before the tribunal. [5,134] The last bucket of potatoes spilled over and couldn't fit into the overloaded basket, which was piled like a haystack. [5,136] Ra'nokhon had clung to Shomurod like a pit to pulp and latched onto his arm at the station. [5,148] Our tank emerged from the forest clearing, stopped sideways, fired a shot from its cannon—and the vehicle shattered, Germans flying into the snow like scattered millet. [5,204] He saw a darkened spot on the child's temple, the size of a pea. [5,246] Like flies swarming around a bruised apple, mosquitoes buzzed around the light bulb. [5,451] Muzaffar turned red like a turnip... [5,572] So strange—was that a dragonfly? It has a life as fragile as a fly's, yet it shows no fear. If it dips just an inch lower, it's doomed: its wings, as thin as onion skin,

would get wet, and the enraged waves would snatch it into their fury, spinning it away. [5,577]

8. Similes related to clothing: If you ask me, let alone the chairmanship, even a thousand major operations are like the boot on your foot. [5,66]

In the western horizon, the crescent moon glimmered delicately like a golden eyebrow. [5,88] Kholposh xola let out one last sigh, then her face turned pale as muslin, and her head dropped limply to her side. [5,341]

If a corpse comes out of your house like a slipper, it drags along expenses as heavy as a mountain. [5,426]

9. Similes related to nature and natural phenomena: My brother Kimsan was a man like a mountain. He was equal to two of my grandfathers. [5,69] When we reached the shade of the budding willow, Kimsan stopped abruptly. Lost in thought, I ran right into his mountain-like shoulder. [5,88]

I stood still for a moment, and after my eyes adjusted to the darkness, I spotted piles of onions like mountains in one corner of the warehouse and cabbages in another. [5,170] The elder was panting with his mouth agape, then collapsed to the ground like a felled tree. [5,181] The guard looked over a mountain of sugar beets piled like hills, each one as big as a mound, and stroked his thin mustache with his whip-wielding hand. [5,320] Zuhra-kelin vanished without a trace. Like a stone dropped into a well—no news of whether she was dead or alive. [5,329]

He descended upon Zuhra-kelin like a whirlwind. [5,337]

I felt my whole body burning like fire, but I couldn't rise from my place. [5,344]

Light tore through the fog, blazing like fire from a samovar's spout, surging swiftly forward. [5,372] Because my aunt was hard of hearing, maybe she didn't catch my words well. She stared at me, blinking her dull eyes like a stone in water. [5,503] The gulsapsars shimmered like violet flames. [5,503] I've heard him speak with a rumble like thunder. [5,580]

10. Similes related to tools and utensils: I've never seen such a beautiful girl in my life! Eyebrows drawn like with a pencil, smoldering jet-black eyes, skin as white as milk, a tiny mole on her slender chin, a mouth like a thimble—all of it looks like it was deliberately painted. [5,91] The elder slapped his knee with a palm as wide as a shovel and laughed heartily. [5,93]

11. Similes related to individuals and their activities: Abduvali's mother stepped forward, puffed up like a wrestler entering the ring. [5,118] My brother Kimsan, hanging from the throat by one foot like a tightrope walker, turned his face toward us. [5,95] Parcha-opa,

embarrassed like a newlywed bride, fled to the corner of the warehouse, waddling. [5,175] And how sweetly he smacked his lips in his sleep, like a baby full of fat! [5,263] Thin, layered clouds stood frozen in the air. Like sisters-in-law trying in vain to cover the bride's head with a scarf, they pointlessly tried to block the moon's face. [5,528] I'm supposed to eat a handful of salt and stand there smiling like someone who's tasted sugar. Why? [5,126]

In the works of O'tkir Hoshimov, we observe the use of distinctly Uzbek similes. For example, the simile element "tandir" is explained by N. Mahmudov and D. Khudoyberganova in the "Explanatory Dictionary of Uzbek Similes" as "to burn, to heat up – mainly referring to air temperature" [1,204]: "By noon, the day had heated up like a tandir." [5,403] However, in Hoshimov's texts, it can also be seen expressing meanings such as "large, vast": "My aunt, like that ant, was tiny as a fist, but had a back like a tandir." [5,110] The tandir is a clay oven used for baking bread, somsa, kebabs, and other foods [2,662] and has held significant importance in the daily life of the Uzbek people since ancient times. The simile element "kulcha" carries the meaning "perfectly round, small" [1,115] and is commonly used to describe a person's round, small, beautiful face or the full moon: "Even now, the two still look alike: eyebrows and eyes like feathers, a face like a kulcha... Only Fotima-kelin has gained weight. Zuhra-kelin, on the other hand, is like a ribbon." [5,71] The simile "as harmless as a dove" is rarely encountered in other languages. The element "like a dove" holds a national-cultural connotation in which the attribute of harmlessness is emphasized as a specifically Uzbek trait. [1,11] The simile "danakdek" (like a seed/pit) typically conveys the meaning of smallness, minuteness [1,65]: "I'll bring to the tribunal the person who stuffed a potato the size of a pit into his pocket." [5,134] Yet, in Hoshimov's work, it also expresses the meaning of abnormally large (e.g., "A stranger with a sickly complexion and a wart behind his ear like a danak came and rummaged through my father's books." [5,59]), and closeness, attachment, inseparability (e.g., "Ra'nokhon clung to Shomurod like a danak stuck inside a fruit, and at the station she wrapped herself tightly around his arm." [5,148]). A yalakat danak (double-pit) refers to a fruit pit with two kernels fused together inside. The author uses this individualized simile to vividly depict Ra'nokhon's unwillingness to send her husband to war or to be separated from him.

CONCLUSION

In conclusion, Hoshimov's literary works reveal numerous linguocultural similes that reflect the Uzbek mentality, culture, and way of life. In some cases, these similes describe the beauty of women (like a flower, like

a bud), and in others, they praise the strength and power of men (like a mountain). Similes do not arise spontaneously—they are based on daily life, familiar and observable things. One never likens something to what they have never seen or known. That is why many similes are absent in other languages. Every nation has its own geographic setting and unique way of life, and similes emerge as a result of that lived experience.

REFERENCES

Mahmudov N., Xudoyberganova D. O'zbek tili o'xshatishlarining izohli lug'ati. –Toshkent: Ma'naviyat, 2013. -320b.

O'zbek tilining izohli lug'ati. –Toshkent: O'zbekiston milliy ensiklopediyasi, 2008. -B.662

Karimov S. Badiiy uslub vatilning ifoda tasvir vositalari. –Samarqand: SamDU, 1994. -B. 8-15

Yusupova O. Tilshunoslik va tabiiy fanlar. –Samarqand: SamDU nashri, 2021. –B.42

Hoshimov O'. Ikki eshik orasi. Roman. –Toshkent: O'qituvchi, 2018. -606 b.

Mahmadiyev Sh., Rasulova F. Idish-tovoq leksikasini bildiruvchi ayrim birliklarning leksik-semantik tahlili ("Ravshan" dostoni misolida). Research and education. Volume: 1, Issue: 1. –India, 2022. –P.370-374. <https://scholar.google.com/scholar?oi=bibs&cluster=13655164339879612398&btnI=1&hl=en>

Islamova D. Expressive means of language and transposition. International Bulletin of Applied Science and Technology (IBAST). Volume: 3, Issue:5. –Germaniya, 2023. –P. 1231-1234. (Impact factor: UIF = 8,2 | SJIF = 5,955). <http://yandex.ru/clck/jsredir?from=yandex.ru%3Bsearch%2F%3Bweb%3B%3B&text=&etext=2202.1yG39J->