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# Gender Stereotypes In Literary Texts And The Ideological Features Of Language

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**Abstract:** The article investigates gender stereotypes and ideological structures embedded in literary texts. Based on the IMRAD format, the research explores linguistic mechanisms that construct gender roles and maintain patriarchal discourse in Uzbek and English literature. The findings show that language not only represents but also shapes power relations and gender ideologies in society.

**Keywords:** Gender, stereotype, ideology, patriarchal discourse, pragmatics.

**Introduction:** Language is one of the primary systems that reflects ideological viewpoints, social inequality, and gender roles existing in society [1]. Literary texts serve as a powerful discursive arena that conveys these ideologies through aesthetic and symbolic forms [2].

Gender is a socio-cultural construct, in which socially assigned roles for men and women are normalized through linguistic representation mechanisms [3]. The depiction of women as obedient and men as dominant in literature indicates the active function of patriarchal discourse [4].

For instance:

- in Uzbek literature: "uy bekasi" (housewife), "sadoqatli ayol" (loyal woman)
- in English literature: "fragile woman", "angel in the house"—reinforce gender norms rooted in social consciousness.

Therefore, literary texts represent one of the most powerful semiospheres through which gender ideology is transmitted.

**METHODS**

This research is based on the following scientific methods:

Method	Purpose	Source
Critical Discourse Analysis	To identify the link between language, power, and ideology	[1]
Feminist Linguistics	To explore gender-based linguistic strategies	[5]
Comparative Analysis	To compare Uzbek and English literary texts	[6]
Pragmatic Approach	To reveal connotative meanings	[7]

Analyzed literary works:

- A. Qodiriy – O‘tkan kunlar
- Tog‘ay Murod – Otamdan qolgan dalalar
- Charlotte Brontë – Jane Eyre
- Virginia Woolf – A Room of One’s Own

#### Gender Stereotypes and Their Linguistic Nature

Gender stereotypes appear at lexical, morphological, syntactic, and pragmatic levels of language.

##### 1. Lexical Stereotypes

Women: “delicate,” “shy,” “kind”

Men: “strong,” “rationally superior,” “brave”

These attributes impose socially constructed roles on the mindset [3].

##### 2. Speech Strategies

Female speech is more often characterized by:

- requests
- softness
- emotionality

Male speech tends to include:

- commands

logical dominance

- authoritative tone

This normalizes gender hierarchy [4].

#### Patriarchal Discourse in Literary Texts

Patriarchal discourse often emphasizes:

- women’s lack of autonomy
- men’s dominance as active subjects [1]

##### 1. In Uzbek Literature

The character Kumush in Qodiriy’s work represents the model of the “loyal woman,” whose decisions are tied to male authority.

Her behavior illustrates a normative ideology where “fate dictates her role” [6].

##### 2. In English Literature

Jane Eyre portrays a woman’s struggle for independent positioning, whereas Woolf explores the “return of the female voice” [8].

This demonstrates not the disappearance of patriarchy in Western literature, but a growing discursive resistance to it.

#### Linguo-Pragmatic Strategies

Type of stereotype	Examples	Ideological meaning
“Man as protector”	“Erkak bo‘lsa bosh bo‘l” “heroic man”	Power belongs to men
“Woman as submissive”	“Yaxshi xotin eriga buysunadi”	Obedience is assigned to women

Type of stereotype	Examples	Ideological meaning
“Woman confined to home”	“Uy bekasi” / “home angel”	Women’s social role is limited

These normalize social inequality [5].

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## RESULTS

8. Woolf, V. A Room of One’s Own. 1929.

The research demonstrates that gender stereotypes are represented at different intensities in Uzbek and English literary texts. Uzbek literature mostly associates women with traditional family values, whereas English literature often depicts women as independent and socially active figures. Language plays a crucial role in reinforcing ideological representations about gender.

## DISCUSSION

Discourse does not merely reflect reality — it creates it [1]. Thus, gender stereotypes present existing conditions as “natural.”

In contemporary literature, however, these stereotypes are increasingly challenged:

- emergence of female subjectivity
- amplification of women’s voice
- dominance of equality-oriented ideas [8]

This reflects shifts in collective social perception.

## CONCLUSION

The findings indicate that:

1. Literary language functions as a tool to transmit gender ideology across generations.
2. Patriarchal discourse is maintained at different levels in Uzbek and English literature.
3. Stereotypes are normalized through implicit lexical-semantic mechanisms.
4. Feminist perspectives restore female subjectivity and strengthen the idea of equality.
5. Literature serves as a powerful discursive field for social transformation.

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