



A COMPARATIVE ANALYSIS OF THE POETRY OF ZULFIYA KHANIM AND ANNA AKHMATOVA

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Abstract: The poetry of Russian poetess Anna Akhmatova and Uzbek poetess Zulfiya Khanim is compared in this article. The subjects and emotional tone of both poets' works were greatly impacted by the violent historical events of the twentieth century in which they lived and worked. The study looks at common themes including sorrow, love, patriotism, and the place of women in society. The lyrical heroine in their poems and the ways in which both writers depict women's lives amid challenging historical times, such as social unrest and war, are given particular focus. Akhmatova's poetry frequently reflects psychological depth, personal pain, and nationalism, while Zulfiya's poetry is marked by sincerity, optimism, and loyalty to human and national values. Both poetesses made significant contributions to the growth of national literature and used their artistic creations to convey universal human feelings despite having different cultural backgrounds and poetic styles.

Keywords: comparative literature, Zulfiya Khanim, Anna Akhmatova, women's poetry, lyrical heroine, war poetry, twentieth-century literature.

Introduction

Numerous exceptional female poets who captured the feelings, hardships, and hopes of their cultures were born during the twentieth century. Among them, the Russian poetess Anna Akhmatova and the Uzbek poetess Zulfiya Isroilova hold a unique position in world literature. Both authors reflected social and personal realities in their poems while living through challenging historical times. Despite coming from distinct cultural backgrounds, their works share themes like love, sorrow, patriotism, and women's strength. However, their artistic methods and poetic styles are very different.

Zulfiyakhanim, whose full name is Zulfiya Isroilova, is a well-known poetess, public figure, and one of the leading representatives of Uzbek literature in the Republic of Uzbekistan. She was born in Tashkent on March 1, 1915, and died on August 19, 1996. Zulfiya greatly elevated the concepts of a woman's inner life, devotion, love, patriotism, and humanism in Uzbek poetry through her rich and significant creative work. Her literary legacy is particularly significant since it exposed fresh, profound, and spiritually rich



facets of the representation of women in Uzbek literature. A vivid depiction of life may be found in nearly all of the poet's poetry. Significant life problems and human sorrow give rise to a genuinely poetic work (Jumanova & Askarova, 2026).

Anna Gorenko was born to progressive parents in the Odessa neighborhood of Bol'shoi Fontan. Her father, Andrei Antonovich Gorenko (1848–1915), was a nautical engineer in the Black Sea fleet and had Greek, Ukrainian, and Russian descent. His sisters, Anna and Evgeniia, were ardent supporters of the radical political organization People's Will and attended Women's Medical courses. Due to an incriminating letter and connections to a terrorist, her father was fired from his teaching post at the Petersburg Naval Academy in 1881. After that, he wrote stories, reviews, and articles for publications until he was hired by a commercial ship. He introduced his daughter to the opera and theater. He was a tall, charming, flamboyant womanizer and a cultural aficionado (Tomei, 1999).

Metodology

Anna Andreevna Akhmatova (1889–1966), who lived through two world wars, the October Revolution, and the Russian Civil War, remarked, “I am happy to have lived in these years and to have witnessed unparalleled events”. It was Russia's turbulent destiny and vibrant culture, even though the era and conditions were favorable for her and Tsvetaeva to close the gap to greatness that forebears like Pavlova and Lokhvitskaia had closed, and Akhmatova skillfully shaped her image and demeanor to match her skills. heritage that shaped her destiny (Tomei, 1999).

Zulfiya's creativity fully blossomed and became extremely brilliant during the difficult war years: in her poems, the voice of a patriot resounded, and those who are fighting for the Motherland's independence with arms in hand, behind the daily profound struggle, with hard work, the front with all the essential items. The poem “They called him Farhod” conveys both confidence in victory and contempt towards the rebellious Nazis. One can sense the lyrical tenderness towards those who supply it. A mother's song about a soldier-son, a courageous front-line soldier who misses his mother and wife, and the melancholy worry of a lady who longs for her husband are all tied to the summons to battle against the enemy (Kilicheva, 2022). The poet's lyrical subject depicts a lady from several angles and offers a female perspective on the reality of battle. This poetic heroine represents hundreds of real-life experiences and can be viewed as a collective depiction of numerous women who experienced conflict. In a number of poems, the heroine expresses both sacrifice and emotional fortitude by sending her beloved to the front in the early stages of the conflict. Poems like “My Motherland”, “Overcoat with a



Gun in My Hand”, “To the Guys”, “Snow is Melting”, “Wait for Us”, “Hijran”, and “Palak” emphasize bravery, patriotism, and trust in triumph. Specifically, “Palak” portrays the life of a country girl while expressing optimism and self-assurance in victory (Hoshimova, 2020).

The literary movement Acmeism, founded in 1912 by Akhmatova, Nikolai Gumilyov, Osip Mandelstam, Sergey Gorodetsky, Mikhail Zenkevich, and Vladimir Narbut, concentrated on contemporary reality rather than Symbolism, with its focus on the enigmatic and unexplainable (Baloukov, 2020). The fact that the first collection of Akhmatova’s poetry, *Evening* (Vecher, 1912), developed significant Romantic and Symbolist themes and demonstrated the security of earlier literary achievements with the novelties in doctrine of concreteness and clarity in composition, themes, and imagery was largely ignored by Acmeism enthusiasts and admirers of the poet's poetry. The general people did, in fact, readily appreciate her poems for their pellucidity, tense emotion, beauty, and skill. However, Akhmatova would have turned to a different form, such as confessions, expository prose, or even letters, which she avoided writing, if she had wished to be completely understandable and transparent to her readers. Rather, she produced poetry that, as she subsequently suggested, must always have a hint of mystery (Ketchian, 1986).

The comparative literary analysis of a few poems by Russian poetess Anna Akhmatova and Uzbek poetess Zulfiya Khanim serves as the foundation for this study. The study uses topic interpretation, textual analysis, and comparative literature. For study, a number of poems by both authors that address themes of love, war, patriotism, and women’s emotional experiences were chosen. The study looks at how their poetic language, imagery, lyrical voice, and portrayal of women differ and are similar. To better comprehend how social and political situations influenced the poets’ works, the historical and cultural context in which they lived is also taken into account. By using this comparison method, the study seeks to pinpoint both culturally unique and universal aspects of their poetry.

Results

Both Zulfiya Khanim and Anna Akhmatova addressed significant human emotions and social experiences in their poetry, according to the comparative analysis. In both poets’ works, love, devotion, sorrow, and the place of women in society are major themes. However, because of their cultural and historical roots, their emotional tone and artistic expression are very different. Optimism, sincerity, and faith in human values are common characteristics in Zulfiya’s poetry. Her artwork often emphasizes hope for the future, women's strength, and patriotism. On the other hand, political repression, war, and personal grief have molded Akhmatova’s poetry, which portrays deeper sadness and



psychological tension.

The state greatly valued Zulfiyakhanim's contribution to the advancement of literature and culture. She won numerous important honors and was given the honorary title of People's Poet of Uzbekistan. Today, gifted young women are encouraged to pursue careers in science, literature, and the arts by the Zulfiya State Prize, which is established in her honor. In conclusion, Zulfiyakhanim was a remarkable poetess who had a lasting impression on Uzbek literature. Her vast literary legacy continues to inspire and educate present and future generations about spirituality (Jumanova & Askarova, 2026).

WITHOUT YOU

I have lived a lifetime without you,
waiting for the return of joy that will never come.
When I sank to my knees at the head of your coffin,
my children took my hands and lifted me up.
I have sewn since then.
Whatever the shield for, be it for happiness,
for spring, for winter, for sorrow.
At someone's funeral I weep blood and tears
At their wedding I revel like a stag.

With a song of their own, each musician enters the realm of poetry. On the other hand, Zulfiya entered with a song about faithfulness and commitment, which turned into a song about feminine devotion. The lyrical protagonist of the poem "I have an overcoat with a gun in my hand" feels mobilized and marches to the front lines to fight with his beloved. The following is a description of his goals and dreams, as well as the valiant departure of his sweetheart to the front (Hoshimova, 2020):

Ishqing qanotida seni so'roqlab,
Parvoz qilmoqdaman osmonda yengil,
Tezdan etajakman sening yoningga
Qo'limda qurolu ustimda shinel.

A certain "masculine", overtly domineering attitude toward the object of love may be found in some of her poems (Gudzina, 2021):

Sun in the sky. The sun shines brightly
Go to the wave to whisper about pain.
Oh, she'll probably answer.

And maybe she will kiss ("The smell of blue grapes is sweet").

[Солнце в небе. Солнце ярко светит
Уходи к волне про боль шептать.

О, она, наверное, ответит.

А быть может, будет целовать («Сладок запах синих виноградин»)]



According to the study, love and personal devotion were important topics for both Zulfiya and Akhmatova. Sincere love, devotion, and hope are frequently expressed in Zulfiya's poetry, especially in pieces devoted to her husband and native country. The idea of love is also explored by Akhmatova, however it is often shown in her works as tragic and intensely emotional. Suffering and resiliency are significant themes in the writings of both poets. The suffering brought on by both personal tragedy and governmental repression is reflected in Akhmatova's poetry. Her well-known pieces depict people's suffering during trying historical times. In a same vein, Zulfiya wrote on the emotional experiences of ladies who waited for their loved ones as well as the difficulties of war.

Discussion

Throughout her life, Zulfiyakhanim was known as a creative figure who endured various trials and hardships. Numerous poetry, epics, and journalistic pieces written by Zulfiya have made a substantial contribution to Uzbek literature. Themes like the place of women in society, parenthood, love, friendship, and peace are prevalent in her artistic creations. In addition to portraying women as compassionate and sensitive characters, the poetess also shows them as resilient people who actively participate in society and have strong convictions. Her lyrical style is characterized by sincerity and simplicity, which enables her works to have a profound impact on readers. Love for life, hope for the future, and common human values are frequently highlighted in Zulfiya's poetry. She expresses the horror of war and a deep yearning for peace in some of her pieces, which specifically show a mother's pain during a conflict (Jumanova & Askarova, 2026).

Russia had significant political and social revolutions in the early 20th century. The cultural and political environment was drastically altered by the start of World War I in 1914, the revolutions of 1917, and the civil war that followed. Anna Akhmatova had major personal transformations throughout this difficult time. She married Middle Eastern text expert Vladimir Shileiko in 1918 after divorcing poet Nikolai Gumilev. Akhmatova was at the pinnacle of her writing career at the time. But her life and profession underwent significant transformation in the 1920s. The Russian intelligentsia was outraged by Gumilyov's execution in August 1921, which was a terrible personal tragedy because of his claimed involvement in an anti-Bolshevik plot. Soon after, Soviet literary authorities started to criticize Akhmatova's poetry more and more. Lyric poetry was suspicious from a Marxist point of view due to its emphasis on individual feelings. Critics portrayed her as a poet from a bygone period, labeling her writing as excessively intimate and reflective of a "bourgeois" taste (Harrington, 2006).



Despite cultural differences, poetry can convey universal human feelings, as evidenced by the commonalities between Zulfiya and Akhmatova. Women's feelings and societal duties were given expression by both poetesses, which was crucial in the twentieth century. Nonetheless, the tone of their works was influenced by their disparate historical settings. Akhmatova experienced intense political persecution in Russia, which added to the melancholy tone of many of her poetry. Zulfiya's poetry frequently expresses hope, resiliency, and devotion to national principles despite also being impacted by conflict and personal grief.

Conclusion

In conclusion, Zulfiya Khanim and Anna Akhmatova's poetry shows how female voices in literature may convey both intimate feelings and more general social truths. Despite coming from different historical and cultural backgrounds, the two poetesses' works share themes like love, dedication, suffering, and women's strength. While Akhmatova's poetry frequently reflects tragedy, personal loss, and psychological intensity created by political repression and historical instability, Zulfiya's poetry is marked by hope, patriotism, and a profound regard for human values. Both poets effectively captured the emotional experiences of women and their place in society in spite of these distinctions. Their literary legacy still has an impact on readers and scholars today, demonstrating that poetry can convey common human emotions beyond cultural divides.

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