



THE STUDY OF CHRONOTOPE ISSUES IN LITERARY CRITICISM IN THE
ERA OF DIGITAL TECHNOLOGIES

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Abstract: *This article examines the study of chronotope issues in literary criticism in the era of digital technologies. The theoretical foundations of the chronotope concept and its role in expressing the unity of time and space in literary texts are analyzed. The research also explores the emergence of new forms of chronotope caused by digital environments, virtual communication, internet literature, and electronic texts. Through a comparative analysis of traditional and modern literary works, the transformation of temporal and spatial categories in digital-age literature is revealed. The findings of the study are significant for the development of modern literary studies, digital humanities, and narratology.*

Keywords: *chronotope, literary criticism, digital technologies, time and space, narratology, internet literature, virtual space, electronic text, artistic thinking, digital humanities.*

INTRODUCTION

In the 21st century, the rapid development of digital technologies has been exerting a significant influence on human thinking, culture, and artistic creativity. In particular, the widespread use of internet networks, artificial intelligence, virtual platforms, and electronic information technologies has led to the emergence of new forms of literature and literary criticism. As a result, the relationships between time and space in the processes of creating, perceiving, and analyzing literary texts are acquiring new meanings. In this regard, the study of chronotope issues within the context of the digital technology era has become one of the urgent problems of modern literary studies. The term “chronotope” was first introduced into scientific discourse by the Russian scholar Mikhail Bakhtin, who defined it as the interconnected system of time and space in a literary work. According to Bakhtin’s theory, every literary text possesses its own unique chronotope that shapes the ideological and aesthetic essence of the work, the structure of the plot, and the movement of characters. In the modern digital environment, however, the traditional concept of the chronotope is undergoing transformation. Virtual space, social networks, multimedia texts, and interactive literary forms are giving rise to new manifestations of artistic time and space. Today, through internet literature, electronic novels, blog texts, and digital stories, the boundaries between the real and virtual worlds are becoming increasingly blurred. This process forms new poetic models in artistic thinking and reveals the dynamic and multilayered nature of the chronotope. In particular, the acceleration of time, the boundlessness of space, and the intensification of interactive communication on digital platforms are significantly influencing the structure of literary texts.



LITERATURE REVIEW

The theory of the chronotope was first developed by Mikhail Bakhtin, who analyzed the interrelationship between time and space in literary works. Later, scholars such as Gérard Genette, Roland Barthes, and Umberto Eco further developed the issues of time and space within the framework of narratology and postmodern literature.[1,2,3] The theory of digital literature and new media was widely explored in the studies of Lev Manovich and Henry Jenkins. In Uzbek literary studies, the scholarly works of N. Karimov, Izzat Sulton, Dilmurod Quronov, and Shuhrat Rizayev serve as important methodological foundations for the study of artistic thinking, poetics, and contemporary literary processes.[6,7,8] During the research, comparative-typological analysis, narratological approach, contextual analysis, and methods of digital humanities were applied. Through these methods, the characteristics of the chronotope in both traditional and digital literature were comparatively analyzed.

DISCUSSION

In literary studies, the concept of the “chronotope” is considered one of the important theoretical categories expressing the unity of time and space in a literary work. This term derives from the Greek words “chronos” meaning time and “topos” meaning space, and it was introduced into scientific discourse by the Russian scholar Mikhail Bakhtin. According to the scholar, time and space in a literary text are not represented separately but appear as an interconnected aesthetic system. The chronotope is regarded as one of the key factors shaping the plot, composition, movement of characters, and the artistic idea of a work. Bakhtin evaluated the chronotope as a form of artistic perception of the world and emphasized that different genres possess specific manifestations of time and space. For example, adventure novels are characterized by the chronotope of the road, historical novels by the chronotope of historical time, while psychological works are dominated by inner psychological time. In this regard, the chronotope determines not only the placement of events but also serves as a means of expressing human thought and emotional experience. In modern literary studies, the concept of the chronotope is closely examined in connection with narratology, semiotics, psychological analysis, and cultural studies. Particularly, with the emergence of postmodern and digital literary works, new forms of the chronotope have appeared. In such works, time is represented not linearly but in fragmented and multilayered forms.

As a result of the development of digital technologies, human perceptions of time and space have significantly changed. Internet networks, virtual platforms, and artificial intelligence technologies have expanded global communication opportunities and relatively erased the boundaries between real and virtual spaces. This phenomenon has also strongly influenced literature and artistic thinking. While traditional literary works depicted events within a specific geographical area and historical period, in digital literature space often acquires a virtual character. In electronic novels, blog stories, interactive texts, and literary content on social networks, events may occur simultaneously in different spaces. Therefore, the chronotope of the digital age is becoming increasingly multi-centered and dynamic.[3] Virtual communication is also influencing human perception of time. In the digital environment, time appears accelerated, fragmented, and interactive. For example, in



internet stories or multimedia texts, the sequence of events may change depending on the reader's choices. Unlike classical plot construction, this creates a model of an "open chronotope." The simultaneous use of textual, audio, video, and visual elements on digital platforms strengthens the multimodal nature of artistic space. As a result, the reader not only reads the text but also enters the virtual environment and experiences events interactively.

RESULTS

Internet literature is increasingly becoming an important part of the contemporary literary process. Blogs, electronic platforms, fan fiction, online stories, and social network texts are giving rise to new forms of artistic thinking. In such works, the traditional forms of the chronotope undergo significant transformation. One of the main characteristics of the virtual chronotope is the boundlessness of space. Texts created through the internet can be read and discussed simultaneously in any part of the world. This leads to the globalization of literary space.[4] Another important aspect is the interactive nature of time. In internet literature, the reader actively engages with the text, leaves comments, influences the development of the plot, or communicates directly with the author. As a result, the distance between the author and the reader decreases, while artistic time is created collectively. The use of hypertext technologies in digital literature also contributes to the complexity of the chronotope. Through hypertext, readers can freely move between different pages, events, or layers of time. This abandons the linear plot model and forms a multivariant artistic world.

Today, the development of digital humanities is leading to the emergence of new methodological approaches in literary studies. Artificial intelligence, corpus linguistics, digital analysis platforms, and multimodal research methods provide opportunities to study chronotope issues at a new stage. Modern researchers analyze not only traditional literary texts but also spatio-temporal models in virtual reality, computer games, films, and multimedia works from the perspective of the chronotope. This demonstrates the increasing universality of chronotope theory. In the future, the expansion of digital literature and texts created with artificial intelligence may lead to even more complex and dynamic forms of the chronotope. Therefore, researching chronotope issues in connection with digital technologies remains one of the most promising directions in modern literary studies.

CONCLUSION

The development of digital technologies is exerting a significant influence on the progress of modern literature and literary studies. In particular, the concept of the chronotope, which expresses the relationship between time and space in literary texts, is being enriched with new meanings and forms. During the research, the theoretical foundations of the chronotope, its aesthetic and semantic functions in literary works, and the transformations occurring under the influence of the digital environment were analyzed. The analysis demonstrated that while traditional literature represented time and space within specific historical and geographical boundaries, digital literature is generating new forms of the chronotope through virtual space, interactive communication, and hypertext technologies. In electronic texts, internet literature, and multimedia works, the



fragmented nature of time and the boundless, multilayered representation of space are becoming essential characteristics of contemporary artistic thinking. Furthermore, the digital environment is transforming the relationship between the reader and the author, strengthening the interactive nature of literary texts. This indicates that the chronotope should be studied not only as an aesthetic category but also as a communicative and cultural phenomenon.

ADABIYOTLAR RO'YXATI (ИСПОЛЬЗОВАННАЯ ЛИТЕРАТУРА /
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