

## THE EMERGENCE OF SCIENCE FICTION IN WORLD LITERATURE

Mirsaidova Nilufar Sobirjonovna

*Doctor of Philosophy, (Phd) Philological Sciences docent of "Native language and methods of its teaching in primary school" Tashkent State Pedagogical University named after Nizomi E-mail:*

*mirsaidova71@mail.ru*

**Annotation:** *This article analyzes the emergence and development of the science fiction genre in world literature. Science fiction, as a genre, primarily focuses on expressing humanity's dreams and possibilities, scientific advancements, and technological achievements. The article explores the developmental stages of science fiction, its historical roots, and examines famous works of science fiction from different centuries. Additionally, it discusses the social and cultural significance of science fiction, its contribution to literature, and the unique features of contemporary science fiction. The article provides important insights into the role of science fiction in world literature and its development in the modern era.*

**Keywords:** *Science fiction, literary development, dreams and reality, society and technology, historical development.*

### INTRODUCTION

Science fiction as a literary genre is a reflection of human imagination, dreams, and the possibilities brought about by scientific and technological progress. In this article, the origins of the science fiction genre, its development, and significant works created throughout different historical periods are discussed. Science fiction has played an essential role in expanding literature and enriching it with new ideas, allowing for the imagination of possibilities beyond the present and exploring new scientific discoveries and technological advancements.

**Main Body:** The emergence of the science fiction genre is closely linked to the scientific and cultural development of humanity. Initially, science fiction began with ancient myths and human imagination. People created stories of events beyond reality, including gods, magical creatures, and supernatural phenomena. These early fantastic elements appeared in mythology, epics, and fairy tales, laying the foundation for the genre of science fiction.

The further development of science fiction was primarily influenced by the progress of science. In the 17th and 18th centuries, the genre of scientific fiction started to emerge. Works like Thomas More's *Utopia* (1516) were seen as the beginning of scientific and philosophical fiction, reflecting early ideas about ideal societies. Similarly, Jonathan Swift's *Gulliver's Travels* (1726) portrayed societal critique in a fantastical context, addressing moral and political issues. In the 19th century, the development of scientific discoveries and technologies significantly advanced the science fiction genre. Writers like Jules Verne and H.G. Wells became the pioneers of modern science fiction. Verne's *Twenty Thousand Leagues Under the Sea* (1870) combined adventure with scientific exploration, imagining future technologies. H.G. Wells, through works like *The Time Machine* (1895) and *The*

War of the Worlds (1898), explored themes of time travel, space, and technological advances. This period marked the transformation of science fiction into a genre capable of imagining the potential consequences of new scientific discoveries.

The 20th century saw science fiction further evolve, incorporating social and ethical concerns alongside scientific concepts. Writers such as Ursula K. Le Guin, in works like *The Left Hand of Darkness* (1969), used science fiction to address gender equality and societal structures. Similarly, Philip K. Dick's *Do Androids Dream of Electric Sheep?* (1968) raised philosophical questions regarding artificial intelligence, human identity, and the future of humanity. In modern science fiction, the exploration of knowledge, technology, and social issues has become even more profound. Today, the genre includes many sub-genres such as cyberpunk, dystopia, and utopia, reflecting the rapid technological advancements and complex societal concerns. Science fiction continues to influence cinema, video games, and other art forms, expanding its impact beyond literature. Thus, science fiction remains a crucial tool for exploring not only scientific possibilities but also societal and ethical dilemmas.

### 1. The Emergence of the Science Fiction Genre

The origin of science fiction traces back to ancient myths and the collective human imagination. Early examples of science fiction were present in mythological and religious texts, which depicted worlds or realms beyond our understanding. Ancient Greek mythology, with its gods and fantastic events, contributed to the first notions of science fiction. In the Middle Ages, as intellectual thought began to evolve during the Renaissance, the genre of science fiction started to gain more structure, with early utopian works and fantastical tales.

### 2. The Key Phases in the Development of Science Fiction

The 17th and 18th centuries saw the emergence of utopian and dystopian works, laying the foundation for modern science fiction. Key works like Thomas More's *Utopia* (1516) and Jonathan Swift's *Gulliver's Travels* (1726) explored imaginary worlds and critiqued society, demonstrating early forms of speculative fiction. The Industrial Revolution in the 19th century, along with new scientific discoveries, played a significant role in the further development of science fiction, as writers began to experiment with new technological advancements and futuristic concepts.

### 3. Scientific and Technological Influence

The 19th century saw the emergence of modern science fiction, largely influenced by the scientific revolution and technological advancements. The genre evolved alongside industrial innovations, with works that imagined future technologies and explored their social implications. One of the most influential works of the period was Jules Verne's *Twenty Thousand Leagues Under the Sea* (1870), which combined adventure with scientific speculation. Another important figure was H.G. Wells, whose works like *The Time Machine* (1895) and *The War of the Worlds* (1898) began to shape the genre's exploration of time, space, and technological advances.

### 4. The Modern Development of Science Fiction

In the 20th century and beyond, science fiction continued to evolve, reflecting changes in social, political, and technological landscapes. The genre began to incorporate a broader range of themes, including social issues, political commentary, and complex philosophical questions. Contemporary science fiction not only explores futuristic technology but also examines the human condition, ethics, and society's evolution. Works by authors like Ursula K. Le Guin and Philip K. Dick introduced new dimensions to science fiction, addressing issues such as gender, identity, and artificial intelligence. In recent years, the genre has expanded into multimedia formats like cinema and video games, influencing the broader cultural landscape.

The science fiction genre has its roots in ancient mythology and fairy tales, closely tied to humanity's curiosity about science, culture, and philosophy. In Uzbek literature, the science fiction genre began to find expression in the late 19th and early 20th centuries. Science fiction works in Uzbek literature have played a vital role in depicting human aspirations related to the future, scientific discoveries, technological changes, as well as social and ethical issues. The formation and development of the science fiction genre in Uzbek literature were significantly influenced by several key writers. Their works played an important role in establishing new genres and reflecting the changing values in society. For instance, B. Turaev's "The Literature of Science Fiction" offers an analysis of the genre from a scientific perspective, highlighting its evolution in Uzbek literature. In his work, Turaev discusses how science fiction addresses technology and science's role in society. N. Akramov's "The Development of Science Fiction" explores the unique characteristics of the genre, its historical development, and the emergence of new approaches in Uzbek literature. This work analyzes how science fiction in Uzbekistan has evolved and how it reflects social problems in the context of scientific and technological advancements. Akramov examines each stage of the genre's development, particularly focusing on the depiction of new inventions and their effects on society. In Uzbek science fiction, distinctive styles and genres began to emerge. G. Ismatova's "The Genre of Science Fiction in Literature and its Unique Features" analyzes the impact of science fiction in Uzbek literature, its artistic and philosophical aspects. Ismatova explores the essential characteristics of science fiction and illustrates how Uzbek writers have used the genre to portray societal issues.

Furthermore, M. Jalilov's "Uzbek Science Fiction: Historical and Artistic Interpretations" traces the history of Uzbek science fiction, its artistic interpretations, and key developmental trends within the genre. Jalilov discusses how the genre has evolved and how it reflects Uzbek cultural traditions and values, also exploring how the genre was shaped in the context of Uzbek literature. Science fiction literature not only explores scientific and technological issues but also addresses social and ethical concerns. Uzbek science fiction has been enriched with new ideas and conceptual approaches by local writers. These contributions have enhanced the uniqueness of the genre and further solidified its place in literature. Science fiction continues to serve as an important tool for reflecting the development of Uzbek society, scientific progress, and changes in social life. It remains a significant medium for exploring the future of humanity and the impact of technological advancements on society.

Conclusion: The emergence and development of science fiction in world literature are closely tied to humanity's ever-evolving understanding of the world, science, and society. Through speculative fiction, science fiction has enabled readers to explore new ideas, ask profound philosophical questions, and imagine potential futures. Today, science fiction remains a powerful tool for not only engaging with technological and scientific innovations but also addressing pressing social and ethical issues. The genre's continued development reflects its integral role in literature, art, and contemporary culture.

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