



MODERN PROBLEMS IN EDUCATION AND THEIR SCIENTIFIC SOLUTIONS

AGRARIAN HARDSHIPS AND HUMAN RESILIENCE IN THE GRAPES OF WRATH BY JOHN STEINBECK AND BETWEEN TWO DOORS BY UTKIR KHOSHIMOV

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**Abstract.** *This paper explores the depiction of agrarian struggles in *The Grapes of Wrath* by John Steinbeck and *Between Two Doors* by Utkir Khoshimov. Using a comparative literary framework, the study investigates how both authors portray the socio-economic and moral challenges experienced by rural populations. While Steinbeck focuses on displacement, poverty, and systemic injustice during the Great Depression, Khoshimov presents a more introspective view of rural life shaped by ethical dilemmas and social expectations. The findings suggest that both works reveal the universality of farmers' suffering while maintaining distinct cultural perspectives.*

**Keywords:** *agrarian crisis, rural society, social realism, moral conflict, comparative literature*

**Introduction.** Agrarian issues have consistently served as a significant theme in literary discourse, offering insights into the lives of rural communities and their interaction with socio-economic structures. Literature often functions as a mirror reflecting the hardships faced by farmers, including poverty, marginalization, and moral conflict. This article examines two important literary texts: *The Grapes of Wrath* by John Steinbeck and *Between Two Doors* by Utkir Khoshimov. Although produced in different cultural and historical environments, both works address the vulnerability of farmers and the challenges of sustaining human dignity under pressure. The main objective of this study is to analyze how agrarian problems are represented in these novels and to identify both shared and divergent features in their narrative approaches.

In Steinbeck's work, rural hardship is portrayed as a direct consequence of economic instability and environmental disaster. Farmers are deprived of their land due to the expansion of industrial agriculture and financial institutions. The resulting displacement forces families to migrate in search of survival. The journey of the Joad family exemplifies the collective experience of thousands of farmers. Their movement westward symbolizes not only physical relocation but also the loss of identity and social belonging. Steinbeck's narrative highlights systemic exploitation and the dehumanizing effects of capitalism.

Unlike Steinbeck, Utkir Khoshimov does not focus on mass migration. Instead, he presents rural life as relatively stable in a physical sense but fraught with internal tensions. Farmers remain within their communities yet face challenges related to social norms, ethical responsibility, and interpersonal relationships. Economic difficulties are present but





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are intertwined with broader moral concerns. This creates a multidimensional portrayal of rural existence, where material and spiritual struggles coexist.

In *The Grapes of Wrath*, suffering is depicted through tangible conditions such as hunger, unemployment, and exhaustion. The narrative emphasizes collective hardship, portraying farmers as victims of forces beyond their control. Despite these adversities, Steinbeck underscores the importance of solidarity. Cooperation among displaced families becomes a source of strength, enabling them to endure extreme conditions. Khoshimov's depiction of suffering is more psychological in nature. His characters often confront ethical dilemmas that challenge their values and beliefs. The metaphor of "two doors" represents choices between right and wrong, highlighting the moral complexity of human decisions. This introspective approach allows readers to engage with the emotional and ethical dimensions of rural life, rather than focusing solely on material hardship.

In Steinbeck's novel, the family serves as the primary unit of resistance against adversity. The cohesion of the Joad family illustrates the importance of mutual support in overcoming hardship. However, as conditions worsen, traditional family structures begin to weaken.

In contrast, Utkir Khoshimov places greater emphasis on social responsibility and moral duty. Family relationships are depicted as deeply connected to cultural traditions and ethical norms. Individuals are expected to act in accordance with societal expectations, which can both guide and constrain their behavior.

Steinbeck's work functions as a critique of economic inequality and institutional power. His realistic portrayal of farmers' suffering serves to expose injustice and advocate for reform. The narrative encourages empathy and calls for collective awareness.

Khoshimov adopts a more philosophical perspective, focusing on individual morality rather than systemic critique. His work encourages readers to reflect on personal responsibility and ethical decision-making. This approach aligns with broader humanistic traditions in literature.

A comparative examination of the two novels reveals both convergence and divergence:

Similarities:

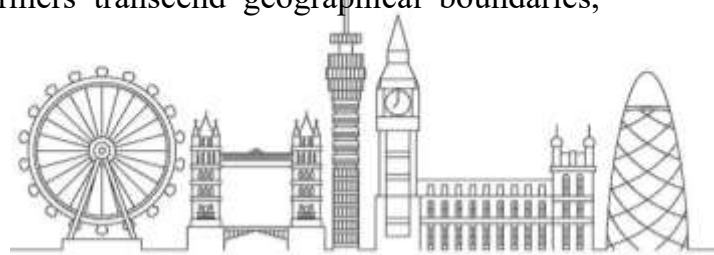
- 1) Both works depict the vulnerability of farmers.
- 2) Themes of dignity, endurance, and moral strength are central.
- 3) Literature is used as a means of addressing social issues.

Differences:

- 1) Steinbeck emphasizes economic and environmental crises.
- 2) Khoshimov focuses on ethical and social dilemmas.
- 3) The former adopts a collective perspective, while the latter is more individual-centered.

These differences highlight how cultural context shapes literary representation.

Conclusion. The comparative analysis of *The Grapes of Wrath* and *Between Two Doors* demonstrates that the problems faced by farmers transcend geographical boundaries,





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reflecting universal human concerns. John Steinbeck presents a powerful critique of economic injustice, while Utkir Khoshimov offers a nuanced exploration of moral and social challenges. Together, these works provide a comprehensive understanding of agrarian life, illustrating both external hardships and internal struggles. Their continued relevance underscores the importance of literature in addressing enduring social issues.

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