

SECTION IV
AREAS OF RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT IN THE FIELD OF LINGUISTICS

DETECTIVE GENRE: A COMPARATIVE ANALYSIS OF THEORETICAL FEATURES

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Abstract:

This article explores the theoretical characteristics of the detective genre by analyzing the views of international scholars and comparing two literary works from geographically and morally diverse backgrounds. Through the comparison of *The Godfather* by Mario Puzo and *Shaytanat* by Tohir Malik, the study identifies key elements that define detective fiction. It discusses the genre's origins, narrative structure, character archetypes, and philosophical underpinnings. Furthermore, it evaluates how each work reflects its socio-political context, enriching the understanding of justice and morality. The study also highlights the role of detective fiction in addressing broader issues of justice, identity, corruption, and social critique, establishing its significance within world literature.

Key words: Detective genre, crime fiction, literary analysis, comparative literature, justice, morality, character archetypes, narrative structure, social critique.

Introduction. Detective fiction is a literary genre distinguished by its focus on crime, justice, and the process of investigation. Unlike classical literary genres such as tragedy or romance, detective stories are driven by the pursuit of truth and the restoration of moral or legal order. The genre often emphasizes the intellect of the investigator and the complexity of the criminal act, transforming crime into a symbolic representation of societal or psychological breakdown.

The emergence of detective fiction can be attributed to both Western and Eastern literary traditions. While Edgar Allan Poe's short story *The Murders in the Rue Morgue* (1841) is widely regarded as the formal beginning of the genre, themes of crime, guilt, and retribution have deep roots in ancient literature and oral traditions. This study traces the genre's evolution and compares two seminal works—*The Godfather* and *Shaytanat*—that embody the key theoretical and structural features of detective fiction, despite their differing cultural and ideological settings.

The classification of detective texts as a distinct genre has been analyzed through comparative-typological and historical-cultural approaches, focusing on shared and unique elements such as the conflict between good and evil, humanistic values, individual dilemmas, and the moral-psychological state of the perpetrator.

The use of phraseological expressions, wise sayings, philosophical reflections, and unique speech patterns in both works demonstrates the authors' creative skill, intellectual depth, and life experience. Unlike traditional literary genres, the artistic essence of the detective genre lies in its focus on criminal motivation, the process of uncovering the crime, and the pursuit of justice.

Theoretical Background and Historical Development Detective fiction is the product of a convergence of literary, religious, and philosophical influences:

Religious and Moral Influences: Sacred texts such as the Bible and the Qur'an contain moral narratives involving crime and justice. For instance, the story of Cain and Abel functions as an early murder mystery, complete with motive and punishment. Islamic jurisprudence has long emphasized investigation and justice through evidence and testimony, forming a conceptual basis for procedural justice.

Philosophical and Social Perspectives: Philosophers like Plato and Aristotle considered justice a cornerstone of society. In *The Republic*, Plato discusses justice as a moral and political ideal, which echoes the detective genre's concern with restoring order. Modern theorists like Michel Foucault connect crime and punishment with power structures, linking detective fiction with critical social theory.

Literary Traditions: Detective fiction draws from classical tragedy, medieval morality plays, and folklore. In Uzbek folklore, clever protagonists solving riddles or exposing wrongdoers reflect a cultural investment in

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justice and investigative prowess. British mystery writing (Agatha Christie, Arthur Conan Doyle), American noir (Raymond Chandler), and post-Soviet literature have all shaped the genre.

Narrative and Structural Analysis of Detective Fiction Detective fiction is defined by narrative structure, character archetypes, and a philosophical approach to justice:

Structural Features: Most stories follow a three-part structure:

Disruption: A crime disturbs the social order.

Investigation: The protagonist uncovers the truth amidst deception.

Resolution: The criminal is revealed and justice is either served or questioned.

Character Archetypes:

Investigator: Insightful, rational, sometimes morally ambiguous.

Criminal: Often complex and motivated by trauma or ideology.

Victim: Represents societal vulnerability.

Society: Typically shown as flawed, highlighting systemic issues.

Thematic Features: The genre explores contrasts such as truth vs. deception and justice vs. revenge. It critiques legal systems and examines moral ambiguity, offering philosophical insights.

Comparative Analysis: *Shaytanat* and *The Godfather* Despite originating from different socio-political contexts—Soviet and post-Soviet Uzbekistan, and mid-20th-century America—both novels exemplify the detective genre while reflecting unique cultural themes.

Character Complexity: In *The Godfather*, Vito Corleone is both a criminal and a paternal figure, upholding a code of honor. His unlawful actions are justified through personal justice and loyalty. In *Shaytanat*, Asadbek is shaped by a corrupt society and driven by survival and revenge. His sense of morality is rooted in Uzbek traditions and the failure of legal systems.

Cultural Reflections: Both novels critique the erosion of institutional justice and the rise of alternative power structures (the Mafia and criminal clans). *Shaytanat* emphasizes themes like honor and family pride, while *The Godfather* deals with immigrant identity and capitalist values.

Narrative Techniques: Both authors use non-linear storytelling, flashbacks, and multiple perspectives. Techniques such as silence, secrets, and indirect dialogue enhance suspense and moral ambiguity.

Justice and Morality: In both novels, justice becomes a personal mission. The protagonists enforce their own codes, challenging conventional heroism and legality.

Conclusion. Detective fiction, far from mere entertainment, serves as a profound literary form that interrogates justice, morality, and power. Through a comparative analysis of *Shaytanat* and *The Godfather*, it is evident that detective fiction transcends cultural and geographical boundaries. Both works reveal thematic and structural parallels, affirming the genre's universal appeal and intellectual richness.

By addressing moral dilemmas, character psychology, and societal flaws, detective fiction becomes a critical tool for cultural expression and philosophical exploration. It continues to evolve, reflecting the complexities of the human condition and securing its place in world literature.

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- [14]. Холиков, Б. (2018). Детектив романларда воқеликнинг бадий талқинини тизимли моделлаштириш (Марио Пьюзонинг «Чўқинтирган ота» («The godfather») ва Тоҳир Маликнинг «Шайтанат» асарлари мисолида). Фалсафа доктори илмий даражасини олиш учун ёзилган докторлик (PhD) диссертацияси автореферати. Фалсафа доктори илмий даражасини олиш учун ёзилган докторлик (PhD) диссертацияси автореферати. Фал. фанл. докт.(PhD) дисс.