

The Step-By-Step Development Of The Plot In Epics

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ABSTRACT

The step-by-step development of the plot in epics is regarded as a core component of artistic structure. Each stage reveals the hero's life path, inner experiences, and relationship with the external world. This article examines the composition of Sa'dulla Hakim's epic poem "Bola botir."

Keywords: Epics; plot development; narrative structure; composition; fabula; syuzhet (plot); stages of the plot; climax; conflict; resolution; oral tradition; Uzbek folklore.

INTRODUCTION

Composition is one of the most important elements of a literary work, as it determines its structure, the sequence of events, and the connections between them. In epics, composition is especially significant because this genre leads the reader into a moral and spiritual world through eventfulness, emotional imagery, and relationships among characters. Composition not only organizes events but also plays a crucial role in expressing the main idea of the work.

Epics primarily reflect a people's spiritual wealth and their historical and cultural values. Their composition integrates each part in a way that serves a single purpose. The structure of an epic usually consists of the following elements: beginning, development of events, climax, and conclusion.

Beginning. This part aims to create the general atmosphere of the work and prepare the ground for the main events. For example, folk epics often start with engaging epic openings that capture attention.

Development of events. The main part of the epic sets the plot in motion. Here, the characters face difficulties, make decisions, and these processes ensure compositional unity.

Climax. This section represents the dramatic peak of events, where the characters see the results of their actions.

Conclusion. The final part summarizes the main idea of the work, offers the reader a lesson, or proposes a solution to social problems.

Composition in an epic performs several important functions:

1. Ensuring artistic coherence. Composition places events in a logical sequence, enabling the reader to understand the work more easily.
2. Expressing concepts. The main ideas and objectives conveyed through the epic are emphasized through composition.
3. Engaging the reader. An interesting plot line and the interaction of characters draw the reader into the work and ensure emotional involvement.
4. Educational significance. Through composition, many epics convey profound notions such as the distinction between good and evil, honesty, and patriotism.

Folk epics generally have a traditional structure. For example, the epics "Alpomish" or "Go'ro'g'li" are based on a classical composition refined within oral folk creativity. In such works, important information is

provided about the hero's birth or personality; in the process of overcoming difficulties, the hero's courage is revealed; and in the end, social or personal problems find their resolution.

In modern epics, however, new styles and means of expression can be observed. The plot structure may be more complex, and the sequence of events more dynamic. In this context, contemporary artistic devices and philosophical meanings are widely employed.

Composition is essential for properly portraying epic heroes and revealing their character. The actions of the characters, their inner world, and external events are depicted in compositional harmony. For instance, the development of events can be analyzed through the relationships between the main hero and secondary characters.

Through their compositional structure, epics serve not only to provide aesthetic pleasure but also to fulfill educational and enlightening aims. Every event and each plot line conveys a moral lesson, an example, or national values. Epics offer life lessons to the reader and bring them closer to their cultural roots.

The composition of an epic can be considered the heart of the work. It presents events in a consistent and orderly manner, thereby enhancing the artistic value of the text. Through composition, not only the lives of the heroes but also a people's historical experiences, moral values, and cultural wealth are reflected. For this reason, the study of composition in epics requires particular attention. It helps us perceive the work as an integrated whole and fully comprehend its meaning.

As a distinctive genre of oral folk creativity, epics possess a complex artistic and logical structure within the system of plot and fabula. Through events formed across different times and spaces, they depict human emotions, historical phenomena, spiritual values, and social issues. The artistic value of epics largely depends on the development of the plot and the structure of the fabula.

Plot is the interconnected development and meaningful system of events in a literary work. It includes the depiction of events in sequence. Fabula is the arrangement of the main parts of the plot and their natural sequence. The fabula usually determines the clear chronology of events.

In epics, a noteworthy feature of plot and fabula is that they often demonstrate the connection between real events and legends. Plots are typically built on a logical line that reflects spiritual and educational ideas.

Every epic begins with an epic and emotionally charged opening. This section lays the foundation for the events and determines the spirit of the work. For example, in Sa'dulla Hakim's epic "Bola Botir," the people's historical feelings and spiritual views are evident from the very first lines.

Typically, the beginning includes legendary descriptions related to the hero's origin or birth. The central part of the plot consists of the hero's trials. In this part, the hero's spiritual and physical strength is tested. For example, Bola Botir's encounter with the fox (or a fairy) and the trials of love. Through these trials, the hero demonstrates his distinctive qualities.

The climax points of the plot (culmination) constitute the most impactful part of the epic. At this moment, the characters make decisions or take decisive steps, which intensifies the dramatic power of events. For instance, in "Bola Botir," his falling in love with a fairy and the way this love is reflected in fantastic imagery gives the events a strong emotional emphasis.

In an epic plot, events are organically interconnected. Each event causes another and constitutes steps toward the hero's achievement of the goal. This logical structure ensures that the epic remains engaging for the reader or listener.

In the first stanza of the poem entitled "Opamga noma" ("A Letter to My Sister"), the words "yurak" (heart), "bayroq" (flag), "dard" (pain), and "qizg'adoq" generate various types of semantic transfer that produce a unified associative phenomenon.

In the line "Men o'paman, yuraging – bayroq" ("I kiss; your heart is a flag"), the word "o'paman" ("I kiss") expresses affection and respect. Kissing indicates deep feelings toward a person or something. The word "yurak" ("heart") often signifies love, emotion, and identity. Here, "heart" is used as a symbol of dignity and profound feeling. The word "bayroq" ("flag") is a national and spiritual symbol; it is regarded as a symbol of the people and the homeland. Depicting the heart as a flag shows that it possesses great value and importance. Through the flag, the state, the people, and the strength and power of the

army are symbolically conveyed; thus, by demonstrating the power of the heart, the line acquires a metaphorical meaning. At the same time, when “heart” expresses affection and longing, it functions not only as a metaphor but also as a representation of the sister figure. Therefore, the word “heart” also creates a metonymic semantic shift in its context. However, the most important feature of the lines is that another emotion hidden in the depth of the words “kissing,” “heart,” and “flag”—namely, feelings of longing and anguish—gives rise to a complex associative phenomenon.

There is a constant interconnection between fabula and plot. The fabula serves as the main foundation for the plot. However, in epics the fabula is not always presented in chronological order. In the plot, retrospective techniques (returning to past events) or proleptic techniques (depicting future events) are sometimes used. Symbolic images often occur in the fabula of epics. For example, in the epic “Bola Botir,” the fox is not only a character but also carries symbolic meaning. This points to the epic’s spiritual and mythological roots.

In epics, plot and fabula serve not only to connect events but also to provide them with deeper meaning. In “Bola Botir,” love and loyalty, and the strength of devotion, are expressed through symbolic images. The figures of the fox and the fairy reflect a person’s inner experiences and spiritual world. Through the plot, the hero’s inner world, life views, and problems are revealed.

In epics, plot (syujet) and fabula occupy a distinctive and important place. Together, they determine the work’s content, artistic tone, and aesthetic value. While the plot organizes events in a logical sequence, the fabula establishes their chronology. For this reason, epic plots deeply reflect every stage of human life, its spiritual dimensions, and historical representations. In the epic “Bola Botir,” this harmony between plot and fabula makes the work meaningful, emotionally powerful, and memorable.

The step-by-step development of the plot in epics is regarded as a central component of artistic structure. Each stage reveals the hero’s life path, inner experiences, and relationship with the external world. It is considered appropriate to analyze the main stages of the plot as consisting of six parts.

Plot is the meaningful system and interconnected

development of events in a literary work; it includes the depiction of events in sequence. Fabula is the arrangement of the main parts of the plot and their natural order. As a rule, the fabula defines the clear chronology of events.

A noteworthy feature of plot and fabula in epics is that they often demonstrate the connection between real events and legends. Epic plots are usually built on a logical line that reflects spiritual and educational ideas.

The manifestation of associative phenomena is a sign that reveals the strength and uniqueness of a poem. Poems written in this manner introduce the reader to new and unconventional thoughts and emotions. The associative style opens new experiences in poetry and confirms the dynamic character of modern poetry.

Guljamol Asqarova writes:

I kiss; your heart is a flag,

I will tell you my pain, sister.

The tulip calls me,

I will return to the village, sister. [6]

Every epic begins with an epic and emotionally charged opening. This part lays the foundation for the events and determines the spirit of the work. For example, in Sa’dulla Hakim’s “Bola Botir,” the people’s historical feelings and spiritual perspectives are evident from the very first lines.

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The climax points of the plot constitute the most impactful part of the epic. At this moment, the characters make decisions or take decisive actions, which intensifies the dramatic force of the events. For example, in “Bola Botir,” his falling in love with a fairy and the fantastic imagery through which this love is depicted give the events a strong emotional emphasis.

In an epic plot, events are organically interconnected. Each event becomes the cause of another and forms steps on the

hero's path toward achieving the goal. This logical structure ensures that the epic remains engaging for the reader or listener.

There is a constant interconnection between fabula and plot (syujet). The fabula serves as the primary foundation for the plot. However, in epics the fabula is not always presented in chronological order. In the plot, retrospective techniques (returning to past events) or proleptic techniques (depicting future events) are sometimes used. Symbolic imagery is frequently found in the fabula of epics. For example, in the epic "Bola Botir," the fox is not only a character but also acquires symbolic meaning. This points to the epic's spiritual and mythological roots.

In epics, plot and fabula serve not only to connect events but also to endow them with deeper meaning. In "Bola Botir," love and loyalty, as well as the power of devotion, are expressed through symbolic images. The figures of the fox and the fairy reflect a person's inner experiences and spiritual world. Through the plot, the hero's inner world, worldview, and problems are revealed.

Plot and fabula occupy a distinctive and important place in epics. Together, they determine the work's content, artistic tone, and aesthetic value. While the plot arranges events in a logical order, the fabula establishes their chronology. Therefore, epic plots deeply reflect every stage of human life, its spiritual aspects, and historical representations. In "Bola Botir," this mutual harmony between plot and fabula makes the epic meaningful, affecting, and unforgettable.

The step-by-step development of the plot in epics is regarded as the main component of artistic structure. Each stage reveals the hero's life path, inner experiences, and relationship with the external world. It is considered appropriate to analyze the main stages of the plot as consisting of six parts.

Describing opportunity as "golden" symbolically expresses its value and worth. Gold usually signifies something precious and rare, which indicates that opportunity is valuable and quickly passes. The "golden" opportunity emphasizes how precious it is and increases its significance. Here, the importance of opportunity is highlighted through associative imagery. This image suggests missing an opportunity and losing its value.

The expressions "to puff out one's chest" and "to scatter gold" indicate that a person highly values an opportunity,

yet for some reason wastes it or uses it incorrectly. The loss of opportunity is conveyed through failing to understand its worth and not making good use of the chance.

The expression "opportunity runs" conveys that time is passing and that it is difficult to seize it at the right moment. The images of "dodging" and "running away from its call" describe a person's loss of opportunities, inability to benefit from them, and failure to manage time effectively. Not seizing opportunity in time is expressed through neglecting it and avoiding it. Through associative imagery, the passage of time and the preciousness of opportunities are emphasized.

"The friend's being beyond rescue," without being connected to other images, indicates here that the friend's sorrow or difficult situation cannot be saved, which implies that the words are linked to emotions. The associative phenomena in the poem are not directly connected to one another, yet they complement each other emotionally and imaginatively, leading the reader into a particular psychological state.

In E. Vohidov's poem about time, the following descriptions occur:

Opportunity is gold,

You, puffing out your chest,

Scatter your gold as you go.

Opportunity runs,

You dodge it,

And flee from its call. [3]

1. Introduction. At this stage, the foundation is created for the events of the epic. The reader or listener is introduced to the hero's birth, origin, and living environment. In "Bola Botir," this stage includes: a description of Bola Botir's rare talent and poetic ability; a general impression conveyed through oral folk tradition about the poems and songs he composed; and the portrayal of Bola Botir as an exceptional person—he stands out from others of his time and remains in people's memory due to his unique abilities. This stage defines the overall spirit of the epic and prepares the ground for subsequent events.

2. Initial conflict. At this stage of the plot, an event occurs

in the hero's life that becomes the cause of further developments. In "Bola Botir," this stage is expressed through Bola Botir's inner difficulties and his problems with the external world: his inner struggles in the search for self-understanding, his encounter with the fairy, and the changes that this meeting introduces into his life. This stage reveals the epic's main conflict and leads the hero toward trials.

3. Development of events. At this stage, the hero undergoes trials and makes various decisions. In "Bola Botir," it is depicted as follows: Bola Botir falls in love with the fairy and, through this love, experiences extraordinary events; the fairy's attitude toward him and Bola Botir's response to that attitude; and Bola Botir's formation as a person through love and fantastic events. Here, events approach the climax, and the hero's inner world and external problems collide.

4. Climax. The most intense and dramatic stage of the plot. At this point, the decisive part of the conflict emerges. In "Bola Botir," this stage appears as follows: Bola Botir's love for the fairy reaches its highest point; through the symbolic figures of the fox and the fairy, Bola Botir moves toward understanding his own essence; the fairy warns Bola Botir, yet he forgets the danger because of his love.

This stage is the most emotional and exciting part of the epic, as it draws the reader's attention even more deeply into the content of the work.

5. Decisive moment. At this stage, the conflict is resolved, the hero attains spiritual growth, or the main idea of the epic is revealed. In "Bola Botir," this stage is expressed as follows: Bola Botir comes to understand his love and the divine inspiration of poetic creativity; his love for the fairy is reinterpreted through fantastic events; he accepts his status as a poet, and his name remains in popular oral tradition. This stage provides the work's main conclusion and completes the plot line.

6. Conclusion. At this stage, a brief summary is given of the changes in the hero's life and the main lessons of the work. In "Bola Botir," the epilogue includes the following: Bola Botir remains in the people's memory, and stories about his creativity and heroism continue. The main idea of the epic is the greatness of the word, the power of love, and the grandeur of the human spirit. The epilogue helps the listener or reader understand the philosophical meaning of the work and increases its emotional impact.

In epics, the step-by-step development of the plot deeply reveals the hero's inner and outer world. Each stage performs a specific function: the introduction lays the foundation for events, the development stage deepens conflicts, the climax marks the peak of events, and the decisive moment illuminates the central meaning of the work. In "Bola Botir," this plot development skillfully depicts a person's path toward love, inspiration, and self-understanding.

Epic, as a literary genre deeply rooted in historical and cultural traditions, have not lost their significance even in the modern world. They strengthen the connection between the past and the present and reflect human feelings, thoughts, and dreams.

Through their rich and diverse narratives, epics teach readers various lessons and concepts. They enable us to learn about the lifestyle, values, and customs of our ancestors. Epics also encompass timeless themes such as good and evil, courage and cowardice, love and hatred, which helps shape readers morally and spiritually.

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