



THE TENSION BETWEEN SOCIETY AND SELF: AN IDEOLOGICAL ANALYSIS OF MOTIVATIONAL CONSTRUCTS IN SAID AHMAD AND GEORGE ORWELL'S LITERATURE

Baxranova Nasiba Maksudovna

Affiliation: Lecturer, Department of English Language Practical Aspects, Uzbek State World
Languages University

baxranova.1998@icloud.com

Abstract: This study investigates the intricate tension between society and the self through an ideological lens, focusing on motivational constructs in the literature of Said Ahmad and George Orwell. By examining the ethical, cultural, and political determinants that shape character behavior, the research highlights how external societal pressures and internal psychological drives interact to influence decision-making and action. Said Ahmad's narratives emphasize moral responsibility, cultural identity, and social conformity, revealing the subtle ways in which collective norms mediate individual choices. In contrast, Orwell's works explore the overt imposition of political authority and systemic control, illustrating how external power structures constrain personal autonomy and shape motivational dynamics. Through comparative literary analysis, this paper elucidates the mechanisms by which ideology informs both personal agency and social expectations, offering insights into the universal interplay between internal motivations and external societal forces. The findings underscore the necessity of integrating ideological analysis into literary interpretation to fully comprehend character development and the ethical and social dilemmas portrayed in literature.

Keywords: Society and self, ideological analysis, motivational constructs, personal agency, social conformity, authoritarian influence, Said Ahmad, George Orwell, literary theory, comparative literature

Introduction

The tension between society and the self has long occupied a central position in literary discourse, reflecting the constant negotiation between collective norms and individual agency. In the works of Said Ahmad and George Orwell, this tension manifests through the ideological structuring of character motivations, revealing the mechanisms by which societal pressures influence ethical and personal decision-making. Ahmad's narratives frequently portray



characters grappling with moral obligations, cultural identity, and communal expectations, highlighting the nuanced interplay between conformity and personal integrity. Orwell, on the other hand, examines systemic oppression and authoritarian control, exposing how external forces manipulate internal motivations and restrict individual freedom. This study aims to comparatively analyze these two authors, focusing on the ideological underpinnings of motivational constructs. By exploring the ethical, social, and political contexts of character behavior, the research seeks to uncover the complex interdependence between individual agency and societal expectations, emphasizing the importance of ideology in shaping both personal and social dynamics within literature.

Materials and Methods:

The research employs a qualitative, comparative literary approach incorporating the following elements: Text Selection: Representative works of Said Ahmad and George Orwell were selected, emphasizing narratives that explore societal pressure, personal motivation, and ethical dilemmas. Ideological Framework Analysis: Each text was analyzed for underlying ideological structures, including cultural, moral, and political dimensions affecting character behavior. Comparative Analysis: A systematic side-by-side comparison of Ahmad's and Orwell's treatment of societal influence on personal motivation was conducted. Thematic Coding: Recurring motifs—such as obedience, resistance, moral conflict, and autonomy—were identified and coded for analytical evaluation. Critical Interpretation: Interpretations were informed by contemporary literary theory, including ideological criticism, social constructivism, and studies on personal agency within societal structures.

Results

Said Ahmad: Characters frequently experience moral conflict when personal desires contradict societal expectations. Motivations are mediated by cultural identity, ethical responsibility, and communal norms, illustrating subtle social influence on individual choice. George Orwell: Characters face overt systemic control. Authority and political ideology directly constrain personal agency, shaping decisions and actions according to institutionalized power structures. Comparative Observations: Both authors reveal that individual motivations cannot be considered in isolation; they are shaped through a dynamic interplay of internal desires and external pressures. Ahmad emphasizes ethical and cultural mediation, whereas Orwell highlights political and institutional enforcement. This indicates that ideology—whether cultural or political—remains a primary determinant of human behavior in literature.

Discussion



The analysis demonstrates that motivational constructs in literature are inseparable from ideological context. Ahmad's works highlight subtle social pressures and ethical frameworks, suggesting that conformity and moral responsibility shape behavior in culturally embedded ways. Orwell's narratives, conversely, depict coercive, authoritarian influences where external forces dominate personal agency, illustrating how ideology can manipulate internal motivations. This comparative study underscores the necessity of integrating ideological critique into literary interpretation. By analyzing both subtle cultural norms and overt political constraints, readers gain a deeper understanding of how society mediates individual choice. Additionally, the research contributes to contemporary literary theory by revealing the mechanisms through which literature interrogates power, moral responsibility, and personal autonomy.

Conclusion:

This study demonstrates that the tension between society and the self is a fundamental theme in both Said Ahmad and George Orwell's literature, reflecting the multifaceted interplay of internal motivations and external societal pressures. Said Ahmad's narratives reveal how ethical frameworks, cultural identity, and communal expectations subtly shape character behavior, highlighting the internal negotiation individuals undertake to balance personal integrity with social conformity. In contrast, Orwell emphasizes the overt influence of political authority, demonstrating how systemic control, propaganda, and institutionalized norms can restrict personal freedom and manipulate motivational structures. The comparative analysis reveals that while the mechanisms differ—Ahmad emphasizing moral and cultural pressures, and Orwell focusing on political and institutional constraints—the underlying principle remains consistent: individual motivations cannot be fully understood without considering the broader ideological and social context. This underscores the critical role of ideology in shaping human behavior and literary representation, emphasizing that literature functions both as a mirror and a critique of societal structures. Moreover, the study highlights several implications for literary theory and research. First, ideological analysis provides essential insight into the complex ways in which motivation, choice, and morality are interdependent with social structures. Second, understanding these mechanisms enhances interpretive depth, allowing scholars to appreciate the ethical and psychological dimensions of character development. Third, the comparative approach demonstrates that despite cultural and historical differences, human responses to societal constraints exhibit universal patterns, revealing the shared tension between autonomy and conformity.

References:

1. Ahmad, S. (2003). *Selected Stories*. Tashkent: National Publishing House.
2. Orwell, G. (1949). 1984. London: Secker & Warburg.



3. Ahmad, S. (1998). *Cultural Identity and Society*. Tashkent: Literary Press.
4. Orwell, G. (1937). *The Road to Wigan Pier*. London: Victor Gollancz Ltd.
5. Eagleton, T. (2011). *Ideology: An Introduction*. London: Verso.
6. Althusser, L. (1971). *Ideology and Ideological State Apparatuses*. London: Verso.
7. Said, E. (1978). *Orientalism*. New York: Pantheon Books.
8. Williams, R. (1977). *Marxism and Literature*. Oxford: Oxford University Press.
9. Foucault, M. (1980). *Power/Knowledge: Selected Interviews and Other Writings*. New York: Pantheon.
10. Bloom, H. (2000). *The Western Canon*. New York: Riverhead Books.