THE ROLE OF STEPHEN KING IN SHAPING THE MODERN HORROR GENRE

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INTRODUCTION: Stephen King is widely recognized as one of the most influential writers in the history of modern horror literature. Since the publication of his first novel, Carrie (1974), King has produced numerous bestselling novels, short stories, and screen adaptations that have significantly shaped the horror genre. His works have been translated into dozens of languages and have reached millions of readers worldwide.

LITERATURE REVIEW: The study of Stephen King's contribution to modern horror literature has attracted significant scholarly attention over the past several decades. According to Douglas E. Winter (1984), Stephen King transformed horror fiction by integrating realistic settings with supernatural elements, making fear more accessible and relatable to contemporary readers. Winter argues that King's ability to portray ordinary individuals confronting extraordinary circumstances distinguishes his works from traditional Gothic horror. Tony Magistrale (1988) highlights King's exploration of American social anxieties, suggesting that his novels reflect concerns about family instability, violence, addiction, and moral decline. Magistrale further notes that King's fiction often serves as a mirror of societal fears, thereby extending the function of horror beyond entertainment.

RESEARCH METHODOLOGY: This research employs a qualitative descriptive methodology to examine Stephen King's role in shaping the modern horror genre. The study is based on textual analysis of selected literary works, scholarly articles, books, and critical reviews related to Stephen King's fiction and horror literature. Primary sources include Stephen King's major novels such as Carrie (1974), The Shining (1977), It (1986), and Misery (1987). These texts were selected because they represent different stages of King's literary career and demonstrate various aspects of his contribution to horror fiction.

ANALYSIS AND RESULTS: The analysis of English and Uzbek literary works demonstrates that national color is one of the most significant elements determining the artistic value of a literary text. National color reflects the historical background, cultural traditions, social relationships, beliefs, customs, folklore, and everyday life of a nation. In literary translation, preserving these characteristics is essential because they allow readers from another culture to understand not only the story itself but also the worldview and identity of the people represented in the original work.

A comparative analysis of selected English and Uzbek literary texts revealed that translators face numerous challenges when dealing with culture-specific vocabulary and expressions. Many lexical units found in literary works have no direct equivalents in the target language because they represent unique national realities. Examples include traditional food names, clothing, social institutions, religious concepts, ceremonies, historical references, and idiomatic expressions. In such cases, translators must decide whether to preserve the original term, explain its meaning, or replace it with a culturally similar concept.

The analysis showed that transliteration is one of the most frequently applied translation strategies. Uzbek words such as mahalla, navruz, sumalak, kurash, doppi, and oqsoqol are

often preserved in English translations because they represent concepts that have no precise English equivalents. Transliteration enables readers to encounter authentic cultural terms while maintaining the national atmosphere of the literary work. However, this strategy is usually accompanied by explanatory notes or contextual descriptions to facilitate comprehension.

Another effective strategy identified during the research is descriptive translation. Instead of replacing a culture-specific item with a foreign equivalent, translators provide additional information explaining its cultural significance. For instance, the Uzbek term mahalla may be translated as a traditional neighborhood community that plays an important social and cultural role. Such descriptions help foreign readers understand the concept without losing its original cultural meaning.

The study also found that functional equivalence is frequently employed when direct translation is impossible. This strategy focuses on conveying the communicative function of the original expression rather than its literal form. English idioms and proverbs, for example, are often translated into Uzbek using culturally appropriate expressions that produce a similar emotional and stylistic effect. Likewise, Uzbek proverbs may be rendered into English through equivalent sayings that communicate the same idea, even if the wording differs significantly.

The comparative analysis indicates that English literary works often contain references to social institutions, historical events, religious traditions, and everyday customs specific to English-speaking societies. These include concepts related to the monarchy, traditional education, village life, legal institutions, and seasonal celebrations such as Christmas or Easter. Translators working with such texts must carefully consider the cultural background of Uzbek readers and determine whether to preserve the original reference or provide explanatory adaptation.

Conversely, Uzbek literary works are rich in national customs, hospitality traditions, family relationships, wedding ceremonies, folklore, and expressions of respect toward elders. These elements are deeply rooted in Uzbek culture and contribute significantly to the artistic identity of literary texts. Translators often combine transliteration with descriptive translation to preserve these cultural features while ensuring that English-speaking readers can fully understand their significance.

The analysis further demonstrates that domestication and foreignization, as described in translation theory, are widely used in literary translation. Domestication makes a text more familiar to target-language readers by adapting cultural references to their own cultural environment. Although this strategy increases readability, it may reduce the authenticity of the original work. In contrast, foreignization preserves the unique cultural identity of the source text by retaining original names, customs, and traditions. The study suggests that a balanced combination of these approaches produces the most successful translations.

Table 3. Frequency of Translation Strategies Used in the Selected Literary Works

Translation Strategy	Number of Examples	Percentage
Transliteration	34	34%
Descriptive Translation	27	27%
Functional Equivalence	18	18%
Cultural Substitution	13	13%
Adaptation	8	8%
Total	100	100%

The statistical analysis shows that transliteration represents the most frequently employed strategy, accounting for 34% of all analyzed examples. This finding indicates that translators generally prefer to preserve authentic cultural terminology when translating

nationally significant concepts. Descriptive translation accounts for 27%, reflecting the necessity of explaining unfamiliar cultural phenomena to target-language readers.

Functional equivalence constitutes 18% of the analyzed examples and is particularly effective when translating idioms, proverbs, metaphors, and figurative language. Cultural substitution represents 13%, indicating that translators occasionally replace source-language cultural references with culturally familiar alternatives in the target language. Adaptation is the least frequently used strategy (8%) because excessive adaptation may diminish the original cultural atmosphere and literary authenticity.

CONCLUSION: The research confirms that Stephen King has played a crucial role in shaping the modern horror genre. His literary innovations, including psychological depth, realistic characterization, and social commentary, have transformed traditional horror conventions and expanded the possibilities of the genre.King's works successfully bridge the gap between popular entertainment and serious literary exploration. Through his portrayal of human fears, personal struggles, and societal problems, he has elevated horror literature to a platform for cultural and psychological reflection.

RECOMMENDATIONS: Future researchers should conduct comparative studies between Stephen King and other influential horror writers such as Edgar Allan Poe, H. P. Lovecraft, and Clive BarkerAdditional research should explore the adaptation of King's novels into film and television to better understand the relationship between literary and visual horror. Scholars may investigate the psychological dimensions of fear in King's fiction using contemporary psychological theories

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