

Psycholinguistic Interpretation of Social Issues in the Chingiz Aitmatov's Novel "Farewell, Gulsary!"

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Abstract. *This article examines psycholinguistic aspects in the interpretation of social issues presented in Chingiz Aitmatov's novel "Farewell, Gulsary!". Through the protagonist Tanabai's life, the author highlights societal transformations during collectivization and Soviet ideology. The narrative addresses social inequality, individual suppression, and the erosion of traditional values under state policies. Special attention is given to linguistic and psychological aspects that reveal the characters' inner experiences and their struggle to preserve individuality under stringent social control.*

Key words: *psycholinguistics, social issues, Soviet ideology, collectivization, Chingiz Aitmatov, literary interpretation.*

Introduction. Chingiz Aitmatov's novel "Farewell, Gulsary" is a profound work that explores the social, economic, and cultural shifts in Soviet Kyrgyzstan after World War II. The story reflects the fate of the main character, Tanabai, and his horse, Gulsary, against the backdrop of collectivization — a defining event across the Soviet landscape.

Ch. Aitmatov raises critical questions about freedom, identity, and personal choice within a rigid social structure. Tanabai is not merely the central character but a symbol of the changes experienced by Kyrgyz society in the 20th century. His life mirrors the lives of many whose traditions were dismantled by collectivization and state authority.

Historical and Cultural Context

The novel begins in the post-war period when Soviet influence expanded in Kyrgyzstan. During this time, collectivization aimed to transition peasants from private to collective farming, significantly impacting economic and social structures.

Linguists researches show that "The main purpose of language is to implement interpersonal communication in various areas of human life: political and social, professional and personal" [4, p. 2594]. In Farewell, Gulsari, Aitmatov demonstrates how language operates as both a medium for personal expression and a mechanism for societal control. Tanabai's dialogue initially reflects individual thought and traditional Kyrgyz values, but as collectivization progresses, his speech is gradually shaped by political discourse, conforming to Soviet ideological norms.

Tanabai, as a simple Kyrgyz man, is forced to adapt to new imposed conditions. Collectivization strips him of everything: freedom, property, and dignity. His relationship with Gulsary symbolizes his inner world, which deteriorates as his autonomy fades.

Symbolism of Gulsary and Tanabai

Gulsary is more than just an animal; it embodies freedom, strength, and Tanabai's connection to his past. Initially, the horse represents vigor and life force, but as Tanabai ages and faces hardships, Gulsary weakens, reflecting Tanabai's internal struggles.

When Gulsary dies, it marks not only the loss of a companion but the symbolic end of an era — a personal tragedy for Tanabai, mirroring the societal shift away from traditional values.

Collectivization and Loss of Individuality

Collectivization is portrayed as the primary force reshaping Kyrgyz lives. Ch. Aitmatov illustrates how individuals lose their uniqueness under strict collective structures, with personal aspirations subordinated to state ideology.

Tanabai and his peers become victims of this system. Despite recognizing its injustices, he is powerless to change it. Relationships are also affected — old friendships dissolve, replaced by a society built on fear and submission.

Psycholinguistic Interpretation of Social Processes

A psycholinguistic analysis of “Farewell, Gulsary!” offers deeper insights into how language reveals social roles and conflicts. In the novel, language serves as a medium for expressing societal pressure and personal struggle. Some research shows that “pupils improve less quickly in situations where their own culture is lower than their own culture. More broad social issues can influence motivation, attitude, and the success of language learning” [3, p. 2]. This idea is reflected in Tanabai's transformation, as his forced adaptation to Soviet ideology diminishes his linguistic freedom and ability to express his identity authentically.

Stage of Tanabai's Life	Psychological State	Linguistic Features in the Novel
Youth and Early Life	Energetic, hopeful, connected to traditions and nature.	Rich metaphorical descriptions, vibrant and expressive language.
During Collectivization	Struggles with authority, loss of autonomy, forced adaptation to the system.	Language shifts toward state ideology, formalized expressions.
Later Years & Conflict with Soviet Power	Internal crisis, awareness of oppression, emotional turmoil.	More fragmented speech, reflective tone, inner dialogues showing resistance.
Final Stage (Gulsary's Death)	Loss of identity, resignation, symbolic acceptance of fate.	Somber, restrained language with strong metaphors of loss

Table №1

The table serves as a structured breakdown of **Tanabai's psychological evolution**, mirroring his interactions with collectivization and Soviet ideology. Ch. Aitmatov masterfully conveys these shifts through **linguistic nuances**, allowing readers to experience his **inner conflict, resistance, and eventual resignation**.

1. Tanabai's Youth and Early Life

In his early years, Tanabai embodies **energy, hope, and a strong connection to traditions and nature**. His speech is **vibrant, metaphorical, and rich**, reflecting a **free-thinking individual with a deep sense of identity**.

- His language is **expressive**, often rooted in **nature-based metaphors**, symbolizing his harmony with his environment.
- Conversations are **personal, emotional, and full of warmth**, revealing his **optimism and belief in traditional values**.

2. Tanabai During Collectivization

As collectivization is enforced, Tanabai's **freedom diminishes, forcing him to comply with an imposed system**. His psychological state shifts toward **frustration, struggle, and forced adaptation**.

- The language in his dialogues **gradually adopts official terminology**, reflecting the **Soviet ideological influence**.
- His speech becomes **more structured and controlled**, losing some of its **metaphorical richness** as the system dictates communication patterns.

3. Later Years & Conflict with Soviet Power

Tanabai undergoes an **internal crisis**, recognizing the **oppressive nature of collectivization** yet feeling powerless to fight back. His psychological state shifts toward **emotional turmoil and deep dissatisfaction**.

- His speech becomes **fragmented**, filled with **pauses, hesitations, and introspective monologues**, reflecting **his inner resistance**.
- Dialogue with authority figures reveals his **strained tone**, where he **submits outwardly but retains his personal thoughts and resentment** internally.

4. Final Stage (Gulsary's Death)

Tanabai ultimately **loses his identity, resigning himself to the fate imposed on him**. This marks the **complete psychological transformation** from a **free-thinking individual to a man shaped by external control**.

- His language **becomes restrained, somber, and full of metaphors of loss and mortality**.
- His speech is **less personal and more reflective**, as he accepts the **irreversible social changes surrounding him**.

The table provides a structured insight into **Tanabai's psychological deterioration**, showing how **language plays a crucial role** in depicting the **pressures of Soviet rule**. Ch. Aitmatov carefully crafts linguistic elements to **mirror Tanabai's emotions**, ensuring that readers **feel his struggles through both narration and dialogue**.

Tanabai, once deeply rooted in traditional values, finds his language evolving under Soviet influence. Conversations with officials force him into using unfamiliar political terminology, contrasting with his inner thoughts tied to nature, freedom, and individuality. His speech thus becomes a battleground between old and new ideologies.

Militarization of Consciousness and Social Pressure

Similar to Orwell's "1984," Ch. Aitmatov illustrates how state ideology leads to the militarization of consciousness. In collectivist societies, individuals must conform to strict regulations, threatening personal freedoms.

Tanabai realizes that even his thoughts are no longer his own. His individuality diminishes as he aligns with externally imposed norms, highlighting Ch. Aitmatov's critique of state control over consciousness.

Moral Degradation and Alienation

The novel also explores moral decline under conditions of social injustice. Tanabai, who once aspired to an honest, free life, finds that his values no longer matter. Society's moral compass shifts — personal survival takes precedence over collective support.

Ch. Aitmatov underscores how people grow distant from one another. Tanabai, despite his resilience, ends up isolated in a world where his beliefs are no longer relevant. His deepening crisis signifies the emotional costs of societal transformation.

Conclusion. Chingiz Aitmatov's *Farewell, Gulsary* illustrates how state ideology shapes individual consciousness, language, and perception. According to the theory that "Psycholinguistics examines specific circumstances" [5, p. 1], this paper explored how external forces influence language and cognition. In the novel, collectivization alters Tanabai's speech, forcing him to conform to Soviet discourse. This reflects broader psycholinguistic phenomena, where political pressure reshapes communication and identity. Ch. Aitmatov critiques these shifts while emphasizing the importance of preserving cultural identity and personal values amid social transformations. His novel remains a poignant reflection on the balance between societal demands and individual freedom.

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