

The Content of the Concept of War and its Artistic Interpretation in Uzbek Classical Literature

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Abstract. *This article examines the concept of war and its artistic interpretation in Uzbek classical literature. Throughout the history of Uzbek literature, themes of war and conflict have been prominently featured. This article analyzes these themes from the perspectives of heroism, patriotism, tragedy, and the human cost of war. By exploring the creative legacy of key figures such as Amir Timur, Alisher Navoi, Babur, and other significant writers, the various portrayals and interpretations of war in their works are discussed. The article highlights how heroism and patriotism are celebrated, the tragedies and human costs are lamented, and how literary and artistic methods are employed to convey the essence and significance of war.*

Key words: *Uzbek classical literature, war, heroism, patriotism, tragedy, artistic interpretation, Amir Timur, Alisher Navoi, Babur, epic, lyric literature, historical works.*

Uzbek classical literature is a rich tapestry woven with the threads of history, culture, and human experience. One of the recurring themes in this literature is the concept of war and its artistic interpretation. War, with its multifaceted implications, has always been a subject of profound reflection and artistic portrayal. This article explores the content of the concept of war and its artistic interpretation in Uzbek classical literature, analyzing examples from notable works to illustrate how Uzbek writers have engaged with this theme over the centuries.

Uzbek literature, like many other literary traditions, has been shaped by the historical and social contexts in which it developed. The Central Asian region, including modern-day Uzbekistan, has been a crossroads of civilizations, witnessing numerous conflicts, invasions, and wars. These historical experiences have left a deep imprint on the literary output of the region.

The Timurid era, under the reign of Amir Timur (Tamerlane), is one of the most significant periods in Uzbek history. Timur's military campaigns and his vision of a vast empire were documented and romanticized in various literary works. For instance, the historical epic «Zafarnama» (The Book of Victories) by Sharafuddin Ali Yazdi provides a detailed account of Timur's conquests, blending historical fact with literary embellishment. This work not only documents the wars but also offers insights into the cultural and philosophical underpinnings of warfare during this period.

Folklore and oral tradition have played a crucial role in preserving the memory of wars and battles in Uzbek literature. Epic poems such as «Alpomish» and «Gurughli» narrate the heroic deeds of warriors and their struggles against enemies. These epics, passed down through generations, reflect the collective memory and values of the Uzbek people, portraying war as a stage for demonstrating bravery, loyalty, and honor.

The artistic interpretation of war in Uzbek classical literature is multifaceted, encompassing themes of heroism, patriotism, tragedy, and the human cost of conflict. Uzbek writers have used various literary forms, including poetry, prose, and epic narratives, to explore these themes.

Heroism and patriotism are central themes in the depiction of war in Uzbek literature. The character of Alpomish, from the eponymous epic, embodies the ideal warrior, displaying unparalleled bravery and unwavering loyalty to his homeland. Alpomish's battles against invaders are not just physical confrontations but also symbolic struggles to preserve cultural identity and national integrity.

In another example, the «Gurughli» epic cycle features a series of heroic tales centered around the character of Gurughli and his companions. These stories celebrate the courage and resilience of Uzbek warriors, emphasizing the importance of defending one's homeland and people.

While heroism and patriotism are celebrated, Uzbek literature also poignantly addresses the tragedy and human cost of war. The works of poets like Navoi and Babur often reflect on the sorrow and devastation brought about by conflict. Alisher Navoi's poetry, for example, frequently laments the loss of life and the suffering of innocents in times of war. His masnavis and ghazals often include contemplations on the futility of violence and the ephemeral nature of worldly power.

Babur's «Baburnama,» though primarily a memoir, also provides a candid account of the harsh realities of warfare. Babur's reflections on the battles he fought and the lives lost reveal a deep awareness of the personal and collective suffering caused by war. His writings offer a nuanced perspective, balancing the glory of military victories with the somber acknowledgment of their human toll.

To further illustrate the artistic interpretation of war in Uzbek classical literature, we will analyze specific examples from notable works, focusing on the themes of heroism, tragedy, and the philosophical reflections on conflict.

«Alpomish»

The epic of «Alpomish» is one of the most celebrated works in Uzbek literature. It narrates the story of Alpomish, a hero who embarks on a perilous journey to rescue his betrothed, Barchin, and reclaim his homeland from invaders. The epic is a rich tapestry of heroism, love, and cultural pride.

Heroism and Loyalty: Alpomish's journey is fraught with challenges that test his strength, courage, and loyalty. His battles against formidable enemies are not just physical confrontations but also moral and ethical trials. Alpomish's unwavering determination to rescue Barchin and protect his homeland is emblematic of the ideal warrior, showcasing the values of bravery and loyalty.

The epic also serves as a vehicle for preserving and promoting Uzbek cultural identity. Through Alpomish's heroism, the narrative reinforces the importance of cultural heritage and the collective memory of the Uzbek people. The depiction of customs, traditions, and values within the epic reflects the broader cultural context of the time.

«Baburnama»

The «Baburnama» is the autobiography of Zahir-ud-din Muhammad Babur, the founder of the Mughal Empire. While it primarily chronicles Babur's life and conquests, it also offers profound reflections on the nature of war and leadership.

Babur's narrative is marked by a striking realism. He does not shy away from describing the brutality of battles and the suffering they cause. His reflections on war often reveal a sense of disillusionment with the transient nature of power and glory. Babur's candid observations about the futility of violence and the human cost of his campaigns provide a sobering counterpoint to the traditional glorification of war.

The «Baburnama» also delves into the philosophical aspects of war. Babur frequently contemplates the ethical implications of his actions and the broader consequences of warfare. His reflections on leadership and responsibility highlight the moral dilemmas faced by those in positions of power.

Alisher Navoi, one of the greatest poets of Uzbek literature, often addressed the theme of war in his works. His poetry is notable for its lyrical beauty and deep philosophical insights. Navoi's poetry frequently laments the devastation caused by war. In his ghazals and masnavis, he mourns the loss of life and the destruction of peace. Navoi's elegiac tone underscores the tragedy of conflict and the profound sorrow it brings to individuals and communities.

Navoi's works also include reflections on the ethical dimensions of war. He often contrasts the transitory nature of worldly power with the enduring values of compassion and justice. His poetry serves as a moral critique of the senseless violence and greed that often drive conflicts.

The philosophical and ethical dimensions of war are central to the artistic interpretation of conflict in Uzbek classical literature. Writers and poets have used their works to explore the moral implications of warfare and to advocate for peace and justice. Uzbek literature frequently grapples with the ethical dilemmas posed by war. Characters in epic narratives and historical accounts often face difficult choices that test their moral principles. These dilemmas highlight the complex nature of war, where decisions are seldom clear-cut and the consequences are far-reaching.

Many Uzbek writers have used their works to advocate for peace and to condemn the senseless violence of war. Through their artistic interpretations, they have sought to promote values such as compassion, justice, and harmony. This advocacy is evident in the works of poets like Navoi and Babur, whose reflections on the human cost of war underscore the urgent need for peace.

By the twentieth century, the anti-war mood and the tide of pacifism had taken center stage in Western literature. Only black paints were used to depict the war, which was a source of sorrow and disaster. In the twentieth century, Uzbek literature got a similar interpretation. However, the image of the heroes, who demonstrated heroism both behind and in front of the front lines, persisted. If the tragic spirit reigns supreme in works depicting the themes of the First World War and the Afghan war, patriotism and heroism are represented in works depicting the subjects of the Second World War. These difficulties drew the attention of literary critics as well. S. Mamajanov, N. Bekmirzayev and after such scientists as A. Yuljaboev, in Uzbek literature on the theme of the war in the interpretation of H. Karimov [4], B. Nazarov, U. Normatov [11], X. Hamroqulova, Q. Yoldoshev [16] scientists and writers as S. Polatov [12] described their own image and literary views. Their new views changed the issue of attitude to the war in Uzbek literature [6, 90].

The concept of war and its artistic interpretation in Uzbek classical literature is a multifaceted and deeply significant theme. Through epic narratives, poetry, and historical accounts, Uzbek writers have explored the heroism, tragedy, and philosophical dimensions of conflict. Their works reflect the historical experiences of the Uzbek people and offer profound insights into the ethical and moral implications of war. By examining these artistic interpretations, we gain a deeper understanding of the cultural and literary heritage of Uzbekistan and the enduring human quest for peace and justice.

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