

Navoi's Stories and Folklore

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Abstract: *This article examines the relationship between the stories found in Alisher Navoi's prose and epic works and folklore, their sources of formation, and their artistic and aesthetic functions. The genre of the story occupies an important place in Navoi's oeuvre, and stories of various themes can be found in such works as "Khamsa," "Mahbub ul-Qulub," "Tarikhi Muluki Ajam," "Tarikhi Anbiyo va Hukamo," and "Nasoyim ul-Muhabbat." The study analyzes the common features of stories associated with figures such as Anushirvan and Luqman the Wise and those found in folk narratives, legends, and didactic stories. It demonstrates that Navoi did not simply reproduce folklore materials in their ready-made form, but creatively reworked them and enriched them with educational, moral, and aesthetic content. This article examines the relationship between Alisher Navoi's stories and folklore, the sources of their formation, and their artistic and aesthetic functions. Particular attention is paid to the connection between the stories and folk narratives, legends, and didactic tales. The study shows that Navoi creatively reworked folklore materials and enriched them with educational, moral, and aesthetic content. This article examines the relationship between Alisher Navoi's stories and folklore, their sources, and their artistic and aesthetic functions. Particular attention is paid to stories connected with folk legends, narratives, and didactic traditions. The study demonstrates that Navoi creatively transformed folklore materials and enriched them with educational, moral, and aesthetic meanings.*

Keywords: Alisher Navoi, Story, Folklore, Oral Folk Literature, Legend, Narrative, Folklorism, Proverb, Wisdom, Character, Artistic Interpretation

1. Introduction

The relationship between oral folk literature and written literature is one of the important issues in the development of classical literature. Folklore embodies the people's centuries-old artistic thinking, worldview, moral values, and life experience. Therefore, representatives of written literature have creatively made use of various genres and characters of oral folk literature.[1]

Folklore traditions also occupy an important place in Alisher Navoi's oeuvre. In his epics, ghazals, and prose works, one can observe artistic interpretations of folk proverbs, expressions, narratives, legends, and other folklore elements.[2]

In particular, Navoi's stories are of special scholarly significance because of their connection with folklore. Navoi creatively reworks plots and characters existing among the people and gives them new artistic meaning. As a result, folklore material is adapted to the aesthetic and ideological requirements of written literature.[3]

2. Methodology

For the study, Alisher Navoi's works containing stories were used as the principal literary sources. Particular attention was paid to the aspects of the stories in such works as "Khamsa," "Mahbub ul-Qulub," "Tarikhi Muluki Ajam," "Tarikhi Anbiyo va Hukamo," and "Nasoyim ul-Muhabbat" that are connected with folklore.[4]

Studies on the topic have examined the influence of folklore on the formation of Navoi's stories, the reflection of religious and mythological characters, and the creative assimilation of examples of

oral folk literature.[5]

The study employed historical-comparative, textual-analytical, folkloristic, and poetic analysis methods. The interrelationship between the plots, characters, motifs, and wisdom found in the stories and folklore traditions was examined.[6]

3. Results

The relationship between Alisher Navoi's stories and folklore can be considered in several directions. First, the artistic reworking of folk narratives and legends is an important feature of Navoi's stories. Historical and legendary characters formed in oral folk literature acquire new artistic meaning in Navoi's works.[7]

Second, folk wisdom and moral-didactic views occupy an important place in the stories. The spiritual character of the human being is revealed through oppositions such as good and evil, justice and oppression, knowledge and ignorance, generosity and stinginess.[8]

Third, Navoi uses folklore traditions as a means of creating characters. Through figures such as Anushirvan, Luqman the Wise, and Hatam Tai, ideas of wisdom, justice, generosity, and humanism are expressed.[9]

Fourth, the conventional narrative structure and concise manner of narration characteristic of oral folk literature enhance the effectiveness of Navoi's stories.[10]

Folklore → plot → character → wisdom → artistic idea. This sequence represents an important process of artistic reworking of folk material in Navoi's stories.[11]

4. Discussion

Studying Navoi's stories in connection with folklore demonstrates the close relationship between written and oral literature. Folklore materials perform new artistic functions in Navoi's works.[12]

Stories about wise figures existing in oral folk literature serve Navoi to illuminate issues of human perfection and moral education. In the stories about Anushirvan, the idea of a just ruler is prominent, while in the stories associated with Luqman the Wise, issues of wisdom and human virtues are highlighted.[13]

From this perspective, the following functions of folklore can be identified in Navoi's stories:

Plot-compositional function — shapes the events of the story.

Character-creating function — artistically reinterprets characters popular among the people.

Didactic function — expresses moral and educational conclusions.[14]

Aesthetic function — enhances the artistic impact of the work.

Symbolic function — gives additional meaning to characters and events.

National-cultural function — reflects the people's worldview, values, and life experience.

Thus, in Navoi's stories, folklore functions as a source, an artistic means, and an ideological-aesthetic component.[15]

5. Conclusion

Alisher Navoi's stories constitute important literary material for studying the relationship between folklore and written literature. Navoi creatively used narratives, legends, stories, proverbs, and wisdom belonging to oral folk literature, reinterpreting them on the basis of his artistic, aesthetic, and educational views.

The study identifies the following main functions of folklore in Navoi's stories: serving as a source of plots; providing a basis for the formation of characters; artistically expressing folk wisdom and views; strengthening moral and didactic ideas; enriching national-cultural content; and increasing the artistic and aesthetic impact of the work.

Thus, the folklore elements in Alisher Navoi's stories are not merely a case of borrowing, but a process of creative reworking and artistic interpretation. Navoi harmonized the traditions of oral folk literature with the possibilities of written literature and enriched them with profound artistic and educational content.

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