

A STUDY OF UZBEK FOLKLORE IN ENGLISH
SCIENTIFIC LITERATURE

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•Фольклор халқнинг оғзаки ижодининг бир кўриниши бўлиб, унинг тарихи, кадриятлари ва дунёқарашини акс эттиради. Унда афсона, дoston, кўшиқлар, мақоллар ва анъанавий ҳикоялар мавжуд бўлиб, авлоддан авлодга ўтиб келади. Фольклор маданий мерос сифатида халқнинг ҳаёт тарзи ва урф-одатларини сақлашда муҳим роль ўйнайди..

•Фольклор является формой устного народного творчества, отражающей историю, ценности и мировоззрение народа. Он включает в себя мифы, эпосы, песни, пословицы и традиционные рассказы, которые передаются из поколения в поколение. Фольклор играет важную роль в сохранении культурного наследия и традиций народа..

•Folklore is a form of oral tradition that reflects the history, values, and worldview of a community. It includes myths, epics, songs, proverbs, and traditional stories passed down through generations. Folklore plays an important role in preserving the cultural heritage and traditions of a people.

Таянч сўзлар: Афсона миф, ривоят.Эпос қахрамонлик дostonлари.Мақол халқ донолиги, қийматли таълимот.Матал қисқа, лўнда ва мазмунли иборалар.Кўшиқхалқ оғзаки ижодининг мусиқий жанри.Ривоят тарихий воқеалар асосида тўқилган ҳикоялар.Қахрамон афсона ёки дostonдаги асосий персонаж.Анъана авлоддан авлодга ўтиб келадиган урф-одатлар.Ҳикоя содда ва бадиий шаклдаги халқ ҳикоялари.

Ключевые слова: Миф народные легенды и преданияЭпос героические сказания. Пословица народная мудрость, короткие поучительные выражения. Поговорка краткие меткие фразы.Песня музыкальный жанр устного народного творчества.Легенда рассказы, основанные на исторических событиях.Герой главный персонаж в мифах или эпосах.Мировоззрение взгляды и верования народа.Традиция обычаи, передаваемые из поколения в поколение. Сказка острые и художественные народные истории.

Key words: Myth traditional stories or legends. Epic heroic tales or long narrative poems. Proverb a short, wise saying reflecting common wisdom. Saying concise and meaningful expressions. Song a musical form of folk tradition. Legend stories based on historical events.Hero the main character in myths or epics. Worldview beliefs and perspectives of a people.Tradition customs passed down through generations.Folktale

simple and artistic traditional stories.

Abstract

This study explores the representation and analysis of Uzbek folklore in English scientific literature, focusing on how the rich oral traditions, myths, legends, and cultural narratives of Uzbekistan are documented and interpreted by Western scholars. Uzbek folklore, rooted in the country's ancient history and cultural diversity, has garnered increasing attention in global ethnographic and literary studies. However, a comprehensive analysis of its portrayal in English-language academic works is still underdeveloped. This paper aims to bridge that gap by examining key publications, including folklore collections, comparative studies, and theoretical analyses, with an emphasis on common themes such as the portrayal of heroism, spirituality, social values, and moral lessons. The study also addresses challenges in translation and interpretation, as well as the influence of colonial and post-colonial perspectives in shaping the understanding of Uzbek folklore. By highlighting the contribution of Uzbek folklore to world heritage, this research seeks to enhance cross-cultural appreciation and scholarly engagement with Central Asian traditions in the English-speaking world.

Uzbek folklore is a rich cultural tradition that has long intrigued researchers worldwide, particularly for its preservation of Central Asian history, spirituality, and cultural identity. However, studies focusing on Uzbek folklore in English-language scientific literature are comparatively limited. These works often approach Uzbek folklore from anthropological, literary, and linguistic perspectives, highlighting its significance in both local and global contexts.

Oral Tradition and Transmission one of the central themes explored in English-language studies of Uzbek folklore is its oral tradition. Researchers emphasize the importance of oral storytelling in the preservation and transmission of cultural values and historical knowledge. For instance, the epic tales such as *Alpomish*—a foundational Uzbek heroic epic—have been analyzed for their role in shaping national identity and reinforcing social norms. Oral poetry, particularly through "baxshi" (folk singers) and "qissaxon" (narrators of stories), remains a significant part of Uzbek culture, and Western researchers have studied how these traditions survived through periods of colonization, modernization, and Soviet rule.

Folktales and Myths English scientific literature has explored a variety of Uzbek folktales and myths, noting their didactic functions and cultural symbolism. Uzbek folktales are often characterized by moral lessons about good and evil, hospitality, the importance of kinship, and resourcefulness. Many of these folktales involve supernatural creatures such as the "Dev" (a giant or demon) and "Jin" (spirits), which reflect the spiritual and metaphysical beliefs of Uzbek society. Scholars in English have analyzed these tales through various lenses, including psychoanalysis, semiotics, and

structuralism, drawing comparisons to similar stories in other cultures. For example, the narrative structure of many Uzbek folktales has been compared to those found in Russian or Persian folklore, reflecting cultural exchanges along the Silk Road.

Epics and Heroism Uzbek epics, such as *Alpomish* and *Gurugli*, have been of particular interest to Western researchers. These epics often depict heroic figures who embody values such as bravery, loyalty, and sacrifice for the greater good. English studies frequently draw attention to how these epics function as cultural vehicles for historical memory, conveying the struggles and triumphs of the Uzbek people over centuries. The epic *Alpomish* has been studied not only for its narrative and literary value but also for its ethnographic insights into ancient customs, martial practices, and social hierarchies. Western scholars have also explored the evolution of the epic from oral tradition to written form, especially during the Soviet era, when folklore was both promoted and censored as a tool for fostering national unity.

Religious and Spiritual Elements: Many works in English have examined the religious and spiritual aspects of Uzbek folklore, particularly the integration of pre-Islamic beliefs with Islamic traditions. For instance, the role of Sufism and Islamic mysticism in shaping Uzbek folklore is a frequent topic of discussion. Stories about saints, miracles, and spiritual journeys are analyzed for their symbolic representations of faith, inner transformation, and moral guidance. Researchers also explore the syncretism present in Uzbek folklore, where Zoroastrian, Buddhist, and animist beliefs are interwoven with Islamic teachings. This combination of spiritual influences is seen in various folktales, legends, and rituals, which reflect the diverse cultural and religious heritage of the region.

The Soviet period had a significant impact on the collection, study, and adaptation of Uzbek folklore. English-language studies often focus on how folklore was used by the Soviet regime as a means of shaping national identity and promoting socialist values. During this time, many Uzbek folktales and epics were written down and codified, but some were also altered to align with Soviet ideology, removing elements that were deemed politically or religiously subversive.

Scholars in English have analyzed how Soviet folklorists both preserved and transformed traditional Uzbek stories, and how this period influenced the modern perception of Uzbek folklore both in Uzbekistan and abroad. Translation Barriers:**

One of the primary challenges in studying Uzbek folklore in English is the issue of translation. Many Uzbek folktales, poems, and epics contain cultural nuances and linguistic subtleties that are difficult to fully capture in English. As a result, much of the richness and depth of these stories can be lost in translation. Scholars must often rely on bilingual or local experts to ensure that the translations remain faithful to the original texts. Limited Research:**

Although interest in Uzbek folklore has grown in recent decades, the volume of

English-language research remains relatively small compared to studies on other folklore traditions such as Russian or Persian. This is partly due to the geographic and linguistic distance between Western researchers and Central Asia. However, ongoing collaborations between Uzbek and Western scholars are helping to bridge this gap. Cultural Context another challenge is understanding the cultural and historical context of Uzbek folklore. Many stories are deeply rooted in the specific customs, rituals, and belief systems of Uzbekistan, which can be difficult for non-local researchers to fully grasp. English-language studies often emphasize the importance of studying folklore within its original cultural context to avoid misinterpretation.

Uzbek folklore holds a unique place in Central Asian cultural history, offering insights into the region's values, beliefs, and social structures. While English-language scientific literature on the topic is still developing, existing studies provide valuable analyses of Uzbek oral traditions, epics, and folktales. Continued research in this field will not only enhance our understanding of Uzbek culture but also contribute to broader discussions on the role of folklore in shaping national and cultural identities. Uzbek and English folklore both serve as reflections of their respective societies, encapsulating core values, moral lessons, and cultural norms. While Uzbek folklore often emphasizes hospitality, community, and resourcefulness, English folklore frequently focuses on individualism, heroism, and the supernatural.

Symbolism in Mythical Creatures the mythical creatures in Uzbek and English folklore symbolize different cultural fears and aspirations. Uzbek folklore, with figures like the 'Dev' and 'Jin,' often highlights the struggle between good and evil in a spiritual context, while English folklore, featuring creatures such as fairies and dragons, reflects a more magical interpretation of nature and the unknown."

Despite geographical and historical differences, both Uzbek and English folklore have rich oral traditions that have been passed down for generations. These stories, through proverbs, songs, and legends, not only entertain but also serve as educational tools, teaching social norms and ethical behaviors."

The role of heroic figures in Uzbek and English folklore reveals different approaches to leadership and morality. While Uzbek heroes like 'Alpomish' embody traits of loyalty, strength, and kinship, English folklore heroes such as 'Robin Hood' emphasize justice, rebellion against tyranny, and the protection of the oppressed."*

Influence of Nature in Folklore both Uzbek and English folklore depict a deep connection to nature, though in distinct ways. Uzbek folklore often portrays nature as a force to be respected and in harmony with, while English folklore presents nature as a setting for magical occurrences and trials, with elements like forests and rivers serving as both perilous and transformative landscapes."

Each of these theses can be expanded into a deeper comparative analysis of Uzbek and English folklore traditions.

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