



COMPARATIVE ANALYSIS OF UZBEK AND ENGLISH FOLK TALES RECORDED IN ANCIENT MANUSCRIPTS AND METHODS OF SCHOLARLY EXPERTISE

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Abstract: This article analyzes Uzbek and English folk tales preserved in ancient manuscripts from the perspective of comparative literary studies and highlights the methods of their scholarly expertise. The study compares the plot and compositional structure, system of characters, symbolic layers, and linguistic features of folk tales from the two nations.[1] Additionally, the scientific significance of textual criticism, paleography, codicology, and linguistic expertise methods in working with manuscripts is substantiated. The article serves as a methodological foundation for the study of folklore texts based on written sources.[2]

Keywords: folk tale, ancient manuscript, comparative analysis, scholarly expertise, textual criticism, folklore heritage.

Annotatsiya: Mazkur maqolada qadimiy qo'lyozmalarda saqlanib qolgan o'zbek va ingliz xalq ertaklari qiyosiy adabiyotshunoslik nuqtayi nazaridan tahlil qilinadi hamda ularni ilmiy ekspertizadan o'tkazish usullari yoritiladi. Tadqiqotda ertaklarning syujet-kompozitsion qurilishi, obrazlar tizimi, ramziy qatlamlari va til xususiyatlari ikki xalq folklori misolida solishtirib o'rganiladi.[1] Shuningdek, qo'lyozmalar bilan ishlashda matnshunoslik, paleografiya, kodikologiya va lingvistik ekspertiza metodlarining ilmiy ahamiyati asoslab beriladi. Maqola folklor matnlarini yozma manbalar asosida tadqiq etish uchun metodologik asos bo'lib xizmat qiladi.[2]

Kalit so'zlar: xalq ertagi, qadimiy qo'lyozma, qiyosiy tahlil, ilmiy ekspertiza, matnshunoslik, folklor merosi.

Introduction: Folk tales are an important cultural phenomenon that reflects the historical memory, moral values, and worldview of every nation.[3] Initially formed as products of oral tradition, they were later preserved in written sources, including ancient manuscripts.[2] Today, these manuscripts serve not only as literary sources but also as an essential foundation for historical, linguistic, and cultural research.

A comparative study of Uzbek and English folk tales makes it possible to identify both common and distinctive features of artistic thinking shaped in different cultural environments.[4] Research based on ancient manuscripts is particularly important for reconstructing early versions of tales, tracing their historical development, and revealing the relationship between oral and written traditions. Therefore, along with comparative analysis, special attention is given in this article to issues related to the scholarly expertise of manuscripts.

Research Methodology: The study employs a comprehensive approach using several scientific methods. The comparative literary method is used to compare plots, motifs, and

characters of folk tales.[4] Structural analysis helps identify the internal structure and stages of narrative development. The textual criticism approach enables the identification of differences between manuscript versions and the reconstruction of the primary text.[1] Paleographic and codicological methods are applied to determine the chronological and regional affiliation of manuscripts by examining script types, materials, and external features. Linguistic analysis is used to identify historical layers of language within the texts.[3]

Comparative Analysis of Uzbek and English Folk Tales: Uzbek folk tales recorded in ancient manuscripts often emphasize ideas of social justice, diligence, and patience.[1] The protagonist is usually an ordinary person who achieves success by overcoming various trials. In contrast, English folk tales tend to develop plots around adventure and magical events, where individual bravery, intelligence, and personal initiative play a central role.[3]

Although characters such as giants, dragons, witches, and magical objects found in the tales of both peoples share common mythological roots, their symbolic interpretations differ according to national mentality.[4] In Uzbek folk tales, these figures often symbolize social evil, whereas in English tales they are interpreted as means of testing the hero's inner growth and moral maturity.

Significant differences are also observed in language and style. Ancient Uzbek manuscripts widely employ colloquial expressions, proverbs, and sayings, while English manuscripts contain more archaic elements characteristic of Old and Middle English, as well as religious and mythological terminology.[3] These features are determined through linguistic expertise.

Scholarly Expertise of Ancient Manuscripts: The process of scholarly expertise is a crucial methodological stage in introducing ancient manuscripts into academic circulation. Scholarly expertise serves to determine the authenticity of a manuscript, its period of creation, cultural origin, and the reliability of the text.[2] In particular, in the study of folklore texts, the result of the examination makes it possible to determine the connection between the written and oral traditions of fairy tales.[3]

Textual examination is the study of the internal structure of a manuscript text, by comparing different manuscripts of the same work. This process identifies variants in the text, omissions or later additions, as well as scribe-made edits.[1] Textual analysis can be used to reconstruct the version closest to the author's text and to determine the evolutionary stages of the text.[4]

Paleographic examination is based on the study of the form of writing in a manuscript, the graphic structure of letters, the spacing between lines, and the writing technique. The specific features of the writing type determine the approximate date of creation of the manuscript. In addition, paleographic analysis is important in identifying secretarial schools, regional writing traditions, and stages of development of written culture.[5] In some cases, paleographic signs also make it possible to determine whether a manuscript is a forgery or a later recopy.[6]

Codicological examination is aimed at studying the external and material characteristics of a manuscript, which includes the type of paper or parchment, the composition of the ink, the arrangement of the leaves, the shape of the cover, and the decorative elements. Based on these characteristics, important conclusions are drawn about where and during what period the manuscript was prepared, as well as the history of its preservation and use.[7] Codicological analysis also plays an important role in determining whether a manuscript is an original or a later copy.[1]

Linguistic expertise is aimed at studying the lexical, grammatical and stylistic features of the language of the text, through which the period and regional affiliation of the text is determined.[8] The analysis of archaic units, dialectal elements and grammatical forms found in the text serves to reveal the historical layers of fairy tale texts.[9] Linguistic expertise is especially important in determining the aspects of ancient fairy tales that are characteristic of oral creativity or correspond to the written tradition.[3]

In general, scientific examination of ancient manuscripts requires a comprehensive approach. The harmonious use of textual, paleographic, codicological, and linguistic examination methods serves to fully reveal the scientific value of the manuscript.[4] This makes it possible to study ancient fairy tales as a reliable scientific source and correctly include them in the circulation of literary and folklore studies.[1]

Conclusion: Comparative analysis of Uzbek and English folk tales based on ancient manuscripts allows for a deeper understanding of written forms of oral folklore. The application of scholarly expertise methods plays a vital role in determining the historical, literary, and cultural value of manuscripts. The research findings provide a solid theoretical foundation for further studies in folklore studies, literary criticism, and manuscript studies.

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