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Tradition And Distinctive Style In The Work Of Erkin Vokhidov

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Abstract

This article explores the distinctive features of literary tradition and individual style in the works of Erkin Vokhidov. It examines the continuity of classical literary traditions, the inner world of the lyrical protagonist, the use of symbolic imagery, and the artistic expression of philosophical reflection within the poet's verse. Furthermore, the article highlights the significance of themes such as love, humility, national identity, and historical memory in his body of work, illustrating these points through examples from his poems. Erkin Vokhidov's skill in harmonizing accessible, folk-inspired expression – characterized by simple, fluid language – with profound content is presented as a key defining element of his individual style.

Keywords: tradition, artistic mastery, philosophical depth, individual style, lyrical hero, national identity, imagery, poetic thinking, symbolic image, poetry.

Introduction. Literature is an art form that manifests a nation's identity – its customs, values, essence, and future. At the same time, literature provides a means to express the human inner world, thoughts, worldview, and emotions. "If literature lives, the nation lives. Without literature, the heart and spirit of a nation perish; worst of all, the sense of truth fades away" [10].

In Uzbek literature, there are many poets who have celebrated the homeland, its peace and prosperity, the life of its people, and the flourishing of the nation; yet, among them, Erkin Vokhidov holds a unique and incomparable place. The study of Erkin Vokhidov's work has brought to light many of his distinctive qualities, with both his scholarly and creative contributions undergoing thorough analysis. Within Uzbek literature, Erkin Vokhidov stands out as a symbolic poet characterized by profound philosophical depth, a strong connection to the people, and exceptional artistic mastery – all defined by a clearly recognizable, individual style. His style is distinguished by its synthesis of the traditions of classical literature with the demands of modern poetry. His poems are not merely expressions of emotion; rather, they are rooted in a profound philosophy of life. He is able to offer a philosophical synthesis of human existence, the meaning of life, and the struggle between good and evil, all expressed in simple, lyrical language. The unique secret of Erkin Vokhidov's style lies in his ability to convey even the most complex ideas through language that is accessible, simple, and fluid. Many of his poetic lines have, over time, become aphorisms and proverbs among the people.

Literature riew. The distinctiveness of Erkin Vokhidov's poetry is primarily evident in the synthesis of fidelity to the traditions of classical literature and a modern artistic sensibility. Drawing inspiration from the creative legacy of Alisher Navoi, the poet infuses traditional poetic forms with a contemporary spirit and content. In his verses, the inner world of the lyrical protagonist, human relationships, and ethical perspectives are vividly expressed through a variety of images. For Erkin Vokhidov, the concept of a "lyrical motif" carries an exceptionally broad scope. Tradition and style also hold particular significance in his work. One can observe how he engages with the legacy of Alisher Navoi and continues his traditions, notably through his own "ghazals". Furthermore, the poet places special emphasis on the lyrical protagonist; he portrays this figure with remarkable skill and a unique, individual style. This is because the lyrical protagonist is not limited to a human being – for the poet, it can also be an object or an otherwise unremarkable physical entity. For instance, the image of a "piyola" (tea bowl) is explored in a truly masterful way within Erkin Vokhidov's body of work.

Garchi shuncha mag'rur tursa ham,
Piyolaga egilar choynak.
Shunday ekan, manmanlik nechun,
Kibr-u havo nimaga kerak?
Kamtarin bo'l, hatto bir qadam
O'tma g'urur ostonasidan.

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Piyolani inson shuning-chun
O‘par doim peshonasidan [11].

In this poem, the expression of concepts like arrogance and humility through the imagery of a teapot and a teacup showcases the poet’s distinct artistic mastery. The teapot’s act of bowing toward the teacup – despite its own proud stance – serves as a symbolic representation of humility and modesty in human relationships. Through these simple household objects, the poet succeeds in revealing the complex facets of human character. In particular, the lines “Be humble; do not step even a single pace beyond the threshold of pride” urge the individual to steer clear of arrogance and conceit, and to refrain from placing oneself above others. Furthermore, the act of a person kissing the teacup on its rim signifies that humility leads to being cherished and respected. In this sense, the poet imbues an ordinary, everyday occurrence with profound philosophical meaning, inviting the reader to reflect upon human virtues. A key characteristic of Erkin Vokhidov’s creative work lies in his ability to express universal human ideals through everyday details in a manner that is simple, evocative, and rich in imagery.

Research methodology. In the poetry of Erkin Vokhidov, the human heart and its complex inner experiences hold a distinct artistic significance. By sincerely expressing emotions such as love, longing, joy, and anguish, the poet unveils the inner world of the lyrical protagonist. In Erkin Vokhidov’s work, the relationship between subject and object finds a unique form of expression. Often, it is not an external character that stands at the center of his creative work, but rather an internal state – the inner world of the protagonist. Consequently, the poet focuses more on the protagonist’s psyche and emotions than on their physical description. For a deeper analysis, one may examine the following examples from the poet’s verses:

O‘n sakkizga kirmagan kim bor,
Bog‘ingdan gul termagan kim bor.
Sen haqingda yozib to‘rt satr,
Sirdoshiga asta ko‘rsatib,
Qo‘shni qizga bermagan kim bor.
Dastlab har kim qalam olgan on
Yonib seni kuylaydi begumon.
Maskan qurib har bir ko‘ngildan,
Oshiqlarni qoldirib tildan,
Shoirlarni qilursan biyron.
Tushdim chog‘i men ham domingga [1, 288].

This poem artistically explores the impact of love on the human heart, the innocent experiences of youth, and the influence of romance on the creative spirit. From the very opening lines, the poet portrays love as an inseparable part of human life. Through the lines, “Who has not reached the age of eighteen? Who has not plucked a flower from your garden?” the poem evokes the most beautiful moments of youth – first love and sincere emotions. Here, the images of the “garden” and the “flower”’ carry symbolic meaning: the garden represents the realm of love, while the flower signifies the beauty of the beloved and the feelings awakened within the lover’s heart. Subsequent lines reveal the unique characteristics of youthful love. By describing the act of composing a four-line verse about one’s beloved – sharing it with a confidant and eventually passing it to a girl next door – the poet captures the innocent, genuine sentiments of the lover. These depictions embody the excitement, shyness, and the longing to express one’s feelings that are inherent to first love. The poet interprets love not merely as a feeling between two individuals, but as a profound spiritual phenomenon that leaves an indelible mark upon the human soul. The spiritual essence of the poem manifests in how love refines the human heart, adorns memories of youth, and inspires creativity. In it, first love is portrayed as a symbol of innocence and sincerity. Through the lens of love, the poet reveals a person’s inner world, emotions, and creative potential. The poem invites the reader to perceive love as a spiritual force that gives meaning to human life, enriches the soul, and encourages the appreciation of beauty.

Analysis and Results. In the works of Erkin Vokhidov, a diversity of themes, unique imagery, and profound thought are harmoniously intertwined. In his poems – which explore love, human virtues, and the history of the homeland – a distinct national spirit and universal human values take center stage. His signature style manifests through symbolic imagery, folk-inspired expressions, a melodic quality, and keen observations

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of life. E.Vokhidov also frequently engages with historical themes; in doing so, he reimagines, reinterprets, and portrays historical events in his own unique way. Consequently, even when addressing historical subjects, he employs the resources of the language in a manner suited to the contemporary era – forging a deep, heartfelt connection with the reader.

Tarixingdir ming asrlar
Ichra pinhon, o‘zbegim,
Senga tengdosh Pomir-u
Oqsoch Tiyonshon, o‘zbegim.
So‘ylasin Afrosiyob-u
So‘ylasin O‘rxun xati,
Ko‘hna tarix shodasida
Bitta marjon, o‘zbegim [2, 8].

In these lines from Erkin Vokhidov’s poem “O‘zbegim” (“My Uzbek People”), the ancient history, rich cultural heritage, and national pride of the Uzbek people are celebrated. Through references to the Pamir and Tian Shan mountains, as well as Afrasiyab and the Orkhon inscriptions, the poet sheds light on the historical roots of the people. The metaphor of “a single pearl on the necklace of ancient history” signifies the rightful place of the Uzbek people within world history and culture. The central theme is the realization of national identity, the appreciation of the legacy left by ancestors, and taking pride in the history of the people.

Conclusion. The poetry of Erkin Vokhidov represents a unique synthesis of tradition and creative innovation within Uzbek literature. Building upon the rich artistic legacy of classical literature, the poet enriched it with a contemporary spirit, folk-inspired expression, and profound philosophical insight. In his work, themes such as human humility, love, national pride, and historical memory are illuminated through distinctive imagery. A hallmark of his style is the ability to articulate complex life truths in a manner that is simple, fluid, and deeply moving. His exaltation of humility – often symbolized by the “piyola” (tea bowl) and “choynak” (teapot) – his portrayal of love as an intrinsic element of the human heart, and his celebration of national identity in the ode “O‘zbegim” (My Uzbek People) all serve as testaments to his artistic mastery. Erkin Vokhidov’s poetry secures a profound place in the hearts of readers through its sincerity, accessibility, and spiritual depth. Studying and widely promoting his rich literary heritage is of vital importance for preserving national literary values and fostering the artistic and aesthetic sensibilities of the younger generation.

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