

THE MAGIC OF WORDS: THE CONTRIBUTION OF ALISHER NAVOI AND WILLIAM SHAKESPEARE TO THE DEVELOPMENT OF LITERARY LANGUAGE

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Abstract. This article explores the significant contributions of two great literary figures — Alisher Navoi and William Shakespeare — to the development of literary language in their respective eras. Their works showcase the expressive potential of language, richness of literary style, and connection with the spiritual essence of the people. The paper also analyzes the similarities and differences in their creative approaches and examines their impact on linguistic culture.

Keywords: Alisher Navoi, William Shakespeare, literary language, artistic expression, language development, literature, culture, linguistic potential, creativity, historical influence

Аннотация. В данной статье рассматривается выдающийся вклад великих писателей — Алишера Навои и Уильяма Шекспира — в развитие литературного языка своего времени. Через их произведения раскрываются выразительные возможности языка, богатство художественного стиля и связь с духовностью народа. Также анализируются общие и отличительные черты их творчества и влияние на языковую культуру.

Ключевые слова: Алишер Навои, Уильям Шекспир, литературный язык, художественное выражение, развитие языка, литература, культура, языковые возможности, творчество, историческое влияние

Annotatsiya. Ushbu maqolada buyuk adiblar — Alisher Navoiy va Uilyam Shekspirning o‘z davridagi adabiy til taraqqiyotiga qo‘shgan beqiyos hissasi haqida so‘z yuritiladi. Ularning asarlari orqali tilning ifoda imkoniyatlari, badiiy uslub boyligi va xalq ma’naviyati bilan bog‘liqligi yoritiladi. Shuningdek, ikki adib ijodidagi umumiy va farqli jihatlar tahlil qilinadi hamda ular til madaniyatiga ta’siri o‘rganiladi.

Kalit soʻzlar: Alisher Navoiy, Uilyam Shekspir, adabiy til, badiiy ifoda, til taraqqiyoti, adabiyot, madaniyat, til imkoniyatlari, ijod, tarixiy taʼsir

Introduction.

Every nation's cultural development, intellectual potential, and aesthetic worldview are primarily reflected in its language and literature. In this process, language is not just a means of communication but a reflection of thought, spirit, and culture. From this perspective, the contribution of great poets and writers to the formation and development of literary language is invaluable. Alisher Navoi and William Shakespeare hold a significant place in the history of language as literary figures who left a profound mark on the development of their nations' languages.

Alisher Navoi and the Rise of the Uzbek Literary Language

Alisher Navoi (1441–1501) is recognized as the founder of the Uzbek literary language. In his era, he demonstrated the literary potential of the Turkic language and thus elevated the cultural level of the language. In his work 'Muhokamat ul-lugʻatayn,' Navoi stated: 'The Turkic language is not inferior to Persian in essence and potential; in some cases, it is even superior.'

Literature has always been an inseparable part of human spirituality. Especially in the works of great literary thinkers like Alisher Navoi and William Shakespeare, the inner world of a person, spiritual struggles, moral values, and the role of individuals in society are deeply illuminated. In their works, humanism emerges as a central idea. Both authors elevated the literary language and promoted values such as humanity, compassion, loyalty, and justice. One of the main principles of Navoi's creativity is guiding individuals to perfection through Sufi views. To him, a human is a being of divine essence who must strive for spiritual and intellectual growth. In his work 'Mahbub ul-qulub,' Navoi calls the people to kindness, nobility, and generosity. During his time, he promoted justice, honesty, and tolerance among state officials, nobles, scholars, and ordinary people. Navoi writes: 'If what makes a person human is moral perfection, one who loses it descends to the level of animals.' Though this may seem like a strict statement at first glance, considering the overall spirit of his works, we see that it is based on moral idealism. To Navoi, the perfect person is someone who has conquered their ego, brings benefit to others, and lives with honesty and loyalty. In his epic 'Hayrat ul-abror,' such virtuous individuals expose societal vices and celebrate truth and righteousness. William Shakespeare, on the other hand, skillfully used drama to reveal the complex nature of human beings. In his works like 'Hamlet,' 'Othello,' 'Macbeth,' and 'King Lear,' human emotions, moral dilemmas, betrayal, conscience,

love, and hatred are portrayed with strong dramatic expression. Shakespeare's works serve as a school for the analysis of human psychology. Navoi's 'Khamsa' is the first quintet created in Turkic literature in the East, which, while not denying the dominance of Persian, proved that the Turkic language also possesses great literary potential. According to academician Vohid Abdullayev: 'Navoi brought the language closer to the consciousness of the people and turned it into a tool for spiritual education.'

William Shakespeare and the Turning Point in the English Language

William Shakespeare (1564–1616) is recognized as the playwright and poet who ushered in the golden age of English literature. Many new words and expressions in modern English appeared in his works. Linguist David Crystal noted: 'Shakespeare introduced over 1700 new words into the English language or gave new meanings to existing ones.' The famous line from 'Hamlet': 'To be, or not to be — that is the question,' reveals not only the syntactic but also the philosophical depth of the language. Shakespeare showed unmatched examples of depicting human emotions through language. Linguist S.N. Korneev wrote: 'Shakespeare created both the character and the language of the character. Each hero's speech is unique.'

Commonalities and Distinctiveness of the Two Authors

Although Navoi and Shakespeare lived in distant lands and different cultures, they shared a common idea in developing literary language: understanding humanity and educating society through language. Both viewed language as a spiritual force and elevated it to the level of art. 'If you do not see bad words in my speech, your heart will remain safe.' 'Words are easy, like the wind; faithful friends are hard to find.'

The Art of Words and Aesthetic Impact

Words are not just a means of conveying information but carry aesthetic, spiritual, and emotional significance. In this sense, Alisher Navoi and William Shakespeare are great literary figures who raised the art of words to a high level. Every line of their work contains not only meaning but also beauty, harmony, rhythm, and spirit. For Navoi, the word is a divine gift. In his work 'Lison ut-Tayr,' he promotes the idea of purifying the human soul through words and guiding it toward perfection. His odes, ghazals, and masnavis combine profound meaning, philosophical depth, and artistic beauty. Shakespeare approached words anew as a tool of drama. He used the power of language to portray the subtlest aspects of human psychology on stage. In plays like 'Othello,' 'Romeo and Juliet,' and 'Hamlet,' each character's speech reveals their personality; through their words, emotions, doubts, love, anger, and torment are expressed. Shakespeare widely used metaphors, irony, antitheses, and other literary devices in

his style. In this regard, he is considered the founder of modern drama and poetry. Navoi, on the other hand, used artistic tools such as metaphor, allusion, allegory, and pun to create symbolic and multilayered meanings in words. Navoi says: 'Every word is an image in the mirror of the heart. Read, and you will see meaning and purpose.' Shakespeare wrote: 'Give me that man that is not passion's slave and I will wear him in my heart's core,' thus advocating the necessity of understanding people through words. In contemporary literary studies, the concept of the 'magic of words' is deeply associated with the works of these two great writers. Both revolutionized language in their times, giving it artistic and philosophical life. Moreover, even in today's literary processes, Navoi's ideas about loyalty, patience, and moral maturity, and Shakespeare's ideas about humanity, justice, and freedom remain relevant. In their works, words become a powerful tool — with which hearts are won, minds awakened, and society educated. Therefore, the legacy of Navoi and Shakespeare is not only of historical or literary interest but also serves as an invaluable source and guide for modern individuals. Through the art of words, they elevated literary language to a divine level. For example, in the tragedy 'Hamlet,' the main character fights for honesty and justice, but internal conflicts consume him. The famous phrase 'To be or not to be' is not merely about life or death but reflects a person's moral dilemma. In this, Shakespeare penetrates the deepest layers of human nature and compels the reader to reflect. In Navoi, humanism is based on religious and moral principles, while in Shakespeare, it is grounded in secular and philosophical ideas. However, both place the human being at the center. Both authors imply that society can develop only through morally mature individuals. Navoi often portrays compassion as a unifying force in society in his poems. He considers love not just within family or personal relationships, but also as a key value in state governance, science, and culture. In 'Munojot,' while depicting the spiritual bond between humans and the Creator, he believes that through this connection, a person realizes their essence and attains perfection. Shakespeare, on the other hand, reveals the issue of humanism more through tragic events. For example, in 'King Lear,' the emotional torment of a father betrayed by his children illustrates the importance of honesty and loyalty in human relationships. After being abandoned by his daughters, Lear loses faith in humanity. Through this dramatic situation, the author exposes factors leading to moral decline in society. In the works of Navoi and Shakespeare, ideas of social equality, justice, and moral stability are also present. Navoi made great contributions to the development of science and art in his time. He opened schools, established libraries, and supported scholars. Shakespeare carried out social criticism by revealing class differences, the pursuit of power, betrayal for personal gain, and violence in

English society. The legacy of Alisher Navoi and William Shakespeare has always retained its relevance. Even today, their works captivate, educate, and inspire readers. The reason is that their works deeply illuminate human essence, spiritual character, role, and value in life. Humanism, justice, truth, and moral perfection are the foundations of the creative works of Alisher Navoi and William Shakespeare, making them not only relevant in their time but also exemplary today. Through their works, individuals strive to understand themselves, their environment, and society. This represents a universal value for all nations and cultures — a leading force toward spiritual growth.

Continuity of Legacy in Language Development

Today, the works of Alisher Navoi and William Shakespeare are studied not only by literary scholars but also by linguists, historians, and cultural experts. Their works are being translated into world languages and studied internationally. 'Navoi turned the people's language into a literary one, while Shakespeare brought literary language to the hearts of the people.' In conclusion, Alisher Navoi and William Shakespeare were unmatched masters of words in their time. They not only developed language but transformed it into a carrier of moral, spiritual, and aesthetic values. Through their legacy, we understand the history, culture, thought, and spirit expressed in language. The development of literary language that began with them remains a priceless source for future generations.

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