

The Genre of Manzuma and Its Role in Uzbek Literature

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Annotation

This article analyzes the significance, characteristics, and developmental stages of the genre of manzuma in Uzbek literature. It provides detailed information on the composition of manzuma in the form of masnavi, its thematic diversity, and its didactic purposes. The article also highlights the evolution of the genre in the 19th century and the contributions of poets like Ubaydi and Abdulhamid Parda. It serves as an important theoretical basis for studying and exploring the role of manzuma in the history of Uzbek literature.

Keywords

Manzuma, masnavi, Uzbek literature, didactics, Khoja, Ubaydi, Alisher Navoi, Abdulhamid Parda, genre, literary studies.

Introduction

Manzuma is one of the distinctive genres of classical Uzbek literature and forms an integral part of our literary heritage. Derived from the Arabic word meaning “sequence,” this term is used to denote narrative poetic works or poetic epistles. Manzuma is mostly composed in the form of masnavi, with each couplet rhyming consecutively. In Uzbek literature, this genre has undergone unique developmental stages and boasts a rich and meaningful history.

The primary features of manzuma include the harmonious integration of narrative stories, descriptive elements, and artistic analysis. The thematic scope of this genre is vast, encompassing romantic, legendary-romantic, historical-biographical, moral-didactic, satirical, lamentation (arzi hol), and other types of works. By the 19th century, manzuma had reached a new stage, becoming a form that performed significant social and educational functions.

Characteristics of the Manzuma Genre

Manzuma is primarily composed in the masnavi form, following an aa, bb, vv rhyme scheme. This structure lends rhythm and melody to the work. One of its distinctive features is narrativity. Manzumas often contain small narratives or narrative elements, with the poet describing a particular event in a poetic style. The following characteristics of this genre stand out:

1. Poetry and Artistic Expression: Manzuma is written in poetic form and employs artistic devices such as metaphor, simile, and epithets extensively.
2. Thematic Diversity: Topics range from romantic emotions to moral lessons and social issues.
3. Didactic Purpose: Manzumas aim to educate readers, impart moral lessons, and encourage positive changes in society.

Types of Manzuma

Various forms and themes of manzuma have enriched Uzbek literature. The main types include:

Romantic Manzuma: Expresses the poet's feelings of love and romantic experiences.

Adventurous Manzuma: Depicts the trials and tribulations faced by protagonists.

Legendary-Romantic Manzuma: Based on ancient legends and tales.

Historical-Biographical Manzuma: Illuminates the lives and activities of historical figures.

Moral-Didactic Manzuma: Poems that promote virtuous deeds and moral values.

Parable (Tamsil): Short poetic stories illustrating a specific idea.

Satirical Manzuma: Humorously critiques societal shortcomings.

The Role of Manzuma in Uzbek Literature

The manzuma genre has played a significant role in the history of Uzbek literature. In 1528, Khoja wrote Maqsad ul-Atvor, inspired by Nizami's Makhzan

ul-Asrar. Ubaydi's divan also includes religious-mystical and moral-didactic works like Salavatnoma, G'ayratnoma, Sabrnoma, and Zavqnoma. These works have yet to be thoroughly studied in terms of their artistic meaning, character systems, and didactic significance. Thus, studying these works offers opportunities to examine their artistic features and poetics.

By the 19th century, the status of this genre had risen. Poets like Muqimi and Furqat elevated the manzuma genre to new heights, expanding its possibilities. For example, Furqat's On Suvorov consists of 86 couplets written in the masnavi form. This work is an exemplary piece promoting enlightenment and national revival ideas. The manzuma genre also occupies a unique place in Alisher Navoi's works. His romantic and didactic works enriched the potential of the genre. Zahiriddin Muhammad Babur, on the other hand, used manzuma to reflect historical and social events.

Modern Development of the Manzuma Genre

Today, the manzuma genre has not lost its relevance. Contemporary poets continue to write in this genre, exploring new themes and styles. For instance, Abdulhamid Parida's works demonstrate new forms of the manzuma genre in modern Uzbek poetry. His 2008 collection Chorlov begins with the lofty aspiration of a "starry garden" and concludes with a manzuma discussing divine worship, translated from Rabindranath Tagore's hymn.

Conclusion

The manzuma genre is one of the richest forms of Uzbek literature, achieving high levels of development in various periods. Works created in this genre delight readers aesthetically, educate them, and illuminate societal life. The manzumas in Uzbek literature reflect the rich cultural and spiritual heritage of our people. Therefore, the manzuma genre deserves in-depth study, analysis, and enrichment through new creative experiments.

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