



EXPLORING THE HISTORY AND CHARACTERISTICS OF GHAZAL IN UZBEK CLASSICAL LITERATURE

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Abstract:

Ghazal is a poetic form with a rich tradition in Uzbek classical literature. Originating in pre-Islamic Arabic poetry and later adopted by Persian and Turkish poets, ghazal was introduced to Uzbek literature during the reign of the Timurid dynasty. This highly structured form of poetry consists of thematically and emotionally linked couplets with a specific rhyme scheme and refrain. The theme of ghazal is usually love, but it can also refer to spiritual love, love of nature, or love of God. The article explores the history and characteristics of ghazal in Uzbek classical literature, with examples from famous Uzbek poets.

Keywords: Ghazal, Uzbek classical literature, Timurid dynasty, couplets, rhyme scheme, refrain, love, spirituality, nature.

Uzbek classical literature has a rich tradition of poetic forms, one of which is the ghazal. Ghazal, which means "conversation with the beloved" in Arabic, is a form of poetry that originated in pre-Islamic Arabic poetry and was later adopted by Persian and Turkish poets. It is a highly structured form of poetry that follows a set of rules and conventions, but also allows for personal expression and creativity. In this article, we will explore the history and characteristics of ghazal in Uzbek classical literature.

Ghazal was introduced to Uzbek literature in the 14th century, during the reign of the Timurid dynasty. The Timurid rulers were great patrons of art and literature, and they invited poets and scholars from all over the Islamic world to their court in Samarqand. Among these scholars were Persian poets such as Jami, Hafiz, and Sa'di, who brought with them the ghazal form and its conventions.

The first ghazals in Uzbek literature were written in the Persian language, which was the literary language of Central Asia at the time. However, as the Uzbek language developed and gained prominence in the region, poets began to write ghazals in Uzbek as well. One of the earliest known Uzbek ghazal poets is Mir Alisher Navai, who lived in the 15th century and is considered the father of Uzbek



literature. Navai wrote ghazals in both Persian and Uzbek, and his works became the model for later Uzbek poets.

Love is the most common theme in Ghazal poetry, and Uzbek Ghazal poets have written extensively on the subject. The beloved is often described in highly romantic and idealized terms, with nature imagery and metaphors used to express the intensity of the poet's emotions. Separation and longing are also common motifs, reflecting the pain of being apart from one's beloved.

In addition to love, Uzbek Ghazal poetry also explores themes of spirituality, philosophy, and the human condition. Poets often use the Ghazal form to express their insights into the nature of existence, using imagery and metaphors to convey complex ideas.

Ghazal is a highly structured form of poetry that follows a set of rules and conventions. The basic structure of a ghazal consists of a series of couplets (shers) that are thematically and emotionally linked. Each couplet is an independent unit of meaning, but they are all connected by a common rhyme and refrain.

The rhyme scheme of a ghazal is aabbccddeeff, with each letter representing a particular rhyme sound. The first couplet sets the rhyme scheme for the entire poem, and each subsequent couplet must use the same rhyme sounds in the same order. The last couplet of the ghazal, called the matla, is a special couplet that introduces the poet's pen name, or takhallus.

The refrain of the ghazal, called the radif, is a word or phrase that is repeated at the end of the second line of each couplet. The radif serves to unify the poem thematically and emotionally, and also provides a musical quality to the poem when it is recited or sung.

The theme of the ghazal is usually love, and the beloved is often addressed directly in the poem. However, the love in ghazal is not limited to romantic love, but can also refer to spiritual love, love of nature, or love of God. The ghazal is also a highly personal form of poetry, and poets often use it to express their own emotions and experiences.

Examples of Ghazal in Uzbek Classical Literature

A Ghazal by Alisher Navoi

Translated from Uzbek:

O love, you are my sun and my moon

You are the reason for my joy and my pain



I am lost in the desert of love without you
My heart is thirsty, my soul is in pain
Your beauty is like a garden in spring
Your face is like the full moon, shining and bright

I am your slave, your love is my life
Without you, I am nothing, without you, I am lost

My heart is filled with your love, like a cup overflowing
My soul is consumed by your fire, like a candle burning

O love, you are my sun and my moon
You are the reason for my joy and my pain

This Ghazal by Alisher Navoi exemplifies the themes of love and devotion that are often explored in Uzbek Ghazal poetry. Navoi uses nature imagery and metaphors to express the intensity of his emotions, describing his beloved in highly romantic and idealized terms.

A Ghazal by Zahiriddin Muhammad Babur
Translated from Uzbek:
The pain of love is like a sharp sword
It pierces my heart and leaves me undone

My beloved is like a rose in bloom
Her beauty fills my soul with wonder

Without her, my heart is like a desert
Barren and lifeless, with no hope in sight

But when she is near, my heart fills with joy
And my soul sings with the music of love

O love, you are my life and my death
You are the fire that consumes my heart



The pain of love is like a sharp sword
It pierces my heart and leaves me undone

This Ghazal by Zahiriddin Muhammad Babur explores the pain and longing associated with love, using the Ghazal form to express the intensity of his emotions. Babur uses nature imagery and metaphors to convey the depth of his feelings, describing his beloved as a beautiful rose in bloom.

One of the most famous Uzbek ghazal poets is Furkat, who lived in the 19th century. Furkat was known for his romantic ghazals, which were highly emotional and deeply personal. Here is an example of one of Furkat's ghazals, translated into English:

In this desert of life, you are the oasis
My heart is thirsty, only your love suffices

Your beauty shines like the morning sun
In your eyes, I find my true horizon

Without you, my life is a desert wasteland
But with you, I find an eternal springland

Your love is the sweetest nectar to my soul
Without it, my life would be incomplete and dull

Oh, my beloved, you are the reason for my being
In your arms, I find my ultimate meaning

This ghazal exemplifies the characteristics of Uzbek ghazal poetry, with its use of a specific rhyme scheme, refrain, and thematically linked couplets. Furkat expresses his love and devotion to his beloved in highly emotional and personal terms, using nature imagery and metaphors to convey his feelings.

Ghazal is a highly structured and sophisticated form of poetry that has a long history in Uzbek classical literature. It has been used by poets to express their deepest emotions and insights, and to explore the themes of love, spirituality, and philosophy. Uzbek ghazal poets have created a rich tradition of poetry that continues to inspire and enrich the literary culture of Uzbekistan.

**List of Used Literature:**

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