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IMPORTANT ISSUES IN THE STUDY OF KARAKALPAK NOVELLA GENRE

Kabilova Gozzal

1st-year PhD student, Karakalpak State University

libranasevenus@gmail.com

Abstract

In world literary studies, the study of genre is important for deepening theoretical knowledge. The novella, as a genre of epic literature, differs from the short story and the novel. The issue of the internal classification of the novella genre and the identification of its subgenres has not yet received a definitive solution in literary studies.

In Karakalpak literary studies, the novella genre was studied in the 1970s–1980s by Q. Kamalov [1] from the perspective of the emergence and formation of the genre, by J. Esenov [2] in terms of artistic psychologism in novellas, and by J. Sagidullaeva [3] with regard to stylistic developments in Karakalpak novellas of the 1980s.

The issue of studying Karakalpak novellas is also reflected in the research of the Kyrgyz scholar A. Akmataliev [4]. J. Sagidullaeva writes about this as follows: “The Kyrgyz literary scholar A. Akmataliev, in his work *Sh. Aitmatov and the Literature of Related Peoples* (Frunze, 1988), which appeared somewhat later than J. Esenov’s book *Secrets of Mastery*, points out the similarity of Sh. Seitov’s novellas *Many Departed Cranes* and *The Fugitive* to the methods of depiction found in Sh. Aitmatov’s novellas and refers to these works in Karakalpak prose as ‘lyrical-epic’ novellas...” [3:21]. In particular, in this study, scholar A. Akmataliev examines Karakalpak novellas of the 1960s as an object of research.



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Following the above-mentioned studies, various forms of the novella emerged in Karakalpak literature, differing from one another in ideological-thematic and compositional aspects. In particular, 39 novellas were published in the journal *Ámiwdárya* in the 1960s, 78 in the 1970s, and 65 in the 1980s. Of the novellas published in the 1980s, which constitute the object of our study, six were published with explicit genre designations. Three of them were identified as “documentary novellas,” one as a “humorous novella,” one as a “satirical novella,” and one as a “fantastical novella.” The remaining 59 novellas were published without genre designations.

Therefore, a new issue has emerged in the study of Karakalpak novellas: the need to study and classify novellas more deeply from the perspective of genre. This issue has both theoretical and practical significance, since genre classification contributes to a deeper understanding of the content and ideas of literary works. The research work discusses the prospects for studying the genre, the internal divisions of genres, and the novella and its internal genre varieties.

The aim of the study is to theoretically examine and analyze the issue of genre classification of novellas written in Karakalpak literature during the 1980s.

To achieve this aim, the following objectives have been established:

- to study the concept of genre in literary studies from a theoretical perspective;
- to examine the principles of the internal classification of the novella genre on the basis of world literary studies and the literary studies of related peoples;
- to identify the principles of genre classification of novellas written in Karakalpak literature during the 1980s;
- to study the genre characteristics of Karakalpak novellas of the 1980s, identify their differences from short stories and novels, and examine the issue of transformation of the novella genre;
- to classify novellas written in the 1980s into internal typological groups.



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The following methods are planned to be used in the study:

- **Analytical method** – to study theoretical sources and analyze genre theory;
- **Comparative-typological method** – to comparatively examine Karakalpak novellas alongside novellas of related peoples;
- **Comparative-historical method** – to identify the differences between novellas written in the 1980s and those written in the 1960s and 1970s;
- **Structural method** – to study the internal and external structure of novellas and thereby reveal their differences from short stories and novels.

Particular attention in the research process is paid to the issue of **genre attribution** of the novella. Genre attribution in literary studies refers to determining which genre a literary work belongs to. In this process, the main objective is not to limit the classification to the genre designation given by the author, but to determine the genre correctly on the basis of an analysis of the literary work and relevant theoretical and scholarly information. This approach contributes to identifying the distinctive features of the novella in comparison with short stories and novels and to determining its internal genre varieties.

At the next stage of the study, the examination of the principal genre varieties of novellas becomes a major issue. Here, the thematic principle is planned to be used as the initial basis, and the following types of novellas will be studied:

- **Historical novella** – historical novellas in Karakalpak literature of the 1980s mainly depict historical periods. Their principal historical figures are individuals who opposed the new system, including the *basmachi* movement.
- **Documentary novella** – this category includes works based on specific documents and facts concerning the lives of public figures who occupied an important place in the history of our people during the 1980s. From the perspective of genre attribution, it is necessary to study these novellas and



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determine the possibility of classifying them as biographical and memoir novellas.

- **Social novellas** – this group includes novellas that explore various everyday events occurring in the lives of ordinary people, their interdependence, various social problems, and works with political and social content.
- **Novellas about the lives of young people** – these are works in which the main characters are young people and which depict various life events that they encounter and that have educational significance. Such novellas are often imbued with enlightenment-oriented ideas related to education, acquiring a profession, and becoming a mature individual.
- **Military novellas** – this group includes a number of novellas written in the 1980s that primarily depict wartime and the post-war period, the experiences and spiritual states of soldiers, the struggle against enemies within society, resistance to internal enemies, and issues related to preserving the freedom of the homeland. The artistic characteristics and distinctive features of these genre varieties, as well as their plot structures and systems of characters, will also be examined. Attention will likewise be paid to the stylistic features of the novellas. Depending on the author's methods of narrating events and constructing the plot, humorous, satirical, and lyrical-psychological novellas are also intended to be studied.

Expected scientific novelty of the study:

- the theoretical foundations of the novella genre will be further clarified;
- the issue of classifying Karakalpak novellas will be scientifically substantiated;
- the results of the study will contribute to improving the determination of genre attribution in literary works;
- the internal typological varieties of the novella genre will be identified.



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Conclusion

In conclusion, the novella can be regarded as one of the important artistic forms among epic genres. Determining the internal classification of this genre contributes to a deeper study of the ideological and thematic content of literary works. The proposed research is expected to strengthen the theoretical foundations of the novella genre and contribute to resolving problematic issues in its genre classification.

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