

**THE FORMATION OF UZBEK CHILDREN'S LITERATURE AND GAFUR
GULAM'S LEGACY.**

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Annotation

This article explores the formation of Uzbek children's literature and examines the rich legacy left to younger generations by Gafur Ghulam. The distinctiveness of Gafur Ghulam's literary style lies in his sharp wit and his ability to portray children's inner world, character, struggles, and joys vividly through humor, often within a single sentence. Moreover, he is highly regarded as a writer who introduced a broad, childlike, and contemplative worldview into literature. His mastery of language is particularly evident in his ability to reveal pressing and sensitive social issues through subtle humor, thereby making them accessible and meaningful to a wider audience.

Annotatsiya

Ushbu maqola o'zbek bolalar adabiyotining shakllanishi hamda G'afur G'ulomning yosh avlodlarga qoldirgan boy meroslari haqida so'z yuritadi. G'afur G'ulom qalamining o'tkirligi shundan iboratki, u yumor orqali bolalarning ichki dunyosini, xarakterini, og'riqlari va quvonchini bir jumla bilan yaqqol namoyon eta oladi. Qolaversa, G'afur G'ulom o'zining keng va bolalarga xos o'ychan dunyoqarashini adabiyotga olib kirgan yozuvchi sifatida ham qadrlanib keladi. Uning so'zga ustaligi esa jamiyatning dolzarb ba og'riqli nuqtalarini hazil orqali insoniyatga ma'lum qilishidadir.

Kalit so'zlar: O'zbek bolalar adabiyoti, G'afur G'ulom, xalq og'zaki ijodi, bolalar psixologiyasi, yumor, badiiy meros, doston, hikoya, milliy adabiyot, tarjima adabiyoti, syujet, ma'naviy tarbiya, adabiy rivojlanish, yozuvchi, ijodkorlar.

Keywords: Uzbek children's literature, Gafur Ghulam, oral folk literature, child psychology, humor, literary heritage, epic poem, short story, national literature, translated literature, plot structure, moral education, literary development, writer, authors.

Introduction

Children's literature represents a broad and multifaceted body of artistic, scientific, popular-scientific, and journalistic works created specifically for children and adolescents, with imaginative literature forming its central component. In various cultural traditions, including Uzbek literature, it is closely connected with oral folklore heritage, which includes riddles, myths, fairy tales, proverbs, fables, and epics. A key feature of children's literature is its dynamic and evolving nature, which is shaped by the reader's age, worldview, socio-cultural environment, and historical context. The age of the reader plays a decisive role in this regard. Literature for preschool children is mainly based on visual perception and simple moral oppositions such as good and evil, kindness and cruelty, loyalty and betrayal. In contrast, literature for adolescents focuses more on psychological depth and reflects complex emotional experiences and the inner life of the individual. Another important feature of children's literature is the representation of characters. In its early stages, it was largely didactic, emphasizing moral instruction rather than artistic development of characters. Over time, under the influence of folk traditions, literary works began to present more natural and vivid character portrayals. Later, a child-centered approach emerged, in which young protagonists became active participants in the narrative. In subsequent periods, children's literature developed a more realistic and psychologically complex depiction of childhood, avoiding idealized representations. This development also introduced themes related to children's emotional world, including sincere and innocent feelings such as love and friendship. Later stages of development placed greater emphasis on patriotism and national identity, encouraging young readers to develop pride in their cultural heritage and a sense of responsibility toward the future. Another essential feature of children's literature is its action-oriented and dynamic structure, which requires well-organized and engaging plots. Events are expected to unfold in a vivid, fast-paced, and emotionally rich manner, often enriched with imagination, creativity, and humor. These features ensure both educational and aesthetic value. The development of Uzbek children's literature has been significantly influenced by world literary traditions. Translation activity played an important role in introducing international literary experience into the national context. Through translations, Uzbek readers became familiar with classical works of world literature, which contributed to the development of literary thinking and artistic expression. This process also helped writers to better understand the principles of realist children's literature and to engage more deeply with the psychological world of the child. In the process of literary formation, many Uzbek writers contributed to the establishment of children's literature as a separate field. Their works played an important role in shaping national literary

identity and strengthening its artistic foundations. Among them, Gafur Ghulam occupies a particularly significant position. Gafur Ghulam is recognized as one of the most influential representatives of Uzbek literature, whose creative activity is closely connected with national development, social progress, and cultural transformation. His literary career reflects the path of early Uzbek intellectuals. He received traditional education and later continued his studies in a modern educational environment. His first literary works marked the beginning of his professional writing activity, after which he actively participated in literary and journalistic work, contributing to the development of national press and cultural life. In his creative formation, he was influenced by both national classical literature and Eastern literary heritage. The works of great Eastern poets served as an important source of artistic inspiration, shaping his worldview and literary style. Gafur Ghulam's creative heritage includes both poetry and prose, which occupy an important place in Uzbek literature. His prose works are considered significant examples of national storytelling tradition, reflecting social realities, moral values, and human psychology. Through his writings, he skillfully depicted the inner world of children, their imagination, and emotional sincerity, often using humor and expressive language. During difficult historical periods, his works were characterized by a strong patriotic spirit, encouraging resilience, hope, and confidence in the future. His writings also reflect optimism and belief in social progress.

Conclusion

In conclusion, the formation and development of Uzbek children's literature represent a long and complex process connected with historical conditions, national traditions, and the recognition of the child as an independent reader. Emerging from oral folklore and enriched by world literary experience, it has developed into a distinct literary system. Within this process, Gafur Ghulam holds a central position. His works are distinguished by artistic mastery, national spirit, and deep psychological insight, making them an essential part of Uzbek children's literary heritage.

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