



ALPOMISH” AND “YODGOR” EPIC POEMS: ARTISTIC FEATURES AND THEIR SIMILARITIES AND DIFFERENCES

Mamatmuratov Ravshan Boboraimovich

Denov Entrepreneurship and Pedagogy Institute

Senior Teacher of the Department of Uzbek Language and Literature

Phone number: +998942081133

Abstract:

This article analyzes the artistic features, similarities, and differences of the epic poems “Alpomish” and “Yodgor”. These epics are significant examples of Uzbek folk literature, reflecting national values, customs, and historical events through their heroes, plots, and artistic styles. The article explores the artistic style, characterization, and thematic aspects of each epic.

Keywords: Alpomish, Yodgor, epic poem, artistic features, similarities, differences, Uzbek literature, heroes, thematic analysis.

Introduction

Epic poetry is one of the most widespread and significant genres in Uzbek folklore. Its creation is deeply connected to the spiritual and everyday life of our people, social-political struggles, moral and aesthetic views, and ideas of justice, truth, heroism, and patriotism. The word "epic" is used in the meanings of a story, tale, adventure, praise, and fame. Folklore scholar Muhammadnodir Saidov emphasizes that an epic is a complex artistic work, and for it to be an epic, the following must be present:

- a) a certain literary text;
- b) music matching the text;
- c) a singer with a melodious voice;
- d) the ability to play one of the musical instruments;
- e) the singer must have poetic talent and a strong memory. These elements complement each other, making epics a syncretic or mixed genre. One of the most important works of Uzbek folk literature, the “Yodgor” epic, reflects the heroic



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traditions of the Uzbek people, valor, and loyalty. This epic, recorded by the folklore scholar Fozil Yo‘ldosh o‘g‘li and written down by Hodi Zarifov in 1937, is considered a continuation of the “Alpomish” epic and was created based on the principle of generational continuity. The main hero of the “Yodgor” epic is Yodgor, the brave son of Alpomish, who plays the role of a protector and hero for his people. In the “Yodgor” epic, the migration of the Ko‘ngirot people to the Aymoq land due to the tyranny of Ultontoz is depicted. In this process, Yodgor engages in a fierce struggle with the Aymoq warriors to save Oydinoy. One of the key events in the epic is the return of Oydinoy and her descendants to their homeland.

“Yodgor” is a folk epic created in the 14th-15th centuries. The epic was passed down orally and written down by storytellers. In Uzbek folklore, variants of this epic exist, such as those by Fozil Yo‘ldosh, Chori Bakhshi Umirov, and Abduqahhor Bakhshi Rahimov. Each version interprets the traditional plot in a unique artistic way, standing out with its original system of characters and epic motifs. The central theme of the epic is patriotism and pride. “Yodgor” is not only relevant for the past but also for the present and future, embodying eternal significance. The “Yodgor” epic extols ideas of bravery, courage, love and loyalty, hatred of enemies, love for the homeland, and unity. These themes reflect the historical and cultural heritage of the Uzbek people, continuing the heroic traditions of the nation. The epic is known not only in Uzbekistan but also among the Kazakh people, where a version called “Olatoy and Japarqul” was created about the sons of Yodgor (the grandsons of Alpomish). Both the “Alpomish” and “Yodgor” epics are significant works of Uzbek folk literature. Their artistic analysis reveals similarities and differences. Both epics glorify heroism, bravery, and patriotism. Alpomish and Yodgor fight to protect their people from enemies. Both heroes are loyal to their loved ones and their homeland. Their courage and bravery reflect the heroic traditions of the people. Both epics are products of oral folk art, enriched with folklore elements, legendary heroes, and events. Both works include themes of fighting enemies and overcoming them, demonstrating the heroes' strength and bravery. In the “Alpomish” epic, the central hero is Alpomish, while in the “Yodgor” epic, Yodgor stands out for his heroic qualities. Alpomish is considered more of a legendary figure, while Yodgor is seen as a descendant of Alpomish. The “Alpomish” epic features more mythical and



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fantastical elements, while the "Yodgor" epic presents events that are more realistic and closer to the people's everyday life. In "Alpomish", the themes of love and loyalty are more pronounced, whereas in "Yodgor" the emphasis is placed on defending the people and fighting against enemies. The history of "Alpomish" dates back to ancient times, while "Yodgor" is seen as a continuation of "Alpomish" in a more modern context.

Conclusion

The "Alpomish" and "Yodgor" epics reflect the heroic traditions of Uzbek folk literature, but their artistic analysis and content differ. Both epics play an important role in preserving the cultural heritage of the people. Ultimately, the uniqueness of the "Yodgor" epic lies in its embodiment of the ideas of heroism and bravery, holding an important place in the cultural heritage of the Uzbek people. This epic is not only a high example of Uzbek literature but also demonstrates the significance of preserving the heroic spirit, historical traditions, and culture of the people. Reading the "Yodgor" epic helps us to understand the heroic traditions of the Uzbek people in greater depth.

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