

METHODOLOGY OF TEACHING EPIC POEMS ABOUT HEROES

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Annotation: This article examines the significance and educational value of heroic epics, an essential part of the Kazakh people's spiritual heritage, and discusses effective methods of teaching them in schools. Drawing on the methodological views of Q. Bitibayeva and B. Zhumakayeva, the article analyzes the role of innovative approaches in teaching epic poems and highlights how these works contribute to shaping students' national identity and patriotism.

Keywords: heroic epics, oral literature, teaching methodology, national spirit, Q. Bitibayeva, B. Zhumakayeva, literary education.

Epic poems hold a significant place in world and national literature. They depict heroic deeds, moral ideals, and the collective memory of a people. Teaching epic poems in schools not only enriches students' literary knowledge but also contributes to their moral and patriotic development. The teacher's task is to help students understand the artistic nature of the epic, the hero's character, and the author's purpose, while connecting these ideas to historical and cultural contexts. One of the most ancient, beautiful, and educationally rich forms of the Kazakh people's spiritual heritage is the heroic epic. These epics depict the people's struggle for freedom, their love for their homeland, and noble qualities such as bravery, honor, loyalty, and patriotism. The heroic epic serves as an artistic chronicle of the nation's history and destiny. The main feature of heroic epics is the glorification of national spirit and unity through the image of a hero who defends his homeland. Literary scholar Q. Bitibayeva emphasizes: «Teaching heroic epics is not merely analyzing a literary text — it is an education of the student's spiritual world, awakening national consciousness, and cultivating patriotism.»¹ Methodologist B. Zhumakayeva, in turn, describes heroic epics as «a spiritual school that introduces students to the worldview and life values of the Kazakh people.»² From this perspective, improving the methodology of teaching heroic epics is one of the key directions of modern literary education. This article explores the main characteristics of epic poems and presents effective methods for teaching them. Heroic epics reflect the Kazakh nation's tradition of valor and heroism. They glorify the courage of warriors defending their homeland, their love for their people, and their loyalty to family and nation. Works such as “Alpamys Batyr,” “Kobylandy Batyr,” “Er Targyn,” and “Kambar Batyr” are masterpieces that embody the national ideals and worldview of the Kazakh people.

The structure of heroic epics is generally consistent:

The miraculous birth of the hero;

His coming of age and preparation for battle;

The struggle against the enemy and ultimate victory;

The preservation of national unity.

From a thematic perspective, heroic epics function as an encyclopedia of the people's historical memory, national identity, and worldview. Studying and analyzing these works allows students to better understand their cultural heritage.

¹ Бітібаева Қ. Әдебиетті оқыту әдістемесі.- Алматы, «Рауан», 1997.– 288 бет

² Жұмақаева Б. Қазақ әдебиетін оқыту әдістемесі. Алматы, «Қыздар университеті», 2015. – 242 бет



As Q. Bitibayeva points out: «The main goal of teaching literature is not to give ready-made knowledge but to teach students to understand through inquiry, analysis, and reflection. Heroic epics perfectly serve this purpose.» Thus, when teaching heroic epics, attention should be paid not only to their content but also to their educational and philosophical dimensions. When teaching heroic epics, teachers must consider students' age characteristics and cognitive abilities, using diverse and effective techniques. Modern methodology suggests organizing the learning process through developmental, critical thinking, and project-based approaches.

1. Expressive Reading and Textual Analysis

The language of heroic epics is rich and poetic. Therefore, students should be encouraged to read texts aloud expressively and recite them artistically. This method helps to develop speech culture and emotional connection with the text.

2. Problem-Based Questioning

For example:

What qualities make the hero courageous?

What is the relationship between the hero and the people?

How has the concept of heroism changed in modern society?

Such questions promote critical and analytical thinking among students.

3. Role-Playing and Dramatic Methods

Staging scenes from epic poems and acting out the roles of heroes foster students' creativity and emotional engagement. One of the most valuable spiritual heritages of the Kazakh people is the heroic epic. It is not only a literary work but also an epic that reflects the nation's history, heroic traditions, and ideals. Teaching heroic epics in schools helps instill national values, patriotism, and love for the homeland in students. Heroic epics are the mirror of the nation's courage and valor. Through epics such as "Kobylandy Batyr," "Alpamys Batyr," "Er Targyn," and "Kambar Batyr," students learn about moral values such as bravery, honesty, and justice.

In literature lessons, teaching these works should not be limited to understanding the content — it should aim to enrich the students' moral and spiritual world. For instance, students can describe the image of the hero and compare him with modern figures through creative tasks. Comparative analysis method. Students compare the images of heroes across different epics and identify similarities and differences.

Role-playing. Students act out scenes from the epics, which helps them understand the text more deeply.

Debate method. Students evaluate the actions of heroes and justify their opinions.

Cluster method. Students organize words and concepts that describe the hero's qualities, developing their analytical thinking.

Interactive technologies. The use of multimedia visuals, video epics, and digital tools enhances students' engagement and comprehension.

Q. Bitibayeva emphasizes that literature teaching should focus on the student's personal development. According to her, teaching heroic epics must inspire creativity and help students build an emotional connection with the hero. S. Kaliyeva, on the other hand, highlights the importance of considering the historical and cultural context when teaching folklore works. In



the digital age, using interactive maps, video and audio versions of epics has become highly effective. Students can listen, analyze, and express their interpretations of the epic, which develops both creative and critical thinking skills.

Conclusion, teaching heroic epics is a vital means of nurturing national spirit and patriotism. By combining traditional and modern teaching methods, educators can enhance students' literary taste, critical thinking, and national identity.

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