

ARTISTIC AND COMPOSITIONAL FEATURES OF LEGENDS

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Abstract: This article explores the artistic and compositional features of legends from a folkloristic perspective. It analyzes elements such as plot structure, character system, narrative progression, and the interplay between mythological and historical components. Particular attention is paid to symbolic imagery, artistic simplicity, and the reflection of the folk worldview as essential factors shaping the aesthetic and spiritual value of legends. The study contributes to a deeper understanding of the role of legends in oral tradition and their significance in the development of artistic thinking.

Keywords: legend, artistic and compositional structure, plot, character system, mythological elements, oral folklore.

In Uzbek folk literature, legends are considered an important genre that reflects the most ancient and rich layers of national artistic thinking. Legends embody not only historical events but also the beliefs, traditions, values, and aesthetic ideals of the people. At the same time, they express various layers of popular consciousness, including social, spiritual, and psychological experiences. Therefore, the study of legends contributes not only to folklore studies but also to a deeper understanding of artistic thinking, ethnology, and national culture.

Legends combine depictions of ordinary people's lives and inner worlds with complex mythological and symbolic layers. Their plots often develop through dramatic and symbolic events, while the characters appear as representations of moral norms, ethical values, and social ideals. Moreover, figures such as poets and bakhshis, heroes, and magical beings coexist within legends, enriching the narrative and adding depth to the events.

The artistic and compositional features of legends are among the key factors determining their aesthetic and spiritual value. Artistic features include poetic language, metaphors, symbolic devices, repetitive expressions, and rhythmic structures that create a distinctive imagery. Compositional features are revealed through the sequence of events, plot development, central conflicts, and their resolution. At the same time, legends rely on stable traditions of oral folklore, ensuring harmony between content and form.

The symbolic and mythological elements further enrich legends. Natural phenomena, animals, magical objects, and evil forces carry symbolic meanings that help to deepen understanding and draw moral conclusions. This allows listeners or readers not only to enjoy the narrative but also to grasp its deeper spiritual essence.

Thus, analyzing the artistic and compositional features of legends helps not only to identify plot and characters but also to better understand the worldview, aesthetic taste, and moral values of the people. Legends preserve national memory, transmit historical events and values across generations, and reinforce social and ethical norms.

The plot of legends is usually simple yet logically connected and engaging. Events have a clear beginning, development, and conclusion, and each character's actions contribute to expressing the main idea. For example, in Uzbek legends, heroes often set out on a journey, overcome difficulties, encounter magical beings, and ultimately achieve their goals. This



structure maintains the audience's attention and strengthens emotional engagement. At the same time, each event enriches the moral and philosophical content of the legend, often concealing deeper meanings behind seemingly simple narratives.

Legends are also enriched with repetitive motifs. For instance, the hero passing three trials, confronting evil forces three times, or receiving help three times reflects a typical feature of oral folklore. This not only facilitates memorization but also creates a rhythmic effect and deepens the abstract philosophical meaning of the narrative.

The system of characters plays a crucial role in defining the artistic and spiritual value of legends. The images of poets and bakhshis represent the highest ideals of oral creativity. Through the power of word and melody, they unite people, speak the truth, and provide spiritual leadership in complex social situations. Therefore, they are interpreted not only as artistic figures but also as socio-spiritual leaders.

Heroes are depicted as symbols of bravery, wisdom, honesty, and intelligence. They often strive to restore justice, defeat evil forces, or overcome moral trials. Evil forces, magical beings, and helper figures enhance the symbolic meaning of the narrative. For example, magical objects may represent inner qualities of the hero, while evil forces symbolize human flaws or social injustice.

Legends preserve ancient beliefs and mythology. Through them, natural phenomena, divine beings, and historical events are symbolically represented. For instance, the sun and moon symbolize light and enlightenment, while evil spirits represent social or personal challenges. Magical objects and encounters with mythical creatures serve as tools influencing the hero's development.

Symbolic and mythological representations enable the audience to perceive the story more deeply, draw moral conclusions, and gain life lessons. At the same time, they transform legends into works that are not only engaging but also philosophically and aesthetically rich.

Although the language of legends is simple and folk-based, it possesses a strong poetic and rhythmic structure. Dialogues, repeated phrases, songs, and chants contribute to their rhythm. Language and style enhance memorability, add emotional color, and stimulate imagination.

Furthermore, language and style preserve the historical and cultural context of legends. Folk expressions, proverbs, and wise sayings play an important role in revealing characters and emphasizing key ideas.

Legends perform not only artistic but also socio-spiritual functions. They unite people, preserve historical memory, and promote moral values. The images of poets and bakhshis often symbolize hope and salvation during times of hardship.

Moreover, legends play a significant role in the moral education of younger generations by instilling values such as justice, courage, patience, and faith. Thus, legends serve not only as a part of national literature but also as a key means of shaping the social and spiritual worldview of the people.

In Uzbek folk legends, artistic and compositional features are fundamental in defining their place and significance within oral tradition. Plot structure, character system, symbolic and mythological elements, as well as folk language and style, demonstrate their richness as a source



of national artistic thinking. The images of poets and bakhshis are interpreted not only as artistic figures but also as spiritual leaders, preservers of historical memory, and promoters of social justice. Therefore, the artistic and compositional analysis of legends contributes to a deeper understanding of Uzbek folklore and literature.

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