



Research Article

## THE SCIENTIFIC ACTIVITY OF THE SCIENTISTS WHO DEVELOPED THE SYRDARYO SCHOOL OF LITERARY STUDIES

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### ABSTRACT

This article discusses the contributions and activities of prominent representatives of the Sirdaryo literary school, including Candidate of Philological Sciences U. O'ljaboyev and Doctor of Philological Sciences M. Mamatqulov. It focuses particularly on the support provided by these scholars to other researchers during their leadership activities.

### KEYWORDS

Leadership, scholarship, literary critic, literary studies, team of scholars, classical and contemporary literature.

### INTRODUCTION

It can be clearly stated today that one of the individuals who had a significant role in transforming Gulistan State University into a true center of knowledge is the Candidate of Philological Sciences and Associate Professor Umurzoq O'ljaboyev. Renowned literary scholar Umurzoq O'ljaboyev was born on April 9, 1942, in Nurota District of Samarkand Region (now known as Qo'shrabod). He was a member of the Uzbekistan Writers' Union, a candidate of philological sciences, and gained recognition as a critic. Umurzoq O'ljaboyev worked for more than fifty years at Gulistan State University. He graduated from high school in 1959,

studied at the Faculty of Philology at Tashkent State University (now Uzbekistan National University) from 1965-1966, and was an aspirant at the same faculty's Department of Uzbek Literature from 1965-1968. From December 1, 1968, he worked at the Department of Uzbek Literature at Gulistan State University and defended his candidate dissertation in 1978 on the topic "Reflection of the Great Patriotic War Era in Modern Uzbek Novel."

Umurzoq O'ljaboyev began his professional career in 1965 by teaching native language and literature at School No. 5 in Gulistan District, Sirdaryo Region. From



1968 to 1971, he served as a senior lecturer at the Department of Uzbek Literature at Sirdaryo State Pedagogical Institute, then as an acting associate professor from 1971 to 1976, as an associate professor from 1976 to 1986, as a senior research fellow from 1986 to 1988, and as an associate professor from 1988 to 1990. He was the head of the Department of Uzbek Literature at Gulistan State University from 1990 to 2011 and served as an associate professor at the Department of Uzbek Literary Studies from 2011 to 2021.

Another significant aspect of O'ljaboyev's career is his work in literary criticism and literary studies. He started with his article titled "First Step," published in "Sirdaryo Haqiqati" newspaper in March 1966. Since then, over 200 of his articles have been published in various newspapers, journals, and scientific collections. Throughout his academic and creative activities, he focused primarily on the theme of how the life and fate of people during World War II were depicted in literature. He completed a significant portion of his research in this area and published works such as "The Depiction of Valor and Courage" (1976), "Voice of the Lines" (1985), "Some Issues of Character Creation in Uzbek Military Prose" (1989), "Traces in Memory" (1992), "Uzbek Short Stories of the War Era" (2006), "The Truthfulness of Artistic Depiction" (2008), "Lives Immortalized in Memory" (2010, 2016), "A Prosperous Home with a Friend" (2012), "The Demands of the Time and the Responsibility of the Creator" (2012), "Lessons from Abdulla Qahhor" (2013), "The Breath of the Era in Storytelling" (2016), and "Literature – A Mirror of the Soul" (2017), which have garnered attention from the scientific community.

O'ljaboyev's book "The Demands of the Time and the Responsibility of the Creator" holds particular significance in his creative work, as it compiles a portion of his 45 years of research in literary studies. The articles included in this book show that the themes

of the scholar's research are not limited to a single topic but are diverse and varied, demonstrating his successful exploration of other subjects as well.

Since 1982, he has been a member of the Union of Writers of Uzbekistan. U. O'ljaboyev has been awarded medals such as "Excellence in Public Education," "15th Anniversary of Independence," "20th Anniversary of Independence," and "Champion of Spirituality" (2020). For his scientific research and published works in the field of literary studies, the scholar was elected as a full member of the Turan Academy of Sciences in 2012.

By the decree of the President of the Republic of Uzbekistan on September 28, 2018, "On Awarding a Group of Employees for Exemplary Performance in the Education System on the Occasion of Teacher and Mentor Day," he was awarded the high state award "Labor Glory" for his many years of effective service in educating youth in love for their motherland and dedication to the ideas of independence, as well as his active participation in social life.

Umurzoq O'ljaboyev's initial book, "The Depiction of Valor and Courage," has a monographic nature and analyzes works written in prose about World War II from that era until 1970. However, the main focus is on works written in the genre of the novel during that period. For instance, the book provides a thorough analysis of novels such as Oybek's "The Sun Does Not Darken," O. Yoqubov's "If a Man Faces Trouble," Shuhrat's "Shiny Years," "Golden Rust," Said Ahmad's "Horizon," A. Muxtor's "The Era in My Fate," I. Rahim's "True Love," Hamid G'ulom's "Tashkent Residents," and Sh. Rashidov's "Powerful Waves." In "Some Issues of Character Creation in Uzbek Military Prose," the book examines the works of three writers—Abdulla Qahhor, Said Ahmad, and O'tkir Hoshimov—from the perspective of character creation skills. The research detailedly studies the depiction of World War II events in the writers' works, whether in detail or in passing.



The next book by the literary scholar, "Traces in Memory," focuses on analyzing a number of prose works on World War II, with a primary emphasis on the works of later generations of writers who write on this topic. These include writers such as O. Hoshimov, A. Eshonov, F. Musajonov, I. Sulaymonov, M. Turobova, as well as those considered young writers at the time, like N. Qobul, N. Eshonqul, S. Isoqov, Sh. Isaxonova, Sh. Ashurova, and I. Hasanov.

During this time, the scholar showed great dedication in educational activities and taught many students the secrets of literary art. He left a warm impression on students and colleagues with his sincerity, broad worldview, demanding nature, and genuine human qualities.

It is worth noting that despite being a leader himself, the scholar set an example for his disciples. He guided several well-known literary scholars in our republic and demonstrated his vision as a scholar and leader. For instance, he provided scientific guidance to thousands of students and magistrands, creating conditions for their engagement in research during their postgraduate studies. Later, among them, M. Mamatqulov and O. Fayzullayeva defended their dissertations for the degree of Doctor of Philological Sciences, and D. To'rayeva and I. Saymuratova defended their dissertations for the degree of Doctor of Philosophy in Philology.

Subsequently, Muzaffar Mamatqulov, who followed in the footsteps of the scholar, achieved numerous accomplishments as a scholar and continues the traditions of U. O'ljaboyev as the head of the Department of Uzbek Literary Studies at Gulistan State University. Mamatqulov also leads talented young people in scientific research on pressing issues of literature. Muzaffar Mamatqulov, born in 1973 in Boyovut District, Sirdaryo Region (now Bekabad District, Tashkent Region), was a student at Gulistan State University from 1990 to 1995, a lecturer at the

Department of Uzbek Literature from 1995 to 1996, a research fellow at the Institute of Manuscripts of the Academy of Sciences of Uzbekistan from 1996 to 1998, a lecturer at Gulistan State University's Department of Uzbek Literature from 1998 to 2004, a senior lecturer from 2004 to 2006, deputy dean for scientific work of the Faculty of Philology from 2004 to 2007, head of pedagogical practice from 2007 to 2012, associate professor at the Department of Uzbek Literature from 2012 to 2014, secretary of the Scientific Council of the University from 2014 to 2017, dean of the Faculty of Pedagogy in 2018, dean of the Faculty of Philology from 2018 to 2022, and since 2022, has been the head of the Department of Uzbek Literary Studies.

Muzaffar Mamatqulov's entry into the field of literary studies has been greatly influenced by his father, Rahmonqul Mamatqulov, who was a prominent historian. Due to his father's background, Muzaffar Mamatqulov had a deep understanding of the allure of artistic language from a young age. Moreover, the contributions of Nasimkhon Rahmonov, a distinguished Turkologist, Doctor of Philology, and renowned for his innovative scientific perspectives not only in Uzbekistan but also in Russia and among Turkic-speaking countries, were crucial for Mamatqulov's scholarly development. Rahmonov's influence was significant as Mamatqulov pursued extensive research in classical literature.

Mamatqulov has delved into several critical areas in literary studies, including:

- Scientific research on ancient Turkic literature.
- Theoretical perspectives on classical literature.
- Theories of literary criticism.
- Teaching literary studies in the educational process.
- Folkloristics and theoretical perspectives on folklore.
- Research on classical literature and folklore from a unified perspective.

Mamatqulov's scientific observations on ancient Turkic literature became evident starting with his candidate



dissertation titled "The Poetics of Genres in Ancient Turkic Literature (based on Manichaeic poems and 'Devonu lug'atit turk')." He highlights the lack of separate studies on the development of genres in ancient Turkic literature, which necessitated a specialized and thorough examination of these ancient texts' genre characteristics. In his dissertation, Mamatqulov aimed to explore the roots of the ghazal form in Turkic literature, the evolution of the quatrain form in ancient Turkic literature, and the artistic examples in "Devonu lug'atit turk" and "Hibat ul-haqoyiq," attempting to shed light on their significance in Turkic literature.

The research stands out for its comprehensive examination of genre diversity in ancient Turkic literature, particularly focusing on poetic forms used in the Manichaeic text "Xuastuanift," artistic examples in Mahmud Kashgari's "Devonu lug'atit turk," and the artistic imagery and genre characteristics in Ahmad Yugnaki's "Hibat ul-haqoyiq."

In summary, the tradition initiated by U. O'ljaboyev in the Sirdaryo literary school has been continued by his disciples. Mamatqulov's dedication to advancing literary studies across various domains serves as a significant example of the academic rigor and influence of his mentor's legacy. This tradition is actively being carried forward by Mamatqulov today.

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