

THE SIGNIFICANCE OF SHAVKAT RAHMON'S WORK TODAY

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Abstract. *This thesis examines the contemporary significance of Shavkat Rahmon's literary legacy in Uzbek culture and modern literary thought. The central argument is that his importance today lies not only in his place within late twentieth-century Uzbek poetry, but also in the continuing relevance of his moral, philosophical, aesthetic, and linguistic vision. Recent scholarship shows that Rahmon's poetry remains closely associated with such categories as freedom, conscience, truth, spiritual awakening, symbolic renewal, national feeling, and the inner dignity of the human being. His verse is also valued for its formal originality, its disciplined poetic intensity, and its ability to unite personal lyricism with civic consciousness.*

Key words: *Shavkat Rahmon, Uzbek poetry, modern Uzbek literature, symbolism, national identity, poetic form.*

Introduction

Shavkat Rahmon occupies a distinct place in modern Uzbek poetry because his work combines lyrical inwardness with civic intensity and ethical seriousness. Biographical sources note that he was born in 1950, studied at the Moscow Literary Institute, published a sequence of major poetry collections from *Rangin lahzalar* to *Saylanma*, and also translated poets such as Federico García Lorca, Juan Ramón Jiménez, and Rafael Alberti into Uzbek. These facts are not merely bibliographical. They indicate the broad literary horizon within which his poetry formed: he belonged simultaneously to the national poetic tradition and to a wider intercultural space of modern verse. This dual position is one of the reasons his poetry remains important today. He represents both continuity and renewal in Uzbek literature. [1], [4].

Main part

One of the main reasons for the continued significance of Shavkat Rahmon's work today is the durability of its ethical and philosophical concerns. A 2025 analytical article on his social and philosophical views describes his poetry as a field in which freedom, conscience, truth, the harmony between human beings and nature, and spiritual awakening are central themes. The same study interprets his poems as calling human beings toward inner freedom, moral vigilance, and spiritual consciousness, and explicitly states that his worldview remains relevant in the present because it invites the reader to listen to conscience, think freely, and resist moral indifference. This is a decisive point. The contemporary value of Rahmon's poetry does not depend only on literary reputation; it

depends on the continued urgency of the moral vocabulary his poems activate. In an age often marked by informational excess, superficial language, and ethical fatigue, poetry that insists on conscience and truth acquires renewed force. [3].

That ethical seriousness is inseparable from the emotional structure of his poetry. Rahmon's verse does not present moral ideas as abstract teaching. It transforms them into lived poetic tension. The 2025 study cited above points to poems such as *Ozodlik qo'shig'i*, *Ummon*, *Yorilgan harakat bayoni*, *Jabr*, *Odamdaraxt*, *Vaqt*, and *Yolg'izlik* as examples of how symbolic imagery, psychological depth, and social criticism interact in his work. This interaction remains significant today because contemporary readers do not encounter in Rahmon a narrow ideological poet, but a voice in which moral protest is fused with artistic density. His poetry does not merely say that truth matters; it creates a verbal atmosphere in which truth becomes emotionally pressing. That is why his work continues to invite interpretation rather than mere admiration. [3].

A second major reason for Rahmon's continuing importance lies in the formal and imaginative distinctiveness of his poetry. A 2024 study in the *Bulletin of Gulistan State University* analyzes the formal-imaginative characteristics of his verse and emphasizes that his poetry brought a distinctive spirit into twentieth-century Uzbek literature. The article highlights several features that remain central to understanding his significance: the relationship between form and content, the image of the homeland, the use of nature to express inner experience, the harmony of landscape and social environment, and the shaping role of his translation practice in his poetic renewal. Particularly important is the study's conclusion that his poems retain both their reader and their place in Uzbek literature today. This observation helps explain why Rahmon remains more than a historical name. His poems are still read because their verbal structure has not become inert; the energy of their form remains active. [4].

The question of form should not be treated as secondary. In poetry, enduring significance depends not only on what is said, but on how it is made to exist in language. The same 2024 study observes that Rahmon did not subordinate poetry to decorative rhyme or conventional smoothness; rather, he sought a more concentrated and sharper poetic effect, often giving priority to meaning and intensity. It also notes that his knowledge of Spanish poetry and his work as a translator of Lorca were important for his formal sensibility. These findings help clarify why his work still speaks to modern readers and scholars. Rahmon's significance today is not limited to his themes of homeland, pain, and freedom. It is also rooted in his transformation of poetic texture: his compression, tonal severity, and image-driven mode of utterance helped expand the expressive possibilities of Uzbek lyric poetry. [1], [4].

A third important aspect of his current significance is symbolic thinking. A 2025 study devoted specifically to symbolism in Shavkat Rahmon's poetry argues that symbols in his

verse undergo semantic renewal and that their force is connected to both the poet's historical environment and his artistic intention. The article states that symbolic structures in his poems not only convey his ideas and desires, but also intensify the aesthetic impact and attractiveness of the text. This is highly relevant for understanding why Rahmon continues to matter today. Symbolic poetry ages differently from direct statement. When a poem is built on symbols, the historical context does not disappear, but it becomes refracted through deeper and more mobile meanings. In Rahmon's case, this means that poems written within a specific historical pressure still remain open to new readings because their symbolic imagery extends beyond immediate circumstance. [5].

Conclusion

The significance of Shavkat Rahmon's work today lies in the fact that his poetry has retained both historical depth and present intellectual force. Biographical and literary sources situate him among the major figures of modern Uzbek poetry, while recent scholarship demonstrates that his themes of freedom, conscience, truth, spiritual awakening, national feeling, symbolic density, and formal renewal remain critically active in current literary discussion. His poetry still matters because it does not belong to a single exhausted context. It continues to generate interpretation, ethical reflection, and aesthetic response.

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