

TEXTUAL STUDIES OF MODERN UZBEK LITERATURE

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Abstract This article analyzes the stages of development of textual studies in modern Uzbek literature, its major scientific directions, and current issues. Particular attention is paid to the role of textual studies in the literary process, methods of working with literary texts in the era of digital technologies, and new approaches to scholarly text analysis. The study highlights the importance of textual criticism in restoring and preserving literary heritage, comparing different textual sources, identifying authorial style, and introducing Uzbek literary texts into the global academic space. The article also examines the opportunities provided by digital technologies, including electronic libraries, online archives, digitized manuscripts, and electronic methods of text comparison. The development of modern textual studies is considered an important factor in preserving national literary heritage and expanding scientific research in Uzbek literary studies.

Keywords: modern literature, textual studies, textual criticism, text analysis, digital literature, digital humanities, methodology, literary research, literary heritage.

INTRODUCTION Textual studies of modern Uzbek literature represent an independent field of scholarly research devoted to the scientific analysis of the Uzbek literary process, restoration of authentic versions of literary texts, identification of authorial style, and comparison of literary sources. During the years of independence, fundamental changes took place in Uzbek textual studies. Scientific research expanded, the process of digitizing manuscripts began, and literary sources increasingly became the subject of research at the international level. The development of textual studies is closely connected with the preservation, restoration, and scholarly interpretation of national literary heritage. In the modern period, traditional methods of textual analysis are increasingly being supplemented by digital technologies, which create new opportunities for researchers.

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1. Historical Roots of Textual Studies Uzbek textual studies have their origins in the traditions of Eastern literature. The first systematic attempts to restore authentic versions of the works of such prominent writers as Alisher Navoi, Babur, Ogahi, Gulkhani, and Muqimi began to develop particularly during the middle of the twentieth century. During this period, manuscript collections and specialized archival resources were established under the Academy of Sciences of Uzbekistan. These institutions played an

important role in creating a scientific foundation for the development of textual studies. The study of manuscripts, comparison of different versions of literary works, identification of textual discrepancies, and restoration of original texts became important directions of scholarly research. As a result, textual studies gradually developed into an independent and systematic field within Uzbek literary scholarship.

2. Changes During the Period of Independence A new stage in Uzbek textual studies began after the country gained independence. There emerged a need to reinterpret the history of Uzbek literature from the perspective of national values, historical truth, and independence. During this period, scholars from the National University of Uzbekistan, the Alisher Navoi Institute of Language and Literature, and the Tashkent State University of Uzbek Language and Literature made significant contributions to the development of new scholarly approaches to textual studies. Particular attention was paid to previously understudied literary sources, manuscripts, and works of classical Uzbek writers. The restoration and publication of authentic texts contributed to a deeper understanding of the national literary heritage. The period of independence also created favorable conditions for strengthening scholarly cooperation, expanding access to archival sources, and introducing modern research methodologies into literary studies.

3. Textual Studies in the Era of Digital Technologies Today, the study of literary texts is directly connected with digital technologies. Electronic libraries, online archives, digital databases, and digitized manuscripts have significantly expanded opportunities for scholarly research. Digital technologies make it possible to compare different versions of texts electronically, identify textual differences, search large collections of literary sources, and preserve manuscripts in digital formats. New research directions are also emerging, including electronic textual studies, digital text comparison, plagiarism detection, corpus-based analysis, and algorithmic analysis of authorial style. The integration of digital technologies into textual studies provides researchers with opportunities to process large amounts of information more quickly and accurately. At the same time, traditional scholarly principles such as source criticism, historical analysis, and philological interpretation remain essential.

4. Current Problems and Future Prospects One of the most important issues in contemporary textual studies is the comprehensive digitization of literary and manuscript sources. Many valuable manuscripts and archival materials require systematic preservation and conversion into accessible digital formats. Another important issue is the comparison and scholarly evaluation of translated texts. Differences between original literary works and their translations can significantly influence the interpretation of literary meaning and authorial style. Therefore, comparative textual analysis remains an important area of research. Protection of copyright is another significant challenge in the digital environment. As literary works become increasingly accessible online, researchers and institutions must

ensure that intellectual property rights are properly protected. For young researchers, adapting the methodology of textual studies to contemporary academic standards is also an important task. Combining traditional philological methods with digital research tools can create new opportunities for the development of Uzbek textual studies.

CONCLUSION In conclusion, textual studies of modern Uzbek literature represent an important field aimed at preserving, studying, restoring, and introducing national literary heritage into the global academic community. The development of this field is increasingly supported by technological opportunities, digital tools, electronic databases, and international scholarly cooperation. The integration of traditional textual research methods with modern digital technologies creates new possibilities for studying literary sources more comprehensively. Modern textual studies not only contribute to the preservation of Uzbekistan's literary heritage but also help reveal new aspects of literary works, authorial style, textual history, and the development of the Uzbek literary process. Further research in this field, particularly the digitization of manuscripts, development of electronic textual databases, comparative analysis of literary sources, and application of digital humanities methods, can contribute significantly to strengthening the position of Uzbek literature within world cultural and academic heritage.

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