



THE ISSUE OF NATIONAL IDENTITY IN THE WORK  
“BABURNAMA”



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**Abstract:** *In this article, the issue of national identity in the famous work Baburnama by Zahiriddin Muhammad Babur is analyzed from both literary and historical perspectives. The author's views on national consciousness, ethnic distinctiveness, attitudes toward the mother tongue, homeland, and historical memory are examined on a scholarly basis. Particular attention is paid to linguistic issues, the depiction of customs and traditions, respect for ancestral heritage, and the longing for the homeland as key factors expressing national identity in Baburnama. The study also reveals the intrinsic connection between the autobiographical nature of the work and the concept of the national “self.” The article serves as an important scholarly source for the study of the formation and development of the issue of national identity in Uzbek classical literature.*

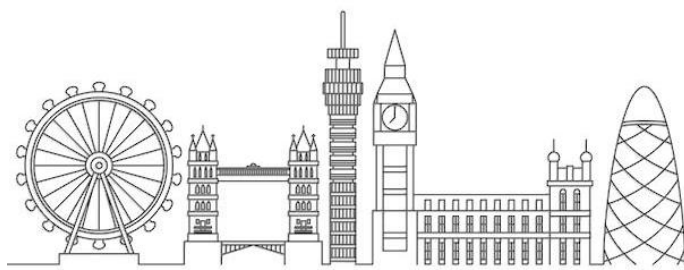
**Keywords:** *national identity, memoir genre, customs and traditions, Turkic (Uzbek) statehood traditions*

### Introduction

The issue of national identity occupies an important place in the historical development, cultural heritage, and literary thought of every nation. In particular, works of classical literature are considered invaluable sources that reflect a people's process of self-awareness. In the history of Uzbek literature, Baburnama, authored by Zahiriddin Muhammad Babur, is one of such rare and significant sources. This work is not only historical and memoir in nature, but also vividly demonstrates the author's attitude toward national consciousness, ethnic identity, language, customs, and traditions.

Baburnama is an important literary monument that illuminates the socio-political, cultural, and spiritual life of the Uzbek people in the 15th–16th centuries. In the work, Babur appears not only as a historical figure describing his personal life and political activity, but also as a creator who deeply understood his national affiliation. From this perspective, studying Baburnama through the lens of national identity remains a relevant task for contemporary literary studies.

The concept of national identity expresses a people's awareness of their history, language, culture, and values, as well as loyalty to them. Literature serves as one of the main means of shaping national identity and transmitting it from generation to





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generation. Especially in autobiographical and historical works, the author's personal "self" becomes closely intertwined with the collective national "we."

Baburnama is precisely such a work. While narrating his personal experiences, Babur perceives himself as a representative and continuer of a particular nation, tradition, and history. His love for his homeland, respect for the Turkic language, and devotion to customs and traditions are among the key manifestations of national identity.

One of the main markers of national identity is language. By writing Baburnama in the Turkic (Chagatai) language, Zahiriddin Muhammad Babur made a significant contribution to the history of the Uzbek literary language. Despite the dominance of Persian-Tajik as the literary and court language of the time, Babur's choice to write in his mother tongue clearly demonstrates his strong sense of national identity.

The vocabulary, expressions, proverbs, and sayings used in the work reflect a distinctly folk spirit. In depicting nature, human character, and customs, Babur skillfully employs the rich expressive potential of the Turkic language. This indicates that he viewed language not merely as a means of communication, but as an expression of national consciousness.

In Baburnama, the issue of national identity is also vividly revealed through the concept of homeland. For Babur, Andijan, Fergana, and Movarounnahr are not simply geographical locations, but sacred spaces. Even while living far from his homeland in India, he does not conceal his longing for his native land and his deep love for it.

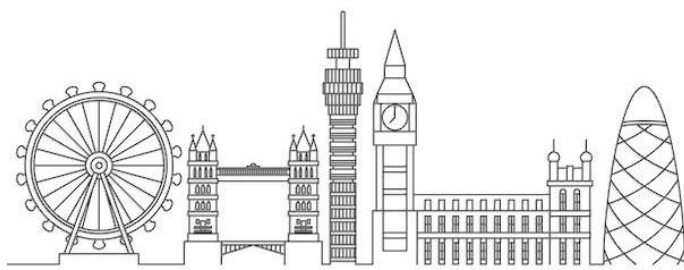
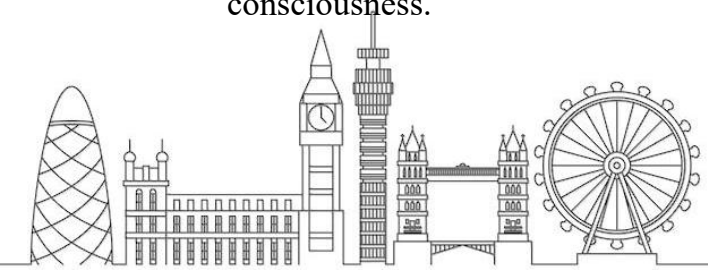
Babur's yearning for his homeland constitutes the spiritual foundation of his national identity. He perceives the loss of his homeland as a personal tragedy, yet at the same time strives to preserve his national essence. This emotional state is expressed in the work with profound lyricism and sincerity.

Another important aspect of national identity is customs and traditions. In Baburnama, wedding ceremonies, military customs, court life, and folk rituals are described in detail. Babur does not merely record these processes, but also emphasizes their spiritual and cultural significance.

The work reflects social relations characteristic of Uzbek and Turkic tribes, such as friendship and loyalty, respect for elders, courage, and bravery, which are presented as elements of national character. Babur upholds these virtues as core values in his personal life and political decisions.

Baburnama also plays an important role in preserving historical memory. Babur proudly mentions his ancestors, representatives of the Timurid dynasty. This demonstrates that he lived with a strong awareness of his historical roots and linked his national identity with dynastic and historical consciousness.

Defending the honor of his ancestors and preserving their legacy was for Babur not only a political duty, but also a national responsibility. The detailed and objective depiction of historical events in the work testifies to the maturity of his national consciousness.







### Conclusion

In conclusion, the issue of national identity in Baburnama is presented in a multifaceted and profound manner. Attitudes toward language, longing for the homeland, depictions of customs and traditions, historical memory, and reverence for ancestors collectively demonstrate a mature model of national identity embodied in Babur's personality. This work is not only a historical document, but also a literary expression of national consciousness and self-awareness.

Even today, Baburnama serves as an important source for understanding national identity and fostering respect for one's history and culture. Therefore, studying this work from the perspective of national identity remains one of the pressing tasks of Uzbek literary scholarship.

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