

«METHODS OF TEACHING THE EPIC OF KAMBAR BATYR»

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Annotation: *This article provides a general overview of the heroic epics –an important part of the spiritual heritage of the Kazakh people – and analyzes their artistic and educational significance. It emphasizes that heroic epics depict the traditions of bravery, the spirit of freedom, and the heroism of warriors who defended their homeland.*

Keywords: *heroic epics, epos, tradition of bravery, folk heritage, Alpamys Batyr, national spirit, educational value.*

The epic of heroes is one of the oldest and most significant genres of Kazakh oral literature. It represents the historical consciousness and spiritual world of the people as a unique form of literary art. The main theme of the epic of heroes is to glorify the bravery, loyalty, and justice of the heroes who defend their nation. The image of Kazakh heroes in these epics is portrayed not only as individual personalities but also as symbolic figures representing the honor, traditions, and values of the nation. Heroic epics combine historical events with popular legends. Since they were passed down orally from generation to generation, these epics reflect the people's worldview, traditions, moral principles, and understanding of bravery and heroism. The actions and decisions of the epic characters, as well as their struggles against enemies and challenges, are presented to inspire readers with virtues such as courage, loyalty, and honor. From a scientific perspective, the epic of heroes is studied through several aspects: epic structure, character system, linguistic features, historical and cultural context, and social-philosophical meaning. Research on epic structure examines the compositional elements of the epic – introduction, conflict, climax, and resolution— and their role in portraying heroic deeds and character development. The system of characters includes heroes, their relatives, enemies, the people, and mythological elements, revealing their interactions and significance. Linguistic features, including oral expressions, epithets, metaphors, and repetition, emphasize the heroic qualities and enhance the narrative's aesthetic impact. The epic of heroes is not only of literary value but also serves as an important historical and cultural source. Through these epics, researchers can study the political structure, customs, military traditions, and moral principles of the nomadic society. Moreover, heroic epics reflect the Kazakh nation's aspiration for freedom, appreciation of social justice, and role in shaping historical consciousness. The epic of heroes is one of the oldest and most beautiful epic legacies of the Kazakh people. It narrates the bravery of men who defended the

homeland, the spirit of patriotism, and the people's aspiration for freedom. In these epics, heroes are depicted not only as individuals possessing courage but also as protectors of the nation's honor, symbols of justice and bravery. The epic of heroes is one of the important genres in Kazakh epic literature, portraying the heroic deeds and exploits of those who defended their people in a poetic form. This genre serves to preserve the historical consciousness, traditional values, and moral ideals of the people.

M. Auezov states: «The epic of heroes is an epic tradition that glorifies the heroic ideals of the people, the spirit of defending the homeland, and courage.»⁷ The epic of heroes is a folkloric work that describes the heroic deeds and socially significant events of heroes through epic poetry. The main characteristics of the epic of heroes are: Its events are based on historical truth;

The protagonist is a hero who defends the nation; It glorifies the people's heroic traditions and spiritual values. Its language is poetic, figurative, and rich in set expressions and similes. Examples of Kazakh epics include Alpamys Batyr, Koblandy Batyr, Er Targyn, and Kambar Batyr.

Literary scholar and educator Kanipa Bitibaeva writes about the epic of heroes: «The epic of heroes is the most valuable and beautiful form of our nation's spiritual heritage. Through the courage of men defending the homeland, the people's ideals, national pride, and the eternal idea of heroism are celebrated. The epic of heroes reflects the centuries-old heroic traditions of the people. It portrays not only the personal bravery of the hero but also the honor and freedom of the entire nation.»⁸ Educator-scholar B. Zhumakaeva also notes in her works on teaching epics in schools: «Teaching the epic of heroes is one of the most effective ways to educate students in the national spirit. Through the epic hero, students learn to love their country, valor, and loyalty»⁹ The epic of heroes is an important and complex genre of oral literature. Its challenges in teaching lie in its length and the poetic features of its language, which may be unusual for today's children. Teaching it, especially to students in grades 5–8, requires significant effort from the teacher. When teaching the epic of heroes, the teacher should pay attention to the following issues:

During the introduction stage:

Provide the first literary-theoretical understanding of the epic of heroes, taking into account the age of the students and explaining the concepts clearly.

During the content mastery stage:

⁷ Әуезов, М. (1983). Қазақ эпосы және батырлар жыры. Алматы: Қазақ мемлекеттік баспасы.

⁸ Бітібаева Қ. Әдебиетті оқыту әдістемесі.- Алматы, «Рауан», 1997. 131-б

⁹ Жұмақаева Б. Қазақ әдебиетін оқыту әдістемесі. Алматы, «Қыздар университеті», 2015. – 150-б

Create a plot-composition plan of the epic and present it visually to the students. For example, for Kambar Batyr, a plan can include:

- The narrator's introduction (about Azimbay);
- Description of the beauty of Nazym;
- Nazym's choice of a husband, not liking anyone;
- Her falling in love with Kambar;
- Kambar's character;
- Kambar's hunting for the sake of his people;
- Fighting a tiger while hunting;
- Nazym crossing the village;
- Nazym's pride and delicacy;
- Kambar setting traps along the way;
- Kambar and Nazym talking and sharing their sorrows;
- Alshioraz intervening with his advice;
- Kalmak Khan proposing to Nazym;
- Battle between Alshioraz and Kelmembet;
- The wrath of Karaman Khan; raid on Azimbay's village;
- Azimbay being cornered, sending men against Kambar;
- Kambar bidding farewell to his people and going for help;
- Confronting Karaman, verbal duel;
- Karaman fighting in single combat;
- Nature of the war;
- Kalmaks defeat Karaman;
- Kambar marrying Nazym.

Main Episodes	Questions
1. Nazym's choice of a husband	1. Who is Nazym? How is her character described?
2. Kambar – Nazym falling in love with him	2. How does she hear about Kambar?
3. Kalmak Khan's marriage proposal; Karaman's raid on Azimbay's village	3. What is said about Kambar in the epic? How is his character described?
4. Azimbay calling Kambar for help	4. Why does Nazym not pay attention to others? Explain the reason.

5. Kambar going to Karaman; defeating Karaman

6. Kambar marrying Nazym

5. What happens to Kelmembet, who comes to propose?

6. How is Karaman's anger described?

7. What does Kambar say to Karaman?

8. What message or warning does Azimbay give to Karaman?

9. Describe the dialogue between Kambar and Karaman.

10. How is Karaman defeated?

11. How does Nazym praise Kambar?

Literary Analysis of the Epic:

Uncover the theme and main idea of the epic. This can be done through teacher-led discussion and a question-and-answer approach. The following questions can be asked:

1. What issues do you think are addressed in the epic? What is the main idea behind it?
2. Through which character is the central idea most clearly expressed?
3. Which qualities of Qambar would you highlight in particular? Analyze through practical Q&A activities.
4. Based on the poetry, what can you infer about the role and character of women in early Kazakh society?
5. What negative traits do Qaraman and Kelmembet exhibit?
6. How would you summarize the people's aspirations as reflected through these characters?

7. Identify the portraits and descriptions, and discuss their significance in revealing the characters' actions and roles.

When analyzing epics, especially the characters, comparative work is extremely important. For example, you can conduct comparisons on topics such as "Female Characters in Epics," "Kalmuk Warriors," "Heroic Characters," "The Horse – the Hero's Loyal Companion," etc.

In comparing female characters, you can refer to:

Alpamys Batyr: Gulbarshyn, Karlygash, Koblandy Batyr: Kurtka, Karlyga, Er Targyn: Akzhunis

Suggested questions and exercises for comparison work:

1. Identify common traits of female characters in heroic epics.
2. What are their unique features or differences?
3. Compare the metaphors used for women in the epics. Are there any similar metaphors?
4. Which character did you like the most in these epics, and why? Justify your choice.

In conclusion, Kazakh oral literature's heroic epics are among the highest examples of folk art. These epics depict the tradition of bravery, love for the country and homeland, and patriotism. Through the depiction of heroes, they promote eternal values such as unity, loyalty, justice, honor, and courage. The epic of heroes is a literary genre that preserves the spiritual culture and historical memory of the Kazakh people, portraying essential aspects of societal life. Scientific studies systematize the structural, linguistic, and character features of this genre, providing a comprehensive understanding of the development of Kazakh epics and their significance in national consciousness. The epic of heroes remains not only a reflection of past eras but also a literary heritage that promotes national traditions and moral values in contemporary society.

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