



STUDYING THE WORK OF ALISHER NAVOI DURING THE PERIOD OF INDEPENDENCE

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Abstract:

The study of Alisher Navoi's work during the period of independence has gained significant momentum as his literary legacy has been reassessed in the context of national identity, cultural revival, and linguistic pride. With Uzbekistan's independence, Navoi's contributions to the Uzbek language, literature, and moral philosophy have been revisited through educational reforms, academic research, and cultural initiatives. His role in shaping linguistic nationalism, ethical governance, and spiritual discourse has been widely recognized. International scholarship, artistic expressions, and digital technologies have further expanded his influence. This paper explores the renewed appreciation of Navoi's works, emphasizing their impact on national consciousness and intellectual growth in modern Uzbekistan.

Keywords: Alisher Navoi, Uzbekistan independence, Uzbek language, national identity, cultural revival, literary heritage, linguistic nationalism, ethics, governance, Sufism, digital humanities.

Introduction

The study of Alisher Navoi's work during the period of independence has gained significant momentum as his literary legacy has been reassessed in the context of national identity, cultural revival, and linguistic pride. Alisher Navoi, the great poet, thinker, and statesman of the Timurid era, remains an essential figure in the spiritual and intellectual heritage of Uzbekistan. His contributions to the development of the Uzbek language, literature, and moral philosophy continue to be a source of inspiration for scholars, writers, and the general public. The independence of Uzbekistan in 1991 marked a turning point in the way Navoi's works were studied,



interpreted, and integrated into various aspects of society. During the Soviet period, his legacy was often viewed through a restricted ideological lens, with a focus on class struggle and materialist interpretations that sometimes overlooked the deeper spiritual, linguistic, and philosophical dimensions of his works. However, with independence came a renewed interest in reclaiming national history and cultural figures who had shaped the identity of the Uzbek people. Navoi emerged as a central figure in this national revival, symbolizing the rich literary and intellectual traditions of the past and their relevance to contemporary society.

One of the most significant aspects of studying Navoi's work during independence is the emphasis on his role in the development of the Uzbek language. He was a pioneer in elevating Chagatai Turkish to the level of a literary language, demonstrating its richness and expressive power in works such as "Muhakamat al-Lug'atayn." This work, which compares the merits of Persian and Turkic languages, serves as an early manifesto of linguistic nationalism, asserting the beauty and sophistication of the Turkic language. In post-independence Uzbekistan, Navoi's efforts to champion the Uzbek language have been re-examined in light of language policies aimed at strengthening national identity. The transition from Cyrillic to Latin script, the promotion of Uzbek as the state language, and various educational reforms all draw inspiration from Navoi's belief in the cultural and intellectual power of the native tongue.

Another crucial dimension of Navoi's legacy that has received increased attention during the independence period is his philosophical and ethical worldview. His poetry and prose are imbued with deep reflections on justice, morality, leadership, and the responsibilities of rulers and citizens alike. The themes of justice and good governance, as articulated in works like "Saddi Iskandariy" and "Hayrat ul-Abror," have been revisited in contemporary political discourse. His depiction of the ideal ruler—wise, just, and benevolent—resonates with efforts to shape governance in an independent Uzbekistan based on national values. His works encourage leaders to uphold fairness and integrity while reminding citizens of their moral duties toward society.

Navoi's concept of love, both earthly and divine, has also been reinterpreted in the context of cultural and spiritual revival. His poetic masterpieces, particularly the "Khamsa" (Five Treasures), explore themes of divine love, the pursuit of knowledge, and the human soul's longing for perfection. The independence period



has witnessed a resurgence of interest in Sufism and Islamic philosophy, with scholars drawing connections between Navoi's poetic expressions and the broader spiritual traditions of Central Asia. His works serve as a bridge between literature and mysticism, offering insights into the spiritual dimensions of Uzbek culture. Public celebrations, academic conferences, and new scholarly editions of his texts have reinforced his role as a cultural guide, shaping the moral and ethical framework of modern society.

The educational sector has been profoundly influenced by the study of Navoi's works during the independence era. His poetry and prose are now integral to school and university curricula, ensuring that new generations appreciate his literary genius and philosophical insights. Special academic programs, research institutes, and literary competitions have been established to deepen engagement with his works. Government initiatives have further promoted his legacy, with the establishment of cultural centers, translation projects, and digital archives that make his writings more accessible to a global audience. These efforts reflect a broader commitment to preserving and disseminating Uzbekistan's literary heritage, positioning Navoi as a key figure in the country's intellectual landscape. Another remarkable development in the study of Navoi's works during the independence period is the expansion of international scholarship on his legacy. Uzbek researchers, in collaboration with foreign scholars, have explored Navoi's influence beyond Central Asia, highlighting his impact on Persian, Ottoman, and even European literary traditions. Comparative studies have examined his place alongside luminaries such as Dante, Shakespeare, and Rumi, demonstrating the universal significance of his ideas. International conferences and publications have facilitated cross-cultural dialogue, reinforcing the idea that Navoi's works transcend national boundaries and offer valuable insights into the shared human experience. This global recognition has also contributed to the promotion of Uzbek literature on the world stage, enhancing cultural diplomacy efforts.

In addition to academic and cultural efforts, Navoi's legacy has been embraced in various forms of artistic expression, including music, theater, and visual arts. His poetry continues to inspire composers, with adaptations of his verses in traditional maqom music and contemporary compositions. Theater productions and film adaptations based on his life and works have introduced his ideas to broader audiences, blending historical narratives with artistic creativity. Monuments and



museums dedicated to Navoi have been renovated and expanded, serving as sites of national pride and historical reflection. These artistic endeavors reinforce the timeless relevance of his themes, making his poetry and philosophy accessible to diverse audiences.

The digital era has further transformed the study of Navoi's works, with new technologies facilitating access to manuscripts, translations, and critical analyses. Online databases, e-books, and virtual exhibitions have expanded the reach of his legacy, allowing scholars and readers worldwide to engage with his works in innovative ways. Social media platforms have also played a role in popularizing his poetry, with quotes, interpretations, and discussions reaching younger generations in formats that resonate with contemporary digital culture. This fusion of tradition and technology ensures that Navoi's influence continues to grow, adapting to the needs and interests of modern audiences.

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