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History of Kazakh Literature Classification

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Abstract

More than 20 years has passed since the Republic of Kazakhstan acquired its independence. A lot of studies have been conducted in every field including Kazakh literature. All the works of literature that were banned during the period of Soviet Union now are being published and included into the history of Kazakh literature. The writers and poets, whose names were even prohibited to be pronounced, have now become a topic of research and a lot of thesis works are being written on them. These writers and poets, and even some terms and whole periods were taken away from the history of Kazakh literature. Now we obtained the right to rewrite the history of literature after having gained the independence. In this study we tried to classify the history of Kazakh literature according to the form based on the researches done so far about the classification of history of literature. Particularly we focused on still uninvestigated works in the history of Kazakh literature related to common pre-Islamic Turkic history.

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Introduction

The history of Kazakh literature is the most important issue of the Kazakh literature because it has not been divided systematically into periods yet.

The first reason of this fact is that the original sources of our ancient history are not in our native language. The second is the ideology existed during the Soviet Union which did not allow the intelligentsia to recognize the national perspectives as the knowledge of the past was against that policy. The third reason is the long-lasting

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policy of oppression and colonization that was aimed at trying to change the minds of Kazakh people, making them feel reserved and mediocre.

No common overview and system have not been settled on the classification the history of the Kazakh literature, and this makes this study original. Common literature of Turkic community dates back to Orkhon inscriptions. Even if there are those who advanced in researching history of literature, this period is not fully investigated. For example, the epic of Creation, the epic of Migration, and the epic of Descent didn't still enter the history of the Kazakh literature. Thus, this article comprises the classification of Kazakh literature starting from its origin to the present days.

1 The first steps in classifying the Kazakh Literature.

The very first attempt to classify the history of Kazakh literature was made by R. Marsekov in 1915 in his article "State of Kazakh literature". He classified Kazakh literature into the following periods:

- 1. The period without any script in Kazakh.
- 2. Beginning of script propagation among people,
- 3. The period after Late Abay. (Marsekov 1915: 112)

The importance of his work is that it emphasizes social life of people in the classification of history of Kazakh literature. Both, the period without script and Kazakh independent nation focus more on rhetoric aspects, ability to express the thoughts and feelings freely. The article discusses the period when the script was widely spread within the nation with the arrival of Islam, when it started to borrow new words and entertainment was banned by the religion with restriction of the subject. In addition, the imprisonment of the language by religious books, the limitation of the language in books were also noticed. The author states that the language before Abay was limited and started to lose its literary features. Later it revived by the contribution of Abay, and thus gained its former value.

The second major research relating to this topic is Ahmet Baytursunov's work "Guide to literature". Baytursunov was the first to classify the history of literature and also first to put the theory of literature on paper. According to him the Kazakh written literature was divided into two periods, and this fact was greatly affected by the religion:

- 1 Religious terms.
- 2 Linguistic terms (Baytursunov 1991: 435)

Baytursunov claims that the Kazakh language period starts with Abay, and it doesn't refer to pre-Islamic period. Both of these works are of a great importance because the history of literature was classified for the first time and thus influenced literature with the arrival of script and foreign cultures. Ahmet Baytursinov's both religious and linguistic periods were not the periods of development of the national literature, but they were emphasized as the period that was affected by foreign languages. The religious period of literature was affected by Arabic and Persian literature, whereas the linguistic period was affected by the Russian literature. Ahmet Baytursunov's work is considered to be the basis for researches in the history of literature. European literary genres didn't fall completely in the Kazakh literature, but in the future the probability of its entering is high.

2 Professional studies related to the classification of Kazakh literature.

M. Auezov's "History of literature", which was written in 1927, is one of the advanced works in the history of literature. This book was seen in the list of the banned works and it was put to the back burner during the Soviet Union period. Only one-third of his works was published in 1985 and the other two-thirds were cropped. The

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