



THE ORAL LITERATURE OF THE KARAKALPAK PEOPLE

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ABSTRACT

The annotation provides essential information about the language and literature of the Karakalpak people, who reside in the Republic of Karakalpakstan, Uzbekistan. It highlights the richness and distinctiveness of the Karakalpak oral tradition, including its historical heritage and various forms of national creativity.

The oral literature of the Karakalpak people has developed over several centuries in Karakalpakstan. It encompasses all genres of oral literature, including proverbs, folktales, riddles, narratives, and poetry.

The Karakalpak language has distinctive ethnographic features and is often intertwined with the mother tongue, emphasizing the importance of oral traditions and performances during Saturday gatherings and festive occasions. The language also reveals the influence of Turkic linguistic traditions.

Karakalpak literature is based on poetry, singing, musical accompaniment, and four-part performances. It explores themes of natural life, national history, myths, and the various expressions of love among the people living in the region.

The oral literature of the Karakalpak people plays a significant role in their national identity and adherence to cultural norms. It has preserved the rich heritage of the past and highlighted the people's creative abilities in various fields.

The historical ties between the Karakalpak and Uzbek peoples have fostered a mutual literary influence spanning several centuries. While Uzbek literature has been well-known among the Karakalpaks, with works like "Alpomish" gaining popularity, Karakalpak literature, such as the epic "Qirq qiz," has also attracted the attention of Uzbek readers throughout history.

During the 20th century, Karakalpak literature flourished under the direct influence of Uzbek literature. Although poetry dominated the literary scene until the 1950s, prose also achieved notable success. Works such as A. Begimov's "Baliqchining qizi," J. Oymurzayev's "Kamekboyning qilmishlari," X. Seitov's "Mashaqqatli baxt," and A. Qaypbergenov's "So'ngi xujum" are prominent examples.



In the years following World War II, Uzbek-Karakalpak literary connections further strengthened, with Uzbek and Karakalpak writers engaging in creative collaborations. Translation between the two languages became more prevalent.

Renowned writers such as Oybek, Uyg'un, A. Qahhor, and N. Safarov actively participated in literary activities in Karakalpakstan, contributing positively to Karakalpak literature with their literary works. Moreover, the writings of prominent Uzbek poets and authors, including Alisher Navoi, Muqimiy, H.H. Niyoziy, Oybek, G. G'ulom, A. Qahhor, Uyg'un, and A. Muxtor, have been translated into Karakalpak, allowing Karakalpak readers to appreciate Uzbek literary works. Additionally, the works of classic poets, such as B. Berdaq, J. Oymurzayev, X. Seitov, A. Begimov, M. Dariboyev, and A. Dabilov, as well as A. Qaipbergenov's "Songgi hujum" and "Qoraqalpoqnoma," and the comedy "Suymaganga suykalma," continue to captivate Uzbek readers with their aesthetic value.

The most prominent examples of Karakalpak oral literature are considered to be epics or epic poems (dostons). This genre of literature consists of over five thousand works, which include heroic, lyrical, socio-domestic, romantic, and other types of epics. They are performed by epic storytellers (dostonchi), singers (qo'shiqchilar), bards, and jesters, accompanied by musical instruments such as the qobiz and dutor. These epic poems hold a significant place in folklore, with notable examples from the 11th to 18th centuries, including "Sharyar," "Qoblan," "Yedige," "Yer Shora," "Alpomish," "Qurbonbek," "Yer Ziyor," "Qirq qiz," and others. The epic poem "Alpomish" depicts the unity, friendship, and patriotism among different tribes, while "Qirq qiz" showcases the bravery and heroism of women defenders and male heroes against external enemies. These epics are unique to the Karakalpak people and are not found in other cultures.

Karakalpak oral literature encompasses various genres of creative and humorous works. An example of this can be seen in the form of witty storytelling or humorous dialogues and responses, which are often used in word games between young men and women. These responses are given in a short, clever, improvisational, and rhymed form, relying on the ability to provide quick and witty answers without losing oneself. They are performed without music but with intonation and rhythmic movements. Additionally, the art of verbal expression among poets has also been renowned in ancient times.

Further information about the Karakalpak people's oral creativity:

1. **Ethnographic characteristics:** The Karakalpak people are an ethnic group residing in the Republic of Karakalpakstan, Uzbekistan. They have distinct ethnographic characteristics, including colorful traditional attire, gold-embroidered bags, household items made of felt, and various types of carpets and rugs. Traditional kitchens, earthenware dishes, and traditional cuisines prepared using different types of utensils are also unique to their villages.
2. **National music and dance:** The Karakalpak people are known for their distinctive music and dances. Karakalpak folklore often involves the use of musical instruments such as the doira, nay, qoshiq, kobuz (kelin-kosh), dombra, and saz. They also perform dances such as g'oyibon, oyinlar, suxrob, ko'zodan, ko'ch, korogil, and others.
3. **Integration into Uzbekistan's national identity:** The Karakalpak people have successfully integrated into Uzbekistan's cultural and national identity. They have contributed to the



country's cultural and social development through their family and economic life in the Republic of Karakalpakstan.

4. Historical heritage: The Karakalpak people have a rich historical heritage, with significant historical achievements, bravery, noble lineages, and the establishment of unique villages and settlements.

5. Karakalpak literature: The Karakalpak people have their own distinctive literature. Their literature includes folk tales, proverbs, sayings, folklore narratives, and epics that reflect their national realities and intellectual development.

These pieces of information provide a general overview of Karakalpak oral literature. This literary tradition plays a vital role in preserving the Karakalpak people's national identity and connecting their unique experiences with the rest of the world.

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