

The Harmony of National Values and Modernity in Farida Afroz's Poetry

Rahmanova Dilnura Omonbay qizi

1st Year Master's Student in Uzbek Language and Literature University of Uzbek Language and Literature

Abstract: This article analyzes the poetry of Farida Afroz from the perspective of the harmony between national values and modernity. In Farida Afroz's works, the national values of the Uzbek people, such as tolerance, patience, and humanity, are glorified while being adapted to the demands of contemporary life. The role of poetry in spiritual purification and societal upbringing is thoroughly explored. The poetess's skill in harmonizing traditional values with modernity is particularly emphasized.

Keywords: National values, moral education, modern solutions, spiritual purification, the philosophy of forgiveness, literary analysis.



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Introduction

The creative legacy of Farida Afroz holds a unique place in Uzbek literature, with her poems serving as exemplary works in harmonizing national values and modernity. In her works, the traditional lifestyle, values of the people, and modernity are skillfully interconnected. "Contemporary Uzbek poetry enriches national literary thought by reflecting the historical memory of the people and the ongoing socio-social processes of today." [1,125] Poets like Farida Afroz play a leading role in this process. This article highlights the harmony between national and modern values through an analysis of her poetry.

Discussion and Results

In Farida Afroz's poem "*If You Know How to Forgive*," profound philosophical reflections on the purification of the human soul and the positive impact of forgiveness on life are encapsulated. The poet glorifies tolerance, forgiveness, and humanity, which are intrinsic to Uzbek customs and values. "The highest mission of literature is to cleanse the human soul and call it to higher virtues." [1,54] The works of poets like Farida Afroz fulfill this noble mission.

In the first stanza of the poem, forgiveness is presented as a transformative force in human life:

Kechirmoqni bilsang, agar,

Sen g‘amlardan qutilgaysan,
Umring hazon etgan o‘shal,
Sitamlardan qutilgaysan. [2,21]

These lines depict forgiveness as a virtue that lightens the human heart. In Uzbek national values, forgiveness is cherished as a force that maintains balance within society.

National values, as the spiritual wealth of the Uzbek people, are vividly portrayed in many of Farida Afro'z's poems. Her works enrich these values—compassion, patience, patriotism, and tolerance—with unique artistic expressions. For instance, the following stanza emphasizes the need to overcome hypocrisy and envy:

Ikki tilli ilon yanglig‘
Odamlardan qutilgaysan. [2,21]

This poem by Farida Afro'z highlights both national identity and moral elevation.

The poem also addresses the complexities of modern life, reflecting on the coldness and animosity in human relationships. The poet emphasizes that forgiveness can overcome these issues. The following stanza reveals the effects of modernity on the human spirit:

Og‘zing oshga yetganda voh,
Kimdir tuproq sochar, pinhon,
Senga ravo bo‘lmagan u,
Taomlardan qutilgaysan. [2,21]

Literary scholar Ibrohim Haqqul, analyzing the trend of glorifying spiritual purity in modern Uzbek poetry, states: “Modern poets lead society toward moral purification by celebrating humanity.” [3,68] This idea is vividly evident in Farida Afro'z's works.

In Farida Afro'z's creative output, the harmony of national values and modernity is portrayed as a vital tool for exalting human virtues and addressing social and moral challenges in society. The poet connects values like forgiveness, patience, and tolerance with the complexities of contemporary life.

The following lines from the poet vividly demonstrate the artistic harmony between national identity and modernity:

Chor atrofing, toza, pokdir,
Sen ko‘rmagan, sen bilmagan
Olamlardan qutulgaysan. [2,21]

Here, the idea of forming a new, modern worldview through the attainment of inner purity is proposed.

In *"If You Know How to Forgive"* and other works, Farida Afro'z masterfully captures the profound harmony between national values and modernity. Her poetry serves as an inspiring medium for the celebration of human virtues and the resolution of societal challenges.

Otam – sabr, tog‘amdir – mehr,
Akam – qalqon, inim – tegirmon,
Mening esa boshim – palahmon! [4,46]

In this poem, Farida Afroz expresses her life experiences in harmony with national values. The poem elevates human qualities through the traditions and family concept of the Uzbek people. Each image in the poem holds symbolic meaning, reflecting moral and ethical values.

The poet describes the father as "patience," highlighting the father's role in Uzbek families as a symbol of composure, manliness, and responsibility. The head of the family is portrayed as someone who endures all difficulties with patience and fortitude, emphasizing his pivotal role in family stability.

The uncle symbolizes care and compassion. Through this image, the warmth and kindness within familial and kinship relationships are glorified. The respect for uncles holds a significant place in Uzbek culture, which is clearly reflected in this poem.

The line "My brother is a shield" conveys the protective and supportive role of brothers. In Uzbek families, the bond between siblings, filled with love and mutual support, is highly valued. The brother is depicted as a shield protecting loved ones from external dangers.

The phrase "My younger sibling – a mill" symbolically represents the hardworking and tireless life of a younger sibling. This image reflects the energy and activity of the younger generation within the family, portraying their contribution to the family's overall dynamics.

The final part of the poem reveals the poet's personal emotions. The word "palahmon" signifies hardship, challenges, and complexity. By reflecting on her life trials, the poet emphasizes the emotional support of family members and cherishes it deeply. Here, the resilience of the human spirit and the family's supportive role take center stage.

Literary critics suggest: "A true poet interprets national values with a modern spirit, opening new horizons in literature." [5,126] This aspect is vividly demonstrated in Farida Afroz's poem.

The artistic excellence and glorification of human qualities in the poem contribute a modern interpretation to the rich traditions of Uzbek literature. It seamlessly blends national values with contemporary analysis, revealing the universal essence of humanity. Through this, the poet calls for a profound understanding of love, respect, and responsibility among family members, enriching family and societal life with elevated values.

Conclusion

In the poet's work, the cultural heritage of the Uzbek people and the demands of modern life are interconnected, glorifying the spiritual elevation of the individual. As Qozokboy Yo'ldosh aptly puts it, "Literature does not only reflect the past but enriches national consciousness in harmony with the demands of the time." [1, 82] The poetry of this skillful poet vividly exemplifies this approach.

Her creative works are not only masterpieces of artistic excellence but also serve as an invaluable resource for understanding national identity and appreciating modernity.

References

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