



National Thought In Azim Suyun's Journalism

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ABSTRACT

This article analyses the journalistic activity of Azim Suyun, one of the distinctive representatives of modern Uzbek journalism, and his national and spiritual views reflected in the book O'zlik. The role of journalism in illuminating social life, the problems of the era, human thought, and the spiritual world is discussed. The literary-journalistic interpretation of national thought, the native language, historical memory, independence, the Motherland, national values, and friendship between fraternal peoples in Azim Suyun's journalism is revealed. In particular, the author's civic position and journalistic skill are analysed through such materials as "A People Without a Native Language Is a People Whose Light Has Gone Out," "Ode to Independence," "May Uzbeks in Kyrgyzstan and Kyrgyz People in Uzbekistan Live Happily," and "The Spring from Which the Poetess Drank Water." The structural parts of the book O'zlik and the specific features of the expression of national identity, spirituality, and the ideas of independence in them are also examined.

KEYWORDS: Azim Suyun, journalism, national thought, spirituality, national identity, O'zlik, independence, native language, historical memory, national values, Motherland, artistic thought.

INTRODUCTION

Journalism is one of the important creative fields that reflects social life, human thought, and the problems of the era from social and artistic perspectives. It clearly reveals the author's attitude toward life, civic position, aesthetic views, and spiritual world. Along with conveying information to the reader, a journalistic work encourages them to reflect on reality and to develop a conscious attitude toward social phenomena [1].

Journalism is a form of literary creativity devoted to the socio-political and other topical issues of the era, and one of its main functions is to shape public opinion and direct it toward a particular goal. At the same time, real facts and events are generalized through artistic thought in a journalistic text [1]. The publicist's artistic skill, use of linguistic possibilities, figurative thinking, and application of expressive means determine his creative image [2]. The roots of journalistic thought in the history of Uzbek literature date back to ancient times. The expression of ideas concerning society, morality, human perfection, and state governance in prose and in a didactic spirit in Qobusnoma may be regarded as one of the earliest manifestations of journalistic thought [3]. In the works of Alisher Navoi, such traditions became further developed. In his prose works such as Majolis un-nafois, Munshaot, and Mahbub ul-qulub, issues concerning the era, society, the individual, and spirituality are illuminated through artistic reflection [4].

In modern Uzbek literary thought, the process of interpreting Navoi's heritage from a new perspective also continues. E. Nasrullayev interprets Navoi's work in connection with enlightenment and the thought of a new era and demonstrates the significance of the writer's heritage in modern scholarly interpretation [5]. This aspect is important for understanding the continuity between the historical roots of national literary thought and modern journalistic views.

At the end of the nineteenth and beginning of the twentieth centuries, Uzbek journalism entered a new stage with the development of the national press. Enlightened intellectuals representing the Jadid movement, such as Mahmudkhoja Behbudi, Fitrat, Cholpon, and Abdulla Avloni, turned journalism into a means of promoting the ideas of national awakening, enlightenment, and progress [6].

In the post-independence period, Uzbek journalism acquired new opportunities in terms of content and form. Political, social, and spiritual changes in society created a broad thematic field for journalistic creativity. One such writer is Azim Suyun, whose journalistic heritage gives a leading place to issues of national thought, the native language, historical memory, independence, the Motherland, and spirituality.

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The book *O'zlik* is of particular importance in studying Azim Suyun's journalistic heritage. This collection includes articles, interviews, reflections, and journalistic writings produced in different periods. The work consists of three parts entitled "*Bo'ronlarda bordek halovat*," "*Hurriyat haqiqatlari*," and "*Yashil navo*."

The main ideological direction of the book *O'zlik* is connected with the issue of understanding the identity of the individual and the nation. Discussing this collection, Qozokboy Yo'ldoshev notes that its articles raise numerous issues such as the fate of the national language, the creativity of young people, environmental protection, education, economic development, national independence, and journalism [7].

An important feature of Azim Suyun's journalism is that a social problem is presented not in the form of dry information, but in combination with the author's personal attitude, observations of life, and artistic reflection. Therefore, social and artistic elements complement each other in his journalistic texts.

Azim Suyun's article "A People Without a Native Language Is a People Whose Light Has Gone Out" is one of the most important journalistic materials addressing the issue of national thought. The article was published in the 15 September 1989 issue of the newspaper *O'zbekiston adabiyoti va san'ati*, sixteen days before the Uzbek language was granted the status of the state language [8].

The title of the article itself expresses the author's attitude toward language. In it, the native language is interpreted not merely as a means of communication, but as a principal factor preserving the nation's historical memory, spiritual existence, and national identity.

The author regards the loss of language as a threat to the spiritual life of the people. Indeed, the centuries-old experience, customs, values, and thought of a people are embodied in their language. Therefore, attention to language means attention to national identity.

The historical significance of this article lies in the fact that it was written during a difficult period when the issue of the national language was particularly acute. Therefore, the author's civic courage and national responsibility are clearly visible in it.

Qozokboy Yo'ldoshev notes that the earliest articles in O'zlik were included in the book almost exactly as they had originally been written [7]. This indicates that Azim Suyun's views of his own time were preserved in their natural form.

The article "May Uzbeks in Kyrgyzstan and Kyrgyz People in Uzbekistan Live Happily" in O'zlik also demonstrates the author's attitude toward socio-political issues. This article was written in connection with the visit of the leader of Uzbekistan to the Osh Region of Kyrgyzstan on 14 August 1993 [10].

The author expresses the historical, cultural, and spiritual closeness of the Uzbek and Kyrgyz peoples through images of nature. Mountains, springs, and rivers appear as symbols of natural unity connecting the two peoples.

In the article, the political event is interpreted not as a simple news report, but in connection with the concepts of the people's joy, friendship, neighbourliness, and solidarity. This demonstrates the humanistic orientation of Azim Suyun's journalism.

For the author, the peaceful and happy coexistence of the two peoples is an important indicator not only of political stability, but also of spiritual unity and human solidarity.

One of the important features of Azim Suyun's journalism is the presentation of social problems through artistic thought. The author frequently uses images, symbols, metaphors, forms of address, and emotional expressions.

For example, the expression "a people whose light has gone out" in the article "A People Without a Native Language Is a People Whose Light Has Gone Out" conveys the relationship between language and national identity through a powerful metaphor [8].

In "Ode to Independence," the symbols of the sun and light serve to express the life-giving power of independence [9]. In the article devoted to the friendship of fraternal peoples, images of nature are used as a means of expressing the historical closeness between peoples [10].

In this respect, artistic devices in Azim Suyun's journalism do not merely serve a decorative function. They serve to reveal the author's main idea, deepen the essence of the social problem, and exert an emotional impact on the reader.

The effectiveness of a journalistic text largely depends on the author's skill in word choice. In this regard, the traditions of literary and artistic thought are of great importance. In particular, the figurative and expressive presentation of meaning in classical poetry also influenced the literary-journalistic thought of later periods. In his research, R. Mardanov analyses the semantic features of ghazals and couplets devoted to the theme of news in the poet's lyrics [12]. Such studies can provide an important theoretical basis for understanding the mechanisms of conveying ideas, rendering meaning figuratively, and influencing the reader in an artistic text.

Conclusion. Azim Suyun's journalism is one of the important manifestations of modern Uzbek literary-journalistic thought. The articles, interviews, reflections, and memoirs collected in his book O'zlik comprehensively reveal the author's views on national thought, the native language, historical memory, independence, the Motherland, and spirituality.

The analysis shows that one of the main ideological centres of Azim Suyun's journalism is the understanding of national identity. The author regards the native language as an important factor preserving the spiritual existence and historical memory of the people. In the article "A People Without a Native Language Is a People Whose Light Has Gone Out," the issue of language is connected with the future of the nation.

In materials devoted to the theme of “independence,” independence is interpreted not only as the political freedom of the people, but also as their spiritual and moral awakening. In “Ode to Independence,” the joy awakened by independence in the hearts of the people is expressed through poetic images.

In articles devoted to relations between fraternal peoples, the ideas of friendship, solidarity, peace, and mutual respect occupy a dominant position. In the memoirs about Zulfiya, the spiritual image of the creative personality and issues of literary memory are revealed through a literary-journalistic approach.

In general, social problems, national thought, and artistic means of expression are harmoniously combined in Azim Suyun’s journalism. From this perspective, his book O’zlik may be regarded not only as a collection of journalistic articles, but also as an important literary source reflecting the author’s national and spiritual worldview.

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