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NATIONAL ECOLOGICAL WORLDVIEW FORMED THROUGH IMAGES OF NATURE

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Abstract: This article examines the national ecological worldview formed through images of nature in the prose of Sharof Rashidov based on the methodologies of ecocriticism and ecolinguistics. The study analyzes the main features of the relationship between nature and the Uzbek national consciousness, including agricultural culture, Islamic traditions, Sufi philosophy, and folk wisdom. Four key characteristics of the national ecological worldview reflected in Rashidov’s works are identified: love and responsibility toward the land; perception of water as a sacred blessing; understanding of human beings as an integral part of nature; and presenting harmonious coexistence with nature as a moral ideal. These features are evaluated as the Uzbek national manifestation of an ecocentric worldview.

Keywords: national ecological worldview, ecocriticism, ecocentrism, images of nature, agricultural culture, Islamic traditions, Sharof Rashidov.

Introduction: A national ecological worldview is a system of ideas, norms, emotions, and values that determine a particular nation's relationship with nature and that has been historically and culturally formed and transmitted from generation to generation. Every nation’s attitude toward the natural world is reflected in its language and literature through distinctive symbols and metaphors. These symbols and metaphors express the nation’s ecological worldview.

The ecological approach studies literary works from the perspective of how they represent the relationship between humans and nature. According to Lawrence Buell’s methodology, ecocritical analysis focuses on the representation of nature in literary texts, the depiction of human–nature relations, and the formation of ecological responsibility. When Sharof Rashidov’s prose is analyzed according to these criteria, it becomes evident that his works embody a national ecological worldview and possess significant aesthetic value.

The formation of the Uzbek national ecological worldview has been influenced by four major sources. The first source is the centuries-old agricultural culture. Irrigated farming, which has existed in the territory of Uzbekistan since ancient times, contributed to perceiving land and water as vital and sacred blessings. This perception has become firmly rooted in Uzbek proverbs, customs, and literary works.

Another important source is Sufi philosophy and its understanding of nature. In the works of Sufi poets such as Alisher Navoi, Jami, and Rumi, nature is interpreted as a symbol of divine truth, spiritual purification, and knowledge. Concepts such as “garden,” “flower,” “spring,” and “light” acquire symbolic meanings in Sufi poetry. This Sufi layer is also present as a subtext in Rashidov’s prose.

Nature-related heroes occupy an important place in folk tales, epics, folk songs, and humorous folklore. Heroes who overcome natural forces such as storms, floods, and droughts embody the ideals of the people. This tradition is continued in Sharof Rashidov’s creative works.

The ecological analysis of Rashidov’s writings reveals four major characteristics of the national ecological worldview.

In ecocentric theory, nature is regarded as a value equal or superior to human beings; humans are not rulers of nature but a part of it. Sharof Rashidov artistically expresses this philosophical perspective. The ecocentric orientation in his works is characterized by the following features:

1. Nature is not merely a background for the protagonist's emotions but an independent subject.
2. Causing harm to nature is perceived as a moral offense.
3. Harmony with nature increases the effectiveness and quality of life.
4. Understanding and appreciating nature is a sign of cultural maturity.

These four characteristics provide a basis for evaluating Rashidov's prose as a vivid example of ecocentric thinking in Uzbek literature.

In Rashidov's prose, the national ecological worldview expressed through images of nature emerges as a synthesis of Uzbek agricultural culture, Islamic beliefs, Sufi traditions, and folk wisdom. Metaphorical analysis makes it possible to identify four fundamental features of this worldview: love and responsibility toward the land; perception of water as a sacred blessing; understanding humans as part of nature; and harmony with nature as a moral ideal.

Sharof Rashidov's prose represents one of the most complete artistic expressions of the Uzbek national ecological worldview.

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