

Research Issues in The Study of Mahmudkhoja Behbudiy's Works and Activities in The Context of Uzbek-Turkish Cultural Relations

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	Abstract This article examines the life and creative-social activity of Mahmudkhoja Behbudiy — one of the leading figures of the early twentieth-century Turkestani Jadid movement — within the context of spiritual and cultural ties between the Uzbek and Turkish peoples. The study explores Behbudiy's journeys connected with Istanbul, his contacts with Ottoman-Turkish intellectuals and representatives of the Young Turks movement, pan-Turkic ideas present in his journalistic work, as well as the mutual influence of Uzbek, Tatar, and Turkish theatrical traditions as reflected in the drama «Padarkush». The article also highlights the place of Behbudiy's legacy in contemporary Turkish literary studies. The research is based on comparative-historical and source-analysis methods. Keywords: Mahmudkhoja Behbudiy, Jadidism, Turkism, usul-i jadid, Uzbek-Turkish cultural relations, «Tarjumon», «Oyna», Istanbul, Young Turks movement, Turkestan.
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Introduction

Annotatsiya

Ushbu maqolada XX asr boshlarida Turkistondagi jadidchilik harakatining yetakchi namoyandalaridan biri bo'lgan Mahmudxo'ja Behbudiyning hayoti, ijodiy va ijtimoiy faoliyati o'zbek va turk xalqlari o'rtasidagi ma'naviy-madaniy aloqalar kontekstida o'rganiladi. Tadqiqotda Behbudiyning Istanbul bilan bog'liq safarlari, usmonli-turk ziyolilari va Yosh turklar harakati vakillari bilan aloqalari, publitsistik asarlarida aks etgan panturkistik g'oyalari, shuningdek, «Padarkush» dramasida namoyon bo'lgan o'zbek, tatar va turk teatr an'alarining o'zaro ta'siri tahlil qilinadi. Maqolada, shuningdek, Behbudiy merosining zamonaviy turk adabiyotshunosligidagi o'rni yoritiladi. Tadqiqot qiyosiy-tarixiy va manbashunoslik metodlari asosida olib borilgan.

Kalit so'zlar: Mahmudxo'ja Behbudiy, jadidchilik, turkchilik, usul-i jadid, o'zbek-turk madaniy aloqalari, «Tarjumon», «Oyna», Istanbul, Yosh turklar harakati, Turkiston.

Аннотация

В статье рассматриваются жизнь, творческая и общественная деятельность Махмудходжи Бехбуди — одного из ведущих деятелей джадидского движения в Туркестане начала XX века — в контексте духовных и культурных связей между узбекским и турецким народами.

В исследовании изучаются поездки Бехбуди, связанные со Стамбулом, его контакты с османско-турецкими интеллектуалами и представителями младотурецкого движения, пантюркистские идеи, отражённые в его публицистических произведениях, а также взаимное влияние узбекской, татарской и турецкой театральных традиций, проявившееся в драме «Падаркуш». Кроме того, в статье освещается место наследия Бехбуди в современной турецкой литературоведческой науке. Исследование основано на сравнительно-историческом и источниковедческом методах.

Ключевые слова: Махмудходжа Бехбуди, джадидизм, тюркизм, усул-и жадид, узбекско-турецкие культурные связи, «Тарджумон», «Ойна», Стамбул, младотурецкое движение, Туркестан.

In the early twentieth century, the need to study the process of intellectual and social awakening that took place in Turkestani society during the Jadid movement not only within a single region or among a single people, but rather within the broader context of the spiritual and cultural life of the entire Turkic world has become increasingly pressing. The Jadid movement emerged as a direct product of the ideological and educational cooperation among the Tatars of the Volga region, Crimean Tatars, Azerbaijanis, and Ottoman Turks. One of the most prominent representatives of this process in Turkestan was Mahmudkhoja Behbudiy (1875-1919), and analyzing his creative work and activities from the perspective of spiritual and cultural relations between the Uzbek and Turkish peoples holds particular scholarly significance.

Literature Analysis

The legacy of Behbudiy has been extensively covered in Uzbek literary scholarship by scholars such as B. Qosimov and Sh. Rizayev. In Turkish literary scholarship, however, Behbudiy's legacy has been studied from a different perspective. T. Kocaoğlu examines the «Padarkush» drama within the context of Turkic world theatre history, while R. Danyar analyzes Behbudiy's activities within the context of the pan-Turkic Jadid movement. Thus, in the existing literature, Behbudiy's legacy has been studied in parallel within separate scholarly traditions, and a comparative analysis of these approaches within a single study has not yet been sufficiently accomplished.

Research Methodology

The research is based on comparative-historical analysis methods. Through bibliographical analysis, Behbudiy's various travels and contacts are systematized chronologically. Historical-biographical and contextual analytical methods are also employed, which allows for understanding Behbudiy's activities in connection with the events of the era.

Analysis And Results

The Role of Travels in the Formation of Behbudiy's Turkic Worldview

Behbudiy's acquaintance with the wider world began with his pilgrimage to Mecca in 1899-1900. At the age of 24, he traveled through the Caucasus, Istanbul, and Cairo to Mecca. It was this journey that became a decisive factor in strengthening in his mind the idea of opening schools of the new method (usul-i jadid). During 1903-1904, he traveled to Kazan and Ufa, where he

established firm contacts with Tatar intellectuals, particularly with Ismail Gasprinsky and the reformers around his newspaper «Tarjumon».

Istanbul — A Center of Science and Enlightenment for Turkestani Youth

In the early twentieth century, Istanbul served as an important gateway to acquaintance with European science and modern pedagogy for Turkestani and Bukharan youth. National organizations such as «Bukhara Enlightenment» operated in Istanbul under the leadership of Bukharan and Turkestani intellectuals. During this period, contacts were established between Bukharan and Turkestani progressives and the representatives of the «Young Turks» movement in the Ottoman Empire, and these contacts served to enrich the theoretical and organizational aspects of Jadid ideas in the region.

Linguistic-Literary Cooperation and Pan-Turkic Ideas

The question of the unity of Turkic peoples occupied a central place in Behbudiy's socio-political journalism. His constant cooperation with Gasprinsky's newspaper «Tarjumon,» as well as the distribution of the journal «Oyna» across the Caucasus, Tatarstan, Iran, Afghanistan, India and Turkey, were practical efforts aimed at creating a pan-Turkic enlightenment space. The staging of the «Padarkush» drama by Tatar artists on March 5, 1914, in Bukhara is a striking example of direct cooperation between Uzbek and Tatar-Turkish theatrical traditions.

The Study of Behbudiy's Legacy in Contemporary Turkish Literary Scholarship

Today, Behbudiy's legacy is being actively studied in Turkish literary studies and Oriental studies. In 2025, at the International Scholarly Conference «Mahmudkhoja Behbudiy and Turkestani Jadidism» held in Ankara, Turkey, the scholarly works and creative activities of the scholar were thoroughly examined. Such research demonstrates a new phase of scientific cooperation between Uzbek and Turkish scholars and shows that Behbudiy's image is a shared spiritual heritage for the scholarly communities of both peoples.

CONCLUSION

In conclusion, the life and creative activities of Mahmudkhoja Behbudiy should be evaluated as a distinctive example of spiritual and cultural relations between the Uzbek and Turkish peoples. His journeys connected with Istanbul, his contacts with Ottoman-Turkish intellectuals and representatives of the «Young Turks» movement, and his journalistic activities demonstrate the necessity of recognizing Behbudiy as a major figure in the pan-Turkic enlightenment movement. Studying Behbudiy's legacy within this broader context serves to mutually enrich the fields of Jadid studies and Turkology, and creates a solid historical foundation for contemporary Uzbek-Turkish scholarly and cultural cooperation.

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