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S. Esenin and Erkin Vohidov: Linguo-Cultural Features of the Concept of Homeland and Native Land

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Abstract: In literature, the concepts of homeland and native land are closely intertwined with national identity and historical memory. The works of Sergey Esenin and Erkin Vohidov provide a profound analysis of the linguo-cultural manifestations of these two concepts. Esenin's poetry vividly portrays the unique landscapes of Russian rural life and its culture, while Vohidov glorifies the spirit of independence and cultural heritage of the Uzbek people. This article examines the linguistic and cultural aspects of the concepts of homeland and native land in the works of these poets.

Keywords: Homeland, country, concept, love for the homeland, linguistic and cultural features, metaphor, historical memory.

Introduction: Theoretical Foundations of the Concepts of Homeland and Native Land Concepts hold a significant place in linguistics, reflecting cultural heritage through language. The notions of homeland and native land, on one hand, are tied to personal emotions and experiences, while on the other, they represent shared national values. Analyzing these concepts requires an understanding of cultural symbols, metaphors, national stereotypes, and historical context.

The Concept of Homeland in S. Esenin's Works Sergey Esenin elevates the concept of homeland through colloquial expressions and vivid imagery in his poetry. Central themes include Russian villages, rural laborers, and the harmony of nature. For instance, his poem "Rodina" contains profound philosophical depth:

"If the sacred host cries out: 'Forsake Russia, live in paradise!' I'll say: 'I don't need paradise; just give me my homeland.'"

These lines capture the poet's deep love for his homeland, emphasizing its irreplaceable value. In Esenin's "Birch Tree," the symbolic importance of rural nature is evident. By depicting nature in harmony with the homeland, Esenin illuminates the soul of the Russian people. For example, in the poem "Oh, you, my dear Rus'," Esenin glorifies Russian nature through divine harmony and simplicity:

"If the sacred host cries out: 'Forsake Russia, live in paradise!' I'll say: 'I don't need paradise; just give me my homeland.'"

Each poetic depiction vividly showcases Esenin's boundless affection for his native land. In another poem, "The Hills of Russia," the following imagery appears:

"My sorrow, a peasant's sorrow, The radiant paradise doesn't cheer me. Wherever you are, peasant Rus', You're always with me—farewell!"

Here, the vivid portrayal of rural life serves as a symbol of the homeland.

The Concept of Native Land in Erkin Vohidov's Works
In Erkin Vohidov's poetry, the concept of the native land reflects the Uzbek people's national pride and values. Vohidov depicts the native land as a maternal figure, intertwining it with the nation's history and future. For instance, in his poem "O'zbekim," he writes:

"My Uzbekistan, my heart and soul, For you I live, my dear nation, my mother. Every mountain, stone, desert, and field— Dedicated to my inspiration."

These lines demonstrate that loving one's native land is not only a personal sentiment but also a collective feeling shared by the nation. Similarly, in his poem "Motherland," the following essence is conveyed:

"Motherland, you are my love, my inspiration, For you, I stand in the fields of valor. Every inch of your soil is sacred to me, For you are my eternal home."

In "The Dawn of Independence," Vohidov symbolically illustrates independence:

"A new day is dawning today, Faith in hearts, radiance in eyes. This independence—the nation's power, This dawn—is the people's dream."

In his poem "My Nation," profound and meaningful imagery emerges:

"My nation, my love, If I turn to dust, I'll rest in your embrace. My heart beats for you, I am devoted to you, oh my motherland!"

Linguo-Cultural Features

1. Harmony of Nature and National Symbols:

o In Esenin's poetry, national memory and spiritual emotions are expressed through nature and

symbols of the homeland. Images of villages, rivers, and forests form the core of the homeland concept. For example, in "Birch Tree," the white birch symbolizes the beauty and simplicity of the homeland.

o In Vohidov's works, images of the native land highlight cultural values and traditions. The symbol of the "Golden Valley" reveals Uzbekistan's rich natural and cultural heritage. His poem "I Am the Son of This Land" exemplifies Vohidov's artistic skill in this regard.

2. Uniqueness of Metaphors:

o Esenin's metaphors, such as "Rus'—a soul," depict the homeland as a living being. Each aspect of the Russian village is portrayed as a symbol of divine harmony and simplicity.

o Vohidov employs metaphors like "Motherland" to illustrate the emotional connection between the nation and its land. For example, in "My Nation," the poet portrays the nation and the native land as a unified whole.

3. Cultural Context and Historical Memory:

o Esenin's poetry reflects the revolutionary era of Russia and rural life, while Vohidov emphasizes the national spirit of Uzbekistan's independence era. Additionally, Vohidov's "The Dawn of Independence" highlights the significance of Uzbekistan's independence.

The differences in the depiction of homeland and country in the poetry of Yesenin and Vohidov are also noteworthy. For Yesenin, the concept of homeland is often expressed through romantic and idealistic imagery, connecting his love for his country to the beauty of nature. His poems tend to evoke nostalgic memories of a forgotten homeland, idealizing it rather than focusing on its contemporary state. Yesenin's works primarily reflect an individual's personal relationship with their homeland. As noted by Karimova (2005), Vohidov, on the other hand, portrays the concept of homeland within a modern context. Vohidov's representation is not limited to the natural beauty of the land; it extends to its historical and cultural dimensions. Furthermore, he links the idea of homeland with the independence and future of its people. Consequently, Vohidov's poetry aligns closely with specific political environments and historical changes.

One of the key features of his work is the use of color as an important means of expression.

The meaning of color in Yesenin's poetry

The color palette in Yesenin's lyrics reflects not only his emotional state, but also his philosophical perception of the world. Yesenin's colors are not just decorative; they are symbolic and multifaceted. Each shade carries a

certain meaning, revealing the poet's inner world.

Gold color

The golden color in Yesenin's poetry is often associated with the sun, warmth, and joy. In the poem *"Oh, you, my native Rus"*, the golden color is used to depict the beauty of native nature:

"In golden robes of gentle light,

The lakes and fields are burning bright."

Here, gold symbolizes not only the physical beauty of nature but also the spiritual richness of the homeland, its eternity, and sanctity.

The White Color

The white color in Yesenin's poetry carries a dual meaning. On one hand, it symbolizes purity and innocence, while on the other hand, it conveys coldness and death. For instance, in the poem *"The White Birch Outside My Window"*, the white color of the birch tree reflects both tenderness and sadness:

The white birch

Outside my window

Covered with snow,

As if dressed in silver."

The Red Color

In Yesenin's works, the red color often symbolizes passion and love, but at times it also represents pain or tragedy. In the poem *"A Letter to a Woman"*, the red color underscores the dramatic intensity of emotions:

"I became not the one you loved,

And was no longer who I used to be."

Although the red color is not explicitly mentioned, the context creates a sense of emotional intensity that can be associated with this hue.

The Use of Colors in Yesenin's Lyrics

The use of color in Yesenin's poetry helps the reader delve deeper into the emotional and spiritual world of the poet. Colors become a kind of bridge between the poet's inner experiences and the reader's perception. They create vivid images that enhance the impact of the poems, allowing the atmosphere of the described events and states to be felt more profoundly.

In Yesenin's lyrics, colors are not merely descriptive elements but a complex system of symbols through which the poet expresses his attitude towards the world, nature, love, and himself. Understanding this symbolism enriches the perception of his works, enabling readers to penetrate the depths of the poet's thoughts.

Erkin Vohidov is one of the greatest poets of Uzbek literature, who profoundly explored the concept of

homeland in his works. In his poems and epics, the homeland is depicted not only as a material but also as a spiritual value. Furthermore, through historical imagery, he harmoniously reflects the nation's past, present, and future.

The representation of historical imagery holds a special place in Vohidov's creative work. For example, in his epic *"Inson"* (*"The Human"*), the concept of homeland is illuminated from a philosophical perspective, showcasing the harmony between humanity and nature. Through historical events and figures, he narrates the constant struggle of the nation and its ongoing quest for freedom.

"Notebook to the Motherland"

The poet's famous work *"Vatanga Daftar"* contains historical events and a high expression of love for the Motherland. In this work, the Motherland is depicted not only as a powerful country, but also as a spiritual boston.

"To protect this soil is not only a duty, but an honor."

These verses clearly reflect the sanctity of the country and the honor of serving it.

The Image of National Heroes

In Erkin Vokhidov's works, the significance of the concept of the homeland is brought closer to the reader through national heroes and historical figures. For example, in the work *"Temur"*, the image of Amir Temur highlights concepts such as self-sacrifice for the homeland, justice, and power.

Thus, Erkin Vokhidov's works, by harmoniously combining national history and spirituality, convey to the readers the profound meaning of love for the homeland.

In the works of Sergey Esenin and Erkin Vohidov, the concepts of homeland and native land are fundamental notions reflecting the cultural memory, historical heritage, and personal emotions of the people. Esenin depicts the homeland as the unity of people and nature, unveiling the national identity of the Russian people. Vohidov portrays the native land as the heart and symbol of independence, glorifying the national spirit of the Uzbek people. Their works hold immense value not only as literary heritage but also as a means of understanding the spiritual wealth of their nations.

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