

RESEARCH ARTICLE

Interpretation of Spiritual Values in Azim Suyun's Journalism

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Abstract

This article analyses the journalistic activity of Azim Suyun, a distinctive representative of modern Uzbek journalism, and the literary-journalistic interpretation of national identity, the Motherland, the native language, historical memory, spirituality, and human values in his works. A brief overview is provided of the formation and development of journalism in Uzbek literature, and the stages of its development in classical literature, the Jadid press, and the independence period are examined. Azim Suyun's book *O'zlik* is analysed as an important source for studying the author's journalistic views. Through such articles in the collection as "Shoira suv ichgan buloq," "Suygan ko'ngil faryodi va yoki bir do'st yodi," "Muhaddislar ustodi," "Oldingdan oqqan suvning qadri yo'q," and "Ona tilisiz xalq – chirog'i o'chgan xalq," the author's national thinking and civic position are revealed. The distinctive features of artistic expression, imagery, sincerity, and folk modes of expression in Azim Suyun's journalism are also demonstrated.

KEY WORDS

Azim Suyun, journalism, publicist, national identity, Motherland, spirituality, historical memory, native language, national value, journalism, literary journalism, *O'zlik*.

INTRODUCTION

Journalism is one of the important creative fields that reflects social life, human thought, and the problems of the period. It appears as a distinctive literary and educational sphere between literature and journalism, providing an opportunity to express the author's civic position, attitude toward life, aesthetic views, and spiritual world.

The primary function of a journalistic work is not limited to conveying information. It also performs such functions as shaping public opinion, drawing public attention to a particular problem, and encouraging the reader to develop a conscious attitude toward reality. Journalism is regarded as a type of literary creativity that addresses socio-political and other topical issues [1].

In a journalistic work, fact and artistic representation, logical reflection and emotional impact, social problems and the

author's position are mutually integrated. Therefore, the publicist's artistic skill, use of linguistic possibilities, figurative thinking, and ability to employ expressive means are of great importance [2].

The roots of journalistic thought in the history of Uzbek literature date back to ancient periods. The treatment of issues related to society, morality, human perfection, and state governance in a didactic spirit in *Qobusnoma* may be regarded as one of the early manifestations of journalistic thought [3].

In the works of Alisher Navoi, the journalistic spirit appears in a more developed form. In such works as *Majolis un-nafois*, *Munshaot*, and *Mahbub ul-qulub*, the writer expresses his views on the period, the individual, society, morality, and spirituality. In this respect, Alisher Navoi may be regarded as

one of the founders of Uzbek literary journalism [4].

At the beginning of the twentieth century, the Jadid movement and the formation of the national press created a new stage in the development of journalism. Issues of national awakening, education, enlightenment, national consciousness, and progress occupied a central place in the journalistic writings of such enlighteners as Mahmudkhoja Behbudi, Fitrat, Cholpon, and Abdulla Avloni. In particular, Behbudi's articles in the journal *Oyna* are of special significance for their focus on national development and spiritual awakening [5].

In the period following independence, Uzbek journalism acquired new content and form. National history, independence, spirituality, language, national values, and the individual became leading themes of journalism. During this period, the journalistic activities of such writers as Ozod Sharafiddinov, O'tkir Hoshimov, Ibrohim G'afurov, Naim Karimov, Xurshid Do'stmuhammad, and Erkin A'zam gained particular importance.

Among such creative figures, the journalistic activity of Azim Suyun also deserves special attention.

Alongside poetry, journalism occupies an important place in Azim Suyun's creative work. In his articles, interviews, memoirs, and reflections, he expresses his views on society, the individual, the nation, the Motherland, spirituality, and history.

In characterizing Azim Suyun's journalistic activity, the concept of "struggle for life" is of particular importance. Researchers discussing the author's life and creative activity emphasize that he was not indifferent to issues concerning the individual, the Motherland, the nation, and spirituality. In his journalism, the concept of "struggle for life" signifies not only physical survival, but also the preservation of national values, the achievement of spiritual maturity, and service to the development of society [6].

The main characteristic of Azim Suyun's journalism is that, rather than presenting social issues in a dry manner, he interprets them through artistic reflection. When expressing his attitude toward events and phenomena, the author does not confine himself to their external appearance but seeks to reveal their essence.

In his journalistic texts, personal observation, memory, historical fact, and artistic representation complement one

another. As a result, the author's individual style emerges in his articles.

One of the important sources of Azim Suyun's journalism is the book *O'zlik*. This collection brings together articles, interviews, reflections, and memoirs written in different years, through which the author's views on the nation, the Motherland, language, spirituality, and the individual are widely expressed.

Discussing *O'zlik*, Q. Yo'ldoshev emphasizes that the book is significant not only as a collection of journalistic articles, but also because it identifies the problems facing the nation and reflects on ways of resolving them [7].

Indeed, in the articles included in the *O'zlik* collection, the author is concerned with numerous issues such as the fate of the national language, the education of young people, literature, environmental protection, education, the economy, national independence, and the social activity of society.

In this respect, Azim Suyun's journalism has a broad thematic scope.

Azim Suyun's book *O'zlik* is an important source for studying his journalistic views. The title of the collection itself demonstrates how important the issue of national identity is to the author.

The concept of "identity" implies a person's awareness of their history, language, culture, national values, and spiritual roots. In Azim Suyun's journalism, this concept has a broad socio-philosophical meaning.

According to the author, a nation cannot achieve full development without knowing its history, language, and spiritual heritage. Therefore, the issue of preserving historical memory and national values is consistently advanced in his journalistic articles.

The article "A People Without a Native Language Is a People Whose Light Has Gone Out" is also an expression of this idea. It discusses the role of the native language in defining national identity. Language is not merely a means of communication, but one of the main factors preserving a nation's historical memory and spiritual existence.

The author connects the issue of language with national pride and national responsibility. Preserving the native language means preserving the nation's identity. Therefore, respect for language and responsibility for transmitting it to future generations stand at the ideological centre of the article.

Spirituality also occupies an important place in Azim Suyun's journalistic views. He interprets spirituality as a force that determines a person's place in society and guides the individual toward goodness and perfection.

The issue of historical memory is also one of the important themes in Azim Suyun's journalism. The author views history not merely as a collection of events belonging to the past, but as a factor influencing the spiritual life of the present generation.

The article "The Teacher of Hadith Scholars" is an example of this approach, as it reflects on a historical figure and his scholarly and spiritual heritage. By recalling a historical figure, the author seeks to demonstrate the significance of the heritage of the past for the present day.

Historical memory is one of the foundations of national identity. A person who knows their history is able to reflect more deeply on the present and future of their people. In this respect, the appeal to history in Azim Suyun's journalism also performs educational and didactic functions.

Articles such as "The Water Flowing Before You Has No Value" also focus on values, human relations, and life experience. The very title of the article, which employs a folk saying, demonstrates the folk character of the author's style.

Azim Suyun's journalism employs folk thinking as an important artistic and aesthetic device. He seeks to express complex social issues in simple and figurative language understandable to the reader.

One of the noteworthy articles in Azim Suyun's book *O'zlik* is "The Spring from Which the Poetess Drank Water." In this article, the image of the People's Poet of Uzbekistan Zulfiya is portrayed through memory and sincere reflection.

While evaluating Zulfiya as a prominent representative of Uzbek literature, the author also highlights her human qualities, devotion to creativity, and attitude toward young writers.

Azim Suyun associates Zulfiya's creativity with devotion. He writes: "Zulfiya! This name is a symbol of DEVOTION for us young people" [8].

Through this statement, the author identifies one of the main features of the poetess's creativity. For Zulfiya, devotion means devotion to creativity, the era, the Motherland, and human feelings.

One of the most impressive aspects of the article is the episodes connected with the author's childhood memories. Azim Suyun recalls his impressions of a literary meeting associated with Zulfiya when he was still a young child. His naming of the spring from which the poetess drank water as "The Spring from Which the Poetess Drank Water" demonstrates the sincerity of a child's imagination.

This detail enhances the artistic and aesthetic value of the article. This is because the author reveals his thoughts about a major literary figure not through dry biographical information, but through personal memory and a scene from life.

In this respect, elements of journalism and the memoir genre are combined in the article "The Spring from Which the Poetess Drank Water."

It is insufficient to evaluate Azim Suyun's journalism solely from the perspective of social content. It also has a strong spiritual and aesthetic dimension.

The author's journalistic works contain ideas that encourage a person to think, understand their identity, and appreciate national values. In this respect, his articles also perform educational and didactic functions.

The impact of journalism depends on the author's confidence in his own ideas and his ability to convey them to the reader. Since Azim Suyun expresses his views in a figurative, sincere, and folk manner, his journalistic texts become closer to the reader.

In his works, spirituality and national identity complement each other. The process of understanding one's identity is connected with understanding history, language, the Motherland, literature, and national values.

In this respect, the title of the book *O'zlik* also has symbolic significance. Although the articles in the collection differ from one another thematically, the central idea that unites them is the issue of understanding the identity of the individual and the nation.

CONCLUSION

Azim Suyun's journalism can be regarded as one of the important examples of modern Uzbek literary journalism. In his articles, the problems of the period, national identity, the Motherland, the native language, historical memory, spirituality, and human values are interpreted in close

interconnection.

Vitality, sincerity, folk character, and artistic reflection are important features of the author's journalism. He does not present social issues on the basis of dry facts, but reveals them through personal observation, memory, imagery, and emotional means of expression.

The book *O'zlik* is of particular importance in studying Azim Suyun's journalistic heritage. The articles included in it broadly express the author's views on the fate of the nation and the Motherland, the status of the native language, historical memory, spirituality, literature, and the development of society.

In the article "The Spring from Which the Poetess Drank Water," the portrayal of Zulfiya through memory and sincere reflection demonstrates the possibilities of artistic expression in a journalistic text. In articles such as "A People Without a Native Language Is a People Whose Light Has Gone Out," the issues of national identity and language come to the forefront.

Another important feature of Azim Suyun's journalism is the combination of his experience as a poet and a publicist. His figurative thinking, folk mode of expression, emotional impact, and observations of life enhance the artistic and aesthetic value of his journalistic texts.

In general, Azim Suyun's journalism not only introduces the reader to a particular event or problem, but also encourages reflection on identity, national values, and responsibility toward the Motherland and society. Therefore, his journalistic heritage is one of the sources worthy of scholarly study from the perspective of the development of modern Uzbek literature and journalism.

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