# ABSTRACT

**of the dissertation for the degree of Doctor of Philosophy (PhD) under the educational programme «8D02304 – Literary Studies»**
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**«Genre and Stylistic Explorations in the Contemporary Kazakh Novella»**

**General characteristics of the work.** The dissertation presents a comprehensive analysis of the novella as a medium-length literary form. The study examines the genre nature, narrative system, and stylistic properties of the novella within the context of the contemporary literary process. The research draws on scholarly works and articles from both domestic and international literary studies devoted to the problems of genre and style.

Systematic analyses are conducted of the modified genre varieties of the novella: the mystical novella, the essay-novella, the fairy-tale novella, the cinematic novella, as well as the fantastic and satirical novellas. Methodological frameworks are also proposed for the analysis of the detective and documentary novellas.

**Rationale.** Prior scholarship on the Kazakh novella has addressed such questions as the classification of novellas; the depiction of the Soviet character in Kazakh prose of the 1960s–1970s; the individualisation of fictional characters; the psychology of novellas of the 1970s–1980s; the genesis and centennial development of the Kazakh novella; the compositional structures of novellas from the 1970s–1980s; characterology; the themes and central ideas of novellas written in the post-independence period; and their structural features. However, systematic investigation of the modification of genre varieties in the contemporary Kazakh novella, alongside the application of digital-stylistic tools for analysing its stylistic properties, has yet to constitute an independent field of inquiry.

In contemporary Kazakh literary scholarship, the genre boundaries of the novella have broadened considerably, and the form has undergone significant modification. Alongside content-level modifications – mystical and fantastic elements, fairy-tale models – structural modifications have also emerged: the essay-novella, the cinematic novella, and the satirical novella.

In keeping with the demands of the present day, there is a clear need to develop research using up-to-date digital-stylistic instruments as a new direction within Kazakh literary studies. From this perspective, the application of digital methods – as opposed to conventional literary analysis – when studying contemporary Kazakh novellas defines one of the central directions of current Kazakh literary scholarship. This work establishes a scientific foundation for identifying the artistic development and genre diversity of contemporary Kazakh literature, for in-depth analysis of stylistic

renewal, and, most importantly, for demonstrating its continuity with global literary processes. For these reasons, the dissertation "Genre and Stylistic Explorations in the Contemporary Kazakh Novella" is pertinent in terms of its novelty and, above all, its theoretical and practical significance.

**Research aim.** To conduct a comprehensive analysis of the genre and stylistic explorations in novellas of the independence period with a view to identifying the mechanisms of genre modification and renewal.

**Research objectives:**

The following objectives were formulated in accordance with the research aim:

– to systematise the history of the development of the novella genre in Kazakh literature through the analysis of works from each period;

– to identify the artistic characteristics of historical and social themes in contemporary Kazakh novellas;

– to analyse the role of content modification in the genre varieties of the novella (mystical, fantastic, fairy-tale novella) within their artistic systems;

– to determine the features and specifics of structural modification arising at the intersection of the novella with the essay, cinema, and satire;

– to clarify the stylistic characteristics of novellas through the form of narration, its stylistic function, and the lexical dominants of the text;

– to propose a methodology for the stage-by-stage analysis of detective novellas; to develop a methodological model for the analysis of documentary novellas.

**Research object.** The research object comprises the most representative examples of the novella genre in contemporary Kazakh prose from the early twenty-first century to the present: E. Toktasynuly, "Voice of the Sahara" (2000); T. Abdik, "Field of Reason" (2001); E. Amanshaev, "Legend of Albasta" (2001); T. Akhmetjan, "The Beauty and the Artist" (2003), "The Nobel Prize" (2003); M. Magauin, "The Kypchak Beauty" (2004); Zh. Korgasbek, "Dearer than Life" (2004); Sh. Beisenova, "The Last Days of Süzgene" (2008); N. Akysh, "A Young Man Led by Feelings" (2010); K. Zhumadylov, "Kokzhal" (2011); B. Koyshybayev, "A Walk to Space" (2011); E. Amanshaev, "Balcony" (2013); R. Otarbayev, "The Tears of Genghis Khan" (2014); K. Amirbek, "Donkey's Tail" (2016); K. Mubarak, "The Last Wednesday of the Month" (2018); A. Yelgezek, "A Childhood That Never Was" (2020); K. Abilkair, "Snake Vengeance" (2020); Zh. Anesuly, "The Road to Freedom Paved by Akhan and Zhakhan" (2020); K. Abilkair, "The Pine Dome" (2021); M. Anarbekulý, "Turmoil in Shymkent" (2021); A. Khonzh, "The Shadow of Two" (2021); K.

Sattibaiuly, "Sweet Fairy Tale" (2022), "A Tale of the White Sphere" (2022); S. Doszhan, "A Millionaire from the Village" (2024); G. Sadyrkyzý, "Aybibi" (2025); K. Abilkair, "Tears of the Heart" (2025).

**Research subject.** The genre and stylistic features of the contemporary Kazakh novellas examined in the dissertation.

**Research methods:**

– the comparative method – to trace the historical development of the novella genre across earlier and contemporary periods of Kazakh literature;

– the comparative-typological method – to systematise genre varieties (mystical novella, essay-novella, fairy-tale novella, cinematic novella, satirical and fantastic novellas) and to delineate the distinctive features of each;

– structural analysis – to examine the structural properties of novellas (the cinematic novella, fairy-tale novella, and fantastic novella): their composition, episodic organisation, use of dialogue, and narrative modes;

– the mythopoetic method – to identify archetypes, mythological models, and symbolic imagery, primarily in mystical novellas and fairy-tale novellas;

– digital text analysis methods – to study word frequency, lexical fields, and textual dynamics across the corpus of novellas.

**Theoretical and methodological foundations.** The principal theoretical positions and conclusions of the dissertation draw on the scholarly works and concepts of the following researchers: A. Baitursynov, M. Karatayev, Ye. Ysmaiylov, A. Aziyev, S. Kirabayev, Sh. Yeleukenov, Z. Kabdolov, A. Nagmetov, R. Nurgali, S. Asylbekulý, Zh. Zharylgapov, and N. Akysh.

**Primary sources.** The source base of the study comprises the collections of the National Library of the Republic of Kazakhstan; the Central Scientific Library of the RSE "Gylym Ordasy" of the Science Committee of the Ministry of Science and Higher Education of the Republic of Kazakhstan; the book holdings of the Department of "Literature and Artistic Journalism of the Independence Era" at the M.O. Auezov Institute of Literature and Art; and the al-Farabi Library of al-Farabi Kazakh National University.

**Scientific novelty:**

A comprehensive analysis of the genre and stylistic nature of the novella in contemporary Kazakh literature has been carried out.

The genre modification of the novella has been systematically examined.

A methodological framework has been proposed for the analysis of detective and documentary novellas.

A comprehensive analysis of the stylistic features of the novella has been conducted using tools of text analytics.

**Theoretical and practical significance.** The findings of the research can be applied in specialised courses, lectures, and seminars at higher education institutions – for students and early-career scholars – within such disciplines as "Contemporary Kazakh Literature", "Contemporary Literary Process", and "History of Kazakh Literature and its Teaching". The results also carry theoretical and practical value for literary scholars, university lecturers, and students.

**Main findings and propositions submitted for defence:**

The directions of genre and stylistic development in contemporary Kazakh novellas have been systematised. Analysis of novellas published during the independence period reveals an expansion of genre boundaries, heightened stylistic individualisation, and intensified cross-genre interaction.

The modification of genre varieties within the novella form has been analysed. The following methodological approaches were employed for each variety: in the mystical novella – poetic-structural and mythopoetic methods; in the essay-novella – identification of genre-defining features; in the fairy-tale novella – structural (structuralist) and mythopoetic methods, narrative technique analysis, and genre-comparative approaches; in the cinematic novella – narrative technique and structural analysis.

For the detective novella, a stage-by-stage analysis of plot development is proposed; for the documentary novella, a methodology for identifying "documentary markers" and constructing a "documentary-artistic map" of the text is offered.

**Approbation and publication of results:**

The principal scholarly findings and conclusions of the dissertation have been published in 9 articles in domestic and international journals and in the proceedings of international scientific-practical conferences. Of these: 2 articles appeared in journals indexed in Scopus and Web of Science; 3 articles were published in journals recommended by the Committee for Quality Assurance in Science and Higher Education of the Ministry of Science and Higher Education of the Republic of Kazakhstan; 4 articles were published in conference proceedings; and 1 article was published in a foreign scientific venue.

Articles in Scopus- and Web of Science-indexed journals:

1. Analysis of emotional frequency in Kazakh and Tuvan literary texts // New Research of Tuva. 2025. No. 3. Pp. 82–93. DOI: https://doi.org/10.25178/nit.2025.3.6 (Co-authors: Orda G.Zh., Askarova G.S.)
2. The evolution of the detective genre in cultural contexts: comparative analysis of Kazakh, Polish and Western literature // Orbis

Linguarum (Ezikov Svyat). 2026. Vol. 24.1. Pp. 304–317. DOI: https://doi.org/10.37708/ezs.swu.bg.v24i1.19 (Co-authors: Orda G.Zh., Bozkurt F.)

Articles in journals recommended by the MQASHE MSHE RK:

1.Content and genre explorations in Kazakh novellas // Keruen. 2024. Vol. 83, No. 2. Pp. 73–86. DOI: https://doi.org/10.53871/2078-8134.2024.2-05

2.Motifs in mystical novellas // Bulletin of the Eurasian Humanities Institute. 2024. No. 4. Pp. 208–217. DOI: https://doi.org/10.55808/1999-4214.2024-4.20

3.Genre specificity of detective novellas in contemporary Kazakh literature // Bulletin of Karaganda University. 2025. Vol. 30, No. 3 (119). Pp. 210–222. DOI: https://doi.org/10.31489/2025Ph3/210-223

Papers presented and discussed at international scientific conferences:

– Principal genre features of the contemporary Kazakh novella // International Scientific-Practical Conference "The Heritage of Mazhgan Zhumabayev: Spiritual Integrity and Historical Continuity of the Turkic World", dedicated to the 130th anniversary of the poet, educator, and Alash movement figure M. Zhumabayev. Almaty: "Algorithm", 2023. Pp. 106–112.

– Micropoetics of A. Yelgezek's novella "A Childhood That Never Was" // International Online Scientific-Methodological Conference "Children's Literature – the Nation's Future". Almaty, 2024. Pp. 128–133.

– Topical features of contemporary Kazakh stories // National Academy of Scientific and Innovative Research "Science and Education: Modern Time". Vol. 5. Issue 8. 2024. Pp. 18–22.

– Micropoetics of the contemporary Kazakh novella // Proceedings of the International Scientific Conference of Students and Young Scholars "The World of al-Farabi". Almaty, 2024. P. 363.

– The world of childhood in the prose of N. Akysh: artistic and cognitive dimensions // Proceedings of the International Scientific-Theoretical Conference "At the Intersection of Art and Science: Literary, Scientific, and Critical Discourse". Almaty, 2025. Pp. 95–100.

**Structure of the dissertation.** The dissertation consists of an introduction, three chapters subdivided into sections, two subsections, a conclusion, a list of references, and an appendix.