ABSTRACT

to the dissertation of Seysenqul Omirzhan written for the degree of Doctor of Philosophy (PhD) in the educational program "8D02307 – Kazakh Philology" on the topic "Study of the heritage of Abai in China and the history of Abay studies"

General Description of the Work. Abai Qunanbaiuly, the founder of Kazakh written literature, made a tremendous contribution to the development of the worldview and spiritual realm of the Kazakh people around the world through his literary works. It is well known that the great poet's works have become widely disseminated not only within the territory of Kazakhstan but also in world literature and among Kazakh communities abroad. Studying the global dissemination, publication, reception, and development of this prominent figure's works is one of today's most important scholarly issues. The influence of Abai Qunanbaiuly's creative heritage on the spiritual development of the nation is currently being comprehensively studied within the field of Kazakh literary studies in modern Kazakhstan.

Based on concrete data and examples, this dissertation comprehensively examines the dissemination of Abai Qunanbaiuly's works among the Kazakhs of the People's Republic of China, the influence of his writings on the creative work of local authors, the stages of publication of the poet's works, as well as the traditional impact of Abai's poetic essence on the development of Chinese Kazakh literature from the time of his life to the present day – aspects that have not previously received sufficient scholarly attention. The study presents well-reasoned conclusions regarding the functions, objectives, and significance of the poet's works in the spiritual connection between the peoples of Kazakhstan and China.

One of the main distinctive features of this research is the presentation of linguistic, stylistic, and poetic connections between the works of Abai Qunanbaiuly and those of writers originating from the Kazakh community in China through the analysis of specific poetic texts. Furthermore, the dissertation's scientific significance is enhanced by addressing issues such as the dissemination, translation, and spiritual influence of the poet's works on the national literature of the PRC through a comparative study of the two countries' literatures.

Relevance of the Research Topic. Abai's spiritual legacy has now become part of the spiritual heritage of all humankind. Abai is a thinker of global significance who enriched the spiritual treasury of the Kazakh people through his original works. Therefore, the comprehensive exploration of how Kazakh writers in China draw inspiration from Abai and the innovative aspects of maintaining literary tradition highlights the relevance of the research topic.

The Kazakhs of China became acquainted with Abai's creative legacy at the beginning of the last century. Since then, they have embraced it as a foundation of their spiritual life, drawing on it to shape their socio-cultural views and convictions. It is well known that Abai's works and his system of social and philosophical thought were received by the same nation, Kazakhs, in two different countries through two

different trajectories. Therefore, examining the nature, causes, and context of Abai studies among Chinese Kazakhs is a highly significant issue in contemporary research on Abai's legacy.

Providing well-founded evidence that, through Abai's creative works, the Kazakh population of the PRC came to recognize and internalize the wisdom of this great figure – thereby contributing both to the growth of national spirituality and to the strengthening of spiritual and cultural ties between Kazakhs in the two countries, underscores the relevance of the chosen research topic.

Object of the Research. The creative heritage of Abai Kunanbaev and the ways it reached, was promoted, and studied among the Kazakh community in China.

1. Abai's Literary Legacy

His poems, epics, philosophical prose (known as Words of Edification), and translations. The philosophical, ethical, and aesthetic significance of these works and their impact on Kazakh society.

2. How Abai's Works Reached Kazakhs in China

Through literary works and manuscripts that crossed the border during the Soviet and post-Soviet periods; Through textbooks and periodicals published in the Kazakh language in China (e.g., Shynjang Gazeti, Ile Gazeti); Through oral tradition, including memorized recitation and storytelling.

3. Promotion and Dissemination of Abai's Legacy

Inclusion of Abai's poems and prose in school curricula; Readings at cultural events and literary evenings; Broadcasts via radio and television; Distribution through written literature and educational materials.

4. Research on Abai's Legacy by Kazakhs in China

Scholars such as Omarkazy Aytanuly, Zhanat Akhmetuly, and Kusayin Sartuly; Academic research conducted at Xinjiang University and Ili Pedagogical Institute; Research articles and books in Kazakh published in China (e.g., Abai and Kazakh Culture, Fundamentals of Abai Studies);

Translations and editions of Abai's works published by Chinese publishers.

Subject of the Research. The study of the role and processes involved in the formation of the spiritual and cultural civilization space of Kazakhs living in China through Abai's creative legacy, as well as the artistic understanding of his works from literary-historical and socio-cultural perspectives, grounded in the scientific foundations of modern literary studies, constitutes a significant and multifaceted research topic. Abai's works have had a profound influence on the culture and spirituality of the Kazakh people in China and have held an important place in their spiritual and cultural life. Abai studies in the Kazakh scientific community in China encompass various fields of knowledge.

Abai's works have had a significant impact on the cultural identification and the formation of national consciousness among the Kazakhs. Understanding the role and processes involved in the formation of the spiritual and cultural civilization space of Kazakhs in China through Abai's works not only involves evaluating his literary heritage, but also highlights the importance of his contributions to the overall cultural and spiritual development of society and the direction it has taken in this regard.

Objective of the Research is to analyze the ways in which Abai's legacy reached the Kazakhs of China and his contribution to the spiritual rise of the Kazakh community in the region, and through the analysis of the study of Abai's spiritual heritage, to identify the impact of his wisdom on the development of national spiritual thought and his leadership role.

Objectives of the Research:

- to supplement the study of Abai's creative journey with new data based on the works of researchers and scholars from China;
- to define the ways in which Abai's works have been promoted in China;
- to analyze the origins and distinctive characteristics of the publication periods of Abai's works in the press;
- to identify the civilizational ideas in Abai's works and determine the enduring relevance of his enlightenment ideas;
- to outline the innovative scientific contributions of researchers studying Abai's legacy in China to the field of Abai studies.
- to clarify the historical connection between the Kazakh people in Kazakhstan and China through the translation of Abai's works into the languages of other ethnicities in China, and to explore the pathways toward national unity and spiritual wholeness through his legacy.

Methodological Foundation of the Research. The dissertation is based on the fundamental principles of literary studies. The research employs literary-cultural, historical-social, and socio-political methodologies as its main approach. To further broaden the scope of the study, the interdisciplinary connection method was applied. Additionally, comparative analysis and synthesis methods, common in literary studies, were utilized. The work incorporates the contributions of well-known Chinese scholars who made significant contributions to the study of Abai's legacy in China, such as Ö. Qanai, D. Makhath, Su Zhouxiong, Ä. Mäzhituly, B. Dosjanuly, A. Äbeu, T. Qashkynyly, 鲁迅, 陈世明, 郑振东, 艾克拜尔·米吉提, 孙宏开, 木哈塔尔·木巴热克, 罗艳, 孔文迅, as well as the works of renowned Kazakh Abai scholars, such as A. Baytursynuly, M. Äuezov, S. Mukanov, Q. Jumaliev, Q. Mukhamedkhanov, H. Suinshaliyev, M. Myrzakhmetov, S. Qasqabasov, J. Smagulov, J. Dadebayev, and others, whose works form the theoretical foundation of the research.

Research Methods. During the course of the dissertation research, the methods of comparative analysis, induction, deduction, hermeneutics, psychoanalysis, narration, synthesis, and textological complex systematic analytical analysis were widely used.

Sources of the Research. The research draws on works related to Abai's creative legacy, as well as the writings of Kazakhstani and Chinese Abai scholars, cultural researchers, educators, philosophers, and sociologists. Additionally, materials published in newspapers and journals about Abai's life and works have also contributed to the research materials.

Main Stages of the Research. The collection, systematization, analysis, observation, justification, investigation, and formulation of conclusions based on the

theoretical and practical information required for the research were carried out in three main stages.

The first stage (2022-2023) involved gathering information about the oral and written dissemination of Abai Qunanbaiuly's works, their publication, and the contributions and conclusions of Kazakh intellectuals who played a key role in this process. During this stage, the main directions and thematic foundations of the research were clarified, and the goals and objectives of the work were defined.

The second stage (2023-2024) focused on gathering documentary information about the experience of translating Abai's works in the PRC and the individuals who contributed to this process. A chronology of the translation of the poet's works in the PRC was also compiled. The results of the research were published as a specialized scientific article.

The third stage (2024-2025) involved selecting and systematizing all the results of the research. By studying the dissemination of Abai's works among the Kazakhs of China, the ways of preserving Abai's spiritual legacy and its dissemination abroad were clarified. The analysis of Abai's works and those of other poets inspired by him helped to identify the significance of the continuity of tradition and innovation in literature.

Scientific novelty of the research.

- The ways in which Abai's legacy reached the Kazakhs of China were first thoroughly and accurately detailed and introduced into scientific circulation;
- Materials published in the Chinese press about Abai's legacy in various genres were almost completely collected and, for the first time, comprehensively analyzed, with the publication paths being clarified;
- The role and influence of Abai's legacy in the development of Kazakh literature in the PRC became the subject of extensive scientific study for the first time;
- It was scientifically established that Abai's legacy serves as the main foundation of the spiritual and cultural continuity of the Kazakh people in both countries;
- For the first time, a chronological analysis of the stages of the study of Abai's spiritual heritage in China was carried out, clarifying the timeline of this process;
- The positive impact of Abai's works on the development of Kazakh literature in the PRC was substantiated through a detailed analysis of examples from primary sources and added to scientific circulation.

Theoretical significance of the research. Currently, active research is being conducted in Kazakh literary studies on the literary legacy and works of Abai Qunanbaiuly. Our research focuses on the dissemination, translation, and publication of the poet's works in the Kazakh community of the PRC, as well as the scientific exploration of the traditional influence of his works on the new generation of readers and poets. This highlights the scientific-theoretical significance of the study. The work systematizes the period of dissemination of Abai's works among Kazakhs in China based on historical data. Then, alongside the spread of Abai's works in the PRC, the achievements in their translation are examined from a historical-comparative perspective. Additionally, by analyzing the works of new

Chinese poets and writers who continued Abai's traditions, new stylistic features and linguistic nuances are theorized from a poetic and artistic perspective.

The results of the research summarize the theoretical aspects of current issues in literary studies, providing the opportunity to substantiate conclusions based on Abai Studies.

Practical significance of the research. The results of the dissertation can be used in lectures and practical classes for general and elective courses at the philology departments of higher educational institutions. The theoretical and practical results achieved in the research lay the foundation for scientific inquiries in the field of Kazakh literature history studies in both Kazakhstan and China. As an auxiliary teaching and methodological tool, the research can be applied in the courses "History of Kazakh Literature", "Literature of the 19th Century", and "Abai Studies".

Main conclusions proposed for defense. Based on the results obtained during the writing of the dissertation, the following conclusions are proposed:

1. The frequency and artistic characteristics of the oral and written dissemination of Abai's legacy in the PRC were clearly defined, and his legacy in China was systematically cataloged.

2. The process of translating the poet's works, the contributions of translators, and the efforts of those who continued his legacy were systematically organized on a scientific basis.

3. A comprehensive analysis of the relevant issues regarding the publication of Abai's works in the press among the Kazakhs of the PRC was conducted.

4. The significant contribution of Abai's works to the development of Kazakh literature in the PRC was supported by new data and scientific analyses.

5. The importance of the continuity of traditions and the innovative searches in the works of Abai and Chinese Kazakh poets was clearly confirmed through a comparative analysis of literary works.

6. The issue of the dissemination of Abai's works in the PRC was determined based on a chronological system and was systematically organized within the framework of historical data.

Publication and approval of the research:

The main conclusions presented in the dissertation were presented at international and national scientific-practical conferences and published in scientific proceedings and journals. During the research process, reports were presented at national and international publications, as well as at various international scientific-theoretical and practical conferences. A total of 12 scientific articles were published. Of these, 1 article was published in an international scientific journal with an impact factor indexed in the Scopus database, 5 articles were published in journals included in the list approved by the Committee for Control in the Field of Science and Education of the Ministry of Science and Higher Education of the Republic of Kazakhstan, and 6 articles were published in the proceedings of national and international conferences.

Structure of the Research: The dissertation consists of an introduction, four chapters, a conclusion, and a list of references. The total length of the work is 126 pages.