

## ABSTRACT

of the dissertation for the degree of Doctor of Philosophy (PhD) in the speciality "6D020500 - Philology"

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"Artistic peculiarities of the women's equality's theme in Kazakh, Chinese novels of the first half of XX century"

**General description of the work:** Kazakh and Chinese literature of the early twentieth century faced a common problem – the problem of modernisation in the literary sphere. Although there were not many literary exchanges between the two countries, the processes taking place in world literature, especially the culture and literature of Russia and Western countries, influenced the literature of both countries. This influence permeated through Russian and Western literary works translated by Kazakh and Chinese writers at that time. Feeling the atmosphere of the new times, Kazakh and Chinese intellectuals criticised the customs of previous generations, emphasised the problem of female inequality, and regarded it as an integral part of the problem of national liberation. Thus, the problem of female inequality became a common theme in Kazakh and Chinese novels of the first half of the twentieth century.

Intellectuals who drew attention to the theme of gender equality contributed to the emergence of the modern novel in the literature of the two countries. They, on the one hand, drew the nourishment they needed from the ancient literature of their country and continued the tradition in line with the situation of society at that time. On the other hand, they took a bold step towards new innovations, utilising new narrative methods, spreading the message of enlightenment among the masses through the issue of female inequality.

The dissertation work compared Kazakh and Chinese novels of the first half of the twentieth century, revealed and comprehensively investigated in terms of artistic ideas and artistic methods, their similarities and differences in the difficult period when modernisation was taking place in the literature of the two countries.

**Relevance of the dissertation topic:** At the beginning of the twentieth century, both Kazakh society with its nomadic civilisation and oral literature and Chinese society with its settled civilisation and millennia-long history of written literature were influenced by Russian and Western literature. Because of this, their former traditions, ethics have also undergone tremendous changes.

Thus, finding a new ideological tool for the liberation of the masses from colonial oppression was both the concern and the duty of Kazakh and Chinese intellectuals of the time. The novels investigated in the thesis could not fully fulfil the requirements of the Western novel genre, as they have a completely different content. The works of Kazakh and Chinese writers are permeated with the ideas that worried the intellectuals of both states at the beginning of the twentieth century. In previous studies much has been said about how unsuccessful their experience in this process was, so in this thesis we mainly focused on their successes and tried to find the social reasons behind the

works. This approach allowed us to understand the origins of the development of modern novels in the two countries and to find their common features. This confirms the relevance and significance of our study in considering the history of Kazakh and Chinese literature.

The relevance of this dissertation is conditioned by the fact that for the first time in the history of Kazakh literature Kazakh and Chinese novels on the theme of women's equality in the early twentieth century are compared with each other, their genre character and artistic features are determined, and they have become the object of a certain scientific study.

**Object of research:** M. Dulatov's novel "Unfortunate Jamal" (1910), T. Zhomarbaev's novel "Let's look at the girls" (1912), S. Kobeev's novel "Kalym" (1913), S. Toraigyrov's novels "Beautiful Kamar" (1914) and "Who is to blame" (1915), M. Kashimov's novel "Mourning Mariam" (1915) in Kazakh literature and Dame Linnan Yuyi's novel "Heroine of Eastern Europe" (1902), Haitiauduxiaozi's novel "Nyuwa Stone" (1904), Qiu Jing's novel "Jingwei Stone" (1905), Yi Suo's novel "Huang Xiuqiu" (1907), Wu Jianren's novel "The Sea of Sorrow" (1906), Fu Lin's novel "The Stone of the Sea of Love" (1906), He Zhenya's novel "The Spirit of the White Pear Blossom" (1913) in Chinese literature were based on comparative analysis.

**The aim of the study:** with the help of comparative analysis of novels on the theme of female equality in Kazakh and Chinese literature of the first half of the twentieth century to identify similarities and differences between them, to truly understand the origins of the development of modern novels in the two countries and to find their common features.

**Objectives of the study:**

- To describe the explorations and innovations of the transition period in Kazakh and Chinese literature of the first half of the twentieth century.
- To show the correspondence of artistic methods and to reveal the links between the purpose of the author and the dissemination of the novels.
- To evaluate the value of Kazakh and Chinese novels on the theme of women's equality in the first half of the twentieth century from today's new point of view.
- To show the coincidence of ideas and explorations between the literatures of the two countries by comparing Kazakh and Chinese novels on the theme of women's equality in the early twentieth century.

**Theoretical and methodological basis of the study.** In the process of comparing Kazakh and Chinese novels on the topic of women's equality at the beginning of the 20th century, we use the scientific methods of Kazakh and Chinese scholars related to this topic. Kazakh literary scholars: Alikhan Bukeikhan, Akhmet Baitursynov, Sabit Mukanov, Mukhtar Auezov, Beysembay Kenzhebaev, Zaki Akhmetov, Zeynolla Kabdolov, Rymgali Nurgali, Anuar Derbisalin, Sheriazdan Eleukenov, Zinol-Gabden Kabiuly Bisengali, Umirkhan Abdimanuly, Alua Berikbaykyzy Temirbolat; Chinese literary scholars: Lu Xun, Hu Shi, Wang Guowei, Aying, Guo Moruo, Hu Shiying, Yang

Yi, Chen Pingyuan, Zhao Yiheng; Russian literary critics: Vissarion Belinsky, Vadim Kozhinov and Mikhail Bakhtin; Western scholars: Seymour Chatman, Wayne Booth and Ian Watt, etc.

**Research methods:** Such methods as historical-functional, comparative-typological and complex approach were used in the thesis work.

**Theoretical significance and practical value of the study:** Our research work shows similarities and differences in the social environment, public consciousness and literary development of Kazakhstan and China at the turn of the XX-XX centuries by comparing the features of the embodiment of the theme of women's equality in Kazakh and Chinese novels of the early XX century.

Novels on the theme of women's equality are works that played a great role in the development of modern literature for both Kazakh and Chinese literature. Therefore, their comparison not only helps the intellectuals of the two countries to get acquainted with each other's literary traditions, but also helps scholars to understand the trends of social development and national mentality of the two countries. The materials and results of the study can be used in theoretical or practical courses such as "Comparative Literary Studies" and "History of World Literature", "Regularity of Literary Development". In addition, they can serve as supplementary materials to courses devoted to Kazakh, Chinese literature of the late XIX-early XX century, such as "Kazakh literature of the early XX century", "Chinese novels of the XX century", "Traditions and innovations in literature".

**Scientific novelty of the dissertation work:**

- This work is the first research work that compares and analyses Kazakh and Chinese novels on the topic of women's equality in the first half of the twentieth century from the point of view of artistic ideas and methods.
- For the first time, a comparison was made of the role of Kazakh and Chinese novels on the topic of women's equality in the process of development of literature in their country, similarities and differences between them were identified.
- For the first time, poems in Kazakh novels on the topic of women's equality were analysed from the point of view of the literary form of the prosimetrum, their function in educating the population was determined.
- For the first time, the connections between the purpose of novels on the theme of women's equality in the first half of the twentieth century and the state of distribution of works were determined, a new concept was proposed – the novel for listeners.

**The main provisions submitted for defense:**

- The reason for the rise of the problem of women's inequality in Kazakh and Chinese novels is similar: at the beginning of the 20th century, under the influence of Western, Russian or Japanese culture and literature, it gradually became one of the most pressing and even the most important problems of society, which Kazakh and Chinese intellectuals paid attention to.
- Views of Kazakh and Chinese writers of the first half of the 20th century on the issue

of women's inequality are similar – they consider this issue in connection with the national liberation of the people, and pay attention to the issue of girls' education and freedom.

– Kazakh and Chinese intellectuals, who started to write novels of new character, have the same goal – to awaken the people with the help of the novel, to convey enlightening ideas to the illiterate masses.

– Kazakh novels and Chinese novels on the theme of women's equality at the beginning of the 20th century are small in size, written with a mixture of prose and poetry. Although those works do not fully meet the requirements of the Western novel genre, they correspond to the social conditions of their time, they can be considered novels intended for the listeners.

– In the first half of the twentieth century, Kazakh and Chinese novels on the theme of female equality play the same role in the literature of both countries, which were going through a period of transition - to continue the literary traditions of the country, to enter into new epoch.

– There is a difference between the concept of "women's equality" in the literature of the two countries: the theme of "women's equality" is divided into two categories in Chinese literature - "the salvation of the country by women" and "the inability of girls to gain access to freedom due to feudal ethics", in Kazakh literature this theme is understood as the freedom of a girl to choose her own destiny, the opportunity to get education on an equal footing with men.

– Both Kazakh and Chinese novels on the topic of women's equality are characterised by protagonists who sacrifice everything for love, tragic ending and deep insight of a character's inner world. While these characteristics are tradition for Kazakh novels, they can be taken as innovation for Chinese novels.

– Although the form of poems in Kazakh novels dedicated to the issue of women's equality is traditional, the content and idea are new. From this point of view, it can be said that the poems promoting the enlightened ideas in the novels are the artistic explorations of the authors.

– Poems in Kazakh and Chinese novels dedicated to the issue of women's equality play an important role in promoting enlightened ideas to the people of both countries, especially to the illiterate masses. They can be said to be an artistic method used to make the work better spread rather than a flaw of the novel.

**Approbation and publication of research work:** on the main content of the dissertation work, 7 scientific articles were published in domestic and foreign scientific publications. Of these, 3 articles were published in journals established by the Committee for quality assurance in education and science of the Ministry of science and higher education of the Republic of Kazakhstan, 1 article – in an international scientific publication with a high rating, included in the Scopus database, and 3 articles – in a collection of materials from the international conferences. The dissertation manuscript was submitted for defense on the basis of No. 11 protocol of the extended meeting of the Department of Kazakh Literature and Literary Theory of the Faculty of Philology of Al-Farabi Kazakh National University dated January 25, 2024.

**Structure and scope of the dissertation:** the research work consists of an introduction, three chapters and a conclusion, as well as the list of references.