

## XX AND XXI CENTURY TURKIC POETICS

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**ABSTRACT**

*This article examines the evolution and transformation of Turkic poetics across the twentieth and twenty-first centuries, analyzing the shift from traditional forms to modernist and postmodernist expressions. The findings reveal that while XX century Turkic poetry was marked by ideological constraints and romantic nationalism, XXI century works demonstrate increased linguistic experimentation, transnational consciousness, and digital media integration.*

**INTRODUCTION**

Turkic poetics represents a rich and diverse literary tradition that has undergone profound transformations throughout the twentieth and twenty-first centuries, reflecting broader sociopolitical, cultural, and linguistic changes across Turkic-speaking nations. The evolution of Turkic poetry during this period encapsulates the tension between preservation of classical forms and embrace of modernist innovation, between national authenticity and global literary trends [1]. The XX century witnessed Turkic poetry navigating through multiple paradigm shifts, including the collapse of traditional Islamic cultural frameworks, the imposition of Soviet socialist realism, the emergence of national liberation movements, and eventual independence in Central Asian republics [2]. Meanwhile, the XXI century has introduced new challenges and opportunities, including digital media transformation, increased transnational dialogue, and the negotiation between local traditions and global postmodern aesthetics [3]. Understanding this evolutionary trajectory requires systematic analysis of both periods, examining how Turkic poets have maintained continuity with aruz prosody, ghazal traditions, and oral epic forms while simultaneously experimenting with free verse, surrealism, and experimental techniques borrowed from Western and Russian literary movements [4]. The significance of this study lies in its contribution to comparative literature scholarship, particularly in illuminating how peripheral or non-Western literary traditions negotiate modernity and postmodernity on their own terms rather than merely imitating Western models.

**METHODOLOGY AND LITERATURE REVIEW**

This research employs a comparative literary analysis methodology, examining primary poetic texts alongside critical scholarship on Turkic literature from Uzbek, Russian, Turkish, and international sources. The methodological framework integrates historical-literary analysis with close reading techniques, focusing on thematic, formal, and linguistic transformations across two centuries [5]. The literature review reveals that XX century Turkic poetics scholarship has primarily focused on the Soviet period's impact, with significant attention to how poets like Hamza Hakimzade Niyazi, Abdulla Oripov, and Gafur Gulom negotiated socialist realism's demands while preserving national cultural elements [6]. Research indicates that early XX century Turkic poetry was characterized by jadidist reformism, which sought to modernize Islamic education and literature through

incorporation of European forms and themes, creating hybrid poetic structures that merged traditional aruz meter with modernist social consciousness [1].

Soviet-era scholarship, while often ideologically constrained, documented the forced transition from Arabic-Persian poetic conventions to Cyrillic-based national literatures, resulting in what some scholars characterize as a rupture in traditional poetic transmission [2]. Post-Soviet scholarship has critically reassessed this period, revealing how poets employed Aesopian language, metaphor, and allusion to maintain cultural memory and resist totalitarian discourse [7]. Regarding XXI century developments, emerging scholarship highlights the digital revolution's impact on poetic production and distribution, the resurgence of interest in pre-Soviet classical traditions, and increasing engagement with global postmodern aesthetics [3]. Scholars note that contemporary Turkic poets demonstrate greater linguistic experimentation, fragmentation of narrative structures, and exploration of previously taboo subjects including sexuality, religious doubt, and political critique [8]. The literature also reveals ongoing debates about authenticity and commercialization, with some critics arguing that globalization threatens indigenous poetic traditions while others contend that transnational dialogue enriches Turkic literary expression [4]. Methodologically, this study synthesizes these diverse scholarly perspectives while conducting original textual analysis to identify patterns of continuity and transformation in poetic forms, themes, and cultural functions across both centuries.

### RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

Analysis of XX and XXI century Turkic poetics reveals both significant ruptures and surprising continuities in formal structures, thematic concerns, and cultural functions. The XX century demonstrates three distinct phases: the early modernist period (1900-1920s) characterized by jadidist reformism and romantic nationalism; the Soviet period (1920s-1991) marked by socialist realism, censorship, and covert resistance; and the late Soviet period featuring increased experimentation within acceptable boundaries [6]. During the early period, poets like Abdulla Qodiriy and Cholpon integrated European romantic themes with traditional Turkic forms, creating hybrid structures that maintained aruz prosody while addressing modern concerns such as women's education, social justice, and national awakening [1]. The Soviet period forced radical transformation, with state-mandated themes of industrialization, collectivization, and internationalism dominating official poetry, yet underground and coded resistance poetry preserved alternative cultural memories through metaphorical language and allusion to classical Persian-Turkic literary heritage [7].

Formal analysis reveals that despite ideological pressure, many poets maintained connection to traditional forms through subtle incorporation of ghazal structures, epic narrative techniques, and oral performance elements within ostensibly socialist realist frameworks [2]. The XXI century demonstrates marked departure from Soviet constraints, with poets exploiting newfound freedom to experiment with fragmented narratives, stream-of-consciousness techniques, and explicit treatment of previously censored subjects [3]. Contemporary Turkic poetry exhibits increased linguistic playfulness, mixing registers, incorporating multilingual elements, and employing digital media affordances such as hypertext and multimedia integration [8]. Thematically, XXI century works explore globalization's psychological impact, identity fragmentation, environmental concerns, and post-Soviet disillusionment, moving beyond the collective voice privileged in Soviet poetry toward intensely personal, often confessional modes [4].

However, analysis also reveals significant continuities, particularly in the persistent influence of classical masters like Navoi, Fuzuli, and Mashrab, whose imagery, metaphors, and philosophical concerns continue resonating in contemporary works [9]. The relationship between oral and written traditions remains dynamic, with contemporary poets drawing on dastan epic structures and folk poetry forms even while experimenting with postmodern techniques [10]. Comparative analysis between XX and XXI century works reveals that while formal experimentation has intensified, fundamental concerns with cultural identity, linguistic authenticity, and the poet's social role maintain remarkable consistency, suggesting that Turkic poetics constitutes a continuous tradition

capable of absorbing external influences while maintaining distinctive characteristics [5]. The discussion indicates that rather than representing simple westernization or modernization, Turkic poetic evolution demonstrates selective appropriation of global literary trends filtered through persistent local aesthetic values and cultural priorities.

### CONCLUSION

This comparative analysis of XX and XXI century Turkic poetics reveals a complex evolutionary trajectory characterized by both radical transformation and deep continuity. The XX century's ideological constraints, linguistic reforms, and political upheavals fundamentally altered the conditions of poetic production, yet Turkic poets demonstrated remarkable resilience in preserving cultural memory and aesthetic traditions through adaptive strategies. The XXI century's increased freedom has enabled unprecedented experimentation, yet contemporary poets continue engaging with classical traditions, suggesting that Turkic poetics constitutes a living tradition rather than a museum artifact. The study demonstrates that understanding Turkic poetry requires moving beyond simplistic narratives of westernization or modernization to recognize how Turkic literary culture negotiates between local and global, traditional and innovative, on its own terms. Future research should examine specific national traditions in greater depth, analyze the role of translation in shaping Turkic poetry's global reception, and investigate how digital media continues transforming poetic practices. The findings contribute to broader comparative literature scholarship by illustrating how non-Western literary traditions navigate modernity while maintaining cultural distinctiveness, offering alternative models of literary development beyond Western paradigms.

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