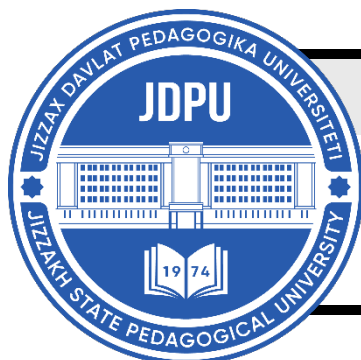


**MENTAL ENLIGHTENMENT SCIENTIFIC –
METHODOLOGICAL JOURNAL****MENTAL ENLIGHTENMENT SCIENTIFIC –
METHODOLOGICAL JOURNAL**<http://mentaljournal-jspu.uz/index.php/mesmj/index>**AN ANALYSIS OF ISAJON SULTON'S HISTORICAL PROSE: ERA,
HEROES, THEMES, AND IDEAS*****Dildora Inomjonovna Ibragimova****Lecturer**Chirchik State Pedagogical University**Chirchik, Uzbekistan**E-mail: dildoraibragimova1989@gmail.com***ABOUT ARTICLE**

Key words: Isajon Sulton, historical prose, Tabghach, Robiya Balkhi, Sixteen Great Turkic Empires, Bilge Khagan, Abbasid era, Mukanna.

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Abstract: This article distinguishes and classifies the historical works of Isajon Sulton according to historical periods. Using the historical-comparative method, the author compares Sulton's historical stories and novels with contemporary events and other works on the same themes. In depicting historical events, Isajon Sulton follows the concept of historical figures, exploring the psyche of these characters through his artistic interpretation, examining their complex fates, and studying time and space through them. He advances social, economic, political, cultural, and philosophical perspectives. Thus, when evaluating a historical work, what matters is not the degree to which the past is faithfully recreated, but how the existing reality and historical figures are artistically conceptualized. In conclusion, Isajon Sulton's historical prose holds significant value not only as a sample of artistic literature but also as an artistic and impactful means of studying history.

INTRODUCTION

Isajon Sulton, as a prolific writer in prose, makes a significant contribution to the enrichment of contemporary Uzbek literature. In his creative works, a substantial number of pieces are dedicated to historical themes, which the author incorporates into his works through two methods. In the first method, the author bases the entire work on historical events, while in the second method, he highlights certain parts of his works with historical themes. Works

that are not entirely based on historical themes but contain elements of historicity include the novels "Ozod", "Genetic", and "Baqiy Darbadar". Despite the presence of historical themes in these works, their main plot is characterized more by imaginary-fantastic features than by historicity. This study examines Isajon Sulton's works created based on past events that have reached us through written sources.

MATERIALS AND METHODS: The study explores the trend of addressing historical themes in contemporary Uzbek literature. It examines the issues of thematic and ideological unity in Isajon Sulton's historical stories such as "Yog'och Kovush", "Tabghachlar", "Robiya Balkhi", "Qoraqosh Yulduzning Siri", and the novels "Bilge Khagan", "Abu Rayhan Beruni", "Alisher Navoi", and "Ma'suma". The fates of the protagonists are analyzed. To research historical themes, comparative methods and structural analysis methods were employed to draw relevant conclusions.

RESULT AND DISCUSSION: In recent years, scientific research at the dissertation level on the work of Isajon Sulton, the subject of this study, has been conducted by Toshyeva N.Sh. [1], Sultanova N.N. [2], Toshpulatova D.B. [3], Kurbanova F.A. [4], and Abdulhamidova Kh.A. [5]. These studies have examined the poetic function of folkloric elements in his works, the modification of artistic components in his novels, the author's consciousness and its forms of expression, folklorism and mythopoetic interpretation, and issues of chronotopes. However, the historical works, which hold a significant place in Isajon Sulton's oeuvre, have not been separately studied.

It is worth noting that the initial examples of Isajon Sulton's historical prose were shorter works, which can be considered as preparatory steps towards writing historical novels. The author began writing stories with historical themes in the early stages of his career, with his first historical story "Hun", dedicated to the life of Turkic tribes, written in 1992. The author continues this theme in his work "A Story About a Nameless Hero" (Table 1).

Table 1.

Short Historical Works by Isajon Sulton

No.	Title	Description	Period
1	"Hun", 1992	Reflects the life of ancient Turkic tribes - the Huns.	4th century
2	"The Army of Talismans or Muqanna", 1993	Illuminates the fate of Hashim ibn Hakim, who fought against the spread of Islam during the Abbasid period and declared himself a prophet, from a contemporary perspective.	8th century
3	"A Story About a Nameless Hero", 2012	Reflects the life of ancient Turkic tribes - the Huns.	4th century

4	"Wooden Shoes", 2015	Depicts village life and human destinies, as well as the relationship between father and daughter, in ancient Chinese tribes.	6th-7th centuries
5	"The Secret of the Black-Eyed Star", 2017	Portrays the fate of Mahmud al-Kashgari, the first representative of Uzbek literature, linguistics, and lexicography.	11th century
6	"Robiya Balkhi", 2019	Narrates the legendary love story of Robiya Balkhi, the first female poet in Persian literature.	10th century
7	"The Tabghach", 2020	Tells the story of the emergence of the Tabghach tribe, which arose between the Turkic and Chinese tribes, with fathers from the Turkic and mothers from the Chinese tribes, and their dominance over the Turkic people.	3rd-4th centuries

The author's works focus on historical themes, recounting the historical events experienced by Turkic, Arab, Chinese, and related peoples from the 3rd century to the early 20th century, up to the period of Jadidism.

The main theme of the story "The Willow Cradle" is historical, depicting the life and marital customs of people living in a small village in China during the final years of the Tang Dynasty. The narrative revolves around the hope given to the family of Huan-Shi, who lived in a small village called Ronzyan, and the expectations placed on his daughter. Huan-Shi's daughter is highly regarded, and he wishes for her to have a better life than himself. Thus, he sees marrying his daughter to the master of the village as the only way. The main condition for achieving this goal is placing delicate willow cradles under the feet of the girl. In the father's imagination, these willow cradles determine the fortune of the girl.

The eternal theme of the story is the relationship between father and daughter, considered one of the ancient themes in literature. Naturally, Eastern culture does not allow the overt expression of this theme in literature. Therefore, the relationship between father and daughter is one of the least explored topics in our national literature. According to tradition, in Eastern literature, the father is considered the authority figure for his daughters. Therefore, only a one-way relationship is evident - the father dictates, and the daughter obeys. In Uzbek literature, by the end of the 20th century, the theme of father-daughter relationships began to appear in literary works. Abdulla Qodiriy's "Kumush" is considered one of the first examples of this theme when the father approves of his daughter's marriage for the second time.

In Western literature, the relationship between fathers and daughters is quite discussed. From King Lear's daughters struggling for his wealth to George Eliot altering the life of an abandoned girl in "Silas Marner" until she is redeemed - father-daughter relationships have always been a deep source of inspiration for writers. In Shakespeare's works, we see flawed fathers unlike anyone else: Juliet's father forces her to marry a man she doesn't love, Prospero

is a mega-manipulator, and King Lear's biggest mistake was demanding expressions of love from his daughters. If his favorite daughter Cordelia had been more flattering than the others, his second mistake was demanding love from his daughters.

Isajon Sultan's "father" demands only one thing from his daughter - to live better than himself and endure hardships along the way. Like Eastern fathers, the artist's father dictates over his daughter and is willing to sacrifice many things for her happiness. The reason for the tragic fate of the rejected daughter is the inability of the father to see her worth, unable to understand her aspirations. The unfortunate fate of this sad story's father is the only happiness written in his destiny - the tales of love for his daughter remain unspoken. The mistakes made by fathers, even the most loving and beloved fathers, are forgiven.

The concept of ethnic nationalism that was formed by Akib Özbek in 1969 and became widespread in Turkish society during the era of Kenan Evren in the 1980s — the 16 Great Turkic Empires (Turkish: 16 Büyük Türk Devleti) — includes four periods of the Hun Empire: the Great Hun Empire, the Western Hun Empire, the European Hun Empire, and the White Hun Empire. (Table 2)

Table 2

The Sixteen Great Turkic Empires

Name	Founder	Years of Existence
Great Hun Empire	Mete Khan	220-46 BC
Western Hun Empire	Pune	48-216
European Hun Empire	Attila	375-469
White Hun Empire	Ashina	390-577
Turk Khanate	Bumin Khan	552-745
Avar Khanate	Bayan I	565-835
Khazar Khanate	Tun-Yabgu Khan	651-983
Uyghur Khanate	Qutlugh Bilge Khan	745-840
Qarakhanid State	Bilge Kul Qadir Khan	840-1212
Ghaznavid Empire	Alp-Tegin	962-1186
Seljuk Empire	Tughril-bey	1040-1157
Khwarazm Shahs	Qutb ad-Din Muhammad I	1097-1231
Golden Horde	Batu Khan	1236-1502
Timurid Empire	Timur	1368-1501
Mughal Empire	Babur	1526-1858
Ottoman Empire	Osman I	1299-1922

From the 3rd to the 6th centuries before Christ, the Hun Empires, known by various names and rising again with new names, are considered the oldest ancestors of Central Asian

peoples, especially the Turkic peoples. In Isajon Sultan's stories, he speaks about the weakened period of the empires - the conflicts, victories, and defeats of the people with other tribes in the 6th century, particularly addressing issues of struggle and submission.

Another of the author's stories, "The Seeker of the Stars," discusses events from the 6th and 7th centuries when the Tan dynasty ruled in China, portraying the lifestyle, desires, and aspirations of people living in remote Chinese villages. Interestingly, the story depicts Eastern human relationships, love and affection between fathers and daughters, through lines of poetry.

The story "Tabghachlar" delves into historical relations between Chinese and Turkic peoples, the advancement and decline of Turks, their relations with the Chinese, and the dominance of Tabghach tribes over Turks. This story serves as an exercise in creative writing for the work "Bilga Khagan."

"Robiya Balkhi" narrates a historical love story from Islamic history, focusing on the first female poetess Robiya binti Ka'b al-Kuzdari. The work highlights her romantic relationship with the Turkish ruler Bektosh, as well as the separation and profound intellectual events, with the author incorporating the beautiful Ghazals from Robiya Balkhi's "Jamal Kamal" translation to enhance its impact.

In "The Legend of the Black Horse Star", Uzbek literature, linguistics, and lexicography are represented through the early works of the prominent scholar Mahmud Kashgari's extensive travels. The story reveals details of Kashgari's upbringing within the ruling class, his escape from the scrutiny of princes, his necessity to change his living environment, and his use of pseudonyms to avoid revealing his identity in his writings. The author's narrative draws not only from Uzbek, Turkic, and Russian sources but also from European scholars' observations and conclusions. Notably, according to the estimations of the Ukrainian-American Orientalist Omelyan Pritsak, Mahmud Kashgari could not find a safe haven in foreign lands due to the scrutiny of ruling families.

Conclusively, traveling from China to the shores of the Mediterranean, Mahmud Kashgari's travels reveal the ethical values and cultural heritage of Turkic peoples in the 11th century, reflecting their unique worldview.

The aforementioned short stories serve as materials for Isajon Sultan's path in writing historical novels, providing content for future historical novels.

Table 3.

Isajon Sultan's Historical Novels

No.	Title	Year Written	Time Period Depicted
1	"Ali Shir Navai"	2021	15th century

No.	Title	Year Written	Time Period Depicted
2	"Ma'suma"	2022	20th century (modernization)
3	"Bilga Khagan"	2019	6th-7th centuries
4	"Abu Rayhan Biruni"	2023	10th-11th centuries

In recent years, there has been a significant increase in Isajon Sultan's creation of historical novels. The author explains the necessity of rewriting historical periods in literature as follows: "In relation to history, justice has opened the way to many topics. Many authors, having experienced an event firsthand or heard of it from close witnesses, lamented, 'Unfortunately, this cannot be written about,' feeling regretful. It is necessary to note that in Uzbek literature, there is a great desire to express individuality in works dealing with historical subjects.

Historical novels allow a nation to understand its history, providing the opportunity to use history for today and the future. Isajon Sultan has written four historical novels to date, depicting various periods of Uzbek history (see Table 3). It is essential to mention that the author begins writing historical novels by exploring events that have occurred relatively recently – the events that took place in our country during the mid-20th century. The protagonist of the novel is based on Saadiya Nizomiddinova, the real name of Ma'suma Qoriyeva, an Uzbek national artist who was raised in the Uzbek diaspora and later entered the world of acting. She later became involved in newly emerging scenes and began her activities in theater troupes organized by modern artists. The events depicted in the novel take place in the early years of the 20th century, thus requiring a need to familiarize oneself with the sights of Tashkent from about a hundred years ago. The author paints a picture of life in this setting, depicting the old streets, the courtyards where children play, and the dusty roads where two people walk arm in arm. The work features characters such as Abdullah Avloniy, Abdullah Qodiri, Hamza, and Chulpon, who served in the national theater located in the bustling market of the Old City. The emergence of Uzbek women on the scene during that time was a significant social event. Despite this context, the emergence of Ma'suma Qoriyeva on the scene did not go smoothly. She married a prominent Uzbek, had two sons, but her family life was marred by war and sacrifice. The author portrays the most tumultuous events of the early 20th century in this work, observing them through the lens of today's social context and critically evaluating them.

Isajon Sultan's current work focuses on the life of the eminent figure of Uzbek literature, Hazrat Alisher Navoiy. The author emphasizes the uniqueness of the work's Navoiy style, stating that the inclusion of excerpts from Navoiy's own works adds depth to the narrative, as the borrowed passages from Alisher Navoiy's works contribute significantly to the richness of

the narrative. Modern realist novels stand out in Uzbek literature due to their innovative methods, vivid descriptions, and portrayal of characters, making Isajon Sultan's "Alisher Navoiy" novel an important literary event.

The author explores the concept of historical figures in historical novels. That is, the author delves into the spiritual essence of historical figures in his artistic narrative, paying attention to their complex fate. Through historical figures, he learns about the time and place. He examines social, economic, political, cultural, and philosophical aspects. Therefore, evaluating historical works does not only mean assessing the extent of truthfulness but also considering the artistic contemplation of how historical figures are perceived. Literary critic S. Kuronov emphasizes the importance of recognizing the concept of historical figures as seen in the works of Oybek and Isajon Sultan, comparing it with the example of Alisher Navoiy.

When talking about Oybek's novel "Navoiy," it is necessary not to disregard the era, circumstances, censorship, and pressure of the time. Because Oybek could not depict Navoiy in his idealized manner, even in the destiny he desired. Under the influence of recognized factors, Oybek pays more attention to Navoiy's altruism, philanthropy, and other aspects, giving importance to the historical figure's socialization. Literary critic Matyoqub Qo'shjonov states about the novel "Navoiy": "The main goal of the author in the novel is to reveal the broad and diverse creativity of the great poet Alisher Navoiy, opening up his humanistic goals" which emphasizes the significance of the novel.

In conclusion, Isajon Sultan's work occupies a significant place not only as a literary example of historical fiction but also as a powerful means of exploring history in a literary and influential way.

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