

THE SIGNIFICANCE OF SADRIDDIN AINI'S RESEARCH ON NAVOI STUDIES

Shakhnoza Rakhmanova*

*Junior Researcher,
Institute of Uzbek Language,
Literature and Folklore of Uzbekistan Sciences Academy,
UZBEKISTAN

Email id: shakhnozarakhmanova0282@gmail.com

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ABSTRACT

The article discusses the life and scientific activities of Sadriddin Aini. In particular, his research on Navoi Studies and his great contribution to science. Several examples can be seen that prove the importance of his work in literary criticism. In addition, it also examines Aini's analytical, interpretive and publishing works on Navoi Studies.

KEYWORDS: *Navoi, Foni, Development, Research, Manuscript, Ayni, Navoi Studies, Analysis, Text.*

INTRODUCTION

Sadriddin Ainiy is recognized not only as a prominent writer of his time, but also as a talented scientist who worked extremely effectively in two languages: Uzbek and Tajik. During his career, he was the first president of the Tajikistan Sciences Academy (1951-1954), Hero of Tajikistan (1997), Honored Scientist of Tajikistan (1940), Honored Scientist of Uzbekistan (1949), doctor of philological sciences (1948), professor (1949), academician (1951) [1:89].

Ayni received his primary education in Bukhara madrasas of Uzbekistan. At first, he wrote poems in Tajik under the pseudonym "Sifli", "Muhtaji", "Jununi", and later (from 1896) "Aini".

It is known that Sadriddin Aini lived in a complicated historical period as a writer and scientist and conducted his research. At the end of the 19th – beginning of the 20th century, he was beaten 75 times by the order of Bukhara's emir (king) and thrown into the "obkhona"¹ for his views contrary to the ideology of the Emirate. After his release, he moved to Samarkand. There he continues his scientific and creative activities in Tajik and Uzbek languages: he worked in Samarkand as a teacher and journalist. His first stories were published in the collection "Bukhara executioners" (1920) and "Revolution" (1922). In 1927-29, he published his major novel "Dokhunda" in Tajik. In 1928, his next book – "Kul Baba or two freed ones" was accepted very well by literary critics. This collection is significant because it contains information about the life and work of more than 200 poets, historians, scientists, and tazkiranavis who have a special place in Eastern literature. In 1934, he created the novel "Slaves" in Uzbek. There have been depicted in it the hundred-year past of the Uzbek and Tajik people. "The ancient school" was published in 1935. It tells about studying and teaching in the ancient school. A number of Ayni's satiric works were published in the twenties, including "where else did he come from", "If you earn

your money with honest way, make wedding” (1924), “Mashrab bobo”, “You are always welcome my coat” (1925), “I didn’t have any idea”, “Uzbek feuilletons”, comic poems and articles such as “Meeting” (1926) [3:172], especially the comic story “Death of a loan shark” (1939) showed him as a skilled satirist. He also wrote literary scientific articles and historical essays reflecting the people’s uprising led by Mukanna and Temurmali. The past life of Bukhara was written “Memories” which contains of four books (1949-54).

Ayni as a literary critic, linguist, oriental scholar wrote “About Firdausi and his Shahnama” (1934), “Kamal Khojandi”, “Shaikhurrais Abu Ali ibn Sina” (1939), “Ustad Rudaki” (1940), “Sheikh Muslihiddin Sa’di Sherozi” (1942), “Alisher Navoi” (1948), “Zayniddin Vasifi” (about his work “Badoe ul-Waqae”) (1946), “Mirza Abdul Kadir Bedil” (1954) created [2:97]. He published articles about the work of Muqimi, Gafur Ghulam and Said Nazar. Scientific studies such as “About the Persian and Tajik languages”, “Tajik language” were an important research works for Tajik linguistics.

It is known that Aini’s first research on Navoi studies was written in 1938 during preparations for the 500th anniversary of the great poet’s birth. More precisely, the article “Mir Alisher Navoi” was published in “Tajikistoni surkh” (1938) and “Rūznomai muallimon” (1939) newspapers. It contains Navoi’s birth, teenage years, and his education in Mashhad; the political, social, cultural environment in which the great thinker lived, Navoi’s attitude to representatives of Tajik-Persian literature were discussed.

In 1941, the scientist’s next article entitled “Alisheri Navoi” dedicated to Navoi’s life and work was published in several issues of “Sharqi Surkh” magazine. This article became a solid foundation for writing his research entitled “Alisher Navoi”. This study is more than 200 pages long and was published in 1941 on the occasion of the 500th anniversary of Navoi’s birth. Many literary critics have appreciated and commented it for many times like important work of scientist. The book talks about Navoi’s life, literary, political, and social activities, as well as his literary works, while the last chapter focuses on the study of Navoi’s ghazals in the Persian-Tajik languages. There can be found a lot of interesting information which was carried on Navoi studies. According to Ayni the great poet’s Persian poems are collected in “Devoni Farsi” and shows samples written under the pseudonym Foni as an example. It should be said that at that time, Ayni made a mistake in choosing poems because he was not yet aware of Navoi’s “Devoni Foni”, and some of the ghazals he quoted were not written by Foni-Navoi, but by Foni-Kashmiri, as later proved by Ali Mohammadi Khurasani.

In classical literature, Ayni’s work is valued as an important source in Navoi studies. For instance, the publication of Navoi’s “Khamsa” by Ayni in 1940 was a huge literary and historical reality. In 1948, the scientific article “Alisher Navoi and Tajik literature” on the life of Alisher, a great thinker, was published and later included in the book “Great Uzbek poet”. It discusses the incomparable influence of Persian-Tajik literature on Navoi’s creative thinking. In general, Ayni is a mature scientist who made an important contribution to the formation and development of the science of Navoi studies in the 20th century. Many of his works, in particular “Dokhunda”, “Kullar”, “Death of the loan shark” and “Memories” have been translated into foreign languages. A number of cities, districts, streets, schools, libraries, art and cultural institutions in the Republics of Uzbekistan and Tajikistan are named after Ayni. Also, in 1967, the Aini Memorial House-Museum was opened in Samarkand.

It should be noted that it is significant aspect of literary criticism to learn scientific work of scientist like Sadriddin Ayni because his heritage play major role in future research of Novoi studies.

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