

**ERKIN VOHIDOV'S LIFE, LITERARY WORKS, AND THE SPIRITUAL
SIGNIFICANCE OF THE POEM "ONA TILIM O'LMAYDI"***Inog'omjonova Robiya Rustamjon kizi**Third-year student at Tashkent State Transport University*

Annotation: This article examines the life and literary legacy of Uzbekistan's national poet, Erkin Vohidov. It provides an in-depth analysis of the poet's role in national literature, as well as his creative inquiries into the themes of homeland, language, people, and spirituality. The article serves as a valuable resource for enthusiasts of his work, students, and all readers who wish to gain a deeper understanding of the role of the mother tongue in society. The poem "Ona tilim o'lmaydi," which expresses his boundless devotion, pride, and call to preserve our native language, is also analyzed.

Keywords: language, poetry collection, lyrical hero, imagery, national spirit, character.

INTRODUCTION. Erkin Vohidov is one of the prominent representatives of Uzbek literature. He has expressed humanity, spirituality, and love for the homeland through his elevated art. Throughout his life, the poet created numerous works, each embodying profound meaning. Vohidov's poetry, in particular, is distinguished by the ideal of the perfect human being. The renowned writer and poet is one of the major figures in Uzbek literature, having made a significant contribution to the development of 20th-century Uzbek poetry. His literary activities extend beyond poetry and are intricately linked with the entirety of Uzbek literature and the nation's cultural-educational life.

The versatile creative Erkin Vohidov was born on December 28, 1936, in the Oltiariq district of the Fergana region. He received his early education in Tashkent and later continued his studies at the Faculty of Philology at Tashkent State University. After graduating, he actively worked in the field of literature for several years. In the early years of his career, despite the ideological and political restrictions of the former Soviet Union, his works stood out for their deep respect for the national spirit, national values, language, and culture.

The poet's works not only exalt the historical heritage of the Uzbek nation at a high level but also express ideas that resonate with the people's hearts. In Erkin Vohidov's creative journey, respect for the mother tongue, along with the ideals of national independence and sovereignty, has always taken precedence. He strove to glorify the language, culture, and history of the people and to elevate them spiritually and educationally. Numerous books have been written about Erkin Vohidov's life and work, including titles such as "Erkin Vohidov Saboqlari", "To Quyosh Sochgayki Nur", "So'z Sehri", and "O'zbeginning Erkin O'zbeqi".

METHODOLOGY. Some of Erkin Vohidov's famous works are imbued with profound content and meaning. For instance, the poem "Ona tilim o'lmaydi" reflects the poet's deep respect for our mother tongue, the spirituality of our people, and national values. The work emphasizes the necessity of preserving our national culture. The poem entitled "Yurtim" embodies the idea of the homeland, mother earth, and an endless love for it. Similarly, in the work "Ko'zlar," profound reflections on the human psyche and universal values are expressed. The work "Yoshlar," dedicated to the future generation, is recognized as a piece that urges them to understand their role and responsibilities.

In the late 1980s, during times when there was a fierce struggle for our spiritual values, the first draft of the law to grant our language the status of state language was published in the press and brought up for discussion. At that time, our poet Erkin Vohidov published a sharp and bold article on the “ozAC” page with the statement “Let the Uzbek greeting be in Uzbek.” Erkin Vohidov is the poet who elevated our mother tongue to great heights. His poem “Ona tilim o‘lmaydi” is clear evidence of this.

Notiq dedi:
“Taqdir shul,
Bu jahoniy iroda.
Tillar yoqolur butkul,
Bir til qolur dunyoda.
“Ey voiz, pastga tushgin,
Bu gap chiqdi qayerdan”,
Navoiy bilan Pushkin
Turib keldi qabirdan.

The beginning of the poem stands out for its distinctive beauty and depth of meaning. Poet profoundly expresses the unparalleled role and significance of the mother tongue in human life. The work reveals the inseparable connection of language with the history, culture, and spiritual world of every nation. Through this poem, the poet depicts the eternal vitality of the mother tongue, the respect and reverence it commands, and its immense power.

Erkin Vohidov does not regard language merely as a simple means of communication; rather, he interprets it as a vital socio-cultural element that preserves and shapes the thought and national identity of the people. In the poem, language is envisioned as the force that unites people, ensures their freedom, and safeguards national values and pride.

ANALYSIS AND RESULTS. Erkin Vohidov’s “Ona tilim o‘lmaydi” poem is one of the important sources in literary studies concerning national values and language issues. In this work, the poet emphasizes that the mother tongue is not merely a tool for communication but an integral part of the people's culture, historical memory, and spiritual realm. The poem’s main themes and layers of meaning were examined in depth, and their significance for the nation’s independent life and the preservation of the mother tongue was extensively illuminated. The poet indicates that language is a force that expresses identity, and its demise would lead to the loss of the nation's selfhood.

The poetic devices in “Ona tilim o‘lmaydi,” particularly the interconnection between language and nation and its role in preserving historical and cultural heritage, were analyzed. In this poem, the author's respect for language, his loyalty to it, and his endeavor to preserve it are clearly expressed. The poet does not view language solely as a means of communication; he portrays it as a fundamental factor that shapes the nation’s consciousness and plays a pivotal role in ensuring its freedom and independence. Through the poem, the poet underscores that the nation's language serves not only as a foundation of the past but also as the cornerstone for building and safeguarding the future. In the poet's work, language occupies a central role not only as a medium of communication but also in preserving national identity and elevating the history and culture of the people. This poem thus provides scholarly justification for the need to instill national pride and respect for the mother tongue. Moreover, the poet’s work serves as a key source in examining not only the preservation of language and culture but also the social and spiritual necessity of preventing its demise.

DISCUSSION. In Erkin Vohidov's work, language regards not merely as a means of communication but as the primary factor that preserves and develops the spirit, cultural heritage, history, and identity of the people. The poem emphasizes the exalted nature of the mother tongue, its role in uniting the people, and its crucial function in transmitting cultural heritage from generation to generation. The poet clearly and explicitly expresses that the demise of language could lead to the demise or loss of the nation's identity. Moreover, the purpose of the poem is not only to safeguard the language but also to call for its elevation. In Vohidov's work, the ideas of uniting the nation through preserving and renewing the language, as well as strengthening the connection with one's homeland and its culture, are fully expressed. There is no doubt that Vohidov's poem is an important tool not only in artistic literature but also in cultivating attention to and respect for language among readers.

CONCLUSION. In Erkin Vohidov's poetry, language is viewed not merely as a tool of communication, but as a fundamental factor that preserves and develops a nation's spirit, cultural heritage, history, and identity. In the poem, the poet emphasizes the exalted status of the mother tongue, its unifying power among the people, and its essential role in transmitting cultural heritage across generations. He clearly and explicitly states that the death of a language may lead to the death of a nation or the loss of its identity. Moreover, the aim of the poem is not only to protect the language but also to call for its elevation.

In Erkin Vohidov's poetry, the ideas of uniting a nation through preserving and revitalizing its language, as well as reinforcing the connection with the homeland and its culture, are vividly expressed. Erkin Vohidov's poem serves as a significant means not only in the realm of literary art but also in fostering attention to and respect for the language among readers.

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