

## LITERATURE OF THE EARLY TWENTIETH CENTURY: REALISTIC PROFILE OF KASIM BIKKULOV

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**Abstract:** Creative work of Kasim Bikkulov, a writer of the beginning of XX century, in context of Tatar realistic prose is reviewed in this article. Literary heritage of clergyman, teacher-educator includes approximately ten realistic short-novels, as well as works related to small genre of prose and poetry included in "reading books" composed for pupils of Tatar schools and madrassahs, belonging to educating course. In Soviet period his works are not printed anymore; in 1930s he was arrested as a clergyman and due to this reason his creative works were relegated to oblivion for many years. Only in last decades the studying of his literary heredity kept in archives and rare books library departments became possible. In line with realistic prose, realistic short novels of K. Bikkulov, "Turkestan", "Uncle Altynbay", "Horse-thieves", "Hadjji" and others are analyzed in this work. Novelty and actuality of the work are explained by underinvestigation of writer's literary heredity that was overlooked in years of totalitarian regime because of author's origin from religious family. Study of works related to realistic prose of studied author and their introduction to scientific turnover are goals of this work. Analytic, comparative, cultural and historical methods of study were used in this work. This study gives an opportunity to make conclusions about the fact that analyzed works of Kasim Bikkulov compose the basis of writer's creative word and are his defined contribution in the development of Tatar realistiv prose of the beginning of XX century.

**Key words:** Tatar literature; K. Bikkulov; literary process; literary heritage; realistic prose

### 1 Introduction

The name of Kasim Bikkulov (1868-1937) who published approximately twenty books that included poems and small prose and small novels became known to wide audience only at the end of XX century and the beginning of XXI. Clergyman, educator, author of prose and poetry, he is a successor of Bikkulov theologians dynasty, which is confirmed by works of Tatar historians (Mardjani, 1989; Fahrudinov, 2010). Kasim Bikkulov, same as many writers and public persons of the beginning of XX century, left a reach literary heritage that unfortunately was overlooked in Soviet period.

Only in recent decades, due to changes in society and new views of literature history, his works and materials dedicated to studies of some aspects of K. Bikkulov's activity came out (Gusmanov, 1994; Bikkulov, 1909; Tuan, 2017). Scientists and literary historian F. Bashirov was one of the first to make an attempt of studying some aspects of studied author's creative work in context of historical works of Tatar literature of the beginning of XX century (Bashirov, 2002; Bikkulov, 1912; Villalobos Antúnez, 2016)

### 2 Methods

In course of writing of this article a complex of methods was applied; among them the main method is a system method of research defining system as "unified complex of interconnected components that as a whole has a certain stability, independence in relation to other systems and environment. In course of work, method of hermeneutic analysis of artistic text was used, because the hermeneutic method allows to consider literary text in context of literary-cultural traditions, comparison of images created in the own aesthetic experience and, finally, extension of spiritual horizons. In this work, poetics of separate pieces is considered in context of literary process in general. Moreover, comparative and culture-historical methods of artistic text study are used in this work.

### 3 Results and Discussion

A serious step in studies of life and activity of Kasim and Ibragim (well-known journalist and public person) Bikkulov is a literary-biographic book "Bikkulov Brothers" printed in frames of "Personalities" series (Bikkulov, 2016), including major part of literary heritage of Bikkulov brothers.

But until the present time, realistic prose of K. Bikkulov stays insufficiently studied, while being a part of rich national literature heritage of turn of the century; this underlines actuality and novelty of this study.

Tatar literature has thousand-year-log history of development, where the beginning of XX century holds a specifically significant place. Namely this period is considered to be a "golden age" in the development on national literature. As scientists noted, "The beginning of 20th century is being defined as a period of emerging Tartar scientific thought, theory of literature, serious discourse about the literary terminology and concepts, as well as the time of achievements in this area" (Gilazov et al, 2015).

After revolution of 1905 emerged some opportunities for discussion of important issues of social-national, spiritual and cultural renovation, for development of arts, including literature. On this wave, on literal scene enter writers, in whose creative work the major place is held by realistic prose, in course of which analysis in this work we used analytical, comparative, cultural-historical methods of study.

Many literature scholars addressed to studies of Tatar prose of the beginning of XX century: in some works, the issue of book printing of this period was considered (Gilazov, 2003); in others, children or religious literature became an object of study (Mingazova et al, 2014; Latypova et al, 2016; Ibragimov et al., 2016); in third works Tatar literature of this period was studies from position of its reflection in Russian language press (Gimranova & Gilazov, 2016).

The first one to speak about realistic prose of the beginning of XX century in his monograph was Farit Bashirov. In "Historical theme in prose" section, the scientist remarks that "One of the first to test his pen in this field was the writer Kasim Bikkulov. His novel "Turkistan" was published in 1908. This work attracts attention, first of all, as a result of strive to write historical novel; on the other hand, it is interesting, because it familiarizes Tatar reader with life and mode of life in Central Asia; it also attracted attention by use of multiple historical facts" (Bashirov, 2002; Bikkulov, 1912).

First version of "Turkestan" work was published under the title "Story About Imprisonment" that came out in 1904 (Bikkulov, 1908). Major part of work is held by depiction of life and mode of life on Central Asia nations. (It is known that in given period under the name "Turkestan" were understood three regions: Samarkand, Ferghana and Syr-Darya regions). At the beginning of his work, author writes about cultural-economic condition or Turkestan in the middle of XIX century, thus, at the very beginning of the plot the writer prepares his reader to perception of realistic historical events, represented by author in critical perspective. In the novel are mentioned such cities as Petropavel, Tashkent, Bukhara, Astrakhan, where events related to fates of book characters take places. Author writes that in those old times there happened lots of cruelty in relation of common folk: murders and selling of people into slavery were also present in realities of this country. Also are interesting facts from the history of Nogais nation, about their origin and geographic position. (It should be noted that author himself, after graduating madrassah in Kazan, was directed to Astrakhan province in order to work as a teacher in local madrassah, where he taught for twenty years (1885-1905) and studies life and life more of local population, Nogais, closely).

Peculiar composition, artistry in material statement, rich language of analyzed work, as well as historical substantiation of events depicted in the work, draws reader's attention. Literalism of material statement, detailed description of nature, historical references positively differ this novel from content of small prose of author, written in key of educational realism, and allow to relate his novel of the author to works written in style of critical realism.

Depiction of fine weather and beautiful nature in the beginning of events allows the author to further create a contrast picture of life conditions of novel characters - fishermen who fall among hoods in Central Asia territory. According to canons of classic prose, acquaintance with characters is provided at the very beginning of the work. Here author off the novel also pays attention to enrichment of his work by historical excursus and routine realias that, on one hand, allows to speak about traditions of critical realism style.

Writer skillfully describes a drastic change in nature behavior, gives a detailed description of storming sea and also accurately reflects changes in spirits of novel characters. Changes of characters condition from spiritual calmness and sureness in themselves to inexpressible deadly fear in eyes and soul of these characters allow the author to disclose himself as a master of psychological scenes.

Pathos of material statement changes drastically when author acquaints the reader with horrible events further accompanying the novel characters. At description of condition of these pitiful people, spurred by lashes though desert, at intolerable heat, knee-deep in hot sand, with hands tied and stocks on feet, a naturalistic statement of material is present. Cruelty of hoods, slave salesmen who treated people as cattle, recreates in front of reader's view a terrible picture of Central Asia realias in the middle in XIX century. Author-educator calls them savages, uneducated people who have no mercy for anyone. Condition of girls-women, who are also brought to the market for selling into slavery happens to be especially intolerable.

Thus, in a short time, events of the novel transit to depiction of war between Russian and Turkestan. As F. Bashirov notes, "K. Bikkulov widely and knowingly uses historical facts; dates of taking of Tashkent, Samarkand and other cities by Russian army are stated in documentary true manner. The stand of Russian troops and emir's army, nature of war is depicted by author objectively" (Bashirov, 2002).

In his small novel "Badalche" (1909; Badalche is a man who, for a certain payment, conducts a hadj instead of another man who is not able to do it himself for some reasons), in the center of narration a fate of the son of village mullah is presented; father, hoping that his son will obtain a good education, sends him to nearby madrassah (Muslim educational institution). This work, on one hand, continues traditions of educational literature, started in Tatar prose in the last quarter of XIX century; this is confirmed by comparative depiction of life conditions and methods of education in old and new-method madrassahs, where author shows advantages of new educational system in madrassah of a new type. On the other hand, realistic and historical depiction of life and life mode of Tatar nation at the beginning of XX century, approach this small novel to works of critical realism. In depiction of psychological condition of a child who left his father's home for the first time and occurred in hard life conditions in old-method madrassah, his inner experiences, the talent of realistic writer is disclosed. In the center of author's attention, the image of student-shakird is shown; from his person the narration of the work is made. Disclosure of events via perception of a boy and later - of teenager, helps the author to present his reader with lively, emotionally tinged picture of realias of Tatar life at the beginning of XX century.

The major plot line of the work is connected with studying of protagonist, where particular attention of the author is paid to disclosure of educational conditions in various madrassahs at the

beginning of XX century. The second plot line comprises events connected to the character named Iskander, represented by author as a man who lives on money received fraudulently from people for hadj conduction, but spends these money for his needs. Here author widely uses psychological portrait of the character, which is also a peculiarity of realistic depiction. In this character author creates a type of cheater and liar, a double-face capable to ingratiate himself with people and spend their money shamelessly.

Description of shakird preparations for journey to Istanbul in order to continue his education after graduating madrassah is also realistic. His acquaintance with Iskander returns the reader to events that happened to narrator at the beginning of a small novel on his way to madrassah. Thus, a complicated composition structure of the work gathers plot lines into one whole plot and enriches the work with surprise effect: the reader learns that Iskander, no notorious for his seemingly charitable deeds, turns out to be a well-known horse-thief named Gali, whom the protagonist had already met at the beginning of the book.

In the final the announcing of continuation of this story is present: he author is determined to publish it in the nearest time. As prose-writer notes, in the next work, "Hadji" (1912, Hadji is a man who conducted a pilgrimage to sacred sites, the hadj) (Bikkulov, 1909), events started in a small novel "Badalche" will be further revealed. Presence of protagonists who performs the narration and one of characters, horse-thief Gali who presented himself as pious man called Iskander in both small novels give the basis to consider that these works may be an example of dilogy creation.

Events of the second small novel take place in one of the main cities of Turkey, where shakird, the protagonist and narrator of a small novel analyzed above, arrives in order to continue his education. Statement of material, resembling the genre of sayakhat namah from time to time, is primarily directed on recording of historical events occurring in Russia and beyond its border, acquaintance of the reader with new lands, countries, their nature, life conditions etc. Detailed description of this event, ethnographic details help to create a picture of Turkish reality at the beginning of XX century. Critical thoughts of the writer about gilded tombstones, expensive structures at cemeteries erected in times of sultan Gabdulhamit reign are also present in the small novel. In author's opinion, for money spent for these purposes, educational institutions of Sorbonne university type could be built, or even a fleet can be created, similar to Japanese one.

Main place in the work is help by a story about events related to the character of previous small novel, "Badalche", Iskander who leisurely spends time here by cost of money collected from trusting people. Critical pathos of the work increases by statements of the narrator in address of this characters. A small novel ends when adventures of horse-thief Gali finally end, he is murdered in drunk fight, and shakird, due to diseases, returns to homeland.

#### 4 Summary

Works of K. Bikkulov analyzed in this work, "Hadji" and "Badalche", allow to make conclusions about the fact that by author's intention they form dilogy. Because here intertextual connections are manifested. At the end of a small novel "Hadji", author also announces that he plans further creation of the next work called "Nadan" (heathen, uneducated man). Pity, up to present time there are no data on publishing of this small novel.

In works are widely presented routine details and realias of Tatar nation life at the beginning of XX century, absence of idealized character, which also is a sign of realistic prose.

Small novel "Hadji" is also interesting due to the fact that author acquaints his reader with new cities and countries. Depiction of people life in Turkey, Istanbul, is especially interesting. On his way to Turkey, shakird also says in Odessa; due to this, in the work appears a description of places of interest of this chief town

of a district; this approaches the work to traditions of Tatar literature of sayakhat namah (notes on a journey).

Presence of landscape pictures depiction - description of Turney nature washed by the sea - is also a novelty fo Tatar realistic literature of this period.

In his work "Turkestan", author skillfully uses the framing composition of plot structuring: he gathers historical events into one whole, in which center is represented the fate of Nogais characters captured by sea hoods. Analyzed work of Tatar writer of the beginning of XX century, Kasim Bikkulov is one of artistic views of events that took place in Central Asia in the middle of XIX century. "Turkestan" is one of the first voluminous realistic works of historical nature in Tatar literature where realistic and critical vies of the author at the surrounding world are reflected.

## 5 Conclusions

Study allows to make conclusions that in creative works of K. Bikkulov, works written in the unified line of Tatar realistic prose of the beginning of XX century development are present. Books analyzed in this work enrich national literature by realistic plots, images, routine details; they also acquaint the reader with life realias of other cities and countries. In the same realistic key his novel "Turkestan" is written; F. Bashirov relates it to one of the first examples of historical works in Tatar literature that enriches Tatar literature of the beginning of XX century by historical realias from life of Turkic nations.

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