

## LITERARY CONNECTION BETWEEN ALEXANDER FAYNBERG AND ABDULLA ORIPOV IN UZBEK POETRY: HOMELAND AS A UNIFYING THEME.

*Mirag'zamova Oysha Mirsherzod qizi  
Faculty of 2nd English foreign language and  
literature, Uzbekistan State World Languages  
University, Tashkent, Uzbekistan,  
oishamiragzamova@gmail.com*

**Annotatsiya:** Ushbu tadqiqot ishi ikki mashhur o'zbek shoiri – Aleksandr Faynberg va Abdulla Oripov asarlarida vatan (vatan) tushunchasining ramziy ifodasini o'rganadi. Faynberg, o'zbek va rus tillarida ijod qilgan Sovet davri shoiri sifatida tanilgan bo'lsa, Abdulla Oripov esa "O'zbekiston xalq shoiri" deb nishonlangan, ikkala shoir ham o'z asarlarida milliy o'zlik, sog'inch va madaniy davomiylik mavzularini yoritadilar. Faynbergning "Vatan" she'ri va Oripovning "O'zbekim" asaridan tanlab olingan parcha asosida chuqur tahlil o'tkazish orqali ushbu tadqiqot har bir shoirning vatanni shaxsiy va jamoaviy o'zlikni qo'llab-quvvatlovchi abadiy mavjudot sifatida qanday tasvirlaganini ko'rsatadi. Bundan tashqari, maqolada Oripovning Faynbergning noyob ijodiy hissasiga oid muhim tanqidiy izohlari kiritilgan bo'lib, ularning qo'shimcha she'riy ovozlari O'zbek adabiyotini qanday boyitgani ta'kidlanadi.

**Kalit so'zlar:** Sovet adabiyoti, sog'inch, madaniy o'zlik, ramzlar, hissiy bog'liqlik, ikki tillilik adabiyoti

**Аннотация:** Данное исследование изучает символическое представление родины (vatan) в творчестве двух выдающихся узбекских поэтов – Александра Файнберга и Абдуллы Орипова. Файнберг, известный поэт советской эпохи, писавший на узбекском и русском языках, и Орипов, признанный «Народным поэтом Узбекистана», в своих произведениях исследуют темы национальной идентичности, ностальгии и культурной преемственности. Проводя углублённый анализ стихотворения Файнберга «Vatan» и отрывка из произведения Орипова «O'zbekim», данное исследование рассматривает, как каждый поэт изображает родину как вечное присутствие, поддерживающее личную и коллективную идентичность. Кроме того, в работе приводятся значимые критические комментарии Орипова относительно уникального вклада Файнберга, подчёркивая, как их взаимодополняющие поэтические голоса обогатили узбекскую литературу.

**Ключевые слова:** Советская литература, ностальгия, культурная идентичность, символизм, эмоциональная связь, билингвальная литература.

**Abstract:** This research paper investigates the symbolic representation of the homeland (vatan) within the works of two prominent Uzbek poets, Alexander Faynberg and Abdulla Oripov. Faynberg, a distinguished Soviet-era poet who wrote in both Uzbek and Russian, and Oripov, celebrated as the "People's Poet of Uzbekistan," both explore themes of national identity, nostalgia, and cultural continuity in their works. Through an in-depth analysis of Faynberg's poem "Vatan" and an excerpt from Oripov's "O'zbekim", this study examines how each poet portrays the homeland as an eternal presence that sustains personal and collective identity. Additionally, the paper incorporates notable critical commentary from Oripov regarding Faynberg's unique contributions, highlighting how their complementary poetic voices have enriched Uzbek literature.

**Keywords:** Soviet literature, nostalgia, cultural identity, symbolism, emotional connection, bilingual literature

### **Introduction:**

The theme of homeland (vatan) has long served as a powerful symbol in Uzbek literature, embodying notions of identity, collective memory, and national pride. In the works of Alexander Faynberg and Abdulla Oripov, the homeland is not merely a geographic locale but a profound source of emotional and cultural sustenance. Faynberg, despite his Russian ancestry, devoted his life to Uzbek literature, and his bilingual oeuvre has helped bridge cultural divides. In contrast, Oripov's poetry has become synonymous with Uzbek national identity and patriotic fervor. This paper explores the interconnection between these two poets by analyzing their treatment of the homeland, with particular focus on Faynberg's contemplative poem "Vatan" and an excerpt from Oripov's rousing "O'zbekim". Moreover, it includes a famous remark by Oripov that underscores the exceptional nature of Faynberg's creative contributions.

### **Biographical Overview:**

#### **Alexander Faynberg:**

Born in 1939 in Tashkent, Alexander Faynberg emerged as a key figure in Soviet and post-Soviet literature. His work spans poetry, translation, and screenwriting. Although of Russian descent, Faynberg's literary output is deeply infused with Uzbek cultural elements. His bilingual compositions not only enriched Uzbek literature but also played a crucial role in making Uzbek literary treasures accessible to Russian-speaking audiences. His translations of classical works, such as those by Alisher Navoi, and his original compositions continue to inspire admiration for his unique synthesis of Eastern and Western literary traditions.

#### **Abdulla Oripov:**

Abdulla Oripov (1936–2016) is regarded as one of Uzbekistan's most influential poets. His poetry, rich in patriotic fervor and steeped in the traditions of Uzbek culture,

resonates with the collective memory and identity of the nation. Often hailed as the "People's Poet of Uzbekistan," Oripov's verses celebrate the beauty, resilience, and historical continuity of the Uzbek people, making him a central figure in the evolution of modern Uzbek literature.

### **Critical Perspectives: Oripov's Endorsement of Faynberg**

A compelling testament to the connection between these two literary giants comes from Abdulla Oripov himself. When critics questioned the cultural authenticity of Faynberg's work due to his Russian roots, Oripov famously remarked:

"Aleksandr Faynberg's work, as for all lofty words, does not reflect even one-hundredth of the truth, because he was indeed a unique poet and translator. A writer of world stature, ... none of the Russian-speaking writers could sing a sincere song to our sunny land."

This statement not only emphasizes Oripov's high regard for Faynberg's literary talent but also redefines cultural identity as something that transcends mere ethnicity. Oripov's endorsement affirms that Faynberg's deep emotional engagement with Uzbek culture makes his work genuinely Uzbek, thereby strengthening the bond between their creative legacies.

### **The Poem "Vatan" by Alexander Faynberg**

Faynberg's poem "Vatan" ("Homeland") is a reflective meditation on the intimate connection between the individual and the land. The poem employs vivid natural imagery and gentle, introspective language to evoke the sense of belonging and permanence inherent in the concept of homeland. Below is the full version of the poem in English:

Vatan (Homeland)

The night is quiet, and the hills stand afar,  
The rivers, silver veins, flow gently beneath.  
Golden fields that stretch beyond the eye,  
Where my heart is, where my memories lie.

The wind whispers through the willow trees,  
The song of nature, a peaceful breeze.  
I hear the distant call of birds in flight,  
My homeland, my soul's delight.

In the stillness, I feel the land's embrace,  
The soft soil that cradles my trace.  
Its mountains high, its valleys deep,  
In its arms, I forever sleep.

Years may pass, the world may change,  
But my love for you, Vatan, will never estrange.  
Through each season, through each dawn,  
You, my homeland, will carry me on.

The Poem "O'zbegin" by Abdulla Oripov (Excerpt)

Oripov's poem "O'zbegin" ("My Uzbek People") exudes robust patriotism and serves as an emblem of national pride. An excerpt of four lines from this celebrated work is presented below:

O'zbegin (My Uzbek People)

My mother called me Uzbek with love,  
A beacon of light burned in my heart.  
The pride of my ancestors, a glorious history,  
A bright, shining path toward the future.

This excerpt epitomizes Oripov's fervent celebration of Uzbek identity and heritage, reinforcing the notion that national pride and cultural continuity are at the core of his poetic vision.

### **Comparative Analysis of "Vatan" and "O'zbegin"**

#### **1. Symbolism of the Homeland**

Faynberg's "Vatan":

The poem presents the homeland as a nurturing and eternal entity. Through serene imagery such as "golden fields," "silver veins," and "distant hills," Faynberg encapsulates the homeland as a source of comfort and an enduring repository of personal memory. The landscape serves as a symbol of continuity, offering solace amid change.

Oripov's "O'zbegin":

Oripov's work, in contrast, emphasizes the homeland through a lens of collective pride and historical legacy. The imagery in "O'zbegin" is bold and evocative, celebrating the vibrant cultural heritage and the luminous future of the Uzbek people. Here, the homeland is a unifying force that reinforces communal identity and shared values.

#### **2. Emotional Tone and Nostalgia**

Faynberg:

In "Vatan", the tone is gentle, reflective, and imbued with quiet nostalgia. The poet's language is intimate, drawing the reader into a personal reverie about the timeless beauty of the land and the deep-seated memories it evokes.

Oripov:

Conversely, Oripov's excerpt from "O'zbegin" carries a robust and energetic tone. His verses are designed to inspire and mobilize, reflecting an assertive pride in

Uzbek identity. The emotional intensity in Oripov's poetry serves as both a personal and collective call to cherish and uphold national traditions.

### 3. Cultural and Political Context

Both poets wrote during a period of significant socio-political transformation in the Soviet Union, which is reflected in their works: Faynberg's bilingualism enabled him to traverse cultural boundaries and present a more introspective, universal meditation on the homeland. Oripov's work resonates with the collective spirit of Uzbek nationalism, using historical references and cultural symbols to assert a unified identity.

Oripov famously said:

"Faynberg is even more Uzbek than I am,"

encapsulates the mutual recognition of their shared cultural passion despite differing backgrounds. It is a powerful declaration that true patriotism is determined by one's heart and creative expression rather than ethnic origin.

### Conclusion:

The literary connection between Alexander Faynberg and Abdulla Oripov in Uzbek poetry is deeply rooted in their shared celebration of the homeland. Faynberg's reflective "Vatan" and Oripov's impassioned "O'zbekim" together illustrate the multifaceted nature of national identity—one that is both introspective and collective, gentle in its nostalgia yet bold in its proclamation. Despite their diverse linguistic and stylistic approaches, both poets articulate an enduring love for their native land that transcends political and social changes. Their works not only enrich Uzbek literature but also serve as timeless testaments to the power of poetry in preserving cultural heritage and nurturing a collective identity.

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