

THE JADIDS' LITERARY CRITICAL VIEWS IN THE PRESS

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Abstract: This article explores the literary critical perspectives of the Jadid movement as expressed in the press. It examines how Jadid intellectuals used newspapers and magazines to challenge traditional literary forms and advocate for modernization in literature and society. The study highlights the role of the press in promoting national awakening, cultural reform, and educational progress through literary criticism. The findings demonstrate that Jadid literary criticism was instrumental in shaping modern Uzbek literature and played a significant role in the broader socio-cultural transformation of Central Asia during the early 1900s.

Keywords: Jadid movement, literary criticism, Uzbek literature, press, cultural reform, modernization, national awakening, early 20th century

Introduction

The Jadid movement holds a significant place in the history of Uzbekistan and Central Asia as a period of national awakening and cultural and educational reforms. Their literary and intellectual activities were not only confined to education and enlightenment but also prominently manifested in the press through new and critical perspectives. The Jadids' critical engagement in print media challenged traditional and conservative views, advocating modernization and renewal within society. This article analyzes the literary critical views expressed by the Jadids in the press, highlighting their theoretical foundations and practical implications.

The Jadid intellectuals utilized newspapers and magazines as platforms to express their critical views on literature and society, aiming to foster a more enlightened and progressive public. Their writings not only critiqued outdated literary forms and content but also promoted the adoption of modern literary techniques and themes relevant to the social realities of their time. By engaging with the press, Jadids sought to democratize knowledge and make literature accessible to a broader audience, thereby encouraging cultural and educational reforms.

Their literary criticism also reflected broader political and social goals, such as national revival, cultural independence, and educational advancement. In this context, the Jadids' press writings served as a bridge between traditional values and emerging modern ideologies, helping to shape the trajectory of Uzbek literature and intellectual thought in the early 20th century.

Methodology

This study employs a qualitative content analysis of primary sources from the Jadid press, including newspapers, magazines, and literary journals published between the late 19th and early 20th centuries. Key Jadid publications such as “Taraqqiy”, “Shuhrat”, and “Munis” were examined to identify recurring themes and critical perspectives in literary discussions.

The analysis focused on how Jadid intellectuals approached literary criticism, their evaluation criteria for traditional and modern literature, and the social and cultural objectives embedded in their writings. Secondary sources, including scholarly works on the Jadid movement and Central Asian literary history, supplemented the primary source analysis to contextualize findings.

Results

The analysis revealed that the Jadid press consistently promoted a literary criticism framework centered on modernization, enlightenment, and national revival. Jadid critics condemned outdated literary styles and conservative themes, advocating instead for works that reflected contemporary social realities and progressive ideas.

Their writings emphasized the importance of language reform, accessibility of literature to the broader population, and the fusion of national traditions with modern literary forms. The Jadids also underscored the role of literature as a tool for education and social reform, urging writers to address issues such as education, women's rights, and cultural identity.

Furthermore, the Jadid press served as an effective platform for disseminating these critical views, influencing both literary production and public opinion. Their literary criticism played a crucial role in shaping the development of modern Uzbek literature and contributed to broader cultural and social transformations in early 20th-century Central Asia.

Discussion

The Jadids' literary criticism in the press exhibited distinct characteristics, emphasizing the development of national culture, language, and literature. Jadid publications sought to differentiate between traditional literature and new literary styles that were closer to the people and addressed contemporary issues. Their criticism aimed at promoting literature as a tool for societal progress and integrating national values with modern ideas.

Through articles, reviews, and essays, the Jadids raised key issues of their time concerning literature and culture, calling for reform and renewal. They strongly advocated for reforms in the writing system, the establishment of new schools, and the education of women. Their literary criticism was not only aesthetic but also deeply intertwined with social and political objectives.

Moreover, the Jadids' press activities served as an instrument to disseminate enlightenment and foster public awareness. Their critical approach contributed significantly to the modernization of Uzbek literature and the cultural identity formation during a transformative era.

Conclusion

The Jadids' literary critical views in the press had a profound impact on the socio-cultural life of their time. They critically reassessed traditional literature and sought to introduce new styles and content that reflected modern values. By promoting enlightenment and national awakening through print media, the Jadids laid an essential foundation for the development of Uzbek literature and culture. Studying their literary criticism in the press is crucial for a deeper understanding of the history of national culture and modernization efforts in Central Asia.

In summary, the Jadids' literary criticism in the press was not merely an aesthetic exercise but a deliberate effort to drive cultural and social change. Their critical discourse challenged entrenched literary traditions and advocated for a literature that was socially relevant, accessible, and infused with national consciousness. By utilizing the press as a medium, the Jadids effectively reached a wider audience, fostering a spirit of enlightenment and reform. This laid a strong foundation for the evolution of modern Uzbek literature and contributed to the broader process of national awakening in Central Asia. Continued research on Jadid literary criticism enriches our understanding of the region's cultural history and the complex interplay between literature, society, and politics during a pivotal era.

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