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REFLECTION OF THE REALITY OF THE TOTALITARY ERA IN Q. MATMURATOV'S NOVEL "TERBENBES"

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Abstract:

This scientific work examines the artistic portrayal of the reality of the totalitarian era in Q. Matmurov's novel "Terbenbes," as well as the issue of artistic image and artistic psychologism in the work. In the course of analysis, the novel reveals the artistic interpretation of the socio-political situation and historical events of the late 19th and early 20th centuries. The work realistically depicts the life of the people of the Aral Sea region, including their fishing lifestyle. Through the character of the main character, Lepes Bay, the psychological characteristics, entrepreneurial qualities, and social position of the people of that era are depicted. It is also scientifically proven that the novel is based on historical sources and created on the basis of prototypes of real people.

Keywords: Totalitarian words, artistic image, artistic psychologism, historical novel, Q. Matmurov, "Terbenbes," Lepes bay, socio-political situation, people's life, Aral region, historical truth.

Introduction

One of the significant developments in Karakalpak novel writing is the creation by our writers of works predominantly on historical themes. Based on this perspective, we would like to point out two reasons for this. Firstly, the main reason for this, as mentioned above, is the renewal taking place in our spiritual world and consciousness. The restoration of our distorted history, which had been

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distorted for many years, and the necessity of revealing the fate of the people's children who fell victim to unjust persecution forced our writers to turn to historical themes.

Secondly, in our opinion, the reason for this must be related to the issue of creating an artistic image. Because, as in any literary work, at the center of the novel is the human being as the object of depiction. Depicting human destiny, that is, creating a character of a certain era, is the main task of the novelist.

It is no secret that our time is a time of dramatic changes and developments. In the age of information, artificial intelligence, and new technologies, people's consciousness, worldview, in short, the psychology of today's people are becoming increasingly complex. The need for new forms and methods in literature, including the novel genre, is naturally emerging in depicting the character of a new era and their psychology. Due to such circumstances, it seems that our writers are hesitant to tackle historical themes when creating a hero of today's era.

It is well known that modern prose has embarked on the noble goal of restoring the rich past of our people and giving it a new perspective. The idea of glorifying the historical and cultural values of our people, passed down from generation to generation, is also being reflected in fiction, which is an integral part of public consciousness. In recent years, the portrayal of the victims of repression and the bitter reality of the 20th-century totalitarian era has become a central focus in Karakalpak prose. One such work is Q. Matmuratov's novel "**Terbenbes.**"

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The first book of the novel "Terbenbes," titled "Lepes Boy," was published in 2004. The novel is written on a historical theme and, based on historical facts from the late 19th and early 20th centuries, depicts a panorama of the turbulent events of that era. The novel depicts the lives of people who lived on the island of Terbenbes near the Aral Sea, engaging in fishing. The novel's main feature is that, by depicting the life of a certain segment of the population, it captures the socio-political conditions of the Karakalpak people characteristic of that period (late 19th - early 20th centuries). The novel tells the story of Lepes Boy, a historical figure who, through his merchant and entrepreneurial skills, burned with passion for the happiness and prosperity of his people at the beginning of the last century.

To prove that Lepes Bay was a historical figure, the author includes, as an appendix, the names, birth years, and residences of the individuals who provided information about him, as well as an excerpt from Lepes Bay's accounting book, discovered at the Qabaqli Ota cemetery and currently held at the N. Davqaraev Institute of History, Language, and Literature. These additional historical facts

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presented by the author present the protagonist, Lepes Boy, as a prototype of the novel.

"When literature addresses historical themes, the main goal is to seek lessons from past events for the present day," wrote the Uzbek literary scholar I. Sultan. The writer's main idea in the novel "Terbenbes" is to reconstruct our past history, to evaluate it from the perspective of reality, and to create the image of a businessman from a specific historical period.

During the totalitarian regime, as in all spheres of society, a one-sided approach prevailed in fiction. Only black or white "paints" were used to depict human character, and as a result, the colorful phenomena of life remained unrevealed. The artistic characters in the novel "Terbenbes" are revealed through their inner conflict and true human nature. The novel's value lies in its portrayal of the wealthy who showed kindness to the starving people and the scholars who sought to preserve the unity of the people, figures we rarely encounter in Karakalpak literature. From this perspective, the artistic characters in the novel "Terbenbes" differ from the characters created in Karakalpak novels with their unique features.

"An artistic image is a form of depicting life by a wordsmith, that is, a way of summarizing and summarizing it." In his/her work, the writer depicted entire real-life and significant life relationships through the depiction of concrete human life. A person, their character, is reflected in a literary work through their significance and individuality. The Russian scholar M. Bakhtin attaches particular importance to the issue of the human character in the novel. He indicates that **"the main specific, stylistic feature of the novel genre is the speaker and their words."** In a literary work, the writer's intention and goal are revealed through the characters. By depicting certain contradictions in life, the writer reveals a person's character and destiny. The plot in the novel is born from the actions and inner world of the characters.

In depicting the reality of life, the writer does not strive to encompass all its events, but rather focuses more on certain life actions, events, and considering

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one or another aspect of human life. From this perspective, not all life events and issues constitute artistic psychologism. Regarding this, scholar P. Nurjanov wrote, **"Often, only the issue that serves as the basis for revealing the ideological, moral, and philosophical nature of character forms an artistic psychologism."** Artistic psychologism - focusing the main attention on the inner world of the hero - plays a special role in transforming life's reality into artistic reality.

The plot of the novel "Terbenbes," the life of the people, and the personal lives of the characters are presented with historical content. The novel features characters such as Lepes boy, Xo'jalepes, Eshmuhammad oxun, Sayim bo'lis, Yoldosh yalangoyoq, Bogonenko, Sharovboy, Erimbet qariya, Qoniyoz, Gulziyba, Nuray qariya, O'roz otaliq, Arzimbet bo'lis, O'yaz Ershov, Niyozbek, and others. The main events in the novel begin with the time when Lepes boy became wealthy in Terbenbes and became known to the people.

The writer depicts the formation, development, and evolution of the image of Lepes Boy in connection with the life of the people. The Karakalpaks' daily life and standard of living after settling around the Aral Sea are reflected in the image of Lepes boy. The reason is that the situation of the people after their migration from Turkistan is very poor. After settling on the shores of the Aral Sea, their lives improved somewhat by engaging in fishing, farming, and animal husbandry. Lepes was born to a poor man named Jo'ldosh Yalangoyoq. Lepes Boy was by nature a pure-hearted man, a lover of honest work, and a man who accumulated wealth through his own labor and skill. In the character of Lepes boy, the author depicts two different goals and good intentions through psychological parallelism. Firstly, Lepes boy aimed to increase his wealth by trading with other countries, and secondly, he aimed to ensure employment for the people with low social status at that time, feed them, and teach them to become wealthy through their labor. These two goals of Lepes boy are developed in parallel from beginning to end of the work.

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In the novel, the author's mastery in portraying the image of Lepes Boy and conveying his artistic psychology is evident. The writer uses several methods of creating psychologism to reveal Lepes boy's unique human nature. Biographical depiction also plays a significant role in the novel's artistic merit. A skilled writer strives to artistically depict the life story of each person in accordance with their character. This is especially characteristic of the structure of large-scale works like novels.

By depicting the hero's biography, the writer completes the plot of the novel and reveals the history of the character's development. In the novel we are discussing, the writer uses the method of recalling and remembering to depict the hero's life story. Through someone, he artistically depicted Lepes boy's thoughts about his life, the formation of his ideology and worldview, as well as the secrets of accumulating wealth. The influence of the Ural Russians, who had been exiled from Russia and settled around the Aral Sea, was significant in Lepes boy's development and worldview. The Russians of the Urals enriched themselves through trade by exporting sea fish to Russia. Among them, Sharovboy and Bogonenko taught Lepes the secrets of entrepreneurship and trade, and provided him with material assistance. Lepes boy's recollections are often connected to the era when he worked alongside these Ural Russians. At the age of 15-16, Lepes worked under the care of Arsentiy, one of the Urals. The change in his consciousness, the emergence of emotional turmoil in his soul, begins with the incident where his father, Jo'ldosh, was unjustly beaten by Sayim the governor and lay covered in blood.

"If a person intends something, strives for it, and dedicates their intellect, strength, and energy to it day and night, there's nothing they can't achieve..."

Every day in Arsentiy's hut, from dawn till dusk, I peel the fish, clean it, salt it, in short, I work tirelessly, doing whatever is commanded, every day I get this very fish, so why isn't my plate always full, why isn't there any leftovers?!" In

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these lines, young Lepes's established outlook on life and his demanding nature are evident.

After an incident involving his father, Lepes set out to work under a five-year contract under the supervision of Sharov-Sharovboy, a large Russian merchant and capitalist on Mergen Island, intending to learn a trade. Sharovboy, impressed by Lepes' intelligence, aptitude, and industriousness, taught him his work methods and assigned his daughter Marfa to teach Russian and mathematics. Lepes was re-educated within five years of working under Sharovboy, gaining Sharovboy's trust through his diligence and beginning to manage trade relations and accounting. He would even personally lead trade caravans to Russia. In the Oralskiy region, a merchant named Bogonenko would exchange the fish loaded onto the ships for money or goods and sell it by train to cities like Orenburg, Samara, and Moscow. Lepes brought Sharovboy's fish and maintained a good relationship with him. Bogonenko also liked Lepes's quickness, thoroughness, and demanding nature.

In return, he gained Bogonenko's trust. They borrowed ships, wood, money, salt, other materials, and craftsmen from him under a two-year contract. After obtaining permission from Sharovboy and a five-year salary, he began his entrepreneurial journey in his native Terbenbes. All these events are presented in the work through the hero's recollections. Lepes boy spared nothing for the people. They value people's work more than others. They never tire of working. He didn't limit himself to Aralsky; he also transported Aral fish to major Russian cities by rail. From there, they bring necessities for the people's daily lives. He gives money to those who have money, and loans to those who don't, providing them with jobs to repay their debts. Thus, Lepes gradually enriched himself with his diligence and intelligence.

In the novel, artistic details are also effectively used in creating the image of Lepes Boy. The work discusses the decline in agriculture and livestock farming in Terbenbes due to water scarcity, and consequently, the plight of the population.

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Lepes boy's fellow villagers consulted and told him to move from Terbenbes, saying there was no water here and it wasn't suitable for the people. Then, Lepes Boy opposed his relatives, saying he wouldn't abandon his homeland. That spring, he gathered the people and had a canal dug to bring water to the village. In this excavation, the wealthy person pays for the expenses and people's food at their own expense. Thus, this canal, known as the "boy jap," serves to improve the living conditions of the people. The writer uses the detail of "boy jap" to show that Lepes boy served the people. Through artistic detail, the unique characteristics of Lepes Boy - his concern for the people's interests and his love for his homeland - are revealed.

In a literary work, details are also used to reveal the inner world of a character, their thinking process, and emotional feelings. Through artistic detail, Q. Matmuratov attempts to portray both his character's inner world and his social activities. The Navruz celebration, organized and held by Lepes boy, was used as a detail in creating the hero's character. On the occasion of the national holiday of Navruz, Lepes Bay held a feast and laid out a dastarkhan for the people. They show great hospitality to bakhshis, jirovs, scholars, and all those gathered at weddings, distributing grain, flour, and clothing to the hungry people. Lepes Boy provided charitable assistance to mosques and madrasas, creating opportunities for the children's education.

A portrait is also used in the creation of the hero's image in the work. In any work, the writer can use portraiture to enhance its impact and reveal the inner spiritual world of the characters. The character's individual psychological state is reflected through their appearance. "When depicting a character's portrait, the writer doesn't aim to show their gait or how they dress. Portraiture plays an important role in creating an image and conveying its psychology. The writer takes a different approach in portraying the characters. It is often attempted to convey the psychological state of the characters through their actions. In the work, Arzimbet is elected governor with the help of Lepes. Then, by taking inappropriate actions,

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they begin to oppress the people. Its severity was so great that it tied the river that brought water to Terbenbes at its source, leaving the entire population without water. The portrait of Lepes boy at the time he learned of this incident is presented below. "Lepes stamped his feet furiously and went into his house. He opened the dark chest in the place of honor, grabbed it with his hand, and drew the sword with its scabbard. The bundles of money were scattered from the corner to the door... With the sword, he pulled a branch of a white willow, and not just that one, but a willow branch the size of a wrist pierced the ground. He drew his sword into its scabbard, leaped onto his horse, and whipped him from the ground. In these lines, through the hero's actions, his emotional state - anger, rage, and hatred towards the person who oppressed the people - is reflected. Through the portrait, one of the characteristics of Lepes's image is his proud spirit, bravery, and dedication to the people.

The artistic characters in the novel "Terbenbes" are considered to be characters created from a new perspective in our literature. Innovation is also felt in the methods of conveying artistic psychologism. Specifically, the artistic depiction of the tradition of luxuriously dressed and riding a fine horse, characteristic of the wealthy, is also incorporated into the novel to enhance imagery.

Previously, due to insufficient understanding of realistic depiction, portraying artistic characters as destitute, modest, yet intelligent workers, while creating the "reality" of the characters, some aspects of our people's national psychology remained undiscovered. One of them, the custom of selecting clothing and riding horses for the establishment of a bey's throne after a young man joins the ranks, has not yet been sufficiently reflected in literary and artistic imagery. In the novel, one of the national psychological qualities of our people, the reign of the ruler, is artistically depicted through the image of Lepes Bay. The story of the rich man buying his Yellow Yura horse, his wife Mirzagul's care for it, Lepes's uniform attire of his helpers and grooms, and his elegant attire all reflect the characteristic features of the character, the purity of his inner world, and his refined taste. "The

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Asqar Mountains ahead are Lepes, ahead of him, within shooting range, leading his yellow pacer. Six young men behind him were determined, wearing white scarves on their foreheads and feet, all white and white, pressing their sheaths onto their black and gray steeds. Six stallions, dropping their hooves equally, as if they were about to pierce the black earth, clatter and clatter. In the work, the individual character traits of the characters are also reflected through their speech. In general, we have discussed the role of artistic psychologism in the creation of the main character, Lepes Bay, in the novel "Terbenbes," the writer's skill, and the character of some of the characters who complement the main character. The writer employs several techniques of creating artistic psychology in the image of Lepes. The method of memorization reflects the process of character formation in an artistic image. It has been effectively used in artistic details to convey the psychologism of the artistic image.

In the work, dialogues and monologues are also effectively used to depict artistic psychologism. The characters Eshmuhammad Oxun, Xo'jalepes, Kamol, Nuroy, Qaniyoz, Arzimbet, and others act as a driving force in the development of events and the realization of the author's idea.

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