

The Study of Alisher Navoi's Works in Turkey

Maftuna Shuxratovna Ochilova

PhD, Lecturer, Department of Social and Humanitarian Sciences, Navoiy Innovations University, Uzbekistan

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Abstract: This article explores the study of Alisher Navoi's works in Turkey, providing detailed information about the historical roots and scholarly heritage of his literary legacy. It discusses the manuscripts and facsimile copies preserved in historic scientific centers such as the Süleymaniye Library in Istanbul. The article highlights the research, translations, and exhibitions conducted by prominent Navoi scholars in Turkey, including Professor Abdurahmon Go'zal, Professor Lola Uluch, and Dr. Joshkun Yilmaz. It also reviews Turkish translations of Navoi's epics like Hayrat ul-Abror and Layli and Majnun, as well as the linguistic analysis of Muhokamat ul-Lug'atayn. The article sheds light on scientific cooperation between Uzbekistan and Turkey, international symposiums, and the activities of the Alisher Navoi Research Center. Attention is given to digitization efforts and electronic publishing using modern technologies. The significance of Navoi's work in Turkic culture and literature and its recognition on an international scale is thoroughly examined. This article lays a scholarly foundation for the broader future study of Navoi's heritage.

Keywords: Alisher Navoi, Navoi's works, Navoi studies in Turkey, manuscripts in Istanbul libraries, Süleymaniye Library, scholarly translation, Khamsa, Muhokamat ul-Lug'atayn, Layli and Majnun, scientific monograph, philological analysis, cultural heritage, academic cooperation, Uzbekistan-Turkey relations, digitization, Turkic literary heritage.

Introduction: Alisher Navoi is a prominent thinker, poet, statesman, and mystic who left an indelible mark on Uzbek literature and the cultural life of Turkic peoples. His rich literary legacy is studied not only in Uzbekistan but throughout the Turkic world with great respect. In particular, the study, publication, translation, and commentary on Navoi's works are being actively pursued in Turkey through numerous scientific and cultural projects. This article discusses how Navoi's works are studied in Turkey, the historical phases of this research, leading Navoi scholars, and the activities of academic institutions.

1. Historical Process of Navoi's Works Entering Turkey

The introduction and gradual study of Alisher Navoi's literary heritage in Turkey can be traced back to the 19th and early 20th centuries, during a period when intellectual and cultural exchanges between the Ottoman Empire and Central Asia gained renewed momentum. As scholarly interest in the shared roots of Turkic literature grew, Ottoman-era historians, philologists, and bibliophiles began to take a closer look

at the works of Navoi, recognizing his immense contribution to the development of Turkic poetic language and thought. Navoi's texts made their initial entry into Turkish academic and cultural circles primarily through manuscript collections housed in some of Istanbul's most prestigious and historically significant libraries. Among these, the Süleymaniye Library, Beyazid State Library, Topkapı Palace Manuscript Library, and other major archival institutions played a central role. These repositories safeguarded numerous handwritten copies of Navoi's most famous works, including illustrated versions of Khamsa, scholarly editions of Muhokamat al-Lug'atayn, and collections of his lyrical poetry (ghazals) and didactic treatises. The presence of these manuscripts in Ottoman libraries is a reflection of the wide geographical influence of Navoi's literary output, which transcended the boundaries of Central Asia and resonated deeply within the Ottoman intellectual tradition. Scholars and copyists of the period recognized the significance of preserving his works for posterity, leading to the production of multiple

facsimile copies and the integration of his ideas into broader discussions on poetics, ethics, and language. During the late Ottoman and early Republican periods, these manuscripts attracted the attention of Turkish Orientalists and literary historians, some of whom began cataloging, studying, and translating portions of Navoi's corpus. This early scholarly interest laid the groundwork for the development of modern Navoi studies in Turkey, eventually culminating in dedicated research institutions, university courses, and cross-cultural collaborations with Uzbek academics. Thus, the historical process of Navoi's works entering Turkey is not only a story of manuscript transmission but also a narrative of enduring intellectual curiosity and cultural interconnectedness. It represents an early foundation for the contemporary flourishing of Navoi scholarship in Turkish academic and literary circles.

1.1. Manuscripts and Facsimiles

Navoi's manuscripts are still preserved in major Turkish libraries today, including:

- An illustrated manuscript of Khamsa housed in the Süleymaniye Library, notable for its miniature art [1].
- Facsimiles of Majalis un-Nafais and Muhokamat ul-Lug'atayn serve as a basis for scholarly research [2].

These manuscripts are valuable not only for their text but also as historical sources.

2. Navoi Studies in Turkey: Leading Scholars and Centers

Several prominent scholars in Turkey contribute to Navoi studies through their research, publications, and academic activities:

2.1. Professor Abdurahmon Go'zal

- Co-founder of the Alisher Navoi Research Center at Bukhara University.
- Organizer of international conferences and symposiums in cooperation with Uzbekistan [3].
- Uses modern scientific methods to analyze Navoi's works, emphasizing national ideas and humanistic concepts.

2.2. Professor Lola Uluch

- Professor at Boğaziçi University.
- Prepared an album titled "Illustrated Manuscripts of Alisher Navoi's Works in Istanbul Libraries," important for art history and philology [4].

2.3. Dr. Joshkun Yilmaz

- Head of the Turkish Manuscripts Society.
- Led the "Alisher Navoi Collection" exhibition held in Istanbul in 2025, showcasing original

manuscripts, translations, and scholarly commentaries [5].

3. Translations, Commentaries, and Publications

3.1. Translation Activities

Navoi's works are translated into Turkish and provided to readers with literary and scholarly commentary:

- Epics such as Hayrat ul-Abror and Layli and Majnun have been translated and presented to literature enthusiasts [6].
- Muhokamat ul-Lug'atayn is deeply analyzed from linguistic and cultural perspectives, highlighting Navoi's views on Turkic and Persian languages [7].

3.2. Scholarly Monographs

Among the analytical monographs on Navoi's works:

- Tanju Seyhanlar's Alisher Navoi's Style: A Philological Analysis discusses literary devices, tonal aspects, and lexical structures [8].
- Gunay Kut's Alisher Navoi: Poet, Mystic, and Statesman explores Navoi's mystic ideas, political views, and social status [5].

4. Academic Cooperation and Projects

4.1. Academic Collaboration

Scientific relations between Uzbekistan and Turkey are steadily strengthening:

- Joint international symposiums are regularly held between the Uzbek Academy of Sciences and Turkish universities.
- The establishment of the "Alisher Navoi Research Center" in 2022 marked a new phase in scholarly and organizational activities [9].

4.2. Research Based on Modern Technologies

In recent years, significant progress has been made in the application of modern technologies to the preservation, study, and dissemination of Alisher Navoi's literary heritage. One of the most impactful developments is the large-scale digitization of Navoi's manuscripts, which ensures the long-term preservation of these invaluable cultural assets and facilitates global access for researchers, students, and literature enthusiasts. High-resolution digital copies of manuscripts are now being stored in open-access databases, enabling comparative studies, remote scholarship, and more inclusive academic participation regardless of geographical location.

In addition to digitization, several initiatives have focused on converting Navoi's works into various digital formats, including e-books, searchable PDF editions, and annotated interactive texts. These editions often include multimedia enhancements such as audio readings, commentaries, historical context, and

scholarly footnotes that enrich the reader's experience and deepen comprehension. Notably, the Digital Resources Research Center at Istanbul University has taken the lead in developing interactive platforms that allow users to engage with Navoi's texts in dynamic ways. Their projects aim to integrate artificial intelligence tools for linguistic analysis, translation alignment, and semantic mapping, opening new paths in digital humanities and classical Turkic studies. Moreover, mobile applications have been launched to popularize Navoi's poetry among younger audiences, incorporating gamification, social sharing, and educational modules.

These technological innovations not only modernize the study of Navoi's legacy but also serve as a bridge between traditional manuscript culture and the demands of contemporary digital scholarship. They reflect a broader shift in the humanities towards accessibility, interactivity, and interdisciplinary engagement—ensuring that the timeless wisdom and literary brilliance of Alisher Navoi continue to resonate in the digital age.

CONCLUSION

The exploration of Alisher Navoi's literary heritage in Turkey stands as a vivid testament to the deep-rooted cultural and spiritual affinity shared between the Uzbek and Turkish peoples. This scholarly engagement not only underscores the timeless significance of Navoi's works but also highlights their enduring relevance across linguistic, literary, and cultural boundaries. His contributions are being studied within diverse academic disciplines such as philology, comparative literature, manuscriptology, art history, and Islamic thought, offering rich insights into the intellectual and artistic traditions of the Turkic world. The active involvement of Turkish scholars in translating, annotating, and analyzing Navoi's texts has opened new avenues for interdisciplinary research. These efforts, supported by academic institutions, libraries, and cultural organizations, have helped preserve and disseminate Navoi's ideas in accessible formats for both scholarly and general audiences. Notably, the use of modern technologies for the digitization and interactive presentation of manuscripts reflects a progressive approach to heritage conservation and public education. Furthermore, the organization of international symposiums, collaborative research projects, and the establishment of the Alisher Navoi Research Center in Istanbul have elevated Navoi studies to a global academic platform. Such initiatives not only foster deeper intercultural understanding but also contribute to a shared historical consciousness among Turkic-speaking nations. In essence, the comprehensive study of Alisher Navoi's legacy in

Turkey has become an essential part of broader efforts to celebrate and revitalize Turkic cultural identity. It continues to inspire future generations of scholars and readers, ensuring that Navoi's humanistic philosophy, poetic mastery, and spiritual vision remain a source of enlightenment and unity for centuries to come.

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