

**ABSTRACT**  
**of the thesis for the degree of Doctor of Philosophy (PhD)**  
**‘Folklore motifs in the artistic works of G. Musrepov’, performed by Obaeva**  
**Gulnara Saduakasovna in the educational program “6D020500 – Philology”**

**Dissertation topic description.** The research proposed for defense is devoted to theoretical aspects of the problem of connection between folklore and written literature in the context of works of the classic of Kazakh literature, writer Gabit Musrepov, and is aimed at revealing folklore motifs in his artistic works.

In modern literary science the problem of mutual influence of folklore and written literature, their favourable influence on each other is considered relevant. The role of Kazakh literature of the early XX century, which opened the artistic reality at the level of their intersection, was great. In the works of the authors, a deep and organic mastery of various genres of oral folk art was clearly manifested. It is this feature that remains an indispensable sign of true talent. This was especially important in the last quarter of the century due to the reassessment of spiritual and cultural values. Folklore, being a reflection of cultural and social values of a certain group or community, has a significant influence on literature. Many literary works draw their plot bases, motifs, images and linguistic expressions from folklore.

Researchers both in the world and in Kazakhstan are interested in the relationship between literature and folklore. This is due to the fact that folklore acts as a “material” for literary works. The study of folklore, which is defined as the cultural experience of our people for thousands of years, acquires a new impetus. The study considers folklore elements found in literary works within the framework of the concepts of “folklorism” and “folklore motif”. In the prose and dramatic works of the writer G. Musrepov the motifs of characters' speeches, elements of symbolism, stylistic and thematic features, allusions built on hints are based on folklore motifs. The author, preserving traditional canons, uses folklore motifs as a new ideological, thematic and genre direction in his works of fiction, relying on the folk heritage.

The thesis explores the genetic connection between literature and folklore through the use of folklore stories. In this context, special attention is paid to the connection between postmodernism, a new trend in world literature, and folklore. Given the conflicting views of researchers, the study provides an opportunity to understand how the connection between postmodernism and folklore is realized on the basis of folklore motifs. Along with the traditionally established research paradigm, the identification of new and unusual connections shows the need to revise and further study the interaction between literature and folklore. On this basis, the dissertation provides an opportunity for a full-fledged study of G. Musrepov’s work and an in-depth analysis of the application of folklore motifs in a work of fiction.

**Relevance of the research.** At present, many works of fiction use a variety of folklore motifs, which requires a thorough study of folklore elements in literature. Related studies in the fields of folkloristics and literary studies are rare both in foreign and domestic scientific works. The relevance lies in the need to consider literary studies and folkloristics as a single integral discipline. This is influenced by the fact that the

use of folklore motifs in a work of fiction creates new content and complicates the thematic and ideological load. In this regard, it is important to study folklore motifs within the framework of the interaction between literature and folklore.

The identification of folklore motifs in G. Musrepov's works allows revealing the national worldview and folk models of consciousness. Besides, it creates new literary content and changes the plot and thematic structure of the work. In addition, it allows us to establish theoretically and practically that Kazakh literature corresponds to the trends in the development of world literature. The subject of our study is folklore genres and plots, folklore characters, as well as intertextual forms in the works of the writer, which emphasizes the relevance of the topic.

The use of folklore motifs in prose and dramatic works attracts the attention of researchers. In a fiction text, folklore motifs embodied in the plot, genres and folklore characters influence the ways of conveying folk perception and national worldview. Accordingly, the identification of folklore motifs used in innuendo and hidden meanings can become more complex. As a result, folklore motifs complicate the artwork and clarify the models of national worldview and folk perception.

**Purpose of the research.** Analyze the peculiarities of the use of folklore motifs in the work of G. Musrepov.

In order to achieve this goal, the following **tasks** were envisaged:

- to define the differences between the concepts of folklore, folklorism, folklore motif;
- to determine the style and personality of G. Musrepov's prose and dramatic works;
- to characterize the genre, plot and image features of motifs in G. Musrepov's works and analyze his innovative searches;
- to study the peculiarities of the use of folklore motifs in the work of G. Musrepov in folklore-ethnographic, artistic-ideological and thematic-ideological aspects;
- to determine the plot, mythological features of folklore motifs in the works of G. Musrepov from the point of view of the national worldview and the model of folk perception;
- to analyze folklore motifs in G. Musrepov's works in the context of postmodernism.

**Object of research.** The object of research of the thesis is the use of folklore motifs in the works of G. Musrepov and the relationship between literature and folklore.

**Subject of research.** Application and main functions of folklore motifs in a work of fiction.

**Theoretical and methodological basis of the research** was formed by the works that specifically consider the work of G. Musrepov (T. Nurtazin, Kh. Adibayev, Zh. Moldagaliyev, M. Tileuzhanov, A. Narymbetov, Zh. Ysmagulov, N. Gabdullin, K. Kuttybaev, M. Bekbergenov, A. Zhanazarova, S. Ashimkhanova, R. Nurtazina, A. Almuratova, B. Muratbek, R. Meiramgaliyeva, Zh. Kulubekova, A. Ibrayeva, A. Zhumagulova), works on the theory and methodology of literary studies: V. Belinskiy,

U. Dalgat, V. Propp, M. Bakhtin, S. Azadovskiy, D. Medrish, M. Auezov, M. Karatayev, Z. Seitzhanov, Ye. Lizunova, B. Maitanov, K. Matyzhanov, G. Piraliyeva, B. Abilkasimov, A. Maulenov, B. Kanarbayeva, A. Tanzharykova), studies of the connection between literature and folklore (V. Anikina, A. Margulan, N. Gabdullin, R. Berdibai, Sh. Yeleukenov, T. Tebegenov, A. Moldakhanov, S. Kaskabasov, A. Seidimbek, S. Negimov, Zh. Dadebayev, A. Pangereyev, Zh. Aimukhambet, A. Toyshan), devoted to postmodernist processes (Y. Kristeyva, R. Barthes, J. Derrida, S. Averintsev, G. Saulembek, N. Bragina, A. Bazhenova, S. Shulezhkova, N. Kuzmina, McHale Brian, Y. Gimranova), investigating the relationship between postmodernism and folklore (J.D. Dorst, S. Binney, A. Kubasov, L. Yuzmukhametova, M. Lotman, T. Esembekov).

**Research sources.** The thesis is based on 23 stories by Gabit Musrepov, the novella ‘Once and for Life’, the novels ‘Ulpan’ and ‘Awakened Land’, the libretto of ‘Kyz Zhibek’, the dramas ‘Kozy Korpesh-Bayan Sulu’ and ‘Akan Seri-Aktokty’, a total of 1136 pages (71 printed pages). Among them: Musrepov G. Dramatic works. - Almaty: 1982. - 271 pp.; Musrepov G. Tangdamaly. Three-volume book. Vol.1. - Almaty: Zhazushy, 1980. - 542 p.; Musrepov G. Collection of multi-volume works. T.3. Ulpan: A novel / Compiled by: A. Narymbetov. - Almaty: Zhazushy, 2003. - 248 p.; Musrepov G. Selected T.2. - Almaty: Zhazushy, 1980. - 592 p.; Musrepov G. Once and for life: a story and stories. - Almaty: Zhazushy, 1987. - 160 pp.

**Research methods.** The following methods were chosen as methods of research in the scientific work: general scientific methods such as observation, description, analysis, synthesis and generalization; literary-historical, historical-comparative, typological and objective-analytical methods of analysis aimed at studying the use of folklore motifs in a work of fiction, determining their significance in the folk worldview, their cognitive and educational value. Content analysis method was used to determine the peculiarities of the use of folklore motifs, the frequency of their use and the level of implementation; interpretative analysis was used to identify hidden folklore motifs; discourse analysis, including a survey and discourse experiment, was used to study the relationship between postmodernism and folklore. In addition, the paper makes a complete selection of folklore motifs in G. Musrepov's works with subsequent comparison with folklore plots.

**The main conclusions for the defense are:**

1. Folklore as an artistic value allows to holistically reflect the spiritual essence of the people and appreciate the past. However, folklore is not always used in art in an unchanged form. In this regard, along with the concept of ‘folklore’, the term ‘folklorism’ was introduced. The use of folklore elements in literature, their influence on the poetic power of the work, plot and motive-composition aspects clarify the concept of ‘folklorism’. Thus, this concept allows us to highlight the folklore feature of an artistic work. In the works of G. Musrepov the boundaries of folklore and literature genres are manifested as a whole, which contributes to the full disclosure of the ideological and artistic content of the work and emphasizes the author's skill. The use of folklorisms in G. Musrepov's works contributes to the formation of the literary

canon of folk culture, strengthens the connection of modernity with the past tradition and helps to preserve the unique features and values of folk life.

2. Folklore motifs ensure the continuity of national culture and traditions in literature, preserve the historical memory of the people and their unique features, displaying the folk worldview, moral and ethical values. This forms the deep content of literary works and helps to preserve and renew important national values. Gabit Musrepov's works use folklore motifs appropriately. The following folklore motifs have been identified in dramatic and prose works: dream motif, mytho-poetic motif, dramatic conflict, kinship motif, eloquence motif, folklore characters' motif, bride choice motif, miraculous helper motif, heroism motif, strong man motif, which have been analyzed on the basis of examples. The methods of contextual analysis and interpretation were used to analyze folklore motifs in depth, to distinguish the peculiarities of their use and to determine the level and frequency of their application. As a result, the traditional continuity of folklore motifs in G. Musrepov's work and the changes introduced by the author were revealed.

3. The author, using mythical, fairy-tale, mythological and ethnographic plots in fiction prose, raises the ideological and artistic level of his work. In particular, mythical, fairy-tale and legendary plots are applied on the following grounds: content, figurative characteristics of characters, and author's narration. In the use of folklore plots the writer manifests new ideological solutions, often experimenting with them. This, on the one hand, affects the formation of accurate ideas about the time of the event. On the other hand, it enriches information about many customs, rituals and way of life of our people. The wide use of folklorism in fiction prose is connected with ethno genetic and historical-sociological characteristics. Folklore motifs in prose are not interpreted by the author, as the plots familiar to the reader at the intuitive level are used to a great extent. Thus, the motifs of folklore plots in the works of G. Musrepov represent the system of his artistic world in the ideological and aesthetic aspect.

4. The role of folklore characters in the linguistic and artistic structures of Gabit Musrepov's works is an important aspect that demonstrates the author's literary mastery. In his works, mythical images may not appear at the level of plot, but are used in linguistic metaphors and symbolic meaning, which testifies to the uniqueness of the author's way of conveying deep philosophical and social ideas. Gabit Musrepov presents mythical characters not directly, but indirectly, through linguistic artistic means, deeply understanding their symbolic meaning and succinctly incorporating them into the creative process. This approach allows revealing the deep layers of the author's works. Although folklore characters of mythological consciousness such as demons, giants, evil old women and witches are introduced into the work in the spirit of tradition, they serve the writer as a means to reveal a certain image. Through the characteristics and behavior of the characters he offers reflections related to various problems of modern society.

5. Interpretation of folklore genres in the writer's works is an important aspect that determines his mastery. The use of folklore genres (including proverbs, eloquent words and lyrical songs, etc.) in his creations forms intertextual links. Through intertextuality, the author's creative world enters into a deep dialogue with

national culture, which, in turn, increases the reader's cognitive abilities. When using folklore genres, the writer presents them in a new context, with a new meaning. This enriches the conceptual and stylistic structure of the work, creating a special discourse in the author's work. Not only the use of folklore genres, but also their creative reinterpretation emphasizes the common values of culture.

6. The phenomenon of intertextuality is revealed in the works of G. Musrepov. Despite the fact that in the XX century intertextuality has not yet entered into widespread use, it is established that fairy tales, myths and legends have played a significant role in the formation of works of postmodernist direction. The definition of folklore motifs in the work of G. Musrepov in the postmodernist context revealed such concepts as quotation, allusion, reminiscence, intertextuality, parody, simulation, rhizomatic structure, which allowed us to conclude about the direction of postmodernism in modern Kazakh literature. Folklore elements in the works of G. Musrepov, being closely connected with modern problems in literature, play an important role in the renewal of national culture. Thus, his work is a reflection of folklore-literary tradition, which contributed to the formation of postmodernist direction in Kazakh literature.

Based on the method of literary discourse research, an experimental analysis was carried out with the participation of 375 students. The results of the survey of respondents showed that the basis for stylistic manifestations of the postmodernist trend in modern literature is folklore. Among other things, respondents emphasize the special role of folklore motifs in the relationship between folklore and postmodernism (*“folklore motifs increase the ideological load of a work of art”, “transmission of national values in a work of art”, “representation of national traditions in a new direction”, “formation of trends in world literature by folklore motifs”*).

**A description of the main findings of the research.** In the dissertation work the peculiarities of using folklore motifs in G. Musrepov's works were considered:

1) a review of fundamental studies concerning literature and folklore was carried out and it was established that folklore motifs form a genetic link between literature and folklore;

2) prose and dramatic works of G. Musrepov were analyzed, as a result of which folklore (mythical, legendary, fairy-tale) plots and ethnographic data were revealed;

3) it was established that folklore motifs influence the development of literature, forming new methods (the process of postmodernism);

4) folklore motifs made it possible to study thematic, ideological and plot features of G. Musrepov's creativity;

5) in order to reveal the connection between folklore motifs and the process of postmodernism in literature, a discourse analysis was conducted.

**Justification of the novelty and significance of the results obtained.** The study was the first to examine the problem of folklore motifs in G. Musrepov's works, which made it possible to reveal the connection between folklore and literature at a new level. In the context of G. Musrepov's artistic works, the theory of folklorism was systematized to determine the application of folklore motifs, their service role in the author's ideas and themes, as well as the reflection of national culture and traditions in

literature. The thesis was the first to classify G. Musrepov's types of folklorism - narrative, genre, figurative, intertextual motifs - and to determine their artistic, ideological and cognitive significance. Folklorisms in his artistic works were classified into epic narrative, lyrical reflection, dramatic confrontation, mythopoetic motifs, dreams, generativity, motif of a spiritually strong man, speech turns, heroic, genre, plot, figurative and postmodern motifs, which were confirmed by concrete examples. Among them, epic narrative, lyrical reflection, dramatic confrontation, generativity, the motif of the spiritually strong man and postmodern motifs were presented for the first time.

In the dissertation work, new approaches were used when considering the connection between folklore and literature. In our scientific study, the forms of intertext subjected to the writer's style were presented as one of the types of folklorism, and this was proved on the basis of his works, opening the way to the definition of the writer's unique authorial handwriting. The conclusions and results of the study are important because they explain the influence of folklore motifs on modern literature. Accordingly, the results obtained can find practical application in studies on folklore studies, literary studies, postmodernism and the study of the relationship between folklore and literature.

**The theoretical significance of the research** is determined by the fact that folklore motifs in the works of G. Musrepov are offered in conjunction with the literary process. Our study reveals the mechanisms of using folk heritage, which is the basis of national culture, in literature and the theory of the relationship between folklore and literature. The thesis contributes to the development of the theories of folkloristics, literary studies and postmodernism, and lays the foundation for the discursive study of folklore motifs in the context of postmodernism.

**Practical relevance.** The results of the dissertation research and the collected practical materials can be used in academic courses in literary studies and folklore studies, in the scientific works of students, writing master's theses, as well as by researchers of the relationship between folklore and literature. The materials of the study are also useful for educational disciplines "Literary Studies", "Modern Kazakh Literature", "Literature of the XX century" in educational programmes on "Kazakh language and literature", "Philology" of higher educational institutions.

**Approbation of the research.** The main results and conclusions of the study were presented at the seminar 'Scientific-cognitive Friday' for doctoral students of the Faculty of Philology of Aktobe Regional University named after K. Zhubanov, at the international scientific conference 'Scientific research of the SCO countries: synergy and integration' (Beijing, 9 April 2019), at the X international scientific-practical conference 'Zhubanov Readings' (Aktobe, 25 October 2019), at the scientific-practical conference 'Modern problems of teaching the Bashkir language in the Republic of Bashkortostan and other regions of the Russian Federation' (Ufa, 14 February 2020), at the international scientific conference 'Youth, Science and Innovation' (Aktobe, 12 April 2023), at the international scientific conference 'Kazakh Literature Studies: traditions and continuity' (Uralsk, 24 November 2023), as well as in articles published in the 'International Journal of Humanities and Natural Sciences' (Novosibirsk, 2019),

‘Actual problems of modern philology’ (Orenburg, 2020), “Philological education in the period of childhood” (Yekaterinburg, 2023).

In addition, within the framework of the research topic, an internship was conducted at the Institute of History, Language and Literature of the Ufa Federal Research Centre of the Russian Academy of Sciences (Ufa, 10.02. - 10.03. 2020).

To identify the connection of folklore motifs in G. Musrepov’s works with the process of postmodernism, a discourse analysis consisting of three stages was used. At the first stage, a questionnaire survey was conducted among 375 students of 2-4 years of the Faculty of Philology of K. Zhubanov Aktobe Regional University, at the second stage is interpretation, at the third stage is discourse analysis to determine explicit and implicit information.

**Publications and approbation of the research.** 13 articles have been published on the materials of this study.

*Articles published in scientific journals recommended by the Committee for Quality Assurance in Education and Science of the Ministry of Science and Higher Education of the Republic of Kazakhstan:*

1. Reflection of the motif of ‘strong man’ in literature (based on the stories of G. Musrepov) // “Science and Life of Kazakhstan”, - 2019. - №9/1. - P. 256-260. <https://www.naukaizhizn.kz/index.php/journal/article/view/63/63>

2. ‘Folklore motifs as an element of literary and aesthetic concepts of the writer’ // Bulletin of Abay KazNPU. Series ‘Philology’. - 2019. - №4(70). - C. 323-333. <https://bulletin-philology.kaznpu.kz/index.php/ped/issue/view/27/41>

3. ‘Traditions of folklore in epic dramaturgy’ // Reports of the Academy of Education of Kazakhstan. - 2020. - №1 - C. 299-307. Reference: <https://egi.edu.kz/kk/ylymi-basylymdar/aza-bilim-akademiya-syny-bayandamalary/>

4. ‘Continuity of epic tradition in Kazakh dramaturgy’ // "Bulletin of the Kazakh National University named after Abylai Khan", Philology Series, - 2023. - №3(70) - C. 482-497.

<https://bulletin-philology.ablaikhan.kz/index.php/j1/issue/view/44/51>

5. ‘Features of the use of mythological characters in the works of G. Musrepov’ // Keruen. - 2024. - №1/82 - C. 146-158. Link: <https://keruenjournal.kz/main/issue/view/24/52>

*Articles published in the proceedings of international scientific conferences:*

1. “The significance of mythopoetic motifs in the artistic system” // Proceedings of the X International Scientific and Practical Conference “Zhubanov Readings” dedicated to the 120th anniversary of K. Zhubanov and 90th anniversary of E. K. Zhubanov. - Aktobe, 2019. - C. 144-148.

2. “About the artistic skills basics of G. Musrepov’s Kazakh literature Classics” // Materials of the International Conference “Scientific research of the SCO countries: synergy and integration” - Reports in English. Part 2. – April 9, 2019. – Beijing, PRC. – P. 53-59.

3. “Folklore and Ethnographic Motifs in the Artistic Structure of G. Musrepov’s Works” // Modern Problems of Teaching the Bashkir Language in the Republic of Bashkortostan and Other Regions of the Russian Federation. All-Russian

Scientific and Practical Conference with International Participation. - Ufa, 2020. - P. 340-349. (Oral report. Certificate.)

4. “Folklore traditions as the basis of the spiritual potential of literature” // Proceedings of the XIX international scientific conference of young scientists, PhD students, master's students and students “Youth, Science and Innovation”. - Aktobe, 2023. - P. 99-102. (Oral report. Certificate.)

5. “Folklore and Literature: Mutual Influence and Poetic Value” // International Scientific Conference “Kazakh Literary Studies: Traditions and Continuity”. - Uralsk, 2023. - P. 36-39. (Oral report. Certificate.)

*Articles published in international scientific journals and collections:*

1. “Forms of penetration of folklore into Kazakh literature” // International monthly scientific journal. - Novosibirsk, 2019. - P. 113-117.

2. «Continuidad de la tradición del etno-folklore en la prosa moderna» // Opción. – Volume 36, Issue Special Edition 27, 2020. – P. 794-808.

3. “Some issues of the typology of folklorism (based on the works of Gabit Musrepov)” // Philological education in childhood: yearbook. - Ekaterinburg, 2023. - P. 98-105.

**Structure and volume of the research.** The dissertation consists of an introduction, three chapters, a conclusion and a list of references. The total volume of the scientific work is 181 pages. The proposed dissertation work has been prepared on the basis of state regulatory documents and model standards adopted in the field of folklore studies and literary criticism:

The program “Seven Facets of the Great Steppe” (11/21/2018) is aimed at researching and popularizing the historical and cultural heritage of Kazakhstan (I. Space and time in the history of the nation. 11/21/2018).

The State Program for the Development of Education and Science of the Republic of Kazakhstan for 2020 – 2025 (10.12.2021, No. 726) is aimed at the development of education and science, including supporting research in the field of literary criticism.

The concept for the implementation of the language policy of the Republic of Kazakhstan for 2023-2029 (16.10.2023, No. 914) promotes the study of language and literature, as well as the promotion of language culture.

The national project “National Spiritual Revival” (10.12.2021, No. 724) is aimed at renewing national culture, literature and art.

These documents form the basis of research in the field of literary studies and culture in Kazakhstan and include important aspects of state policy aimed at preserving and developing spiritual and cultural heritage.

**Contribution of the doctoral student to the preparation of each research publication.** The author of this dissertation systematized theoretical approaches for a comprehensive study of the chosen topic, conducted empirical research and proposed substantiated conclusions, which led to the preparation of scientific publications. The author independently completed the entire volume of the dissertation, chose the research method and developed tasks corresponding to the research objective, and also prepared publications on the research topic. The formulation of tasks and discussion of



the obtained results within the framework of the research topic were carried out jointly with the scientific supervisors. The published materials can be used in the academic environment, as well as in research on literary criticism and folklore studies.