

A Comparative Analysis of the Theme of Homeland Loss in the Lyric Poetry of Babur and Contemporary Poets / *Uma análise comparativa do tema da perda da pátria na poesia lírica de Babur e poetas contemporâneos*

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ABSTRACT

This research aimed to analyse the symbols and metaphors used in poetry to represent the theme of homeland loss and explore how readers interpret them. The research involved a comparative analysis of the works of Zahiriddin Babur, Abdulla Oripov, and Erkin Vohidov, along with a survey. The study found that the poetry of these poets delves deep into the themes of exile, nostalgia, and cultural identity, creating powerful imagery that enables readers to connect with a lost homeland and cultural heritage. Babur's verses depict longing through detailed descriptions of Andijan's nature and architecture. Oripov's poetry centers on family, heritage, and the homeland, while Vohidov's work reflects deep patriotism through cultural symbols and depictions of native landscapes. As a result of the survey, most respondents acknowledged the importance of poetry in emotional and cultural education and also noted its potential in educational and cultural programs to strengthen patriotism.

KEYWORDS: Allegories and symbols; Literary imagery; Nostalgia and exile; Symbolism in literature; Emotional imagery

RESUMO

Esta pesquisa teve como objetivo analisar os símbolos e metáforas usados na poesia para representar o tema da perda da pátria e explorar como os leitores os interpretam. A pesquisa envolveu uma análise comparativa das obras de Zahiriddin Babur, Abdulla Oripov e Erkin Vohidov, juntamente com um inquérito. O estudo descobriu que a poesia desses poetas se aprofunda nos temas de exílio, nostalgia e identidade cultural, criando imagens poderosas que permitem aos leitores se conectar com uma pátria perdida e herança cultural. Os versos de Babur retratam esse desejo por meio de descrições detalhadas da natureza e arquitetura de Andijan. A poesia de Oripov se concentra na família, herança e pátria, enquanto o trabalho de Vohidov reflete profundo patriotismo por meio de símbolos culturais e representações de paisagens nativas. Como resultado da pesquisa, a maioria dos entrevistados reconheceu a importância da poesia na educação emocional e cultural.

PALAVRAS-CHAVE: Alegorias e símbolos; Imaginário literário; Nostalgia e exílio; Simbolismo na literatura; Imaginário emocional

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Introduction

The lyric poetry of the Uzbek poet Zahiriddin Babur¹ (1483-1530), a significant historical and cultural figure who wrote in the late fifteenth and early sixteenth centuries, offers insights into how the loss of one's homeland was perceived and expressed in his time. Contemporary poets Abdulla Oripov² (1941-2016) and Erkin Vohidov³ (1936-2016), reflect current social, political, and cultural realities, offering a perspective on how these factors influence the understanding of homeland loss in the modern world. A comparative analysis highlights the diversity of literary techniques and stylistic features used to convey this theme, revealing how poets from different eras and cultures employ images, symbols, and metaphors to create deep and multi-layered meanings. Thus, the study of the theme of homeland loss in the lyric poetry of Babur and twentieth-century poets is essential for deepening our cultural, historical, and literary understanding, as well as for shaping our emotional and psychological perception of nostalgia and exile.

The symbols and metaphors used by poets to convey the theme of homeland loss have different meanings depending on the cultural and historical context (Toktagazin *et al.*, 2016; Stadnik, 2024). This requires careful analysis and understanding of the cultural codes and symbolism of each era. It should be noted that the contemporary poets Abdulla Oripov and Erkin Vohidov belong to different cultural and literary traditions, which adds complexity to the comparison. Research into the comparative analysis of the theme of homeland loss in the lyric poetry of Babur and modern poets encounters several challenges related to the historical and cultural gap, differences in literary traditions, the interpretation of symbols and metaphors, language barriers, the subjectivity of perception, and the diversity of contemporary poets.

¹ Zahiriddin Muhammad Babur was a Turco-Mongol ruler, military strategist, poet, and writer, best known as the founder of the Mughal Empire in India. Born in the Fergana Valley (modern Uzbekistan), Babur was a descendant of Tamerlane (Timur) on his father's side and Genghis Khan on his mother's side, making him a key figure in both Central Asian and Indian history.

² Abdulla Oripov was one of the most influential Uzbek poets, writers, and intellectuals of the twentieth and twenty-first centuries. His works profoundly explore themes of patriotism, spirituality, and human fate, significantly shaping contemporary Uzbek literature and national consciousness. Additionally, he played a role in composing the lyrics of Uzbekistan's national anthem.

³ Erkin Vohidov was a distinguished Uzbek poet and playwright whose works explored themes of patriotism, human dignity, and existential reflection, significantly shaping modern Uzbek literature. His poetry remains influential for its deep philosophical insights and rich imagery.

Numerous scholars have investigated the significance of emotions and their expression in poetry, as well as the impact of poetic imagery on perception and self-identification. Yoon Lee, Yong-Ha Park and Sowon Hahn (2023) highlighted the importance of emotional aspects in poetry, particularly the influence of expressing various emotions through poetic devices on the reader. Philip Johnson-Laird and Keith Oatley (2022) focused on the significance of emotions in literary works in general. They argued that the emotional experiences of authors are reflected in the text in a way that fosters an emotional response in readers, emphasizing the role of emotions in literary perception. The research of Atsushi Iida and Bee Chamcharatsri (2020) also concentrated on the significance of emotional tone in the perception of poetry. They noted how poets use emotions to create depth and complexity in their works, and how this affects readers' perception and interpretation. José Carvalho and Cláudia de Melo Tavares (2021) noted that the poetic depiction of problems and complex thoughts contributes to introspective thinking and the construction of self-identity. Saad Aldeen (2022) examined the importance of emotions and the search for identity in poetry, especially in the context of themes related to the homeland.

Scholars have also examined how poetry conveys deep meanings, including patriotism and cultural heritage, through symbolism and folk imagery. Cishore Misra (2023) argued that poems transcend the context of their creation, revealing to readers not only romantic symbolism but also deeper meanings such as patriotism. The author emphasised that poetry can serve as a powerful tool for expressing national identity and collective consciousness. Mohammed Talib Ashour (2021) noted that poets often used a variety of folk symbols in their works to reveal and convey the culture of their homeland. Talib Ashour pointed to the significance of these symbols in shaping cultural heritage and their role in maintaining and strengthening national identity through literature.

In the twenty-first-century, scholars are exploring how the life journey and literary heritage of Zahiriddin Babur influence the expression of patriotic sentiments and cultural heritage in his works. Nadria Ablaeva (2023) argued in her study that Babur's tragic life is reflected in his poems, showing how the poet's personal experiences and trials impacted the themes and emotional depth of his work. She noted how different stages of Babur's life, including exile and his power struggle, were manifested in his poetry through imagery, metaphors, and symbols, which imbued his works with particular emotional

richness and historical significance. Mehrubon Riskaliev (2024) emphasised Babur's important role in fostering patriotic generations through his manuscripts, highlighting how the poet's literary heritage contributes to shaping national consciousness and patriotic values. Riskaliev also focused on the significance of Babur as a historical and cultural figure, whose heritage continues to play an important role in contemporary society. Norika Bakumenko (2023) acknowledged Babur's contribution to the cultural development of various peoples, stressing that his influence extends beyond literature and encompasses many other spheres.

Further research is needed to explore how contemporary poets utilise symbolism and folk imagery to convey complex cultural and patriotic meanings. It would also be beneficial to examine how specific cultural contexts influence the perception of emotions in poetry and how the use of various literary devices can enhance emotional responses and facilitate readers' self-identification. This study aimed to analyse the tools employed by Zahiriddin Babur, Erkin Vohidov, and Abdulla Oripov within their poetry to convey the theme of homeland loss. The objectives were as follows:

1. to examine the poetic works of Uzbek poets and their historical and cultural context;
2. to identify the main motifs and themes related to homeland loss and their evolution in Uzbek poetry from the late fifteenth and early sixteenth centuries to the twenty-first-century.

Materials and Methods

The initial stage of this research involved selecting significant excerpts from Zahiriddin Babur's poem "If even in your own homeland you are forgotten by your sweetheart"⁴ (1982), Abdulla Oripov's "Man"⁵ (2012), and Erkin Vohidov's "Mother

⁴ The poem "If even in your own homeland you are forgotten by your sweetheart" reflects themes of love, longing, and exile, which were central to his poetry and personal experiences. This poem conveys the pain of being forsaken, even in one's own land, intertwining personal grief with a broader reflection on fate and human relationships.

⁵ The poem "Man" is a philosophical and reflective piece that explores the essence of human existence, morality, and the transient nature of life. The poem reflects the struggles, aspirations, and contradictions of human nature, emphasizing the pursuit of meaning and ethical living.

Planet”⁶ (Ilyin, 2021) for detailed analysis. These excerpts represented the most expressive examples of the use of poetic devices, symbols, and imagery that most effectively convey feelings of exile and nostalgia. Attention was paid to both the individual characteristics of each poet and the common trends observed in their work. The texts were analysed for the presence of specific lexical fields, which involved studying recurring words and phrases related to the themes of exile and nostalgia. The research focused on the frequency of use of certain lexical units, as well as their semantic connections and the contexts in which they appeared, which helped to identify keywords and expressions that most fully reflect the emotional state of the authors. Images of nature, architecture, specific objects, and places were analysed for their connection to themes of loss and nostalgia.

Erkin Vohidov and Abdulla Oripov are key figures in contemporary Uzbek poetry, each of whom continues to develop themes related to the homeland and cultural roots. The selection of these particular poets allowed for a comparative analysis of different eras and approaches to expressing feelings about the homeland, making the research more comprehensive and multifaceted. Attention was paid to both the individual characteristics of each poet and the common trends observed in their work. The texts were analysed for the presence of specific lexical fields, which involved studying recurring words and phrases related to the themes of exile and nostalgia. The research focused on the frequency of use of certain lexical units, as well as their semantic connections and the contexts in which they appeared, which helped to identify keywords and expressions that most fully reflect the emotional state of the authors. Images of nature, architecture, specific objects, and places were analysed for their connection to themes of loss and nostalgia. Particular attention was paid to symbolism, which helps to create metaphorical and allegorical layers of text, enhancing the emotional impact on the reader. Through content analysis of the poetry of Zahiriddin Babur and contemporary poets such as Erkin Vohidov and Abdulla Oripov, key marker words were identified that reflect the theme of exile and longing for the homeland. The following marker words were used for the analysis: “homeland,” “loss,” “exile,” “nostalgia,” “memories,” “landscapes,” “gardens,” “mountains,” “homes,” and “fertile lands.”

⁶ The poem “Mother Planet” is a powerful lyrical reflection on humanity’s relationship with nature, environmental responsibility, and the deep emotional connection between humans and their homeland. The poem carries a strong ecological message, urging respect and care for nature.

The second stage of the research involved a study of the lexicon, syntax, morphology, and stylistic features of poetic texts that illuminate the theme of homeland loss in poetry. The lexical analysis focuses on examining the specific vocabulary of each poet, exploring how the use of particular words and expressions helps convey complex emotional states. Particular attention was paid to words related to nostalgia for the homeland, loss, home, exile, and the search for belonging. The frequency of occurrence of particular lexemes and the contexts in which they were used were investigated, allowing the identification of dominant lexical fields characteristic of each author. This enabled an understanding of how word choice and grammatical constructions contribute to the creation of emotional richness and depth in the works. The research also involved a survey of 100 students of philological faculties at the National University of Uzbekistan named after Mirzo Ulugbek (Table 1).

Table 1. Questions for philology students

<i>No.</i>	<i>Questions</i>
1.	Does the poetry of Zahiriddin Babur’s “If even in your own homeland you are forgotten by your sweetheart,” Erkin Vohidov’s “Mother Planet,” and Abdulla Oripov’s “Man” influence the sense of patriotism?
2.	Can the poetry of Zahiriddin Babur, Erkin Vohidov and Abdulla Oripov on cultural heritage strengthen national identity?
3.	Does the inclusion of Uzbek authors’ poetry in educational and cultural programmes reinforce patriotism?
4.	Does the depiction of historical events in the poetry of Zahiriddin Babur, Erkin Vohidov and Abdulla Oripov contribute to the patriotic development of young people?
5.	Have you ever experienced a situation where poetry impacted your perception of patriotism?

Source: created by the author.

The study involved 100 respondents aged between 18 and 25 (73 females and 27 males). The research was conducted from May 20 to May 31, 2024. The survey results helped to determine the extent to which students’ perception of poetry is linked to their patriotic feelings and cultural identity, and how the use of such works in educational and cultural programs contributes to the formation of these feelings. This, in turn, allowed for more informed conclusions about the impact of poetry on national identity and patriotism, which is an important component of the content analysis of the works of Zahiriddin Babur, Erkin Vohidov and Abdulla Oripov.

Results

The theme of homeland loss in literature is illuminated through a variety of literary devices and styles that help to deepen our understanding of the emotional and psychological aspects of exile and nostalgia. The images and symbols used in literature to express loss play a key role in creating metaphors that reflect the inner states of characters (Paudel, 2021; Maritain, 2022). Natural imagery is often used to convey deep emotions and states (Priyanshu, 2022; Leishman, 2021).

Intertextuality is a significant literary device that allows writers to connect their works with classical texts, myths, and cultural symbols (Currie, 2021). This approach creates a deep context for the theme of homeland loss, enhancing its emotional impact and emphasising the universality of the topic. It is worth considering how intertextuality functions in literature and how it is used to illuminate the theme of loss. Intertextuality refers to the interconnectedness of texts and how one text can allude to another (Gadban and Ghanim, 2024).

The emotional and psychological portraits of characters in literature play a key role in creating a deep and multifaceted representation of the characters' inner worlds (Muharudin *et al.*, 2023; Shashwat *et al.*, 2022; Carpenter and Barnard, 2023). To achieve this, various techniques are employed, including detailed descriptions of inner worlds, streams of consciousness, and deep internal monologues. These elements allow the reader to delve deeper into the characters' personal experiences and their internal conflicts, especially in the context of the theme of loss.

Stream of consciousness is a literary technique that presents a continuous, often unconnected, flow of a character's thoughts, emotions, and sensations (Omer, 2021; Turan, 2021). This method allows for a more complex and multi-layered representation of the characters' inner worlds. Stream of consciousness helps to convey not only conscious thoughts but also subconscious emotions and associations, making the characters' emotional experiences seem more vivid and authentic (Mizin *et al.*, 2023). Internal monologues are extended reflections of a character that allow for a detailed examination of their inner conflict and emotional states (Houen, 2021; Dinkler, 2023). These monologues can be isolated reflections or part of a broader narrative. Internal monologues often involve elements of self-reflection, where the character analyses their

actions, motivations, and experiences (Shershova and Chaika, 2024). This helps to create a more complex and multifaceted representation of the character's inner world. The stylistic features of a literary work, including word choice, rhythm, and poetic language, play a crucial role in creating emotional depth and conveying the intensity of feelings, especially in the context of loss and nostalgia (Suwastini and Rahmayanti, 2024; Eslami *et al.*, 2023; Beaumont, 2022). These stylistic elements help to create a specific atmosphere that deepens the reader's understanding of the characters' inner states and emotional experiences. It is worth exploring in more detail how stylistic features influence the conveyance of feelings of longing and nostalgia.

Zahiriddin Babur was born in the Fergana Valley (modern-day Uzbekistan) and spent a significant portion of his life in exile, a circumstance that profoundly influenced his poetry. In works such as the "Baburnama,"⁷ he frequently expresses nostalgia for his lost home and a yearning for his homeland. His verses are replete with memories of his native places, sorrow over his lost identity, and a longing to return to his roots. Babur, a great military commander, statesman, and poet, lived a life marked by change and exile. His poetry, imbued with a deep sense of yearning and homesickness, provides a key insight into how he conveyed his emotions through detailed imagery and symbolism (Guzeloglu, 2018).

One of the key ways in which Babur conveys his sense of exile is through the use of natural imagery, such as fertile lands, gardens, and mountain landscapes. These images are not merely descriptions of specific places but powerful symbols that reflect the poet's inner turmoil. They become metaphors for a lost paradise in his poetry. These images are imbued with a sense of loss and serve as symbols of what has been irrevocably lost. The Fergana Valley, with its fertile lands and diverse natural beauty, represented for Babur not just a physical place but an idealised world where he felt safe and in harmony with nature. Through detailed descriptions of these places, such as vineyards, which became symbols of abundance, and gardens, which were associated with peace and beauty, Babur not only conveys the beauty of his homeland but also intensifies his feelings of longing and exile.

⁷ "Baburnama" (also known as "Memoirs of Babur") is an autobiographical work chronicling the life, military campaigns, and personal reflections of Babur (1483-1530), the founder of the Mughal Empire. It is considered one of the finest examples of early modern autobiographical literature and provides a vivid account of the political, social, and cultural life of Central and South Asia during the late fifteenth and early sixteenth centuries.

These images serve as a bridge between his personal experience and the broader theme of loss, which is relatable to every reader.

Nostalgia is another crucial aspect of Babur's poetry, conveyed through specific memories of the past. His recollections of Fergana, particularly its natural beauty, become a kind of "anchor" to the past, which he clings to in an attempt to maintain a connection with the bygone days. This nostalgia is expressed through recurring images and motifs that highlight the contrast between what was and what has become. Memories of the Fergana Valley, with its rich nature and lush gardens, are juxtaposed against the harsh reality of exile and a foreign land. For Babur, nature becomes more than just an object of admiration; it becomes a carrier of emotional content. Through nature, he expresses his loneliness and sense of loss, thereby creating an emotional response in the reader. The green gardens and vineyards symbolise not only physical beauty but also the spiritual well-being that was lost with his homeland. These nature-related images serve as a reminder of what once was and what is now irrevocably lost.

Babur's use of specific imagery and detailed descriptions enhances the emotional impact of his poetry. The reader not only understands the poet's feelings but also experiences them alongside him. Detailed descriptions of landscapes and nature allow the reader to feel the poet's longing and to sense the loss he experiences. This approach, grounded in concrete imagery, creates a more powerful emotional response than abstract reflections on homeland and exile.

Babur's poetry demonstrates how, through the use of natural imagery, memories, and detailed descriptions, he conveys the profound emotions of longing and exile. His descriptions of the landscapes of Andijan, such as fertile lands, gardens, and mountains, become symbolic of a lost paradise that he can never reclaim. Through these images, Babur not only shares his personal experiences but also creates an emotional connection with the reader, allowing them to deeply understand and feel the pain of loss and nostalgia. In this context, his poetry becomes more than just an expression of personal feelings; it is a powerful tool for conveying universal human emotions. In one passage, Babur (1982) describes his longing for his homeland: "Fate drives me out – otherwise, captivated by the hyacinth,"/ "Would I have roamed away from my native doorstep?" (Babur, 1982, p. 46).

This description provides a detailed portrayal of the atmosphere he is bidding farewell to, creating a vivid visual and emotional impression for the reader. In another

instance, he expresses his feelings about the loss of his homeland: “If even in your own homeland you are forgotten by your sweetheart,”/ “In a foreign land, will you truly find faithfulness?” (Babur, 1982, p. 55).

In this context, these specific images serve as metaphors for his feelings of exile and loss. Zahiriddin Babur not only conveys his personal sense of loss but also creates a cultural context for understanding the loss of an entire civilisation and its values. His detailed descriptions of the nature and architecture of Andijan contribute to the preservation of cultural heritage and its significance for future generations. This allows readers to better understand the historical and cultural aspects of the era. Babur employs specific imagery and detailed descriptions to convey his feelings of exile, making them more tangible and realistic for readers. His poetry and autobiographical writings are an important source for studying not only his personal experiences but also the cultural and historical aspects of his time.

Abdulla Oripov, an outstanding Uzbek poet, is a prominent representative of contemporary Uzbek literature. His work prominently features themes related to the exploration of cultural and personal roots, which are reflected in his profound and emotional imagery. Through his poetry, Abdulla Oripov not only articulates his thoughts and feelings but also creates images that resonate with the collective memory and identity of his people. His poetry is rich with motifs of family, homeland, and cultural heritage, emphasising his strong attachment to his roots and the depth of his experiences. One of the central motifs in Abdulla Oripov’s poetry is family. This motif extends beyond merely depicting specific family members to encompass a broader concept of kinship that includes the past, present, and future. For Abdulla Oripov, family is not just a social unit but also a cultural institution through which traditions, values, and history are transmitted. In his verses, he frequently invokes images of parents, children, and ancestors, thereby creating a multi-layered representation of familial roots that connect him to his homeland and culture. In Abdulla Oripov’s poetry, family emerges as a symbol of resilience and continuity, despite social and political changes. For instance, references to the figures of a mother or father transcend personal sentiment, embodying broader concepts such as love for the homeland, respect for traditions, and the preservation of cultural heritage. In this context, Abdulla Oripov’s familial motifs resonate with themes of homeland and cultural legacy, crafting a cohesive vision of his attachment to his roots.

Another significant motif in Abdulla Oripov's poetry is his native land. These places are not merely described in terms of their physical beauty; they are imbued with profound symbolic significance. For Abdulla Oripov, native lands are not just geographical locations but also the environments that shaped his identity, laying the foundation for his worldview and understanding of life. In his verses, he frequently portrays the landscapes of his homeland, conveying his emotional experiences and deep connection to this land. These landscapes serve as metaphors for his inner world, reflecting his feelings, moods, and experiences. For instance, descriptions of rural areas, mountains, or rivers in Abdulla Oripov's poetry does not merely create visual imagery; it symbolises his attachment to the culture and history of his people. Thus, his native places function as cultural and emotional anchors, linking him to his past and helping him maintain his identity in a changing world. Cultural heritage occupies an important place in Abdulla Oripov's work. He often references historical events, legends, and traditions of his people in his poetry, thereby creating a connection between the past and the present. For Abdulla Oripov, cultural heritage is not merely a part of history but a living element that continues to influence contemporary life. Through his poetry, he underscores the importance of preserving and transmitting this heritage to future generations.

An important aspect of this heritage is language. For Abdulla Oripov, the Uzbek language is not merely a means of communication; it serves as a carrier of cultural codes through which traditions and values are transmitted. In his poetry, he employs a rich and varied language, enabling him to create multi-layered images and metaphors that resonate with both individual and collective memory. Language becomes the instrument through which he expresses his attachment to his homeland and its cultural heritage. Abdulla Oripov's poetry is a profound exploration of cultural and personal roots through the use of emotionally charged imagery. The motifs of family, native land, and cultural heritage play a pivotal role in his work, helping him articulate his connection to his homeland and its traditions. These motifs not only emphasise his personal feelings but also construct a broader understanding of collective identity and the importance of preserving cultural values. Through his poetry, Abdulla Oripov (2012) continues a vital tradition in Uzbek poetry, linking the past with the present and creating profound images that resonate in the hearts of readers. He writes:

Like different flowers on this earth sphere,
Each land is unique, a beauty so clear.
Yet perhaps more splendid than all blooms in view
Is the land of my homeland, my native shore too.
(Oripov, 2012, p. 1).

A passage from Abdulla Oripov's poem demonstrates the poet's deep attachment to his homeland. Abdulla Oripov employs the metaphor of flowers to illustrate the uniqueness and distinctiveness of each corner of the Earth, emphasising the exceptional beauty of his native land. By comparing his homeland to the most splendid bloom, the poet expresses a sense of pride and admiration for his country. Abdulla Oripov uses floral imagery to highlight the diversity and beauty of different places on Earth. Flowers symbolise natural beauty and variety, making each region unique. The poet not only describes the beauty of his homeland but elevates it above all others. This underscores his profound attachment to and pride in his land. It creates an impression for the reader that, for the poet, his land is not merely a geographical location but something far more significant and personal. Overall, this excerpt reflects key themes in Abdulla Oripov's poetry: love for his homeland, recognition of its uniqueness and beauty, and deep emotional ties to the place of his birth. His personal roots are reflected in themes of childhood and family values. He writes:

The stream runs on, through slopes unknown,
It bumps against the stones, so blind,
Upon its distant, sorrowful quest.
It crashes on the banks, alone,
And still cannot its homeland find.
(Oripov, 2012, p. 1).

This passage symbolises a profound sense of loss and nostalgia. Abdulla Oripov employs the image of a stream flowing through unfamiliar territories, encountering obstacles along the way, to convey the emotional state of a person who finds themselves far from their homeland. The stream represents an individual in constant movement and search. As it flows over unknown slopes, it signifies new, foreign places that must be traversed. Through the metaphor of the stream, the poet articulates his profound feelings and crafts an emotionally rich depiction of struggle and longing. Consequently, Abdulla Oripov's poetry serves as a deep exploration of cultural and personal roots, conveying complex emotions through rich and symbolic imagery. His verses resonate with readers,

evoking a strong sense of nostalgia and pride in their cultural heritage, which renders his work particularly significant within the context of Uzbek literature.

Erkin Vohidov, one of the most distinguished poets of twentieth-century Uzbek literature, is renowned for his profound patriotic sentiments and deep attachment to his native land. His works are replete with imagery and symbolism that convey not only love and affection for his homeland but also nostalgia and a yearning for a bygone era when the connection to the land was more immediate and profound. Through his poetry, Vohidov creates vivid and emotive tableaux that communicate his innermost feelings and perspective on his native land. The motif of the homeland occupies a central position in Erkin Vohidov's poetry. His works are imbued with a sense of deep reverence for his native land, its history, and its culture. For Erkin Vohidov, the homeland is not merely a geographical concept but something far more encompassing, encompassing language, traditions, people, and culture. He perceives the homeland as a source of inspiration, strength, and meaning in life. Erkin Vohidov turns to the imagery of nature, architecture, culture, and traditions of Uzbekistan to express his attachment to his native land and to highlight its uniqueness and value.

A key aspect of Erkin Vohidov's poetry is his masterful use of rich and multifaceted imagery and symbolism. He skilfully employs natural imagery, such as mountains, rivers, deserts, and steppes, to convey his feelings about his homeland. These images often symbolise the enduring strength, timeless grandeur, and beauty of his native land. For instance, mountains in his poetry can personify the strength and steadfastness of the homeland, while rivers represent the life force and continuity of traditions.

Alongside natural imagery, Erkin Vohidov also employs cultural and historical symbols to emphasise the importance of Uzbekistan's cultural heritage. His poetry contains references to historical events, legends, and myths, which serve as sources of inspiration and pride for him. These symbols enable Vohidov not only to express his relationship with the past but also to highlight the relevance of these values in the modern world. Nostalgia and longing for lost times also play a significant role in Erkin Vohidov's poetry. He frequently reflects on the past, expressing regret over the loss of the immediate connection to his homeland that characterised previous generations. There is a palpable sense of yearning for those times when the homeland was perceived as something more intimate and personal. Vohidov conveys these feelings through descriptions of landscapes

that were once sources of joy and inspiration but now appear distant and unattainable. These sentiments of nostalgia and longing for the past are further reflected in images related to the passage of time and change in the environment. For instance, his poems often feature images of vanishing villages, ruined monuments, or abandoned fields, symbolising the loss of connection to the native land. These images evoke a sense of melancholy and sadness, amplified by memories of a bygone era.

In the poetry of Erkin Vohidov, the attachment to his homeland is expressed not only through imagery and symbols but also through the language he employs. His verses are filled with expressive and emotional words that convey his feelings towards his native land. He often incorporates archaisms and dialectal expressions, which lend a unique depth and emotional richness to his poetry. Vohidov views his native language as a crucial element of cultural identity, linking him to his past and aiding in the preservation of his people's heritage. Through his vivid imagery and symbols, Erkin Vohidov crafts profound and emotional pictures in his poetry that express his love, attachment, and longing for his homeland. His works reflect not only his personal feelings but also broader cultural and historical aspects that hold significant meaning for the Uzbek people. Through his poetry, Vohidov explores the relationship between individuals and their homeland, articulating this connection through images of nature, cultural symbols, and language. Thus, his poetry serves not only as an expression of individual emotions but also as an essential component of Uzbekistan's cultural heritage, which continues to inspire and resonate with readers.

Erkin Vohidov frequently depicts the natural and cultural aspects of Uzbekistan, employing vivid metaphors and symbolism to underscore his connection to his native land. His poems are replete with images of Uzbek landscapes, traditions, and customs, which amplify the patriotic tone of his poetry. Through his works, Erkin Vohidov expresses a profound respect and love for his homeland. He emphasises the cultural heritage, history, and traditions of Uzbekistan, allowing the reader to feel his genuine emotions. Erkin Vohidov's poetry addresses important themes of patriotism, self-sacrifice, and responsibility towards the homeland:

If your country and people face a threat,
Should others dare to claim what's yours,
You'll dwell in hardship, filled with regret,
In sorrow's grip, your heart will feel its sores.

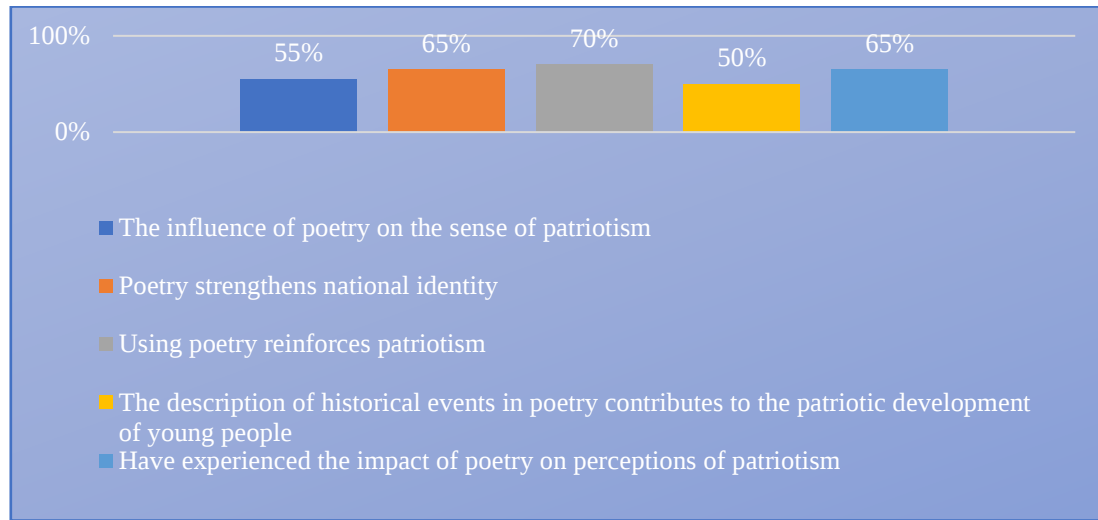
Bakhtiniana, São Paulo, 20 (2): e68707e, April/June 2025

All on Earth belongs to you, it's true,
As she nurtures like a mother's care;
Though weary and worn, she still calls to you –
Be the remedy for her despair.
(Ilyin, 2021, p. 1)

In this passage, the poet speaks of the necessity to protect one's country and people from external threats, even if it brings suffering and adversity. Vohidov employs the metaphor of the homeland as a mother in need of protection and healing, emphasising that each individual must become a "remedy" for their country, ready to assist and heal it in difficult times. He highlights the need to sacrifice one's comfort and well-being for the sake of defending the homeland. He firmly believes that a true patriot must be prepared to endure suffering and hardship if it serves the greater good of the country. The poet uses the image of a mother to intensify the emotional tone of the poem. The homeland is portrayed as a sick and weary mother, in need of the care and protection of her children. This imagery strengthens the sense of duty and attachment to the homeland. Erkin Vohidov calls upon his readers to become the "remedy" for their country, implying that everyone must contribute to its recovery and prosperity. This metaphor underscores the idea of active participation and personal responsibility for every citizen. In the context of this poem, parallels can be drawn with other works by Erkin Vohidov, where he similarly explores themes of patriotism and selflessness. Thus, Erkin Vohidov poetry, infused with motifs of the homeland and cultural symbols, serves as a powerful means of expressing his attachment to Uzbekistan and allows readers to sense the depth of his emotions.

The results of the content analysis revealed that the use of detailed descriptions and specific imagery in the poetry of Zahiriddin Babur, Abdulla Oripov and Erkin Vohidov effectively conveys feelings of exile and homesickness. These elements render the poets' emotions tangible to readers and create a strong emotional response. The analysis demonstrates that through poetic imagery and metaphors, the authors not only express their personal experiences but also convey the cultural and historical contexts of their time. It is worth noting the results of a survey conducted among students of the philological faculties at the National University of Uzbekistan is named after Mirzo Ulugbek (Figure 1).

Figure 1. Results of the survey of philology students from May 20 to May 31, 2024



Source: created by the author.

The percentage data from the survey reveals several important insights regarding the role of poetry in shaping patriotic sentiments among students. A majority of respondents, 55%, recognized that poetry has an influence on their sense of patriotism, demonstrating a moderate acknowledgment of its emotional impact. A larger proportion, 65%, agreed that poetry contributes to strengthening national identity, reflecting a strong connection between poetry and cultural heritage. Additionally, 70% of students emphasized the role of poetry in reinforcing patriotism, illustrating the widespread belief in its effectiveness as a tool for fostering patriotic feelings. However, when it comes to the portrayal of historical events in poetry, opinions were more divided, with only 50% of respondents agreeing that such depictions contribute to the patriotic development of youth. This suggests that not all students view historical poetry as equally effective in cultivating patriotism, possibly due to personal preferences or varying experiences with these works. On a positive note, 65% of students reported having personal experiences where poetry influenced their understanding of patriotism, highlighting the direct emotional impact poetry has on their perceptions of national identity. Together, these findings underscore the significant role of poetry in promoting patriotism and shaping national consciousness among students, particularly within educational and cultural contexts.

Discussion

The literary exploration of the loss of one's homeland is manifested through a variety of artistic devices and stylistic features that convey the emotional and psychological aspects of exile and nostalgia. Descriptions of nature and architecture, as well as unconventional narrative structures, amplify the perception of loss and create an atmosphere of ruin and desolation. The use of stylistic devices such as metaphors and allegories add emotional depth and underscores the sense of longing (Madmarova *et al.*, 2021). In the poetry of Zahiriddin Babur, Abdulla Oripov and Erkin Vohidov, these themes are examined through the lens of exile and cultural identity, creating images that link personal experiences to cultural context. Survey results among students have shown a significant influence of these works on the formation of patriotic feelings and national identity, highlighting their role in emotional and cultural education.

In literature, natural imagery often serves as a vital tool for conveying complex emotional states and psychological experiences (Abdykadyrova *et al.*, 2023; Zhanyrbayeva *et al.*, 2021). This study reveals that poets frequently employ elements such as fallen leaves, withered trees, dried-up rivers, and other natural phenomena to symbolise loss and a changing world. Fallen leaves, for example, can personify the end of one life stage and the beginning of another, expressing a sense of loss and transition. They become a metaphor for ageing, change, and the loss of vitality. Dying trees symbolise the destruction of the former order and losses caused by internal crises or life changes. These images are often used to create an atmosphere of decline and nostalgia. The change of seasons, particularly the transition from summer to autumn and winter, represents changes in the lives of the characters. Autumn and winter are associated with wilting and death, while spring embodies renewal and hope. These natural metaphors play a key role in literature, helping authors express the profound inner experiences of their characters and their interactions with the surrounding world. Natural imagery is often perceived as a universal symbol of home and belonging. In the works of Zahiriddin Babur, specific images serve as metaphors for his feelings of exile and loss. Babur does not merely convey his personal sense of loss; he also creates a cultural context that allows for a deeper understanding of the loss of an entire civilisation and its values. His detailed descriptions of the nature and architectural elements of the Fergana Valley contribute to

the preservation of cultural heritage and its significance for future generations. This enables readers to reflect more profoundly on the historical and cultural aspects of the era. Babur masterfully employs specific images and detailed descriptions to convey his feelings of exile, making them more tangible and realistic for readers. His poetic and autobiographical works serve as an important source for studying not only his personal experiences but also the cultural and historical contexts of his time.

According to S. Egya (2021), nature (the natural environment, biodiversity, flora, and fauna) is also thematised as home. This idea resonates with the findings of this study but emphasises a positive perception of nature as a symbol of comfort and stability. Egya argues that nature, including biodiversity, flora, and fauna, acts as a symbol of home and safety in literature. The natural environment in his studies is often described as a place where characters find refuge and restoration, contrasting with author's conclusions about nature as a symbol of loss and transition. In turn, L. Joschko *et al.* (2023) noted that poetry addressing life's challenges through nature-themed verses can reduce the stigma surrounding mental health. Their research demonstrates that the use of natural imagery in literature helps readers identify with and empathetically understand the inner states of characters, fostering a deeper comprehension and compassion for mental and emotional issues. Thus, natural imagery in literature is a powerful tool for conveying emotional and psychological states. It can serve as both metaphors for loss and change, as well as symbols of home and belonging. These findings highlight the importance of context and interpretation in the analysis of literary works and affirm that nature as a symbol holds a broad spectrum of meanings, allowing authors to explore the inner experiences of characters and their interactions with the surrounding world more profoundly.

As previously mentioned, images of urban architecture and natural landscapes in literature do not function in isolation; they are intricately interwoven with cultural and historical contexts, adding additional layers of meaning. Natural and architectural elements can carry specific cultural significances that enhance the metaphorical interpretation of the theme of loss. In some cultures, for instance, abandoned temples or ruined monuments may epitomise the decline of civilisation or the loss of spiritual values. These images often allude to historical events, such as wars, revolutions, or natural disasters, linking the personal experiences of characters to broader historical and cultural processes. Ruined buildings can symbolise the collapse of the past and the loss of cultural

heritage, evoking feelings of grief and nostalgia (Kongyratbay, 2020). Changes in nature, such as dried-up rivers or dying trees, may reflect societal and environmental transformations brought about by human activity or natural catastrophes.

These images help convey how external changes resonate within the internal worlds of characters, intensifying the depth of their experiences. For Zahiriddin Babur, nature becomes not merely an object of admiration but also an expression of emotional states. Through natural imagery, he conveys his loneliness and sense of loss, eliciting an emotional response from the reader. Lush gardens and vineyards symbolise not only physical beauty but also the loss of spiritual well-being associated with the loss of homeland. These natural images serve as reminders of a past that is now irretrievably lost. The research of Y. Dahami (2022) also draws attention to the role of architectural images, but from a different perspective. Dahami aims to illustrate the poet's intellectuality in portraying his illustrious city as a representation of his adoration for a grand home. In this context, urban images serve as symbols of pride and cultural heritage, contrasting with contrasting them with gained conclusions of destruction and loss. In contrast to this study, which emphasises the metaphorical perception of destroyed and altered architectural and natural images as symbols of loss and decline, Y. Dahami examines architectural images as expressions of cultural grandeur and intellectual strength. This distinction illustrates how the same symbols can be interpreted differently depending on cultural context and authorial intent.

Both studies highlight the significance of architectural and natural imagery but focus on different aspects of their meanings. This research concentrates on their roles as symbols of loss, change, and historical catastrophe, helping to reveal the complex internal experiences of characters and their connections to historical and cultural processes. In contrast, Y. Dahami accentuates the positive aspects of these images, portraying them as symbols of pride, cultural greatness, and intellectual power. These differences in interpretation underscore the multifaceted nature of architectural and natural imagery in literature and their capacity to convey a wide range of human emotions and experiences. Moreover, this highlights the importance of cultural and historical context in the analysis of literary works, as the same image can carry different meanings depending on its context.

Images of nature and architecture play a crucial role in literature, aiding authors in conveying the complex emotional and psychological states of their characters (Kongyratbay, 2021). They can symbolise loss and change while also serving as symbols of cultural grandeur and intellectual strength. These images, intertwined with cultural and historical contexts, help create layered and profound metaphors, making literary works more resonant and meaningful for readers. A comparison with the studies of other scholars, such as Y. Dahami, demonstrates how the diversity of interpretations of the same symbols enriches our understanding of literature and its ability to reflect the human experience.

It is important to note that the research has revealed that natural and architectural images play a key role in literature, assisting authors in conveying the complex emotional and psychological states of characters. These images are frequently employed to symbolise loss, change, cultural grandeur, and intellectual power, creating multifaceted metaphors that enhance the significance of literary works for readers. It is crucial to consider the cultural and historical contexts when analysing these symbols, as the same image can carry diverse meanings depending on the author's intent and cultural environment. Comparisons with studies by other scholars demonstrate the variety of interpretations, enriching understanding of literature and its capacity to reflect the human experience.

Conclusions

Imagery and symbolism are pivotal in constructing metaphors to express loss. Nature and architecture are employed as symbols that mirror characters' internal states. Structural and compositional devices also play a significant role. Unconventional narrative structures, fragmented compositions, and complex timelines help to reflect feelings of disconnection and loss. These techniques create a sense of fragmentation and uncertainty, intensifying the perception of the theme of loss. Stylistic features, such as lexical choice, rhythm, and poetic language, add emotional depth and help to convey the intensity of feelings. The use of allegory, metaphor, and other stylistic elements creates a particular atmosphere of longing and nostalgia. Thus, literary devices and styles employed to illuminate the theme of homeland loss create multi-layered and resonant

representations that facilitate a deeper understanding and appreciation of the emotional and psychological aspects of exile and nostalgia. These elements enable authors not only to convey their personal experiences but also to create universal images and symbols that reflect broader cultural and historical contexts.

The poetry of Zahiriddin Babur, Abdulla Oripov and Erkin Vohidov deeply explores themes of exile, nostalgia, and cultural identity. Babur conveys his experiences through detailed descriptions of the lost home and the landscapes of Fergana, rendering his emotions palpable and realistic. His poetry contributes to the preservation of cultural heritage and an understanding of the historical aspects of the era. Oripov's poetry profoundly illuminates cultural and personal roots through the use of rich and symbolic imagery. Themes of family, native places, and cultural heritage play a central role in his work, emphasising his strong attachment to his homeland and its traditions. Through emotionally charged images, such as metaphors of flowers and streams, Oripov expresses nostalgia, a sense of loss, and pride in his cultural heritage, making his work particularly significant within Uzbek literature. Vohidov's poetry represents a profound expression of patriotism and attachment to the homeland. Through vivid images of nature and cultural symbols, he conveys feelings of nostalgia, longing for the past, and respect for Uzbekistan's cultural heritage. His poems, rich in metaphors and symbolism, reflect the importance of preserving and protecting the homeland. As a result of the analysis, it became evident that Vohidov masterfully employs language to emphasise patriotic sentiments and invoke a sense of responsibility towards the homeland, creating a meaningful and emotionally resonant literary experience.

A survey of students has confirmed the significant impact of the poetry of Zahiriddin Babur, Abdulla Oripov and Erkin Vohidov on the development of patriotic sentiments and national identity. A majority of respondents acknowledged the importance of poetry in emotional and cultural upbringing, and also noted its potential in educational and cultural programs for strengthening patriotism. The personal experiences of students further underscored the direct influence of poetic texts on their perception of patriotism, highlighting the role of poetry in awakening and sustaining patriotic feelings.

This study has certain limitations, notably the subjectivity of interpretations. Future research should explore the influence of cultural and historical contexts on poetic works, the diversity of literary devices and their evolution, and intertextual connections

and their role in conveying themes of exile and nostalgia. This would facilitate a more objective interpretation and a deeper understanding of the complex emotional and psychological aspects embedded within poetry.

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Received October 16, 2024

Accepted April 05, 2025

Research Data and Other Materials Availability

The contents underlying the research text are included in the manuscript.

Reviews

Due to the commitment assumed by *Bakhtiniana. Revista de Estudos do Discurso* [*Bakhtiniana. Journal of Discourse Studies*] to Open Science, this journal only publishes reviews that have been authorized by all involved.

Review I

The title is consistent with the work, however it should be better if the author makes some changes into it or making it short. 1. There are some mistakes in the text (colored in yellow); 2. It would be better to write the full name of those writers in the text (colored in yellow); 3. In the discussion part, it would be better to include other related researchers' works and analysis on the topic. ACCEPTED WITH SUGGESTIONS [Revised]

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Reviewed on December 29, 2024.

Review II

The title of the work is in harmony with the work. The aims of the study are clearly and consistently set out in the text. In accordance with the theory adopted, the bibliography of the study with the relevant subject is appropriate. A source has been proposed. As it is an original study, it will contribute to its field. The author has dealt with the phenomenon of love of homeland, one of the poems of poets, in an effective way with metaphors. The fluent language of the author and the information given in the content of the article make the article understandable and valuable. I would like to thank the author for his effective handling of the use of universal language. The article is a publishable study. However, in the article, it will be useful to explain the given percentage table with numerical data analysis below. I also believe that the metaphor of homesickness and sadness of Babur Shah for his separation from his homeland should be emphasized. ACCEPTED

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Reviewed on February 06, 2025.

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