

## FEATURES OF MAKSUD SHAYKHZADE'S TRANSLATIONS OF THE WORKS OF PUSHKIN AND LERMONTOV

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**Abstract:** *Maksud Sheikhzade, a prominent Uzbek poet and translator, made an invaluable contribution to the popularization of Russian classics in Uzbekistan. Sheikhzade was a prolific writer and translator. He created his own works and also translated classics of world literature such as Alexander Pushkin and Mikhail Lermontov into Uzbek. His translations were distinguished by a deep insight into the meaning of the original texts. He sought not only to convey the content, but also to preserve the artistic value and stylistic features of the works, while adapting them to the Uzbek culture and mentality.*

**Key words:** *Translation, literature, text, original, perception*

### INTRODUCTION

The legacy of Maksud Shaykhzade is not limited to translations of Russian classics. His work encompasses a wide range of genres and themes, including lyrical poetry, epic poems, and dramatic works. He was a prolific author who made a significant contribution to the development of Uzbek literature in the 20th century. His works are distinguished by their profound insight into human psychology, vivid imagery, and masterful command of language.

His works are studied in schools and universities across Uzbekistan, and his translations of Russian classics remain popular among readers. The memory of Maksud Shaykhzade lives on in his works, which continue to inspire new generations of writers and poets. Thus, his translations are not mere mechanical reproductions but creative interpretations that take into account the characteristics of the target audience. It can be said that he struck a balance between the accuracy of translation and the organic perception of the text by Uzbek readers.

Shaykhzade paid special attention to conveying national color and cultural nuances, avoiding literal translation and adapting the text for Uzbek readers. This allowed him to communicate the depth and meaning of the works of Pushkin and Lermontov, making them understandable and relatable to his audience.

His approach to work was marked by principle and a commitment to maximizing the adequacy of conveying the meaning and spirit of the originals.

A key principle for Shaykhzade was the unwavering “preservation of the artistic style of the original”. This meant not just a word-for-word translation but the transmission of

poetic form, rhythm, and musicality. Take, for example, his translation of “The Bronze Horseman”: Shaykhzade devoted immense attention to preserving the meter and rhyme, understanding that this allows the reader to experience the full musicality of Pushkin’s verse, its inner rhythm, which is an integral part of the artistic intent. Without this “musicality”, the translation would turn into mere prose, losing its emotional power and artistic impact. He did not simply translate words; he transferred the sound, the inner voice of the poet, into the Uzbek language. This work required immense skill and a deep understanding of both Russian and Uzbek poetic traditions.

The main part: another important aspect of Shaykhzade's work was “the adaptation of cultural realities”. Pushkin’s St. Petersburg is not just a city; it is an entire era, with its symbols, architecture, and unique spirit. Conveying all of this in Uzbek, making it understandable to Uzbek readers without distorting the meaning of the work, was an exceptionally difficult task. Shaykhzade solved it through subtle adaptation, replacing some realities with analogous ones from Uzbek culture while preserving the emotional core of the work. He did not merely substitute words; he sought equivalents that would evoke similar associations and emotions in the reader. This required not only linguistic but also cultural competence.

Finally, Shaykhzade masterfully utilized “the richness of the Uzbek language”, not shying away from introducing authorial neologisms and occasionalisms—new words created specifically for the translation. This not only enriched the translation but made it more expressive, more precisely conveying the nuances of the original. An example is his translation of the poem “Oy bilan Suhbat” (“Conversation with the Moon”), where he used the word “tundalik” (nightlight) instead of “kundalik” (diary), emphasizing the nocturnal work of poets. Such subtle use of linguistic tools demonstrates the translator's highest skill and deep understanding of the artistic possibilities of both languages.

In his translations of “The Bronze Horseman” and “Mozart and Salieri”, Shaykhzade demonstrated the ability to convey not only the plot and meaning of the works but also their emotional intensity and philosophical depth. For instance, in “The Bronze Horseman”, he successfully conveyed the drama of the flood in St. Petersburg and the protagonist Eugene's turmoil, while preserving all the artistic merits of the original. In “Mozart and Salieri”, he managed to convey the philosophical depth of the dialogues and the psychological tension between the characters, while maintaining the individuality of each character’s speech.

Maksud Shaykhzade became a pioneer in the field of Uzbek literary translation, brilliantly overcoming the challenging mission of adapting masterpieces of Russian classical poetry—the works of Pushkin and Lermontov. His mastery of both languages is striking in its depth and precision, as well as his ability to penetrate the exquisite nuances of artistic translation.

As a result of his translations, the Uzbek literary lexicon was enriched with unique expressions, vivid imagery, and stylistic innovations, which not only expanded the boundaries of the language but also contributed to its evolution.

“Opening new horizons for readers”: Uzbek literature enthusiasts gained access to the pinnacle of Russian cultural works. This enrichment of cultural space led to a significant increase in literary knowledge among the population of Uzbekistan and deepened their understanding of global artistic traditions.

“Contribution to the development of the translation school”: Maksud Shaykhzade’s work laid the foundation for the emergence of a unique Uzbek school of literary translation. His legacy not only elevated the quality of literary adaptations to a new level but also contributed to the popularization of world cultural heritage in the country.

The work of Maksud Shaykhzade represents a significant phenomenon in Uzbek literature, particularly in the context of literary translation. In his works dedicated to the writings of Pushkin and Lermontov, Shaykhzade not only overcame the challenge of accurately reproducing meaning but also achieved a unique adaptation of the texts, preserving their artistic sophistication and the national flavor of the Uzbek people.

Shaykhzade’s translations were distinguished not only by technical perfection but also by a virtuosic approach to conveying rhythmic features, musicality, and emotional depth of the original works. He went beyond literal translation, striving to breathe life into each work, skillfully utilizing the richness of the Uzbek language and creating innovative expressive forms.

Shaykhzade’s work had a profound impact on the development of the Uzbek translation school. His contribution lay in enriching national literature with new stylistic solutions, expanding its horizons and possibilities. Thanks to his efforts, Uzbek readers gained the opportunity not only to familiarize themselves with the masterpieces of Russian classics but also to immerse themselves in their atmosphere. His translations, remaining relevant, continue to inspire to this day.

## CONCLUSION

These translations are a vivid example of how the skill of a translator can make great works of world literature accessible to a wide audience without depriving them of their artistic value. His work is not merely a translation but a creative reimagining of Russian classics within Uzbek literature.

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