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# WORLD LITERARY STUDIES AS A FIELD OF SCIENTIFIC KNOWLEDGE: TRADITIONS AND TRENDS

Abstract. Literature and art are continuously in search of new means of expression, and communication. In the process of renewal, artistic culture acquires new aesthetic principles, an artistic fusion of the objective and the subjective. The idea of a work in a realistic narrative sounds gradually, naturally. The plot develops around a fact that reveals the meaning of the work. The aesthetic assimilation of reality proceeds in several directions, in different genres of prose and poetry, drama and journalism, in a diverse creative manner, which is unique for each author of a work of art. The relevance of this article lies in the fact that it traces the evolution of the basic concepts of world literary criticism, which has its own scientific principles, systems of methods and terminology. Literary criticism and critical thought create a special associative field, confirming the importance of the transition in the literary process from ideology to issues of personal existence. Domestic and world literary studies are included in the research field of the humanities, but there are frequent attempts to absorb them into intensively developing interdisciplinary research. The scientific novelty of this research is seen in the generalization of the theoretical views on modern world literary criticism of major literary scholars and critics in Europe, the USA, the CIS countries, authors of sections of collective monographs of the Auezov Institute of Literature and Art «The latest foreign literature», «The world literary process of the 21st century», «Kazakh-American literary connections: current state and prospects», the textbook «The world literary process: content, directions, trends». The basis for the research is the scientific concepts of literary text analysis, theories of critical discourse analysis of literary works, existential criticism and others. Based on the analysis, review of the current state of the leading theoretical schools of world literary criticism (with cultural studies, literary criticism, structural poetics, the concept of semiosphere, theory of cultural transfer and others). It has been established that the science of literature has its own object of study, a special essence, which distinguishes it from the exact and natural sciences.

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*Keywords:* hypothesis, concepts, literary tradition, leading trends, cognitive literary criticism, comparative studies, schools of criticism

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# Мировое литературоведение как область научного знания: традиции, тенденции

**Аннотация.** Литература и искусство постоянно находятся в поиске новых средств выразительности, коммуникации, нового кода. Художественная культура в процессе обновления

обретает новые эстетические принципы, художественный сплав объективного и субъективного. Идея произведения в реалистическом повествовании звучит исподволь, естественно. Сюжет развивается вокруг факта, позволяющего раскрыть смысл произведения. Эстетическое освоение действительности идет по нескольким направлениям, в разных жанрах прозы и поэзии, драматургии и публицистики, в разнообразной творческой манере, которая у каждого автора художественного произведения неповторима. Актуальность данной статьи заключается в том, что в ней прослежена эволюция основных концепций мирового литературоведения, которое имеет свои научные принципы, системы методов и терминологический аппарат. Литературоведческая и критическая мысль создают особое ассоциативное поле, подтверждая важность перехода в литературном процессе от идеологии к вопросам личной экзистенции. Отечественное и мировое литературоведение включены в исследовательское поле гуманитарных наук, но нередки попытки поглощения их интенсивно развивающимися междисциплинарными исследованиями. Научная новизна данного исследования видится в обобщении теоретических взглядов на современное мировое литературоведение крупных литературоведов и критиков Европы, США, стран СНГ, авторов разделов коллективных монографий Института литературы и искусства имени М.О. Ауэзова «Новейшая зарубежная литература», «Мировой литературный процесс XXI века», «Казахско-американские литературные связи: современное состояние и перспективы», учебного пособия «Мировой литературный процесс: контент, направления, тренды». Базой для исследовании являются научные концепции анализа художественного текста, теории критического анализа дискурсов литературных произведений, экзистенциальная критика и другие. На основе проведенного анализа, обзора современного состояния ведущих теоретических школ мирового литературоведения (cultural studies, literary criticism, структуральная поэтика, концепция семиосферы, теория культурного трансфера и других) установлено, что наука о литературе имеет свой объект исследования, особую сущность, что отличает ее от точных и естественных наук.

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*Ключевые слова:* гипотеза, концепции, литературоведческая традиция, ведущие тенденции, когнитивное литературоведение, компаративистика, школы критики

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# Әлемдік әдебиеттану ғылыми білім саласы ретінде: дәстүрлер мен үрдістер

Аңдатла. Әдебиет пен өнер үнемі бейнеліліктің, қарым-қатынастың және жаңа кодтың жаңа кұралдарын іздейді. Көркемдік мәдениет жаңару үдерісінде жаңа эстетикалық принциптерге, объективтілік пен субъективтіліктің көркемдік қоспасына ие болады. Шығарманың идеясы реалистік баяндауда бірте-бірте табиғи түрде естіледі. Ал, сюжет шығарманың мағынасын ашуға мүмкіндік беретін факт төңірегінде дамиды. Шындықтың эстетикалық дамуы бірнеше бағытта проза мен поэзияның, драматургия мен публицистиканың әртүрлі жанрларында әр түрлі шығармашылық тәсілмен дамиды, көркем шығарманың әр авторының өзіндік қайталанбас ерекшелігі бар. Бұл мақаланың өзектілігі оның ғылыми принциптері, әдістер жүйесі және терминологиялық аппараты бар әлемдік әдебиеттанудың негізгі тұжырымдамаларының эволюциясын бақылау болып табылады. Әдеби және сыни ой әдеби үдерісте идеологиядан жеке экзистенция мәселелеріне көшудің маңыздылығын растайтын ерекше ассоциативті өріс жасайды. Отандық және әлемдік әдебиеттану гуманитарлық ғылымдардың зерттеу өрісіне енгізілген, қарқынды дамып келе жатқан пәнаралық зерттеулермен кірігу әрекеттері де сирек емес. Бұл зерттеудің ғылыми жаңалығы Еуропаның, АҚШ-тың, ТМД елдерінің ірі әдебиеттанушылары

мен сыншыларының, М.О. Әуезов атындағы Әдебиет және өнер институтының «Ең жаңа шетел әдебиеті», «ХХІ ғасырдағы әлемдік әдеби үдеріс», «Қазақ-американдық әдеби байланыстар: қазіргі заман жағдайы және перспективалар» ұжымдық монографиялары мен «Әлемдік әдеби үдеріс: мазмұн, бағыттар, трендтер» оқу құралының авторларының қазіргі әлемдік әдебиеттану туралы теориялық көзқарастарын жинақтап қорытындылау болып табылады. Зерттеудің негізі — көркем мәтінді талдаудың ғылыми тұжырымдамалары, әдеби шығармалардың дискурстарын сыни талдау теориялары, экзистенциалды сын және басқалар. Жүргізілген талдау мен әлемдік әдебиеттанудың жетекші теориялық мектептерінің қазіргі жай-күйіне шолу (sultural studies, literary criticism, құрылымдық поэтика, семиосфера тұжырымдамасы, мәдени трансфер теориясы және т.б.) негізінде әдебиет ғылымының нақты және жаратылыстану ғылымдарынан ерекшеленетін өзіндік зерттеу объектісі, ерекше мәні бар екендігі анықталды.

Алғыс: Зерттеу BR21882298 «Қазақстан әдебиеттануы мен өнертануы әлемдік гуманитарлық білімнің тұжырымдамалық эволюциясы аясында» бағдарламалық-нысаналы қаржыландыру шеңберінде орындалды.

*Кілт сөздер:* гипотеза, тұжырымдамалар, әдебиеттану дәстүрі, жетекші тенденциялар, когнитивті әдебиеттану, компаративистика, сын мектептері

#### 1. Introduction

Literary criticism as «a system of concepts and hypotheses about the similarities and differences in the typological aspect of texts and poetic languages created by word artists, a description of the patterns of occurrence and perception of messages in these languages — works of art, with the ability to verify data obtained as a result of research» (Barsht, 2022: 3) attracts researchers from around the world.

Each artist, in whose work the method of socialist realism was presented, gave their works of art a certain internal direction and chose problems close to them. Types of artistic creativity included the heroic principle, the drama of the revolutionary struggle and the construction of a new society, romanticism and the personal self-worth of the working man. Art evokes emotions, a certain mood in the reader and literary researcher, who distance themselves from the literary text, but, nevertheless, it is the genre of the work of art that sets up a certain wave of perception. The writer «takes» moral problems, modern concepts of aesthetics, and morality from a story, novel, giving the work emotionality with detailed descriptions, paintings, landscapes, and lyrical digressions. The artist of socialist realism creatively mastered concrete life material.

The stylistic trends of socialist realism of the second half of the twentieth century were replaced by the rapidly evolving literary and social reality of the 90s of the twentieth century. «The power of officialdom ended, censorship was abolished, language and style were changed; way out of the ban (banned and hidden texts of famous and unknown authors of the metropolis, emigration, underground); abolition of the literary system, destruction of old and establishment of new literary institutions» (Ivanova, 2022: 314). The reality of the 90s of the twentieth century provided «writers with rich opportunities to create significant and impressive images and intense plot narratives» (Rovensky, 1992: 13).

In literature of the XXI millennium, the most pressing topic is «the era of change in the life of the country, in personal destinies. Prose writers use all the richness and variety of techniques in revealing the inner world of characters» (Ananyeva, 2016: 139).

Realism is being replaced by postmodernism. The transformation of «the structure of a work of art, a chain of incredible coincidences and repetitions, the lyrical-autobiographical

nature of the narrative, metaphorical style, and mythological imagery allow us to intricately intertwine pictures of reality and artistic fiction» in postmodern literature (Ananyeva, 2021: 35). Postmodernity is dominated by «the absence of clear guidelines, a motley mixture of ideas and the incoherence of individual elements» (World Literary Process, 2017: 195). At the center of the discussions taking place at the beginning of the 21st century are the problems of substantive unity and integrity of the literary process. «The modern phenomenology of perception actualizes not only the role of the anthropological turn, but also the role of the subjective factor the reader», – claim modern literary scholars (Mukhametshina, Nurgali, Ananyeva, 2020: 150).

#### 2. Materials and methods

#### 2.1. Research methods

The research strategy on which the study of trends in the development of world literary studies conducted in this article is based, is grounded on the decisive role of the theory of verbal and cultural intertext in expanding the limits of competence and functions of comparative studies. Objectivity of literary studies provided cultural transfer. To achieve the set goals, historical-typological, cultural-historical and hermeneutic methods were chosen. Attention is paid to the general epistemological and methodological principles of comparative analysis, the poetics of interaction and coexistence.

**2.2.** The research material was selected from works on world literary criticism, «the science of the genesis, internal structure and functioning of a literary text» (Barsht, 2022: 3). The hypothesis about the development of modern domestic literary criticism and criticism in accordance with the general trends in the evolution of world literary criticism as a science of the humanities has been discussed.

## 3. Discussion

In Kazakh literature of the 90s of the twentieth century, promising trends in the development of verbal art, Doctor of Philology Sh.R. Eleukenov sees it in the following sequence: «Rehabilitation and restoration in full of the spiritual heritage of the Kazakh people, the elimination of "blank spots" in the history of folklore, oral and written literature; creating an atmosphere of genuine creative freedom, abolishing state censorship, getting rid of arbitrary party control; overcoming rigid sociological illustrativeness, mythologization of reality, false idealization of the communist system, artificial inhumane conflicts, etc.; addressing sensitive, previously taboo topics, such as national themes, revealing the real history of the country, putting forward new ideological and aesthetic concepts, and using previously inaccessible material; a new, uninhibited artistic thought, the opening of wide, unlimited possibilities for the manifestation of creative initiative, the depiction of reality in all its objective complexity» (Eleukenov, 2004: 18-19).

In the works of Corresponding Member of the NAS RK Sh.K. Satpayeva identified and summarized Kazakh-Russian, Kazakh-European literary connections, the topic «Kazakh literature and the East» is revealed, the main categories of comparative studies are outlined (travel literature, reception, foreign national issues, literary translation, etc.). The main directions of her scientific developments consisted in the study of the history and patterns of development of Kazakh literature, its relationship with the literatures of the peoples of the former USSR and foreign countries, the literatures of Turkic peoples

as part of world literature created in a certain geographical space by related peoples who have common historical roots. «Works of Kazakh poets and writers, which reflect the historical relationships of the peoples of the eastern region, the state of living multifaceted connections of modern Kazakh literature with the literatures of the peoples of the world, including the peoples of the East, the significance of these phenomena in the historical and literary process, in the spiritual mutual enrichment of peoples and many other issues still remain outside the field of view of literary scholars» (Satpayeva, 2007: 206). Domestic literary criticism Sh.K. Satpayeva built into the context of the world.

Comparative literature studies remain an important area of modern literary criticism. «Comparative literature studies are an important field in philology, along with literary history, theory, and criticism», – clarifies K. Galai (Galai, 2020: 164). The term comparative studies denotes a discipline that «examines the connections, changes, commonalities and differences between literatures, the uniqueness of interliterary connections and influences, as well as the features of literary development that extend across linguistic boundaries and determine the uniqueness of literatures» (Galai, 2020: 164). The modern development of comparative studies is due to the process of globalization and the change in intellectual and philosophical anthropological issues, the decolonization of humanitarian knowledge. Comparative method of analysis, diachronic analysis of narrative structures, generation.

Literary criticism as a unified science includes schools of criticism, associations of literary scholars and translators, the American school of «poetry of language», and meta-comparative studies. US literary scholars believe that the focus of scientific research is shifting towards representatives of enclaves, multicultural and postcolonial discourses. The time has come for «mixed technique: a mixture of literary practices, traditions and values in one work» (Ivanova, 2022: 386).

One of the newest philological trends is cognitive literary criticism. The position of cognitive literary scholars is moving closer to the views of representatives of deconstructionism. The subject of study in modern cognitive literary studies is literature, which stands out among other discursive practices on the basis of a set of criteria that varies depending on the situation, related to the nature of the mechanisms, goals and methods of studying the text. Modern researchers define cognitive literary criticism as a metascience, since cognitive literary criticism is designed to introduce criteria, principles and concepts from the non-humanitarian sphere into the science of literature. Many literary scholars propose replacing theoretical poetics with cognitive ones.

## 4. Results

A literary critic as a researcher makes a discovery by studying the work of the author of a literary text that interests him. Ideally, one learns the laws of creativity and the laws by which works are created.

In literary studies in Germany, one of the starting points of the modern state of the science of literature is the historical turning point of 1989, which «had a positive impact and introduced a life-giving current into the process of writers positioning themselves and their fellow literary guilds» (Jurgensen, 2011: 10). In German literature of the 90s of the twentieth century there is a «diversity of themes and stylistic trends, often layered on top of each other. The variety of directions and paths of development can hardly be

streamlined» (Jurgensen, 2011: 10). K. Jurgensen (Göttingen, Academy of Sciences) in the section «German Literature» of the collective monograph of the M.O. Auezov Institute of Literature and Art SC MSHE RK «The latest foreign literature» presents «a solid overview of multifaceted German literature from a fan of chapters, highlighted by main topics» (Jurgensen, 2011: 10).

A new term appears in German literary criticism: the literature of the turn. There is a boom in memoir literature. As sources of information, the authors of the works resort to letters, diaries and paintings. Life is depicted in the context of personal and world history. It is not uncommon to use documentary and fictional montage. In conditions of aesthetic pluralism, the number of published books increases.

A huge layer of history, culture, art, literature is rethought in the scientific works of Professor, Doctor of Historical Sciences Kim G.N. Producing new humanitarian knowledge in the modern educational space, constantly highlighting the problems of hybrid identity and intercultural dialogue, preserving traditions and innovation, Kim G.N. clearly and specifically formulates and solves new problems facing the academic community. The creation of the Association of Korean Studies of Kazakhstan, the publication of the scientific journal «News of Korean Studies in Central Asia» for many years, the leadership of the Institute of Asian Studies – these are the milestones of his scientific path. Many of his studies are important and in demand in the context of modern interdisciplinary approaches to the study of Korean history, culture, art and literature. Among them are sections on Korean theater and literature of modern South Korea for collective monographs of the Auezov Institute of Literature and Art SC MSHE RK, fundamental volume G.N. Kim «Selected Works on Korean Studies» and others.

Professor Kim G.N. has his own point of view on the periodization of Korean fiction, on the criteria for its evaluation, the dialogue of the subjective with the objective, on the problems of the language of creativity. «The literature of any country has its own characteristics, but the literature of Korea has a completely specific picture, associated with the split into two states formed as a result of the division of spheres of influence between the USSR and the USA. The question of the place of modern Korean literature is connected with the problem of identifying literary creativity within one Korean ethnic group» (Kim, 2011: 173). Korean national literary classics and the national literary canon, the current state of Korean art and culture, the transculturation of literature in Korean and Russian languages, of course, await comprehension in the context of current problems of humanities in the first quarter of the 21st century.

The author has successfully structured «Selected Works on Korean Studies», which are constantly supplemented and updated. A separate section in the book is devoted to literary studies (Kim, 2013). Bi— and translingual processes are observed in the culture and society of many countries around the world. The art and literature of Korean authors of Kazakhstan are developing in line with national Russian-language literatures in the context of cultural dialogue: traditions and continuity.

Representatives of French literary criticism view the postmodern situation as «a kind of game in crisis, at the end of culture...<...>... The concept of after postmodernism is interpreted either as a new phenomenon born as a result of the crisis and death of the

postmodern type of culture, or as its later version» (Pakhsaryan, 2011: 44). Literary scholars and critics of France write about neorealism, minimalism, autofictionalism in fiction, and variations of postmodernism. They emphasize «the erasing of genre boundaries, the fight against cliches, the risk of unreadability, the desire to describe reality» (Pakhsaryan, 2011: 52). An important feature of French literary criticism is highlighted: they think about the present in terms of the past. Art criticism appears. The main thing is to understand the modern literary situation and dialogue between critics and writers.

## 5. Conclusion

The science of literature, including literary criticism, has its own specifics, which distinguishes it from the exact, sociological sciences. The new model of postculture determines the development of postmodern literary criticism, in which the discourse of hybridity is analyzed as a new phenomenon. The experience of structuralism and semiotics contributes to the presentation of culture as a text and, using the postmodern term, as an intertext built on indirect and distant relationships between phenomena, motives, and themes. Literary scholars reveal the narrative aspects of prose and the transgressiveness of culture. The terms «critical literature, transitive, dialogical, literature of realism» are introduced (World Literary Process of the 21st Century, 2016: 6).

The work continues to study the conceptual apparatus of modern world literary criticism in order to eliminate difficulties in methodology, determine the boundaries of the literary scientific field, and identify the cardinal lines of development of the world science of literature. A fairly wide range of research has been revealed in the works of literary scholars who comprehensively study the modern literary process. New academic knowledge was obtained about the leading trends in world literary studies as a system of concepts and hypotheses about the similarities and differences in literary texts, as a metalanguage for describing a literary text and a factor in increasing the systematicity of culture.

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