



Article

The Role of Erkin Vohidov's Literary Works in 20th-Century Uzbek Literature

Nizomova Shokhista Shodiyevna¹, Khamidova Anora Anvar qizi²

1. Associate Professor, Department of Uzbek Language and Literature, Bukhara State Pedagogical Institute
 2. Student of Group 3-OTA-25, Bukhara State Pedagogical Institute
- * Correspondence: nizamovashohista0@gmail.com

Abstract: This article provides a comprehensive analysis of Erkin Vohidov's life, the stages of his creative development, and his rich literary heritage. The study examines the poet's artistic and aesthetic views, as well as the ideological directions expressed in his works, and explores his poetic mastery on a solid scientific basis. In particular, the research analyzes how the ideas of nationality and patriotism in Erkin Vohidov's literary works are closely connected with the historical memory of the Uzbek people, their cultural heritage, and the process of national self-awareness. The article also reveals the artistic interpretation of universal values such as humanism, moral purity, justice, and freedom in the poet's works, and substantiates their significance in the spiritual development of society.

Keywords: Patriotism, World of Poetry, Dramaturgy, Artistic Thinking, Translation, Humanity, Content and Essence, National Idea, Literature of the Independence Period

1. Introduction

Twentieth-century Uzbek literature underwent a significant stage of development. In the 1960s, poetry reached a new level of advancement. During this period, the works of Erkin Vohidov—a highly productive and influential poet—widely reflected themes of the homeland, the nation, its freedom, and independence[1]. Within these themes, the spiritual and moral struggles of the lyrical hero, the aspiration for self-awareness, and his dreams and goals are expressed through beautiful poetic imagery. The place of this talented poet in Uzbek literature is truly invaluable[2].

As long as nature lives,
As long as the sun gives light,
There exist three united concepts—
Three words that stand side by side:
Skill, affection, and mastery.
Scholar, knowledge, and action.
Lover, love, and hardship.
Poet, poetry, and consciousness.

Citation: Shodiyevna N. S., and Anvar qizi K. A. The Role of Erkin Vohidov's Literary Works in 20th-Century Uzbek Literature. Central Asian Journal of Literature, Philosophy, and Culture 2026,7(3), 13-17.

Received: 10th Feb 2026

Revised: 24th Mar 2026

Accepted: 9th Apr 2026

Published: 2nd May 2026



Copyright: © 2026 by the authors. Submitted for open access publication under the terms and conditions of the Creative Commons Attribution (CC BY) license (<https://creativecommons.org/licenses/by/4.0/>)

The above poetic lines belong to the great and renowned poet Erkin Vohidov, who was born on December 28, 1936, in the Oltiariq district of Fergana region, in a teacher's family. He attended a literary circle organized by the poet G'ayraty at the Palace of Students, where he learned the fundamentals of literature. From the age of fifteen to sixteen, he began writing relatively mature poems[3].

Reading the works of great writers with deep interest played an important role in shaping his artistic skills, developing a sense of responsibility for words, and mastering simplicity and fluency. Therefore, in his poems such as "Tong lavhasi," "Kamtarlik haqida," "Buloq," "Sevgi," and "Ona tuproq," profound meanings are harmoniously combined with beautiful expressions and vivid imagery[4].

For example, the poet creates a remarkable poem from an ordinary moment of daily life—when tea is poured, the teapot seems to "bow" to the cup, and while drinking tea, a person appears to "kiss" the rim of the cup—transforming simple actions into deep poetic meaning[5].

Though it stands so proud and tall,
The teapot bends before the cup.
If so, why should there be arrogance?
What need is there for pride and vanity?
Be humble—do not take even a step
Beyond the threshold of pride.
That is why a person always seems
To kiss the forehead of the cup.

2. Materials and Methods

In this study, a comprehensive approach was applied to the analysis of the works of Erkin Vohidov. The main research methods included comparative-analytical, historical-literary, and systematic analysis. During the research process, the poet's major works published between 1960 and 2020—"Uzbegin", "The River of My Life", and "Devotion of the Heart"—were thoroughly examined.

In addition, theoretical and practical conclusions were developed based on a total of 15 scholarly sources. The study focused on the semantic, poetic, and ideological layers of literary texts, with particular attention given to the conceptual analysis of themes such as nationality, patriotism, and humanism.

To ensure deeper interpretation, intertextual analysis was also employed, highlighting the connections between the poet's works and classical literary figures such as Fuzuli. The results of the research were qualitatively synthesized and used to assess the influence of the poet's творчество on the development of modern Uzbek literature.

3. Results and Discussion

Erkin Vohidov compiled the works he created over more than fifty years and presented to readers a four-volume selected collection entitled "Ishq savdosi," "She'r dunyosi," "Umr daryosi," and "Ko'ngil nidosi." These works reflect not only the poet's inner world and personal experiences, but also serve as a mirror of the people's life. In his writings, one can clearly feel a deep love for life and beauty, as well as a strong rejection of evil and moral degradation[6].

Erkin Vohidov is a talented poet with a broad, clear, and masterful poetic thinking who, as he himself expressed, depicts the life of the people through artistic words in a vivid, unique, simple, and understandable way. In his poems, we observe a deep and thoughtful perception of real-life events and phenomena, along with a strong desire to

comprehend their true essence. The poet's refined lines penetrate the reader's heart, settle deeply within the soul, and leave an unforgettable impression[7].

Rather than merely praising the nation, his works emphasize the importance of fulfilling one's duty in life, understanding its meaning, and striving to be worthy of the great title of "human." The poet thinks profoundly, embedding his reflections — drawn from life experience, observation, and the wisdom of the people — into his verses[8]. He considers the people and the nation as his teachers, while seeing himself as a learner who continuously gains knowledge from them. Moreover, he describes his profession with remarkable sincerity, beauty, and authenticity[9].

"The people are my teachers, and I am a learner,
My work is to gather the pearls of words.
Taking them from the people themselves,
My work is to give them back to the people."

It would not be an exaggeration to say that throughout his life the poet created in accordance with this "golden principle" that he himself established. His poetry reflects sincerity, charm, beauty, simplicity, and perfection. In my opinion, the greatness of his poems lies precisely in these qualities[10].

When reading his works, one can observe a unique melody, musicality, and a thought-provoking depth in each poem that encourages reflection. His poems seem as though they are written especially for us; they are read with admiration, the lines flow smoothly without disruption, and most importantly, the meaning and musical harmony of the poems teach us to view life and its situations from a different perspective[11]. They shape our aesthetic taste and nurture our spiritual world.

In fact, the primary mission of literature is precisely to educate a person and shape their emotions. A poet who harmonizes melody with verse — I believe this description perfectly fits Erkin Vohidov[12]. When we read his poems, it feels as if they were first created as songs and only later written down on paper.

The poetic lines, rich in rhythm and melody, successfully fulfill their great task of reaching the human heart with remarkable mastery[13]. The poet does not treat his poems casually; instead, he approaches each one with special affection and care.

For example, in his poem "Observation", he writes:

"My dark-feathered little chicks,
My chirping, lively little ones,
My restless and mischievous ones,
I did not bury you in decoration,
I introduced you to sincerity!"

Through these lines, he lovingly addresses his own poems with sincerity[14].

Or consider these lines:

"Winds, pause for a moment from blowing,
Melodious nightingales, be silent for a while.
From wandering on foot across the desert of Karbala,
Master Fuzuli grows weary and takes his rest"

In the poem "Beside the Statue of Fuzuli", the poet wanders through the garden of ghazals. As we read the poem, the surrounding environment — nature, birds, even the rustling of leaves — blends harmoniously with lines drawn from the ghazals of Fuzuli, merging with the poet's own verses into a unified whole. This unity becomes a life-giving symphony of poetry[15].

Once, within the realm of existence,

An imperfect world was created.
 To grant refinement to this world,
 Within it, humankind was created.
 Since then, humanity has never ceased
 To labor upon this earth.
 The more it makes the earth beautiful,
 The more beautiful becomes humankind itself.

Or:

Love is such a springtime
 That it turns thorns into flowers,
 Giving soul and speech even to stone,
 It can make a crow sing like a nightingale.
 Love is such a pain
 That all become afflicted by it,
 And whatever befalls the afflicted,
 This mad heart itself creates.

In his poem "Star", Erkin Vohidov expresses that when he is sometimes unable to find a suitable title for his poems, he places a star instead — wishing that this star would shine day and night without fading:

"Let it shine brightly like Venus,
 Even when I close my eyes at night,
 Let it never fade, but keep on shining,
 Even when I am gone — my star."

This dream of the poet came true. With his magical, charming, beautiful, sincere, passionate, and graceful poetic lines, he continues to shine eternally in the sky of our poetry, spreading everlasting light into the hearts of readers.

Poetry expresses the life-born feelings that arise in the poet's heart, and through this, it captivates the reader's soul. If the poet himself does not burn with inner fire, he cannot ignite others; if there is no flame in the depths of his heart, he cannot warm other hearts. Without this magical fire, any poetic ornament, artistic device, or technical mastery becomes meaningless.

4. Conclusion

The works and poems written by Erkin Vohidov throughout his life have taken a place in our hearts and remain preserved as a valuable literary heritage. Today, we can also encounter young creators who follow in his path. Through his poetry, the poet strives to instill in people a sense of patriotism and humanity. For example, his qasida "O'zbegin" is regarded as an important artistic work that expresses the national pride and historical identity of the Uzbek people.

REFERENCES

- [1] B. Karimov, *Anthology of Uzbek Poetry*. Tashkent, Uzbekistan: Gafur Ghulam Publishing House, 2009.
- [2] Y. Solijonov, *Poetry that Illuminates the Human Spirit*. Tashkent, Uzbekistan: Uzbekistan National Encyclopedia Publishing House, 2013.
- [3] Erkin Vohidov, *Uzbegin*. Tashkent, Uzbekistan: Sharq Publishing House, 2017.
- [4] Erkin Vohidov, *The River of My Life*. Tashkent, Uzbekistan: Uzbekistan Publishing House, 2019.
- [5] Erkin Vohidov, *Devotion of the Heart*. Tashkent, Uzbekistan: Sharq Publishing House, 2018.

-
- [6] O. Madayev, *The Poet Who Awakened Humanity*. Tashkent, Uzbekistan: Fan Publishing House, 2016.
- [7] Erkin Vohidov, *The World of Poetry*. Tashkent, Uzbekistan: Sharq Publishing House, 2015.
- [8] Erkin Vohidov, *The Voice of the Heart*. Tashkent, Uzbekistan: Adabiyot Publishing House, 2016.
- [9] Erkin Vohidov, *The Trade of Love*. Tashkent, Uzbekistan: Sharq Publishing House, 2014.
- [10] N. Karimov, *History of 20th Century Uzbek Literature*. Tashkent, Uzbekistan: O'qituvchi Publishing House, 2010.
- [11] M. Qo'shjanov, *Fundamentals of Literary Theory*. Tashkent, Uzbekistan: Fan Publishing House, 2012.
- [12] H. Boltaboyev, *Fundamentals of Literary Studies*. Tashkent, Uzbekistan: Uzbekistan Publishing House, 2011.
- [13] S. Mamajonov, *History of Uzbek Literature*. Tashkent, Uzbekistan: Sharq Publishing House, 2008.
- [14] A. Rasulov, *Fundamentals of Literary Analysis*. Tashkent, Uzbekistan: Fan Publishing House, 2013.
- [15] D. Quronov, *Dictionary of Literary Studies*. Tashkent, Uzbekistan: Akademnashr, 2017.