

FITRAT'S ORTHOGRAPHY DISCIPLE – THE TRANSLATION SCHOOL OF KHALID SAID

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Abstract. *The article analyzes the scientific and creative activity of the Uzbek Jadid writer and scholar Khalid Said Khojaev, with particular emphasis on his translation skills. Khalid Said, upon the recommendation of one of the leading figures of the Jadid movement, Abdurauf Fitrat, went to study at Istanbul University. Due to the impossibility of returning to his homeland after completing his studies, he continued his scientific and creative work in Azerbaijan (Baku). He was one of the organizers of the First Turkological Conference in 1926 and, as a member of the commission on the transition to the Latin script, contributed to accelerating this process. As a translator, he rendered into Azerbaijani the works "Diwan Lughat al-Turk" by Mahmud Kashgari and "Bygone Days" by Abdulla Qodiriy. The article examines his translation mastery.*

Keywords: Translation, First Turkological Conference, Latin script, novel, traditional term, scientific method, semantic features, alphabet, naturalistic approach.

INTRODUCTION: Although a large portion of Khalid Said Khojaev's works has not survived to the present day, it is undeniable that he possessed an exceptionally broad and multifaceted creative activity. In addition to his scientific endeavors, he engaged in artistic creativity and translation work. One of the writer's literary works was written under the title "My Feelings of Old Memories on the Paths of the New Alphabet." Through this work, the scholar was described as the "Chronicler of the Letter Revolution." One of Khalid Said's major scientific works is the book "Comparative Grammar of Ottoman, Uzbek, and Kazakh Dialects." Having made great efforts toward the transition to the Latin script, Khalid Said published his book "Comparative Morphology of Ottoman, Uzbek, and Kazakh Dialects" in the Arabic alphabet prior to the "Congress of Turkologists to be held in Baku." The 110-page book, consisting of sections on nouns, adjectives, pronouns, verbs, and subordinate clauses, contains the following sentence on its first page: "By selecting from various dialects of the Turkic language, can we create a common language understandable to all Turkic peoples?" Another key area of Khalid Said's scientific activity was translation. Notably, in 1935, the textbook "Traumatology" written by Aghakhan Talishinski in the medical field was translated from Russian into Azerbaijani by Khalid Said Khojaev. Published in 1935, this book dedicated to traumatological surgery issues was considered one of the first scientific sources published in Azerbaijani Turkic in this direction. Furthermore, the novel "Çalıkuşu" (1933) by Reşat Nuri Güntekin, one of the masterpiece works of the Turkish people, is also among his translations.

Main part: When speaking of the importance of translation activity, the main reason why Western historical literature achieved such a high level in literature is linked to the fact that they translated ancient Roman and Greek literature into their own languages. That is, translation is not only a means of becoming acquainted with the literature of individual nations, but it also creates the opportunity to assimilate the literature and culture of the world's peoples and draw creative inspiration from it.

Undoubtedly, this process serves as an important factor in the cultural development and progress of every nation, as well as in the formation of its views on life and society.

The translation process is a complex creative activity that is not limited to simple knowledge of a language. In this field, the translator's professional mastery is demonstrated not only in understanding the content of the selected work, but also in the style and method used to transfer it into another language. From this point of view, when commenting on the complexity of the translation process, Khalid Said Khojaev emphasizes that knowing only the Arabic language or Arabic culture is not sufficient to translate the work "Diwan Lughat al-Turk." In his opinion, expressing the explanations of Turkic words used in the 11th century in the Arabic language of that period through modern Turkic language presents a series of complex tasks for the translator.

Indeed, in such a situation, the translator must not only deeply study the history of the language, but also comprehend its semantic features and historical spirit. Otherwise, the executed translation may not be complete in terms of content or may contain certain flaws.

Khalid Said Khojaev's approach appears scientifically grounded. He saw the closeness among Turkic peoples not only in language kinship, but also in their literary and cultural ties. In order to further develop these ties, he adapted Abdulla Qodiriy's novel "Bygone Days" from Uzbek into Azerbaijani.

Remaining true to his tradition, when Khalid Said rendered Reşat Nuri Güntekin's novel "Çalıkuşu" from Turkey Turkish into Azerbaijani, he did not use expressions like "translated" or "translator" on the work, but instead used the phrase "Translated by Khalid Said" (Çevirgani Xolid Said). However, in his correspondence or articles related to the work "Diwan Lughat al-Turk," he used the expression "translated by" instead of "chevirgani." In our view, such an approach reflects the author's scientific views on language and translation matters, and he was justified in his viewpoint to a certain extent. One of the earliest translated works by Khalid Said Khojaev that has survived to our day is Abdulla Qodiriy's historical novel "Bygone Days." The novel "Bygone Days" was initially published in installments starting in 1922 in the journal "Inqilob" (Revolution) in Uzbekistan, and in 1926 it was published as a standalone book. As evident from the title of the work, past events, the historical life of the Uzbek people, and the complex social processes of that era are artistically depicted. In the preface of the work, discussing the literature of the new era, the author emphasizes that alongside the changing times, literature must also be renewed. He evaluates his novel as an initial experiment on the path to becoming acquainted with modern novel writing.

According to the author, knowing the past is of great importance in understanding the future. For this reason, he notes that the plot of the work was chosen from a relatively recent, yet complex and contradictory period of history — the era of the Khanates. Under the conditions of Soviet ideology, such historical topics were often interpreted through the depiction of social inequality and oppression in the past. Therefore, according to some researchers, Soviet ideological policy also had a certain degree of influence on Khalid Said Khojaev bringing this work to the Azerbaijani language.

The preface written for the Azerbaijani edition of the work also indirectly confirms this situation. In this preface, the importance of the work in reflecting the social life, lifestyle, and historical experience of the Uzbek people is specially emphasized.

Furthermore, the significance of the novel's publication from the perspective of strengthening cultural closeness between the Uzbek and Azerbaijani peoples is noted.

It should be noted that in the process of rendering this work into Azerbaijani, Khalid Said Khojaev acted not only as a translator, but also as a literary critic and scholar. In his analysis of the novel, he notes that in certain cases the author indulged in excessive detail when depicting historical figures and events. At the same time, he emphasizes that the repeated narration of certain scenes affected the composition of the work. Taking these shortcomings into account, the translator shortened certain episodes during the process of adapting the work into Azerbaijani and strove to bring the text to a artistically smoother form.

Thus, in the process of working on this novel, Khalid Said Khojaev did not limit himself to translation alone, but edited it to a certain extent and sought to enhance its artistic perfection.

Unfortunately, after both Khalid Said Khojaev and Abdulla Qodiriy later fell victim to political repressions, this translation was not republished and, like many other works, was forgotten during the period of the Soviet totalitarian system. Khalid Said was not only a skilled translator, but also a deeply knowledgeable literary scholar. He evaluated the style of the novel as realistic, and in some places close to naturalistic depiction methods, emphasizing that through this work, elements of realism entered Uzbek literature. He even assessed Abdulla Qodiriy as an important reformer in Uzbek literature, comparing him with Mirza Fatali Akhundov.

In general, Khalid Said Khojaev is one of the scholars who laid the foundation for many important innovations in scientific, artistic, and translation activities. For instance, he was the author of one of the first books published in the Turkish alphabet in Azerbaijan. He was also one of the researchers who thoroughly illuminated from a scientific standpoint the movement to introduce the Latin script among Turkic peoples, the complexities of this process, and various ideological conflicts. Moreover, Khalid Said was one of the first researchers to introduce Azerbaijani readers to Mahmud Kashgari's "Diwan Lughat al-Turk" and Abdulla Qodiriy's novel "Bygone Days." Doctor of Philological Sciences Almaz Ulvi, commenting on the issue of bringing Reşat Nuri Güntekin's novel "Çalıkuşu" to Azerbaijani readers, puts forward interesting thoughts in this regard. She notes that Khalid Said, as if fulfilling a spiritual debt from his years of education in Turkey, accomplished this task by presenting the famous novel "Çalıkuşu" to Azerbaijani readers.

This work was published in 1930 by the "Azərnəşr" publishing house, and just as with Abdulla Qodiriy's novel Bygone Days, its editing was carried out by Hanafi Zeynalli. Both works are distinguished not only by their conceptual attractiveness, but also by the high artistic and professional quality of translation. The translated text is expressed so fluently and naturally that it is almost difficult to distinguish it from the original. This situation is explained, first of all, by the translator's deep understanding of Turkish thought, its spiritual and cultural nuances, and his sincere closeness to Turkish culture.

Regarding the translation of the work "Diwan Lughat al-Turk," Azerbaijani scholar A. Guliyev writes: "By special instruction of the Azerbaijan Branch of the USSR Academy of Sciences, the translation of Mahmud Kashgari's work 'Diwan Lughat al-Turk' was assigned to him.

In April 1936, the author reported that the first volume of this dictionary, which would amount to 70–80 printed sheets, was ready and that work was ongoing on the remaining volumes."

In the same year, a substantial article by Khalid Said related to translation was published in the Academy's "Proceedings" (Volume 31). Thus, from these points, it can be seen that the scholar translated the work on the basis of a special directive.

On June 1, 1937, in a letter written to the Kabardino-Balkarian Regional Committee — addressed to Kulukov — Khalid Said provided information about the "Diwan." That the translation of the work possessed a political character can be understood from the above points.

From the beginning of the 20th century, scientific interest in the work "Diwan Lughat al-Turk" increased significantly, and a series of efforts aimed at studying and translating it were carried out. The first edition of this work was prepared by Rifat Kilisli, which presented the Arabic text of the work, but was not translated into Turkish. At the same time, there is information that work on translating the text by Besim Atalay began on the eve of World War I and that the translation was submitted to the Ministry of Education of Turkey in the form of 22 notebooks.

Conclusion: Khalid Said viewed translation activity not merely as language conversion, but as a means of restoring the common cultural roots of Turkic peoples. By mutually adapting examples of Uzbek, Turkish, and Azerbaijani literature, he sought to scientifically and artistically prove the richness and mutual proximity of Turkic languages.

The scholar Khalid Said is the person who was the first among Turkic languages to fully translate Mahmud Kashgari's invaluable heritage in 3 volumes between 1935 and 1937. He rendered the work into Azerbaijani not simply as a dictionary, but as a holistic text reflecting 11th-century Turkic thought, etymology, and culture, introducing its scientific value to world Orientalism.

In the process of translation, Khalid Said approached the text not merely formally, but as a literary scholar and critic. In translating Abdulla Qodiriy's novel "Bygone Days," he edited the composition of the work and smoothed out certain episodes. Considering the closeness among Turkic languages, he applied the terms "translation" and "adaptation" (chevirgani) with scientific differentiation.

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