



SPIRITUAL AND MORAL IDEAS IN THE WORKS OF ALISHER NAVOI AND THEIR EXPRESSION IN LINGUISTIC UNITS

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Abstract

This article examines the spiritual and moral concepts embodied in the works of Alisher Navoi and the ways in which they are expressed through linguistic units. It analyzes how key ethical categories such as perfection, justice, generosity, purity, and humanism are reflected through lexical, phraseological, and stylistic means. The study also explores Navoi's use of artistic imagery, symbolism, metaphors, and Sufi terminology, clarifying their semantic functions within the texts. The research highlights the importance of Navoi's works in moral education and their relevance in shaping the spiritual worldview of contemporary youth.

Keywords: Alisher Navoi, spiritual and moral ideas, linguistic units, Sufism, symbolism, metaphor, stylistic devices, ethics, perfection.

Introduction

Alisher Navoi, one of the greatest representatives of classical Uzbek literature and a prominent figure in Eastern cultural and Sufi philosophical thought, has long been recognized not only for his literary mastery but also for his profound spiritual and moral worldview. His works, from the time of their creation to the present, have served as an invaluable source of ethical education, promoting such virtues as justice, integrity, patience, loyalty, generosity, purity, and compassion. Navoi's literary heritage has played a crucial role in the development of national consciousness, spiritual culture, and artistic thinking, offering a deep philosophical reflection on the human essence and moral perfection.



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The expression of spiritual and moral ideas in Navoi's works is enriched through Sufi philosophy, Qur'anic verses, hadiths, ethical teachings, symbolic imagery, and allegorical expressions. Navoi is not only a master of poetic language but also a thinker who revealed the inner potential of linguistic units. His lexical choices, phraseological expressions, stylistic devices, and symbolic meanings significantly contributed to shaping and refining the Uzbek literary language.

The relevance of this research stems from the growing need to strengthen the moral foundation of young generations in an era of globalization, where cultural identity, national pride, and ethical consciousness play a fundamental role in forming well-rounded individuals. Studying the spiritual and moral ideas reflected in Navoi's works, analyzing their linguistic representation, and identifying their significance in contemporary education are essential for preserving and promoting national values.

This study aims to examine the spiritual and moral ideas in Alisher Navoi's works from a linguistic perspective, to analyze how these ideas are expressed through lexical-semantic, phraseological, and stylistic units, and to highlight their importance in the moral upbringing of modern society.

The works of Alisher Navoi are deeply rooted in the spiritual traditions of Eastern culture and Sufi philosophy. His masterpieces such as the "Khamsa," "Mahbub al-Qulub," "Nasayim al-Muhabbat," "Hayrat al-Abror," and "Lison ut-Tayr" revolve around themes of spiritual purification, justice, honesty, generosity, loyalty, chastity, humility, and compassion. Navoi's worldview reflects the influence of Rumi, Attar, Yassawi, and Jami, which enriched his poetic thinking and moral philosophy.

For Navoi, the highest human ideal is **perfection (insan-i kamil)**. A perfect individual is one who purifies the soul, pursues truth, and benefits society. Navoi expresses moral principles not only through didactic statements but through symbolic characters, plots, and narrative structures.

Navoi expresses moral and spiritual concepts using various linguistic devices:

He employs numerous ethical, spiritual, and Sufi terms:

- patience, gratitude, modesty, honesty, justice, loyalty, generosity
- spirit, heart, truth, divine love, enlightenment, purity



These lexical units reflect the spiritual depth of his worldview.

Navoi uses unique idiomatic expressions to strengthen ethical meanings:

- **purify the house of the heart** — spiritual cleansing
- **open the eyes to truth** — enlightenment
- **the mirror of the soul/heart** — moral measurement

These enrich expressiveness and emotional impact.

Navoi frequently uses:

- **metaphors**: “the garden of the heart,” “the river of love,” “the mirror of the soul”
- **symbols**: nightingale — lover; rose — beloved; candle — the soul
- **similes**: “sun of justice,” “ocean of knowledge”

These artistic tools reinforce his ethical and philosophical messages.

Navoi’s works encourage young generations to embrace:

- sincerity and honesty,
- love for knowledge,
- devotion and loyalty,
- compassion and kindness,
- patriotism and courage.

His texts serve as a rich source of moral upbringing and remain highly relevant for developing ethical awareness in modern society.

In the works of Alisher Navoi, the representation of spiritual and moral ideas is closely linked to the poet’s deep devotion to universal human values. In his literary heritage, central themes include the human inner world, purity of the soul, spiritual needs, worldview, and attitudes toward society. According to Navoi, the human being is the greatest miracle of the Creator, and therefore must constantly strive for self-perfection, struggle against the desires of the lower self, and adhere to the principles of honesty and justice. For this reason, while depicting moral qualities, Navoi employs the aesthetic potential of language to create powerful and expressive images.

One of the dominant ideological lines in Navoi’s works is the opposition between good and evil, truth and falsehood, spiritual purity and bodily desires. The poet views human existence as a journey toward spiritual growth, self-realization, and responsibility before society. Consequently, Navoi’s texts abound in advice,



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wisdom, and didactic reflections related to moral-spiritual themes. These are not presented merely as moralistic instructions; rather, they acquire deep philosophical meaning thanks to the poetic richness of his artistic expression.

Navoi's spiritual ideas become even clearer through linguistic units. Lexical concepts such as "heart," "soul," "patience," "modesty," "generosity," "knowledge," and "truth" form the central conceptual network of his poetic thinking. Around these notions, the poet creates numerous metaphors, symbols, and similes that immerse the reader in a profound aesthetic and spiritual experience. Among these concepts, the "heart" holds a particularly broad and multilayered meaning: it symbolizes not only the center of the human spirit but also the mirror of truth, the source of divine light, and the emblem of purity and goodness. Similarly, the concept of "love" reflects the fusion of divine and human affection and represents the principal driving force of spiritual development.

The allegorical symbols used by Navoi constitute a semiotic system that aids the reader in comprehending his spiritual messages. For example, the candle symbolizes the burning of the soul; the moth — devotion and self-sacrifice in the path of love; the rose — beauty and the beloved; the nightingale — the lover; water — purification; and light — truth and knowledge. These symbolic images are not mere artistic devices; they are tools for conveying profound spiritual ideas in a powerful and accessible manner.

Another notable feature of Navoi's poetic language is its musicality. The poet harmonizes meter, rhyme, and rhythm with spiritual content, allowing the reader to experience a deep sense of emotional and aesthetic pleasure. His artistic speech represents one of the most refined and perfected examples of the Uzbek literary language. The spiritual and moral ideas in his works acquire genuine aesthetic and educational value precisely through the richness of these linguistic and poetic resources.

The spiritual concepts expressed in Navoi's works remain relevant even today. In the upbringing of the younger generation, his texts serve as an invaluable source of inspiration. Navoi's wisdom encourages youth to embrace honesty, compassion, justice, patience, the pursuit of knowledge, and patriotism. Therefore, the linguistic and poetic study of Navoi's legacy is of great



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significance not only for literary scholarship but also for contemporary educational and moral-development processes.

The spiritual and moral categories in Navoi's writings are constructed not only through artistic imagery but also through a well-developed philosophical conceptual system. His ideal of the "perfect human" reflects Sufi thought, emphasizing self-awareness, purification of the soul, restraint of the lower self, and the pursuit of truth. Concepts such as "divine love," "truth," "knowledge," "justice," and "devotion to people" serve as the foundation of Navoi's moral system, gaining concrete meaning through figurative expressions and symbolic characters.

For instance, the concept of **love (ishq)** in Navoi's works holds dual significance: the beauty of human love and the spiritual ascent toward divine love. Love is portrayed as a transformative force that purifies the soul, enlightens the heart, and guides the human being toward truth. Thus, qualities such as patience, loyalty, sacrifice, and courage are presented as essential traits along the path of love.

In addition to lexical and stylistic means, Navoi employs various phonetic and syntactic devices to enhance the emotional and moral expression in his poetry:

- **alliteration** — repetition of consonants to intensify emotions,
- **assonance** — harmony of vowel sounds to enhance musicality,
- **rhythmic parallelism** — syntactic repetition to reinforce ethical messages,
- **antithesis** — juxtaposition of concepts such as light–darkness, truth–falsehood, purity–impurity.

For example, in lines that contrast "light and darkness," the phonetic harmony strengthens the spiritual meaning and helps emphasize the moral essence of the verse.

Navoi's spiritual concepts are closely tied to the social realities of his time. His works address:

- social injustice,
- protection of the rights of ordinary people,
- respect for knowledge and scholars,
- promotion of honest and righteous leadership.

In "Mahbub al-Qulub," Navoi openly criticizes oppressive officials and emphasizes the importance of honesty, justice, and moral responsibility in



society. Thus, his works serve not only as literary masterpieces but also as important ethical guides that remain relevant for the moral upbringing of modern generations.

Spiritual and moral principles in Navoi's works are deeply rooted in Sufi philosophy, where the ultimate human purpose is spiritual perfection. Core Sufi concepts — **repentance, asceticism, patience, gratitude, humility, divine love, knowledge, enlightenment** — form the inner philosophical backbone of Navoi's writings. Navoi views Sufism not only as a mystical doctrine but also as a moral system capable of purifying individuals and uplifting society. Thus, in works such as "Lison ut-Tayr" and "Nasayim al-Muhabbat," the themes of inner transformation, spiritual awakening, and purification hold central importance.

Navoi masterfully uses characters as carriers of ethical and spiritual ideas. Each hero embodies specific moral virtues:

- **Farhod** — dedication, hard work, integrity,
- **Shirin** — purity, grace, loyalty,
- **Layli and Majnun** — the embodiment of divine and unconditional love,
- **Iskandar** — the ideal of a just and wise ruler,
- **Bahrom** — the symbolism of human weaknesses and the struggle to overcome them.

These symbolic characters allow Navoi to explore complex human emotions, ethical challenges, and the process of moral elevation with artistic depth.

Knowledge, enlightenment, and wisdom occupy a central space in Navoi's ethical worldview. For him, knowledge is the light that dispels ignorance, while enlightenment leads the human being toward truth. In "Saddi Iskandariy," Iskandar is portrayed as a ruler who places knowledge above worldly power. In "Mahbub al-Qulub," scholars are depicted as moral guides whose responsibility is not only to teach but also to embody ethical principles.

Thus, Navoi's works not only extol knowledge but also define its moral function in society.

From the perspective of linguistic axiology, moral values in Navoi's works can be categorized through semantic fields:

- **Positive ethical field:** purity, generosity, benevolence, sincerity, justice;
- **Negative ethical field:** oppression, ignorance, greed, deceit, betrayal;



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• **Spiritual-emotional field:** divine love, separation, patience, repentance, loyalty;

• **Intellectual field:** wisdom, truth, reflection, enlightenment.

This approach clarifies how spiritual meaning is encoded in lexical, semantic, and stylistic levels of Navoi's poetic language.

Navoi's works have shaped not only literary tradition but also the moral consciousness of society. His promotion of justice, honesty, compassion, generosity, and human dignity contributed to the moral foundation of Central Asian cultural identity. In "Mahbub al-Qulub," his sharp critique of oppressive governors and corrupt officials demonstrates his belief that social justice must stem from moral integrity. As a result, his ethical teachings have deeply influenced societal attitudes toward leadership, humanity, and responsibility.

Navoi's understanding of morality is strongly rooted in Eastern cultural codes, classical adab literature, and prophetic traditions. Concepts such as modesty, kindness, proper speech, humility, respect for elders, and compassion for the weak are frequently highlighted. Navoi argues that:

- Knowledge without etiquette is fruitless,
- Wealth without morality is harmful,
- Power without ethics turns into oppression.

Thus, his poetic language functions as both aesthetic expression and cultural moral instruction.

Many lexical units in Navoi's poetry convey profound spiritual meaning. For example:

- **"Patience"** represents not only endurance but also inner strength and faith,
- **"Modesty"** symbolizes purity and honor,
- **"Loyalty"** implies spiritual steadiness,
- **"Generosity"** encompasses kindness and moral responsibility.

These words acquire even deeper significance within poetic context, enriched by metaphors and symbolic associations.

Navoi masterfully harmonizes form and meaning. Ethical ideas are reinforced by:

- rhythmic structure,
- melodic patterns,
- symbolic progression,



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- parallel imagery,
 - cohesive narrative development.

When describing divine love, for instance, Navoi uses soft rhythms, symbolic metaphors, and rich imagery to evoke a spiritual atmosphere that mirrors inner enlightenment.

In the age of globalization, spiritual resilience and moral self-awareness are crucial for youth. Navoi's works serve as a timeless source of:

- patriotism,
- identity awareness,
- moral strength,
- intellectual curiosity,
- honesty and diligence.

Integrating his teachings into modern curricula can significantly enhance the ethical development of young generations.

The works of Alisher Navoi stand as masterpieces of Uzbek literature and Eastern spiritual heritage, placing the issue of human moral and spiritual perfection at their core. Navoi's ethical worldview, shaped by Sufi philosophy, Qur'anic teachings, prophetic traditions, and classical literary culture, forms a unique poetic system that conveys profound moral ideas. Concepts such as the perfect human, justice, sincerity, loyalty, love for knowledge, generosity, and modesty are expressed through symbolic imagery, metaphors, idiomatic expressions, and diverse linguistic and stylistic devices.

Throughout the research, it was established that Navoi's spiritual and moral ideas are intricately reflected in linguistic units, appearing at lexical-semantic, phraseological, phonetic, and syntactic levels. The poet's mastery of language contributes significantly to the depth and emotional impact of these ideas. His symbolic universe — including candles and moths, nightingales and roses, light and darkness, rivers and gardens — elevates moral truths to an artistic and philosophical realm.

Navoi's legacy also carries immense social and educational significance. In today's globalized world, his teachings on justice, honesty, compassion, knowledge, and enlightenment remain essential for strengthening the moral consciousness of younger generations. His ethical guidance holds an important



place in modern educational programs, spiritual training, and character-building initiatives.

Thus, examining the spiritual and moral content of Navoi's works from a linguistic perspective is valuable not only for literary studies but also for linguistics, philosophy, cultural studies, and pedagogy. The spiritual ideas embodied in Navoi's works continue to serve as a source of moral purification, intellectual inspiration, and social harmony for contemporary society.

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