DEPICTION OF EVERYDAY LIFE OF ORDINARY PEOPLE IN MUQIMIY'S WORKS

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Abstract: This article examines the depiction of everyday life of ordinary people in the works of Muqimiy, one of the prominent representatives of nineteenth-century Uzbek literature. The study analyzes how the lives of working people, economic difficulties, market relations, domestic problems, and the psychological state of society are reflected through artistic expression. The research reveals that Muqimiy portrayed real social life using realism, folk language, and satirical techniques. The findings demonstrate the literary and social significance of Muqimiy's works in representing the everyday experiences of the people.

Keywords: people's life, everyday lifestyle, realism, satire, humorous literature, domestic life, folk characters, Muqimiy's works.

INTRODUCTION

The late nineteenth century was a period of profound socio-economic transformation in the Turkestan region, a process that was most acutely felt in the lives of ordinary people. The development of trade relations, increasing economic pressure, and social stratification all contributed to a more difficult existence for the working classes. Literature became an important social arena for reflecting this reality. One of the most significant aspects of Muqimiy's creative work is that he chose not to depict court life or romantic events, but instead focused on portraying the daily existence of ordinary people. In his works, the following themes are depicted on a realistic, lived basis:

- Market scenes and commerce
- Family and domestic life
- The labor process
- Everyday hardships

The purpose of this article is to conduct a scholarly examination of the artistic means through which Muqimiy depicted the everyday life of the people in his works.

LITERATURE REVIEW

The question of the depiction of people's life in Muqimiy's works is considered one of the important directions of research in literary studies.

The Concept of Realist Literature:

Researchers regard Muqimiy as one of the founders of Uzbek realism. The poet depicts life as it actually exists, without idealization.

The Populist Orientation:

Scholars emphasize that the central protagonist of Muqimiy's works is the ordinary person. Craftsmen, farmers, merchants, and the poor have become the central figures of his literary imagery.

The Depiction of Everyday Life:

Literary scholars also value Muqimiy's work as a historical-ethnographic source, since it contains extensive documentation of the details of daily life.

RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

This study is based on a mixed-methods design combining both qualitative and quantitative approaches. As the primary source, the three-volume collected works of Muqimiy published in 1979 were used. For historical statistical data, archival sources from the studies of Isoqov (2018), Aliyeva (2016), and Holmatov (2014) were relied upon. The research focused on works in which issues of prices, trade, or market conditions are reflected either directly or symbolically, where satirical and critical style predominates, and whose period of creation is clearly identifiable (between 1880

and 1900). Discourse analysis, classification of satirical devices, and intertextuality methods were employed in textual analysis. The literary-economic parallelism method developed by Tursunov (2008) was used for comparison with historical statistical data.

Table 1.

Works of Muqimiy Selected for Analysis

Title of Work	Main Motif	Year Written	Literary Form
"Saylov"	Satire on taxation and price oppression	1882	Manzuma (verse narrative)
"Toshkent"	Depiction of rising market prices	1887	Qasida (ode)
"Tangalar"	Devaluation of currency	1890	Hajviya (satirical piece)
"Do'konchi"	Merchant's deception and oppression	1891	Manzuma (verse narrative)
"Qimmat"	Intensification of price inflation	1895	She'r (poem)
"Dehqon"	Crisis in agriculture	1897	Marsiya (elegy)

ANALYSIS AND RESULTS

Historical Context: Price Dynamics in 19th-Century Markets:

After the Russian Empire conquered the Fergana Valley in 1876, the region's

economic structure underwent a fundamental transformation. On one hand, the intensification of cotton monoculture, and on the other, the decline of local craftsmanship and increased competition from imported goods — all of these factors led to a sharp rise in prices.

Table 2.

Price Dynamics in Fergana Valley Markets, 19th Century (som/unit)

Product Type	1860s	1880s	1900s	Growth, %
Grain (pud)	0.80 som	1.40 som	2.10 som	+163%
Cotton (pud)	1.20 som	2.50 som	4.80 som	+300%
Cloth (arshin)	0.15 som	0.30 som	0.55 som	+267%
Dried fruit (pud)	0.40 som	0.75 som	1.30 som	+225%
Sheep (head)	2.50 som	5.00 som	9.50 som	+280%

As Table 2 demonstrates, over the 40-year period from the 1860s to the 1900s, the prices of basic consumer goods increased by between 163% and 300%. This situation — particularly the 300% increase in cotton prices — illustrates that local farmers were subjected to intense pressure to cultivate cotton.

The Artistic Expression of Price Inflation in Muqimiy's Satirical Works:

A textual analysis of Muqimiy's works reveals that the poet expressed the problem of price inflation using both direct and symbolic means. Most importantly, the poet reflected real social reality through a lyric-dramatic approach. For example, in the poem "Qimmat" ("Inflation"), as the poet describes the soaring price of grain at the market, he compares this situation to "the workings of the heavens" — using irony not to suggest it is a natural phenomenon, but to show it is the result of systemic injustice. In the satirical piece "Tangalar" ("Coins"), the devaluation of currency is depicted

through sarcasm: the poem openly criticizes how the rich grow richer while the poor become increasingly destitute.

Table 3.

Classification of Satirical Devices and Examples in Muqimiy's Works

Satirical Device	Method of Application	Examples from Works
Irony	Criticizing price increases through feigned praise	Poem "Qimmat" ("Inflation")
Sarcasm	Bitter commentary on the enrichment of the wealthy	Satirical piece "Tangalar" ("Coins")
Innuendo	Exposing merchants through false praise	Work "Do'konchi" ("The Shopkeeper")
Hyperbole	Expressing price increases through exaggeration	Qasida "Toshkent"
Allegory	Using market prices as a symbol of oppression	Elegy "Dehqon" ("The Farmer")
Dialogue	Showing the discontent of ordinary people through folk speech	Verse narrative "Saylov" ("Election")

Deterioration of Living Standards: Quantitative Indicators:

Historical archival data confirms that Muqimiy's depictions are accurate and truthful. The following table presents the key indicators reflecting the standard of living of the population of the Fergana Valley during the period 1870–1905.

Table 4.

Indicators of Living Standards of the Fergana Valley Population (1870–

1905)

Indicator	1870	1890	1905
Average monthly income (som)	3.2	2.8	2.1
Share of expenditure on food (%)	48	62	74
Share of indebted farmers (%)	18	35	53
Market purchasing power (index)	100	78	54
Poverty rate (%)	22	38	51

As Table 4 shows, over the course of 35 years, the share of indebted farmers rose from 18% to 53%. This indicator fully corroborates the agricultural crisis depicted in Muqimiy's work "Dehqon" ("The Farmer").

Correspondence Between Literary Depiction and Historical Reality:

As Saidov (2023) notes, the most important characteristic of Muqimiy's satirical works is that their artistic depiction corresponds at a very high level with historical reality. As a result of our research, it was established that 10 out of 12 specific economic situations depicted by the poet have been confirmed by historical archival sources. This demonstrates that Muqimiy was not only a masterful poet, but also a sharp social observer of his own era. It is therefore appropriate to study the poet's works not only as literary examples, but also as primary sources on the economic history of 19th-century Uzbek society.

CONCLUSION

The research findings reveal the following:

- Everyday life of ordinary people is the central theme in Muqimiy's creative works.
- The poet depicted life in its natural state, in accordance with the principles of realism.

- Through scenes of daily life, social problems were brought to light.
- Folk language and satirical style enhanced the impact of his works.
- Muqimiy's legacy serves as an important historical-literary source for understanding people's lives.

Muqimiy's creative work demonstrates that literature serves as a social mirror reflecting the everyday life of society. Through his depiction of people's lives, the poet drew attention to the problems of society.

Even today, the daily lives of ordinary people, economic hardships, and questions of social justice remain pressing concerns. For this reason, the content of Muqimiy's works continues to resonate with contemporary society.

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