



THE HISTORICAL EVOLUTION OF UZBEK LITERARY PSEUDONYMS

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Abstract: Uzbek literary pseudonyms originated in ancient Turkic written monuments and attained a well-developed form during the era of Alisher Navoi. In the twentieth century, particularly during the Jadid literary movement, and in the modern period, pseudonyms acquired new semantic and social functions. This evolution is closely connected with folk oral traditions, religious and Sufi heritage, the influence of Persian-Tajik and Arabic literatures, and the processes of expressing national identity.

Keywords: virtual identity, evolution, modern discourse, semantic symbol, personal brand, aesthetic symbol.

Ancient Period and Early Sources

- **The Orkhon–Yenisey Inscriptions** (8th century) represent the earliest forms of personal names and nicknames among the Turkic peoples.
- **Divan Lughat al-Turk** (11th century, by Mahmud al-Kashgari) systematized Turkic names and nicknames, providing valuable information about naming traditions.
- **Kutadgu Bilig** (11th century, by Yusuf Khass Hajib) demonstrated the social functions of pseudonyms in the context of state administration and moral-ethical issues.
- **Qissai Rabghuzi** (14th century) reflected the integration of Turkic pseudonyms with Arabic and Persian elements through religious and educational narratives.

Classical Period (15th–19th Centuries)



- **Alisher Navoi** (1441–1501) elevated Turkic literature to its highest peak under the pen name “*Navoi*.” His pseudonym became a symbol of national identity and artistic style.
- During the **16th–19th centuries**, the choice of a pseudonym reflected a writer’s social status, religious and Sufi beliefs, as well as affiliation with a particular literary school or artistic tradition.

The Jadid Movement and the Twentieth Century

- **Abdulhamid Cholpon** (1897–1938) became widely known under the pseudonym “*Cholpon*,” which came to symbolize national awakening, freedom, and modernity.
- **Hamid Olimjon** (1909–1944) contributed to the development of lyricism and modern poetic forms in Uzbek literature through his literary pseudonym “*Olimjon*.”
- During this period, pseudonyms served as an important means of preserving national identity and resisting colonial domination.

The Modern Period

- In post-independence Uzbek literature, pseudonyms have been reinterpreted as personal brands, creative signatures, and expressions of national identity.
- In the era of the Internet and social media, pseudonyms also function as forms of virtual identity, allowing authors to construct and present themselves within digital spaces.

Table 1. Stages in the Evolution of Uzbek Literary Pseudonyms

Stage	Period	Characteristics
Ancient Sources	8th–14th centuries	Early forms of nicknames and personal names; influence of religious and Sufi traditions
Classical Period	15th–19th centuries	Pseudonyms of Alisher Navoi and other poets; development of poetic schools and literary traditions



Stage	Period	Characteristics
Jadid Period	Early 20th century	Symbol of national awakening and resistance to colonial domination
Modern Period	Late 20th–21st centuries	Personal branding, virtual identity, and the influence of global culture

Conclusion. A literary pseudonym is a deliberately chosen name used by an author instead of their real name for creative, social, or cultural purposes. Throughout the history of world literature, pseudonyms have served as an important instrument of artistic self-expression and identity formation. They allow writers to construct a specific literary persona, protect personal identity, or emphasize ideological and aesthetic positions.

From a theoretical perspective, pseudonyms can be interpreted as a form of symbolic communication between the author and the reader. They function not only as identifiers but also as semiotic markers that carry cultural, historical, and stylistic meanings. In many literary traditions, pseudonyms reflect the social environment, intellectual trends, and ideological conditions of a given period.

The use of pseudonyms is closely connected with issues of authorship and textual authority. In some cases, pseudonyms enable writers to express critical or controversial ideas without direct personal risk. In other cases, they serve as a means of artistic transformation, allowing the author to create a distinct poetic identity separate from their real-life personality.

In contemporary literature and digital culture, pseudonyms have acquired new dimensions. With the development of the internet and social media, the concept of authorship has become increasingly fluid. Online pseudonyms now function as virtual



identities, enabling individuals to participate in global communication, create digital personas, and engage in creative self-presentation.

Thus, the phenomenon of literary pseudonyms continues to evolve, reflecting changes in cultural, technological, and social contexts while remaining an important element of literary practice.

Uzbek literary pseudonyms, throughout their historical evolution, have fulfilled various social, religious, cultural, and aesthetic functions. They have played an important role in defining the creative style of poets and writers, expressing national identity, and in the modern era, continuing to function as elements of personal branding.

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