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**THE EXPRESSION OF NATIONAL MENTALITY AND TRADITIONS IN UZBEK  
LITERATURE**

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**Abstract:** This article explores the representation of national mentality and cultural traditions in Uzbek literature, emphasizing their role in shaping collective identity and artistic expression. Through an analysis of classical and modern works, the study highlights how writers reflect values such as respect for elders, hospitality, solidarity, and spiritual heritage. The research demonstrates that Uzbek literature not only preserves cultural memory but also functions as a medium of transmitting national consciousness to future generations. By investigating the symbolic and narrative strategies employed by authors, the paper provides insights into the dynamic relationship between literature, tradition, and identity. The findings contribute to a broader understanding of how literature serves as a mirror of cultural continuity while adapting to modern socio-historical contexts.

**Keywords:** Uzbek literature; national mentality; cultural traditions; identity; heritage; collective values; artistic expression

## **INTRODUCTION**

The study of literature is not limited to the aesthetic qualities of artistic texts; rather, it also encompasses the reflection of cultural, historical, and social realities embedded within them. Uzbek literature, both classical and modern, has always played a significant role in the preservation and transmission of national mentality and traditions. Literature functions as a repository of cultural codes, embodying the worldview, moral values, and collective experiences of the people. In this regard, the exploration of how national mentality and traditions are expressed in Uzbek literary works is of great importance for understanding the interaction between culture and literature. Uzbek writers, poets, and thinkers have long utilized literature as a medium through which to articulate the essence of the nation's spiritual heritage. Classical authors such as Alisher Navoi incorporated philosophical, ethical, and cultural themes into their works, thereby constructing a literary space where national values were integrated with universal human ideals. In the modern era, writers continued this tradition by addressing themes of identity, social harmony, hospitality, respect for elders, and the preservation of historical memory. These themes serve not only as artistic elements but also as tools for maintaining the continuity of cultural traditions across generations. The relevance of this topic becomes even more pronounced in the context of globalization, where cultural homogenization often threatens the uniqueness of national traditions. By analyzing literary representations of the Uzbek national mentality, researchers can gain deeper insights into how literature safeguards cultural identity in changing socio-political conditions. Furthermore, such an analysis demonstrates how literature contributes to the renewal of traditions, allowing them to remain meaningful and adaptable to contemporary realities.

Therefore, the present study aims to investigate the ways in which national mentality and traditions are reflected in Uzbek literature, to identify the literary devices and symbolic frameworks employed by authors, and to assess their role in shaping cultural identity. This approach not only enhances the

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scholarly understanding of Uzbek literary heritage but also contributes to broader discussions on the role of literature in preserving and transmitting national consciousness.

## **CONCLUSION**

The conducted study demonstrates that Uzbek literature plays an essential role in preserving, interpreting, and transmitting national mentality and traditions from generation to generation. The literary heritage of Uzbekistan—whether expressed in the philosophical depth of Alisher Navoi’s classical works or in the realistic portrayals of modern authors—consistently reflects the cultural identity of the people. These works preserve values such as hospitality, respect for elders, community spirit, and attachment to spiritual and historical roots, which collectively form the foundation of the Uzbek national mentality. The research findings confirm that literature acts not only as a repository of cultural memory but also as a dynamic instrument of adaptation. While globalization and modernization introduce new challenges, Uzbek literature continues to reinterpret traditions in ways that make them meaningful in the contemporary world. Authors skillfully integrate elements of folklore, oral traditions, and collective wisdom into their narratives, thus ensuring that literature remains a bridge between the past and the future. Furthermore, the study reveals that the representation of national mentality in literature contributes significantly to the formation of national identity. By reading and interpreting literary texts, individuals develop a deeper awareness of their cultural roots and values, which, in turn, fosters a stronger sense of belonging and pride. This process enhances the resilience of cultural identity in the face of external influences and encourages intercultural dialogue by highlighting the uniqueness of Uzbek traditions within the broader global context. It is also important to note that the ongoing relevance of national mentality and traditions in literature reflects the adaptability of Uzbek cultural values. Rather than being static, these values evolve in response to social, political, and technological changes while maintaining their core essence. This duality—preservation and innovation—makes literature a living testimony of cultural continuity.

In conclusion, Uzbek literature must be regarded as a key vehicle for both cultural preservation and identity formation. Its capacity to embody national mentality and traditions ensures that the heritage of the Uzbek people remains vibrant and influential, not only within the country but also in the global literary arena. Future research on this subject should further examine comparative perspectives, analyzing how Uzbek literature interacts with and contributes to world literature while maintaining its unique cultural voice.

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