Features of the Traveling Genre

Djalilova Khurshida, Ph.D
Associate Professor National University of Uzbekistan Named after Mirzo Ulugbek,
E-mail: khurshida@mail.ru

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ABSTRACT
The study of the genre’s features of fiction is one of the main tasks currently facing literary criticism. The subject of research in this article is the genre of travel, its features and place. The author refers to the works of native and foreign researchers, such as S. Akhmedov, B. Tomashevsky, D. Likhachev, I. Maltseva, M. Bakhtin, M. Sokolyansky, V. Guminsky, V. Mikhailov, M. Shadrina, V. Shachkova, S. Turaev, N. Fradkin, O. Popovic, K. Poluektova, C. Blenton, A. Brilli, C. Pekovich and others, which allows to fully identify the definitions of this genre. In conclusion, the author concludes that the “journey” is an independent genre of the fiction, which has its own signs and elements. A feature of this genre is the special role of the author’s image, documentary and fiction, a combination of elements of such genres epistolary, essay, diary and memoirs. In the study, this genre is divided into works based on real travels and works based on fiction.

KEYWORDS: travel, genre, diary, epistolary novel, adventure, essay, chronotope, journalism.

Thousands of works on the theme of travel have been created in the languages of the peoples of the world during the many thousands of centuries of human history, and especially after the origin of written literature. In Uzbek classical literature, works describing travel impressions are called “Sayahatnoma”. In the early stages of Uzbek literature, the genre of “Sayahatnoma” was not pure, but syncretic among other genres. According to literary critic S. Akhmedov: “... By the time of Uzbek democratic literature, complete examples of this genre have emerged, which differ significantly from other genres in terms of a number of ideological and aesthetic principles... The founder of this genre in the Uzbek democratic literature, which took a certain poetic form and later became a literary tradition, was Mukhammad Aminnojoglu Muqimi” [1].

In the East, some of the works describing the events and impressions of the journey were also called “Safarnoma”. “Safarnoma” by Nasir Khisravi is such a work. In European literature, the genre of travelogue is associated with the ancient and ever-young epos “The Odyssey” by Homer. It is known that any literary genre is a historical-aesthetic category. It can change and improve in certain periods depending on the period, historical conditions, creative environment and the ability of a creator. Due to the conditions of the genre and the need for the development of aesthetic thinking, it can come to the forefront among other literary genres, which, along with them, are actively used or out of literary consumption in general.

According to D.S. Likhachev, genres interact differently with each other in different historical periods. They “interact with each other, support each other, and at the same time compete with each other” [2]. Among the
works created over thousands of years in the history of human literature, the travelogue genre stands out for its important place among other genres. The travelogue genre has not only gone out of consumption in rivalry competitions with other literary genres over the years, but has become the most immortal and beloved genre. “Travelogue is one of the oldest and most changing genres ... A genre with all the possibilities”[3].

Describing the genre of travel, V. Guminsky notes that it has additional aesthetic, political, publicistic, philosophical and other tasks, as well as is formed as a result of a complex interaction of documentary, artistic and folklore[4]. The travelogue genre, more precisely a set of genres, is relatively little studied in literature. When the term travelogue is applied to belles-lettres, we first mean to its major epic works, such as epos, novels, narratives, feature travelogues.

Well-known Russian scholar D.S.Likhachev described the travelogue as “reminiscences written in the form of travel diaries or created on the basis of materials collected during the trip” [2]. The scientist came to this conclusion as a result of the analysis of travel memoirs written by the ambassadors of the Russian state in the XII-XVII centuries. Based on the description given by D.S. Likhachev, the Russian scholar I.M. Maltseva showed three types of travel memoirs created by the end of the XVII century: 1. Inscriptions about the travels of scholars and other pilgrims to the “holy places”. 2. Official reports on travel and travel details of official representatives of states (ambassadors, diplomats and couriers) sent abroad on various assignments. 3. Travel memoirs written by others for various purposes [5].

In addition to the scholar's opinion, it should be noted that the inscriptions about the trips to the “holy places” are also common in Turkic-speaking countries, they are called “hadjnames”. One such example in the literature of Turkic-speaking peoples is the writings of the Bashkir traveler Murtaza-Ghali ibn Kutlugush about his visit to the holy places of Arabia in 1703. The original of the work has not been preserved. Some parts of Ibn Kutlugush's hadjnama came to us through “Asar” by R. Fakhredinov (vol. 1, part 2, Orenburg, 1901) [6]. Among the works of this genre in the Uzbek literature of the period of national awakening is “Hadjnoma” by Furkat. In addition, “the poet wrote a number of other works on the impressions of Hajj worship” [7]. “Hadjnoma”, written by Haji Abdullah Arif, is one of such works in modern Uzbek literature.

M.G. Shchadrina divides travels into the following types: travelogues to holy places, scientific records of expeditions, literary travelogues [8]. The first group includes travelogues created in Russia in the X-XVII centuries after pilgrims to holy places, the second group includes details of scientific travels of Russian scientists to different parts of Russia since the XVIII century, and the third group includes “literary travelogues” created in the XVIII-XIX centuries. The scholar calls the term “travel literature with literary travelogue, which reflects the characteristics of the protagonist's artistic perception of the world and has a bright fiction style”.

Western researchers argue that since the Renaissance, travel has been a way of gaining knowledge about the world and at the same time classifying general knowledge. “At the end of the sixteenth century, the travels and attitudes to them among aristocrats aroused great interest due to the intellectual interest of scientists who aimed to study the phenomena created by nature and mankind, as well as ancient art.” [9]. A. Brilli said that during this period travel was one of the only ways to study such areas as political science, economics, history, foreign languages, and described the eighteenth century as the “golden age of travel” and the “flourishing period of travel literature” in Europe.

According to N.G. Fradkinn, travel literature can be divided into two groups in a broad and narrow sense. According to the scientist, “the first includes all the works whose plot is related to the theme of organic travel,
describing real geographical directions. “Odyssey” by J. London and R. Sabatini ("Northern odyssey" and “Captain Blood's odyssey”) are such examples. The second group includes works in which the theme of the trip and its direction, the traveler's road impressions are the main subject-matter. The artistic depiction of the trip is the basis of these works.” [10].

According to the scientist, the most important feature of the travelogue as a literary genre is to reflect the geographical reality of the route. In other words, this criterion distinguishes character travelogues from works in which the subject of travel is used only as an artistic method.

A number of studies on the typology of genres in Western European fiction [13-16] have different views on works related to the subject of travel in pure fiction.

Famous polish literary critic Yu.Krijjanovskiy, in particular, in his pamphlet “Literary Science” classifies the novels of the Enlightenment by subject as follows: 1) psychological novels; 2) social novels and 3) novels about travel [11]. The Ukrainian literary critic M.G. Sokolyansky assesses that there is no single principle in such a classification and proposes his own classification: 1) adventure novel; 2) “great road novel”; 3) psychological novel and 4) fantastic novel. The scholar believes that the “travel novel” became popular in the later stages of the genre’s development [15].

Although works on the theme of travel have been reflected in the works created from ancient monuments to the present day, travel has not been sufficiently studied as a literary genre. Based on the above, in this study, we propose to explore the genre of travel in fiction in two forms. They are: 1. Works based on real geographical route and travel. Travelogues - travel memoirs, diaries and travel features are among such works. 2. Travel literature based on artistic texture. In such works, the theme of travel is used only as an artistic technique. The chronotope plays an important role in the works of this genre. There are commonalities and peculiarities between the works of “travel”, written in different periods and directions, sometimes consisting of a synthesis and complex of different genres.

REFERENCES


