

Linguistic Features of Literary Works in Uzbek and German Classical Literature

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ABSTRACT

This article examines the linguistic features of literary works in Uzbek and German classical literature through a comparative analysis of the works of Alisher Navoi and Johann Wolfgang von Goethe. Particular attention is paid to lexical richness, syntactic organization, figurative language, stylistic devices, archaic and culturally marked vocabulary, narrative techniques, and the interaction between literary language and national cultural identity. The study demonstrates that classical literary texts represent not only aesthetic constructions but also important sources for the historical development and standardization of literary languages. Navoi's works played a significant role in the development and enrichment of the Old Uzbek literary language, while Goethe's works contributed to the expansion of expressive and stylistic possibilities within German literary culture. Despite significant structural differences between Uzbek and German, both literary traditions demonstrate a sophisticated interaction between linguistic form, aesthetic intention, philosophical ideas, and cultural experience. The comparative perspective reveals that lexical selection, syntactic variation, metaphorical expression, and stylistic foregrounding function as important mechanisms for creating literary meaning in both traditions.

Keywords: Classical literature, Uzbek literary language, German literary language, Alisher Navoi, Johann Wolfgang von Goethe, literary language, stylistics, lexical features, syntax, metaphor, comparative linguistics, linguopoetics.

INTRODUCTION

Language and literature are inseparably connected phenomena that reflect the intellectual, cultural, historical, and aesthetic development of society. A literary work is not merely a collection of words and grammatical structures; it is a complex linguistic and artistic system through which an author constructs reality, expresses individual and collective values, conveys emotions, and communicates philosophical ideas. Therefore, the study of literary language occupies an important position in contemporary linguistics, particularly in stylistics, linguopoetics, comparative linguistics, and historical linguistics. Classical literary works are especially valuable in this respect because they preserve linguistic features characteristic of particular historical periods while simultaneously demonstrating the creative possibilities of literary language.

The linguistic analysis of classical literature makes it possible to identify the relationship between language and cultural development. Literary texts created in different historical and geographical contexts may differ substantially in their grammatical systems, vocabulary, syntactic organization, and stylistic conventions. Nevertheless, they often perform similar communicative and aesthetic functions. Through lexical selection, metaphorical expressions, syntactic constructions, repetition, parallelism, symbolism, and other linguistic devices, classical writers transform ordinary language into an artistic medium capable of expressing complex intellectual and emotional meanings. Consequently, comparative analysis of literary languages can reveal both universal principles of artistic communication and culturally specific ways of conceptualizing reality.

Uzbek classical literature represents an important stage in the historical development of the Uzbek literary language. The literary heritage of Alisher Navoi occupies a particularly significant position in this process. Navoi not only created outstanding poetic, prose, and philosophical works but also demonstrated the considerable expressive and aesthetic potential of the Turkic literary language. His works contain a highly

developed lexical system, extensive synonymic resources, metaphorical expressions, archaic lexical units, Arabic and Persian borrowings, complex syntactic constructions, and diverse stylistic devices. The language of Navoi's works therefore provides valuable material for investigating the historical development of Uzbek literary language and the interaction between linguistic structure and literary aesthetics.

The significance of Navoi's linguistic heritage is associated with the fact that his literary works demonstrate the ability of the Turkic language to express sophisticated philosophical, ethical, aesthetic, and spiritual concepts. His lexical choices are often determined not only by semantic requirements but also by rhythm, rhyme, imagery, cultural symbolism, and stylistic context. The coexistence of Turkic vocabulary with Arabic and Persian lexical elements reflects the multilingual literary environment of Central Asia during the fifteenth century. At the same time, Navoi's conscious and creative use of Turkic linguistic resources contributed to the development of its literary prestige and expressive capacity.

The language of Navoi's works is also important from the perspective of historical linguistics. A considerable number of lexical and grammatical forms found in his texts differ from those used in contemporary Uzbek. Archaic words, historical grammatical forms, and traditional poetic constructions provide evidence of the linguistic development that occurred between the classical and modern periods. Consequently, the study of Navoi's literary language makes it possible to examine the continuity and transformation of Uzbek linguistic forms over time.

German classical literature, in turn, represents one of the most significant stages in the development of German literary and intellectual culture. The works of Johann Wolfgang von Goethe occupy a central position within this tradition. Goethe's literary heritage encompasses poetry, drama, prose, autobiographical writing, philosophical reflection, and literary criticism. This generic diversity is reflected directly in the linguistic organization of his works. His language demonstrates substantial variation in lexical register, syntactic structure, narrative organization, figurative expression, and rhetorical strategy.

Goethe's literary language is characterized by a close relationship between linguistic expression and philosophical thought. His works frequently explore such concepts as individual development, freedom, nature, knowledge, art, human experience, and cultural interaction. These conceptual dimensions influence his choice of vocabulary and syntactic structures. In prose, for example, complex sentence structures and extended descriptions may be employed to represent psychological development or intellectual reflection, while his poetry frequently relies on metaphor, symbolism, rhythm, sound organization, and lexical economy.

The study of Goethe's language is particularly relevant to the investigation of the relationship between literary form and intellectual content. His works demonstrate that linguistic structure can participate actively in the creation of philosophical meaning. The choice of a particular lexical item, sentence structure, metaphor, or narrative perspective may influence the reader's interpretation of an idea. Thus, Goethe's literary language should be examined not simply as a formal system but as an essential component of his artistic and philosophical worldview.

A comparative study of Uzbek and German classical literature is particularly relevant because the two literary traditions developed within substantially different linguistic and cultural environments. Uzbek belongs to the Turkic language family and possesses an agglutinative grammatical structure, whereas German belongs to the West Germanic branch of the Indo-European language family and has an inflectional grammatical system. These typological differences influence the ways in which literary meaning is constructed and stylistically organized.

At the lexical level, the differences are especially significant. The language of classical Uzbek literature contains extensive interaction among Turkic, Arabic, and Persian lexical resources. In Navoi's works, such interaction contributes to semantic differentiation and stylistic richness. German classical literature, by comparison, demonstrates lexical development within the German linguistic system while also reflecting the influence of

Latin, Greek, French, and other European cultural traditions. Goethe's vocabulary is particularly notable for its ability to combine everyday expressions with philosophical, aesthetic, scientific, and literary terminology.

The syntactic organization of the two literary traditions also presents important differences. Uzbek, as an agglutinative language with relatively flexible word order, provides considerable opportunities for syntactic rearrangement, emphasis, poetic inversion, and parallel construction. In classical poetry, these possibilities are closely associated with meter, rhyme, rhythm, and rhetorical organization. German, on the other hand, has a more structurally constrained syntactic system, including characteristic verb-position patterns and extensive use of subordinate clauses. Goethe's literary prose makes sophisticated use of these structures to express logical relationships, temporal sequences, psychological states, and philosophical reflection.

Despite these structural differences, both Navoi and Goethe demonstrate a common principle of literary language: linguistic form is inseparable from artistic meaning. Neither author uses vocabulary, grammar, or syntax randomly. Linguistic choices are determined by genre, communicative intention, aesthetic purpose, cultural context, and the conceptual structure of the work. This makes their literary heritage particularly suitable for comparative linguopoetic investigation.

Another important aspect of the comparison concerns figurative language. Metaphor, symbolism, epithet, comparison, personification, repetition, and syntactic parallelism are important components of both literary traditions. However, their semantic and cultural realization differs considerably. In Navoi's poetry, traditional Eastern symbols such as the rose, nightingale, beloved, wine, garden, light, and darkness frequently participate in complex poetic and philosophical systems. In Goethe's works, natural imagery, individual experience, human development, art, and philosophical symbolism often constitute important elements of figurative expression. The comparative investigation of such imagery can therefore reveal how similar linguistic mechanisms acquire different meanings within different cultural systems.

The study of classical literary language is also relevant to the concept of national literary identity. Literary language does not merely reflect an already existing national culture; it can actively participate in the formation and consolidation of cultural identity. The literary achievements of Navoi contributed significantly to the recognition of the expressive potential of Turkic literary language, while Goethe's works played an important role in the development of German literary and intellectual culture. Their linguistic heritage consequently represents both an artistic phenomenon and an important component of cultural history.

In contemporary linguistics, the investigation of classical texts has acquired additional significance because digital corpora and computational methods make it possible to analyze large quantities of literary material systematically. Corpus-based research can identify the frequency of lexical units, synonymic relations, collocations, grammatical patterns, metaphorical structures, and stylistic preferences. Such approaches can complement traditional philological and stylistic analysis and provide more objective evidence for comparative studies of literary language.

The relevance of the present study is therefore determined by the need to investigate classical literary language not only from an aesthetic perspective but also as a historically and culturally conditioned linguistic system. Comparing Uzbek and German classical literature makes it possible to identify common linguistic mechanisms of artistic expression while simultaneously revealing the national and cultural specificity of literary discourse.

The vocabulary of classical literature performs not only a nominative function but also an aesthetic and conceptual one. In both Uzbek and German classical literature, lexical choice is closely connected with the author's worldview, historical environment, and cultural tradition.

In AlisherNavoi's works, the lexical system is characterized by three major layers:

- native Turkic vocabulary;
- Arabic borrowings expressing philosophical and religious concepts;

- Persian lexical units associated with poetic imagery and refined stylistic expression.

Modern linguistic studies confirm that Navoi consciously expanded the expressive possibilities of the Turkic literary language through extensive synonymy and semantic differentiation.

In contrast, Goethe's literary language demonstrates remarkable register variation. His vocabulary combines everyday German expressions with philosophical terminology, scientific concepts, and classical cultural references. Rather than relying on multilingual borrowing to the same extent as Navoi, Goethe enriches meaning through contextual flexibility and semantic precision.

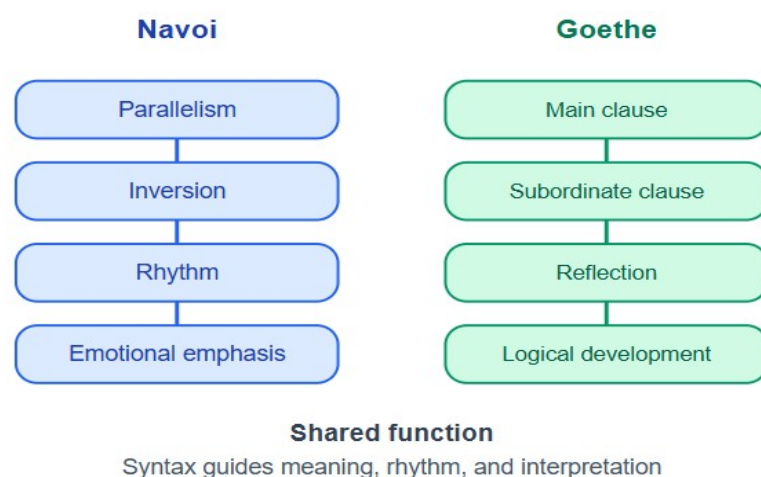
The typological distinction between Uzbek and German strongly influences literary language. Uzbek is an agglutinative language in which grammatical meaning is primarily expressed through suffixation, whereas German is an inflectional language that relies on case, gender, articles, and verbal agreement.

Feature	Uzbek Classical Literature	German Classical Literature
Language type	Agglutinative	Inflectional
Main grammatical device	Suffixation	Case and agreement
Word order	Relatively flexible	More structurally regulated
Literary effect	Rhythmic compactness	Logical precision

Navoi frequently condenses multiple grammatical meanings into a single lexical unit through suffixation, producing highly economical poetic lines. Goethe, by contrast, constructs meaning through hierarchical sentence organization and grammatical relationships between clauses. This difference illustrates how linguistic typology shapes literary aesthetics rather than limiting artistic creativity.

Syntax determines the rhythm, pace, and intellectual depth of literary discourse. Classical Uzbek poetry often employs inversion, ellipsis, and parallel constructions to satisfy metrical

and rhetorical requirements, while German classical prose develops meaning through hypotactic structures and subordinate clauses.



Research on Goethe's narrative prose emphasizes that complex syntactic organization is closely related to philosophical reflection and the Bildungsroman tradition.

Metaphor represents one of the most powerful linguistic mechanisms in classical literature. Although both traditions employ metaphor extensively, their symbolic systems originate from different cultural models.

Dominant symbolic fields

Uzbek Classical Literature	German Classical Literature
Rose	Nature
Nightingale	Mountain
Garden	Journey
Wine	River
Light	Light
Beloved	Individual

In Navoi's poetry, images such as the rose, nightingale, garden, and beloved operate simultaneously as aesthetic, emotional, and

spiritual symbols. Goethe's imagery, meanwhile, is frequently connected with nature, individual experience, and philosophical development. Modern scholarship argues that Goethe's descriptive language transforms natural imagery into conceptual reflection.

The universality of metaphor is therefore accompanied by cultural specificity: identical linguistic devices produce different conceptual worlds.

Classical literature demonstrates remarkable stylistic plurality. Navoi combines lyricism, didactic discourse, historical narration, and philosophical meditation within a unified literary tradition. Goethe likewise moves fluently between lyric poetry, drama, prose fiction, autobiography, and aesthetic criticism.

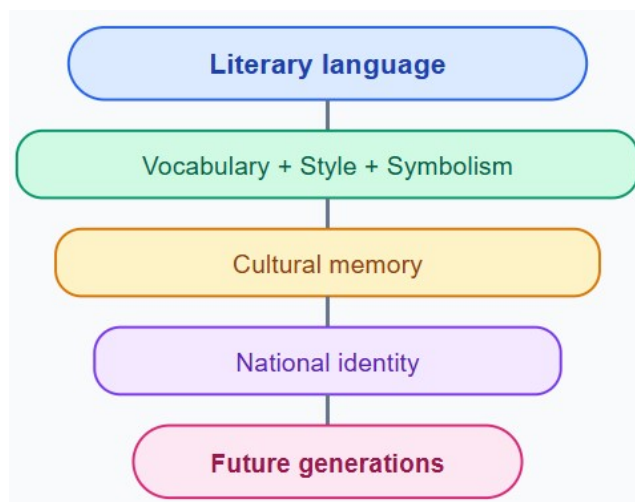
This stylistic flexibility depends upon several linguistic strategies:

- variation of lexical register;
- adaptation of syntactic complexity to genre;
- deliberate rhythm and sound organization;
- interaction between figurative and literal language.

Studies of Navoi's historical prose indicate that literary and scholarly styles frequently coexist within the same work, illustrating the multifunctionality of classical literary language.

Language in classical literature functions as a repository of national memory. Literary texts preserve historical vocabulary, ethical values, philosophical concepts, and models of cultural perception that often disappear from everyday communication.

Navoi's literary language strengthened the prestige of Turkic literary expression and became a cornerstone of Uzbek cultural identity. Goethe's works similarly shaped the intellectual and aesthetic foundations of modern German literary culture while opening German literature to broader intercultural dialogue.



CONCLUSION

The comparative analysis of Uzbek and German classical literature demonstrates that literary language represents a complex interaction of linguistic structure, artistic expression, cultural identity, and historical development. The works of Alisher Navoi and Johann Wolfgang von Goethe provide particularly valuable material for identifying the ways in which classical writers transform the resources of their respective languages into sophisticated instruments of artistic and intellectual communication.

The analysis shows that lexical richness is one of the most significant common features of both literary traditions. In Navoi's works, lexical diversity is largely associated with the interaction of Turkic, Arabic, and Persian linguistic resources, extensive synonymy, archaic vocabulary, and culturally established poetic expressions. These features enable the author to express subtle semantic distinctions and construct complex aesthetic and philosophical meanings. Goethe's literary language, in comparison, demonstrates extensive lexical and stylistic variation, combining everyday vocabulary with philosophical, literary, historical, and culturally significant expressions. Thus,

both authors use lexical selection as an important mechanism of artistic characterization and conceptualization.

The study has also revealed considerable differences at the grammatical level. The agglutinative structure of Uzbek provides opportunities for compact morphological expression and flexible syntactic organization, while the inflectional structure of German allows complex relationships to be expressed through case marking, agreement, articles, and subordinate constructions. These structural differences are reflected in the literary styles of Navoi and Goethe. Nevertheless, grammatical differences do not prevent either author from achieving comparable artistic effects through different linguistic means.

Syntactic organization represents another important area of comparison. Navoi's literary language frequently employs inversion, parallel constructions, repetition, and rhythmic organization, particularly in poetry. These devices contribute to musicality, emphasis, and emotional intensity. Goethe's prose, on the other hand, often relies on complex sentence structures, subordination, description, and logical progression. Such structures are particularly effective in expressing psychological development, philosophical reflection, and narrative continuity.

The analysis of figurative language demonstrates that metaphor and symbolism constitute essential elements of both literary traditions. Navoi's symbolic system is closely connected with the traditional imagery of Eastern poetry, including the rose, nightingale, garden, beloved, light, and darkness. Goethe's imagery is frequently associated with nature, individual experience, human development, and philosophical reflection. Although the symbolic systems are culturally different, their fundamental function is similar: they transform abstract concepts and emotional experiences into concrete artistic images.

Another important conclusion concerns the relationship between literary language and cultural identity. Classical literary works preserve not only linguistic forms but also the historical memory, aesthetic values, philosophical concepts, and cultural worldview of a society. Navoi's contribution to the development and prestige of Turkic literary expression is therefore significant not only from a linguistic perspective but also from the

perspective of Uzbek cultural history. Similarly, Goethe's literary heritage occupies an important position in the development of German literary and intellectual culture.

The comparative investigation ultimately demonstrates that linguistic differences between Uzbek and German do not prevent the existence of common principles of literary creativity. Both Navoi and Goethe demonstrate that literary language becomes particularly powerful when lexical choice, grammatical structure, syntax, imagery, rhythm, and cultural symbolism function as an integrated artistic system.

Therefore, the linguistic features of Uzbek and German classical literature should be studied not as isolated grammatical or lexical phenomena but as interconnected components of literary meaning. A comparative linguopoetic approach makes it possible to identify both universal mechanisms of artistic expression and culture-specific patterns of linguistic representation.

In conclusion, the literary heritage of Alisher Navoi and Johann Wolfgang von Goethe illustrates the creative potential of language in two different classical traditions. Their works demonstrate that the development of literary language is simultaneously a linguistic, aesthetic, intellectual, and cultural process. Further comparative research, particularly corpus-based and digital analysis of classical texts, can provide additional opportunities to investigate lexical frequency, semantic networks, syntactic patterns, metaphorical models, and stylistic preferences in Uzbek and German literary traditions.

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