

## ABSTRACT

of the PhD thesis submitted for the degree of Doctor of Philosophy (PhD) majoring in  
8D02301 – «Philology: Kazakh philology»

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on the topic: «Formation of the fantasy genre in Kazakh literature and directions  
of its artistic development».

**General characteristics of the work.** The Fantasy genre began to be studied only after it spread among the population at the end of the last century and received wide recognition of its versatility in culture. Although academic research on fantasy has already been conducted in countries far and near abroad, fundamental research in our country is rare, only in the form of individual journalistic and scientific articles.

Currently, there are debates in literary studies, including Kazakh literary studies, about the genesis of the fantasy genre, its prerequisites in cultural studies, genre modifications and other aspects. Even the question of whether fantasy is an independent genre of literature, a legitimate phenomenon or just a branch of science fiction, mythology, or the fairy-tale genre has not yet been resolved. There are no special studies devoted to this topic in Kazakhstani literary studies.

In Kazakh literature, the emergence and formation, further development of the fantasy genre was greatly influenced by Kazakh folklore, ancient kazakh mythology, folk legends and fairy tales, the genre of Kazakh fiction, formed in the second half of the twentieth century, and then, after independence, popular works that are among the world's fantastic masterpieces of the late twentieth and early twenty-first centuries.

From the founder of the fantasy genre in Kazakh literature T.Rymzhanov to the following R.Sauytbay, T.Shegirov-Turysbek Sauketayev, T.Kapashev, A.Kapanov, A.Syrmanov, Z.Torekhanova, I.Nurgaliyev, B.Ibraim, A.Tulembayeva, Z.Nauryzbay and L.Kalaus, as well as a number of others analysed the stages and types of development, plot features of the works of writers written in the genre of fantasy, continuing until now. Characteristic features of fantasy are revealed, the differences of fantasy heroes from the heroes of fairy tales, myths, science fiction are shown. In the research work the aim was to analyse the features of fantasy characters in Kazakh literature. Because it is known that the main idea, the main plot of any fantasy work is revealed through the features and characters of the protagonist and characters.

**Relevance of the research.** The transformation of genre in literature, the problems of plot, character in a work of fiction, the peculiarities of its comprehension have always been and will always be in the centre of attention of literary scholars and critics. Kazakh prose has achieved success in describing social and public changes and phenomena of the epoch, as well as in creating a variety of characters. Thus, the literary tradition of Kazakh prose continues in modern works of fantasy. However, despite the fact that the world literary science has written many works on the formation of the genre of fantasy, types of fantasy, the specifics of its plot, in Kazakh literary science remains the study of the problems of fantasy. Myth, fairy tale, harmony of Kazakh fantasy with science fiction, facets of differences, continuity of fantasy heroes with heroes of fairy tales, science fiction, aspects of originality, national character of Kazakh fantasy are not theoretically studied comprehensively. The uncertainty of the peculiarities of fantasy in Kazakh literature, the uncertainty of the specific boundaries of the concept of 'fantasy' led to the fact that a variety of opinions have developed around this genre.

In recent years, many literary scholars, culturologists and psychologists have begun to show interest and attention to the phenomenon of works written in the fantasy genre and its attractiveness and popularity, especially among the younger generation. Although a number of research works devoted to this problem have been published and various definitions have been given, a universally recognized definition of the fantasy genre has not yet been formed. In this



regard, one of the tasks of modern Kazakh literary science are the stages of formation and development of Kazakh fantasy, directions of artistic development, types of fantasy, its plot field of development, including the reflection of fantasy in children's literature, determining the contribution of Kazakh fantasy in the National artistic thought, hence the relevance of our dissertation research is determined. At the same time, proving that fantasy is not only an independent genre of Kazakh literature, but also meta-genres, indicates that the topic is one of the topical ones.

The popularity of the Fantasy genre is huge, close connection with other kinds of art (computer games, movies, cartoons, animated films, comics, etc.), has a great influence on the formation of the worldview of the younger generation. From this point of view, a comprehensive study of fantasy works for children, the world of characters in it, the image of the Children's World in fantasy is necessary. Therefore, an in-depth analysis of works of children's fantasy is important.

**Object of the study:** the genre of fantasy in Kazakh literature, including children's literature.

**Subject of the study:** to show the trends of formation, development of Kazakh fantasy as a genre.

**The purpose of the study:** to identify the directions of artistic development of Kazakh fantasy, to differentiate the field, the level of study, the formation of the genre of fantasy in Kazakh literature, to prove that it is an independent genre.

The objectives that will be solved step by step in accordance with the purpose of the study are defined.

**Research objectives:**

- To identify its differences from mythology, folklore and literary fairy tales, children's fiction and science fiction by studying scientific literature devoted to the study of the fantasy genre in Kazakh and world literature and fiction written in this genre;
- To show the mechanisms of creation of author's myth (neomyth) by differentiating mythological and folklore components in the artistic space of fantasy works for children;
- To show the modern fantasy representation of plots and characters in myths and their influence on the development of the plot in such works as «Er Tostik» (The Hero Tostik), «Ker qula atty Kendebai» (Kendebai and light brown horse), «Kun astyndaqy Kunikei qyz» (The Girl Kunikei Beneath the Sun), «Ai astyndagy Aibarsha sulu» (Aibarsha the Beautiful Beneath the Moon), «Qyran qarauylshy» (The Falcon Watchman), phenomena of nature, myths about trees, myths about winged horses, myths about birds, myths about Scythians and Sak, mythology of Huns, myths of ancient Turks, Kazakh mythology, myths about stars and constellations in fantastic tales;
- To determine the field of development of Kazakh children's fantasy by comparing it with the works of world authors (analysis of works by T.Rymzhanov, R.Sauytbay, Z.Nauryzbay, L.Kalaus and other authors);
- To identify types of fantasy in the modern literary process;
- To show the features of the plot characteristic of fantasy in Kazakh literature, analyze the world of characters;
- To differentiate the meaning in the depiction of national-family values in children's fantasy and study the work of Taupyk Rymzhanov as the founder of Kazakh fantasy;
- To discover the image of "Children's World" in the fantasy novel "Shoko alemi" (Shoko world) by R.Sauytbay on the basis of conceptual analysis.

**Research Methods.** The research work used the methods of analysis, comparison, conclusion, generalization, conceptual analysis.

Scientific and methodological foundations of the study include works of domestic researchers A.Baitursynov, S.Kaskabasov, A-Kh.F.Markhabaev, B.Abdigaziev, Sh.Ibraev, P.Auesbaeva, S.Kondybay, R.Almukanova, S.Itegulova, K.Matyzhanov, foreign researchers Y.M. Lotman, V.Ya. Propp, A.N. Veselovsky, O.M. Freidenberg, A.F. Losev, A.F. Kosarev,

K.G. Jung, E.M. Meletinsky, A.M. Novikov, V.N. Mineyev, V.M. Zhirmunsky, scientific works of V.N. Toporov, Y.V. Soldatkina, A.B. Yesin and other scientists in the field of literary theory, literary history, culturology, folkloristics. In the works of these authors the questions of interaction between folklore and literature, problems of mythology, problems of mythopoetics, literary archetypes and others are considered. As important methodological guidelines we used the scientific edition of four books by Serikbol Kondybay "Argykazak myfologiyasy" (Almaty, 2004), textbook by Ya.V. Pogrebnaya "Aktual'nye problemy sovremennoj mifopoetiki"/(M., 2011) and the textbook "Aspekty sovremennoj mifopoetiki" (Stavropol, 2010). In the course of the study we were guided by scientific research devoted to the genre features of literature (N.L. Leiderman, M.M. Bakhtin, L.V. Chernets, V.L. Gopman, E.N. Kovtun, L.G. Kikhnei, Y.N. Tynyanov, etc.). In addition, we relied on fundamental works devoted to the study of the interaction of fantasy with other subsidiary genres of literature (L.V. Ovchinnikova, V.A. Karpov, T.A. Chernysheva, S.M. Leuter, M.I. Meshcheryakova, I.P. Lupanova, T.V. Krivoshchapova, E.M. Neelov and other scientists).

In studying the formation and development of children's fantasy, we also considered the works of foreign scholars studying Slavic fantasy: F.J. Molson, A.P. Gusarova, E.A. Chepur, O.P. Krinitsina, T.V. Pechagina, L.G. Golovina, M.Y. Kuzmina and others.

The factual materials of our study are "Kazakh folk prose by S. Kaskabasov (Almaty, 1984), "Kazakh fantastic literature" (Qazaq fantastikalyq adebieti) by A-Kh. F. Markhabaev (Almaty, 1998), "Kazakh mythical stories" (Qazaqtyn miftik angimeleri) compiled by Sh. Ibrayev and P. Auesbaeva (Almaty, 2002), four books entitled "Argykazak mythology" (Argyqazaq mifologiyasy) by S. Kondybay" (Almaty, 2004), "Antique motives in Kazakh folklore" (Qazaq fol'kloryndagy antikalyq saryndar) by R. Almukanova (Almaty, 2009), "Mythical heroes of Kazakhs" (Qazaqtyn miftik kejiplerleri) by S. Itegulov (Astana, 2016), "Kazakh family folklore" (Kazahskij semejnyj fol'klor) by K. Matyzhanov (Moscow, 2023), "Spiritual essence. Kazakh children's folklore" (Ruhani uyz. Qazaq balalar fol'klory) (Almaty, 2023).

**Sources of the research.** The following fantasy novels and stories have been taken as sources of the study: "Amina Turan's journey to the country of nomads" (fantasy novel) by Z. Turekhanova, "The Book of Sarman and the Six Signs" (fantasy novel), R. Sauytbai's "The World of Shoko" (fantasy novel), T. Rymzhanov's "The Heroism of Zaitunkarlygash," "Erden the Hero," and "The Tree of Flowers" (novellas), Z. Nauryzbai and L. Kalas's "Batu and His Friends' Quest for the Golden Goblet," "Batu and His Friends' Journey to the Land of Barsakelmes," and "Batu and His Friends' Journey to the Starry Desert Land" (fantasy novellas), K. Orzabekuly's "The Warriors of Turan or the Heroic Expeditions of Er, Bi, and Nar" (fantasy novella), N. Murataliyev's "The Secret Inhabitants of the Green Lake" (fantasy tale), A. Tulembayeva's "Damoka and His/Her Friends" (fantasy tale), A. Kurmanayeva's "The Tales of Nausha" (fantasy novella), B. Ybyraim's "A Journey in the Sky" (fantasy tale), Z. Terekhanova's "The City of Lunar Moths" (fantasy story), N. Nurzhanuly's "The Kingdom of Books" (fantasy story), B. Bolatkhanova's "In the World of Kind Eyes" (fantasy story), R. Akpar's "Akshakar's Dream" (fantasy story), K. Mubarak's "The Magic of the Silver-leaved Poplar" (fantasy stories) and others.

**Scientific novelty of the research.** In the dissertation research the fantasy genre as an independent literary genre in Kazakh literary science was analyzed for the first time. As a result of this analysis were revealed: a) mythological, folklore and literary fairy tale, laid archetypal basis for the works of Kazakh fantasy, Kazakh national traditions, religious plots and motifs; b) the genre of fantasy in Kazakh children's literature did not arise by itself, two main sources of its emergence and formation were identified: Kazakh national mythological and folklore heritage and the influence of world fantasy; c) for the first time the plot and features characteristic of Kazakh children's fiction are revealed, the world of fantastic heroes is systematically analysed.

**Theoretical significance of the research.** The research topic allows to reveal the genre features and mythopoetic features of Kazakh fantasy. The main conclusions made in the course of the work



can play the role of a methodological algorithm necessary for studying the regularities of development of modern Kazakh literature and mythopoetics of literature in general.

**Practical significance of the research.** The results of scientific research can be used in lectures and practical classes on literary studies, theory of literature, children's and teenage literature in higher and secondary special educational institutions. The final conclusions of the research can be used in the development of special courses devoted to the problems of defining the genres of "Children's fiction", "fairy tale", "literary fairy tale", "children's fantasy". Universities, colleges and schools have a full possibility of application in the practice of teaching literature.

**The main conclusions proposed for defence:**

- Kazakh children's fantasy is a unique, independent genre from folklore and literary fairy tale, science fiction and other prose genres of children's literature (adventure stories, novellas);
- Genre characteristics of Kazakh children's fantasy are measured by the following parameters: a) the formation of space 'alternative world' based on the concept generated by each other. 'Moving' the hero to another world is carried out with the help of a magic object, a mythical monster or in an unusual place; b) the presence of a dynamic plot based on the quest motif permeated by magical laws. The global struggle between good and evil remains as the narrative basis; b) the archetype of the child saving the world will be centred on a peculiar pictorial system in which the teenage hero lives; c) fantasy plots return to mythological and folklore concepts and even sometimes change them;
- We believe that there are two sources of children's fantasy in Kazakh literature: a) motifs and heroes of traditional Kazakh oral literature, folklore, folk tales, literary fairy tales, mythology; b) writers of the world who have become classics of modernity such as John R. R. Tolkien, K. Lewis and F. The works of Pullman. In the works of these authors, the genre is canonized by returning to mythological concepts, and sometimes even changing (in the works of C. Lewis, an attempt is made to change the religious concept). Literary transformation takes place through the author's purposeful plan;
- In the plots and events of works written recently in the genre of children's fantasy in Kazakh literature, the motives of Western, English fantasy works are traced, but presented in the Kazakh national style;
- The founder of the fantasy genre in Kazakh literature - Taupyk Rymzhanov;
- A model of the image of the "world of the child" in Rustem Dauytbai's fantasy "Shoko's world" is presented.

**Discussion and publication of the research.**

The main results and conclusions of the dissertation have been published in domestic and foreign publications, at international scientific, theoretical and practical conferences. Of these, 5 scientific articles have been published in journals recommended by the Ministry of Education and Science of the Republic of Kazakhstan, 1 scientific article in a foreign journal, 5 scientific articles (2 poster reports) in collections of international conferences.

5 scientific articles have been published in the publications recommended for the publication of the results of scientific activities of the Committee for Quality Assurance in the Field of Science and Higher Education of the Ministry of Science and Higher Education of the Republic of Kazakhstan:

1. *Origin and types of the fantasy genre in fiction* // Bulletin of L. N. Gumilyov Eurasian National University. – №2 (143). – 2023. – pp. 165-171.

2. *Philosophical meaning of fantasy mythology* // Bulletin of Sh. Ualikhanov Kokshetau University. – №4. -2023. – pp. 91-102.

3. *The problems of harmony and differences between fantasy and myth, fairy tale, fiction* («Фэнтезидің миф, ертегі, фантастикамен үндестігі және айырмашылығы мәселелері») // M. Auezov Institute of literature and art, scientific journal «Keruen», volume 81, – №4. -2023. – pp, 161-173.

4. *Problems of fantasy typology* // Bulletin of Sh. Ualikhanov Kokshetau University – №2. – 2024. –91-102 pp.

5. *Literary searches in the Kazakh fantasy genre* // M. Auezov Institute of literature and art, scientific journal «Keruen», volume 83, – №2. -2024. – pp. 214-224.

**1 article in a foreign journal:**

1. *The formation and development of the fantasy genre in world and Kazakh literature* // «SCIENTIFIC ATLAS» journal, No 4. – 2021. – pp. 46-51. Bulgaria, Burgas.

**2. 5 articles in the collections of the International Conferences:**

1. *Fantasy genre: formation, modern development and features inherent in the genre* // “I Regional Forum of young scientists and business partners of the University on December 3, 2021 «science and business as a key factor in the development of the region», – pp. 77-81.

2. *The versatility of Akhmet Baitursynov's work* // Materials of the international scientific and methodological conference «The heritage of Akhmet Baitursynov-in the space of World Spirituality». – Kokshetau, – 2022. pp. 53-57.

3. *Features of the fantasy of Taupik Rymzhanov* // Materials of the international scientific and practical conference «Shokan readings-27: the role of university science in the development of the region». – Sh. Ualikhanov Kokshetau University, – April 21, 2023. - pp. 84-89.

4. *Problems of recognition of fantasy as an independent genre in Kazakh literature* // Materials of the international scientific and practical conference «Shokan readings-28: a new scientific paradigm: cooperation, digitalization and commercialization». – Sh. Ualikhanov Kokshetau University, – April 26, 2024. – pp. 84-89.

5. *Mythic and Neo-Mythic Characters* // Collection of the International Congress “Humanities in the Context of Culture-Civilization-Globality: Language, Ethnos, Society,” dedicated to the 100th anniversary of academician Abduali Tuganbayevich Kaidar – Institute of Linguistics named after Akhmet Baitursynuly, Committee of Science, Ministry of Science and Higher Education of the Republic of Kazakhstan, Almaty, –2024. – pp.516-519.

**The structure of the dissertation:** the dissertation research work consists of a reference, introduction, three sections, conclusion, A list of references.

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