



## FOLKLORE OF THE PEOPLES OF THE VOLGA REGION AND THE URALS TRADITIONS, ROLE AND CONTEMPORARY TREND

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**Abstract:** The folklore of the peoples of the Volga region and the Urals represents a unique cultural heritage shaped by a variety of ethnic and historical influences. This article examines the main genres of folklore, their features, their role in traditional culture, and in the modern context. The study focuses on mythological and epic works, folk songs, tales, proverbs, and rituals. Special attention is given to the interaction of various ethnic groups such as Tatars, Bashkirs, Mari, Chuvash, and others, and their impact on the development of folklore traditions in the region. The article also discusses contemporary trends in the study and preservation of folklore, as well as its adaptation in the context of globalization.

**Keywords:** folklore, Volga region, Urals, folk traditions, epic, mythology, rituals, fairy tales, songs, ethnography, cultural heritage, globalization.

### Introduction

The folklore of the peoples of the Volga region and the Urals is a rich and diverse phenomenon that unites various ethnic groups living in these territories. The region is home to several major ethnic groups: Tatars, Bashkirs, Chuvash, Mari, Udmurts, Mordvins, and other smaller peoples. Over the centuries, the folklore of these peoples has developed, adapting to changing historical conditions and cultural influences. Despite its ethnic diversity, the folklore of the Volga region and the Urals shares certain common features, allowing it to be viewed as a unified cultural phenomenon that connects different groups through shared traditions, beliefs, and mythologies.

### 1. Main Folklore Genres of the Peoples of the Volga Region and the Urals

In the folklore of the peoples of the Volga region and the Urals, several key genres stand out, which are crucial for understanding the cultural features of these peoples. These include:

- **Epic and Heroic Songs:** These works embody national identity and traditions. For example, the epics of Western peoples, such as "The Iliad" and "The Odyssey," have analogies in the folklore of the Tatars and Bashkirs, such as the "Ural-Batyr" in Bashkir folklore and "Alpamys" in Kazakh and Tatar folklore. These works tell of great heroes who fight for justice and the freedom of their people.
- **Mythology and Mythological Tales:** The folklore of these peoples is filled with myths and legends that explain the origins of the world, humanity, and natural phenomena. Myths about gods and spirits, life after death, and the cosmos are integral to the folklore of the Volga region and the Urals.
- **Fairy Tales and Legends:** Folk tales, often featuring elements of magic, the battle between good and evil, and universal themes relevant to all peoples, are widespread. In the fairy

tales of the Volga and Ural peoples, one can find mythological motifs, images of benevolent and malevolent beings, and miraculous transformations.

- **Proverbs and Sayings:** These folklore genres encapsulate the wisdom of the people, reflecting their philosophy of life, worldview, and traditions. Proverbs and sayings are widely used in everyday life, passed down from generation to generation, and preserved as an essential element of national identity.

## 2. Ethnic and Cultural Interactions

One of the features of the folklore of the peoples of the Volga region and the Urals is the close interaction between various ethnic groups. Historically, this region has been home to peoples with diverse linguistic and cultural traditions. This interaction is reflected not only in language but also in folklore, which often results from cultural borrowing and synthesis.

Tatars, Bashkirs, Chuvash, and other peoples of the Volga and Urals, despite differences in language and religion, share many common features in their folklore stories, images, and motifs. For example, Tatar and Bashkir folklore share common mythological themes related to natural forces, animals, and legends about heroes. This ethnic interaction is also reflected in music, folk songs, and dances.

## 3. The Role of Folklore in Traditional Culture and Modernity

Folklore has always played an important role in the lives of the peoples of the Volga region and the Urals, serving as a source of moral norms and social guidelines. Folk rituals, songs, fairy tales, and legends were not only a means of entertainment but also a way to convey important information about the life and customs of the people.

In the modern world, despite globalization and the spread of mass culture, folklore continues to be a vital element of cultural identity. In recent decades, there has been a resurgence of interest in traditions, the study of folklore, and the preservation of its elements. Folklore festivals, musical and theatrical performances, as well as the efforts of scholars and cultural organizations to preserve folklore heritage, play an important role in this process. Specifically, poetic competitions, which are significant in both Russian and Uzbek folklore, continue to serve not only as entertainment but also to fulfill social, cultural, and educational functions. These poetic contests help transmit folk traditions and values, enriching cultural heritage and strengthening the bond between generations (Kodirov, 2024, p. 123).

## 4. Contemporary Trends in the Study of Folklore of the Peoples of the Volga Region and the Urals

Modern studies of the folklore of the peoples of the Volga region and the Urals are conducted in various directions. Research typically focuses on three key aspects:

1. **Comparative Study of Folklore of Different Peoples:** This approach helps to identify common elements and mutual influences between the cultures of various peoples.
2. **Preservation and Transmission of Folklore in the Context of Globalization:** With the development of technology and mass culture, folklore faces the threat of loss. In this context, particular attention is given to projects aimed at its preservation and popularization.
3. **The Influence of Folklore on Contemporary Art and Culture:** Today, folklore is actively used in music, film, theater, and literature, allowing it to adapt to modern conditions and maintain its relevance.

## Conclusion

The folklore of the peoples of the Volga region and the Urals is an important and multifaceted cultural phenomenon that plays a key role in preserving national identity and transmitting traditions. In the contemporary world, where globalization and mass culture pose a threat to traditional cultural heritage, it is crucial to continue studying and preserving the folklore traditions of these peoples so that they can continue to serve as a link between generations and cultures.

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