

THE DEVELOPMENT AND THEMATIC ANALYSIS OF GUNKIMONOGATARI (MILITARY-HISTORICAL TALES)

Erkinova Rukhshona Utkirovna

Student of Samarkand State Institute of Foreign Languages

Abstract. This article explores the origin and development of gunkimonogatari, a significant genre in Japanese literature that focuses on military-historical tales. Using “The Tale of the Heike” as a central example, the paper analyzes thematic and structural features of the genre, as well as the influence of samurai values and Buddhist philosophy in the literary context of the Kamakura period. The study contributes to understanding the literary and cultural ties between Japan and Uzbekistan.

Keywords: Gunkimonogatari, The Tale of the Heike, Kamakura period, Japanese literature, samurai, Buddhism, military-historical tales, epic genre.

INTRODUCTION

The purpose of this article is to shed light on the creation and content of gunkimonogatari (war stories), one of the popular genres of Japanese literature. The article, along with an analysis of the literary environment of the Kamakura period, studies the emergence and development of the gunkimonogatari genre. By analyzing the characteristics of literary samples, their place in the literary process of the period under study is determined.

SCIENTIFIC LITERATURE AND METHODOLOGY

The literature of the Kamakura period has been the subject of research by many scholars since the late 19th century. In particular, this issue has been covered by Japanese literary scholars such as R. Sunoda, F. Mizutani, T. Takita, T. Ebara, H. Noda, K. Kasai, T. Kondo, Y. Nakamura, O. Matsuda, S. Sukimoto, and Western researchers such as K. Florence, R. Siffer, D. Keen, H. Hibbett, K. Kirkwood, R. Lane, J. Johnson, and D. Struve. Russian Japanese scholars such as N.I. Konrad, N.G. Ivanenko, N.A. Siromyatnikov, and T.I. Redko have also made significant contributions to the study of the culture of this period [1].

Although there are many studies on the topic in world literary studies, the number of studies devoted to this topic in Uzbek oriental studies is very small [2]. The article uses comparative-historical, comparative-typological, and linguopoetic analysis methods.

DISCUSSION AND RESULTS

Gunkimonogatari is a literary genre that refers to Japanese military-historical stories. It is one of the main narrative genres of the Kamakura period (12th–14th centuries). The basis of the gunkimonogatari plot is based on national historical events, especially the civil wars of 1156–1568. These stories are distinguished by the scale of the events.

The emergence of the gunkimonogatari genre is associated with the transition of Japan to a new historical stage, the shift in political and social forces. The samurai and the military

aristocracy are at the center of literary themes. The samurai epic replaced the monogatari stories popular in the Heian period.

During the Kamakura period, samurai, who rose to political power, began to form their own culture in opposition to the previous aristocratic culture. This culture found its expression, especially in the field of literature. As a result, at the beginning of the 12th century, the "gunki" genre appeared - military-historical stories. The most famous example of this genre is the "Heike Monogatari".

The genre differs not only in its content, but also in its audience. If during the Heian period literature was reserved for the elite, during the Kamakura period it spread to the masses. N.I. Conrad says about this: "First of all, the circle of readers changed completely; a new life, new forms of statehood and a new culture: literary works for the samurai began to be created" [1].

The authors of the gunki genre reworked the texts many times. These stories exist in oral and written forms, some of which were based on the stories told by blind itinerant priests - biwa hoshi.

Buddhist temples in medieval Japan were cultural centers. Biwa hoshi, learned monks, rewrote ancient literary monuments. For example, the manuscript "Kojiki" was rewritten in a temple in the 14th century. Gunki stories were also reworked in this environment. The gunkimonogatari genre is distinguished by its unique literary language. Instead of wabun, which was widely used in the Heian period, wakan-kongo-bun - a mixed Japanese-Chinese language was used.

Battle scenes reflect the personality, strength and rank of warriors through the depiction of their clothing and weapons. Their speeches highlight their names, titles, lineage and merits. Gunkimonogatari depict battles in an epic hyperbolic style. For example, one warrior lifts a stone capable of moving hundreds of men, overcomes five hundred horsemen, and defeats the enemy with a surprise attack.

These stories usually consist of three parts: the causes of the war, the battles, and the consequences. They have an episodic structure, often consisting of short stories dedicated to specific individuals or events.

The genre of gunkimonogatari reflects the aesthetic and moral image of the samurai. These stories trace the roots of the values that later became Bushido, the samurai code [4].

Also, the gunkimonogatari stories reflect the values of Buddhism, in particular, Amida Buddhism. According to them, a person who repents and turns to Amida Buddha will be saved. Karma - the concept that determines fate according to human actions - is also one of the main ideas.

CONCLUSION

With its ancient history, rich culture and spiritual heritage, Japan occupies an important place in the treasury of world literature. Its writers have been creating works of high ideals and



artistry for centuries. The gunkimonogatari genre of Japanese literature is at a high level in terms of content and form and deserves special attention in international literary studies.

The topic of this article has been little studied in Uzbek Japanese studies, and scientific research in this area is a novelty for Uzbek literary studies. Such research serves to strengthen cultural ties between the two peoples.

During the Shogunate, the influence of Buddhism increased, education was in the hands of monks, and martial genres developed in literature. During this period, there were few female writers, and poetry and novels were relegated to the background. The Gunki genre was formed on the basis of the oral traditions of the "Soga Brothers" and the "Yoshitsune Tales". The most prominent example of the genre, the Heike Monogatari, depicts the tragic history of the Taira dynasty. This dynasty went through three stages: rise, rise, and fall. The Taira clan's rapid rise to power, changing the political environment, and then its subsequent crisis are the main themes of this story.

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