

ABSTRACT

to the dissertation of Nassikhat Mursalimova Mazikenkyzy for the degree of Doctor of Philosophy (PhD) in the educational program «8D02304 – Literary Studies» on the topic «A song competitions (aitys) by Semirechye akyns: variabilities, textual studies (based on manuscripts)»

General description of the work. The dissertation work is intended to study the Aitys heritage of the Zhetysu poets from a textological perspective based on manuscripts and published versions.

Relevance of the research work. The oral transmission of aitys, as well as their transcription and publication at various stages, has contributed to their diversity. As a result, several manuscript and printed versions of each aitys have emerged, differing in content and structure. This situation is particularly evident in the odes of the Zhetysu poets.

Thus, the textual comparison of the versions of the aitys texts between Suyunbai – Tezek Tore, Suyunbai – Katagan, Suyunbai – Arystanbek, Kulmambet – Tyubek, Kulmambet – Tyubek – Tezek Tore, Kulmambet – Maikot, Baktybay – Baimbet, Baktybay – Tezek Tore is one of the actual problems of modern literary studies. Textual differences in the versions preserved in the manuscript collections of the aitys heritage, published editions and collections of different periods require a special textological analysis. From this point of view, revealing the ways of distribution of aitys texts, features of their recording and stages of publication will allow us to understand more deeply their multifaceted nature. Another important aspect is the definition of the literary-historical place of the school of the Zhetysu school. As indicated above, the poetic tradition in this region developed according to the type of traditional school, based on the system of leading figures and a common repertoire, and not on a random collection of individual talents. The research work will allow not only to reveal variable features when studying aitys texts, but also to study the indicators of the development path of the poets of Zhetysu.

The purpose of the research work. The creativity of Zhetysu aitys poets and the development and formation of aitys art have not yet been systematically studied. In this regard, the main purpose of the research work is to determine the nature of their polymorphism by comparing the versions of aitys texts preserved in manuscript collections and published from a textological perspective, to identify their content and structural differences, and to analyze the history of the formation of the texts, as well as to identify samples close to the original text on a scientific basis.

Objectives of the research work:

- Collection and systematization of handwritten and published texts related to the literary heritage of Zhetysu poets;
- Comparison of versions of the aitys Suyunbai and Tezek Tore, Suyunbay and Katagan, Suyunbay and Arystanbek;
- Identification of text features of the Kulmambet and Tyubek, Kulmambet, Tyube, Tezek, Kulmambet and Maikot aitys;

- Textological analysis of manuscript and published examples of Baktybay and Baimbet, Baktybay and Tezek Tore aitys;
- show the nature of content, structural, volume and language changes in the aitys texts;
- determine the history of text formation and identify versions close to the original;
- to show the representatives of the Zhetysu school of aitys art, their creative connection and the continuity of traditions based on concrete data.

Subject of research: The polymorphism of the aitys of the Zhetysu poets, the history of the formation of aitys texts, the difference between manuscript and published versions, as well as the textual features of the content, structural and linguistic differences between the versions.

Research methods. Due to the specifics of aitys texts, not only their content layer, but also structural organization, volume, linguistic and artistic expressiveness, as well as changes caused by the influence of performance, were considered. From this point of view, the research methods were based on the consideration of a complex textual phenomenon at the junction of oral tradition and written culture. At the same time, a registry of the poets of Zhetysu, systematized along the lines of the formation and development of their creative succession, was created on the basis of the aitys materials.

Theoretical (methodological) basis of the research work. The theoretical and methodological basis of the research is the scientific conclusions formed in the science of Kazakh literary studies and folklore studies about the genre nature, syncretic nature, poetic structure, social function and textual features of aitys. Aitys is considered an artistic chronicle reflecting the spiritual life and social consciousness of the people, and its nature has been comprehensively studied in the works of A. Baitursynuly, I. Zhansugurov, M. Auezov, S. Seifullin, S. Mukanov, E. Ismailov, K. Zhumaliev, Z. Akhmetov, M. Zharmukhameduly, S. Kaskabasov, E. Tursynov, O. Nurmagambetova, R. Berdybaev, S. Sadyrbaev, Z. Seitzhanov, Sh. Ibraev, T. Tebegenov, A. Buldybay, T. Alibekov, S. Medeubek, B. Rakhimov and other researchers.

Main Research Sources. The primary sources for the study are manuscript versions of aitys texts by Zhetysu poets, preserved in collections, and published examples from each period. Furthermore, the work also considered collected register materials relating to representatives of the Zhetysu Aitys school, the poets' periods of life, and opponents of Aitys, as well as the sources of Aitys texts, providing an important scholarly foundation.

Scientific novelty of the research. The study, based on polymorphism and textual comparison, comprehensively examined the aitys heritage of Zhetysu poets, presenting the following scientific results:

- systematic analysis of the poetic and communicative nature of aitys art, its characteristics as a syncretic genre, as well as its aesthetic, social, and ethical functions, and theoretically clarified the place of aitys in national culture;

– Initially, the unique characteristics of the Zhetysu aitys were viewed within the context of a regional literary school, based on a system of leading figures and a shared poetic milieu, and constituted a creative school.

– To clarify the historical development of the Zhetysu aitys school, a register was compiled based on data regarding the participation of Zhetysu aitys poets in aitys performances; the continuity of their creative work was established;

– Comparative studies of the manuscript and published versions of the above-mentioned were conducted, and for the first time, their substantive and structural differences were identified from a textual perspective;

– The main factors influencing the development of polymorphism in the aitys texts of the Zhetysu poets were identified, and it was demonstrated that they are linked to the tradition of oral transmission, performer interpretation, and editorial influence during the recording and publication of the text;

– the political, ideological and editorial reasons for changes in aitys texts were systematically considered for the first time, and the impact of textual amendments during the Soviet period on the content structure was shown on the basis of specific examples;

– For the first time, by comparing aitys texts of Zhetysu poets from a textological perspective, methodological principles for analyzing the history of their formation on a scientific basis were proposed, and new directions for studying aitys texts from a variant perspective were identified.

– The Baktybai – Bayimbet, Baktybai – Tezek tore aitys were introduced into scientific circulation for the first time and analyzed from a textological perspective.

Theoretical and practical significance of the study. The theoretical significance of the study lies in its scientific definition of the multifaceted nature of Zhetysu aitys, the history of their formation, and the literary and historical significance of the regional aitys tradition. The results of the study reinforce the importance of the textual approach to the study of aitys texts and provide a theoretical basis for examining Kazakh folklore and literary heritage from a variant perspective. At the same time, they contribute to the recognition of the historical development and artistic system of the Zhetysu aitys school.

In terms of practical significance, the research results can be used in higher schools for teaching Kazakh oral literature, textual criticism, and folklore, in specialized courses and seminars, as well as in preparing aitys texts for publication and creating scholarly commentaries. Furthermore, the results of this work can also serve as a concrete material basis for the scholarly dissemination of the aitys heritage in manuscript collections.

The main results and conclusions proposed for defense:

– As a result of the conducted research, the poetic-communicative nature of aitys art and its features as a syncretic genre were comprehensively analyzed, and its aesthetic, social and ethical functions were determined. Through this, the place of aitys in the national cultural system and its spiritual and cognitive function were clarified theoretically.

– It was scientifically proven that Zhetysu aitys art is not just a set of individual poets' creativity, but a whole creative system based on a common poetic environment and historical and cultural basis.

– Compiled based on data on the participation of Zhetysu poets in aitys clarified their creative continuity and development and also allowed to prepare a systematic description of the logic behind the formation of the Zhetysu poetic school.

– For the first time, comparative studies were conducted between manuscript and published versions of aitys by Zhetysu poets, revealing their substantive and structural differences from a textual perspective. These comparisons allowed for a scholarly description of the diversity of aitys.

– the main factors that influenced the formation of the phenomenon of polymorphism in aitys texts were identified, and it was proven that they are closely related to the tradition of oral transmission, performative interpretation, and editorial influence in the process of recording and publishing the text. In addition, the political, ideological, and editorial reasons for changes in aitys texts were systematically considered for the first time, and the impact of textual amendments during the Soviet period on the content structure was demonstrated based on real data.

– As a result of the comparative textological analysis of the Zhetysu poets aitys, the methodological principles of the analysis of the history of their formation on a scientific basis were proposed and new directions of the study from the variant point of view were determined. The introduction of Baktybay–Baymbet and Baktybay–Tezek aitys to the scientific circulation will supplement the data base of the Zhetysu aitys tradition and will allow to expand the textual system of the regional poetic school.

– the results of the study pave the way for a comprehensive explanation of the features of the formation and spread of the Zhetysu aitys heritage and serve to deepen the theoretical and methodological foundations of the textological study of Kazakh aitys texts.

Publication and review (approbation) of research results. The main scientific results and conclusions of the work were published in the form of 8 articles in domestic and foreign publications. Of them, 1 scientific article was published in the Scopus international database, 7 articles were published in journals included in the list recommended by the Committee for Quality Assurance in Science and Higher Education of the Ministry of Science and Higher Education of the Republic of Kazakhstan.

In the journal included in Scopus international database:

11. Religious values in the sayings of Kazakh women // Türk Kültürü ve Hacı Bektaş Veli Araştırma Dergisi, Spring-March 2025, Issue 113, 247-266
<https://doi.org/10.60163/tkhcbva.1528647>

In journals recommended by the Ministry of Education and Science of the Republic of Kazakhstan:

2. Genealogy of «Domalak Ana» in Zhambyl and Sarbas // Science and life of Kazakhstan. – 2020. – No. 101 (141). – p. 219-222.

3. Formation, development, and distinctive features of the school of aitys art // Bulletin of the Kazakh State Women's Pedagogical University. – 2020. – No. 1. – p. 228-233.

4. History of the collection of Zhetysu aqyns (based on manuscripts) // Keruen. – 2022. – No. 75 (2). – p. 193-201. <https://doi.org/10.53871/2078-8134.2022.2-15>

5. Features of the aitys genre among the Kazakh and Turkic peoples// Keruen. – 2023. – №80 (3). – p. 140-150. <https://doi.org/10.53871/2078-8134.2023.3-12>

6. From the experience of preparing the academic collection of Zh. Aimaulytuly // Keruen. – 2025. – №87 (2). – p. 165-174. <https://doi.org/10.53871/2078-8134.2025>. p. 2-12.

7. The manifestation of beliefs in the art of aitys // Keruen. – 2025. – №89 (4). – p. 165-174. <https://doi.org/10.53871/2078-8134.2025>.

Research Paper Structure. This dissertation is completed in accordance with established guidelines. It consists of an introduction, literature review, research materials and methods, research findings, and a bibliography containing 131 sources. The dissertation is presented on 164 pages of computer text, formatted according to the required standards, and also includes one table.