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## Modern Approaches to the Theory and Methodology of Kazakh Literary Studies: Integration of National and Global Trends

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### ABSTRACT

This article examines the theoretical and methodological challenges of modern Kazakh literary studies, focusing on transformations driven by Kazakhstan's independence. The research underscores the integration of global theoretical frameworks-structuralism, postmodernism, narratology, and hermeneutics-into Kazakh literary criticism, which has significantly reshaped the analysis of artistic texts. These methodologies provide a deeper understanding of national literature in global contexts, reflecting the evolving dynamics of Kazakh literary theory. Special emphasis is placed on the role of the national idea, the reinterpretation of the literary heritage, and the rehabilitation of previously repressed authors. These processes highlight the pivotal function of Kazakh literature in fostering national self-identification and preserving cultural values. The article also explores the influence of postmodernism on Kazakh literature, which, unlike its Western counterpart, represents a continuation of interrupted modernism, resulting in a distinct postmodernist approach. The methodological framework integrates systemic, comparative, hermeneutic, and semiotic approaches to analyze the aesthetic and philosophical dimensions of literary texts. The findings demonstrate how Kazakh literary criticism harmonizes global methodologies with its national identity, providing innovative insights into the study of literature. The article concludes by outlining the future prospects of Kazakh literary studies, emphasizing their potential for further integration into the

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global academic community. This includes fostering intercultural dialogue, leveraging digital technologies, and promoting Kazakh literature on international platforms.

**Keywords:** Kazakh Literary Studies; Methodology; Structuralism; Postmodernism; Hermeneutics; National Identity

## 1. Introduction

The period of Kazakhstan's independence marked a transformative phase for national literary studies. This era necessitated a reevaluation of the country's cultural and historical heritage and the development of new theoretical and methodological approaches to analyzing Kazakh literature. Modern Kazakh literary studies are characterized by their efforts to integrate into global academic processes while preserving the unique features of national identity.

A significant aspect of this transformation is the study of literary processes through global theoretical frameworks such as structuralism, postmodernism, hermeneutics, and narratology. These approaches have enriched the theoretical foundation of Kazakh literary studies and contributed to the creation of a new academic discourse emphasizing the importance of national identity in literature.

The goal of this research is to identify key trends in the development of Kazakh literary studies, evaluate its achievements, and explore prospects for further growth. The study combines national and international theoretical perspectives, enabling a deeper understanding of the evolution of literature within the context of globalization.

The research is driven by several questions:

- 1) What methodological principles define the current stage of Kazakh literary criticism?
- 2) How do new global theoretical concepts influence the analysis of national literature?
- 3) What role does national self-identification play in the development of modern literary studies?

The novelty of this work lies in its comprehensive review of theoretical studies and their application to Kazakh literary criticism. By synthesizing international approaches and local perspectives, the study aims to establish a more nuanced understanding of the theoretical and methodological foundations of Kazakh literature.

The methodological framework includes a combination of systemic and comparative analyses, hermeneutic meth-

ods, and an interdisciplinary approach that bridges literature, history, and philosophy. These methods allow for a detailed exploration of the artistic and aesthetic principles shaping modern Kazakh literary studies.

Thus, this research not only evaluates the achievements of Kazakh literary criticism but also outlines its potential directions in the context of global scientific and cultural trends.

## 2. Literature Review

Modern Kazakh literary studies represent a dynamically evolving field that has undergone significant changes since Kazakhstan's independence. The core of literary research lies in the analysis of national identity, interaction with global theoretical trends, and the reevaluation of literary heritage through new approaches, such as structuralism, hermeneutics, postmodernism, and narratology.

### 2.1. Influence of Global Theories

One of the central themes in modern Kazakh literary studies is the adaptation of global theories to the national context. Postmodernism, hermeneutics, structuralism, and narratology provide Kazakh researchers with tools for a deeper analysis of texts.

#### 2.1.1. Postmodernism

The postmodern approach in Kazakh literary studies is viewed as a continuation of interrupted modernism. Unlike Western postmodernism, which emerged as a reaction to modernism, in Kazakhstan, it became a way to explore identity during cultural transformation. G. Saulembek's<sup>[1]</sup> work demonstrates that in Kazakh literature, postmodernism manifests through intertextuality, reader interaction, and a reinterpretation of the author's position. For example, the novels of A. Zhaksilykuly<sup>[2]</sup> and D. Amantay<sup>[3]</sup> employ diary entries and quotations from global classics, creating a unique narrative context.

### 2.1.2. Hermeneutics

The hermeneutic approach in Kazakh literary criticism focuses on the dialogue between the author, the text, and the reader. G. Yesim's<sup>[4]</sup> studies on Abai's philosophy show how hermeneutics allows for a deeper interpretation of the national spirit reflected in Kazakh literature. For instance, the hermeneutic analysis of M. Zhumabayev's<sup>[5]</sup> works highlights the symbolism of fire and the sun as key elements of the Kazakh worldview.

### 2.1.3. Structuralism

Structuralism provides tools for the systematic analysis of texts as complex structures composed of interconnected elements. B. Maytanov's<sup>[6]</sup> research focuses on the roles of the author, reader, and narrator, as well as the categorical analysis of Kazakh prose. His work "The Author in the Narrative System of Kazakh Prose" emphasized the importance of analyzing texts through structural connections and aesthetic characteristics.

## 2.2. Reevaluation of Literary Heritage

Kazakhstan's independence has allowed researchers to revisit the national literary heritage previously constrained by ideological boundaries. Focus has been placed on rehabilitating repressed authors such as A. Baitursynuly, M. Zhumabayuly, and Zh. Aimauly, whose works form the foundation for understanding the national spirit and literary processes of the early 20th century.

### 2.2.1. Role of the Classics

Works by M. Auezov and other Kazakh classics are studied through the lens of modern theories. For example, narratology and structuralism are used to analyze the chronotopes in their texts, revealing the connection between artistic space and national culture.

### 2.2.2. Thematic Renewal

Literary studies have begun exploring previously forbidden topics, such as religious motifs and spiritual aspects. A. Zhaksilykov's<sup>[2]</sup> research on religious motifs, for example, reveals the influence of spirituality on the development of national self-awareness.

## 2.3. Preservation of National Identity

National identity serves as a central concept in Kazakh literary studies. Literature functions not only as a means of artistic comprehension of reality but also as a powerful tool for preserving cultural values, traditions, and historical memory. Through imagery, symbolism, and mythological motifs, Kazakh writers create works deeply rooted in national culture, contributing to the formation and strengthening of the people's self-consciousness.

### 2.3.1. Symbolism

Kazakh literature is rich in symbols that form a national literary code. For example, Z. Aimukhambet's<sup>[7]</sup> works examine mythopoetic elements such as the symbolism of mountains, birds, and native land as reflections of nomadic philosophy. Magzhan Zhumabayev extensively used symbols to express the ideas of freedom and spiritual revival. Symbolism holds a significant place in Zhumabayev's work, serving as a means for profound exploration of themes such as liberty, spiritual awakening, and the inner world of an individual. His symbols often possess philosophical and mythological foundations, which make his poetry multilayered and rich with hidden meanings.

In his poem "Ot" ("Fire"), fire symbolizes not only an individual's inner strength but also the nation's aspiration for liberation and renewal. In his poetry, the images of fire, the sun, and the wind embody the concepts of dynamism, struggle, and perpetual movement forward:

"Men – Künniñ balasymyn," ("I am the son of the sun")

"Men – Otpyn," ("I am fire")

"Men – Tan men Ottyñ balasymyn." ("I am the son of dawn and fire").

The image of fire in Zhumabayev's poetry reflects inner strength, the fight for freedom, and spiritual renewal. The poet identifies himself with fire, the sun, and the dawn, which conveys his desire for self-realization and the revival of the nation. Magzhan Zhumabayev actively engages with the mythopoetic consciousness of the nation, creating his own symbols based on Kazakh legends and folklore. This approach allows him to seamlessly intertwine personal experiences with national themes.

Symbolism in Magzhan Zhumabayev's poetry plays a crucial role in expressing his philosophical and national ideas. He uses images of fire, wind, nature, and death to convey the spiritual state of both the poet himself and the entire nation. These symbols create a deep and multilayered artistic world where the personal is intertwined with the collective, and the national blends with the universal.

- Mukhtar Auezov in his novel "The Path of Abai" ("Abai Zholy") reveals the Kazakh people's profound connection with nature and their native land. The image of the steppe symbolizes freedom, boundlessness, and the resilience of the spirit. The spatial symbols of the steppe serve as a metaphor for reflecting on the nation's fate, its historical journey, and its spiritual fortitude.
- Askar Altay in "The Altai Novella" ("Altai Äñgimesi") employs mythological animal imagery, such as the bear Aikonyr, to symbolize natural forces deeply connected with the history and culture of the Kazakh people. This image carries significant symbolic weight, linking the past with the present and reflecting a mythological worldview.

### 2.3.2. Folklore Motifs

Folklore holds a significant place in the works of Kazakh writers. In Olzhas Suleimenov's novella "Az i Ya" ("Az and I"), elements of the epic tradition are intertwined with philosophical reflections on national identity. The author draws upon ancient myths and legends, emphasizing the continuity of cultural traditions.

The contemporary author Duman Ramazan in his short story "Aksakal and the White Serpent" ("Aqsaqal men Aq Zhylan") employs mythological images of the serpent and water, symbolizing the connection between humans, nature, and sacred knowledge. This symbolism deepens the understanding of Kazakh mythopoetics.

The works of Abai Kunanbaev laid the foundation for the formation of Kazakh self-awareness. His philosophical reflections in "Words of Edification" ("Qara Sözder") emphasize the importance of knowledge, morality, and spiritual development for the nation.

Mukagali Makataev's poem "Aqqular Uyqtağanda" ("When the Swans Sleep") is a remarkable work that demonstrates the profound harmony of mythological motifs and national symbols in Kazakh literature. The poem poetically

portrays the sacredness of nature, the relationship between humans and the natural world, spiritual values, and the national worldview. The core idea of the poem is revealed through the images of the swan and the mother. These works highlight how Kazakh literature preserves and conveys national identity through folklore, mythological imagery, and philosophical reflection, linking the past with the present and enriching the cultural heritage of the Kazakh people.

### 2.3.3. Historical and Cultural Imagery

Kazakh literature actively employs historical imagery to reflect national memory and heroism.

- In the works of Ilyas Yesenberlin, especially in the "Nomads" ("Köşpendiler") trilogy, the struggle of the Kazakh people for independence is vividly depicted. Through historical figures and events, the author illustrates the resilience and courage of the nation. His works deeply immerse readers in the era of the khanates, where the fight for freedom and land became an integral part of national history.
- In Mukhtar Magauin's novel "Alasapyran" ("The Turmoil"), the complex political situation of the 16th–17th centuries is portrayed. Through the image of Oraz-Muhammed, the author shows how the Kazakh people fought to preserve their independence, overcoming internal conflicts and external threats. The novel is rich in ethnographic details, reflecting the traditions, daily life, and culture of the steppe people.
- Abish Kekilbayev, in his novel "Ürker" ("The Polar Star"), reveals the fate of the Kazakh people during times of political and social upheaval. The author emphasizes the national struggle for independence, paying special attention to the role of individuals in the nation's history.
- In Saken Seifullin's novel "Tar Zhol, Taiğaq Keshu" ("The Thorny Path"), the author addresses the history of the Kazakh revolution, highlighting the importance of the fight for freedom and national identity.
- Ilyas Zhansugurov's poem "Qūlager" ("Kulyager") is one of the most prominent works in Kazakh literature reflecting national consciousness. The poem deeply portrays the Kazakh people's way of life, culture, customs, and national identity through rich symbolic imagery.

These literary works demonstrate how Kazakh writers, both classical and contemporary, contribute to the preserva-

tion of national identity by incorporating historical narratives, cultural symbols, and philosophical reflections, enriching the collective memory and cultural heritage of the Kazakh people.

#### **2.3.4. Cultural Codes**

Hermeneutic analysis of A. Abilkair's<sup>[8]</sup> work demonstrates how national cultural codes are preserved in literary texts, helping to shape images of national identity.

### **2.4. Prospects for Development**

Modern Kazakh literary studies are actively integrating into the global academic context, opening new horizons for research<sup>[9]</sup>.

#### **2.4.1. Interculturalism**

Comparative studies of Kazakh literature with the literature of other nations help reveal its uniqueness. Works such as the collective monograph "Kazakh Prose: Modernism and Postmodernism"<sup>[10]</sup> demonstrate the interplay between national traditions and global trends.

#### **2.4.2. Digitalization**

Technologies offer new opportunities for preserving and analyzing literary heritage. The creation of electronic archives, the use of artificial intelligence, and text analysis algorithms have become key directions.

#### **2.4.3. Translations**

Translating Kazakh literature into other languages promotes its popularization on the international stage. Works by M. Zhumabayev, O. Bokey, and other authors are becoming accessible to global readers, enhancing cultural exchange.

This literature review demonstrates that modern Kazakh literary studies have achieved significant success in integrating global theories, preserving national heritage, and developing new methodological approaches. The emphasis on national identity, the active use of global methodologies, and the implementation of technologies make Kazakh literature a meaningful part of the global literary process. Future research prospects lie in strengthening intercultural dialogue, digitalization, and the preservation of cultural traditions, opening new horizons for national scholarship.

## **3. Materials and Methods**

The methodological framework of this study adopts a comprehensive approach that integrates theoretical, historical, and analytical methods. This approach enables an in-depth analysis of the transformation of Kazakh literary studies during the years of independence. The interdisciplinary perspective ensures that literature is examined in connection with culture, history, and philosophy.

The following methods were employed:

### **3.1. Theoretical Analysis**

A review of key theoretical concepts, including structuralism, postmodernism, hermeneutics, narratology, and semiotics, was conducted. These approaches helped assess the influence of global academic trends on the development of Kazakh literary theory. Special attention was paid to concepts related to mythopoetics, communicative poetics, and the artistic and aesthetic values of literature.

### **3.2. Historical-Contextual Analysis**

This method explored the evolution of Kazakh literary studies in the context of significant historical events, such as the rehabilitation of repressed Kazakh writers in the late 20th century. The analysis highlighted the impact of independence on the formation of national ideas and methodological principles in Kazakh literary studies.

### **3.3. Comparative Analysis**

The study compared Kazakh literary studies with international trends, identifying the unique features of national literary theory and its differences from global approaches, including the Russian formalist school, European structuralism, and American postmodernism.

### **3.4. Hermeneutic and Semiotic Methods**

These methods were applied to analyze literary texts, focusing on their symbolic and structural significance. The hermeneutic approach facilitated the interpretation of texts as dialogues between authors and readers, while semiotics uncovered deeper symbolic layers tied to national culture.

### 3.5. Systematic and Interdisciplinary Approaches

A systematic approach identified connections between various aspects of Kazakh literary studies, including philosophical, aesthetic, and methodological dimensions. Interdisciplinary analysis incorporated insights from literature, cultural studies, and history, providing a broader context for the analysis of national literature.

This comprehensive methodological framework offers a nuanced understanding of the theoretical and methodological foundations of Kazakh literary studies, reflecting its evolution and integration into the global academic landscape.

## 4. Results and Discussion

### 4.1. Theoretical Achievements of Kazakh Literary Studies

Modern Kazakh literary studies have made significant strides in the theoretical analysis of national literature. Key areas of focus include hermeneutics, postmodernism, structuralism, and narratology. Special attention is given to the study of literary texts through the lenses of symbolism, genre characteristics, and aesthetic value<sup>[11]</sup>.

- For instance, B. Maytanov's<sup>[6, 12]</sup> work has significantly contributed to the study of narrative structures, particularly the interaction between the author and the reader.
- Similarly, Z. Aimukhambet's research<sup>[7]</sup> has enhanced the understanding of mythopoetics and its role in Kazakh literature.

### 4.2. Integration of Global Theories and National Specificities

Kazakh literary studies actively integrate global theories, adapting them to the national context.

- Postmodernism, as a key direction, has been reinterpreted in Kazakh literary criticism. Unlike in the West, where it emerged as a reaction to modernism, in post-Soviet countries, it represents the continuation of interrupted modernism.
- The works of scholars such as Saulembek et al.<sup>[13]</sup> and Sharip<sup>[14]</sup> illustrate unique ways of combining national

traditions with global concepts.

### 4.3. The Impact of Independence on the Methodology of Kazakh Literary Studies

The period of Kazakhstan's independence marked a turning point for Kazakh literary studies.

- The revival of topics banned during the Soviet era, such as national identity, language, and religion, became a significant part of academic discourse.
- Research by scholars like Eleukenova<sup>[15]</sup> and Ismakova<sup>[16, 17]</sup> sheds light on how historical and cultural changes influenced methodological approaches.

### 4.4. Hermeneutics and Semiotics in Text Analysis

Hermeneutic and semiotic methods are widely applied in the analysis of Kazakh literature:

- Hermeneutics allows the study of literary texts through the lens of dialogue between the author, the reader, and national culture.
- An example is D. Ramazan's<sup>[18]</sup> work "Aksakal men Ak Zhylyan" ("The Old Man and the White Snake"), where the symbolism of the snake and water underscores the connection to national mythology.

### 4.5. Prospects and Future Directions

Based on the findings, several promising areas for further research have been identified:

- (1) Interculturalism: Comparative studies of Kazakh literature within a global context.
- (2) Women's Studies: A feminist approach as a new tool for analyzing the role of women in literature.
- (3) Digitalization: The creation of electronic archives and the use of artificial intelligence for text analysis.

### 4.6. Theoretical Achievements of Kazakh Literary Studies

The integration of global literary theories - postmodernism, structuralism, narratology, and hermeneutics - has significantly impacted the works of contemporary Kazakh writers. Authors actively adapt these approaches, blending

them with national traditions, which allows for a deeper exploration of issues related to identity, history, and culture.

#### 4.6.1. Hermeneutic Research

Hermeneutics has become a cornerstone of Kazakh literary analysis, as it allows for interpreting literary texts through the interaction between the author and the reader. This approach also facilitates the exploration of symbolism and deeper meanings in literary works, reflecting the unique worldview of Kazakh culture.

- The contributions of Z. Aimukhambet<sup>[7]</sup> have significantly advanced the understanding of mythopoetics linked to Kazakh culture. His research identifies mythological symbols such as “mountain,” “bird,” and “native land,” which form the core of the national literary code.
- Hermeneutic analysis of works by A. Abilkair<sup>[8]</sup>, such as the story “Sokyr Ümit” (“Blind Hope”), has uncovered layers of symbolism and cognitive elements related to culture, ethnicity, and national identity.

#### 4.6.2. Postmodernist Approaches

Postmodernism, as one of the dominant global theoretical frameworks, has found its unique interpretation in Kazakh literary studies.

- Unlike Western postmodernism, Kazakh postmodernism is viewed as a continuation of interrupted modernism. It emphasizes intertextuality, simulacra, and the multi-layered nature of narratives.
- An example is T. Abdikuly’s<sup>[19]</sup> novel “Parassat Maidan” (“Battle of Minds”), where the author employs diary-style narration and incorporates quotations from global thinkers such as Nietzsche and Abai, creating a rich intertextual context.

#### 4.6.3. Structuralism and Narratology

Structuralism and narratology have contributed to the development of new approaches to studying Kazakh literature as a system of interconnected elements.

- Works by B. Maytanov<sup>[6]</sup>, such as “The Author in the Narrative System of the Kazakh Novel”, examine the roles of the author, narrator, and reader in the literary process, as well as categories of imagery and stylistic features.
- The research of S. Saveleva<sup>[20]</sup> and A. Kulyumbetova<sup>[21]</sup> expands the understanding of literary texts by identifying

their spatiotemporal characteristics, event dynamics, and structural nuances.

#### 4.6.4. Mythopoetics and Symbolism

Kazakh literature is rich in symbols that form the foundation of national identity.

- Symbols in the poetry of M. Zhumabayev, such as “fire” and “sun,” reflect philosophical and aesthetic ideas tied to the national spirit.
- Contemporary works, such as D. Ramazan’s story “Ak-sakal Men Ak Zhylan” (“The Old Man and the White Snake”), demonstrate the use of mythological symbols to convey profound national meanings.

In conclusion, the theoretical achievements of Kazakh literary studies are based on the synthesis of national traditions and global concepts. These advancements not only enrich the field with new approaches but also solidify Kazakh literature’s position within the global academic landscape.

#### 4.6.5. The Influence of Postmodernism and Mythopoetics

- “Allanyń Ámiri” (“Allah’s Will”)

In this story, the author combines mythological elements (the legends of Noah and Qazyghurt) with fantasy and philosophical reflections. This synthesis demonstrates the influence of postmodernism and hermeneutics, aimed at reinterpreting cultural heritage in a modern context.

- “Ajál Kelgen Kún” (“The Day Death Came”)

The story of Ketbuki addresses issues of national identity and historical memory. The use of narrative techniques, such as flashbacks and internal monologues, highlights the influence of narratology.

- “U” (“Poison”)

In this story, Duman Ramazan employs symbolism to critique the totalitarian regime. A white dove tormented by crows symbolizes an oppressed people, resembling post-structuralist and postmodern techniques common in Western literature.

#### 4.6.6. Intertextuality, Mythopoetics, and Structuralism

- “Altai Ángimesi” (“The Altai Novella”)

The novel organically combines mythology and artistic narrative. Through the image of the bear Aikonyr, a par-

allel is drawn with the demon from M. Yu. Lermontov’s poem, emphasizing intertextuality and the influence of structuralism.

- “Qara Bura” (“The Black Camel”)

This work uses the “story within a story” technique, characteristic of postmodernism. The integration of a mythological plot about a lone she-camel into the main narrative deepens the philosophical exploration of fate and memory.

- “Kózzjendet” (“The Eye Executioner”)

This story reflects post-structuralist and symbolic influences. The author presents cause-and-effect relationships in human actions through the image of the “eye executioner,” rendering the narrative philosophical and allegorical.

**4.6.7. Feminist Criticism and Postmodernism**

- “Tobylgy Sai” (“The Tobylgy Valley”)

The author actively incorporates elements of feminist criticism and postmodernism to explore female identity in both traditional and contemporary society. The novel merges narrative experimentation with deep symbolism.

**4.6.8. Hermeneutics and Narratology**

- “Mǎngilik Bala Beine” (“The Eternal Child Image”)

This play is built on symbolism and allusions, showcasing the influence of narratology and post-structuralist methods. The author examines the tragedy of the people through imagery and symbols, immersing the reader in a profound philosophical context (Table 1).

Table 1. Summary of the influence of global theories.

Theory	Western Influence	Application in Kazakh Literature
Postmodernism	Deconstruction, irony, genre play	Restoration of cultural memory, mythopoetics (Ramazan, Altay)
Structuralism	Text analysis as a system of signs	Intertextuality, symbolism (Altay)
Narratology	Complex narrative structures	Multi-layered narratives, “story within a story” (Ramazan)
Hermeneutics	Author-reader dialogue	Reinterpretation of traditions and culture (Ramazan, Mukhanova)

Contemporary Kazakh authors successfully integrate global literary theories, adapting them to the national context. Writers such as Duman Ramazan, Askar Altay, Aigul Kemelbayeva, and Roza Mukhanova demonstrate how postmodernism, structuralism, and hermeneutics help to deeply explore questions of national identity, historical memory, and socio-cultural transformations.

**4.7. Integration of Global Theories and National Specificities**

Modern Kazakh literary studies actively integrate

global theoretical approaches, adapting them to the study of national literature. This process not only advances academic inquiry but also highlights the unique characteristics of Kazakh culture within global scientific trends.

**4.7.1. The Impact of Postmodernism**

Postmodernism in Kazakh literature possesses distinct features that differentiate it from Western postmodernism<sup>[22-24]</sup>. While Western postmodernism focuses on deconstruction, irony, and the rejection of grand narratives, Kazakh postmodernism is aimed at restoring historical memory and reinterpreting national identity (Table 2).

Table 2. Key differences between Kazakh and western postmodernism.

Features	Western Postmodernism	Kazakh Postmodernism
Origins	A reaction to modernism, rationalism crisis, and globalization	A continuation of interrupted modernism due to Soviet censorship
Main Themes	Irony, simulacra, myth deconstruction	Restoration of historical memory, search for national identity
Techniques	Parody, genre blending, citation	Intertextuality, mythologization, symbolism
Purpose	Critique of mass culture, destruction of narratives	Reinterpretation of national values and cultural traditions



(1) Duman Ramazan

- In the short story “Allanyń Ámiri” (“Allah’s Will”), the author combines mythological images (Noah and Qazyghurt) with elements of fantasy. This reflects an intention not to dismantle but to restore historical and cultural continuity.
- The story “Ajal Kelgen Kún” (“The Day Death Came”) depicts Ketbuki’s reflections on the fate of the Kazakh people, emphasizing themes of national identity and lost sovereignty.
- In the story “U” (“Poison”), the author criticizes the political system through symbolism. A white dove tormented by crows symbolizes an oppressed people, contrasting Western postmodernism, where such imagery is often used ironically or satirically.

(2) Askar Altay

- In works like “Kók Túrikter” (“Blue Turks”), Altay integrates mythological and historical elements to create a unique narrative that blends tradition with modern artistic techniques.
- Themes of chaos and instability in his works are presented not as destruction but as opportunities for the revival of national culture, distinguishing Kazakh postmodernism from its Western counterpart.

(3) Talasbek Ásemqulov

- In “Bektorynyń Qazynasy” (“Bektory’s Treasure”), Ásemqulov successfully employs postmodernist techniques such as intertextuality, mythologization, reminiscence, and narrative complexity.
- The central concept in the story is the preservation of national consciousness and values. The “treasure” in the narrative symbolizes spiritual wealth rather than material gain. Through the protagonist’s journey in search of this treasure, the story emphasizes a return to ancestral wisdom, traditional values, and cultural continuity.
- Western postmodernism, as seen in the works of Umberto Eco (“The Name of the Rose”) and Thomas Pynchon, uses intertextuality and deconstruction to challenge established narratives.
- Kazakh postmodernism, on the other hand, utilizes intertextuality to restore historical and cultural connections. For example, Duman Ramazan fuses mythological images with real historical events to reinforce

national self-awareness.

Postmodernism in Kazakh literature represents a unique synthesis of global theoretical frameworks and national traditions. Writers like Duman Ramazan and Askar Altay demonstrate how postmodernist techniques can be adapted to reinterpret history and strengthen national identity. This approach distinguishes Kazakh postmodernism from its Western version, where the focus is primarily on deconstruction and irony.

#### 4.7.2. The Role of Structuralism

Structuralism has become an essential tool for analyzing Kazakh literary texts.

- Research by V. Saveleva and A. Kulyumbetova has contributed to the structural analysis of literary texts, uncovering formal and semantic connections. For instance, the use of Bakhtin’s concept of the chronotope provides a deeper understanding of the spatial-temporal organization of literary works<sup>[25]</sup>.
- Key contributions from Levi-Strauss and Barthes, adapted to Kazakh contexts, have significantly influenced structuralist interpretations.

#### 4.7.3. Hermeneutic Approaches

Hermeneutics, focused on the dialogue between author and reader, offers new possibilities for analyzing Kazakh literature:

- This method interprets texts not only as reflections of the author’s thought but also as mediums of interaction with the national worldview.
- Works such as “Hakim Abai” by philosopher G. Yesim<sup>[4]</sup> exemplify the successful application of hermeneutics to analyze Abai’s philosophical views and aesthetic ideas, integrating them into a contemporary context.

#### 4.7.4. Semiotics in Kazakh Literature

Semiotics, as part of structuralism, allows Kazakh scholars to study texts as systems of signs and symbols:

- Analyses of O. Bokey’s works illustrate how national symbolism (e.g., black as a symbol of grief) forms cognitive and aesthetic layers in the text.
- J. Zhetpisbayeva’s research on symbolism emphasizes that symbols in Kazakh literature, such as “mountain” and “bird,” reflect the worldview and philosophy of nomadic

culture.

#### Blending Traditions with Global Theories

A key feature of Kazakh literary studies is the harmonious combination of global methodologies with national traditions:

- Yeleukenova's<sup>[15]</sup> research demonstrates how national ideas and cultural characteristics are expressed through modern theories such as narratology and poststructuralism.
- Examples of mythological symbolism in the works of contemporary authors highlight the link between tradition and innovation.

#### 4.7.5. Intercultural Dialogue

The integration of Kazakh literary studies into the global academic landscape fosters intercultural dialogue:

- Comparative analyses of Kazakh literature with works of other nations (e.g., Russian and Western European) help distinguish the unique aspects of Kazakh culture.
- Collaborative works like the monograph "Kazakh Prose: Modernism and Postmodernism" emphasize the distinctiveness of Kazakh literature within the global literary context.

#### 4.7.6. National Identity in Globalization

Despite active integration, national identity remains a core aspect of Kazakh literature:

- Themes such as the destiny of nomadic culture, human-nature relationships, and the role of religion and language remain central to contemporary research.
- For instance, studies of A. Abilkair and D. Ramazan demonstrate how traditional symbols are used to convey ideas of national self-awareness.

In conclusion, the integration of global theories into Kazakh literary studies enriches academic inquiry while demonstrating how national literature can become an integral part of the global scientific and cultural discourse. This unique synergy preserves cultural heritage while opening new horizons for research.

### 4.8. The Impact of Independence on the Methodology of Kazakh Literary Studies

The period of Kazakhstan's independence marked a turning point for Kazakh literary studies. Liberation from

ideological censorship and the restoration of national identity enabled scholars to reassess approaches to the study of literature, focusing on the unique characteristics of national culture and historical heritage<sup>[26-29]</sup>.

#### 4.8.1. Revival of Forbidden Topics

With independence, Kazakh literature and literary studies gained the opportunity to explore topics previously under strict prohibition:

- Religion and Spirituality: During the Soviet era, the religious aspects of Kazakh culture were either ignored or interpreted negatively. After independence, works such as A. Zhaksilykov's studies on religious motifs in literature revealed the spiritual foundations of the Kazakh people.
- National Idea: Research by Sh. Yeleukenov<sup>[15]</sup> and R. Nurgali<sup>[29]</sup> views literature as an expression of the national spirit, emphasizing its role in shaping national identity.

#### 4.8.2. Methodological Transformation

Modern Kazakh literary studies have undergone significant methodological changes, driven by access to global academic achievements and the adoption of new approaches:

- Abandonment of Dogmatic Analysis: In the Soviet period, literature was often analyzed through an ideological lens, limiting interpretative possibilities. Independence brought a shift toward freer and more critical analysis of literary texts.
- Integration of New Methods: Postmodernism, structuralism, and hermeneutics have become primary methodological tools. For example, T. Yesembekov's<sup>[30]</sup> research examines the dramatic nature of texts using structuralist and poststructuralist approaches.

#### 4.8.3. Reassessment of Literary Heritage

The rehabilitation of repressed authors and the restoration of their literary legacies have become a significant part of scholarly research:

- Rehabilitation of Alash Era Authors: Figures such as A. Baitursynuly, M. Zhumabayuly, and Zh. Aimauly have been reintroduced into academic and literary discourse, significantly expanding the understanding of Kazakh literature from the first half of the 20th century.

- Reinterpretation of Classics: Studies of works by M. Auezov and other classic authors through the lens of modern theories reveal their relevance in contemporary contexts.

#### 4.8.4. National Identity in Literary Studies

A key aspect of modern Kazakh literary studies is examining literature as a reflection of national self-awareness:

- The national idea serves as a central category in contemporary research. For instance, A. Sharip's works show how literary texts convey the "national spirit" through artistic imagery and narratives.
- Literature is viewed as a crucial tool for preserving cultural identity and transmitting national values.

#### 4.8.5. Influence of Historical Changes on Literary Studies

The historical transformations in Kazakhstan after 1991 have profoundly influenced the development of literary studies:

- Research reflects the shift from a Soviet "unified approach" to multifaceted text analysis.
- Scholars such as M. Bazarbayev and T. Kakishuly emphasize that independence has not only allowed a reevaluation of the literary heritage but also raised new questions about national identity and globalization.

The integration of global literary theories into Kazakh literature has yielded significant results; however, this process is accompanied by certain limitations and challenges. Adapting Western concepts requires careful consideration of Kazakhstan's cultural, historical, and social contexts.

#### 4.8.6. Cultural Incompatibility

Global theories such as postmodernism and structuralism were developed within the framework of Western culture, which inherently differs from Kazakh cultural traditions. For example, Western postmodernism emphasizes deconstruction and irony, whereas Kazakh literature focuses on preserving and restoring historical memory and national identity.

- Challenge: Applying these theories risks distorting national values and traditions. Superficial use of Western methodologies without deep engagement in the national context could undermine cultural authenticity.

#### 4.8.7. Limited Access to Sources and Translations

Most key works on postmodernism, structuralism, and narratology were originally written in Western languages. Limited access to high-quality translations in Kazakh and Russian complicates the comprehensive understanding and adaptation of these theories.

- Challenge: This restricts Kazakh scholars' ability to apply Western approaches effectively in national literary studies.

#### 4.8.8. Differences in Historical Experience

The historical development of Kazakh literature significantly differs from that of Western literature. For example, the Soviet era led to the repression of national culture, which hindered the natural progression of modernist movements.

- Challenge: Global theories, grounded in the uninterrupted development of Western literature, often fail to account for the disrupted traditions of Kazakh culture.

#### 4.8.9. Ideological Differences

Western theories often reflect liberal values and critique traditional institutions, whereas Kazakh literature maintains respect for national and cultural institutions.

- Challenge: Adapting such theories requires awareness of ideological differences to avoid undermining the cultural foundations of national literature.

#### 4.8.10. Reader Perception Difficulties

Some Western methodologies may be challenging for Kazakh readers unfamiliar with the philosophies of postmodernism or structuralism.

- Challenge: This complicates the popularization of literary works created using complex global concepts.

#### 4.8.11. Strategies to Overcome These Challenges

##### (1) Localization of Global Theories

It is essential to adapt Western methodologies in consideration of Kazakh cultural realities. This will help balance global concepts with national identity.

- (2) **Expansion of Translations and Text Adaptation**  
Increasing the number of translations of key theoretical works into Kazakh will make them more accessible to researchers and writers.
- (3) **Integration of Traditional Approaches**  
Combining traditional Kazakh literary techniques with contemporary theories will prevent cultural disconnection and ensure continuity.
- (4) **Educational Outreach**  
Popularizing complex literary theories among a broader audience through lectures, seminars, and publications will improve the understanding of works based on global concepts.

The application of global literary theories in Kazakh literature faces several challenges related to cultural differences, historical experience, and reader perception. However, a thoughtful adaptation of these theories, with due regard for national characteristics, opens new prospects for the development of Kazakh literary studies and deepens the understanding of national literature within the global context.

In conclusion, Kazakhstan's independence has provided a powerful impetus for renewing the methodology of Kazakh literary studies. Freedom from ideological constraints, access to global theoretical concepts, and a focus on national identity have elevated the discipline to a new level, integrating Kazakh literature into the global academic landscape.

## 4.9. Hermeneutic and Semiotic Methods

Hermeneutic and semiotic approaches play a pivotal role in analyzing modern Kazakh literature. These methods enable scholars to uncover deep symbolic layers within texts, emphasizing their national specificity and cultural richness.

### 4.9.1. Hermeneutics: The Interaction between Author and Reader

Hermeneutics has become a primary tool in Kazakh literary studies for interpreting texts, with a focus on the dialogue between author and reader:

- **Author and Reader:** The hermeneutic approach highlights how the author creates the text and how the reader interprets it, adding their own meanings. For instance, G. Yesim's work "Hakim Abai" examines Abai's philosophi-

cal ideas through the prism of the author-reader interaction, revealing their relevance to contemporary society.

- **Mythopoetic Analysis:** Hermeneutics facilitates the study of mythological elements in literary works. For example, the symbolism in M. Zhumabayev's poems "Ot" ("Fire") and "Künshygy's" ("East") is interpreted through a national perspective, viewing fire and the sun as sources of life and renewal.

### 4.9.2. Semiotics: Symbols and Signs in Literature

Semiotics, which studies texts as systems of signs, helps uncover cultural and national meanings encoded in Kazakh literature:

- **Color Symbolism:** Kazakh authors often employ color symbolism in their works. For example, in O. Bokey's story "Arysyn tosyp äli otır" ("Still Waiting for Her Defender"), black symbolizes grief and loss, while a dim candle represents the fading of life.
- **National Symbols:** Symbols such as mountains, birds, or snakes reflect nomadic philosophy and the human connection to nature. For instance, in D. Ramazan's story "Aksakal men Ak Zhylan" ("The Old Man and the White Snake"), the snake symbolizes wisdom and a link to sacred knowledge.

### 4.9.3. Hermeneutics as a Tool for Exploring Inner Worlds

Modern studies of Kazakh texts through the hermeneutic lens emphasize the importance of understanding characters' inner worlds and their interactions with the environment:

- **Dialogue with the Text:** Hermeneutics views a text as a dynamic phenomenon that changes based on the reader's perception. For instance, S. Ordashev's works<sup>[31]</sup> ("Keyipker avtorın izdegen", "The Hero in Search of Their Author") examine the interaction between characters and the world through symbolic elements.
- **Cultural Codes:** Hermeneutic analysis reveals how texts reflect national cultural codes, manifested in references to traditions, linguistic features, and historical contexts.

### 4.9.4. Semiotics as a Key to National Heritage

Semiotics deepens the analysis of texts, revealing how national symbols reflect cultural and historical heritage:

- Semiotic Structures of Texts: Words, images, and symbols in Kazakh literary works carry additional meanings tied to the national context. For instance, in A. Abilkair's texts, the symbolism of "blind hope" represents faith in the future despite challenging circumstances.
- Mythological Images: J. Zhetpisbayeva's work "Symbol in the Movement of Literature" demonstrates how symbols linked to myths form the foundations of the Kazakh national literary code.

#### 4.9.5. Practical Application of Hermeneutics and Semiotics

The application of these methods in modern Kazakh literary studies helps achieve the following objectives:

- (1) Unveiling the deep meanings of texts through their symbolism.
- (2) Establishing connections between texts and national culture.
- (3) Interpreting literary works within the context of cultural and historical heritage.

In conclusion, hermeneutics and semiotics in Kazakh literary studies allow for viewing literary texts as multilayered phenomena that blend national traditions with universal cultural meanings. These methods highlight the uniqueness of Kazakh literature and its contribution to global academic discourse.

#### 4.10. Prospects and Future Directions

Modern Kazakh literary studies are at the stage of active integration into the global academic context. This process opens numerous opportunities, both for preserving national traditions and for developing new theoretical approaches.

##### 4.10.1. Development of Theoretical and Methodological Approaches

One key direction for future development is the adaptation of contemporary theories to the specific features of Kazakh literature:

- Integration of Feminist Criticism: Utilizing feminist approaches will deepen the study of women's roles in Kazakh literature and their influence on the formation of national identity.

- Multidisciplinary Approach: Combining literature with other disciplines, such as philosophy, cultural studies, and sociology, will broaden the horizons for analyzing literary texts.

##### 4.10.2. Intercultural Dialogue

Studying Kazakh literature in comparison with the literature of other nations provides new opportunities to identify its unique features:

- Comparative Analysis: Juxtaposing Kazakh literature with Russian, European, and Asian literary traditions will help establish its place in the global literary process.
- International Collaboration: Participation of Kazakh scholars in international projects and symposiums will promote a deeper understanding of Kazakh literature beyond Kazakhstan.

##### 4.10.3. Translation and Promotion of Kazakh Literature

Translating Kazakh literature into foreign languages plays a vital role in its popularization:

- Translation of Literary Works: Publishing works by M. Zhumabayev, O. Bokey, D. Amantay, and other authors in foreign languages will present Kazakh literature on the international stage.
- Access to Theoretical Research: Translating works by Kazakh literary scholars such as G. Yesim and A. Ismakova will integrate their ideas into global academic discourse.

##### 4.10.4. Digitalization and New Technologies

Technologies open new possibilities for studying and preserving Kazakh literature:

- Electronic Archives: Developing databases with access to literary texts, rare manuscripts, and critical studies will greatly benefit researchers.
- AI-based Text Analysis: Utilizing algorithms for text analysis will uncover patterns and connections previously unnoticed through traditional methods.

##### 4.10.5. Preservation and Popularization of Cultural Heritage

In the context of globalization, it is crucial to preserve the unique features of Kazakh literature:

- National Themes: Continuing research on topics such as the role of nature, nomadic lifestyles, and national identity will strengthen cultural values.
- Media Use: Developing multimedia projects, virtual exhibitions, and documentaries will popularize Kazakh literature among wider audiences.

#### 4.10.6. Interaction with Global Processes

Kazakh literature has the potential to contribute significantly to the development of global literature and science:

- Participation in Global Discussions: Reflecting on Kazakh literature in the context of globalization, migration, and cultural interaction will enrich global discourse.
- Postcolonial Theory Development: Applying postcolonial approaches to Kazakh literature will reveal its role in the cultural decolonization process.

In conclusion, the prospects for Kazakh literary studies lie in preserving national distinctiveness, advancing scholarly methodologies, and actively integrating into the global literary community. These directions will open new horizons for national science and promote Kazakh culture beyond its borders.

## 5. Conclusions

Contemporary Kazakh literary studies demonstrate a successful integration of global theoretical approaches with national traditions. The adaptation of theories such as postmodernism, structuralism, narratology, and hermeneutics has enabled Kazakh researchers and writers to reinterpret issues of national identity, cultural memory, and historical heritage.

Key Findings:

- (1) Postmodernism in Kazakh literature does not manifest as the destruction of traditions, as it does in the West, but rather as their reinterpretation and restoration. Authors like Duman Ramazan and Askar Altay showcase this through the use of mythopoetics and symbolism.
- (2) Structuralism and narratology have contributed to the development of new methods for analyzing literary texts, allowing for a deeper exploration of their compositional and semantic features.
- (3) Hermeneutics has enhanced the dialogue between text and reader, facilitating the discovery of hidden meanings

within literary works.

- (4) The integration of global theories faces several challenges, such as cultural differences, historical particularities, and the complexity of perception. However, overcoming these difficulties opens new horizons for the development of Kazakh literary studies.

Development Prospects:

- Deepening comparative studies between Kazakh and world literature.
- Expanding translations of key theoretical works into the Kazakh language.
- Applying modern technologies for the analysis of literary texts.
- Preserving and promoting Kazakh literature through international projects and digital platforms.

Contemporary Kazakh literary studies continue to evolve actively, maintaining the uniqueness of national culture while integrating into the global academic context. This creates a solid foundation for further research and a deeper exploration of Kazakh literature on the world stage.

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The data supporting the findings of this study consist of published literary texts and secondary sources, which are publicly available. Analytical interpretations and methodological approaches developed during the study are included

within the article. Any additional data or materials generated during the research process are available from the corresponding author upon reasonable request.

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