

## THE HISTORY, TYPES, AND GENESIS OF UZBEK FOLK TALES

Musayeva Shakhlo Kudratovna

Associate Professor of the Department of Philology,

Renaissance University of Education

E-mail: [musayevashahlo81@gmail.com](mailto:musayevashahlo81@gmail.com)F-ORCID ID: <https://orcid.org/0009-0008-1160-5634>

**Abstract.** Folk tales, one of the most productive genres of oral folk art, have long served as an important means of illuminating the lives of all nations. In this article, we briefly touch upon the historical and contemporary aspects of the origin of Uzbek folk tales and their thematic types.

**Keywords:** fairy tale, fairy tale about animals, magical fairy tales, everyday tales, nationality, history, species, hope, composition, legend.

**Аннотация.** Сказки, один из самых плодотворных жанров устного народного творчества, издавна служат важным средством отображения жизни всех народов. В статье мы кратко рассмотрели исторические и современные аспекты происхождения узбекских народных сказок, а также тематические разновидности сказок.

**Ключевые слова:** Сказка, сказка о животных, волшебные сказки, бытовые сказки, национальная специфика, история, вид, надежда, композ

## Introduction

Uzbek folk tales are an integral part of our national culture and have been passed down orally from generation to generation for centuries. These tales reflect the worldview, values, and aspirations of our people. Their history dates back to ancient times, and during this period, fairy tales have undergone various changes, been refined, and enriched. The formation and development of Uzbek folk tales encompass a long historical process. Throughout this process, fairy tales were shaped by the influence of the socio-economic life, customs, and beliefs of the people. Fairy tales first emerged during the primitive communal system era, mainly in the form of legends about natural phenomena and animals. Later, as society developed, the content and form of fairy tales also evolved. Uzbek folk tales are distinguished by their diversity and rich content [5.53b]. They cover various topics, and each fairy tale has its own unique characteristics. The main types of fairy tales are: magical fairy tales, animal tales, everyday tales, and heroic tales. Each type has its own distinct features, through which different perspectives and life experiences of the people are reflected.

## Main part

Magical tales are considered the most interesting and mysterious part of Uzbek oral folk art. In this type of tales, events unfold with the participation of supernatural forces, magical objects, and extraordinary creatures. The main characteristic of magical tales is that they harmoniously blend real and fantastic elements. In these tales, the protagonists are often ordinary people who overcome difficulties with the help of supernatural powers or through their own wit and courage. Magical tales frequently reflect universal values such as the struggle between good and evil, love and loyalty, justice and truth [2.18b]. Through them, the aspirations and dreams of the people, as well as their ideas of ideal heroes, are expressed. Another important aspect of magical tales is that they often carry symbolic meanings and embody deep philosophical ideas.



In animal tales, animals such as foxes, wolves, bears, and rabbits often appear as the main characters. The primary feature of these tales is that they allegorically reflect human relationships, social contradictions in society, and moral issues [2.24b]. Animal tales are often short and concise, through which important life lessons are imparted. These types of tales are especially beneficial for children, as they help them gain knowledge about nature and the animal world, as well as assimilate moral values.

Household tales are an important source reflecting the daily life, customs, and traditions of the Uzbek people. In this type of folktale, the events are close to real life, and they usually narrate the lives of ordinary people, their problems, and achievements. The main feature of household tales is that they vividly reflect social relations in society, family values, and human virtues[2.31b]. In these tales, the main characters are often portrayed as intelligent farmers, skilled craftsmen, just rulers, and other representatives of the common people. Through household tales, the wisdom, ingenuity, and life experience of the people are manifested.

Heroic tales are considered one of the most important and influential genres of Uzbek oral folklore. In these tales, the main focus is on depicting the heroism, bravery, and patriotism of folk heroes. The key characteristic of heroic tales is that they interweave historical events and mythical elements. In these tales, folk heroes such as Alpomish and Gorogly often occupy a central place. Through heroic tales, the people's struggle for freedom, independence, and justice, as well as feelings of national pride and patriotism, are expressed[4.17b]. These tales have not only artistic but also historical and educational significance.

The compositional structure of fairy tales also has its own unique characteristics. Most fairy tales begin with traditional opening formulas, such as "Once upon a time..." "In ancient times..." or "In a certain country..." These formulas serve to transport the listener into the world of events. At the end of fairy tales, a conclusion or moral is often drawn, and sometimes traditional closing phrases are used, such as "The storyteller is from the tale, and I am from the stump." Magical elements are also widely used in Uzbek folk tales. These elements give a special flavor to the development of events and increase the intrigue of the fairy tale. Magical items, characters possessing supernatural powers, remarkable transformations - all of these lend fairy tales a unique charm.

In fairy tales, various methods are used to reveal the characters of the heroes. Often, a character's personality is revealed through their actions, words, and relationships with other characters. Additionally, the appearance of the characters is used as a means of reflecting their inner world. In Uzbek folk tales, great attention is paid to the depiction of nature. The portrayal of nature often corresponds to the development of events and reflects the inner experiences of the characters. For example, a hero's difficult situation might be paired with the imagery of thunder and storm, while their victory might be harmonized with the depiction of a sunny and bright day.

In fairy tales, the concepts of time and space are expressed in a unique manner. Often, the exact time and place are not specified, which ensures the generalized nature of the fairy tale and allows it to be adapted to any period and location[3]. Another important feature of Uzbek folk tales is their educational value. Through fairy tales, children are introduced to concepts such as moral values, patriotism, diligence, and friendship. Additionally, fairy tales help develop children's imagination and creative abilities. Uzbek folk tales, with their artistic-aesthetic, spiritual-moral, and educational significance, are an integral part of our national culture. They are interesting and beneficial not only for children but also for adults, being passed down from generation to generation.

In conclusion, Uzbek folk tales are not only an artistic heritage but also an important source that shapes the historical memory and spiritual upbringing of the people. Therefore, each fairy tale has its own genesis in terms of historical development.



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