



THE ROLE OF FITRAT, CHOLPON, AND BEHBUDI IN SHAPING UZBEK LITERARY TRANSLATION NORMS

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Abstract: This thesis examines the pivotal role of three leading Uzbek Jadid intellectuals—Abdurauf Fitrat, Abdulhamid Cho‘lpon, and Mahmudkhoja Behbudi—in the formation of modern Uzbek literary translation norms during the late 19th and early 20th centuries. It argues that their comprehensive modernist reforms established the foundational principles of the Uzbek school of literary translation. Through their translation and educational activities, they elevated translation into a tool for national awakening, cultural modernization, and integration into world literature. Employing scientific-pedagogical approaches, they moved beyond traditional practices, establishing new linguistic standards, introducing innovative literary forms, and forging a new aesthetic for translated literature that persists in Uzbek intellectual traditions.

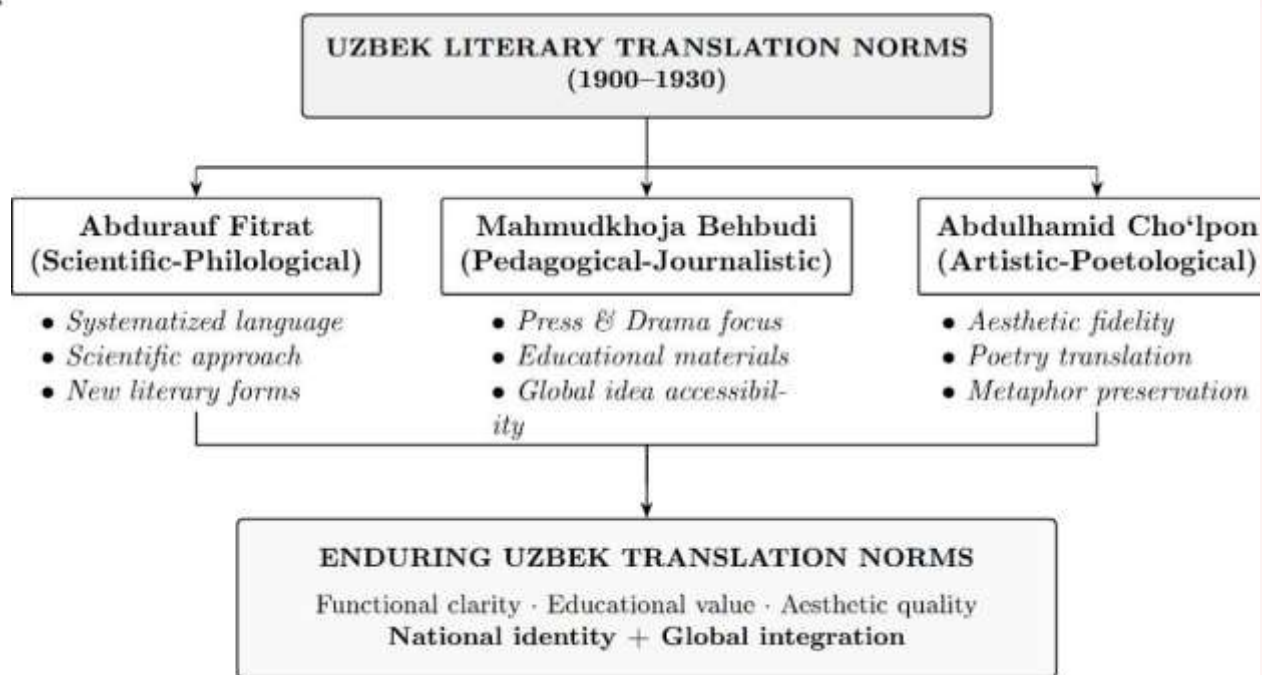
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Introduction

The early twentieth century was a pivotal moment for Uzbek literary culture: amid processes of social reform, nation-building, and linguistic modernization, translation emerged not merely as a channel for importing texts but as a formative practice that helped to define literary standards, aesthetic norms, and the contours of a modern Uzbek literary language. Central to these processes were leading Jadid-era intellectuals and writers whose translation activities, editorial choices, and public reflections on literature actively shaped norms of selection, style, and ideological orientation. Among them, Abdurauf Fitrat, Cho‘lpon and Behbudi occupy a prominent position: as translators, critics, editors and cultural mediators, they negotiated tensions between tradition and modernity, between fidelity to source texts and the demands of readership and language reform.

This study examines the role of Fitrat, Cho‘lpon and Behbudi in shaping Uzbek literary translation norms. Rather than treating translation as a solely linguistic operation, the paper situates their work in the broader cultural and political context: the Jadid reform movement’s commitment to educational renewal, debates over orthography and lexicon, the rise of new periodicals and theatrical practices, and the effort to craft a modern national literature.





Abdurauf Fitrat: The Visionary Founder of Modern Uzbek Translation

As a historian, philologist, translator, and the first Uzbek professor, Abdurauf Fitrat was instrumental in developing the modern Uzbek literary language. His work on texts like *Dīwān Lughāt al-Turk* demonstrated a scientific approach to systematizing language, which directly influenced his pioneering translation theory. Fitrat introduced new literary forms and scientific-pedagogical approaches to translation, viewing it as a tool to awaken the nation and position Uzbek literature within a broader, modernizing context.

Mahmudkhoja Behbudi: The Educational Pioneer of Translation

Mahmudkhoja Behbudi focused on education as the primary means for national advancement. He utilized press and drama as tools for enlightenment, with translation playing a key role in creating new educational literature and opening Uzbek society to world ideas. Behbudi's work helped establish literary translation as a core component of intellectual life, setting norms for accessible language and culturally relevant content.

Abdulhamid Cho'lpon: The Poet of Aesthetic Fidelity

Abdulhamid Cho'lpon emphasized the aesthetic dimension of literary translation, co-translating his poetry alongside native Uzbek speakers into English for the anthology *New Method, New Poetry*. His use of modern Uzbek over classical Turkic and his focus on preserving cultural nuances and metaphorical expressions in translation added a crucial artistic layer to the evolving translation norms, proving that modern Uzbek could convey both national identity and global literary themes.

Conclusion

In conclusion, the Jadid intellectuals Abdurauf Fitrat, Mahmudkhoja Behbudi, and Abdulhamid Cho'lpon collectively laid the groundwork for the modern Uzbek school



of literary translation. Fitrat provided the scientific and linguistic foundation, Behbudi integrated translation into the national educational project, and Cho'lpon pioneered its artistic expression. Their multi-faceted approach established enduring norms for translation that prioritize functional, educational, and aesthetic quality, shaping the trajectory of Uzbek literature into the 21st century.

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