Short Review on Some Works and Researches About Timur the Great

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Abstract

Each era requires a new approach to the study of even previously studied phenomena. The issues of interaction between American and Uzbek literature are of particular importance in comparative studies. The influence of the Uzbek literature on American culture is indisputably and proved by many researchers, and such a problem as the reflection in the work of American romantics has long been widely studied. However, not enough attention is paid here to the reverse side of Uzbek state leaders, namely, to the influence of Amir Timur on European authors. This article highlights an interesting page of English speaking literature, dedicated to the personality of Amir Timur. This publication includes the first part of the scientific investigation mentioned above with precise comments on the works dedicated to the personality of Timur the Great.

The uniqueness, phenomenality of such works lies in the fact that they are full of contradictions, which remain in the minds of skeptical literary critics, satisfying the demands and requirements of both discerning connoisseurs and inexperienced readers. The relevance of the chosen theme is due to the powerful development of such areas of modern literature as comparative and translation studies, as well as an ever-growing interest in the problems of literary studies that lie in the sphere of dialogue of cultures.

The purpose of the article, taking into account all of the above, is a comprehensive analysis of the poetics, creative works dedicated to Timur the Great and the compilation of a holistic picture of critical and translational reception in Uzbek, which determined the subject and objectives of our article.

Key words: Amir Timur, image, Tamerlane, ruler, leader.

1. Introduction

The personality of Amir Timur in English speaking literature is the theme of our scientific research [1], therefore in this article, we want to give some information-report or you may accept it as a review about the works have been done.

Amir Temur is one of the most controversial figures in the history of mankind. In the small passage from the book ―Teachers of Wisdom‖ by J.G. Bennett, Amir Temur appears in a completely different way: “From 1360 to 1530, prominent conquerors and rulers predominated in Central Asia, beginning with Tamerlane (1336 - 1405) and ending with Babur, the founder of the Indian Empire Mughal (1471 - 1530), as well as Shah Ismail (1499 - 1524), who recreated the Persian Empire and founded the Safavid dynasty.

This publication includes the first part of the scientific investigation mentioned above. Efforts were made to analyze chronologically some of the works (including, as much as possible, all known articles, investigations, literary works and other materials) dedicated to the personality of Timur the Great (known in many sources as Tamerlane or Tamburlaine).

MATERIALS AND METHODS

In particular, when talking about the coverage of the image of Amir Timur in world literature, it is worth mentioning, first of all, the tragedy of Christopher Marlowe “Tamburlaine the Great” (1587-1588). In the tragedy, Amir Timur is portrayed as an invincible, strong-willed leader, handsome, intelligent, inclined to true love and a loyal friend.

The next work, according to the Library of Miami University was – “The Life of Tamerlane the Great” by Samuel Clark (1599-1682), published in London in 1653 in the series Early English Books, 1641-1700. The book describes:
“The life of Tamerlane the Great: with his wars against the great Duke of Moso, the King of China, Bajazet the Great Turk, the Sultan of Egypt, the King of Persia, and some others ...: wherein are rare examples of heathenish piety, prudence, magnanimity, mercy, liberality, humility, justice, temperance, and valour.”

According to the same source - library website, there is a tragedy by Charles Saunders “Tamerlane the Great” written in 1681. Unfortunately, our efforts to find the original versions of these two works did not yield the expected results.

In Europe among the creative generation, in the highest position, after Marlo, stands the eighteenth-century playwright Nicholas Rowe (1674-1718), who dedicated one of his tragedies to the image of Amir Timur. His tragedy “Tamerlane” (1702), which in its time was able to compete with the tragedies of Shakespeare in terms of its literary value and popularity, is the work that gave its author such a great honor. The tragedy contains epigraph, dedication, prologue and epilogue, consisting of 5 acts and 7 scenes. In the epigraph, it is clear that this tragedy is dedicated to the TO THE RIGHT HONORABLE WILLIAM, Lord Marquiss of HARTINGTON and in the person of Tamerlane Nicholas Rowe intended to mention this great hero of his time [2,3].

The next work is a historical work by the English historian Edward Gibbon, “The History of the Decline and the Fall of the Roman Empire,” Vol. VII Gibbon Edward” (1787). A whole chapter (Chapter LXV: Elevation Of Timur Or Tamerlane, And His Death) is dedicated to Amir Timur. The chapter consists of three parts [4]. The author does not dwell on the thirty-five years of Tamerlane’s victorious marches to Persia, Georgia, Tartary, Russia, India, Syria and other countries, but briefly speaks about the march, informing the reader, to focus all attention on a more interesting story, the battle against the Ottoman Turks.

In this research paper we have used comparative, historical and statistical methods to justify our ideas.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

Continuing the theme of the image of Amir Timur in Anglophone literature in chronological order, next comes Charles Lamb, the poet, literary critic, publicist, and the greatest representative of the genre of essay in the history of English literature, also contributed to the promotion of the personality of Timur, writing a poem "Queen Oriana’s Dream" (1818) [5]. The poem about the wife of Amir Timur, it is not directly related to Sahibkiran, he is mentioned in it in one way or another. The play shows that Charles Lamb did not have enough information about Amir Timur and his relatives. The author describes Sahibkiran as "mighty Tamerlane, the lord of all the land Between Thrace and Samarchand", calling his wife "Queen Ariana", which is appropriate for the Western environment, but contrary to historical reality.

In a series of various works of poetry Edgar Allan Poe (1809-1849) is one of the poets who introduced the theme of Amir Timur to American literature. The author's first work "Tamerlane and other poems" was published in 1827 [6]. Among other poems in this small collection "Tamerlane" is dedicated to Sahibkiran. In the epic, Amir Timur - a romantic hero full of power - strives for glory, wants to rule and rule the whole world imagining his love as a princess. In the epic, the theme of love becomes the main theme. It is said that Timur, who lost his beloved, was in great pain, but as a result of this sacrifice, this great man, who was born for the sake of war and who was born in Samarkand with the intention of seeing it (Samarkand) graceful and beautiful.

In 1828, in The Asiatic Journal for January [7,p. 329] was published an article entitled "Timur", where was given such points:

"Neither the restless Atilla, nor the Gengiis Khan, exercised a greater influence over the destiny of nations than Timur," giving some kind of tribute to this great statesman and reminding us that there are two opposing sources about the life and work of this powerful ruler:

“The actions of this mighty conqueror have been transmitted to posterity by two writers of very opposite characters. The one, Sherefeddin Ali, was that monarch’s secretary, who accompanied him in his vast expedition, and who enjoyed his royal confidence. ... On the other hand, Ahmed Ibn Arabshah was Syrian (a citizen of Damascus) ...” and analyzes the works and expresses his views.

In the course of our research, we were able to find a poem dedicated to the great Amir Timur among the works of Victor James Daley (pseudonym Creeve Roe 1858-1905) [8]. This poem, called Tamerlane, is reminiscent of a ballad. Daley appreciates the place of Sahibkiran in history and correctly understands the role
of Amir Timur in the history of mankind (in the ballad: will leave in future). For this reason, we think it is worth considering this poem as one of the best works about our forefather.

In 1916, in A History of English Literature, under the heading - The Elizabethan Drama [9], the author Robert Fletcher notes the interpretation of Amir Timur in Christopher Marlowe's Tamburlaine the Great, pointing that Timur was in fact the leader of the Scythians and occupied a large part of Western Asia and Eastern Europe in the 14th century, as mentioned in the Marlo drama and 16th century Latin sources, and that the love events in the drama were Marlo's invention.

Robert Howard (full name - Robert Irvin Howard / Robert Ervin Howard) is an American writer who created in the genre of fantasy. He was born in Pester, Texas, and lived a very short life (1906-1936). His nine-chapter Lord of Samarcand (Oriental Stories, Spring 1932) is a masterpiece of urban and rural development in the territories occupied by Sahibkiran, details of the battle against Sultan Bayazid and his planned march on China are also described [10,11].

Dennis Wepman’s Tamerlane published in the series of World leaders past & present, is reported by many Internet sites, but our research has not yet yielded any results. That is why we are unable to comment on this work.

Beatrice Forbes Manz’s The Rise and Rule of Tamerlane, Cambridge, 1990) was published in 1999 under the heading Cambridge Studies in Islamic Civilization. Mans's work is not about Timur's biography or his battles and victories, but about the political situation at the time when Timur came to power [12].

David Nicole (April 4, 1944) a British scholar, whose a 48-page book “ The Age of Tamerlane”, was a book about the life of Sahibkiran, the political and social situation at that time, Amir Timur's army and his family, talks about the military tactics and skills he used [13].

In the article, Temür and the Problem of a Conqueror's Legacy [14], Beatrice Forbes wrote that Amir Temur had a great influence, a nomad, who did creative works, propagated Turkish and Persian culture, destroyed the Mongol invasion, and publicized Islam. Undoubtedly, he was an incomparable conqueror, he united the peoples who had nomadic way of living and formed a centralized state. There are various debates about his activities. Why did he make marches over marches? How did he manage to implement these measures? And what legacy did he leave to his descendants? What did the Turkish and Persian world look like? What was the relationship between Mongol and Islamic culture? Beatrice Forbes tries to find answers to such questions.

In 2003, Shammai Fishman's article “The Meeting Point between Tamerlane and Ibn-Khaldun — The Victory of Civilization [15]” called the meeting of Amir Timur and the famous Arab historian and philosopher Ibn Khaldun as a meeting of two cultures, indicating that such kind of event is rare to occur. The conversation between them was about the state and the people who deserve to run it.

“Tamerlane’s career and its uses” - the article of Manz [16] says that Sahibkiran has a great place in the history of the world. The founder of the great empire that includes Iran and Central Asia, admitting that he was the one who defeated Bayazid and liberated from the oppression of the Mongols:

"He founded a state covering the present Iran and Central Asia, crushed the army of the Ottoman sultan Yildirim Beyezit, and destroyed the power of the Mongol Golden Horde," also adding that:

"To the Europeans and Byzantines, Temur's destruction of the Ottoman menace was a reprieve from danger ..."

Edited by Dan Burghart and Theresa Sabonis-Helf, In the Tracks of Tamerlane: Central Asia's Path to the 21st Century - a series of articles by a number of scholars on the social, economic and political situation in these countries [17]. The study does not provide any information about the life and works of Amir Timur, but in our opinion, it is given to show that Sahibkiran was from the Asian continent, and how the situation in the region ruled by this person is developing nowadays!

Dr. Michael V. Shterenshies. approach to Tamerlane: tradition and innovation Ending 600 Years of Historiography of Timur [18] gave a brief account of activities, focusing on the old and present attitudes towards Sahibkiran. This material includes works that have appeared not only in Asian countries, but also in the literature of the other countries, whether historical or literary works they be.
Rajkay Zsombor Tibor’s a 209-page doctoral dissertation, “The Timurid and the Ming China: theories and approaches concerning the relations of the two empires Thoughts on These Two Empires,” done in 2007 at Kyoto University [19], is a research paper on the relationship between the Timurids Empire and the Ming dynasty. This work is about the history of the two countries, the reflection of the relations between the two countries in Western literature, information about the original sources about Amir Timur, scientific works on Amir Timur and the Timurids in Japan.

Next is the research of Timothy May “The Relationship between Sufis and Inner Asian Ruling Elites [20]”, where it is said that:

“Sufis began to develop in the Middle East and Central Asia in the 13th century, and because the Mongols did not oppose the development of Sufism, they moved to more peaceful areas, during which time relations developed between Central Asian aristocrats and later other khanates and Central Asian rulers. Amir Timur, in turn, says that he built a mausoleum for Ahmad Yassavi in 1389, which is now a UNESCO World Heritage Site.”

John Darwin’s book “After Tamerlane: The Global History of Empire Since 1405” is a great historical work about the past, present, and future of nations [21]. According to the author, in the history of the world, no one except Amir Temur could rule absolutely in Eurasia:

"Never again would a single warlord, raiding across the steppes, be able to unite Eurasia under his rule.”

In particular, the book describes the fate of a number of great and powerful empires in the history of other countries, such as China, Mongolia, Persia and Turkey, after the powerful empire founded by Amir Timur. He gave his views on the role and position of these countries in the XXI century.

Ingram Anders’s Doctoral thesis “English literature on the Ottoman Turks in the sixteenth and seventeenth centuries” focuses on the reflection of the Ottoman Empire in English literature. Besides it, this research reflects the image of Amir Temur in the works of several literary figures:

Ingram Anders says that Knolles studied the image of Timur, not only in Marlowe’s interpretation, but on a much broader scale, that is, in European chronicles and biographies:

“Knolles’ ‘Tammerlane’ is best viewed, not in the narrow context of English representations such as Marlowe’s, but in the wider European literature of Chronicles and Lives, which had often used Tamerlane to explore similar themes [22, p.153].”

In Ron Sela’s book - The Legendary Biographies of Tamerlane (21), the author describes Amir Timur as the conqueror of the fourteenth century, who conquered much of Central Asia and founded the Timurids dynasty. His fame lived on in his homeland three centuries later in biographies and Persian and Turkish written sources. These biographies have been preserved as cultural heritage. Despite the creation of various works about Amir Timur, which began to appear in the eighteenth century and continues to this day, foreign peoples still do not have significant information about the life and work of this person. This book is not only about the personality of Sahibkiran, but also about the period in which he lived and his triumphant marches.

CONCLUSION

In the given material we briefly gave information about the first part of scientific research “The personality of Amir Timur in English speaking literature”. The results of the next part of our investigation is planned to be published in near future.

In conclusion, firstly, we tried to show the relevance of Uzbek and English literature in line with a promising direction in future literary studies, which is involved in revising and refining the prevailing views on the nature of relations between various literatures in the world. The idea of the mutual influence of literature generally forms the core of this article. With regard to the relations of literature between the West and the East, we can say that not only European and American literature (with their heroes) played a large role in the history of the literature of the East, but Eastern heroes also contributed to the history of the development of European and American literature.

Secondly, the revival of the cultures of the Oriental people, whose great traditions had an undeniable influence on the culture of the West may become part of a great ideological work for everyone.

Thirdly, the specificity of the cultural life of our multinational country also determines the relevance of the
chosen article, where the peoples of the West and East in fraternal unity are building a new culture.

References