

# THE MOTHER TONGUE AS A TOOL OF NATIONAL NARRATIVE AND FOLKLORE IN MODERN LITERATURE

Shukurullayeva Namuna Nabijan's daughter

Mubarak District, Kashkadarya Region Vocational Vocational School

Native Language and Literature Teacher

Eshkuvatova Adiba Sayfullayevna

Mubarak District, Kashkadarya Region Vocational Vocational School

Senior Teacher of Native Language and Literature

## Abstract

This article explores the significance of the mother tongue in modern literature as a medium for preserving and promoting national narratives and folklore. It emphasizes how the mother tongue serves as a repository of a nation's cultural identity, values, and collective memory. Through modern literature, writers draw on the richness of their mother tongue to create narratives that reflect their heritage and national identity, often incorporating folklore to maintain a connection between past and present. The article also highlights how the adaptation of folklore in modern literature allows for the exploration of contemporary social issues while keeping traditional stories relevant. Additionally, the role of translation is discussed, emphasizing its importance in sharing national narratives with a global audience, despite the challenges of preserving linguistic nuances. The article concludes by noting how literature in endangered languages contributes to the preservation of both linguistic and cultural heritage, ensuring the continuity of national identity.

**Keywords:** mother tongue, national narrative, folklore, modern literature, cultural identity, oral tradition, indigenous languages, translation, endangered languages, storytelling, post-colonial literature, national heritage, literary preservation.

## Introduction

The mother tongue serves as a powerful medium for conveying a nation's identity, culture, and values. It is not just a means of communication but a repository of collective memory, traditions, and history. In modern literature, the use of the mother tongue plays a critical role in preserving and revitalizing national narratives and folklore, connecting contemporary readers to their cultural roots while also adapting to the complexities of modern life.

## The Mother Tongue as a Carrier of National Identity

A mother tongue is more than a linguistic tool; it is deeply intertwined with the cultural and historical experiences of a nation. Every language carries with it a unique worldview, shaped by geography, history, and social customs. Through language, a nation expresses its identity, values, and collective experiences. In this sense, literature in the mother tongue becomes a reflection of the nation's soul.



Modern literature often draws on this rich reservoir of language to construct narratives that resonate with national identity. Writers use the nuances, idioms, and expressions unique to their mother tongue to convey a sense of belonging and authenticity. For example, in Uzbek literature, the use of the Uzbek language allows writers to evoke images of traditional life, rural landscapes, and age-old customs, drawing readers into the cultural context that shapes the nation's heritage.

## **Folklore as a Foundation in Modern Literature**

Folklore, passed down through generations, is an integral part of a nation's cultural legacy. It consists of myths, legends, fairy tales, proverbs, and songs that offer insights into a community's values, struggles, and beliefs. In modern literature, folklore is often reinterpreted and adapted to address contemporary issues while maintaining a connection to the past.

One of the most effective ways for modern writers to incorporate folklore is through the mother tongue. Folklore, embedded in the language of the people, carries a rhythm, structure, and vocabulary that reflect the collective psyche of a nation. When these folk elements are woven into modern narratives, they create a sense of continuity between past and present, allowing readers to see their modern lives reflected in ancient stories.

For instance, in many post-colonial societies, modern literature revives indigenous folklore as a means of resisting cultural erasure. Writers use the mother tongue to breathe new life into traditional stories, making them relevant to contemporary readers while preserving their historical significance. This helps to reassert national identity in a globalized world, where cultural homogenization often threatens local traditions.

## **Modern Literature and the Adaptation of Folklore**

In modern literature, the mother tongue is used not only to preserve folklore but also to reinterpret it in new and creative ways. Contemporary writers often adapt folk tales, myths, and legends to address modern concerns such as identity, migration, and social change. By doing so, they maintain the essence of traditional stories while making them accessible and relevant to new generations of readers.

For example, authors may reimagine traditional heroes and heroines in the context of modern struggles, or they may use allegory from folklore to critique contemporary political or social issues. This creative blending of past and present ensures that folklore remains a living tradition, continuously evolving alongside society.

Moreover, the mother tongue allows writers to experiment with form and style, drawing on the rhythms, sounds, and structures of oral storytelling. In many cultures, folklore has been passed down orally, and modern writers often capture this oral tradition in their written works, creating a unique literary style that reflects the cadence of spoken language.

## **The Role of Translation in Preserving National Narratives**

While the mother tongue is central to preserving national narratives and folklore, translation also plays a crucial role in sharing these stories with a global audience. Translating literature from the mother tongue into other languages allows for cultural exchange, fostering a greater understanding of a nation's unique literary heritage.



However, translation is not without its challenges. The nuances, idioms, and cultural references embedded in the mother tongue can be difficult to convey in another language. Translators must strike a delicate balance between remaining faithful to the original text and making the narrative accessible to foreign readers. When done successfully, translation helps to expand the reach of national narratives and folklore, allowing them to resonate with a broader audience while maintaining their cultural integrity.

## **The Revival of Endangered Languages through Literature**

In many parts of the world, the mother tongue is under threat due to the dominance of global languages such as English, Spanish, and Mandarin. This linguistic shift often leads to the erosion of cultural identity, as traditional narratives and folklore become marginalized. However, modern literature has played a significant role in the revival of endangered languages. Writers who choose to write in their mother tongue, especially in languages that are at risk of disappearing, contribute to the preservation and revitalization of their linguistic and cultural heritage. By producing literary works in these languages, they ensure that the stories, traditions, and values of their communities continue to be passed down to future generations.

## **Conclusion**

The mother tongue is an indispensable tool for preserving and promoting national narratives and folklore in modern literature. It serves as a bridge between the past and the present, allowing writers to connect with their cultural heritage while addressing contemporary issues. Through the creative use of language, modern literature keeps folklore alive, ensuring that it remains relevant and accessible to new generations. Moreover, the mother tongue plays a crucial role in maintaining cultural identity in an increasingly globalized world, making it a vital element of national storytelling and literary expression.

## **REFERENCES**

1. Anderson, B. *Imagined Communities: Reflections on the Origin and Spread of Nationalism*. Verso, 2006.
2. Crystal, D. *Language Death*. Cambridge University Press, 2000.
3. Finnegan, R. *Oral Literature in Africa*. Open Book Publishers, 2012.
4. Ong, W. J. *Orality and Literacy: The Technologizing of the Word*. Routledge, 2002.
5. Ashcroft, B., Griffiths, G., & Tiffin, H. *The Empire Writes Back: Theory and Practice in Post-Colonial Literatures*. Routledge, 1989.
6. Sartre, J.-P. *What is Literature?*. Harvard University Press, 1988.
7. Krappe, A. H. *The Science of Folklore*. Methuen, 1965.
8. Ngugi wa Thiong'o. *Decolonising the Mind: The Politics of Language in African Literature*. Heinemann, 1986.

