

THE ROLE OF TRADITION IN SHAPING MODERN UZBEK AND ARABIC PRESS LANGUAGE

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Abstract

This article focuses on a comparative linguostylistic analysis of traditional and contemporary features of press language in Uzbekistan and the Arab world. It highlights the considerable theoretical and practical value of the scholarly legacy of Mawarannahr linguists in the study of the Arabic language, as well as in maintaining and advancing cultural and intellectual traditions. Furthermore, the speeches of Abu Bakr al-Siddiq (may Allah be pleased with him) are examined from a linguostylistic viewpoint, considering them as exemplary models of journalistic discourse. The analysis demonstrates that his speeches possess essential features of publicistic style, such as persuasive power, expressiveness, clarity, simplicity, and a direct connection with the audience. The study also shows that these speeches played a crucial role in strengthening social unity, providing moral direction, and shaping public awareness. These characteristics reflect the functional and pragmatic nature of journalistic language and emphasize its significance as an influential tool in shaping social and ideological perspectives.

Keywords: Arabic press language, journalistic style, linguostylistics, publicistic discourse, Abu Bakr al-Siddiq, Mawarannahr linguists, functional style.

Introduction

In Uzbekistan, the primary function of the press has traditionally been focused on preserving cultural and religious values. The foundation of Uzbek journalism dates back to the 1870s. The first Uzbek publication is recognized as “*Turkiston Viloyatining Gazeti*” (“The Turkestan Province Gazette”). This newspaper began publication in Tashkent in 1870 and was issued in two languages—Russian and Uzbek. It initially functioned as a government publication and was mainly intended to disseminate official decisions, various types of information, and news related to social life. This newspaper holds significant historical importance for Uzbek journalism, as it was the first official publication printed in the Uzbek language and laid the foundation for the development of national press.

The history of the Arabic press, in contrast, has evolved over a much longer period and has been shaped as an integral part of Arab culture and Islamic civilization. This development has passed through several stages, each influenced by specific historical processes and factors. A broader analysis of the history of the Arabic press reveals its deep connection with religious, cultural, and intellectual traditions. During the early period of Islam and its spread, information



was primarily transmitted orally. In the time of the Prophet Muhammad (peace be upon him), knowledge was shared through sermons, speeches, and direct communication. The main source of information was the Holy Qur'an, whose verses were memorized and recorded with great care. The preservation of the Qur'an in written form and its subsequent dissemination marked an important stage in the development of information transmission.

With the spread of Islam in the territory of present-day Uzbekistan, various forms of media fulfilling press-like functions began to emerge. In Mawarannahr (Transoxiana), the development of information dissemination was closely connected with the preservation of religious teachings and cultural heritage. Scholars of this region, including Mahmud al-Zamakhshari and others, produced numerous scientific works in Arabic and contributed significantly to the development of Arabic language and culture. Written texts played a central role in preserving and transmitting religious and scholarly knowledge.

It is well known that the publicistic (journalistic) style occupies an important place in the socio-political life of society. Through this style, essential and актуал information is conveyed to the public, public opinion is shaped, social issues are highlighted, and discussions are encouraged. After the death of the Prophet Muhammad (peace be upon him), a crucial period began for the Muslim community. During this time, the words and actions of the first Caliph, Abu Bakr al-Siddiq (may Allah be pleased with him), gained particular significance. His speeches were directly addressed to the public and reflected key features of publicistic style. These included persuasive power, emotional impact, and the ability to unite society through sermons and guidance. His discourse played an important role in strengthening social cohesion and influencing public consciousness.

Literature Review

The methodological foundation of this study is based on fundamental scholarly works devoted to press language, journalistic style, Arabic stylistics, and the scientific heritage of Mawarannahr linguists. In particular, the works of Mahmud al-Zamakhshari, a prominent scholar of Mawarannahr who made a significant contribution to Arabic linguistics, such as "*Al-Kashshaf*" and "*Al-Mufasssal*", are considered important sources for the study of grammatical and stylistic features of the Arabic language. These works provide an in-depth analysis of the functional and stylistic potential of language.

In addition, the works of Abdulqahir al-Jurjani, who greatly contributed to the development of Arabic linguistics and the science of rhetoric (*balāgha*), such as "*Asrar al-Balagha*" and "*Dalā'il al-I'jāz*", serve as an essential theoretical basis for analyzing the persuasive and expressive features of journalistic discourse. These works offer a scientific explanation of semantic, pragmatic, and stylistic aspects of speech.

In the field of modern journalistic style and functional stylistics, the research of Russian linguists such as V.V. Vinogradov, M.N. Kozhina, and I.R. Galperin is of particular importance. Specifically, V.V. Vinogradov's studies on the theory of functional styles provide a methodological framework for understanding the role of journalistic style in society and identifying its linguistic characteristics. I.R. Galperin's work "*Text as an Object of Linguistic Study*" is also a key source for analyzing the structure and stylistic features of journalistic texts.



Uzbek linguistics has likewise paid considerable attention to the study of journalistic style. In this regard, the works of scholars such as Sh. Shoabdurahmonov, A. Hojiev, N. Mahmudov, and B. O‘rinboyev are of great significance. Their research provides a scientific analysis of the functional styles of the Uzbek language, including the linguistic and communicative features of journalistic discourse.

Analysis and Results

During the period of the Ottoman Empire, the first official publications began to emerge in the Arab world. At that time, newspapers and journals in Arabic were published by the government and other official institutions. Their primary purpose was to report on state activities and inform the population about governmental decisions.

In 1828, the first Arabic newspaper titled “*Al-Waqa’i al-Misriyya*” was published in Egypt. This newspaper belonged to the government and mainly contained official documents, decrees, and information of state importance. During the Ottoman period, the press was largely under government control, and there were significant limitations on expressing independent opinions. By the late 19th and early 20th centuries, national and independent publications began to appear in the Arab world. During this period, the ideas of Arab nationalism intensified, and newspapers and journals outside government control started to be published. These publications went beyond merely providing official information and became platforms for discussing various social and political issues.

For example, the newspaper “*Al-Ahram*”, founded in Egypt in 1875, became an important platform for expressing independent opinions. It addressed social problems, the future of the nation, and issues related to reform. Through such national publications, a certain level of literacy developed in Arab society, and public political awareness increased.

In the second half of the 20th century, many Arab countries gained independence. As a result, they began to focus on developing their national press systems. National governments sought to establish their own information policies and considered the press as an integral part of political reforms.

During this period, the state actively used mass media to disseminate information about government policies and reforms. Since the national press remained under state control, it often functioned as a tool of propaganda. Nevertheless, Arab states also used the press to promote national culture and strengthen social unity.

At the beginning of the 20th century, in the territory of present-day Uzbekistan, new publications emerged that promoted ideas of national independence. Among them were newspapers such as “*Sadoyi Turkiston*” and “*Sadoyi Farg‘ona*”, which played a significant role in shaping the political and cultural consciousness of society.

During the Soviet period, the Uzbek press came under strict state control and was primarily aimed at promoting socialist ideology. Its social and political functions were limited within the framework of state policy. However, after independence, the Uzbek press became an important instrument for restoring national identity, preserving cultural heritage, and fostering spiritual and moral development in society.



Today, modern Uzbek media continues to develop with the aim of preserving national values and strengthening its position in the global information space. The main representatives of contemporary Uzbek media can be categorized as follows:

Print media (newspapers and journals):

“*Xalq so‘zi*” – one of the main state newspapers of Uzbekistan, covering social, political, and economic issues. “*O‘zbekiston ovozi*” – focused on promoting national values. “*Yangi O‘zbekiston*” – a modern newspaper publishing news, socio-political analyses, and articles related to state policy. “*Jahon adabiyoti*” – a literary and cultural publication promoting national and world literature. “*Tafakkur*” – a journal specializing in scientific and intellectual articles.

Online media and news agencies: “*Kun.uz*” – one of the most popular online platforms in Uzbekistan, providing both local and international news. “*Daryo.uz*” – widely popular among youth, active on social media. “*Gazeta.uz*” – known for analytical materials and diverse news coverage. “*Podrobno.uz*” – covers economy, politics, and social life.

Television and radio channels: “*O‘zbekiston 24*” – a 24-hour news channel covering political and social events. “*Yashnobod*” and “*Madaniyat va ma‘rifat*” – cultural and educational TV channels. “*Sevimli TV*” and “*Zo‘r TV*” – entertainment and educational channels popular among youth.

Among contemporary representatives of Uzbek journalism are Sherali Turdiyev, known for his work in analytical journalism; Nodirbek Saidov, a specialist in social journalism; and Aziza Qurbonova, who focuses on information technology and societal issues. Additionally, writers such as Mirabror Usmonov, who produces literary and historical articles, and Gulnora Nurullayeva, a journalist and editor specializing in socio-economic topics, contribute significantly to the development of modern Uzbek media.

Conclusion

In general, modern Uzbek media places strong emphasis on timeliness and objectivity. Information is widely disseminated to large audiences through various social media platforms. At the same time, along with preserving national culture and identity, considerable attention is given to covering international news and global issues. Modern formats such as podcasts and video blogs are actively used to attract new audiences. In this regard, contemporary Uzbek media strives to maintain national traditions while actively incorporating modern technologies, thereby establishing closer interaction with its audience. This approach contributes to strengthening its position in the global information space.

Today, Arab media is also actively competing in the global information environment. Modern information technologies, including satellite television, the internet, and social media, have had a significant impact on the development of Arab media. Television channels such as *Al Jazeera* in Qatar and *Al Arabiya* in Saudi Arabia have become leading sources of information in the Arab world.



These channels have gained large audiences not only in Arab countries and Uzbekistan but also worldwide, playing an important role in disseminating information about Arab society, politics, and culture. Furthermore, with the expansion of the internet and social media, individuals now have the ability to share information, which has contributed to the further growth and diversification of Arab media.

The press of Mawarannahr and the Arab world has followed different paths in terms of historical development and social function. While Arab media serves as a major source of information on global political and social issues, the press of Mawarannahr has primarily focused on preserving national culture and promoting traditional values. Each has its own unique trajectory of development, reflecting the social and cultural characteristics of their respective societies.

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