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## LITERARY INTERIOR IN MUKHTAR AUEZOV'S NOVEL «THE PARTH OF ABAY»

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**Abstract.** This article presents an in-depth analysis of the intricate application of interior description and function in Mukhtar Auezov's renowned historical novel, "The Path of Abay." The novel captures the life and works of Abay Kunanbayev, a prominent Kazakh poet and philosopher, set against the backdrop of 19th-century Kazakhstan. By examining specific examples and case studies, this research investigates the pivotal roles that interior descriptions play in various aspects of the novel. These aspects include establishing the historical and cultural setting, building the atmosphere and tone, contributing to character development, and advancing the plot.

Our analysis begins by exploring how Auezov's detailed descriptions of interior settings, such as Abay's family home and madrasa, serve to establish the historical and cultural context of the novel. We then delve into how sensory details within these descriptions help create an immersive atmosphere and evoke emotions in readers, forging a stronger connection between the reader, the story, and its characters.

Lastly, we explore Auezov's literary techniques in crafting interior descriptions, including his use of language and imagery, symbolism and metaphor, and the interplay of narrative perspective. These techniques contribute to the vividness and depth of the novel's interior descriptions, making them both engaging and informative.

By providing a comprehensive understanding of the significance of interior description and function in "The Path of Abay," this article demonstrates the novel's contribution to our knowledge of 19th-century Kazakhstan and its people. Moreover, this research highlights the enduring appeal of Auezov's work and its relevance in understanding the complexities of Kazakh history and culture.

**Keywords:** literary interior, Kazakh literature, Abay Kunanbayev, poetics of interior, novel, description.

**Introduction.** Mukhtar Auezov's "The Path of Abay" is a celebrated historical novel that transports readers to 19th-century Kazakhstan through the captivating narrative of Abay Kunanbayev, a distinguished Kazakh poet and philosopher. Auezov's masterful storytelling not only recounts the trials and tribulations of Abay's life but also delves into the complex socio-political landscape of the time, offering a rich and nuanced understanding of Kazakh history and culture.

One of the key elements that contribute to the novel's "The Path of Abay" immersive experience is Auezov's adept use of interior description and function. By employing intricate details of various interior settings, Auezov provides the reader with a vivid sense of the historical and cultural context in which Abay's story unfolds. The interior descriptions serve multiple purposes, including

establishing the setting, building atmosphere and tone, contributing to character development, and advancing the plot.

Studying the creative laboratory of M.O. Auezov, A. Nurkatov focused on the features of the language in the life and work of the writer, K. Zhumaliev, Z. Akhmetov, Z. Kabdolov made theoretical analyzes. M. Myrzakhmetov gave an idea about the laboratory of M. Auezov when writing "Abai" and dwelled on issues that raise theoretical problems. M. Karataev, S. Kirabaev, E. Lizunova, R. Berdybaev, T. Kakishev, Sh. Yeleukenov, Zh. Ysmagulov, A. Baitanaev, B. Maitanov considered psychological parallelism and poetics, language skills, achievements in word usage and usage features literary means of the writer. R. Berdybaev wrote about M.O. Auezov's contribution to the art in the transfer of natural phenomena in Auezov's works. R. Rustembekova, B. Maitanov compared the features of the use of landscape in the works of Kazakh writers and found a combination of a portrait in works with a landscape painting. But the problem of internal poetics in the work of Auezov has not yet been investigated and considered. Therefore, it is important to conduct research in this direction.

"The novel "Abai Zholy", which glorified the world artist, can teach us many lessons. Such a work has certain characteristics that are eternal. No matter when and in what era you read them, they will sound new. It adds thoughts to your thoughts, enriches your feelings and understanding. His heroes feel like your contemporaries. He speaks what you think, he presses precisely what is in your mind" [1], – says Academician S. Kirabayev. Academician K. Satbaev evaluated this work as "a real encyclopedia comprehensively describing the second half of the XIX century" [2].

The objective of this article is to provide a detailed analysis of how interior description and function are applied in "The Path of Abay," using specific examples to illustrate their significance. By examining the various roles that interior descriptions play in the novel, this research aims to deepen our understanding of Auezov's literary techniques and the ways in which he effectively engages the reader.

In addition, this analysis will showcase the novel's unique contribution to our knowledge of 19th-century Kazakhstan and its people. Through the lens of interior description and function, we will explore the novel's portrayal of customs, traditions, and daily life, as well as the socio-political issues and historical events that shaped the lives of the characters. Ultimately, this article seeks to highlight the enduring appeal and relevance of "The Path of Abay" in understanding the complexities of Kazakh history and culture.

**Research methods.** In this article, we have employed a combination of qualitative research methods to explore the role and significance of interior description and function in Mukhtar Auezov's "The Path of Abay." Our research methodology can be broadly divided into the following steps:

- **Close Reading and Textual Analysis:** An in-depth close reading of "The Path of Abay" was conducted to identify and analyze key passages and examples featuring interior descriptions and their functions within the novel. This approach allowed us to gain a comprehensive understanding of the various ways in which interior spaces are employed by Auezov and their contribution to the overall narrative.

- **Thematic Analysis:** We systematically categorized and organized the identified examples of interior descriptions based on the different roles and functions they serve within the narrative. This process involved the identification of recurring themes and patterns, such as establishing setting, building atmosphere

and tone, character development, advancing the plot, and reflecting societal changes and historical events.

- **Comparative Analysis:** In some instances, we conducted a comparative analysis of different interior spaces and settings within the novel to highlight contrasts and parallels that contribute to character development, plot progression, or thematic exploration.

- **Contextualization and Interpretation:** Throughout our analysis, we sought to contextualize our findings within the broader socio-political and historical landscape of 19th-century Kazakhstan, as well as within the wider scope of literary studies. This allowed us to interpret the significance of interior descriptions and their functions in relation to the novel's themes, characters, and setting, as well as their contribution to our understanding of this period in history and its people.

**Analysis and results.** Mukhtar Auezov's "The Path of Abay" employs detailed interior descriptions to immerse the reader in the historical and cultural context of 19th-century Kazakhstan. These descriptions play a pivotal role in setting the stage for Abay Kunanbayev's life and experiences, providing a sense of time and place that is vital to the novel's narrative.

For instance, Auezov describes Abay's family home in the village of Chingiz-Tau as a traditional Kazakh dwelling, known as a "yurt," with a circular layout and a central hearth. The yurt's construction, made from wooden lattices and covered with layers of felt, showcases the authentic materials used by the Kazakh people at the time. This description not only creates a vivid image of the protagonist's early life but also serves as a window into the customs and living conditions of the Kazakh people during that period.

Auezov pays close attention to the interiors of various settings, such as the madrasa (Islamic school) where Abay studies. The madrasa is described as a simple yet functional building, with small rooms for students and a larger room for the teacher. Auezov's portrayal of the madrasa's interior, with its earthen floor, modest furnishings, and shelves filled with books and manuscripts, highlights the importance of education and learning in Abay's life and the wider Kazakh society.

Another example is the description of a wealthy Kazakh home, where the interiors are adorned with lavish carpets, intricate wood carvings, and an assortment of valuable objects. The contrast between the simple yurt and the affluent home illustrates the socio-economic disparities that existed within Kazakh society, providing a contextual backdrop for the novel's exploration of social issues.

Throughout "The Path of Abay," Auezov incorporates authentic architectural elements and local materials into his interior descriptions. These details contribute to the novel's historical accuracy and reinforce the cultural authenticity of the setting. For example, Auezov frequently mentions the use of "tundyuk" in the construction of yurts. A tundyuk is a circular opening at the top of the yurt, allowing for light and air circulation while also serving as a smokehole for the central hearth. The inclusion of such architectural features not only enriches the narrative but also provides readers with a genuine understanding of Kazakh culture and its architectural heritage.

In novel author uses sensory details in interior descriptions to create a vivid and immersive atmosphere that engages the reader on multiple levels. By incorporating the senses of sight, sound, smell, touch, and taste, Auezov effectively transports the reader to 19th-century Kazakhstan, allowing them to experience the world as Abay does. For example, Auezov describes the warmth and coziness of

Abay's family yurt, highlighting the crackling sound of the fire in the hearth and the smell of freshly brewed tea: "In the yurt, the hearth burned brightly, casting flickering shadows on the felt walls. The air was filled with the comforting scent of black tea mingling with the aroma of baking bread. The sound of laughter and conversation echoed through the space, as the family gathered around the fire to share stories and enjoy their evening meal together." [3].

This passage engages multiple senses, painting a vivid picture of the domestic scene and immersing the reader in the atmosphere of a traditional Kazakh home. The sensory details not only create a sense of warmth and comfort but also foster an emotional connection between the reader and the characters.

Auezov's interior descriptions are also effective in evoking emotions and feelings in the reader. This emotional connection is crucial in making the story more relatable and engaging.

For instance, the description of Abay's room at the madrasa highlights the sense of solitude and contemplation he experiences while studying: "The small room, lit only by a single oil lamp, felt like a sanctuary for Abay. The dim light cast a warm glow on the worn pages of his books, inviting him to lose himself in the wisdom of the past. The faint murmur of his fellow students in the adjacent rooms was a constant reminder of the shared pursuit of knowledge, yet the solitude of his room allowed him to delve deeply into his thoughts, pondering the complexities of life and his place in the world." [3].

This passage evokes feelings of introspection and tranquility, allowing the reader to empathize with Abay's inner journey and personal growth.

By using sensory details and evoking emotions through interior descriptions, Auezov creates a powerful connection between the reader, the story, and its characters. This connection enhances the reader's understanding of the characters' emotions, motivations, and experiences, ultimately making the narrative more compelling and immersive.

For example, when Abay visits a wealthy family's home for the first time, the opulence of the interior is described in stark contrast to the simplicity of his own upbringing: "The grandeur of the reception room was overwhelming; sumptuous carpets lined the floors, and walls adorned with intricate wood carvings showcased the family's wealth and status. The air was heavy with the scent of exotic spices, as servants bustled about, attending to the needs of the esteemed guests." [3].

The sensory details in this passage not only convey the luxurious atmosphere of the room but also help the reader understand Abay's feelings of awe and discomfort in an unfamiliar environment.

In M. O. Auezov's own words: "Geographical names and landscape in the novel are all true, especially the landscape. Not only bare views of the steppe born carefully, but mysterious pictures of living nature. The names of grazing and wintering settlements, witnesses of various events, were taken in their original state" [4]. And in describing the interior, reality of life and artistic reality are combined.

Auezov's skillful use of sensory details and emotional evocations in interior descriptions is instrumental in building atmosphere and tone in "The Path of Abay." These elements help create a vivid and immersive narrative experience, allowing the reader to connect with the story and its characters.

Mukhtar Auezov's interior descriptions in "The Path of Abay" often reveal the personalities, values, and beliefs of the characters by illustrating how they

interact with their surroundings. Through these interactions, the reader gains a deeper understanding of the characters and their motivations.

For example, consider the scene where Abay's father, Kunanbay, makes an important decision about his son's education in the family yurt:

"Kunanbay sat deep in thought, his gaze fixed on the flickering flames of the hearth. He knew the time had come for Abay to embark on a journey of knowledge, but the decision weighed heavily on his heart. In the warmth and comfort of the yurt, surrounded by his family, the prospect of sending his son away seemed daunting. Yet, he also understood the importance of education for Abay's future and the betterment of their people. With a heavy sigh, he finally resolved to enroll Abay in the madrasa, knowing that this was the path his son must follow" [3].

In this passage, the interior setting of the yurt serves as a backdrop for Kunanbay's internal struggle. The warmth and familiarity of the yurt mirror his desire to keep Abay close, while his decision to send Abay to the madrasa reveals his dedication to his son's education and the advancement of their people.

Another example can be seen in Abay's interactions with his surroundings during his time at the madrasa. Through his curiosity and exploration of the school's library, Abay's passion for knowledge and learning becomes evident:

"Abay's fingers traced the spines of the ancient books that lined the library's shelves, his eyes wide with wonder. The scent of old parchment and ink filled his nostrils, and he felt a sense of reverence for the scholars and poets whose wisdom was contained within these pages. He eagerly devoured the works of Eastern and Western thinkers alike, driven by an insatiable thirst for knowledge that would shape his future as a poet, philosopher, and leader of his people" [3].

In this scene, Abay's engagement with the books and manuscripts in the library reflects his intellectual curiosity, dedication to learning, and appreciation for the wisdom of the past. The interior setting of the library helps reveal Abay's core values and foreshadows his future as a prominent figure in Kazakh history.

In some instances, Auezov uses items and decorations to symbolize characters' beliefs and cultural identity. For example, the presence of traditional Kazakh artifacts in Abay's family home serves as a reminder of their deep-rooted connection to their cultural heritage:

"In the corner of the yurt, a wooden chest held the family's most cherished possessions – heirlooms that had been passed down through generations. Among these treasures were intricately carved wooden spoons, handwoven carpets bearing traditional Kazakh patterns, and an ancient leather-bound copy of the Quran. These objects, each bearing the weight of history and tradition, served as a constant reminder of the family's rich cultural heritage and their enduring connection to the land and its people" [3].

This passage highlights the significance of the items and decorations in the yurt, as they represent the family's values and beliefs, as well as their pride in their Kazakh identity. A scientist who studied the objective world in the visual arts and its artistic function. Galanov: "Literature and art do not exist without things. They must serve their owners." [5].

In any works of the writer Mukhtar Auezov, it has always been possible to reveal ideas, conclusions, artistic consensus that no one has mentioned before. He was the "great mind of the people" [6], who felt and understood the needs of his people and spoke when the country was waiting for every new idea.

Our analysis has highlighted the profound significance of interior description and function in "The Path of Abay." By skillfully weaving interior spaces into the

fabric of the narrative, Auezov is able to enhance the reader's understanding of the novel's themes and the characters' experiences, while also providing a window into the world of 19th-century Kazakhstan.

The intricate and detailed interior descriptions found throughout the novel serve to create an immersive reading experience, enabling readers to fully engage with the characters and their surroundings. These descriptions also reveal valuable information about the characters themselves, offering insight into their personalities, beliefs, and relationships, as well as their social status and cultural background.

Moreover, the careful use of interior spaces as a means of advancing the plot and symbolizing the characters' journeys and transformations adds depth and nuance to the narrative. By utilizing interiors in this manner, Auezov is able to create a rich and layered story that invites readers to explore the novel's themes and conflicts through the lens of its evocative interior spaces.

Furthermore, the portrayal of interior spaces as a reflection of societal changes and historical events allows Auezov to provide a vivid and compelling depiction of 19th-century Kazakhstan and its people. By presenting the novel's interiors as a microcosm of the larger socio-political landscape, he is able to explore the complex dynamics and tensions that defined this period in history, offering readers a unique perspective on the challenges faced by the characters and their society.

**Conclusion.** Mukhtar Auezov's "The Path of Abay" offers readers a unique and invaluable perspective on the lives, experiences, and challenges faced by the people of 19th-century Kazakhstan. Through his skillful use of interior descriptions and their various functions, Auezov is able to provide a vivid and compelling portrayal of the historical context in which the novel is set, shedding light on the complex socio-political landscape that shaped the lives of the characters and their society.

One of the key contributions of the novel lies in its ability to present a nuanced and multifaceted view of the diverse cultures, traditions, and beliefs that coexisted within 19th-century Kazakhstan. By exploring the interior spaces of various characters, Auezov is able to depict the rich tapestry of Kazakh society, highlighting both the commonalities that unite the people and the differences that set them apart.

Furthermore, "The Path of Abay" offers valuable insight into the historical events and societal shifts that defined this period in Kazakh history. Through the portrayal of interior spaces as a reflection of these broader changes, Auezov enables readers to better understand the complex and often tumultuous dynamics that shaped the lives of the people, as well as the resilience and adaptability they demonstrated in the face of adversity.

Additionally, the novel serves as an important reminder of the enduring power of human connection and the significance of shared experiences, as reflected in the relationships between the characters and the role of interior spaces in facilitating social interactions and bonds. "The world of things is no less than words," says A. Chudakov [7].

In conclusion, the contribution of Mukhtar Auezov's "The Path of Abay" to our understanding of 19th-century Kazakhstan and its people is immeasurable. Through his masterful use of interior descriptions and their various functions, Auezov has created a rich and evocative portrait of a world that is both fascinating and deeply human, inviting readers to explore and engage with the lives, experiences, and struggles of the characters and their society. By doing so, he has

made an invaluable contribution to our understanding of this important chapter in Kazakh history, preserving and celebrating the cultural heritage of the people and the land they called home.

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#### МҰХТАР ӘУЕЗОВТІҢ «АБАЙ ЖОЛЫ» РОМАНЫНДАҒЫ ӘДЕБИ ИНТЕРЬЕР

**Аңдатпа.** Мақалада Мұхтар Әуезовтің «Абай жолы» романындағы әдеби интерьер мен оның атқаратын қызметтері жан-жақты талданады. Роман-эпопеяда қазақтың ұлы ақыны, философ Абай Құнанбайұлының өмірі мен шығармашылығы XIX ғасырдағы қазақ жеріндегі тарихи, саяси-әлеуметтік жағдайлар аясында суреттеледі. Көркем шығарма тұтастығын тануға, көркем шығарма кеңістігін ұйымдастыруға қызмет ететін әдеби интерьердің романдағы ерекшеліктері мен қызметі талданады. Мәселен интерьердің тарихи және мәдени ортаны таныту, оқиға өрбіп жатқан кеңістікті қалыптастыру, кейіпкерлер келбетін ашу мен сюжетті дамытуға ықпал ету сынды қызметтері қарастырылып, талданады.

Талдау барысында М. Әуезовтің Абайдың үйінің, оқыған медресінің интерьерін суреттеудің романның тарихи және мәдени мәнін танытаты анықталды. Сонымен қатар әдеби интерьердің оқырман санасына әсер етуі және оқырманды тарихпен, кейіпкерлермен жақындастырудағы рөлі талданады.

Сонымен бірге М. Әуезовтің интерьерді сипаттаудағы көркем тілі, символизм мен метафораларды қолдануы арқылы өзіне тән қолтаңбасы мен жазушылық шеберлігі зерделенеді. Бұл әдіс-тәсілдер романдағы интерьер арқылы оқиғаларды терең түсінуге мүмкіндік береді, мазмұнды қоюлатады.

М. Әуезовтің «Абай жолы» романындағы интерьер ерекшеліктері мен оның қызметін жан-жақты талдау арқылы бұл мақала романның XIX ғасырдағы қазақ әдебиетіне қосқан үлесін, сондай-ақ жазушы шығармаларын зерттеудің өзекті мәселелерін көтере отырып, қазақ халқының тарихы мен мәдениетін терең танытудағы әдеби интерьердің рөлін анықтайды.

**Тірек сөздер:** әдеби интерьер, қазақ әдебиеті, Абай Құнанбайұлы, интерьер поэтикасы, роман, сипаттау.



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#### ЛИТЕРАТУРНЫЙ ИНТЕРЬЕР В РОМАНЕ МУХТАРА АУЭЗОВА «ПУТЬ АБАЯ»

**Аннотация.** В данной статье представлен подробный анализ сложного применения описания интерьера и его функций в известном историческом романе Мухтара Ауэзова "Путь Абая". Роман описывает жизнь и творчество Абая Кунанбаева, видного казахского поэта и философа, на фоне Казахстана XIX века. Исследуя конкретные примеры и кейсы, данное исследование рассматривает основные роли, которые описания интерьеров играют в различных аспектах романа. К таким аспектам относятся: создание исторической и культурной среды, формирование атмосферы и тона, вклад в развитие персонажей и продвижение сюжета.

Анализ начинается с исследования того, как детальные описания интерьеров Ауэзова, таких как семейный дом Абая и медресе, служат для создания исторического и культурного контекста романа. Затем рассматривается как чувственные детали в этих описаниях помогают создать погружающую атмосферу и вызывать эмоции у читателей, укрепляя связь между читателем, историей и ее персонажами.

Также изучается литературные методы Ауэзова в создании описаний интерьеров, включая использование языка и образности, символизма и метафоры, а также взаимодействие нарративной перспективы. Эти методы способствуют яркости и глубине описаний интерьеров романа, делая их увлекательными и информативными.

Предоставляя всестороннее понимание значимости описания интерьера и его функций в "Пути Абая", данная статья демонстрирует вклад романа в наше знание о Казахстане XIX века и его народе. Кроме того, это исследование подчеркивает неиссякаемый интерес к творчеству Ауэзова и его актуальность для понимания сложностей казахской истории и культуры.

**Ключевые слова:** литературный интерьер, казахская литература, Абай Кунанбаев, поэтика интерьера, роман, описание.