

The Study of Wedding Ceremonies of the Khorezm Oasis in Uzbek Historiography

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Abstract: *This article describes the study of wedding ceremonies of the Khorezm oasis in Uzbek historiography*

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Introduction

Studying the customs, traditions and ceremonies of the Uzbeks of the Khorezm oasis is one of the important sources of research on the Uzbek culture, spiritual life and lifestyle. The peculiarity of traditions and rituals is determined by the age, social status, outlook, natural conditions of people. It also serves to fill some gaps in the scientific reasoning of specific problems in modern science. During the years of independence, effective investigations were carried out in the field of modern ethno-cultural processes, traditions and rituals in the mahallas of Tashkent city. The Ethnologist scientist G. Zununova also studied the transformation processes of Uzbek ceremonies in Tashkent and highlighted the special peculiarities of the transformation processes of traditional ceremonies in the urban environment! [1]. In the monograph “Qashqadaryo milliy kiyimlari: an’naviylik va zamonaviylik (Kashkadarya national costumes: traditional and modern)” by S. Davlatova, senior scientific worker at the History Institute of the Academy of Sciences of the Republic of Uzbekistan, the ethnologist S. Davlatova, the following issues were learned like the history of formation of traditional Uzbek clothes, traditions of producing textile, the Kashkadarya oasis traditional clothing and jewelry of Uzbeks: their classification and analysis, the formation of the Uzbeks’ clothing in the oasis and it can be used in order to comparatively study customs and traditions of connected with ceremonial clothes of Kashkadarya oasis. For example, let’s look at the wedding ceremony “Kiyim bichar (cutting clothes)”, which takes place the day before the wedding, is called “Kushana bichar” in Khorezm, but it is essentially the same ritual. Consequently, though the ceremonies are called in different names, they are universal in nature and they own a common Uzbek peculiarity.

Material and methods

The 1st part of the collection which consists of two parts “Markaziy Osiyoda an’naviy va zamonaviy etnomadaniy jarayonlar (Traditional and Modern Ethnocultural Processes in Central Asia)” of the International Conference organized by the Institute of History of the Academy of Sciences of the Republic of Uzbekistan includes some aspects of the mourning ceremony, “Ashura” ceremony, the traditions of child growing and the religion of Islam, the concepts of pregnancy and childbirth in the Uzbek family, traditions of traditional embroidery and its ethno-territorial peculiarities and rituals and transformation processes therein are based on scientific literature and field research materials.

In the years of independence, especially in the mahallas of Khiva, the study was carried out in the field of modern ethnocultural processes, traditions and rituals. For example, A. Abdurasulov’s (1997) book “Xiva (tarixiy-etnografik ocherklar) (Khiva (Historical and Ethnographical Figures))” draws attention to some aspects of urban life at the end of the 19th and early 20th centuries, in particular, its topography, some aspects of its economic and cultural life and short information can be found on the topic in it. In the synopsis of the thesis by Mamlakat Jumaniyozova “Этнический состав и особенности материальной культуры населения Хорезмского оазиса в конце XIX – начале XX вв. (Ethnic Structure and character of material culture in Khorezm oasis at the end of the 19th and the beginning of the 20th centuries)” there were offered some information on the ethnic composition of the Khorezm oasis, including the features of their material culture and also rituals. The scientific research work of the scientist also relates to the construction of houses. In Shoira Nurullaeva’s monograph “Xorazm an’naviy kiyimlari (Traditional costumes in Khorezm)” published in 2013, there were analyzed the history of Uzbek traditional costumes in Khorezm in the late 19th and early 20th centuries together with the ethno-territorial features of customs and traditions connected with them. This work is full of information about traditional clothes and jewelry-related rituals. However, in the above literature, the peculiarity of Khorezmian customs and traditions are not considered as a separate scientific research in the example of the Khorezm oasis, but it serves to highlight certain aspects of the issue. Most of these authors were mainly among people and profoundly studied their social order, family and community life, traditions, economic activity, material culture, and other ethnographic features.

During the years of Independence new textbooks on the subject have been published[2]. These textbooks provide a new scientific approach to ethnography, ethnogenesis and ethnic history of peoples of Central Asia, as well as ethnology of the peoples of the world.

The collection “O‘zbekiston etnologiyasi: yangicha qarashlar va nazariy-metodologik yondashuvlar (Uzbek Ethnology: New Views and Theoretical-Methodological Approaches)”, published by the Institute of History of the Academy of Sciences of the Republic of Uzbekistan on the 80th anniversary of the academician K.Shoniyozov, organizes traditional Uzbek weddings, rituals related to the farming calendar in the Fergana Valley, traditional Uzbek funeral and mourning ceremonies in Tashkent city, hair witching and related rituals, including archeological sources, museum exhibits and field studies. For the reason that Materials of the conference “O‘zbekiston xalqi dini, madaniyati va urf-odatlar: tarix va hozirgi holati (Religion, Culture and Traditions of the People of Uzbekistan: History and Current Situation)”[3] in cooperation with the Tashkent Islamic University under the Cabinet of Ministers of the Republic of Uzbekistan, Institute of History under the Academy of Sciences of the Republic of Uzbekistan, Republican Center for Human Development in Tashkent covers the following issues like the traditions and ceremonies related to the memory of the deceased in the Uzbeks, the Islamization of the Bibi Seshanba and Bibi Mushkul, the modern forms of marriage, the traditional farming and material culture of the Karakalpak people, the ethnococcal of the mourning ceremonies of the Tashkent oasis, a combination of national and religious traditions in the Uyghur marriages, the role of national and religious values in the Armenian marriages, the rituals of dungeons’ to traditional marriage, national and religious values and traditions of museums in the minds of young people, it is pof great importance in studying the ethnography of different ethnicities and few numbered nations living in the Republic of Uzbekistan comparatively with the ethnology of Uzbeks.

Result and discussion

The materials of the 2nd Scientific Conference on the theme “O‘lmas an‘ana va qadriyatlar (The Endless Traditions and Values)” organized on the occasion of the celebration of Navruz in April 2015 with the participation of members of the “Oykumena” circle under the leadership of the ethno-scientist M. Jumaniyozova at the Department of History of the Urgench State University also played an important role in studying this topic. The articles on topics such as marriage in Khorezm, Tajik people’s wedding, Uzbek folk festivals, games and rituals were discussed by the university teachers and students as well as on the topic of comparative study of the peoples of Central Asia had a great scientific significance. In addition, the scientific researches conducted by the specialists of the Republican Scientific and Practical Center “Oila (Family)” B.Umarov and F. Akramova “Current Problems of Family Psychological Service in Uzbekistan” are of great importance in understanding the differences between family ceremonies and differences in different nationalities and ethnicities living in Central Asia[4]. In particular, comparative data on the ethnopsychological features of the family of Uzbek, Tajik, Turkmen, Kazakh and Karakalpak peoples in this research have been of great importance in the coverage of the topic.

Conclusion

Field materials collected from the regions and villages of the oasis Khiva, Urgench, Khanka, Gurlan, Yangiariq, Khazorasp, Baghat, Kushkupir, Yangibazar, Shavat served as a main source during 2015-2018 in investigating the issues like ethno-local features and transformational processes of the customs, traditions and ceremonies of Khorezmian Uzbeks. The study materials were mainly collected on the basis of the interviews with the local population, personal observations and questionnaires. Ethnographic information contains data collected from more than twenty people aged 55-80, who are well aware of the traditional rituals of the Khorezm oasis. The analysis of the above mentioned studies shows that the theme of the ethnococcal characterization and transformation processes of the Uzbek traditions and ceremonies (19th and 20th centuries) was not studied as a special dissertation research. Therefore, this subject was selected and studied as a separate dissertation research.

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