

Zhadyra Kalizharova*

Institute of Literature and Art named after M. Auezov

Kanipash Madibayeva**

Institute of Literature and Art named after M. Auezov

Aiman Aktanova***

National Academy of Education named after Y. Altynsarin

Serik Yelikpayev****

Toraighyrov University

Bakhytgul Kapassova*****

Toraighyrov University

EPISTOLARY GENRE IN KAZAKH AND TURKISH LITERATURE

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The relevance of the study lies in the fact that in modern literary studies, the genesis and the process of development of epistolary literature are rather neglected. The purpose of this study is to investigate the epistolary genre in Kazakh and Turkish literature and why it attracts modern readers. Methods such as synthesis, analogy, deduction, and comparative, system, logical, and content analyses were employed in the study. The paper considers the definition of the epistolary genre, discusses the main features of letters, theoretical specifics, and approaches to its application in modern literary studies. The study examines the development of the genre of epistolary prose in Kazakh and Turkish literature; by comparison, the works of world literature are considered. An overview is provided of research papers in global literary studies that explore the questions of the epistolary genre and its application in works of fiction. It is shown that in both Kazakh and Turkish literature, letters are used to discuss feelings and reflections, human psychology, and social problems. The study of the development of the epistolary genre in both countries shows that it developed in parallel. In the works considered, the thoughts and communication of the main characters expressed in letters are sincere and open and reflect the identity, culture, and flavour of the people. The purpose was achieved: the concept of the epistolary genre was defined, its features in the modern context were revealed, its use in Kazakh and Turkish literature was analysed, and a review of world literature was conducted. The study's practical significance lies in its ability to use the main provisions and conclusions of the analysed material to conduct classes in literary studies, linguistics, and literary history related to the epistolary genre.

Key words: artistic text, works, letter, handwritten message, feelings, image

* Institute of Literature and Art named after M. Auezov, 29 Kurmangazy Str., 050010 Almaty, Republic of Kazakhstan; e-mail: zhadyrakalizharova3@gmail.com

** Institute of Literature and Art named after M. Auezov, 29 Kurmangazy Str., 050010 Almaty, Republic of Kazakhstan; e-mail: K.Madibayeva@outlook.com

*** National Academy of Education named after Y. Altynsarin, 8 Mangilik El Ave., 010000 Astana, Republic of Kazakhstan; e-mail: aimanaktanova@hotmail.com

**** Toraighyrov University, 64 Lomov Str., 140008 Pavlodar, Republic of Kazakhstan; e-mail: serikyelikp@outlook.com

***** Toraighyrov University, 64 Lomov Str., 140008 Pavlodar, Republic of Kazakhstan; e-mail: Kapassova1986@hotmail.com

1. Introduction

The epistolary genre is recognised as one of the literary forms. Written works in the epistolary genre are assessed as quite successful in world literature. An epistolary genre is a text published in the form of a letter that informs the addressee of certain information. This genre is characterised by a specific style aimed at the addressee. In this genre, the addressee distinguishes an epistolary work of fiction from memoirs, diaries, and notes (Lubering, 2023; Navas & Vianna, 2024). There may be one or two recipients, or they may be represented by the community. The use of the epistolary genre in fiction conveys the emotional and interesting experiences of the characters by the author, deeply reveals their characters, and establishes a trusting relationship with the reader.

The epistolary genre is considered one of the oldest genres in literature and is characteristic of 19th century works (Islami, 2024). At that time, letters were both a way of transmitting information and describing characters. The authors conveyed the grammatical and lexical features of the epistolic genre of that era and used separate expressions, comparisons, tropes, and metaphors. In them, the characters' characters are described realistically. According to a researcher at York University, Mastrantonio (2021), letters are able to connect the past and the present and can add new perspectives on the future. Writing is a key element of the popular epistolary genre. Writing is a type of communication in which events, emotions, feelings, thoughts, or philosophical debates are described (Chyzhykova, 2024). For a long time, it was writing that was the main means of communication at a distance between people. The correspondence was between lovers, friends, relatives, and colleagues. Later, stable rules of etiquette were formed, which were characteristic of certain types of letters (personal, business). Personal letters contain a playful retelling, humour, resentment, or anger, and the form of address to the addressee is often very polite. Business letters are composed strictly according to templates (Suprun, 2024). The epistolary genre includes works where the form of personal writing is used in political or fiction literature.

According to Kazakh researchers Kalizharova and Madibayeva (2023), due to letters, it is possible to realise the illusion and representation of a fictional utterance as authentic, which is essential for literature as an art form. The epistolary genre in literature shows the psychological state of the heroes of the works, the inner state of the soul, and their experiences. An addressed letter conveys a common set of feelings and emotions for the writer. Therefore, the epistolary style is loved by

readers, and for the author, it provides an opportunity to comprehensively reveal the inner world of the characters. According to the theory of researchers Britten and Araboglu (2022), an epistolary novel also provides the reader with the opportunity to easily understand the real motives of the author of the letter, who at the same time is also a character of the novel. In an appeal to the letter, according to the Italian researcher Salsini (2020), in many epistolary novels, the authors intentionally use a narrative structure along with thematic content, creating strong texts along the way that reflect literary and socio-cultural norms. Moldabayev (2021) writes that the epistolary genre in Kazakh society attracts not only with its novelty but also with the charisma and poetics of extant messages from the Middle Ages, among which most are business correspondence.

The peculiarities of the manifestation and application of the epistolary genre in Kazakh and Turkish literature are shown in this study. The works written in the epistolary genre are considered, which allow characterising the epistolary genre and identifying its main features. The purpose of the study was to investigate the epistolary genre in Kazakh and Turkish literature and why it attracts modern readers.

2. Materials and Methods

The research material was the texts of the artistic works of Kazakh writers: Nurshaiykov "The writer and his friends" (2005), Mukanov "Pure Love" (2010), Asim "Letters to nowhere" (2013), Bayanov "Alma-Ata informal" (2005), Kairbekov "Towards the Sun" (2014); Turkish writers Pamuk "My Name Is Red" (1998), Shafak "The Forty Rules of Love" (2010) and Safarli "When I return, be at home" (2017), as well as representatives of world literature: French writer Levy "Will You Be There?" (2001), Polish writer Vishnevsky "Loneliness in the Net" (2001) and the Irish writer Ahern "Where Rainbows End" (2010). The choice of these novels for analysis is determined by the purpose and internal logic of this study.

The works were selected regardless of the time of publication or the authors. The primary selection criterion was the inclusion of the epistolary genre, characterized by correspondence, letters, manuscripts, monologues, and dialogues, encompassing works by Kazakh, Turkish, and global writers. In the works under study, correspondence is conducted from one or more characters, addressees. In addition, the works under study give an in-depth understanding of the real world, some of them are written on real events. They extol topics that can be easily found these days. A special place belongs to the consideration of epistolary forms in these

literary texts, which made it possible to establish the role of the epistolary component in the structure of a literary text. The analysis of this material will complement both the theory of epistolary and will allow solving a number of stylistic problems related to the textual organisation of a work of art. For a clear definition of the works of the epistolary genre in Kazakh and Turkish literature, the content analysis method was used, with the help of which the above-mentioned works selected for research were studied. This study includes the analysis of texts, and the use of basic methods of functional analysis determined the epistolary style of writing in these works. The method of analogy showed a general analysis of works in Kazakh and Turkish literature, it was due to this method that the experience of researchers from other countries in the field of the epistolary genre in literature was analysed.

The role of writing in literature was determined through logical analysis, which also described the features of the epistolary style and identified the basic principles underlying it. The method of comparative analysis shows the experience of researchers from different countries of the world in the study of the epistolary genre in Kazakh, Turkish, as well as world literature, gives an assessment of their effectiveness. The system analysis helped identify and understand the main features of writing in the analysed works of the above authors, as well as to understand the main features of writing, and get acquainted with the inner world of the characters. The synthesis explored the main features of the epistolary genre in the works of Kazakh and Turkish literature. Using the method of analysis and synthesis, it is worth noting the reliability of the conclusions obtained in the study, as well as the validity of the information considered. Thus, they are used for a clear understanding of the studied topic, reveal its general characteristics and principles. The method of deduction provided an opportunity to analyse its individual types based on the general characteristics of epistolary literature, namely letters, correspondence, manuscripts, monologues, dialogues. Comparative and typological research methods are the basis for a comprehensive consideration of the development and evolution of the epistolary genre in fiction.

3. Results

The epistolary genre is believed to have originated in the ancient era and was first documented in France, where its style was distinguished by simplicity and sincerity (Lubering, 2023). Initially, it was a simple way to exchange important information that had nothing to do with fiction. However, over time, the genre

developed, elements of publicistics began to manifest themselves in it, which is reflected in ancient examples of ancient epistemology – the letters of Aristotle and Plato. The main reason for the appearance of an epistolary narrative and an epistolary novel in fiction was everyday letters. Epistolary prose as a work of fiction can be identified by its formal feature: texts are structured as one or more letters, adhering to the principles of prose speech. Such a feature is mandatory, but not sufficient (Kalizharova & Madibayeva, 2023). Writing as the main means of communication has been perfected along with the history of human evolution. It was an important tool of human relations, and later reformatted into a literary genre and became an artistic medium that reflected the inner world of the characters. Changes in relations between people, social conditions contribute to the development of the epistolary genre. With the help of letters, people exchange messages with each other, share thoughts and experiences, and news. Initially, this was considered a simple exchange of important information that has nothing to do with fiction, but later the concept of epistolary style appeared. The source of the letter has certain signs about which the author writes in the letters, referring either to another character or to a general reader (Table 1).

Table 1: The main features of the letter

Features	Dialogical structure of the correspondence
	Presence of social and lyrical shades
	Use of jargon and colloquial style of correspondence
	Storytelling in the first person
	Multi-line nature of the letter (depends on the purpose of the text submission)
	Intimate-dialogical nature of the letter

The epistolary genre in Kazakh literature is deeply rooted in history. The main manifestation of the epistolary genre can be traced in the eastern sagas of the Golden Horde era (10th-14th centuries). During the reign of the Khans, the genre of writing was used for diplomatic purposes by the rulers of the country. In the Middle Ages, one can see how writing became a full-fledged work of art. In Europe, epistolography developed as publicistics in the correspondence of statesmen and church ministers. And in Eastern countries, the tradition of writing poems and letters was established in literary works. This is noticeable in the widespread use in Eastern literature of poetry written in the genre of "nama" (letters). For example, these are love lyrics: "Mahab-bat-nama", "Leyli-Mainun", "Farhat-Shyryn", which used the epistolary form of the Middle Ages (Epistolary genre, 2017).

In Kazakh literature, initially the epistolary genre developed poetically. Poets corresponded with each other in verse, such a tradition of writing in Kazakh literature was called "letter poems". A written argument (aitys) is a text in which akyn authors express their creative thoughts to each other in letters. They were a work of art based on a certain thematic and ideological, stylistic and compositional or artistic integrity. Later, for the formation of intellectual relations for educational purposes, the genre of writing became more popular in the country. For example, these are individual letters of Kunanbayuly et al. (Kalizharova, 2022). Letters had the ability to bridge time and space, which was undoubtedly used by Kazakh writers. The composition of the work was particularly influenced by the nature of the moods and feelings conveyed in the letter in the form of a story, the form of the work, the clarification of the relationship of the characters and their rapid rapprochement.

In the early 20th century, the epistolary genre was incorporated into the works of Kazakh prose writers. From that period onward, epistolary writing acquired formal stability and was established as a genre in prose. Ethnographer, orientalist, and scholar, Valikhanov, has left a rich legacy in the epistolary style: ("Letter to Brother Zhakup Valikhanov" (1857), "Letters to Father Chingis Valikhanov" (1860)) (Kalizharova, 2022). Publicist, art and literature activist, Baitursynov, used an epistolary style in his poetry, trying to convey his feelings, concern, thoughts, and ideas to the whole people. Among the works that embody the ideas of national unity are those addressing the mother, relatives, friends, and the people. The letters and poems of the prose writer had social significance: "Тап замана" ("In a short time"), "Туған елге сәлем хат" ("Greetings to the native land"), "Әділдік жайлы арыз" ("Appeal for justice"), "Мақатқа хат" ("Letter to Makatu"). It is also worth mentioning S. Toraighyrov's "Kamar Sulu" ("The belt is beautiful") and the verse M. Makataev's appeal to S. Yesenin "Sergey Yeseninge" ("To Sergey Yesenin") (Yermekbay, 2015).

In the epistolary genre, many works have been written by Nurshaiykov. He achieved success in the literary process through dialogues, monologues, letters, showing the image of the main character and using the techniques of psychology and lyricism in his texts. The novelist tirelessly promoted the wonderful qualities of the Kazakh nation, formed over centuries. His works tell the history of the people of that period, and the fate of the nation. The epistolary novel "The writer and his friends" made a significant contribution to Kazakh literature (Nurshaiykov, 2005). It is dedicated to the writer Mukan Imanzhanov, who was a mentor to young writers in

the 1950s. The novel is written in the form of a diary, memoirs, events described for each year, every day, which is easy for the reader, in an understandable language. In the works of Nurshaiykov (2005), correspondence between writers in the field of literature is often a vivid picture of that period. The first novel of Kazakh prose of the 20th century, reflecting the social and social nature of a difficult period in the Kazakh steppe, was the work of Mukanov (2010) "Pure Love". The writer expresses the conflict between classes, equality of women on the examples of the main characters. The novel is based on real events. In the plot, the love of two young people is closely intertwined with the worldview of the Kazakhs of that time. The love letters of young people in the novel are presented in prose speech, and differ in an emotionally expressive manner of narration. Mukanov also touches on the problem of female inequality in the novel, one of the most relevant in Kazakh society. Describing the position of the mother of the main character, Mukanov conveys the moral and social character of the country through individual family events.

Modern novels by Kazakh writers address universal and timeless problems. These works demonstrate connections between religious teachings, scientific discoveries, and the past and present. The personality and its relations with the surrounding world are shown in the context of the spiritual quest of modern society. The writer Asim is among the contemporaries of Kazakhstan. Novels by Asim (2013) are psychological – there are important experiences there when every thought, emotion, and feeling is associated with bodily sensations. The novel "Letters to nowhere" by Asim is a monologue about love. It is built on the type of a novel in letters. It is based on 40 hopeless letters, most likely never sent. An interesting prose of a modern urban young man, a confession about a relationship with his beloved and himself. Another contemporary, Bayanov (2005), is known for the book "Alma-Ata informal". A book about the life of Alma-Ata, about high-profile crimes, bohemians and black marketeers, about "gangster" showdowns, about the world of rock musicians. The book contains letters of celebrities, describes the places of old Alma-Ata: Tulebayka Broadway, Akkushka. This study also considers the book of poems by the modern prose writer Kairbekov "Towards the Sun" (2014). This is a poet's poetry diary with a detailed description of the cities he visited. The main feature of the book is the love of the motherland, nature and the environment, which the writer is fascinated by. In the form of a diary, the poet describes in verse every point in Kazakhstan that he has visited. All writers are inventive and talented, each of them has a rich imagination and a unique style of writing, but all are united by the

manner of writing novels in the epistolary genre – love of writing, the desire to preserve their native language, the desire to develop Kazakh literature, to bring new things into the world of literature.

In Turkish literature, the history of the epistolary genre falls on the period before and after the Tanzimat. Letters were used in the Turkish meaning of “betig”, “betik”, and the language of letters was very confusing and difficult to understand. Early fragments of the letter were found for the first time in Turkic literature in East Turkestan in the form of separate letters from the rulers of the country to neighbouring states. Samples of letters were also found in ancient magazines of ancient prose collected in the Anatolian region. In the period from the Tanzimat to the republic, there was a tendency to collect a person’s letters in one book. The first of the collected books are the letters of Akif Pasha “Münşeât-i Elhac Akif Efendi” (1843) and “Muharrerat-i Hussiye-i Akif Paşa” (1884) (Burduli, 2021). There was also a tradition of aitys through letters between poets. After the Tanzimat, from the second half of the 19th century, the epistolary genre was used as an independent literary genre. As mentioned above, the formation of the epistolary genre in Kazakh literature corresponds to this period. This suggests that Kazakh literature is a part of world literature as a whole, and develops along with other literatures. In Turkish, as well as Kazakh literature, the epistolary genre was first used in the form of a novel. There are works written in the epistolary genre of Huseyn and Garpinar “Mutallaka” (1898), Hali Edib Adyvar “Handan” (1912), Yakub Kadri Karaosmanoglu “Femininity and Our Women” (1923), as well as stories of this period by Reshat Nuri Guntekin “Extinct Stars”, “Lies” (Nuri, 2023).

In the epistolary novel “My Name Is Red” (1998), contemporary Turkish writer Pamuk presented a “story within a story” or a “framed” narrative. The historical novel consists of 59 chapters. Each chapter is named after the character on whose behalf the story is being told (horse, dog, shaitan, death). All chapters are not connected by plot. The historical time of the action is not dated. From the beginning, the novel reads like a detective story. Romantic relationships between the main characters are unwound in the second storyline of the work. The author uses the technique of “romance in letters”, interpreting it as a “love triangle in letters”, since another character intervenes in their correspondence. With each chapter, events are developing more and more intensively. Pamuk destroys the understanding of the family, shows it from the other side. It is also worth mentioning the Turkish writer Shafak and her book “The Forty Rules of Love” (2009), which is written in an

epistolary style (2010). The book was created in parallel worlds, based on the plot of modern time and the distant past. Each chapter is new stories, new people, new events. Shafak has created a book of revelation, about choice, about feelings and thoughts, about kindness and acceptance, about God and about love, with a certain amount of philosophical reflections, about the fact that everything in life is interconnected, including people. The main feature of the book is the pure and sincere love of the main characters, their unity and spiritual connection. The love correspondence of the main characters slowly draws them into another world, the world of love and tenderness, where there is a place for a real feeling, which they forgot about, and perhaps even did not know.

Speaking of Turkish literature, it should be noted the sincerity in the epistolary genre of one of the most popular writers of the East, Safarli. His works show the mysterious and wonderful world of relationships, culture and traditions of the East. One of his most touching and poignant works is the novel "When I return, be at home" (2017). This is a collection of unsent letters, where the main character writes to the daughter he lost. The novel is about boundless parental love, about losses, the ability to listen and support. The piece has no plot, it lacks a dynamic narrative, and the story is about everything and overnight about nothing. In letters, father to daughter talks about the little things of his life, about the city, about the weather, about the day he lived. The peculiarity of writing is that Safarli writes so colourfully and vitally that the reader can feel the wind "playing" in his hair or snowflakes on his face. In almost all of his novels, there is a mixture of drama, biography and epistolary style. The considered works of writers of the two countries are informative and thematic. A common problem touched upon in all the works is love. The texts touch upon the problems of social morality, society as a whole, family, and women. They are vivid examples of the epistolary genre. The novel "Pure Love" ends in tragedy, the main character spends ten years of his youth in prison, the novel "My Name Is Red" is also dramatic in the finale. Events are intertwined in parallel with urban culture. These novels describe different periods of action. The storyline of the works is a universal problem. Ultimately, feelings of jealousy, loyalty, fear, true love, selfish marriage, thoughts of wealth are not alien to all mankind. The authors managed to rationally solve these problems through epistolary discourse.

In both countries, the epistolary genre is employed in works of fiction and continues to develop as a documentary-autobiographical literary form. In the 18th-20th centuries, it became a separate genre with an artistic structure, theoretical

aspects, and stylistic features. The letters deal with issues of feelings-reflections, human psychology, and social problems. The writers understood that the use of the epistolary genre in the works as a literary style in the form of a letter is transmitted to the reader simply and fascinatingly. In the past, the epistolary genre was very popular in literature, so letters in the epistolary genre, both in Kazakh and Turkic literature, were also used in other literary genres. In both literatures of the countries considered, it can be concluded that the development of the epistolary genre, the genre of writing, went almost parallel. Considering world literature, it can be seen, for example, in the novels of the 19th century, the epistolary genre is vividly displayed. In Honoré de Balzac's novel "Letters of Two Brides". The writer Mary Shelley uses the epistolary form in her novel "Frankenstein: or, The Modern Prometheus", where letters are one of the many framing techniques. Similarly, Bram Stoker's "Dracula" is a masterpiece of the epistolary genre, consisting entirely of letters, diary entries, newspaper clippings, telegrams, doctor's notes, ship logs, and other documents. Stoker masterfully employs this form to balance realism and dramatic tension, creating vivid images and intricate plots. Based on the epistolary novel, the author creates vivid images and develops complex plots, while using a limited list of possibilities and characters, and the reader, in turn, learns information from the original source, without intermediaries (Sarkar, 2021).

However, modern literature diverges significantly from the classical epistolary tradition of the 19th and 20th centuries. The advent of information technologies, social media, and email has transformed private correspondence, diminishing the centrality of handwritten letters as a primary means of communication. Letters are no longer the primary means of transmitting information, as most communication now occurs through phones and online resources. It should be noted that writing, as an epistolary genre, becomes different in the electronic version, changes the format. The purpose of electronic correspondence is still the speed of information transfer, and handwritten letters have the function of communication in the first place (Brazhnik, 2017). Letters are getting shorter, structural elements are being omitted, etiquette is being disregarded, and linguistic devices are becoming impoverished. Such communication differs significantly from the classical epistolary genre, it uses more linguistic means of oral colloquial speech, and "emojis" are inserted in messages to express emotions. This linguistic simplification has influenced contemporary novels, which some critics argue are marked by monotony and impoverished syntax (Buller, 2022).

"Despite these changes, the epistolary genre remains relevant in contemporary literature, with works such as Jessica Brockmole's *Letters from Skye*, Bel Kaufman's *Up the Down Staircase*, Daniel Keyes's *Flowers for Algernon*, and Stefan Zweig's *Letter from an Unknown Woman*". Among modern authors contributing to the epistolary genre is the French writer Marc Levy. His novel *"Will You Be There?"* (2001) is written in the epistolary genre. This is a typical story of a boy and a girl who grew up together but life separated them. Each of them chose their own path: she left America to help the poor in Honduras, and he stayed to study. For several years, they were connected only by letters and a meeting once a year in the airport building. Meanwhile, both characters continued to lead separate lives. The events in the plot take place against the background of natural disasters and real wars, which emphasises the fragility of human existence. The dramatic psychological story will not leave the reader indifferent. Over time, works based on electronic correspondence appear. A novel by the Polish writer Vishnevsky's *"Loneliness in the Net"* (2001) is a vivid example of this, where through a simple story it is shown that no distance can be a hindrance for love, even if there are only emails in common. The novel itself and the plot twists are predictable. But this novel would have been ignored if Vishnevsky did not put Internet correspondence at the head of the novel. Ultimately, the work came out when humanity began to get used to new technologies, which, undoubtedly, "went" to the world society. The writer is one of the few who described the love that was born and died on the web.

It is also worth noting the novel by the Irish writer Ahern *"Where Rainbows End"* (2005). It consists entirely of letters, notes, SMS messages exchanged for forty years by the main characters, friends of childhood, youth, and maturity. The novel reflects the doubts and failures of the characters, ordinary experiences, and emotions that are understandable to every reader. The work fully reflects the realities of modernity. Electronic correspondence is at the head of the novel, without which it is impossible to imagine modern communication. Considering the features of the modern epistolary novel and the works of the past years, where writing letters belonged to the field of verbal art and took place according to stylistic norms, it can be stated that in all the works one can see the writers' appeal to eternal values: to the people, to the family, traditions, to friendship and touching love, to the inner spiritual world of a person. Works are easy to read, effortlessly, in a language understandable to the reader (Table 2).

Table 2: Main features of the epistolary genre (on the example of selected works)

Works for analysis (+/-)	Main features							
	Content of the letter (text, syntax, style)	Sender and recipient address designation	Mixing of spoken and written speech	Official (+), informal (-) manner of communication	Presence of etiquette formulas in the text	Presentation of the letter in the first person	Dramatic nature of the work	Emotivity of works
Toraighyrov "Kamar sulu" (1914)	+	+	-	-	+	+	+	+
Mukanov "Pure Love" (1963)	+	+	+	-	+	+	+	+
Kairbekov "Towards the Sun" (2014)	+	-	+	-	+	+	-	+
Asim "Letters to nowhere" (2013)	+	+	+	-	+	+	+	+
Safarli "When I return, be at home" (2017)	+-	+	+	-	+	+	+	+
Vishnevsky "Loneliness in the Net"	+-	+	+	-	+	+	+	+
Ahern "Where Rainbows End" (2004)	+-	+	+	-	+	+	+	+

The table shows that some modern novels, however, differ in the scarcity of stylistics, vocabulary, and syntax. In all the works considered, there is a sender and a recipient and not an official manner of communication, except for the work Kairbekov "Towards the Sun" (2014). These are diary entries, where at the beginning of the text there is necessarily a date of entry, and only then the author's address (presentation of information on paper), where they write about the past day and about their feelings. Mixing of spoken and written speech is present in all works,

except Toraighyrov's "Kamar Sulu" ("Beautiful belt"), the work of the past years is saturated with written speech. Such, for example, etiquette formulas as an apology, gratitude, congratulations or a wish take place in all the texts under study. All letters are written in the first person. Reviewed novels, except Kairbekov's "Towards the Sun", are filled with the personal drama of the author. The epistolary genre of the above works is characterised by emotionality of character, they contain verbal and nonverbal emotional behaviour of the characters – this is the most significant feature of the epistolary style lies in its high degree of emotivity.

Today, the epistolary genre is not at its peak, but written communication continues to be regarded as a fundamental human need. Correspondence on paper is increasingly rare in everyday life, so the modern reader is more attracted to literature, to the form of letters and other documents. The epistolary novel continues to be significant in modern literature. Letters provide the opportunity to think about the eternal and think about what is not passing, immersing the reader in another era, and experiencing other feelings and emotions, while at the same time preserving a literary style and an interesting plot. In modern society, the role of epistolary genres has changed compared to previous centuries. Today, they are no longer the only means of communication between people and have undergone modifications towards reduction. However, characteristically, due to the older generation, who were able to master modern means of communication, it is possible to see how new technologies and traditional values, accumulated over the years, exist together.

4. Discussion

A letter, which is a non-artistic statement, and a letter as a literary work are absolutely identical: both have the properties of transmitting information and have an appeal to the addressee, indicating the date and place of writing and signature. Since ancient times, the tradition of writing, which fulfilled the purpose of communication between people, was later reformatted into epistolary literature. According to a Turkish researcher, Asci (2020), letters are the first literary form of fiction in literature. They are of enormous importance in fiction, especially for novels that demonstrate in detail the emotions and thoughts of the characters. It is important to acknowledge that writers view this literary form as a tool for expressing their political and social ideas.

According to Kazakh researchers Kalizharova and Madibayeva (2023), works in the form of letters allow fully implementing the illusion that is fundamentally important for literature as an art form – to present a fictional statement as authentic. The researchers devoted their work to the problem of the evolution of the genre of Kazakh epistolary literature. The work of researchers will be useful in school or university teaching of Kazakh literature when reading literary theory and poetics. The text in the form of a letter allows the characters to show their inner world in a relaxed, confidential conversation (Hasanov, 2016a). Additionally, the correspondence establishes the message's authenticity and documentality, which gives it a unique persuasive power. It is worth agreeing with the opinion of the English researcher, Mastrantonio (2021), who suggests that letters bring intimacy to proof; letters are like moving texts; they have a historical aspect, but there is a living history; they can be revived again. In her research, the author studied the private correspondence of Lord Byron and his editor, M. Worthington Montague, as well as the letters of Emily Dixon to her mentor, to prove that in letters, the past, present, and future exist not in a linear sequence but alongside each other.

An ordinary journalistic text does not have the property of expressing emotions with the help of expressive and evaluative vocabulary, which cannot be said about the epistolary genre. In the epistolary legacy of great thinkers and writers, such expression may even be expressed unnecessarily and exaggerated by expressiveness. In the era of sentimentalism, the epistolary genre becomes the leading genre in literature, since all the features of the sentimental artistic method are realised in writing, emphasis is placed on the inner world of the individual, emotions and feelings of the characters, and mood (Shershova & Chaika, 2024; Hasanov, 2016b). This is how epistolary novels appeared, where characters wrote letters to each other, opening their souls and expressing emotions. In the modern world, writing has a huge social and historical significance due to its ability to act as a means of transmitting information. This becomes one of the main reasons for the growing popularity of the epistolary novel. According to the American researcher, Messina (2017), readers have come to love this kind of narrative for its charm of authenticity and for the fact that it gives them the opportunity to read a novel that looks like a real-life story. The author considers the origin of the epistolary novel and suggests that the epistolary genre appeared in the second half of the 18th century, and before that, memoir predominated, where the main characters exchanged their life stories, experiences, and different feelings.

The letter that exists in the publicists is the "purest" form of the letter for familiarizing oneself with the epistolary genre. It is worth agreeing with the opinion of a researcher from New Zealand, Bishop (2018), who argues that no other kind of literature is more human than epistolary. This is a form of text that focuses on the outpourings and sediment of everyday life, emotions, and love conveyed in letters, notebooks, blog posts, diaries, text messages, and telegrams. It is important to note that, despite their limited use today, letters remain a valuable resource for individuals. Scientists have shown interest in the epistolary genre because of its unique historical and literary significance, as well as its philosophical and cultural potential. This allows us to view writing as a person's genetic expression over time or a distinct philosophical narrative. For example, the Korean researcher Cho (2016), investigating how the new means of information transmission (spiral letters) that appeared in the epistolary culture led to social, political, and intellectual changes in society, came to the conclusion that they reflect and do not refute the existing gender dynamics and power relations associated with the norms of reading and writing. The author suggests that the rise and fall of spiral letters demonstrate the mutual influence of written culture and socio-political changes. After studying the researcher's paper, we can conclude its usefulness in teaching modern literary studies and information technology.

Modernist literature's epistolary form and tradition, which satisfy the work's characteristic element, establish a connection between writing and the artistic process (Thomazine, 2024). Studying modern communication, researchers from the Netherlands and Finland, Ureña-Carrion et al. (2022), have conducted a joint study where they examined a huge historical block of data on epistolaries. The researchers have determined whether the correspondence of the well-known models of human behaviour of previous centuries is reflected in modern communication; their study shows whether there are similarities between these epistolary network communication models. As mentioned above, today, phone messages, e-mail, and social networks are becoming an alternative to handwritten letters. According to Stanley (2015), a researcher from the UK, new digital forms of communication, such as text messages on the phone, in social networks, and "instant" messages via e-mail, are characterized by their immediacy and are synchronous, unlike the asynchronous characteristics of writing. One can partially agree with this opinion, but the availability of sending and the frequency of messages carry a meagre, monosyllabic correspondence, and then they are completely deleted. When writing a

handwritten letter, one can say with full confidence that it will reach the addressee, and they will hold a piece of paper in their hands.

The last decade shows that reading has moved massively to digital displays over printed paper. According to a researcher from the Netherlands, Luyten (2022), the nature of reading has changed significantly, but it remains unclear to what extent this has affected the reading skills of mankind. The researcher showed that the growth of online chats at the country level coincides with a decrease in reading literacy and awareness of reading strategies. The author demonstrated that while the decline in reading literacy remains a cause for concern, it shouldn't serve as evidence of the education system's failure. It's important to concur with this viewpoint and note that online chats are currently at the forefront of communication (Nedoshovenko, 2020). And the Israeli researcher of the epistolary genre, J. Bourdon, believes that although the Internet network is characterised by blurring the boundaries between one-on-one communication, the ancient handwritten letter also had blurred boundaries – from local leaks to full-fledged publications of collections of letters. In his study, Bourdon (2019) describes various types of epistolary mailings and proves that the Internet is an example of historical trends that originated before the advent of the digital world: the requirement of absolute confidentiality and the risk of total political interference.

Thus, the results obtained in the course of this study, as well as the reviewed papers by researchers, helped to investigate the concept of the epistolary genre and the features of writing letters not only in Kazakh and Turkish literature but also in other countries of the world.

5. Conclusions

This study provided an opportunity to consider the evolution of the epistolary genre and to identify its features in Kazakh and Turkish literature. The concept of the epistolary genre is revealed, the main features of writing are listed, its role is revealed, and the main features of the epistolary novel of modernity are determined. The artistic works of Kazakh writers are considered: Nurshaiykov "The writer and his friends", Mukanov "Pure Love", Asima "Letters to nowhere", "Alma-Ata informal", Kairbekov "Towards the Sun"; Turkish writers Pamuk "My Name Is Red", Shafak "The Forty Rules of Love" and Safarli "When I come back, be at home", as well as representatives of world literature: French writer M. Levy "Will You Be There?" by the

Polish writer Vishnevsky "Loneliness in the Net" and the Irish writer Ahern "Where Rainbows End" to identify the features of the epistolary style in texts.

The letter retains meaning for journalistic and documentary prose and for small narrative forms. In addition, epistolary prose plays an important role in the development of language resources. By delving into the creative language of the aforementioned writers, one can gain insight into their style, personality, and worldview, as well as their characters, themes, ideas, and images. The study's results reveal that letters in Kazakh and Turkish literature often address feelings and reflections, human psychology, and social issues. The study and development of the epistolary genre in both Kazakh and Turkish literature clearly demonstrates its parallel development. In the works considered, the thoughts and communication of the main characters transferred in the letters are sincere and open; they reflect the identity, culture, and color of the people's ethnographies.

The paper has achieved its goal: the concept of the epistolary genre is defined, its features of application in modern times are revealed, the epistolary genre in Kazakh and Turkish literature is considered, and a review of world literature is made. No less important in the study was familiarisation with the works of researchers from other countries of the world, studying in detail the formation of the epistolary genre, its development, and writing letters. Based on the above, it can be concluded that further research will be aimed at the study of the epistolary genre in literature, a more in-depth study of writing, manuscripts in various languages and cultures, and Internet correspondence.

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