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**INTERPRETATION OF THE MOTHER CONCEPT IN KYRGYZ POETRY
(BASED ON THE MY MOTHER POEM BY ZHYPARA ISABAEVA)**

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**ИНТЕРПРЕТАЦИЯ КОНЦЕПТА «МАТЬ» В КЫРГЫЗСКОЙ ПОЭЗИИ
(НА ОСНОВЕ СТИХОТВОРЕНИЯ ЖЫПАРЫ ИСАБАЕВОЙ «МАМА МОЯ»)**

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Abstract. This research paper aims to delve into the societal position of women and mothers in Kyrgyz society through the analysis of My Mother poem by Zhypara Isabaeva. The paper employs a feminist lens to critically analyze the poem and its themes, characters, and poetic devices, shedding light on the challenges faced by Kyrgyz mothers. The study also seeks to understand how Kyrgyz women poets in the post-Soviet era express their female identity through their works. The development of Kyrgyz lyric poetry in the post-Soviet era is a reflection of the country's rich cultural heritage and the experiences of its people during a time of significant change. Despite the challenges faced, Kyrgyz lyric poetry remains an important part of the country's cultural heritage and continues to shape the national identity of Kyrgyzstan. The paper will explore the role of motherhood and marriage in hindering the self-realization of women in society, and examine the cultural peculiarities of Kyrgyz society and their impact on women's social standing.

Аннотация. В данной исследовательской работе производится анализ социального положения женщин и матерей в кыргызском обществе через рассмотрение стихотворения Жыпары Исабаевой «Мама моя». Используется феминистский подход для критического анализа тем, персонажей и поэтических приемов стихотворения. Исследование также посвящено рассмотрению того, как женская идентичность выражается в постсоветской эпохе кыргызскими поэтессами. Развитие кыргызской лирической поэзии в постсоветскую эпоху является отражением богатого культурного наследия страны и опыта ее народа во время значительных перемен. Несмотря на трудности, кыргызская лирика остается важной частью культурного наследия страны и продолжает формировать национальную идентичность Кыргызстана. В статье исследуется роль материнства в самореализации женщин в обществе, исследуются культурные особенности кыргызского общества и их влияние на социальное положение женщин и матерей.

Keywords: mother concept, poetry, feminism, literary critical analysis.

Ключевые слова: концепт «мать», поэзия, феминизм, литературоведческий анализ.

The social position of women and mothers in Kyrgyz society has been a subject of much discussion and debate. Kyrgyz women have a rich cultural heritage and have faced numerous challenges and restrictions on their roles, legal rights, and personal and public liberties. The post-Soviet era saw significant social, political, and economic transformations in Kyrgyzstan, and this period of transition and instability had a profound impact on the country's literary landscape, with Kyrgyz women poets expressing their experiences and perspectives through their works. Through the feminist analysis of works such as the *My Mother* poem by Zhypara Isabaeva, we can gain insight into the challenges faced by Kyrgyz mothers and the ways in which they strive to assert their identity in a society that often restricts their freedoms and opportunities. Therefore, the aim of this research is to examine the position of women and mothers within Kyrgyz society through a feminist analysis of the *My Mother* poem by Kyrgyz poet Zhypara Isabaeva. Both the original Kyrgyz text and its English translation are carefully studied to reveal the difficulties faced by Kyrgyz mothers. The examination focuses on interpreting the themes, characters, and literary techniques used in the poem to understand how Kyrgyz women poets in the post-Soviet era depict female identity in their works. The study examines the manifestation of feminism in Kyrgyz society by analyzing the creation of female identity by Kyrgyz women poets in the post-Soviet era.

Feminism in this context is viewed as a form of resistance against oppression, including restrictions on women's roles, legal rights, and personal and public liberties. Feminism, defined as "the belief and aim that women should have the same rights and opportunities as men; the struggle to achieve this aim" and "organized activity on behalf of women's rights and interests" [1, p 210], helps us to identify feminine issues. Feminist criticism allows us to analyze how women are represented in fiction and explore the text's representation of gender relations and differentiation. This approach, with the goal of unifying the position of women, provides a strong foundation to "read as women, write as women, and interpret works of literature as women" [3, p. 76].

The development of Kyrgyz lyric poetry after the country gained independence from the Soviet Union in 1991 reflects the rich cultural heritage and experiences of its people during a time of great change and transition. The social, political, and economic transformations that Kyrgyzstan underwent during this period of instability had a significant impact on the country's literary landscape. Kyrgyzstan has a long and rich tradition of oral poetry, and this tradition has had a significant influence on the development of modern Kyrgyz lyric poetry. Many of the country's most prominent poets, such as Zhypara Isabaeva, Gulsaira Momunova, Fatima Abdalova, Mendi Mamazairova, Sagyn Akmatbekova and many others, who are known for their use of traditional forms, such as lyric poems, and a long epic poem that is central to Kyrgyz cultural identity.

In the post-Soviet era, Kyrgyz lyric poetry has been marked by a strong sense of national identity and a desire to preserve the country's cultural heritage. This has been reflected in the work of many contemporary Kyrgyz poets, who often draw on traditional themes and forms to express their feelings about the rapidly changing world around them. For example, *My Mother* poem by Zhypara Isabaeva is a moving tribute to her mother and her childhood, and the strength and resilience of the women in her life.

Another notable trend in post-Soviet Kyrgyz lyric poetry is the increasing use of contemporary themes and forms. Many young Kyrgyz poets are breaking with tradition and experimenting with new styles and themes, often drawing inspiration from the experiences of their

own generation. This has resulted in a more diverse and dynamic literary landscape, where poets are free to explore new avenues of expression and experiment with different forms and styles.

Despite the challenges faced by Kyrgyzstan in the post-Soviet era, the country's literary tradition has remained strong and vibrant. Through their poetry, Kyrgyz lyric poets continue to explore the country's rich cultural heritage and the experiences of its people, and to shape the national identity of Kyrgyzstan for future generations. Whether drawing on traditional forms or experimenting with new styles, Kyrgyz lyric poetry remains an important and integral part of the country's cultural heritage, and continues to be a source of inspiration and hope for its people.

The concept of "reading as a woman" involves the reader's understanding that there are significant differences in the meanings and struggles represented in literary works. Reading and interpreting poems through a feminist lens is crucial to fully understand the message being conveyed. According to Ruth Robbins, "feminist literary criticism places women at the center of literary-critical discourse, not just as a concern for gender in literature, but as a critical practice committed to struggling against patriarchy and sexism" [5, p. 14].

Throughout history, women have been confined to their homes and tasked with domestic duties. They were assigned the roles of home keepers, caretakers for the home and society, and wives for their families. These roles entailed bearing children, taking care of the young, and submitting to their husbands. Despite the passage of time, the social position of women remains unchanged, as they are still considered weaker and unequal to men. Women's primary purpose is still to care for their family, children and a husband.

The status of women remains a complex and ever-changing issue around the world, varying in different societies and cultures. Some societies have made gradual improvements in women's status, while others have seen a decline or stagnation. In Kyrgyz society, women are gradually making progress by demonstrating their academic capabilities, seeking employment, and thriving in their chosen fields of work. This research paper examines factors such as motherhood and marriage that hinder the self-realization of women in society, as well as the cultural peculiarities of Kyrgyz society and their impact on women's social standing.

The development of Kyrgyz lyric poetry in the post-Soviet era has been shaped by the country's rich cultural heritage and the experiences of its people during a time of great change. From traditional forms to contemporary themes, Kyrgyz lyric poets continue to explore the complexities of the human experience and to express the hopes and fears of their people through their poetry. As Kyrgyzstan continues to navigate the challenges of the post-Soviet era, the country's literary tradition remains a source of strength, resilience, and inspiration for its people. The situation of Kyrgyz women could be improved if cultural rules, mentality, and traditions did not limit their choices.

Literary Analysis of the My Mother poem by Zhypara Isabaeva from Feminist Perspective

A mother holds a special place in the hearts of her children, and Zhypara Isabaeva honors this special bond in her My Mother poem. The poem reflects the experiences of a local girl raised in the Kyrgyz culture, where women play a crucial role in the family and community. Despite the commitment to gender equality and women's empowerment in Central Asia, the reality is far from it, with significant gaps in employment and wages, labor discrimination, and limited access to financing.

Isabaeva highlights these issues in her poem by showcasing the hard work and unwavering love of mothers, especially Kyrgyz women. The poem has a nostalgic tone, with the use of strong language and metaphors, such as *life is a journey* and *mother's hands*. The recurring phrase *Үпакемдин колдору* highlights the central theme of motherhood and the great homage paid to

mothers, who guide and support their children through life's ups and downs. According to the analysis we may note that *My Mother* by Zhypara Isabaeva is a tribute to mothers and motherhood, and it reflects the cultural and social position of women in Kyrgyz society. The poem highlights the hard work and sacrifices mothers make, and the unwavering love and guidance they provide, making it a touching and meaningful work of literature.

My Mother by Zhypara Isabaeva
Tears fall as I remember,
Your image in my mind,
Bringing melancholy and distress,
A pain I can't leave behind.

Memories invade my dreams,
Of fields and rocky hills,
Where I grew up, my childhood,
And where you taught me life's skills.

Your eyes, filled with trust and love,
A smile that hides your pain,
You tried to be strong, but I saw,
The worry and stress remain.

But I had to venture out,
And leave my childhood home,
To face the world and all its tests,
And make my own way home.

Oh, your hands, that baked and tended,
So strong and yet so kind,
Your fire-kindling spirit,
That in me you left behind.

That day, when I left the nest,
Your silhouette disappeared,
How could I know, then, mother,
That life could be so weird?

To race against time's swift wings,
And be as hard as nails,
To dream and hope, and face life's tests,
And never, ever fail.

You're gone, but I am here,
A mother like you once were,
Holding my own children tight,
And showing them the way.

Life is a journey, uncertain,
A mix of joy and strife,
But with your lessons in my heart,
I'll navigate it all through life. (Translated by Kanykei Kalieva)

The *My Mother* poem by Zhypara Isabaeva is a deeply emotional piece that explores the speaker's memories of her mother and the lessons she learned from her. The poem is written in a conversational style, using first-person narration to convey the speaker's thoughts and feelings. The

use of personal pronouns such as "I" and "you" creates an intimate connection between the speaker and the reader, making the reader feel as though they are a part of the speaker's story.

One of the key stylistic devices used in the poem is repetition, with the phrase *Oh, these hands* being repeated to emphasize the importance of the speaker's mother's hands. The use of imagery, such as "fields and rocky hills" and "fire-kindling spirit," helps to create a vivid picture of the speaker's childhood and her mother's influence on her life.

The poem has a feminist perspective, as it celebrates the strength and resilience of the speaker's mother and the impact she had on her daughter. The speaker recognizes the hard work and sacrifices her mother made, and acknowledges her as a role model and source of inspiration. Women in Kyrgyzstan often face significant gender-based discrimination and unequal treatment, particularly in the workplace. This can limit their opportunities for professional advancement and make it difficult for them to support their families financially. The speaker in the poem, who had to leave her childhood home and face the challenges of the wider world, represents the sacrifices that mothers make in order to provide for their children.

In terms of rhythm, the poem is translated as free verse, with no set meter or rhyme scheme. This gives the poem a natural, flowing quality that mirrors the speaker's thoughts and emotions. The lack of a formal structure also allows for more flexibility in the expression of the speaker's ideas and experiences.

Overall, My Mother poem is a powerful and moving tribute to the important role mothers play in shaping the lives of their children. The poem's use of personal attitude and imagery, combined with its feminist perspective and free-flowing rhythm, make it a memorable and thought-provoking piece of poetry.

The My Mother poem by Zhypara Isabaeva speaks to the struggles of mothers and women in contemporary Kyrgyzstan. It highlights the difficulties they face, both in their personal and public lives, as they navigate a rapidly changing world. The poem is a powerful reminder of the resilience, strength, and love that mothers bring to the lives of their children.

One of the central social and psychological issues faced by Kyrgyz women and mothers is the struggle to balance the demands of family life with the demands of the wider society. In many cases, mothers are expected to take care of their children and run the household, while also working outside the home to provide for their families. This can be a significant source of stress and emotional strain, as mothers try to meet the expectations placed upon them. In the poem, the mother's smile conceals the pain she feels, and the speaker notes the difficulty she had in balancing her responsibilities as a mother and as an individual. The mother's eyes, which the speaker describes as being filled with trust and love, are a symbol of the hope and resilience she brought to her family's life. The mother's strong, fire-kindling hands, which baked bread and tended the home, represent her strength, hard work, and dedication to her family.

The My Mother poem by Zhypara Isabaeva is a poignant tribute to the speaker's mother, who has passed away. The poem uses several literary and linguistic devices to convey the emotional impact of the speaker's memories of her mother. Phonetically, the poem uses alliteration in the lines "Bringing melancholy and distress" and "And showing them the way." This repetition of sound creates a sense of unity and emphasizes the main theme of the poem. Syntactically, the poem follows a simple structure in its translation, with each stanza consisting of a four short lines. This structure reflects the speaker's memories and emotions, which are fragmented and disconnected.

In terms of literary devices, the poem employs imagery and metaphor to evoke the speaker's memories of her mother. For example, the lines "*Your eyes, filled with trust and love, / A smile that hides your pain*" use imagery to describe the mother's appearance and emotional state. The metaphor

Life is a journey, uncertain, / A mix of joy and strife helps the speaker to convey the idea that life is a difficult and unpredictable path, but one that can be navigated with the lessons learned from her mother.

The impact of these linguistic and literary devices on the main meaning of the poem is to enhance the emotional resonance of the speaker's tribute to her mother. The repetition of sound and simple structure create a feeling of unity and coherence, while the imagery and metaphor help to convey the depth of the speaker's feelings. Overall, My Mother poem is a powerful and touching tribute to the speaker's mother and the lessons she imparted. Poem by Zhypara Isabaeva is rich in literary devices in its original Kyrgyz version, including metaphors and personifications. Metaphors:

1. *Мезгил деген күлүк* — translating this metaphor into English can be challenging, but one possible equivalent could be "Time is a bird that flies on wings of lightning".

2. In the *Апакемдин колдору ай*, poem by Isabaeva uses the metaphor of life as a journey to emphasize the importance of cherishing the time given to us by God and guided by our mothers.

3. In the third stanza of the poem, the author describes her mother's eyes as "апакемдин көздөрү ай! Ишеним, үмүт, мээрим толуп турган." This creates a vivid image of a mother's vulnerability as she watches her daughter embark on a new journey with hope and kindness.

Personifications:

2. The poem opens with the author expressing her emotional state, saying she is crying and her tears are "not stopping". She then describes the season as "not hearing" her sorrow.

2. The same stanza includes the line "Ансайын эркеймин, Энекебай, Айланып, чебеленсе элестериң" which personifies her mother's image, portraying it as swirling and fluttering when she thinks of her.

3. The second stanza begins with "Санаалар тынч уйкумду бузат дагын," describing the author's emotional turmoil that causes her sleepless nights.

4. In the line "Күлүмүш болгон менен жүрөгүнүн, учунда бир убайым конуп турган!" the author personifies her mother's smile, attributing it to her heart rather than her mother.

According to the interpretation of poem by Isabaeva and questionnaire results, it seems that Kyrgyz women often have to balance their academic and career aspirations with their familial responsibilities. The poem highlights the psychological impact of the rapid changes in Kyrgyzstan on mothers and their children. The speaker notes the uncertainty of life and the challenges that mothers face as they navigate a rapidly changing world. Despite these difficulties, the speaker is grateful for the lessons her mother taught her and remains committed to her own children.

Conceptual analysis of the My Mother poem by Zhypara Isabaeva identifies that a poem is about the writer's memories of her mother and the impact her mother has had on her life. The poem is written in a nostalgic and melancholic tone, expressing the writer's emotions as she recalls the memories of her childhood and her mother. The poem is structured in a free verse form, with no rhyme scheme, but it has a strong emotional impact that flows through each line. The first stanza describes the tears that fall as the writer remembers her mother's image, bringing sadness and distress. The second stanza describes the memories that invade the writer's dreams, including her childhood home and her mother's teachings. The third stanza is focused on the writer's mother's eyes, which were filled with love and trust, but also a smile that hides her pain. The writer recognizes that her mother tried to be strong, but the worries and stress remain.

The fourth stanza describes the writer's decision to venture out and leave her childhood home, to face the world and make her own way home. The fifth stanza is a tribute to her mother's hands, which were strong and kind and her fire-kindling spirit, which the writer has inherited.

The sixth stanza reflects on the day the writer left the nest and the silhouette of her mother disappeared. The seventh stanza describes the writer's journey through life and her determination to be as hard as nails and never fail.

The final stanza is about the writer's role as a mother, holding her own children tight and showing them the way. The writer recognizes that life is a journey filled with uncertainty, but with her mother's lessons in her heart, she will navigate it all through life.

In conclusion, My Mother poem is a touching and sentimental poem that highlights the profound impact a mother has on her child's life. The writer expresses her gratitude for her mother's love, guidance, and support, and how she has incorporated these lessons into her own life. My Mother poem by Zhypara Isabaeva is a powerful and moving tribute to the strength and resilience of mothers in Kyrgyzstan. It touches on a range of social, psychological, and feminist issues, highlighting the challenges faced by mothers in a rapidly changing world. The poem serves as a reminder of the important role mothers play in the lives of their children, and of the sacrifices they make in order to provide for their families.

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