

On Historical Perspective in the Literature by B. Sodnom

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B. Sodnom mentioned in 1930 while he joined the Mongolian writers' union, saying "... I ... would not be able to get a pass or succeed in composing as well as do writers. But I would be able to do a bit, probably, helping with my words in addition to improve their literature", so that can be the main principle of his research.

Often focusing on theories, history and translation of literature as well as definition of terminology and its development, B. Sodnom had written tens of articles including "Referring to literature" (1934), "Prose essentials" (1938). In these articles he brought up and explained the issue of the Mongolian written literature and literacy improvement methods, questions such as *what is to be known as good literature, are there any prose unique advantages* and was considered ancient and modern period literature trends. In addition, a total of 28-29 different types that more than 700 volume or a hundred thousand pages, the literature and works related to literature from 13th century until 1921 were translated into Mongolian from Chinese and Manchurian by him.

"From 1934 until the end of 1946 he had translated more than 60 works of Russian literature by 14-15 writers and published as especial volume or in journals and text books. ... Since 1947 until now the Mongolian translation work has been changed more differently and rarely increased to be translated far and wide from the world's different writers work" he said in the article "On the translating work of literature". He also wrote about the important facts and he determined some noticeable patterns to pay attention on their further translation work.

1. It is required to define the terminology precisely as eliminated any self-imposed translation of terms that made in different ways.
2. Taking into account the distinguishing feature of Mongolian grammar, it is important to make, especially, the right structure of sentences and use the Mongolian language dialect as well its aphorism.
3. I want you to take the extremely good notice of literary idea and image translated from a foreign literature. ... It is better to understand that to translate from a foreign language into your native is to be composed within your language the idea that created in a few numbers of

the foreign language words or sentences. During the translation work it's also important to retain the main idea and show their literary skills, too. However, if you translate words or sentences in a literature too loosely, you should be mistaken ever to lose its literary skill.

4. A person who trains to be a translator should aspire to choose what type of translation to major in mainly. I want you to give up the manner to become the translator who generally can do all kind work to translate: prose, poem, drama and so on.
5. Besides knowing the foreign or source language very well, it's extremely important that the translator needs serious study and to get known other related items including their native or target language, especially, literature, folklore and literary theories. In this way the author had given his advice which is valuable even now days and considered to be as his suggestion or conclusion.

B. Sodnom had been writing not only series of articles, but he developed terminologies like “The terminology of Literature”, and “The simple definition for some terms” focusing on references of literary terminologies as well as theoretical concepts. So he precisely referred to literary terminologies in saying: “There is not given literal definition for literary genres and types as different as prescription for medicine, however there are available theories for the literature experienced and developed through hundreds of years.”

The terminologies, which were literally defined by him, still are used in the literature's field and no doubt about it, scientific researchers need them as theoretical basis and source materials to do they write theories and research books and make dictionaries.

He studied in the literature all kind of theories or history, raised the issue, intended to solve it, gave advices to reality, taught and trained to reality, investigated after the issue as well as wrote significant works, some of which are still in the research field due to some question and time.

In this paper we aspire to do particularly analyzing the article “Historical perspective in the literature” which is one of his multiple action-research works.

The article “Historical perspective in the literature” was published in the special issue for XXV anniversary of Scientific Institution in 1946, and it was appearing in 20 serial numbers of the newspaper “Inner Mongolian Daily News” from June 4th to July 16th, 1952 and in addition to this was translated into Chinese to be issued as brochur and published, too. Since 1935 when was issued “Door to Literature” by S. Buyannemekh, they didn't have any other text books for the modern Mongolian basic research, so that B. Sodnom had written his article “Historical perspective in the literature” to fill in the space and that used to be the only handbook for

students, teachers as well until the period when was published “Mongolian Literature Review” by Ts. Damdinsuren.

Ts. Damdinsuren in the first volume foreword of “Mongolian Literature Review”, 1957 had mentioned him in the same line of foreign scientists, “ The scientists including Pozedneev, Laupher, Vladimortsov, Kozin, Sanjeev, Mostaert, Popper, Khaisser and B. Sodnom studied the Mongolian literature and did a few works”.

This work is a bigger one and great scope of scientific research of the Literature during the periods of 1940s and had theoretical and practical importance being first classification of development periods of the Mongolian literature. In the article, the historical periods or stages of the Mongolian literature from the XIII century to 1946 were divided into three parts and determined main authors or writers and their writing works in detail.

First: Etymological aspects of the Mongolian Literature. (Described: from 1200s or 1206 until about 1691) were analyzed the epics such as “The Secret History”, “Geser”, “Jangar” and “Altan Tobchi” in the periods around of a thousand of years.

But he concluded precisely and said “No one believes of cause that at least one or two works were started up sudden and considered to be the best so far, when ancient literature was in its rudimentary stages. Hereby hard to believe that despite of non-evolved literature there were folklores such as “Jangar”, “Geser” and “108 aged old wiser man Lu”, which would be required to comprise in 5-20 printer’s sheet and each of them has single subject matter.”

This chapter was based to write on foreign tourist’s notes, researches of Mongolian scientific researchers as well and detailed on “Mongolian secret of history”. In this way there was noticed about ancient literature and what kind of work done by foreign and internal scientists, so that it’s possible to be observed how was the Mongolian Study developed at the particular time.

Second: Mongolian literature during the periods of Manchu and Autonomy (from about 1691 to 1921) in wide frame were analyzed neither more or less works such as Yuan dynasty - “Blue Sutra”, ‘Thai Yuan state- Crystal beads’ written by Rashpuntsag, writing works by the authors including Ishdanzanvaanjil, Khishigbat, Gelegbalsan, lawyer Sandag, Belen Senge as well as wishing praises, songs, jokes, “Kangyur”-*the great Tibetan Buddhist sutra*, “Tengyur”-*Name of the canonical treatise* , “Panchatantra”, “Ocean of Tales”, “Myal’s Biography” and “Moonrise Tale”.

Including new fresh facts which were not involved in the frame of the survey was major contribution to literature studies as well as it is important that Ishdanzanvanjil and Khishigbat, the writers unknown in the history of literature were reported first time, either. Particularly: By the end of XIX and in early XX century were repeatedly rehabilitating Independence of Mongolia and brave leaders had been arising among the people. For example, The time of men, the leaders of people's revolutionary movement, including Sukhbaatar, Choibalsan, Khatanbaatar Magsarjav, Manlaibaatar-Damdinsuren, Arat Ayush who were in charge of rehabilitating Freedom & Independence of Mongolia –was in early XX century. Therefore have to make notice that this matter was written to Mongolian literature just by Ishdanzanvanjil first of all.

It would seem to be not related to Mongolian literature that many writing works translated from Chinese and Manchurian like “Jin Gu Chu Guani letter”, “Shih Khai Tan”, “Stories of the wise lord Shi”, “The fairy Jun story”, “Jin Pin Mei letter”, “Er Tu Mei letter”, “Dream of red Mansion” were included, but it is not only the first big fundamental survey in Mongolian literature studies, it is important that made the first start of further research.

Third: Literature of independent Mongolian People's Republic (since 1921- until 1946) beginning and development of the Mongolian new revolutionary literature in the periods of 1921, the revolution and formation free independent MPR to 1946 was analyzed, evaluated or criticized on the basis of many rich writing works, documents and materials.

Particularly the revolutionary thematic songs such as “Shivee Khiagt”, “Red banner” were analyzed certain, despite the songs were not involved in the frame of research at their time period, but later were intensively studied by D. Tsedev.

The reason why do D. Natsagdorj and Ts. Damdinsuren, the writers, make their literary language sharp, clearly and rather abundant is to be involved in folklore. Therefore, the Mongolian folklore occupies an important foundation in the history of literature”, he concluded, and it has not been lost the value so far. And B. Sodnom wrote history of Literature. In addition to this he mentioned the important effort that made an investment in progress or development of the literature at that time.

1. Some ancient writing compositions which are not against Mongolian independence and democratic revolution moral principles were published and some suitable works were translated from foreign languages, was built printing place as well.
2. Folklores and various of books or notes were collected, used and some were published.

3. To train writers to compose, they were taught subjects related to theories of the literature and literacy beginning from the first level and introduced through press and speech.
4. To educate writers with the new culture they were composed writing, he said. Releasing this method was given its result and laid the foundation to develop Mongolian modern literature in all respects.

Therefore in this chapter works of the writers including D. Sengee, D. Tsevegmid, E. Oyun, P. Khorloo were appreciated certain, while he said, “some have so many writing works, but there is shown a small number of real good”. And were considered main three reasons to be the worst as below:

1. Instead of observing clearly accurate aphorism, to write marveling or using words incorrectly, and ignoring word orders in a sentence is a reason of this.
2. Their writing compositions would be languid if they don't study theme related materials and can't tie up until the end of arrangement or composing work.
3. Trying to include variations in the meaning or everything in one thing makes the composition value lower, either.

Ts. Damdinsuren said in his “Some History of Mongolian Literature Study” article: “The historical perspective in the Mongolian literature” by B. Sodnom lacks of precise studies conclusion”, however will be an important article that summarizes Mongolian literature in general ... there is something that exceeded critics”. Should be considered that the article became the reasonable foundation to be published three volume of the writing composition.

The theory and research work developed by leading intellectuals who used to write their works in the periods of 1930-1940s have been essential support for today's literature growth. Particularly, S. Buyannemekh created his “Door to literature”, the theoretical research work (1935) as D. Natsagdorj wrote “The brief history of Mongolia”, the short novel (1936) which comprised historical events from the period before Chinggis-Khan to the new risen Mongolian state in brief, when he works as head of the history's section in the Science Institution, while B. Sodnom compiled the history of their literature, so that they were survived as the first historical works of Mongolian new generation history and literature.

Conclusion

The article “Historical perspective in the literature” written by B. Sodnom as being the first classification of development periods of the Mongolian literature comprises Mongolian history of literacy, memo notes well-known in literature and representatives of the best writers

far and wide. It was the first big fundamental research in Mongolian literature studies, as well as it was important to make the first start of further research.

Bibliography

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