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Exploring the Dynamic Interplay of National Identity and Linguoculture in Kyrgyzstan: A study of cultural symbols, language adaptation, and identity transmission

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Folk traditions; Kyrgyz customs; Linguistic identity; Multi-Lingual society; Symbols and motifs

Abstract

This study aims to identify the key components shaping national identity through linguistic expressions. It explores how linguistic elements, cultural symbols, and historical contexts influence the development and preservation of national identity in Kyrgyzstan. The researchers used various methods, including comparative analysis, the biographical method, and content analysis. The results show that historical changes and socio-cultural shifts in Kyrgyzstan have significantly impacted the development of linguistic patterns and symbols of national identity. Additionally, the nomadic lifestyle and the adoption of Islam have added unique aspects to Kyrgyz linguoculture. The colonial past, changes in power, and the transformation of the political environment after 1991 have also influenced the evolution of the language's vocabulary and meaning. The study highlighted that linguistic elements such as proverbs, sayings, and metaphors are crucial for preserving and passing down national values. At the same time, folk tales and legends play a key role in shaping the cultural identity of the Kyrgyz people. The study also included a comparative analysis of four literary works: Aitmatov's Cassandra's Tavro, Maurice's La Loi des mâles, Remarque's All Quiet on the Western Front, and Eco's Il nome della rosa. It examined the specific features of inspiration, the reflection of values, cultural aspects, national symbols, and motifs, as well as the expression of national identity in each of these novels. The findings show that all the works are deeply influenced by cultural and historical factors that have shaped the development and expression of nationality through literature. Through language, folk images, and symbols, the authors highlight the unique characteristics of their linguistic cultures and promote a sense of belonging to their national group. The practical significance of the study lies in its insights into how literary expressions of language and culture can help preserve the national identity in an increasingly multicultural and globalized world. These results emphasize the important role of literature in fostering cultural understanding and intercultural dialogue, as well as its potential to promote respect for diverse traditions and values.

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Ключові слова

Народні традиції; Киргизькі звичаї; Мовна ідентичність; Багатомовне суспільство; Символи та мотиви

Анотація

Метою цього дослідження було визначити ключові компоненти, що формують національну ідентичність через мовні прояви. У дослідженні використано поєднання порівняльного аналізу, біографічного методу та контент-аналізу для вивчення впливу мовних елементів, символів та історичного контексту на розвиток національної ідентичності в Киргизстані. Дослідження показало, що історичні перипетії та соціокультурні трансформації в Киргизстані мали суттєвий вплив на еволюцію мовних моделей і символів. Кочовий спосіб життя та прийняття ісламу внесли свої унікальні нюанси в киргизьку лінгвокультуру. Колоніальна залежність, зміна влади та трансформація політичного середовища після 1991 року відіграли певну роль в еволюції лексичного складу та семантики мови. Дослідження підкреслило, що мовні елементи, такі як прислів'я, приказки та метафори, є важливими для збереження та передачі національних цінностей, а народні казки та легенди відіграють суттєву роль у формуванні культурної ідентичності киргизького народу. Дослідження включало порівняльний аналіз чотирьох літературних творів: Ч. Айтматова «Тавро Кассандри», Д. Моріса «La Loi des mâles», Е.М. Ремарка «Все тихо на Західному фронті» та У. Еко «Ім'я троянди». У дослідженні вивчалися особливості інспірації, відображення цінностей, культурних аспектів, національних символів і мотивів, прояву національної ідентичності в кожному з романів. Дослідження виявило, що всі твори просякнуті впливом культурно-історичних чинників, які вплинули на розвиток і вираження національності через літературу. Через мову, народні образи та символи автори підкреслюють унікальні особливості лінгвокультури своїх народів та сприяють формуванню почуття приналежності до своєї національної групи. Практичне значення результатів дослідження полягає в цінному розумінні того, як літературні форми вираження мови та культури можуть слугувати інструментами збереження національної ідентичності у все більш мультикультурних та глобалізованих суспільствах.

1. Introduction

Language plays a fundamental role in the development of cultural identities, as it serves as a key means of transmitting cultural values, norms, and customs. The study of the interaction between language and culture allows not only to clarify the specificity of national culture, but also to identify those factors that shape national identity at the level of language and social practice. Examining the components of national identity helps to preserve cultural legacy, including language, traditions, and customs. In the context of increasingly pervasive intercultural interaction, understanding the elements of national identity is of particular significance for improving intercultural communication and cooperation. Knowledge of the elements of national identity within linguoculture contributes to the development of a tolerant and respectful attitude towards different cultures and languages, which is the foundation for peaceful coexistence in a multinational

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world and for the development of a global community based on mutual respect and understanding. The study of this topic not only contributes to a better understanding of cultural differences but is also an essential factor in enhancing cultural diversity and developing a global cultural ethic.

Kyrgyzstan's cultural and linguistic landscape is richly complex, shaped by centuries of historical shifts, diverse ethnic influences, and the resilience of its traditions. The Kyrgyz language, central to the nation's identity, intertwines with cultural symbols that reflect the nation's nomadic heritage and the significant influence of Islam. Folklore, proverbs, and sayings are deeply embedded in everyday speech, embodying ancestral wisdom and moral values passed down through generations. In a multilingual society, these linguistic components are essential tools for maintaining and enhancing national identity in addition to being manifestations of cultural history. Through storytelling, music, and ritual, the nation's cultural identity is preserved, and folk songs and stories are essential for instilling national ideals and forming the Kyrgyz people's cultural consciousness. This distinctive fusion of linguistic, religious, and historical elements creates a dynamic environment that captures Kyrgyzstan's changing national identity.

National identity and linguoculture are shaped by many factors such as history, religion, geography, social conditions, and other aspects (Bidzilya, 2015). These elements interact with each other and create the unique cultural and linguistic profile of a nation. The study of all these aspects requires an integrated approach and constitutes the problematic of the study due to the complexity and diversity of interacting factors. National identity and linguoculture are not static concepts and can change under the influence of a variety of factors such as migration, globalisation, and technological advance. Migration, for instance, can lead to cultural exchange and changes in language practices among both migrants and the host community.

Globalisation facilitates the spread of cultural and linguistic standards, which can lead to cultural unification or, on the contrary, the strengthening of local identities in response to global challenges (Brait et al., 2023). Technological changes, such as the development of the Internet and social media, create new platforms for communication and cultural exchange, accelerating the processes of linguocultural change (Milo, 2024). These dynamic processes require their variable nature to be considered in research. Consequently, the study of these elements requires consideration of their dynamic nature. An integrated approach in the study of national identity and linguoculture should include interdisciplinary methods combining historical analysis, sociological research, linguistic analysis, and anthropological methods. This will offer a fuller understanding of how different factors interact and influence the development and change of national identity and linguoculture.

Apsamatova (2023) identified many factors influencing the development of national identity, including cultural, historical, and symbolic. Minchao and Taoran (2021) analysed the influence of regional context and intellectual elite on identity development. Lubinski and Wadhwani (2020) discussed the significance of language, culture, and customs in

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national identity development. Milfont et al. (2020) emphasised the role of citizenship and common language as key markers of identity. Dzyabko (2023) highlighted the significant function of language in shaping the self-perception and identity of the people. More research is needed on the impact of different linguistic factors on identity development, including the role of language in the context of migration, globalisation, and changing socio-cultural contexts. It is also important to consider what mechanisms and strategies of language adaptive behaviour are used in multi-lingual environments and migration processes – to better understand how language interacts with other aspects of culture and social structure to shape identity.

Ysmailova et al. (2020) focused on investigating the impact of spirituality on the development of society in the context of challenges related to moral and attitudinal pluralism, as well as the preservation of cultural identity in the era of globalisation. They addressed the need to renew humanity's social strategy to find ways to overcome these challenges and preserve spiritual values. It is important to explore more closely the relationship between spirituality and social phenomena such as education, economics, and politics to better understand how spiritual values shape social processes and change.

Fernández-Llamazares and Lepofsky (2019) address the fact that song is a significant source of biocultural memory that stays underutilised to date. They emphasise that the study of songs can expand the understanding of the biological and cultural aspects of collective memory and the traditions of different communities. Mehr et al. (2018) emphasise fundamental aspects of music that are transferred and understood across cultures. They point to the significance of musical forms and structures for communicating and expressing cultural identities. Savage et al (2022) address the fact that folk songs reflect common patterns in musical evolution between different cultures. Studying these songs can help in understanding the processes of cultural exchange and influence, as well as elucidate the unique features and similarities in the musical traditions of different communities. This study needs to focus more thoroughly on the investigation and analysis of folk art, particularly songs, and their role in transmitting cultural values and knowledge. It is also important to investigate the influence of musical traditions on socio-cultural processes and the dynamics of exchange between different cultural groups.

The purpose of this study was to identify the key elements that influence the development of national identity through their linguistic manifestations. The main objectives of this study were to investigate how linguistic elements contribute to the development and preservation of national identity within the context of Kyrgyzstan's multicultural society. Specifically, the study aimed to analyse how language, folklore, and cultural symbols, such as proverbs, sayings, and metaphors, reflect and transmit national values. Another key objective was to explore the impact of historical and socio-political changes, such as the Soviet era and post-Soviet transformations, on the evolution of Kyrgyz linguoculture.

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2. Materials and Methods

The chosen methods in this study are designed to comprehensively analyze how linguistic and cultural elements reflect and preserve national identity by comparing historical context, cultural significance, symbolism, and language function.

The first stage of this study employed the comparative method to analyse four literary works, including the novels "Cassandra's Tavro" by Aitmatov (1995), "La Loi des mâles" by Maurice (2000), "All Quiet on the Western Front" by Remarque (1987), and the epic poem "Il nome della rosa" by Eco (2018). The selected literary works were chosen for their rich representation of national identity, cultural heritage, and linguistic elements, allowing for a meaningful comparison of how diverse societies express and preserve their unique identities through literature.

The comparative method was used to compare the common features in the reflection of national identity, as well as the differences in the approach to this topic, considering the specific features of the linguocultural context. The criteria for the comparison method include historical context, cultural significance, symbolism, and linguistic function. Together, these criteria enable a nuanced analysis of how linguistic and cultural practices preserve national identity. This study considered the prototypical works of each author and the specific cultural elements used to convey national symbols and values. Special attention was paid to analysing the influence of cultural and historical factors on the development of national identity through literary expressions. The study also covered a variety of linguistic, folk, and symbolic means employed by the authors to preserve and convey this identity. The analysis revealed the mechanisms by which authors create unique images reflecting the specific features of their peoples' linguoculture. The study covered the characteristics of the images as well as their influence on the understanding of cultural aspects that reinforce the sense of belonging to a national group. The contribution of literature to the development and preservation of national identity and its role in the cultural heritage of society was analysed and evaluated.

The second stage of this study analysed the interaction between cultural and linguistic practices in the context of intercultural contact, using the biographical method. The focus was on both positive and negative aspects of this interaction, with particular attention to the exchange of cultural experiences, the borrowing of linguistic and cultural elements, and the enrichment of cultural diversity. The study explored this process and its impact on understanding different cultures, broadening cultural horizons, and developing tolerant attitudes toward other cultures. The study also identified negative aspects of the interaction between cultural and linguistic practices. Thus, the study explored the complexity of intercultural interaction and the need to balance the preservation of cultural uniqueness with openness to cultural exchange.

In addition, the study employed a biographical method aimed at investigating Aitmatov, Maurice, Remarque, and Eco. This method involved examining the life experiences, social contexts, and historical events that shaped the authors' perspectives and literary choices. The focus was on how authors' personal encounters with political,

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social, and cultural transformations informed the themes and linguistic elements in their texts. By connecting the authors' life events with their portrayal of national identity, this method provided insights into how each author reflected their national context through language, symbolism, and cultural references, enriching the analysis of the texts.

The study conducted a content analysis aimed at identifying and exploring the key themes and motifs in the works “Cassandra’s Tavro” by Aitmatov, “La Loi des mâles” by Maurice, “All Quiet on the Western Front” by Remarque, and “Il nome della rosa” by Eco. Content analysis allowed for a systematic and objective description of the content of the texts, revealing hidden meanings and general tendencies inherent in each of these works. The content analysis included the following aspects: prototypes, reflection of values, cultural elements, national symbols and motifs, and disclosure of national identity. Thus, the content analysis of the works revealed key themes and motifs common to all these works. The content analysis allowed for a deeper understanding of how authors use literary means to express the social, cultural, and political realities of their times, as well as to reveal national identity through the lens of individual and collective experiences.

The study’s methods have limitations, including potential bias in interpreting cultural symbols and reliance on literary works, which may overlook other cultural expressions like oral traditions and visual arts. Additionally, differences in the historical contexts of the selected texts complicate direct comparisons, and a focus on linguistic analysis may miss non-verbal cultural elements.

3. Results

3.1 Linguistic Reflections of National Identity

In 2024 Kyrgyzstan, there are many linguistic elements that reflect national values, traditions, identity, and cultural features, specifically phrases, proverbs, sayings, metaphors. In Kyrgyz culture, proverbs and sayings play a significant role in conveying wisdom, moral values, and cultural norms (Lomotey & Csajbok-Twerefou, 2021). In contact with other cultures, adaptation of language and cultural practices occurs as a result of the need for adequate interaction between different communities (Kim, 2020; Hasanov, 2016). Kyrgyzstan's linguistic landscape is shaped by its multicultural and multiethnic population, which includes ethnic Kyrgyz, Russians, Uzbeks, and several other smaller groups. This diversity has resulted in a multilingual environment where Kyrgyz is the state language, and Russian serves as an official language of interethnic communication. Additionally, minority languages such as Uzbek are spoken by communities in southern regions of the country. The interaction of these languages in public life, education, and media contributes to a dynamic and complex linguistic landscape. For instance, Kyrgyz is predominantly used in rural areas and cultural contexts, while Russian dominates in urban settings, official matters, and higher education. This bilingualism and multilingualism reflect the historical influences of the Soviet era and the ongoing need for inclusivity in governance and public services, shaping the way individuals perceive national identity and cultural affiliation.

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There is also active borrowing and adaptation of linguistic and cultural elements (Baker, 2022; Álvarez Valencia & Michelson, 2023). Contact with other cultures plays a significant role in shaping linguocultural practices and elements of national identity, stimulating processes of adaptation, borrowing, and change in language and culture. It is crucial to comprehend this dynamic, multifaceted process in order to comprehend how language and culture have evolved in the contemporary day. Language representations and symbols play a key role in the development of a sense of belonging to a nation and influence the mental representations and perception of the world in native speakers (Fig. 1).

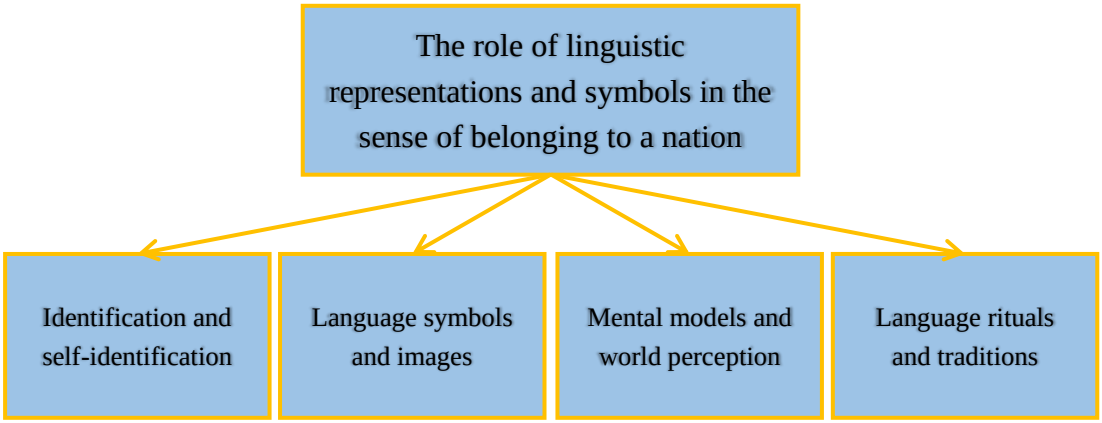

Figure 1. The role of linguistic representations and symbols in creating a sense of belonging to a nation

Using one's native language not only strengthens one's sense of belonging to a nation or ethnic group, but also plays a significant role in the preservation and transmission of cultural heritage (Montrul & Polinsky, 2021; Volkov, 2017). In addition to national anthems, slogans and slogans, a series of words, expressions, and phrases can play a key role in reinforcing a sense of belonging and identity to a particular nation or ethnic group (Allen et al., 2021). The influence of language on native speakers' ways of thinking and perceiving the world is a significant aspect of linguistic and cognitive science. Each language is a unique system that not only serves as a means of communication but also shapes cognitive schemas and conceptual categories in its speakers (Noels et al., 2020). Language plays an essential role in shaping social rituals and traditions, as well as contributing to national identity (Besa & Gonong, 2022; Shynkaruk, 2023).

3.2 Aitmatov "Cassandra's Tavro"

The literary work "Cassandra's Tavro" demonstrates the use of mythological subjects that serve as one of the key sources of inspiration for the author. Referencing Cassandra's mythological story, the author integrates these elements to further explore

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and reflect spiritual values and ideals. Specifically, through the use of biblical stories and mythological motifs, the significance of ancestral wisdom and respect for tradition is emphasised. The author also actively uses legends and folk tales, considering them as repositories of folk memory and national consciousness. For instance, references to folk legends such as the legend of the Grey Goat and the legend of the Great Fish Woman can be found in his works.

These stories not only enrich the narrative but also serve as vehicles for expressing cultural heritage and national identity. Aitmatov's texts also contain national symbols and motifs that help to express Kyrgyz national identity. One striking example is the mention of Genghis Khan's white cloud, which symbolises the historical memory and cultural heritage of the people. The use of language and folk images plays a major role in expressing Kyrgyz national identity and linguocultural features. The author introduces Kyrgyz terms into the text, such as tunduk (түндүк), tulpar (тулпар), kazy (казы), kurt (курут), sypaichi (сыпайчи). These terms not only give the work authenticity, but also help to convey the unique cultural realities and traditions of the Kyrgyz people. Thus, the work of Aitmatov is a valuable contribution to the preservation and popularisation of Kyrgyz culture. It serves not only as a literary but also as a cultural bridge between generations, passing on a rich heritage and values through the artwork.

Notably, many proverbs and sayings used in the works have roots in the customs and traditions of the nomadic culture that characterised the way of life of the ancestors (Herţa, 2019; Siu, 2019). The linguistic elements associated with these rituals and traditions not only reflect deep spiritual values but also serve as a means of preserving and transmitting cultural heritage from generation to generation (Budasi & Suryasa, 2021; Lee & Chung, 2025). Folk songs, especially those in the category of epic ballads and folk melodies, are a significant cultural phenomenon reflecting profound aspects of the national identity and cultural heritage of the Kyrgyz people. These pieces of music not only serve as a means of entertainment and recreational expression but are also an integral part of traditions and customs that are passed down from generation to generation (Seeger, 2016). Fairy tales and legends in Kyrgyz culture are not only fascinating stories, but also a significant tool for shaping the cultural identity and values of the people. These artistic works are ancestral legacies that pass on wisdom and life lessons to the next generations (Kerven, 2019; Teverson, 2021). Notably, the relationship between language and society is a complex and interdependent process, where language is not only a means of communication but also a reflection of the socio-cultural characteristics of society (Mayes, 2015).

3.3 Maurice "La Loi des mâles"

In the novel "La Loi des mâles" by Maurice, which is part of the "Les Rois maudits" series, the prototypical characters are drawn from real French history. The main characters are historical figures, such as King Philip IV the Beautiful and his descendants, whose lives and actions have a significant impact on the development of the plot. Each character

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is recreated with their historical context and personality traits in mind, allowing the reader to gain insight into the personalities and motivations of real people who lived during that period. “La Loi des mâles” reflects the values of medieval French society, such as loyalty, honour, devotion to the crown and the church, as well as the cruelty and intrigue of the royal court. The values of chivalry and feudal loyalty come to the fore, showing how the moral and ethical standards of the time shaped people’s actions and decisions. The novel also emphasises the significance of religion and the role of the clergy in political life.

Maurice meticulously recreates the atmosphere of medieval France, describing details of daily life, architecture, clothing, traditions, and customs. The novel pays much attention to the description of royal palaces, jousting tournaments, religious rituals, and festive ceremonies, which helps the reader to immerse themselves deeper into the cultural environment of the time. The language and dialogues of the characters also reflect the vocabulary and manner of communication of medieval society. National symbols and motifs such as the French monarchy, royal regalia, insignia of chivalry, and coats of arms of noble families are present in the novel. These symbols emphasise the significance of national identity and loyalty to France. Furthermore, the storylines are linked to key historical events such as fortress sieges, political conspiracies, and wars, which reinforces national consciousness. “Le Loi des mâles” largely reveals France’s national identity through the lens of historical events and personalities who played key roles in the development of the French state. Maurice emphasises the uniqueness of French history, culture, and tradition, showing how power struggles, intrigues, and conflicts within the royal court have shaped the destiny of the nation. Through the narrative and characters, the novel shows how France’s historical legacy continues to live on in the minds of the people and shape their identity.

3.4 Remarque “All Quiet on the Western Front”

The novel “All Quiet on the Western Front”, written by Remarque in 1928, is an outstanding work that is still relevant and influential today. Remarque, as a participant in the First World War, used his personal wartime experiences and impressions as the main prototypes for the narrative, creating a deeply moving and realistic picture of the war. Remarque drew on his personal experiences and observations to create the character of the protagonist, Bäumer, and his comrades. These characters epitomise German youth caught up in the horrific grinder of war. The prototypes for the soldiers’ characters were real people with whom the author served, which gives the novel documentary accuracy and depth. Bäumer, like Remarque himself, went through the horrors of trench warfare, which allows the author to authentically convey the psychological state and inner world of the soldiers. Other characters such as Kemmerich, Katczynski, and Müller are also based on real-life prototypes with whom Remarque shared his war years, allowing him to describe their fates in detail and emotionally.

The values of humanism and pacifism permeate the entire novel. Remarque seeks to show the senselessness and cruelty of war by emphasising the human suffering and the

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devastating consequences it brings. The main characters experience a profound sense of camaraderie and mutual aid, which enables them to survive in the inhuman conditions of the frontline. This sense of solidarity is the centrepiece of the novel, contrasted with the destructive power of war, which destroys not only physically, but also spiritually. Through the lens of his characters' experiences, Remarque demonstrates the loss of morals and ideals, which serves as a powerful argument against war. This culminates in the image of Paul, who eventually loses his faith in humanity and the future by becoming a victim of war. The novel is also packed with cultural elements that help create a complete picture of early 20th century German society. Remarque describes the traditions, music, literature, and daily life of both soldiers and civilians.

The novel mentions German songs and poems that soldiers sing to maintain a sense of normalcy and connection to home. The descriptions of everyday life at the front and on the home, front include details of everyday life such as food, clothing, and customs, giving the narrative authenticity and historical accuracy. The cultural elements also include images of family values and religious practices that appear to be destroyed by war, emphasising the contrast between peaceful life and the brutality of war.

Although the novel does not emphasise traditional national symbols such as flags or coats of arms, it is saturated with motifs related to the German experience of war. The key motifs include images of trenches, weapons, and combat that become an everyday reality for the soldiers. The symbolism of war, which includes images of dirt, blood, and death, conveys the horrors and senselessness of warfare (Tepla, 2023). These motifs serve to reveal the soldiers' inner turmoil and suffering, their frustration and disillusionment. Remarque masterfully uses the symbolism of nature, contrasting the war-torn land and the memories of peaceful life, which emphasises the contrast between war and peace.

National identity in the novel is revealed through the lens of the individual experiences of soldiers who are experiencing profound disappointment and loss of former ideals. Remarque shows how war destroys not only the physical world but also the spiritual world, leading to profound changes in people's minds and worldviews. The characters in the novel, representing the German youth of the time, are faced with the collapse of the values and ideals that seemed important to them before the war began. Paul and his comrades, who entered the war with patriotic sentiments, gradually realise its senselessness and cruelty, leading to their inner transformation and loss of faith in nationalist ideals.

Thus, Remarque's novel "All Quiet on the Western Front" is not only a work of fiction but also a significant document that helps to understand and comprehend the consequences of the war for an entire generation. Remarque raises key questions about the nature of war, human morality, and the resilience of the human spirit, making him significant not only to German culture but to world literature as a whole. The work stays relevant today, continuing to inspire readers to think about justice, solidarity, and national identity.

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3.5 Eco "Il nome della rosa"

One of the historical Italian novels is "Il nome della rosa" by Eco. The main character of the novel, William of Baskerville, is certainly reminiscent of the detective Sherlock Holmes created by Arthur Conan Doyle. Eco borrows many traits from Holmes, such as outstanding intellect, sharp logical mind, and scepticism towards superstition. However, William operates in the context of medieval Europe, which imposes certain limitations and specific features on his methods and approaches to investigation. He uses his vast knowledge of various fields of science and philosophy to solve the mysteries, which is also reminiscent of Holmes' methodology but adapted to a medieval setting. William's apprentice, Adso of Melk, fulfils a role similar to Watson in Sherlock Holmes. He is the narrator of the novel and provides the reader with an "inside" look at William's actions and thoughts. Adso not only observes events but takes an active part in them, which allows him to grow and develop as a character. His youth and inexperience contrast with Wilhelm's wisdom and maturity, creating a dynamic duo where each learns from the other.

The monk characters in the novel epitomise typical figures of medieval Europe, such as scribes, guardians of knowledge, and theologians. These characters are deeply immersed in the religious and intellectual debates of their time, allowing Eco to explore themes of faith, heresy, and scientific cognition. They also serve as a means of demonstrating daily life and living in the monastery. The Inquisitors in the novel represent a force that maintains religious order and fights heresies. They embody the historical figures of the Inquisitors, known for their cruelty and intransigence in dealing with any manifestations of deviation from official doctrine.

Through these characters, Eco explores the theme of religious fanaticism and its consequences. The novel also includes characters representing the scholars and philosophers of the Middle Ages who pursued knowledge and truth despite dangers and obstacles. These characters demonstrate the pursuit of rational thought and scientific inquiry in an era when such pursuits could be deadly. Thus, "Il nome della rosa" does not simply utilise historical and literary prototypes, but deeply embeds them in the structure and themes of the novel. Eco masterfully blends elements of the detective with historical and philosophical context, creating a multi-layered work that allows the reader to explore medieval Europe through the lens of compelling narrative and profound ideas.

"Il nome della rosa" by Eco is a rich reflection of the values and ideals of medieval society. The novel immerses the reader in a world where religious piety, the pursuit of truth, the love of knowledge and books, and the fear of heresy and apostasy play central roles. Eco skilfully uses these themes to create a multi-layered narrative that not only entertains but also makes the reader ponder profound philosophical and theological questions. Medieval society was deeply religious, and this piety permeates every aspect of the novel. The monastery where the events unfold is the centre of religious life and the place where the monks dedicate their lives to serving God. Religious rituals, prayers, and

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observance of monastic rules emphasise the significance of religious discipline and faith (Kim & Chung, 2023b).

The characters in the novel, including William of Baskerville and Adso of Melk, demonstrate various aspects of religious piety, from profound personal piety to critical reflection on religious doctrines. The search for truth is one of the central themes of the novel. William of Baskerville, in his role as a detective, endeavours to solve a murder mystery using methods of logical and critical thinking. This search for truth reflects the broader intellectual pursuits of medieval scholars and philosophers who sought to understand the nature of the world and God. The novel shows that truth can be multi-layered and complex, requiring not only intellectual endeavour but also moral courage. The monastic library in the novel symbolises the love of knowledge and books characteristic of medieval society.

The library is not only a repository of ancient texts, but also a symbol of intellectual wealth and wisdom. The monks working in the library represent scholars and scribes who endeavour to preserve and pass on knowledge to future generations. The passion for knowledge and its defence is evident in the struggle for access to banned books, which emphasises the significance of freedom of thought and scientific enquiry. The fear of heresy and apostasy is a powerful driving force in the novel. Inquisitors, representing official church authority, epitomised cruelty and intransigence in dealing with any deviation from orthodox doctrine. This fear of heresies reflects the historical processes when the church sought to preserve the unity of the faith and suppress any form of religious and intellectual dissent. In the novel, this leads to dramatic conflict and tragedy, emphasising how fear can undermine the basis of humanism and free-thinking.

The conflict between faith and reason is a key philosophical and theological question that Eco explores through the confrontation of its characters. William of Baskerville, embodying rationalism and scientificism, faces the Inquisitor Bernard Gui, symbolising blind faith and dogmatism. This conflict reflects the broader debates of the Middle Ages when philosophers and theologians tried to reconcile religious beliefs with new scientific discoveries and logical thinking. Through these confrontations, the novel raises questions about the limits of knowledge, the role of reason in religion, and the dangers of dogmatism. “Il nome della rosa” is not only a fascinating detective story but also an in-depth exploration of the values of medieval society. Eco masterfully weaves religious piety, the search for truth, the love of knowledge, the fear of heresy, and the conflict between faith and reason into the fabric of his narrative, creating a multi-layered and intellectually rich work. These themes make the novel relevant today, inviting readers to ponder the eternal questions of human existence and cognition.

The title of the novel, “Il nome della rosa”, is itself symbolic and multivalent. The rose is traditionally associated with beauty, mystery, and knowledge. In the context of the novel, the rose symbolises the lost truths and secrets that the characters seek to find. The name may also be a reference to the Latin phrase “Sub rosa” (under the rose), meaning

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confidentiality and secrecy. Thus, the rose becomes a symbol of the mysterious knowledge and hidden truths that are at the centre of the story.

The library in the monastery is the heart of the narrative and a symbol of the accumulated knowledge and wisdom of humankind. It is presented as a labyrinth, which emphasises the complexity and intricacy of the search for truth. Eco's "Il nome della rosa" reveals elements of Italian national identity through the lens of medieval history and culture, attaching particular significance to the intellectual and religious debates that played a key role in shaping European civilisation. The medieval atmosphere, characters and events of the novel are deeply rooted in the Italian historical context, allowing the reader to see how Italy's past has been reflected in its cultural and intellectual heritage. Italy, as the centre of intellectual and religious life in the Middle Ages, is represented in the novel through the images of monks, philosophers, and scholars debating key issues of faith and reason.

3.6 The Role of Authorial Perspective in Shaping National Identity

Aitmatov, through "Cassandra's Tavro", refers to Kyrgyz culture and history, as well as to the Soviet past, expressing through this his national identity and emphasising the specific features of his native country. The negative aspects include criticism of the Soviet system and the shortcomings of post-Soviet society. In his novel "La Loi des mâles", Maurice considers the gender issues and social problems in France, which is also a reflection of national identity. He emphasises the progressive aspects of French society but can also use stereotypical images in his portrayal. Remarque, through "All Quiet on the Western Front", addresses German history and culture, illuminating the horrors of war from a German perspective. His anti-war opinions and criticism of militarism reflect the negative aspects of German national identity associated with the experience of the First World War. In "Il nome della rosa", Eco immerses the reader in medieval Italy, reflecting the rich cultural and intellectual heritage of his country. He emphasises Italian tradition and language, but also criticises the religious and philosophical conflicts of the time. Each author reflects the national identity through their works through the unique cultural, historical, and social aspects of their countries, both positive and negative.

The biographies of the authors provide insight into how each author's personal history and experiences were reflected in the manifestations of national identity in their works. The frequency of manifestations of national identity in Aitmatov's works is explained by his Kyrgyz origin and profound knowledge of his country's culture. In his works, Aitmatov often refers to the motifs and traditions of the Kyrgyz people, using them to create authentic images and plots. National identity is rare in Maurice's works, as his focus is on social and political issues in France. He probably sought to create universal stories that could be understood and relevant to a wide audience. Remarque's German background influenced his approach to manifestations of national identity. In his novel, Remarque focused on universal themes such as war and human tragedy rather than on specific German aspects.

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Eco, as an Italian, actively uses elements of Italian culture and history in his novel to reveal themes of ideas and knowledge. His works are often imbued with Italian folklore, historical events, and philosophical concepts. Overall, the frequency of manifestations of national identity in the works of each author may be conditioned by their personal experience, cultural context, and goals of literary creation.

The authors' active involvement in the traditional culture of their country or people has a substantial impact on their work, reflected in various aspects of their novels. Aitmatov often refers to traditional Kyrgyz culture, myths, and customs in his works. His novels, including Cassandra's Tavro, are imbued with the spirit of Kyrgyz life, landscapes and symbolism, which gives his works a special colour and authenticity. Maurice is a French writer, and his works often reflect cultural and historical aspects of France. "La Loi des mâles" also contains elements of French culture and traditions, making his work more imbued with a national flavour. Remarque, in his novel "All Quiet on the Western Front", creates an image of Germany during the First World War, reflecting the cultural and social aspects of the time that shaped the national identity of the German people. In "Il nome della rosa", Eco recreates medieval Italy, reflecting the cultural and historical characteristics of the period. His writings are replete with references to medieval philosophy, literature and religious beliefs, making his works more vibrant and contextually rich. Thus, the authors' active involvement in the traditional culture of their countries or peoples is reflected in their work through the use of motifs, symbols, language, and images, which makes their works more profound, more authentic, and richer in meaning.

4. Discussion

The analysis of literary works carried out confirmed that language, cultural elements, and symbols are used to express and preserve national identity. Aitmatov, Maurice, Remarque, and Eco are writers whose work is intricately connected with the culture and history of their countries. In their works, the authors refer to national culture and traditions, which gives their texts a special authenticity and depth. Using elements of folklore, historical events, and cultural symbols, they create unique works that constitute a significant source for understanding and preserving the cultural heritage of their countries.

The authors' active involvement in the traditional culture of their people is reflected in their works, which become not only artistic masterpieces, but also historical documents that offer a better understanding of the history, culture, and national identity of their peoples. In light of this, it is important to conduct further research to consider other perspectives and compare them to the findings of this study. This will provide a fuller understanding of the influence of historical, socio-cultural, and linguistic factors on the development of national identity in the context of linguoculture.

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Exploring other positions and opinions will help to reveal additional dimensions and diversity of opinions on this topic, which is important for a deeper analysis and understanding of the processes that shape national identity and cultural heritage.

The study found that the novels "Cassandra's Tavro" by Aitmatov, "La Loi des mâles" by Maurice, "All Quiet on the Western Front" by Remarque, and "Il nome della rosa" by Eco make extensive use of various elements of the national identity and cultural heritage of the respective ethnic groups. In "Cassandra's Tavro", Aitmatov describes the traditions, customs, and mentality of the Kyrgyz people, putting elements of folklore and mythology into the text, which gives the work a unique Kyrgyz flavour. In "La Loi des mâles", Maurice touches upon the French national heritage through descriptions of architectural masterpieces and cultural practices. In "All Quiet on the Western Front", Remarque reveals German identity and national characteristics through the lives and attitudes of the characters, describing their inner feelings and struggles at the front. In "Il nome della rosa", Eco uses Italian culture and historical features to reveal Italian national identity and social contradictions.

These novels demonstrate how writers draw inspiration from their peoples' cultural roots to create authentic and profound works of art that reflect the multifaceted and richness of cultural heritage. Studies by other researchers confirm the significance of oral tradition and folklore in the development of cultural identity. Marks (2010) considers oral tradition as a continuous process of multi-level interpretation of symbols and procedures in a human community.

The author emphasises that folklore is not a static set of facts, but rather a dynamic process that continues to evolve in a socio-cultural context. Meriacre (2018) emphasises the proper use of proverbs and sayings as a way of reflecting the depth of knowledge and wisdom of a nation. The researcher believes that the ability to integrate the wisdom of a nation into language is an essential aspect of language practice and contributes to the preservation and transmission of cultural values through linguistic elements. By comparing the findings of these studies, it can be noted that they all confirm the significance of linguistic elements, such as proverbs and sayings, in the development and maintenance of cultural identity. They indicate that these elements are not only part of cultural heritage but also play a role in socio-cultural interaction and intergenerational transmission of knowledge and wisdom.

The results of the study in Kyrgyzstan point to the importance of songs, especially epic ballads and folk melodies, in the development and transmission of the cultural heritage and national identity of the Kyrgyz people. These musical pieces play a role not only in entertainment but also in preserving traditions, passing on historical events, heroic deeds, and cultural values. They are a kind of chronicle, recording key moments in the life of the people and conveying traditional patterns of morality and ethics. Other studies, including the work of Koelsch (2011), link human musical abilities to the evolution of language and social functions. The researcher argues that musical behaviour has played a

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key role in social evolution by facilitating communication, cooperation, and social cohesion.

Comparing the findings of these studies, it can be noted that both emphasise the significance of musical works, including songs and melodies, in the development of cultural and social identity. While the study in Kyrgyzstan focuses on the role of songs in transmitting cultural heritage and values, the study by the researcher points out the evolutionary link between human musical abilities and social functions. Both approaches emphasise the significance of musical works as a key element of cultural identity and socio-cultural development.

Research shows that fairy tales and legends in Kyrgyz culture play a key role in shaping cultural identity, and passing on ancestral wisdom and life lessons to the next generations. These narratives serve not only as entertaining stories, but also as valuable tools for conveying folk customs, moral values, and historical events. Symbolic images of heroes in fairy tales and legends reflect society's core values and become role models (Zharylgapovw et al., 2023). They also contribute to the development of moral principles and life philosophy of the people. Furthermore, the linguistic elements contained in folk songs, fairy tales and legends carry cultural values and historical heritage.

In Aitmatov's "Cassandra's Tavro", mythological stories and legends serve as sources of inspiration, conveying spiritual values and ideals through symbols and images of Kyrgyz culture. Aitmatov uses mythological elements such as Genghis Khan's white cloud to express national identity and respect for ancestral traditions. In his novel "La Loi des mâles", Maurice draws inspiration from the historical events and social contradictions of 19th-century France. His work conveys the values of mercy and compassion, raising significant ethical questions related to social injustice and moral transformation. Cultural elements, such as descriptions of Parisian streets and barricades, symbolise the struggle for freedom and equality.

Remarque, in his novel "All Quiet on the Western Front", uses his personal experience of the First World War to convey the horrors of war and their effect on the soldiers. Remarque focuses on the senselessness of war, the destruction of morals, and the profound sense of camaraderie that characterised the German soldiers of that time. The work reflects the cultural aspects of early 20th century German life, which helps to convey the authenticity and depth of the characters' experiences.

In "Il nome della rosa", Eco integrates many literary sources such as Virgil's Aeneid, the works of Ovid and Homer, creating an historical mystery novel that condemns vices and exalts virtues. The novel, written in Italian instead of Latin, was an innovative step that contributed to the development of the Italian literary tradition. "The Divine Comedy" is saturated with symbols and motifs that reflect Italy's cultural heritage and emphasise the significance of national identity. These works demonstrate how the use of mythological, historical, and cultural elements can contribute to a deeper understanding of human nature, moral values, and cultural identities. In each of these novels, the authors

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convey important lessons and values through their unique approaches, contributing to the preservation and dissemination of cultural heritage.

The findings of this study are supported by the study of Soltau (2021), who also emphasises the significance of fairy tales in the study of people's culture and the development of views on socio-cultural and political aspects of society. This suggests that fairy tales and legends are not only a part of cultural heritage but also play an active role in shaping social perceptions and worldviews.

The results of the study indicate the significance of the relationship between language and society in the development and maintenance of national identity in the novels "Cassandra's Tavro" by Aitmatov, "La Loi des mâles" by Maurice, "All Quiet on the Western Front" by Remarque, and "Il nome della rosa" by Eco. In the novel "Cassandra's Tavro", Aitmatov uses Kyrgyz language and folklore motifs to convey cultural values and specific features of Kyrgyz society. This approach helps to emphasise the unique identity of the Kyrgyz people and preserve their cultural heritage. In "La Loi des mâles", Maurice uses the French language and images characteristic of French culture to describe the atmosphere of Paris and to express the national values and ideals of French society. In the novel "All Quiet on the Western Front", Remarque uses the German language and cultural contexts to emphasise the national characteristics and psychological state of the characters, reflecting the opinions and identity of German society at the time. In "Il nome della rosa", Eco uses Italian language and cultural elements to describe Italian society and emphasise its unique features and identity.

Thus, these novels emphasise the significance of language and cultural characteristics in the development and maintenance of national identity, illustrating the profound relationship between them and society. Phinney et al. (2022), emphasise that cultural identity includes both ethnic and national identity, and learning the language of the country of settlement or national language is a significant task for immigrants. These researchers emphasise the role of language in the development of a sense of belonging to a group and the relationship between ethnic and national identity. Thus, both the results of the present study and the findings of other researchers confirm that language plays a key role in the development and maintenance of national identity, as well as in the socio-cultural life of society, influencing its structure, identity, and development.

This study emphasises the significance of certain words, phrases, and expressions in fostering a sense of belonging and identity to a particular nation or ethnic group. The study also indicates that many cultures use proverbs, idioms, and metaphors to convey wisdom, traditions, and moral values. Their use not only reinforces the linguistic culture but also emphasises the shared values and ideals of the society. Ahn and Davis (2020) confirm this by pointing out that a sense of belonging is an essential indicator of social capital, emphasising the link between the use of certain words and phrases and the development of social ties in society.

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The findings of the study emphasise that in "Cassandra's Tavro" by Aitmatov mythological and folk elements reveal the national identity more deeply, using Kyrgyz terms and images to convey cultural realities and traditions. Aitmatov emphasises respect for ancestors and traditions. In "La Loi des mâles" by Maurice, the linguistic elements and cultural symbols of France express the social and historical dynamics of the era. The descriptions of Parisian streets and barricades convey the struggle for freedom and justice, while the language helps to create profound images that reflect the ideals of French society.

In "All Quiet on the Western Front" by Remarque, the author's personal experiences are conveyed through descriptions of the horrors of war. Remarque uses German cultural and linguistic elements to convey the atmosphere of war and its effect on the morale of the soldiers. In "Il nome della rosa", Eco uses language to express cultural and spiritual identity. Writing the poem in Italian made it accessible to a wide audience, contributing to the development of the Italian literary language. Allegories and symbols reflect the moral and spiritual values of medieval Europe. These literary works demonstrate how linguistic and cultural elements contribute to a profound understanding and transmission of national identity and cultural heritage, conveying important lessons and values.

5. Conclusions

In Kyrgyzstan, linguistic elements such as proverbs, sayings, and metaphors, as well as language patterns associated with rituals and traditions, play a key role in preserving and transmitting national values, traditions, and identity. Folk songs, fairy tales, and legends play a significant role in shaping the cultural identity of the Kyrgyz people. Thus, these elements represent an integral part of the linguoculture of Kyrgyzstan, preserving and transmitting the national identity and cultural heritage through generations.

The biography of each of the authors helped to explain why different degrees of national identity can be found in their works. Aitmatov, being a Kyrgyz writer, actively uses motifs and traditions of Kyrgyz culture in his works, which is due to his profound understanding of the cultural heritage of his country. In contrast with Maurice, a French writer, manifestations of national identity in his works may be less frequent, as his subject matter is more centred on universal issues than on French culture. Remarque, being a German author, also endeavoured to create universal images, avoiding too obvious manifestations of German identity in his works. Whereas Eco, an Italian writer, actively uses elements of Italian culture and history in his novels, which makes his works more contextually rich and profound. Thus, the personal experience and cultural context of each author substantially affect the degree of manifestation of national identity in their literary works.

The degree of manifestation of national identity in literary works depends on the personal experience and cultural context of each author. Authors who are closely connected to the culture of their country or people often actively incorporate elements of their national identity into their works, making them more authentic and richer in meaning.

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However, even authors with less pronounced nationality can use universal themes and symbols to create meaningful works that will be understandable and relevant to a wide audience. Thus, the influence of national identity on literary work is complex and depends on a multitude of factors, including personal experience, cultural heritage, and the author's literary goals.

Notably, in contact with other cultures, language and cultural practices actively interact, resulting in adaptation, borrowing, and changes in language and culture. This process includes both positive and negative aspects that stimulate processes of adaptation, borrowing and change in language and culture. As a result of this interaction, cultures can become more open and flexible, and societies – more diverse and inclusive. However, there are also negative aspects related to conflicts between new and traditional values and customs. Understanding these processes is crucial to maintain a balance between preserving traditions and being open to new cultural experiences, and to build a more inclusive and diverse society. Researchers should pay attention to the study of the specific features of the influence of linguistic minorities on the sense of belonging to the historical homeland.

This study is limited by its focus on only four literary works, which restricts the breadth of perspectives on national identity across different contexts and genres. Examining a limited selection may overlook other significant cultural and linguistic elements that could be present in diverse types of literature, such as poetry, folklore, or contemporary narratives. Future research should expand to include a wider variety of literary forms to capture a more comprehensive and nuanced view of how national identity is represented and preserved across global literature. It would also be interesting to consider globalization, migration, and hybrid identities to capture the complexities of contemporary cultural identities. The inclusion of audience interpretations will provide a more nuanced understanding of how cultural identity is perceived across different contexts. Additionally, future research could explore how these texts resonate with modern readers and reflect current socio-cultural issues.

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Authors' Contributions

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