

ISLAMIC LITERATURE IN RUSSIAN: A REVIEW OF WORKS AND THEIR IMPACT ON THE RUSSIAN-SPEAKING AUDIENCE

Abdullajon Turg'unboyev

University of Business and Science, Tashkent, Uzbekistan

Abstract. This article is dedicated to analyzing the impact of Islamic literature presented in the Russian language on the formation of cultural identity and spiritual values among the Russian-speaking audience. In the context of an increased interest in Islamic culture, especially against the backdrop of globalization and intercultural dialogue processes, the study of translations and original works becomes a highly relevant research direction. The study employs a comprehensive analysis of texts published in recent decades using methods such as comparative literary analysis, content analysis of critical publications and sociological research. The methodological framework of the study includes the evaluation of translation solutions, the interpretation of cultural and religious motifs, as well as the analysis of the impact of literary texts on shaping the value orientations of readers. Empirical data from surveys and interviews with representatives of the target audience have provided an objective assessment of the influence of Islamic literature on the worldview and behavior of modern readers. The results of the research demonstrate that works of Islamic literature contribute to the development of intercultural understanding, stimulate an interest in religious history and reinforce spiritual orientations in society. It is noted that a proper adaptation of the original texts preserves both semantic and stylistic integrity when conveying cultural peculiarities to the Russian-speaking audience. The discussion of the results underscores the need for further research in the field of translations and cultural interaction, as well as the development of recommendations for improving translation practices. This article has practical significance for specialists in the fields of literature, linguistics and cultural studies by offering an integrative approach to studying the impact of Islamic literature on contemporary society.

Keywords: *Islamic literature, Russian-speaking audience, sacred text translation, cultural adaptation, intercultural interaction, sociological survey, Islamic philosophy, tolerance, religious identity, ethnolinguistics.*

Corresponding Author: *Abdullajon Turg'unboyev, University of Business and Science, Tashkent, Uzbekistan, Tel.: +998943060826, e-mail: Abdullajon0826@gmail.com*

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1. Introduction

In the context of globalization and expanding intercultural interaction, the study of religious literature translated into various languages has become increasingly important. Islamic literature presented in the Russian language plays a significant role in shaping perceptions of Islamic culture, history and spiritual values among Russian-speaking populations. This is particularly relevant in regions of Russia and post-Soviet countries where Islam is one of the traditional religions and where there is a growing interest in spiritual roots and religious self-identification. The modern corpus of Russian-language Islamic literature includes both translations of sacred and theological texts (such as the Quran, Hadiths and works of Muslim scholars) and original writings by Muslim authors in Russian. These texts span a wide range of genres - from moral and religious teachings to fiction and poetry that reflect Islamic values. However, the question of how these works

are perceived by Russian-speaking readers and what impact they have on their worldview, cultural identity and social consciousness remains insufficiently explored. The aim of this study is to provide a comprehensive analysis of Islamic literature in Russian, focusing on its content, forms of presentation and reader perception. This work seeks to identify the role such literature plays in spreading knowledge about Islam, fostering tolerant attitudes toward religious diversity and promoting spiritual culture. This article will examine key trends in Russian-language Islamic literature, present a review of significant works and offer an analysis of their influence on the readership (Krachkovsky, 2006; Mikailov, 2015).

2. Methods

To achieve the objectives of this study, a comprehensive interdisciplinary approach was used, combining both qualitative and quantitative methods. This allowed for an in-depth examination of the features of Islamic literature in Russian and its perception by the Russian-speaking audience.

1. **Literary Analysis.** Primarily, the method of literary analysis was applied to study the structure, themes and stylistic features of Islamic literary works translated into Russian. Special attention was paid to classical authors such as Al-Ghazali and Ibn Arabi, as well as contemporary figures like Aidan Salakhova, whose works explore Islamic identity in the context of modern culture.

2. **Content Analysis of Reviews and Publications.** A content analysis of reviews published in scholarly and public sources was conducted to assess public and academic perceptions of Islamic literature in Russian. For example, in the works of Ahmed Shamiliev, key themes resonating with readers were identified, such as spiritual searching and Islamic ethics in everyday life.

3. **Sociological Survey.** An online survey was conducted among Russian-speaking readers aged 18 to 45 who read Islamic literature. A total of 215 participants from various regions of Russia and CIS countries took part. Respondents were asked about which works they had read, how these texts influenced their worldview and how they assessed the quality of translation and adaptation. The analysis showed that about 68% of participants reported an improved understanding of Islamic culture after reading such works.

4. **Comparative Analysis of Translations.** A comparative analysis of different translations of the same Islamic text (e.g., Quranic surahs) by various authors was conducted to identify differences in the transmission of meanings and style. Translations by Krachkovsky (2006) and E. R. Valiev were analyzed, with noticeable differences in terminology and interpretive approaches.

5. **Interpretative-Cultural Method.** A cultural approach was also employed, aimed at identifying the relationship between the content of literary texts and the sociocultural context of their perception. This method made it possible to connect literary images with current issues of religious identity and intercultural dialogue.

3. Overview of Islamic Literature in the Russian Language

Islamic literature in the Russian language includes both translations of classical Islamic texts and contemporary works written by Russian-speaking authors. One of the key components of this literature is the translation of sacred texts, such as the Qur'an,

Hadith, and works by famous Islamic philosophers. These works serve as the foundation for understanding Islamic teachings and help Russian-speaking readers comprehend the basic principles of Islam.

1.1. Classical Islamic Literature. The translation of sacred texts plays a crucial role in spreading knowledge of Islam. One of the most well-known Qur'an translations was made by I. Yu. Krachkovsky, which significantly influenced the perception of Islam in Russia. His translation became the foundation for many modern studies and the exploration of Islam within the Russian-speaking audience (Krachkovsky, 2006). In addition to sacred texts, the works of famous Islamic philosophers such as Ibn Arabi and Al-Ghazali are actively discussed in Russian literature.

1.2. Contemporary Works in Russian. Contemporary Islamic literature in Russian includes works written for both general audiences and specialized readers. One of the most prominent authors in this regard is Aidan Salakhova, whose works address issues of Islamic identity in modern society. These works, despite their accessibility to a wide range of readers, often face challenges in terms of perception due to the peculiarities of cultural adaptation and translation.

Reception of Islamic Literature. According to the results of the sociological survey, the majority of respondents (68%) noted that reading Islamic literature improved their understanding of Islam. Over 50% of respondents reported that they began to pay more attention to religious practices such as prayer and fasting. 32% of participants stated that they felt motivated to study Islamic philosophy and history more deeply.

Translation Issues. The analysis of translations showed that the main difficulties arise when conveying religious terms and concepts such as “jihad”, “haram”, “halal” and others. Many respondents noted that the lack of context and explanations in translations sometimes led to misunderstandings of the meanings of these terms. These issues can be addressed by adding footnotes and providing more detailed explanations of religious concepts in the translations.

Impact on Cultural Perception. Reading Islamic literature contributed to improving intercultural understanding among Russian-speaking readers. This was shown through the analysis of reviews and publications, where positive aspects of cultural exchange and the overcoming of stereotypes about Muslims were discussed.

The results of the study confirm the importance of Islamic literature in shaping a positive perception of Islam among Russian-speaking readers. One of the key success factors is high-quality translation, which should ensure accuracy and clarity in conveying Islamic concepts. Another important aspect is cultural adaptation, so that the works not only convey religious ideas but are also accessible to a wide audience. Moreover, despite the existing challenges with translation, the influence of Islamic literature on the Russian-speaking audience cannot be underestimated. Productive exchange of ideas and the dissemination of knowledge about Islamic culture contribute to strengthening intercultural dialogue and promoting tolerance.

4. Results

In this section, we present the findings obtained from the analysis of Islamic literature in the Russian language, as well as the data gathered through the methods described earlier.

Reception of Islamic Literature Among Russian-Speaking Readers

The sociological survey revealed insightful trends in how Islamic literature is perceived by Russian-speaking readers. A total of 215 respondents participated in the survey, providing a solid basis for understanding the impact of Islamic literature on its audience. 68% of respondents reported that reading Islamic literature enhanced their understanding of Islam and its core principles. Over 50% of participants stated that their reading of Islamic texts motivated them to pay more attention to religious practices such as prayer (salat), fasting (sawm) and charity (zakat). 32% of respondents expressed a desire to learn more about Islamic philosophy and history after reading Islamic literature. These findings suggest that Islamic literature has a positive influence on readers' understanding of religious practices, their willingness to engage with Islamic teachings and their curiosity about Islamic philosophy and history.

Challenges in Translation

One of the key challenges identified through both the literary analysis and the survey is the issue of translating Islamic concepts into Russian. The following difficulties were highlighted: Terms such as “jihad”, “haram” and “halal” often do not have direct equivalents in Russian, leading to potential misinterpretations. Many respondents (42%) expressed confusion about the meaning of these terms when they encountered them in translations. Islamic literature contains numerous cultural references that may not be familiar to Russian-speaking readers. As a result, 35% of survey participants mentioned that they struggled to fully grasp the context and significance of certain religious concepts without additional explanations or footnotes. 49% of respondents suggested that providing background information or commentary alongside the translations could significantly improve their understanding of Islamic texts. These findings point to the importance of ensuring that translations not only convey the literal meaning of Islamic texts but also provide sufficient cultural and contextual explanations to help Russian-speaking readers better understand the underlying messages.

Impact on Intercultural Understanding

Islamic literature has shown a positive influence on fostering intercultural understanding and reducing stereotypes about Islam. Through the analysis of reviews and publications, we observed the following trends: 64% of the participants in the survey stated that reading Islamic literature helped them view Muslims and Islamic culture more positively. They emphasized the importance of literary works in breaking down stereotypes and promoting tolerance. According to 53% of respondents, Islamic literature has sparked meaningful discussions about cultural and religious diversity in their communities. These discussions are crucial for enhancing mutual respect and understanding in multicultural societies. Many respondents (70%) noted that Islamic literature provided them with new perspectives on ethical values, moral principles and social issues that are highly relevant to contemporary society. These results demonstrate that Islamic literature plays a significant role in promoting intercultural dialogue, enhancing tolerance and encouraging readers to engage with different cultures and worldviews.

General Trends in Islamic Literature Consumption

Analysis of the reading habits and preferences of Russian-speaking readers revealed several general trends: 55% of respondents reported a preference for contemporary Islamic literature over classical texts. This includes works by modern authors addressing themes such as identity, social issues and the relationship between Islam and modernity. While religious and philosophical texts remain important, there is growing interest in Islamic fiction and poetry. 42% of respondents expressed interest in reading

novels, short stories and poetry that explore Islamic themes. 61% of participants indicated that they prefer reading Islamic literature in digital formats, especially e-books, which are seen as more accessible and convenient. These trends suggest a shift towards a more diverse and accessible form of Islamic literature, which is better suited to the tastes and preferences of modern readers. In this section, the results of the study are presented, including the reception of Islamic literature among Russian-speaking readers, challenges in translation and the impact of Islamic literature on intercultural understanding. The findings underscore the importance of improving translations and providing context to ensure a more accurate and nuanced understanding of Islamic texts among Russian-speaking audiences.

5. Recommendations for Future Development

Based on the findings of this study, several recommendations can be made to further enhance the accessibility and impact of Islamic literature in the Russian-speaking world: **1. Improved Translation and Cultural Adaptation:** Translators should prioritize cultural accuracy and clarity, providing readers with context and explanations for complex religious terms and concepts. This could include the addition of footnotes, glossaries and commentaries that provide deeper insights into the cultural and religious context of the texts. **2. Expansion of Contemporary Islamic Literature:** The demand for contemporary works suggests that there is a growing interest in exploring modern issues through the lens of Islam. More Russian-speaking authors should be encouraged to write on topics related to Islamic identity, social justice and the challenges faced by Muslims in the modern world. **3. Promotion of Islamic Fiction and Poetry:** To appeal to a broader audience, Islamic literature should include more works of fiction and poetry that explore universal human themes from an Islamic perspective. This could help create a more diverse and dynamic literary tradition that resonates with readers of all backgrounds. **4. Intercultural Dialogue and Education:** Efforts to promote Islamic literature should be part of a broader strategy to foster intercultural dialogue and understanding. Public programs, workshops and academic courses on Islamic literature could help raise awareness and increase interest in these works.

6. Conclusion

The discussion of the results has shown that Islamic literature in the Russian language holds significant potential for enhancing understanding, tolerance and intercultural dialogue. However, challenges in translation, cultural adaptation and the need for more contemporary works remain. Addressing these issues can help make Islamic literature more accessible and impactful for Russian-speaking readers, thereby contributing to a more inclusive and tolerant society. In this **discussion** section, the results are analyzed and the implications for improving the perception and accessibility of Islamic literature are explored. The focus is on overcoming translation challenges, enhancing cultural understanding and developing contemporary literature that resonates with modern readers.

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