



Analysis of Views on the Origin of the Word Sufism (on the Basis of Foreign and Uzbek Researches)

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Annotation: This article compares the opinions and views of some Uzbek and foreign scholars regarding the origin of the words Sufi and Sufism. It lists about ten meanings of the word Sufism, which repeat each other and sometimes complete.

Keywords: Sufi and Sufism, orders (tariqats), wool, foreign and Uzbek Sufi scholars, the Qur'an, Hadith, and the Prophet (pbuh), Divine knowledge.

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Introduction. One of the urgent issues in world science, especially in the field of literary studies, is to study Sufism and its literature, to reveal its true essence, to research the differences in existing orders (tariqats), and to scientifically justify their activities. Therefore, in recent years, attention has been paid not only to the study of Sufism teachings and literature, their formation and development in Islamic countries, but also to the study of Sufism in Central Asia.

In world Sufism studies, the sources of the formation and development of the doctrine of Sufism have been seriously studied since the XIXth century. In addition to this, the study of the literature that emerged through Sufism, and the justification of its spiritual characteristics, began to attract the attention of researchers. In literary studies, there are studies related to the comparative analysis of "Devoni Hikmat" ascribed to Khwaja Ahmad Yasavi, "Faqrnama" considered the theoretical foundation of Yasaviya, and the works of Yasavi's followers. There is a need for a comparative study of many sources in the world with the works of Uzbek researchers.

First of all, let's talk about the origin of the word Sufism. In this article, we will consider the definitions given by three Sufi scholars to the words Sufi and Sufism.

Methods and materials. "The views of the famous Uzbek mystic Najmiddin Kamilov: "Well, where did the word "Sufi" come from? There are several different views on this. Some say that this word comes from the word "saf", because a Sufi is one who stands in the first (saf) row of those who enter the path of God. Some scholars say that it is derived from the word "suffa": the followers of suffa are pious people who left the world during the lifetime of the Prophet, may God bless him and grant him peace, and they explain that Sufis imitate them. Another group of scholars said that the word Sufi is derived from the word "safa" because the heart of this category shines like the sun of sidqu safa.

Some others write that Sufi is derived from the word "sufuh", Sufuh is the conclusion of something, and they are called Sufis because this community is the conclusion of the people. There are those who say that the word Sufi comes from the word "sof" ("pure"). Abu Rayhan Beruni says that it is derived from the last part of the word "suf", meaning philosopher. But most believe that the word

Sufi is derived from the Arabic word "suf". The dictionary meaning of the word "suf" is wool and cloth woven from wool. Because Sufis used to wear woolen cloaks or sheepskin coats in most cases, they were called woolen clothers (Persian pashminaposh), i.e. Sufis. In our opinion, this later etymological meaning is closer to the truth, because the formation of the word Sufi from the word "Sufi" is in accordance with the rules of the Arabic language.”¹

In defining Sufism, it is impossible not to take into account the opinions of Sharia scholars. Because the relation to Sufism and Ahl al-Tariqat developed from the Islamic religion should be implemented through the science of Sharia, in defining them, the book "Imagination about Sufism"² by Shaykh Muhammad Sadiq Muhammad Yusuf, a scholar of Sharia science, is considered as a source that can give a perfect definition of Sufism. However, he is given short, succinct thoughts from the Islamic point of view, using examples from the Qur'an and hadiths. In it, the issue of murshid and murid, and some of the representatives of the order will be touched upon.

The scientist scientifically substantiates the thoughts related to the Sufism words "Suffa", "Saf", "Safa" and "Suf", and also because they attribute those who pray a lot in ancient times to Sufa ibn Udd ibn Tlobiha, he is associated with that person's name notes that there are similar opinions. However, they deny the word "suf" and say: "The word "Sufi" is derived from the Arabic word suf-jun, many scholars say. First of all, in terms of vocabulary, this name is very correct. In addition, those who were devoted to a lot of prayer wore very simple clothes. Usually their clothes were only made of wool, they say.”³

Also, Dr. Shahida Bilqis of the Shahi Hamadan Institute of Islamic Studies in Kashmir stated that the etymology of the word Sufi was analyzed in the 8 meanings of the word "suf"⁴:

1. Safaa-which means cleanliness, particularly the purity of heart, soul and actions of a man.
2. Ahle Suffa-During the life time of Holy Prophet (saw) there were certain ascetics (Zahids and Abids) whose sole occupation in life was nothing but continuous study and recitation of the Holy Qur'an, meditation, prayers and absolute devotion to God in the Prophet's historical mosque at Medina.
3. Suff-means row [Those Muslims who always tried to offer their Namaz (prayers) in the coveted first row of the 'five daily' congregations during the Prophet's (saw) time].
4. Soofa-It is the name of an old Arab tribe who were dedicated to the service of Kaaba (Mecca).
5. Safoot-ul-Qafa-The hair that grows at the back of the neck.
6. Siyu Soofia-It is a Greek word which means Divine knowledge.
7. Sufana-A kind of Plant.
8. Soof-means Wool.

Here, Shahida Bilqis emphasizes the meaning of Sufi word "suf - wool" in the last number 8.

Result and discussion. In this article, we have studied the opinions of three Sufi scholars about the origin of the word Sufism. Their definitions almost complete each other. In some cases, there are other definitions can be seen.

¹ КОМИЛОВ Н. Тасаввуф. –Т.: ТошДШИ нашриёти, 2006. 72-б. – В. 6.

² Мухаммад Содиқ Мухаммад Юсуф. Тасаввуф ҳақида тасаввур. – Т.: Мовароуннаҳр, 2004. – 255 б.

³ O'sha asar: – Б.30-31.

⁴ Bilqies, Shahida. Understanding the Concept of Islamic Sufism. Shah-i-Hamadan Institute of Islamic Studies. University of Kashmir, Srinagar-190006 Jammu and Kashmir, India. Journal of Education & Social Policy. Vol. 1 № 1; June 2014. – P. 55-72/ P.56.

There is a table of comparative analysis of the origin of the word Sufism below:

Table 1 Comparative analysis of different interpretations of the words “Sufi” and “Sufism”

№	In the interpretation of Najmiddin Komilov	In the interpretation of Shaykh Muhammadsodiq Muhammadyusuf	In the interpretation of Shahida Bilqis (a source in English)	Similarities and differences in three studies
1.	Suffa – ashobi suffa	Ahli suffa	Ahli Suffa	N.Komilov has 7 definitions, Shaykh Muhammadsadiq Muhammadyusuf has 5 definitions, and Shahida Bilqis has a total of 8 definitions. All three authors are Sufi and Islamic scholars conclude by linking the word "suff or suf" to the word woolen cloth. That is, this word is associated with the closest definition. All other definitions have a possible meaning, in our opinion.
2.	Saf	Saf	Suff	
3.	Safo	Safo	Safoa	
4.	-	Sufa ibn Udd ibn Tlobikha (he was very prayerful person)	Sufa	
5.	Sufuh	-	-	
6.	Sof	Suvf-wool fabric	Safutu-l-qafo	
7.	The end of the Greek word "suf", which means philosopher.		Siyu sufiya	
8.	Suf – is wool and a woven fabric from wool. If Sufi was formed from the word "Suf", in turn, the words "Tasawwuf", "Mustasuf", "Muttasuf", "Mutasawwif" were formed from "Sufi", says N.Komilov ⁵ .		Sufana	
9.			Suf – means wool.	

In defining Sufism, the Uzbek scientist N.Kamilov quotes the words that are not found in the definitions of Sheikh Muhammad Sadiq Muhammad Yusuf and Shahida Bilqis, they are: *sufuh*, *sof*, the end of the Greek word "*suf*", which means philosopher, "*Tasawwuf*", "*Mustasuf*", "*Muttasuf*", "*Mutasawwif*".

Sheikh Muhammad Sadiq Muhammad Yusuf is distinguished by his description of *Sufa ibn Udd ibn Tlobikha* (he was a very prayerful person).

Shahida Bilqis is distinguished by special definitions such as *safutu-l-qafo*, *siyu sufiya*, *sufana*.

Conclusion. In this article, a debate was started with different opinions about the meaning of Sufism, the place and time of its appearance. Some opinions of foreign and Uzbek scientists in this

⁵ Н.КОМИЛОВ. Тасаввуф. – Т.: “Movarounnahr” – “O‘zbekiston”, 2009. – Б.11.

regard were found to be appropriate. What is the essence of Sufism has been explained through many examples, but finding a perfect answer that has a complete meaning is still a problem. However, taking into account the mentioned points, we came to the opinion that Sufism can be defined as follows: Sufism is a teaching based on the Islamic religion, that is, the Qur'an, Hadith, and the Prophet (pbuh).) is the fulfillment of the Sunnah by the Sufis. It is essentially an inner science and a person who enters into it is called a Sufi. It comes from the Arabic word "suf-jun". The scientific proof of other definitions given to it is little or doubtful. We remain on this opinion, as well.

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