



KÖROĞLU

KÖROĞLU, also Göroğly, name of an early-17th-century folk hero and poet, whose stories are mainly known among the Turkic peoples. But they have also passed into the folk literature of the Armenians, Georgians, Kurds and Bulghars, and circulate in the Iranian provinces of Azarbaijan and Khorasan. There are at least 17 versions of the Köroğlu/Göroğly tradition, and storytellers occasionally explain the variations as different ways of remembering the same person. The Köroğlu/Göroğly epic spread among Turkic and non-Turkic peoples through bards (*‘āšeq*, *baḵši*) whose bilingualism facilitated the diffusion of differing poetic accounts in northern Khorasan, Afghanistan, Tajikistan, and southern Uzbekistan.

i. *Literary tradition.*

ii. *Performance aspects.*