

## RIDDLE AS ONE OF THE SMALL GENRES OF KARACHAY-BALKARIAN FOLKLORE

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*The article is devoted to the study of one of the underdeveloped small genres of Karachay-Balkarian folklore – a riddle, which has an important cognitive and educational value in folk pedagogy and contributes to the development of imaginative thinking, broadening the horizons of the younger generations. Special attention is paid to the study of the genre nature and peculiarities of the functioning of riddles among the Karachays and Balkars, identifying their specific features and genre-forming characteristics, determining their place and role in the system of national folklore. The conducted analysis allows us to assert, that the content of riddles is closely related to everyday life of the creator people, its history, spiritual and material culture.*

**Keywords:** Karachay-Balkarian folklore, small genres, riddle, allegory, metaphor.

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