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**PHILOSOPHICAL ASPECTS OF THE RELATIONS OF
MULTICULTURALISM AND NATIONAL IDENTITY**

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ABSTRACT

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INTRODUCTION

The actuality and the usage rate of the research work. One of the current problems facing the science of modern philosophy is the study of the relations of multiculturalism and national identity from a philosophical point of view. After World War II, the rapid development of cultural integration processes among the peoples of the world at different levels has created a wide opportunity for the formation of cultural diversity, coexistence and multicultural lifestyle.

In the context of globalization processes in the modern world, multiculturalism and integration are phenomena that require a new approach, understanding and reinterpretation, since the compatibility between their previous sense and meaning and their current essence is already being eliminated. Therefore, researchers consider it more necessary to search for the ethical foundations and principles of the new multiculturalism policy.

Currently, it is extremely necessary to form effective regulation mechanisms based on the rules of coexistence among ethnic diversities, diverse religions, sects and social groups, high tolerance, celebration of ethnic-cultural pluralism. Philosophy also has a unique role in the implementation of this process. Here, philosophy can play the role of a connecting key both in the coexistence of different cultures, and in creating a tolerant environment among the carriers of these cultures. Multiculturalism is one of the most important characteristics of a tolerant society that accepts the parallel existence of different cultures, as it is related to tolerance in terms of philosophical and cultural ideal and politics. In tolerant societies, multiculturalism leads to the mutual enrichment of cultures, the formation of the main integrative culture and unifying ideology that unites peoples. In this regard, the philosophical understanding of multiculturalism is extremely significant and necessary.

In modern times, Azerbaijan is not only recognized as a country rich in energy resources in the world, it has also gained the image of “the address of tolerance”. Multiculturalism has been accepted as a priority in both domestic and foreign policy of the

Republic of Azerbaijan. Independence and sovereignty give the Republic of Azerbaijan the opportunity to integrate into the world community, and the policy of multiculturalism allows our country to establish mutually appropriate and suitable relations with all countries on an equal basis.

Since the 20th century, the problem of national identity in Azerbaijani philosophy has become a necessity in terms of examining ethnic-cultural affiliation and the process of national self-awareness. The notion of identity, as a philosophical concept, is a means of giving importance to one's ancestry and national values and self-expression of one's self and personality. People's belonging to any culture, their socialization in accordance with the existing environment and their choice of religion, the unique characteristics acquired during the formation of an individual as a personality constitute the stages of the national identity process.

There is a unique evolutionary path in the process of historical development of society. Accordingly, a human type with special mental characteristics is formed in the society. Here the importance of religious and cultural-spiritual values should be especially noted. So that, at the level of simple analysis and intuitive understanding of historical experience, this is an acceptable reality. There is a need to study this issue at a more serious scientific-philosophical level in the environment of Azerbaijan.

Scientific works dedicated to various aspects of the research topic can be presented in several groups according to the level of discussion of the problems. Concepts of multiculturalism and national identity, as an actual problem of modern philosophy, have been a part of the subject of research and analysis of a number of researchers: philosophers, politicians, historians and lawyers. In the philosophical aspect, the term multiculturalism has a broad meaning and is a generalized expression of the cultures to which social subjects which include different values belong, and it constitutes almost a new direction in social and humanitarian sciences in terms of scientific research and analysis. Researching the concepts of multiculturalism and national identity in both Western and Eastern philosophy, including in Azerbaijani socio-philosophical thought

from a scientific and theoretical point of view, creates conditions for the creation of intercultural relations and the development of these relations in a more progressive form, and the establishment of peace in the world.

The problems of intercultural and interreligious dialogue have been analyzed in the work of researcher-scientist R. Aslanova entitled “Globalization and cultural diversity”.¹ In the context of globalization and cultural development, the religion of Islam has been thoroughly studied. Following this kind of initial research works, in S.Khalilov’s work entitled “Dialogue between civilizations”², the idea of a single universal civilization, the problems of interaction among Eastern and Western civilizations, as well as local civilizations, their accumulation or confrontation have been researched. Here, the author has highlighted the positive aspects of different cultures, their typical general organizational structure, political and cultural assignments. In R.Mirzazade’s work entitled “Multiculturalism policy and East-West diversity”³, along with the same problems, the issues of gender, religion and spirituality have been investigated in a comparative manner.

In the Republic of Azerbaijan, the issues of multiculturalism and identity, their importance in the domestic and foreign policy of our country, state-religion relations have just begun to be investigated as a research field. In the early times, searches in this field were usually conducted only within the framework of multiculturalism. In this regard, N. Niftiyev’s work entitled “Coexistence and multiculturalism in Azerbaijan” should be mentioned.⁴

On January 11, 2016, according to the decree issued by the President of the Republic of Azerbaijan Ilham Aliyev, after 2016 was declared the “Year of Multiculturalism” in the Republic of Azerbaijan, interest in this field and the tradition of in-depth analysis of this field expanded even more in our republic. In the environment of Azerbaijan, along with multiculturalism, national identity has also

¹ Aslanova R. Qloballaşma və mədəni müxtəliflik. Bakı: Elm, 2004. 263s.

² Xəlilov S. Sivilizasiyalararası dialoq. Bakı: Adiloğlu, 2009. 255 s.

³ Mirzəzadə R. Multikulturalizm siyasəti və Şərqi-Qərbi müxtəlifliyi. Bakı: Təknur, 2012. 160 s.

⁴ Niftiyev N. Azərbaycanca birgöyüş və multikulturalizm. Bakı: MTL, 2015. 408 s.

begun to be investigated in the socio-philosophical aspect. From this point of view, first of all, the scientific-research collection called “Azerbaijan national identity” prepared in the context of historical and national-moral values attracts attention. Here, Fuzuli Gurbanov has tried to explain the main essence of national identity in the philosophical-historical aspect.

A.Taghiyev, who has tried to analyze the main essence of national identity from a philosophical aspect, has presented a wide-ranging scientific article called “National identity and multicultural processes” in the collection of “The ratio of globality and nationality”⁵ and tried to explain the role played by national identity in the process of self-understanding.

The problems of multiculturalism and national identity have been analyzed by world philosophers and researchers, too, and this topic has also been the object of their research. In the modern globalized world, as we mentioned above, attitudes towards the peoples of the world, their cultures and traditions have also begun to change. The authors who are from Russia, I.L.Babich and O.V.Rodionova have revealed the essence of all these problems in the work entitled “Theory and practice of multiculturalism” and clarified the characteristics of multiculturalism from the political, scientific and philosophical aspects. A.V.Veretevskaya, in her scientific article entitled “European multiculturalism - comparative politics”, has tried to reveal the essence of multiculturalism using the comparison method and succeeded to some extent. The Russian philosopher S.P.Gurin has written an article entitled “Philosophy of identity” and analyzed the problem he had mentioned philosophically. Another Russian philosopher, M.V.Tolstanova has analyzed multiculturalism in her textbook entitled “From the philosophy of multiculturalism to the philosophy of transculturation” from a philosophical aspect. P.Sorokin has called multiculturalism and identity the main essay of our time and talked about the necessity

⁵ Tağiyev, Ə. M. Milli kimlik və multikultural proseslər. Bakı: Gənclik, 2017. 204 s.

of investigating this problem in the proper development and understanding of the modern era.⁶

V.L.Nazarov has given ample space to the analysis of multiculturalism from philosophical and theoretical aspects in the textbook entitled “Theory and practice of multiculturalism in western countries”.⁷

Various areas of multiculturalism and national identity issues have been the subject of analysis by a number of European, American and Asian philosophers and researchers. In this regard, first of all, it should be mentioned the American philosopher A.D.Smith’s work called “National identity”. In this work, the author, as a collective image (phenomenon), has aimed to open a path about the nature, causes and consequences of national identity.⁸

The American philosopher S.F.Huntington, originally from Scandinavia, first of all, has tried to analyze the national identity from a philosophical aspect in his research book entitled “Who are we?: The challenges to America’s national identity”. Here, the author has also given an ethnic comparison of peoples who have different nationalities.⁹

Turkish researcher Gultan Uchan, in his extensive article entitled “Construction of national identity...”, has talked about the fact that the development of national identity in the wrong direction can lead to ethnic terrorism and tried to prove his ideas with scientific factors.¹⁰

⁶ Бабич И.Л., Родионова О.В. Теория и практика мультикультурализма / Исследования по прикладной и неотложной этнологии-Москва: ИЭА РАН, -2009, - Выпуск 215. - 49 с., Веретевская А.В. Проблемы европейского мультикультурализма. Сравнительная политика. Москва: 2011. №3. с.114-122, Гурин С. Философия идентичности. Литературно – философский журнал «Топос». [Электронный ресурс]. - Режим доступа: <http://www.russned.ru/filosofiya/filosofiyaidentichnosti.>, Толстанова М. От философии мультикультурализма к философии транскulturации(учебное пособие). Москва: РУДН, 2008, 251 с., Сорокин П.А. Главные тенденции нашего времени. Москва, Директ Медия, 2007, 416 с.

⁷ Nəzərov V. Qərб ölkələrində multikulturalizmin nəzəriyyə və praktikası. Bakı: 2009.

⁸ Smith A.D. Milli Kimlik. Çev. Bahadır Sina Şener. İstanbul: İletişim Yayınları, 2014. 290 s.

⁹ Хантингтон С.Ф. Кто мы? Новые вызовы современной американской национальной идентичности. Москва: АСТ,Транзит книга, 2004, 635с.

¹⁰ Uçan G. Milli kimliğin inşası: bir terrör olayı örneği. Karadeniz Teknik Üniversitesi İletişim Araştırmaları Dergisi. 2012,-№ 1(3). s.19-39.

In the field of researching the problems of multiculturalism and national identity and obtaining valuable scientific results, the prominent philosophers, such as I.Mammadzadeh, W.Kymlicka, C.Taylor, V.Malakhov, A.Fukuyama, R.Jangoja, C.Kukatas, Y.Habermas, J.Gurin, G.Uchan, E.Najafov and others have played an important role in the investigation of this field of scientific-philosophical processes, and at the same time served in obtaining world-important scientific conceptions.¹¹

The conception of multiculturalism and identity has been the subject of research and scientific analysis of many philosophers and politicians as an actual problem of modern philosophy. The intersection of philosophy and culture, their dialectical intertwining is the basis for the emergence of the philosophical theory of multiculturalism. In the philosophical aspect, the term multiculturalism has a wide spectrum and is a generalized expression of the cultures to which social subjects that include different values belong. The study of multiculturalism and tolerance in both Western and Eastern philosophy, including Azerbaijani socio-philosophical thought from a scientific-theoretical aspect, creates conditions for the creation of intercultural and intercivilizational relations and the development of these relations in a more progressive form, and the establishment of peace in the world.

It is important to highlight foreign authors and eminent philosophers, such as J.Rawls, K.O.Apel, R.Bernstein, E.Tiggins, R.Kastel, E.Moren, C.Taylor, Y.Habermas, V.Malakhov, O.Spengler, S.Benhajib, F.Fukuyama, M.Heidegger, M.S.Kagana, V.A.Tishkov, S.F.Huntington, A.V.Sagadeyev, M.V.Tolstonova who have studied various aspects of the issues of multiculturalism and

¹¹ Мамедзаде И. Философия о современности, истории и культуре (О контурах историко-культурной эпистемологии) Баку: Издательство «Elm və təhsil», 2018, 224 стр., Кимлика У. Современная политическая философия: введение/пер.с англ. С.Моисеева. Москва, ВШЭ. 2010, 592 с., Taylor Ch. The Ethics of Authenticity/Cambbridge, M.A.: Harvard University Press, 1991, p.154., Тишков В.А. Теория и практика мультикультурализма. Мультикультурализм и трансформация постсоветских обществ. Под ред. В.С.Малахова, В.А.Тишкова. Москва: РАН, 2002, 335 с., Фукуяма Ф. Идентичность: Стремление к признанию и политика неприятия. Identity: The demand for dignity and the politics of resentment. М.: Альпина Паблишер, 2019.256 с., Жангожа Р. Мультикультурализм: pro et contra. Киев: Институт всемирной истории НАУ, 2016, с.179-195., Nəcəfov E. Multikulturalizm: nailiyyətər və problemlər, perspektivlər. s.97. www.kitabxana.net_Milli_Virtual-Elektron_Kitabxanasının_e-nəşri.

national identity. These authors' works have made valuable contributions to the study of the mentioned problem. Considering that the issues of multiculturalism and national identity are new problematics in philosophy, the literature in this field is not so rich. Particularly, the number of fundamental studies in the context of the subject of research is quite small. Although the relations of multiculturalism and national identity in Azerbaijan have been approached from different contexts, scientific research in the philosophical aspect has not been carried out in sufficient numbers. During the research of the dissertation work, as the main source, in addition to the works of foreign and domestic authors, it is required to conduct the searches of scientific research works dedicated to the issues raised on the internet pages.¹²

Since the topic of multiculturalism and national identity has become relevant since the 60s and 70s of the 20th century, many philosophers have approached the issue precisely from the prism of modernity. The Eurocentrism position is appearing more salient in these issues. If we approach the issue from the principle of historicity, we can clearly see that the tolerant and multicultural values of Western culture do not surpass the context of Eastern culture at all.

According to S.Benhabib, an American researcher of multiculturalism, "Multiculturalism, as a political doctrine, is one of the directions of practical politics and is based on the absolutization of different cultures that have no connection among them, it exists within the precise boundaries that are not subject to intracultural

¹² Тишков В.А. Теория и практика мультикультурализма. Мультикультурализм и трансформация постсоветских обществ. Москва: РАН, 2002, 335 с., Taylor Ch. The Ethics of Authenticity/Cambbridge, M.A.: Harvard University Press, 1991, p.154., Сагадеев А.В. Гуманизм в классической мусульманской мысли. Общественные науки и современность. ОНС Рос Ак. Наук. Историческая психология и социология истории, №1, 2009, с. 180-186., Толстанова М.В. От философии мультикультурализма к философии транскulturации(учебное пособие). Москва: РУДН, 2008, 251 с., Фукуяма Ф. Идентичность: Стремление к признанию и политика неприятия = Identity: The demand for dignity and the politics of resentment. М.: Альпина Паблишер, 2019.-256 с., Хантингтон С.Ф. Столкновение цивилизаций. Москва, АСТ СПб:Terra Fantastica, 2003, 603 с., Бенхабиб, С. Притязание культур. Равенство и разнообразия в глобальную эру. Пер. с англ.; под ред. В. И. Иноземцева/С. Бенхабиб-Москва: Логос,-2003.-350 с.

transformation. Identity is a person's belonging to a national or any ethnic group"¹³.

The prominent Russian and Western researchers, such as I.L.Babich, O.V.Radionova, M.M.Bakhtin., R.N.Jangoja, V.L.Nazarov and W.Kymlicka have conducted a comparative analysis of European models. And S.P.Gurin has approached the issue of identity as a philosophical identity.¹⁴

In the philosophical analysis of the conception of multiculturalism in the context of Eastern culture, the scientific researches of A.Metz, Montgomery-Watt, A.V.Sagadeyev have been cited as the main sources. S.F.Huntington's principle of promoting the policy of multiculturalism as a solution to the problem of Western and Eastern culture is reflected in his works.¹⁵

In the research work, a comparative scientific-philosophical analysis of multiculturalism on a global scale and in the context of Azerbaijan has been carried out. Since the subject of the dissertation covers an actual and new field in philosophy, the problem has also been included in the scientific works and monographs of local authors.

The issues of multiculturalism, tolerance and identity in the Republic of Azerbaijan, their importance in the domestic and foreign policy of our country, state-religion relations, as well as the purposeful activity of the President of the Republic of Azerbaijan Mr. Ilham Aliyev in this field, the commendable works of the Baku

¹³ Бенхабиб С. «Притязание культур», Бенхабиб.С.«Равенство и разнообразия в глобальной эре», стр.103, Москва 2003 г.

¹⁴ Бабич И.Л., Родионова О.В. Теория и практика мультикультурализма. Исследования по прикладной и неотложной этнологии. Москва: ИЭА РАН, 2009, Выпуск 215. 49 с., Бахтин М.М. Эстетика словесного творчества. Сост. С. Г. Бочаров; Текст подгот. Г. С. Бернштейн и Л. В. Дерюгина; Примеч. С. С. Аверинцева и С. Г. Бочарова-Москва: Искусства,1979. 424 с., Жангожа Р.Н. Мультикультурализм: pro et contra. Киев: Институт всемирной истории НАУ, 2016, с.179-195., Назаров В.Л. Теория и практика мультикультурализма в странах запада. Учебное пособие. Екатеринбург, Издательство Урал, Екатеринбургского Университета, 2015 , с. 212., Кимлика И. Современная политическая философия: введение/пер.с англ. С.Моисеева. Москва, ВШЭ. 2010, 592 с., Gurin С. П. Философия идентичности. Литературно – философский журнал «Топос». [Электронный ресурс]. Режим доступа: <http://www.russned.ru/filosofiya/filosofiyaedentichnosti>.

¹⁵ Монтгомери-Уотт. Влияние ислама на средневековую Европу. Москва, Дилия, 2008,128 с., Сагадеев А.В. Гуманизм в классической мусульманской мысли. Общественные науки и современность. ОНС Рос Ак. Наук. Историческая психология и социология истории, №1, 2009, с. 180-186., Хантингтон С.Ф. Кто мы? Новые вызовы современной американской национальной идентичности. Москва: АСТ,Транзит книга, 2004, 635с.

International Center for Multiculturalism, as well as the Heydar Aliyev Foundation in protecting our national cultural heritage and promoting it to the world have been investigated by prominent philosophers and political figures of the modern era, such as N.Pashayeva, I.Mammadzade, K.Abdulla, R.Mehdiyev, N.Niftiyev, I.Rustamov, A.Abdullayev, R.Rzayeva, S.Khalilov, E.Najafov, A.Karimov, F.Gurbanov, Y.Ahmadov, J.Mammadov and others.¹⁶

In the words of the prominent politician, the greatest Azerbaijani Heydar Aliyev: “The multinational composition of the population of Azerbaijan is our wealth, our advantage. The more peoples the state, the country unites, the richer it becomes, because each of them contributes to the world culture and civilization”¹⁷.

The views of the President of the Republic of Azerbaijan Ilham Aliyev on the traditions of tolerance in Azerbaijan are very interesting. The head of the country expresses his position and will by giving speeches, taking into account today’s importance of the issue at all events organized in the context of tolerance. These ideas have been referenced in detail in the research work.

In accordance with the plan of the research topic, especially the knowledge about the place and importance of Azerbaijan in its domestic, foreign and geopolitics has been precisely and clearly explained. In this regard, the author has assessed multiculturalism as the main priority of national development and security policy.

¹⁶ Мамедзаде Ильхам. Философия о современности, истории и культуре (О контурах историко-культурной эпистемологии) Баку: Издательство «Elm və təhsil», 2018, 224 стр., Mehdiyev R. Milli məfkurə, dövlətçilik, müstəqillik yolu ilə (yanvar 2002-dekabr 2006). Bakı: XXI-YNE, 2006. - 672 s., Mədətli, E.Y. Birgəyaşayış fəlsəfəsi və milli kimlik. Respublika. 2018, 10 iyul. s.9., Xəlilov S. Sivilizasiyalararası dialoq. Bakı: Adiloğlu, 2009. 255 s., Azərbaycan multikulturalizminin ədəbi-bədii qaynaqları: I kitab. Elmi red. Kamal Abdulla. Bakı: Mütərcim, 2016. 285 s., Azərbaycanda multikulturalizm. Bakı: Apostrof, 2016. 504 s., Mirzəzadə, R. Multikulturalizm siyasəti və Şərq-Qərb müxtəlifliyi. Bakı: Təknur, 2012. 160 s., Multikulturalizmə giriş. Ali məktəblər üçün dərslik. Bakı: Şərq Qərb, 2019. 431 s., Tağıyev Ə. Milli kimlik və multikultural proseslər. Bakı: Gənclik, 2017. 204 s., Pəzəva, P.O. Постмодерн и мультикультурализм: междисциплинарный дискурс. Научная монография. Баку: Elm и Тахсил, 2015. 300 с., Nəcəfov E. Multikulturalizm: nailiyyətlər və problemlər, perspektivlər. s.97. [www.kitabxana.net_Milli Virtual-Elektron Kitabxanasinin e-nəşri,](http://www.kitabxana.net_Milli_Virtual-Elektron_Kitabxanasinin_e-nəşri_) Paşayeva N. 31.05.2015 <https://en.trend.az>., Наджафов Э.А. Мультикультурализм: достижения и проблемы Сравнительный анализ мультикультурализма в различных регионах. Бакинский Форум 2011, круглый стол, программа декларация, 3с. <http://bakuforum.az/ru/dostijeniya-i-problemy/fid=2257-11/18/2011>.

¹⁷ Azərbaycanda multikulturalizm, Bibliografiya, Milli kitabxana, s.11, Bakı 2016.

The object and subject of research. The object of the research work is the political course implemented in society in this direction, the analysis of the conceptions being formed in the socio-political philosophical ideas at a time when the issues of multiculturalism, tolerance, and national identity are of great importance, in the modern globalized world and Azerbaijan. And the subject of the research work is the international political principles that form the basis of new theories, various models that include modern scientific and philosophical paradigms, as well as the policy of multiculturalism and tolerance successfully implemented by the Republic of Azerbaijan.

The goals and objectives of research. The main purpose of the research is to conduct a mutual analysis of the various models of multiculturalism that exist in the world and our country and a scientific-philosophical analysis of the issues of multiculturalism and national identity in the context of Eastern and Western civilizations. In order to achieve the set goal, implementing the following tasks has been planned:

- To analyze the philosophical bases of multiculturalism as a social phenomenon;
- To explore the issue of national identity from a philosophical aspect;
- To explore multiculturalism and national identity in the context of Eastern culture from a philosophical perspective;
- To conduct a philosophical analysis of multiculturalism and national identity in the context of Western culture;
- To provide a socio-philosophical analysis of national-ethnic relations in the Republic of Azerbaijan and to show their specific features;
- To study the philosophical aspect of the scientific-theoretical basis of the mutual comparison of the ideology of multiculturalism and Azerbaijaniism in Azerbaijan, to determine the dialectical unity of the principles of coexistence of national identity and multicultural values.

The methodology and methods of the research work. In the dissertation work theoretical and empirical methods were used. The

methodological basis of the dissertation work consists of dialectical, logical, social, historical and political analysis methods. In this regard, along with philosophical analysis, philosophical-comparative and analogy methods were used in the research work.

The empirical methodological basis of the research consists of multilateral and bilateral international agreements in the field of foreign political and cultural relations, the humanistic political-philosophical outlook formed in the world and the Republic of Azerbaijan, related to foreign and domestic political activities.

The sources of the research. The publications, official materials, which consist of various speeches and reports on this issue, and as well as modern information resources on this problematics constitute the sources of the investigated problem. These materials create favorable conditions for the philosophical investigation of the ideas of multiculturalism and national identity. The press materials, materials of numerous conferences held, materials of the Baku International Multiculturalism Center, as well as photo and phono documents are of particular importance among the available sources in the objective and more comprehensive study of the problem posed in the dissertation. The materials in the official websites and the interviews, speeches and statements reflecting the ideas of multiculturalism and national identity made by official, state and government heads in the media were also widely used in the dissertation work.

The main provisions of the defense. The main provisions raised in the dissertation work are characterized in the following form:

- The investigation of the philosophical bases of multiculturalism from a scientific point of view;
- Scientific-philosophical analysis of the expansion of multiculturalism among the states and peoples of the modern world;
- Philosophical investigation of the conception of national identity based on multiculturalism;
- Exploring different regional perspectives on the problem of national identity;

- Systematic analysis of the relationships between national identity and multiculturalism in the context of Eastern and Western cultures;
- Research of the Azerbaijani model of multiculturalism;
- Classification of the bases of the philosophy of national identity for the environment of Azerbaijan.

The scientific novelty of the research. The dissertation reflects the socio-philosophical and political analysis of national minorities' taking possession of their own culture and developing it in the polyethnic space, and of multiculturalism and national identity issues, which have become an important indicator of the globalized world and the conceptual philosophical aspects of revealing the possible and new practices of various models of granting all privileges to ethnic groups within the norms of international law, taking into account the territorial integrity and national interests of states. Scientific innovations are reflected in the following provisions:

- The philosophical view to the polyethnic evolution of ethnic groups and national minorities, and its subjective influence at the levels where all forms of multicultural, as well as tolerant traditions, national, racial, ethnic, religious diversity exist, against the background of the globalization process, within the international legal documents, were studied from a philosophical aspect.

- The ideas of multiculturalism and national identity were systematically examined for the first time on the basis of Eastern and Western models in a confronted way.

- The unique features of the Azerbaijani model, the relations of ethnic and national identity in Azerbaijan were analyzed from a philosophical aspect, and the philosophical essence and ideological aspects of national identity were involved in the research.

- The theoretical and practical issues of the mutual comparison of multiculturalism policy and Azerbaijani ideology in Azerbaijan were studied from the scientific and philosophical aspect.

Scientific and practical significance of the research. The research work can be used as a valuable source and material in the scientific-practical activity of appropriately qualified specialists of

various universities. Dissertation work can be used in the teaching process on the fakultative courses at bachelor's and master's levels of universities. Also, the research work is of theoretical and practical importance in terms of its impact on public consciousness in the construction of civil society against the background of intercultural understanding.

The approbation of research. The research work was carried out in the Department of Social sciences of Azerbaijan University and discussed and submitted for defense. The results of the research were reflected in the author's scientific articles published in journals and magazines recommended by the SAC in the Republic of Azerbaijan, in the prestigious journals published in the foreign countries, as well as in his reports and speeches at the scientific conferences.

The structure of dissertation: The dissertation work consists of an introduction (20930 characters), 3 chapters (Chapter I – 59395 characters; Chapter II – 94513 characters; Chapter III – 53131 characters), 6 paragraphs, a conclusion (7272 characters) and a list of the references (16642 characters). The total volume of the dissertation includes 251883 characters. Excluding the list of the references, it consists of 235241 characters.

MAIN CONTENT OF THE DISSERTATION

In the **“Introduction”** part of the dissertation, the relevance of the topic was justified, the degree of elaboration was studied, the object and subject of the research were determined, the goals and tasks were specified, the scientific novelty of the work was indicated, the theoretical and methodological foundations, scientific-theoretical and practical significance were noted, and the structure was reviewed.

The first chapter, entitled **“Philosophical foundations of the conceptions of multiculturalism and national identity”**, consists two paragraphs. In this chapter, multiculturalism was characterized as a state policy, its philosophical foundations, main features and existing different approaches related to this field were analyzed. In the first chapter, the imperative principles of the relations of multiculturalism and national identity were extensively explored. Also, the importance of these principles on a global scale and for the Republic of Azerbaijan was shown.

The first paragraph is called **“Philosophical foundations of the conceptions of multiculturalism”**. In this chapter, mainly, the study and analysis of multiculturalism from the philosophical aspect were carried out. In the first paragraph of the first chapter of the research work, the philosophical-cultural aspects of the issue of multiculturalism, the role of the search and revelation and activation of new development vectors of modern society in the determination of national-cultural, political models that respond to modern interactions were analyzed. In this paragraph, the importance of the relevance of the philosophical discourses of multiculturalism in the contexts of multiculturalism and tolerance in the globalized world was scientifically explained. It was studied that the philosophy of multiculturalism and tolerance includes the principles of cooperation and mutual respect of different peoples in terms of ideas, that it is a rightly chosen direction in politics and a political course that leads the state to development, peaceful prosperity and stability.

Here it is especially emphasized that there have always been different approaches to multiculturalism. As a theoretical-abstract

image of a multicultural society, a number of European states have prepared the conception of socio-cultural security. Creation of great opportunities for national minorities in all spheres should not be at the expense of violating the rights of indigenous peoples. National ideology should always be in the front. Only on the condition of preserving national values and traditional norms, certain rights can be granted to other minorities. The main socio-philosophical conception of multiculturalism is the legality and moral unification of different cultures in a peaceful way. The implementation of the conception of multiculturalism follows a policy of avoiding conflicts for the sake of the interests of individuals and groups.

The second paragraph of the first chapter of the dissertation work is called **“Problems of national identity in modern philosophy”**. In this paragraph, the issue of national identity was analyzed from a scientific-philosophical context. Against the background of the philosophical analysis of the issue of national identity, the influence of the formation of national belonging in a cultured person and the process of globalization on this process was explained in detail. In this paragraph, national identity was evaluated as a type of identity formed by national cultural symbols in the result of the process of historical evolution, nationalness was characterized as a characteristic culture that distinguishes a people, a nation from other societies, and the fact of the emergence of the elements of national identity based on the basic nature of national culture was explained from a scientific-philosophical aspect.¹⁸

The groups with similar features and identification differ from other individuals in terms of language, clothing, cuisine, and traditions. The distinction between what is “our” and what is “not ours” is the main indicator of the issue of national identity. The fact that people are of the same origin is not the main feature in this matter, and what is important is that they feel themselves belonging to any culture.

One of the main features of the philosophy of multiculturalism and national identity is that in this context, the category of culture

¹⁸ Kula, M. Naci. Kimlik və Din. /İstanbul: Ayıışığı Yayınları, 2001., Smith, A.D. Milli Kimlik / Çev. Bahadır Sina Şener. İstanbul: İletişim Yayınları, 2014.

becomes more prominent and becomes the main manifestation of nationalness. The return to national culture is an indicator of the development of every nation in a good sense. Cultural development is a factor that connects each nation to its past and present, and creates a foundation for understanding the surrounding cultural diversity. When a developed society meets the principles of humanism at the same time, rightly, the principle of multiculturalism is positively welcomed by individuals of that society or the general society.

Prominent Russian sociologist Y.G.Volkov has analyzed the relations of national identity in the social context and come to the conclusion that while each individual defines his individual identity by belonging to any culture, identity in collective form is formed in the context of interaction between state and personality, and society and personality. Individual and collective identity should be developed on the basis of traditions.¹⁹

The formation of the relations of national identity is the result of the interaction of social-personal processes. In this sense, personal activity, as well as the influence of society, are very important in this respect. The issue of social affiliation of people is the research object of modern philosophy as well as psychology. In this paragraph, national identity was characterized as a form of social identity, national identity in the philosophical-social context was investigated as an anthropological phenomenon, and as a result of the metaphysical or phenomenological study of the issue, the human factor was highlighted. The issue of identity was interpreted as the dependence of human existence on the historical, religious, language, and national foundations of human groups, as well as on the geographical environment in which they are located, and the solution of the issue was analyzed anthropologically. In the second paragraph, the researches of foreign and Azerbaijani authors on the issue of national identity were reviewed and comparative analyzes were conducted.

¹⁹ Волков Ю.Г. Идеология гуманизма в становлении российской идентичности//Ростов-на-Дону: Социально-гуманитарные знание,-2006. № 2,- с.7

The second chapter of the dissertation is called **“Multiculturalism and national identity in the context of East-West cultures”**. In this chapter, the cultural and political processes that took place in the globalized world were studied from a scientific-philosophical aspect, and the relevance of cultural understanding and cultural pluralism was brought to the attention in a time when the process of exchange of cultures is taking place in the modern world. In the second chapter of the research work, the views of philosophers and sociologists who studied the influence of Eastern culture on Western culture or vice versa in the context of intercivilizational dialogue were reviewed in detail.

In the first paragraph of the second chapter called **“Eastern Culture: Multiculturalism and National Identity”**, the fact that the religious-philosophical teaching of Zoroastrianism, which has a special place in the Eastern worldview, is an example of multicultural values, as well as the formation of Muslim culture along with the spread of Islam in the Middle Ages, the rational character of the Holy Quran, the holy book of Islam were substantiated. As we know, since the 8th century, the Muslim world has become the center of world science, and for that reason along with humanitarian sciences, exact and natural sciences have also developed.

In the first paragraph of the second chapter of the research work, the fundamental importance of the principles of secularism, universality and encyclopedism in Muslim-Oriental science was kept in the centre of attention. In this paragraph, it was brought into consideration that the Muslim-Oriental science, which was formed in the context of universal ideas has been developed against the background of the synthesis of different polar cultures and the prominent scientists, such as Ibn-Sina, Abu Reyhan Biruni, Al-Farabi, Nasiraddin Tusi, Al-Ghazali, Bahmanyar have made significant contributions not only to the Eastern science, but also to the world science and philosophical thought, and enriched it.

In the first paragraph, a rationalist analysis of the Holy Quran was carried out, the limited development of theology in the Muslim world and, on the contrary, the fact that the Islamic philosophy based

on tolerant principles was formed by developing the scientific and philosophical ideas that belong to different civilizations, was significantly determined.

In this paragraph, the scientific-philosophical analysis of the phenomena of multiculturalism and national identity in the context of Eastern culture was studied with reference to the valuable ideas of a number of Eastern and Western philosophers in this field.²⁰

The second paragraph called **“Multiculturalism and national identity in Western philosophy”** was devoted to the history of the development of the problem of multiculturalism and identity with reference to Western culture in general. In this paragraph, the issue was approached in the Western context, the importance of mutual recognition, mutual understanding, interreligious and intercultural rapprochement, and in modern societies, choosing multiculturalism and tolerance as a priority of the policies of the leading states was analyzed in detail.

The conception of multicultural society has always been a relevant topic in the history of Western socio-philosophical thought. In this regard, Western philosophers have defended the idea of a modern society in which the rule of law, citizen-state solidarity, which is the bearer of the rights and duties of individuals, and cultural consensus dominate.

The philosophers of the new era have had a worldview that defends the ideas of a free person and a free society. In the second paragraph, since 18th century the idea of the necessity and importance of multiculturalism has been substantiated by the ideologists, such as Vico, Montesquieu, Herder and Montaigne. In this subchapter, Montesquieu’s work entitled “Persian Letters” was investigated as a classic source of multiculturalism, and his work entitled “The Spirit of Laws” was interpreted in detail from a sociological and political point of view as an example of cultural

²⁰Малахов В. Культурный плюрализм versus мультикультурализм. Этничность и культура. Москва: Дом интеллектуальной книги, 2001, Москва: Логос №5-6, 159-166., Некрасов С.Н., Некрасова Н.А., Платошина В.В. Американский мультикультурализм. Москва: 2011., Рахманалиев Р. Мусулманский ренессанс и тюрки. М: 2009.

diversity. In the second paragraph, the fact that Herder emphasized language in classical multiculturalism, as well as the philosophical idea that “every nation speaks as it thinks, thinks as it speaks” were substantiated by the author with scientific evidence.

In the second paragraph of the second chapter of the dissertation, the necessity of intercivilizational dialogue in preventing the listed negative situations in the modern world, where conflicts, political tension, Islamophobia, racism, environmental problems, criminal elements and global epidemics are increasing, was shown on the philosophical grounds, the characteristic features of the relations of multiculturalism and national identity studied in the context of Western culture were substantiated by referring to the arguments of a number of European and American philosophers.

The third chapter of the research work is called “**Philosophical view of the relations of multiculturalism and national identity in the context of Azerbaijani culture**”. In this chapter, a philosophical analysis of the relations of multiculturalism and national identity in Azerbaijan was carried out. National identity is a matter of exceptional importance, and the socio-philosophical analysis of this problem was approached from the perspective of the socio-political and philosophical outlook of Azerbaijan. In the third chapter, the fact that national character and national ideology are the main features reflected in national philosophy was shown, and the views of enlightened philosophers of Azerbaijan about the relations of national identity at the end of the 19th century and the beginning of the 20th century were studied.

In this chapter, it was brought into consideration that the policy of multiculturalism carried out by the country’s leadership has a serious impact on the increase of Azerbaijan’s geopolitical influence in the region, and on ensuring regional stability and security in the South Caucasus and the Caspian basin.

The first paragraph of the third chapter of the dissertation work is called “**Philosophical analysis of the relations of ethnic and national identity in Azerbaijan**”. In this paragraph, the important attributes that keep alive the national-moral values of each nation and determine its national identity, especially the fact of language, which

proves the existence of the nation, were analyzed in detail, and the idea that the nation that owns its national identity deserves to exist was logically substantiated. As a bright manifestation of the state's concern for the development of our language, special attention was paid to the decrees and orders issued by the national leader Heydar Aliyev and his worthy successor, the President of the Republic of Azerbaijan İlham Aliyev, and the purposeful policy of the state in this field was studied on the basis of the documents.

The problem of national identity is one of the important issues that constantly make Azerbaijani philosophy think. The problem of national identity, which has been raised as a serious issue in philosophy mainly since the 20th century, includes the ethnic-cultural affiliation and national self-awareness of each member of society. Identity, as a philosophical concept, is a means of giving importance to one's ancestry and national values, self-expression of one's self and personality. A person's belonging to any culture, his socialization appropriate to that environment and his choice of religion, the unique characteristics acquired by the individual in his formation as personality constitute the stages of the process of national identity.

In the first paragraph of the third chapter, the analysis of the philosophical foundations of national self-awareness and the ideology of Azerbaijanism was carried out with reference to the researches of prominent philosophers. In this paragraph of the research work, it was explained from a philosophical aspect that the multiculturalism policy carried out by the state of Azerbaijan in the protection of our national and moral values, the formation of an environment of tolerance in the country, the fight against religious radicalism, the protection from the bad consequences of national discrimination, and the regulation of state-religion relations, has turned our republic into one of the most stable regions in the world.²¹

National self-awareness is such a national-psychological process, thanks to which an intelligent person approaches the world, and the world approaches a person, worldization of the person and humanization of the world take place. Self-awareness creates socio-

²¹ Tağıyev Ə.M. Milli kimlik və multikultural proseslər. Bakı: Gənclik, 2017.

psychological conditions for the elimination of all kinds of conflicts between a person and the world, as well as misunderstandings related its resolution. The most important thing is that in the process of self-awareness, a person acquires knowledge about himself, and gaining knowledge that he does not know about himself ennobles a person's feelings and emotions, opens up ways which bring a new quality for enrichment of his thinking and to the content of his mentality. This process makes the experience of a person's attitude towards his environment and himself wise, and refines his spirituality and mentality. And this purifies the society that consists of thinking individuals as a whole.²²

By showing tolerance to different cultures, the Azerbaijani society proves that it supports the successful state policy aimed at the protection of ethnic-cultural diversity. In addition to accepting the national spirit as its basic principles, the multicultural environment formed in Azerbaijan for the free living and activity of the representatives of other nationalities, religions and cultures has turned our country into an invaluable space for the dialogue of cultures on an international scale as a multi-ethnic, multi-confessional state. Ethnic-religious tolerance is the logical result of the correct national policy in the republic. As a result of the policy of multiculturalism based on the principles of historicity, the cultures of the representatives of different nationalities living in the country are respected and the model of positive secularism against all religious beliefs is applied.

The second paragraph of the third chapter is called “**Scientific-philosophical bases of the mutual comparison of the ideology of multiculturalism and Azerbaijanism in Azerbaijan**”. In this paragraph, a philosophical analysis of confessional differences and Islamic ideas in Azerbaijan was conducted, as a proof of tolerance in Islam, the free development of different religions in the region was studied on the basis of facts, and the analysis of multiculturalism, manifested as a new form of socio-cultural behavior in the world and

²² Əliyev Q.C. Heydər Əliyev və milli mentalitet fəlsəfəsi. Bakı. Qismət, 2003. s.76.

in our country from the philosophical context was investigated from the point of view of confessional difference.

Ideology fulfills certain social functions and prepares the types of thinking and behavior, or the program of social action, that correspond to the interests of social groups and social-political trends. The basis of the ideological construction of independent Azerbaijan is the ideology of “Azerbaijanism”, which has a universal essence. The conception of Azerbaijanism is an ideological-philosophical teaching that preserves self-affirmation and the identity of the national self in the system of modern civilizations of Azerbaijan.

The important principles of our independent statehood in all areas are reflected in our national ideology. Unequivocally, our society has closely united around the ideology of Azerbaijanism. The nationalistic ideology serves to be inculcated the qualities such as national self-awareness, national pride, national bigotry, and love for their own nation in the people. State-society dualism is an important element that characterizes national statehood. The national statehood of Azerbaijan proves that it is loyal to the principles of Azerbaijani ideology by providing legal, religious and cultural freedom for every member of the society. This national ideology reflects the basic principles of the establishment of a democratic civil society in Azerbaijan.

The ideology of Azerbaijanism is a platform of national unity of Azerbaijanis living all over the world. The ideology of Azerbaijanism, authored by National Leader Heydar Aliyev, has become the leading political doctrine of state-building, by having socio-political significance. Although the idea of Azerbaijanism is based on the national-cultural institutions, it is completely far from nationalism.

In this paragraph, the activities of Mehriban Aliyeva, the First Vice-President of the Republic of Azerbaijan, President of the Heydar Aliyev Foundation, in the formation of the multicultural environment in Azerbaijan and its preservation were discussed, and the cooperation of our country with international organizations was also included in the research. In the analysis of the multicultural and

philosophical foundations of the confessional difference, the scientific researches of the modern philosophers were used.

Within the framework of the construction works carried out in Karabakh and the surrounding areas, which were liberated from the occupation thanks to the political determination of the President of the Republic of Azerbaijan, Commander-in-Chief Ilham Aliyev and the heroism of our victorious army, the restoration of the ancient churches along with the existing historical monuments and mosques in the region proves once again that Azerbaijan is a tolerant country. It is for this reason that the interest in the study of the objective and subjective reasons of the Azerbaijani model of multiculturalism is increasing day by day.

In the “**Conclusion**” part of the dissertation, the research work was concluded, the conclusions were drawn and the generalizations were made, the theoretical and practical proposals and recommendations were briefly expressed.

It was shown that the philosophical analysis of the relations of multiculturalism and national identity allows understanding the significance and role of the issues raised in the context of the process of globalization. At the modern stage, the value parameters of the relations of multiculturalism and national identity are of greater importance. While multiculturalism is a philosophical doctrine in the form of theory, it moves to the political platform by applying it in practice. Based on this unity, multiculturalism is an irreplaceable choice in the direction of establishing peace in the world and forming a tolerant attitude towards different cultures. The current situation in the world reveals the need for a broader and deeper study of multiculturalism and, along with it, the relations of national identity. Demonstrating tolerance for cultural identity and cultural diversity is an important factor in solving the conflicts that may occur on the national basis in the society as a result of globalization from a humane standpoint.

The final conclusion about the dissertation work is that multiculturalism, tolerance, dialogue of cultures serve the interests of peoples and confessions living in the same area. In this sense, the

Azerbaijani model of multiculturalism is the most perfect model accepted in the world.

The main content and theses of the dissertation are reflected in the following scientific works published by the author on the research topic:

1. Философские концепции мультикультурализма и идентичности. Экономика и социум. Институт управления и социально экономического развития // Эл. Научно-практическое периодическое издание. <http://www.iupr.ru>, - июнь, - №3(16) часть I, - Саратов: - 2015, - с. 424-428, - ISSN 2225-1545.
2. Heydər Əliyev və mədəniyyət fəlsəfəsi // Bakı Avrasiya Universiteti, - "Sivilizasiya", - Elmi-nəzəri jurnal, - №5, - Bakı: - 2015, - s.33-38.
3. Социально-экономические аспекты мультикультурализма в Европе // Актуальные вопросы общественных наук: социология, политология, философия, история. - LXII-LXIII международная научно-практическая конференция. - Сборник статей по материалам конференции. - № 6-7(57), - Новосибирск: - 2016, - с.75-81, - Сибак. РИНЦ. ISSN 2309-3382.
4. Философские концепции мультикультурализма в Европейском контексте // Проблемы и перспективы современной науки. - VIII международная научно-практическая конференция. - Сборник статей, - Центр научного сотрудничества Международные научные исследования - Москва: - 2016, - часть 2, - №8, - с.37-41, ISSN 4684-1407(ISI).
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7. Философские особенности Азербайджанского мультикультурализма // Актуальные вопросы общественных наук: социоло-

- гия, политология, философия, история. - Сибак. - Новосибирск: - 2017, - № 5-6 (64), - с.53-59, - ISSN 2309-3382
8. Мультикультурализм и толерантность как глобальный диалог в современном мире // Universium (общественные науки), научный журнал, - Москва 2017. - №7(37), - с.12-15, - ISSN (печатной версии) 2500-1264, (эл.версии) 2311-5327.
9. Heydər Əliyev və milli özünüdərk fəlsəfəsi // AU. Milli-mənəvi dəyərlərin qorunması Heydər Əliyevin amalı idi. V Beynəlxalq konfransın materialları, - Şamaxı: - 2017, - 23 iyun, - s.403-407.
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13. Multikulturalizm tolerantlığın təcəssümü kimi // Azərbaycan Milli Elmlər Akademiyası Fəlsəfə İnstitutu, - Elmi Əsərlər məcmuəsi, - Bakı: 2018, - №2 (31), -s.235-241, - ISSN 2219-9810.
14. Heydər Əliyev və azərbaycançılıq ideologiyasının inkişafı // SDU. Heydər Əliyev Azərbaycan dövlətçiliyinin memarıdır. Azərbaycan xalqının Ümummilli lideri Heydər Əliyevin anadan olmasının 95-ci ildönümünə həsr olunmuş Respublika elmi konfransının materialları. – Sumqayıt: - 2018, - 04 iyun, - s.98-101.
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18. The paradigm of multiculturalism is the basic philosophical concept of socio-cultural development of modern society // National Pedagogical Dragomanov, Academy of Sciences of Ukraine Publishing House Hiley, - Hiley scientific bulletin, Kyiv: - 2020, Volume 152(№1), - c.109-116, İSSN 2076-1554.
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22. Multikulturalizm mədəni dialoq konsepti kimi // Geostrategiya, - Bakı: -2022, - №03(69), - s.193-197, İSSN:2664-4975.
23. Multikulturalizm siyasətinin və azərbaycançılıq məfkurəsinin ideya-nəzəri prinsiplərinin vəhdəti // Tarix və onun problemləri, - Bakı: - 2022, - №2, - s.138-141, İSSN 2708-0641 (PRİT) 2708-065x(online).
24. Multikulturalizm müasir cəmiyyətin ictimai-siyasi inkişafının əsas fəlsəfi konsepsiyası kimi // Metafizika, - Bakı: - 2022, - №4, - serial №20, - s.77-87, p-İSSN 2616-6879, e-İSSN 2617-751X.

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The dissertation is accessible in the Central Scientific Library of
Azerbaijan National Academy of Sciences.

Electronic versions of the dissertation and abstract are available
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