

REPUBLIC OF AZERBAIJAN

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ABSTRACT

of the dissertation for the degree of Doctor of Philosophy

**NATIONAL PRESS AND JOURNALISTIC SKILL ISSUES IN
THE NEWSPAPER "ACHIG SOZ"**

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GENERAL CHARACTERISTICS OF THE DISSERTATION

Actuality and development degree of the subject.The press has always been one of the most powerful means of our National Revival in different and contradictory times of our history of public opinion. It was considered the most basic mass media that educated the broad masses, gathered them around its progressive ideas, and formed public opinion in them. Also the newspaper "Achig soz" (1915-1918) is no exception in this regard. This newspaper is one of the most reliable and valuable media outlets not only in our press history, but also in the history of socio-political, scientific-theoretical and literary-cultural thought. "Achig Soz" is also one of the rare newspapers in our press history that has risen to national newspaper level. According to Professor Sh. Huseynov, a prominent researcher in the history of the Azerbaijani press, *"Each issue of the "Achig Soz", which has been kept out of sight and research in iron safes for many years and can only be accessed with special permission, is a collective memory of our history, a living, thoughtful and a chronicle that accurately and fully reflects the realities of life"*.¹

The newspaper "Achig soz" published during the First World War, has great importance in terms of studying the main socio-political, economic, literary and cultural processes of the time. The newspaper attracts attention both with its variety of topics, and ideological direction, as well as diversity of form and content. One of the important factors that increase the prestige of the newspaper is the formation of the scientific-theoretical and ideological foundations of the Azerbaijan Democratic Republic, almost in the pages of the "AchigSoz". In his decree "On the 100th anniversary of the Azerbaijan Democratic Republic" signed on May 16, 2017, President of the Republic of Azerbaijan Ilham Aliyev spoke highly of the factors that led to the establishment of the Azerbaijan Democratic

¹Huseynov, Sh. In search of national truth and justice (1988-2000) / Sh. Huseynov. –Baku: Adiloghlu, - 2004. - p. 193.

Republic, the socio-political situation of the time and so on, praises the work done by the Republican government in a short time: "... The territorial integrity and national security of the country were ensured, high-capacity military units were created in a short period of time, state bodies were established in accordance with national requirements and democratic principles, special attention was paid to the development of education and culture, "... *The territorial integrity and national security of the country were ensured, military units high combat capability were created in a short period of time, state bodies were established in accordance with national requirements and democratic principles, special attention was paid to the development of education and culture, the first university of Azerbaijan was established, education was nationalized, and in the following years, exceptionally important work was done in terms of the history of public opinion, which laid the foundation for the cultural development of the people*"².

The newspaper "Achig soz" could differ from the other newspapers of its time with its editorial staff. The main authors of the newspaper - M Rasulzada, O.F. Nemanzada, Y.V. Chamanzaminli, M.B. Mahammadzada, H. Mirzajamalov, Kh. Ibrahim and others tried to introduce the ancestry and national identity to the people, develop its national culture, literature and language through their creativity, publicistic works. The publicists of "Achig soz", who chose the idea of "Turkification, Islamization and modernization" as their slogan, remained faithful to these ideas throughout their activities, developed these slogans a little and managed to raise them to the level of national-cultural and national-local autonomy and finally national independence. The ideology of "Turkification, Islamization and modernization", which forms the basis of the newspaper's activity, is also an integral part of the ideas of Azerbaijanism. These and historical facts which are valuable for our modern public opinion, make the study of "Achig soz" more actual.

²<https://president.az/articles/23701>

So far, separate articles³ have been written on the history of the publication of the “Achig soz” and its role in the history of our press, and although some research works⁴ has touched on this topic to some extent, it has not been studied as a specific research object. Books on the history of Azerbaijani literature⁵ and press⁶, both in Soviet and

³Aghayev, I. Problems of literature, press and journalism / I.Aghayev. - Baku: Science, - 2008; Ashirli, A. Restoration and last issues of “Achig soz” // Sharg. - 2016, July 26; Ashirli, A. Regional correspondents of "Achig soz" // Sharg. - January 7, 2016; Bayramoghlu, A. Our national-political independence and public-artistic thought // - Baku: Ganjlik, - 1991. № 9-12, - p.18-20; Dunyamingizi, G. Re-evaluation of the press of the People's Republic // National journalism in the period of the Popular Front: history, tradition, modernity (materials of scientific-practical conferences dedicated to the 85th anniversary of H.Aliyev and the 90th anniversary of the Popular Front), - Baku: Baku University Publishing House, - 2008, - pp.72–76; Hüseynov, Ş. Press of the Azerbaijan Democratic Republic period // National journalism in the AXC period: history, tradition, modernity (materials of scientific-practical conferences dedicated to the 85th and 90th anniversaries of H.Aliyev and the AXC), - Baku: Baku University Publishing House, - 2008, - p .7–11; Mehdiyev, M.A. Stages of development of the history of the Azerbaijani press and modern journalism // Actual problems of the Azerbaijani media system (Materials of the scientific-practical conference dedicated to the 80th anniversary of Professor Sh. Huseynov), - Baku: Baku University Publishing House, - 2005, p.10-, S.Kh. The issue of freedom in the Azerbaijani press during the First World War // - Baku: Philological issues, - 2011. №8, - p. 236-243; Mirzayev, S.Kh. Cultural issues in the Azerbaijani press (1914-1917) // - Baku: Language and literature, International scientific-theoretical journal, - 2011. №3, - p. 335-337.

⁴Aghayev M. National issue in the public opinion of Azerbaijan. - Baku: Nurlan, - 2007; Valiyev, Sh. Researches from the Azerbaijan literature and press (1985-2000) / Sh.Valiyev. - Baku: Science and education, - 2011; Bagirova, I.S. Political parties and organizations of Azerbaijan in the beginning of the XX century (1900-1917) / I.S.Bagirova. - Baku, - 1997; Balaev A. Azerbaijan national movement in 1917-1918. / A.Balaev. - Baku: Science, - 1998.

⁵Ahmadov B. History of XX century Azerbaijan literature: [in 3 volumes] / B.Ahmadov. - Baku: Science and education, - c. 2. - 2010; Garayev Y. Azerbaijan literature: XIX and XX centuries / Y.Garayev. - Baku: Elm, - 2002; Mirahmadov, A. Researches on Azerbaijan literature (XIX-XX centuries) / A.Mirahmadov. - Baku: Maarif, - 1983; Pashayev M.C. Literary schools in Azerbaijan (1905-1917) / M.C. Pashayev. - Baku: Ziya-Nurlan, - 2004.

⁶Shahverdiyev, A.B. History of Azerbaijan press / A.B.Shahverdiyev. - Baku: “Education” publishing house, 2006.

modern times, either did not mention the newspaper or provided superficial information. It is important to note two points in the fact that this topic has not been thoroughly studied so far. In this regard, the ideological and political prohibitions of the Soviet era come first. Thus, in Soviet-era studies, bibliographies, reference books, textbooks and encyclopaedias⁷, the newspaper was considered an anti-national media outlet, and its authors were banned from inheriting because they did not conform to political and ideological views. For this reason, media researchers have avoided thorough research on the "Achig Soz", or have always called it the main media outlet that propagates reactionary, bourgeois nationalist ideas, opposes proletarian internationalism and the socialist revolution, and distracts the masses from revolutionary ideas.

For the first time, M.B. Mahammadzada had given information about the newspaper in the book "Azerbaijan Turkish Press". This is a source based on primary and objective considerations about the newspaper. And during the Soviet era, bias and non-objectivity against the newspaper manifested itself clearly. "Achig Soz" is characterized as the central body of the Musavat party, informed its activity periods, including September issue in M.D. Huseynov's book "Musavat party in the past and now".⁸ Although the criticism of the Musavat party and its leader M.A. Rasulzada is widely covered on the basis of the newspaper's materials, the work can be distinguished among Soviet-era researches by its relative objectivity. Then, non-objective opinions were again covered about the newspaper in the "Press" section of the second volume of the "History of Azerbaijani

⁷Akhundov N. Periodicals in Azerbaijan / N.Akhundov. - Baku: Publishing House of the Academy of Sciences of the Azerbaijan SSR, - 1965; Azerbaijani periodicals 1832-1920. Bibliography. - Baku, - 1987; Azerbaijan Soviet Encyclopedia: [in 10 volumes]. - Baku: ASE General Editorial Office, - c. 1. - 1976.

⁸Huseynov, M.D. Musavat party in the past and now / M.D.Huseynov. - Baku: Azarnashr, - 1929.

⁹Anthology of Azerbaijan press history: [in 2 volumes]. - Baku: Science and education, - c. 2. - 2011. - p. 103.

Literature". And here, *"Hostility to the revolutionary movement, the propagation of religious ideas, nationalism and racism, deviate from realism in literature, defense of decadentism"*⁹ were characterized as the main "activity" direction of "Achig soz". After the restoration of independence in 1991, the attitude to the newspaper changed, and it became necessary to give the value it deserved. And during this period, the difficulties caused by the old Azerbaijani-Arabic alphabet can be mentioned as one of the main obstacles to the study of the newspaper. However, some books and monographs, scientific and publicistic articles about the newspaper have been mentioned to some extent. Sh. Huseynov spoke about the newspaper in his books "In search of national truth and justice", "Difficult way of independence ... Realities, thoughts", "Pages from our press heritage" and etc. These books contain transliterated articles by various authors of "Achig Soz" at different times. Sh. Huseynov also transliterated all articles of M.A. Rasulzada in "Achig soz" and published them in three volumes of his works. Sh. Valiyev characterized "Achig soz" as a fuyuzat media outlet, especially emphasized the role of the newspaper in the development of our national press and literature in his book "Fuyuzat" literary school"¹⁰. In addition, A. Rustamli spoke about the newspaper in the book "Our Literary Independence", and G. Dunyamingizi in the book "Azerbaijani Press during the Republic". Also, A. Bayramoglu, A. Ashirli and other authors carried out some research work on the activity of the newspaper "Achig soz". However, no independent research has been carried out about the newspaper. Therefore, it is extremely important to study the publication date of the newspaper and its role in our press history.

Object and subject of the research. The main research object of the dissertation is publicistic articles, review articles, literary-publicistic and press researches etc. published in the newspaper "Achig soz" in 1915-1918. The subject of the research is the press

¹⁰Valiyev, Sh. Fuyuzat Literary School. (reprint) / Sh. Valiyev. - Baku: Science and education, - 2009.

researches and the problem of journalistic skills in the newspaper "Achig soz".

In addition to the materials published in the newspaper "Achig soz", the main source in the preparation of the scientific work was also from the scientific works of various Azerbaijani researchers on the newspaper and subject.

Purposes and responsibilities of the research. Along with "Igbal", "New Igbal", "Basirat", "Sovgat" and other media outlets that have not been thoroughly studied in the history of Azerbaijani journalism, the newspaper "Achig soz" can also be mentioned. However, this newspaper is one of the main sources to be studied, both through the prism of review of problems and the diversity of writer-journalist articles. Study of the mentioned newspaper should be valued as a serious purpose. In order to achieve this goal, it is envisaged to implement the following responsibilities:

- To study the publication date of the newspaper "Achig soz";
- To determine the main directions of the activity of the newspaper "Achig soz";
- To study the activities of the leading authors of the newspaper "Achig soz";
- To clarify the attitude of "Achig soz" to the formation and development issues of Azerbaijani press;
- To study the opinions of the newspaper "Achig soz" about famous journalists and publicists of Azerbaijan;
- To pay attention to the attitude of "Achig soz" for the modern media outlets;
- To study the principles of journalism as one of the subjects of analysis of the newspaper "Achig soz";
- To determine the position of the newspaper "Achig soz" on the public role and responsibilities of the press;
- To evaluate freedom of speech and press in the newspaper as an important factor of journalistic skill.

Research methods. Historical-comparative method, analytical analysis and individual approach are used in the dissertation. It was referred to the scientific-theoretical principles and analysis methods

devoted to the study of the history of press and journalism. Scientific and publicistic articles published in Azerbaijan related to "Achig soz" and opinions of individual researchers have been used as the occasion arises. In addition, mainly archival materials and a set of "Achig Soz" newspaper were taken as a source for research.

The main provisions of the defense. The following provisions are defended in the dissertation:

- Publication date of the newspaper "Achig soz": to eliminate the mistakes made in the scientific literature up to date about the editors and publishers, the total number of issues;

- To prove the incorrectness of the opinion with factual materials that "Achig soz" newspaper is shown as the body of Musavat party in most sources and scientific literature, to show that "Achig soz" is in fact a national newspaper by giving space to creative people with different opinions;

- To mention the special role of the newspaper "Achig soz" in the development of the national press by supporting newspapers and journals published in its time, by publishing information about journalists and publicists;

- To show that the scientific-theoretical concept of the Azerbaijan Democratic Republic was formed in the pages of the newspaper "Achig soz";

- To submit the loyalty for the principles of journalism, freedom of speech and press, opinion pluralism with factual materials during the activity of the newspaper "Achid soz" .

The dissertation examines literary, critical and scientific-theoretical articles published in the "Achig soz" newspaper, opinions on journalistic professionalism, protection of journalism as "IV" type of government, its impact on public opinion, participation in building an informed civil society. Articles about our national press and individual journalists were researched in the pages of the newspaper, the position of the newspaper in this field was analyzed on the basis of factual materials. The dissertation focuses on the analysis of analytical articles on the history of the national press on a modern methodological basis and the activities of various media outlets, as

well as the study of portrait essays on the lives and personalities of press agents.

The research was conducted with reference to materials banned for various ideological reasons in the period before the restoration of our independence, including samples published in the pages of the newspaper. Many of the materials were included in the study for the first time. This, in turn, is one of the aspects that ensures the objectivity of the dissertation, its removal from any ideological barrier, as well as its scientific novelty.

Theoretical and practical significance of the research. The dissertation not only substantiates the scientific, social, political, economic, literary and cultural directions of the "Achig soz" newspaper with journalistic materials, but also helps to highlight the scale of development of the literary and artistic process. It is also important to highlight the ideas of Turkism, Azerbaijanism, national freedom and others in the dissertation, which reflects the enrichment of the publication of the "Achig soz" newspaper, which is an important stage in the history of our national press, with the principles of scientific and theoretical analysis. The research summarizes the scientific and theoretical views on the place and role of the "Achig Soz" newspaper in the history of our press, the author's staff, ideological and creative policy, and so on. The material and scientific results of the dissertation can be used in research on the development of the history of our national press and public opinion, in future textbooks and teaching aids for students of journalism faculties operating in universities. This dissertation can be a useful source for both researchers studying the history of the Azerbaijani press and other humanitarian activities.

Approbation and application. The content of the study is reflected in articles and abstracts published in the scientific journals and collection of articles of Azerbaijan and different foreign countries. The results of the investigation can also be used as an additional tool in higher education institutions.

Name of the organization where the dissertation is carried out. The dissertation work was performed at the Department of History of the National Press of Baku State University.

The theme of the dissertation was confirmed at the meeting of the Scientific Council of Baku State University on the 1th of May in 2014 (protocol №5). The theme was confirmed at the Scientific Research Coordination Council of the Republic of Azerbaijan on the 11th of June in 2015 (protocol №5).

Structure of the dissertation. The dissertation consists of introduction (14638 signs), Part I (87624 signs), Part II (77459 signs), Part III (68808 signs), conclusion (5919 signs) and the total volume in 255701 signs.

SUMMARY OF THE DISSERTATION

In the **Introductory** part of the dissertation the topicality of the theme, the development degree are substantiated, the object and subject, goals and objectives of the research, research methods, defense provisions are determined, the information about the scientific novelty, theoretical and practical significance of the research, approbation and application, name of organization where dissertation is carried out, the separate volume of the structural units of the dissertation and the total volume with a sign, is provided. The first chapter of the dissertation entitled "**History and activity of the newspaper " Achig soz "**" and consists of three sections, studies the main directions of the publication and activity of the newspaper.

The first sub-chapter, entitled "Publication and stages of development of the newspaper", shows that "Achig soz" was a daily "political, social and literary Turkish newspaper", which differed from its predecessors in a number of features. Until then, the word "political" had never been used in any media outlet in Azerbaijan. The formula of "Turkification, Islamization and modernization" was the basis of the path taken by "Achig soz". Protesting against the call of our people by pseudonyms, the newspaper undertook to return its real name - "Turk", addressed the nation - "You are Turkish!", and the Russian tyranny - "We are Turks!"

The names of M.A. Rasulzada, M.A. Abdulazizoghlu, Kh. Ibrahim, Orujov brothers and U. Hajibeyli as editors of the

newspaper, mentioned in a number of publications, including N. Akhundov's bibliography "Periodicals in Azerbaijan", in the books of A.Ashirli's "History of the Azerbaijani press", G.Dunyamingizi's "Azerbaijani press in the period of the Republic", Z.Karimov "Socio-political situation in Northern Azerbaijan in the press in the beginning of the XX century"¹¹. However, M.A.Rasulzada did not participate only in the September-October 1918 issues of "Achig Soz". Because he was not in Baku at that time. The mentioned issues of the newspaper were published by the editorial staff. Press researcher A.Rustamli notes that M.B.Mahammadzada played a great role in the restoration of the newspaper's publication.¹²

As for the publishers of the newspaper "Achig soz" , we must first mention the name of M.A. Abdulazizoghlu (Rasulzada).He had executed this position by August, 1917.Issues from August 1 to January 3, 1918 were published by the joint publishing of M.A. Rasulzada and Orujov brothers (Oruj, Abuzar, Ganbar - R.M.). The publisher of the issues of January-March, 1918 was M.A. Rasulzada, and the publisher of September-October issues was again M.A. Abdulazizoghlu.

As for the printing houses where "Achig soz" was published, 422 issues of the newspaper were published in "Igdam" printing house, from 423 to 704 copies of the newspaper were published in "Achig soz" electric typography formed on the basis of H.Z.Taghiyev's "Kaspi" printing house, and the 8th issue covering September-October 1918 was published in "Novruz" printing house. Both within the Soviet era and in modern research and bibliographic indexes, the total number of the newspaper is shown as 704, 720,

¹¹See: Akhundov, N. Periodicals in Azerbaijan / N.Akhundov. - Baku: Publishing House of the Academy of Sciences of the Azerbaijan SSR, - 1965. - p. 34; Ashirli, A.A. (Valiyev). History of the Azerbaijani press (1875-1920) / A.A.Ashirli. - Baku: Science and education, - 2009. - p. 114; Dunyamingizi, G. The Azerbaijani press during the Republican period (1918-1920) / G. Dunyamingizi. - Baku: Science, - 2011. - p. 176; Karimov, Z. Socio-political situation in Northern Azerbaijan in the early twentieth century in the press / Z.Karimov. - Baku: Turkhan NPB, - 2017. - p. 30.

¹² Rustamli, A. Our literary independence. / A.Rustamli. - Baku:Science, -2004

724, 725 and 750 in different sources. 704 issues were published before the March 1918 massacre. And the issues published in September start at 717 and last until 724. It is possible to have two versions here. Either the newspaper was secretly published from the issue 704 to 717, simply those issues have not been found yet, or the exact number of the last issue was not remembered when the publication of the newspaper was restored. Therefore, the continuation of the newspaper began from 717, and the 724th issue of the newspaper was the last issue. Another misconception about the newspaper is that it is described as the official body of the Musavat party in a number of sources.¹³ It is true that "Achig soz" is known as the main carrier of Musavat's ideas. Undoubtedly, M.A. Rasulzade factor also plays an important role here. However, the newspaper has never acted as an official party body, it has rightly fulfilled the national and independent newspaper function to the end. "Achig soz" which the spreading geography was wide, covering all regions of Azerbaijan, Central Asia, Volga region, Derbent, Borchali, South Azerbaijan, Yerevan and its sides, Turkey etc. was published with these headings during the 4 years of its existence: "Nations war", "Last telegraphs", "Around peace", "Baku news", "Internal news" (since 1917 - "Ahvali-dakhiliyya" - R.M.), "State Duma", "Iran affairs", "Food affairs", "Turkestan news", "Musavat", "Our press", "City duma", "Open columns" etc. These were regular headings, and at different times, depending on the importance of socio-political events, were sometimes taken from the pages of newspapers.

The second subchapter of the first chapter is called "**The main directions of the newspaper's activity**". It is possible to distinguish 3 periods during the activity of the newspaper "Achig soz": 1. The period of despotism (1915 - February 1917); 2. The post-revolutionary period (February 1917 - March 1918); 3. Period of the Azerbaijan Democratic Republic (September-October - 1918).

Each of these time intervals has its own characteristic features. During the despotic period, the newspaper "Achig soz"

¹³Azizov, T. Azerbaijan in the beginning of the XX century / T. Azizov. - Baku: "Zaman", - 1997. - p. 135.

operated under strict censorship and was subjected to all kinds of persecution and influence. In some cases, individual newspaper articles were inspected and subjected to political judgment. While reviewing the issues of the newspaper in those years, you see that a number of columns were left blank, and in the articles you can find "clipped" sentences, paragraphs, and sometimes columns.

After the bourgeois revolution of February 1917, a revival began to appear in the press, as well as in a number of spheres of socio-political and literary-cultural life. The "Achig soz" improved the principle of "Turkification, Islamization, modernization", which he had defended since the "periodic despotism", and replaced it with the slogans "Human-centralism, the United People's Republic and autonomy" after the "periodic liberty".

The basis of the newspaper's activity during the Democratic Republic period was participation in the establishment of the Azerbaijan Democratic Republic, protection of statehood, struggle for civil society, guarding the ideas of Turkism, Musavatism and Azerbaijanism.

Thus, the newspaper was selected from other media outlets with the clarity, accuracy and principledness of the direction of its activities, was able to successfully overcome all the difficulties of the time, and won the sympathy of Azerbaijani readers.

In each issue, the "Achig soz" tells about the issues that concern the people and the nation, investigated the roots of their fateful problems, and tried to show ways to solve them. From the first issue, the newspaper published articles on socio-political processes in the Caucasus and Russia, events, national revival, national-cultural and national-local autonomy, and the tragedies of war in the lives of nations..

The publicists of "Achig soz" wrote about the course of the war, the wounds it inflicted on people's lives and livelihoods, but also joined an admirable company, and during the First World War, Baku Muslim-Turkish journalists launched a social project to help people left homeless and orphaned as a result of the war.

"Achig Soz" newspaper brings to the readers' attention the issues arising from the socio-cultural requirements of the time,

faithfully serves the ideas of Turkism, Islamism and modernization, worked hard for the progress of the people and the nation.

The third sub-chapter of the first chapter is called "**About the author staff of the newspaper**". If you consider at the editorial and author staff of the newspaper "Achig soz", you can find the names of the vast majority of well-known intellectuals of the time. At different times in the newspaper pages "Nish" (M.A. Rasulzada), "Bir nafar" (meaning "A person") (U.Hajibeyli), "Alif Jim" (Ahmad Javad), "Nar" (N.Narimanov), "Shumali" (Ali Razi Shamchizada), "Riza" (M.Safarov), "Tamashachi" (meaning "Spectator") (Khalil Ibrahim), "Democrat", "Havaskar" (meaning "Amateur"), "Millatparast" (meaning "Nationalist"), "Bir mutaallim" (meaning "A teacher") etc. materials with secret signatures were published. Although, the authors of some of these signatures have been clarified, some of them have not been identified yet.¹⁴

One of the main authors of "Achig soz" and the first was undoubtedly M.A. Rasulzada. He published the articles in various genres with different topics in the newspaper "Achig soz". If M.A. Rasulzada used an open signature in his serious articles, he traditionally wrote his newspaper satires with "Nish"¹⁵.

The main content of M.A.Rasulzada's writings in "Achig soz" was the activities of the State Duma, the work of lawyers representing Muslims there, life in Turkey, Iran and the East in general, criticism of the colonial policy of the tsarist regime in the Caucasus, glorification of national schools and education, women's freedom, national-cultural and national-local autonomy issues and other issues.

Prominent publicist Omar Faig Nemanzadeh has performed in the newspaper "Achig soz" since October, 1915 with his works on

¹⁴Mammadli, G., Aliyeva, A. Signatures / G.Mammadli, A.Aliyeva. - Baku: Letterpress Publishing House, - 2015; Mammadli, G. Signatures / G. Mammadli. - Baku: Azarnashr, - 1976.

¹⁵Mammadova, R. M.A.Rasulzada as the editor-in-chief and the leading journalist of "Achig soz" newspaper / - Baku: Actual Problems of studying of Humanities, - 2017. № 4, - p. 365-369.

the most actual problems of the time. His works published in the newspaper, such as "Eid al-Adha", "Is it time for our national issues?", "Our light will not go out", "Our wishes to the attention of our enlightenment lawyers", "For Hashim Bay", "Georgian politicians" are such.

Seyid Huseyn Sadig (Kazimoghlu), one of the active writers of "Achig soz", mainly gained a reputation as a literary critic. His dozens of such articles devoted on various works were published in newspapers.

Among the active authors of the newspaper "Achig soz" are also H. Mirzajamalov, Kh. Ibrahim, S. Eynullayev-Ibrahimov, A.H. Garaaghazada, M.B. Mahammadzada, Sh. Afandizada, T.Sh. Simurg and others. H. Mirzajamalov's series of articles "Khalga doghru" (meaning "Towards the People") was important in terms of subject and content.

The newspaper "Achig soz" played an exceptional role in Ahmad Javid's recognition and popularity. His correspondent writings on the socio-political situation in Eastern Anatolia clearly shows the horrors of war, especially the traces it left in the lives of Muslims.

Among the authors of the "Achig Soz" newspaper, Huseyn Javid focused on issues of Turkism, Islamism, freedom and equality, human rights, and national culture. The lyrical poems published by H. Javid in the newspaper, the play "Sheikh Sanan" and the main "goal" followed by the poet in his journalistic articles consist of peace and humanity, freedom and social welfare.

Abbas Sahhat has also a special place among the authors of "Achig soz". His publicity reflected the current situation of the people, his thoughts and wishes for the homeland. The poet's correspondent letters sent from Shamakhi to the newspaper "Achig soz" are bright examples confirming this idea. These articles, consisting of only six correspondent letters¹⁶, cover the most actual

¹⁶Mammadova, R. Correspondent letters of A. Sahhat from Shamakhi to "Achig soz" newspaper // - Baku: Baku Girls' University, - 2015. № 2, - p. 43-51.

issues of the time, analyze the socio-political situation after the February 1917 bourgeois revolution, and focus on solving common Azerbaijani problems in the example of a specific region, Shamakhi.

The newspaper "Achig soz" also pays attention to the formation of a generation of young journalists and writers and tried to create all conditions for them in its pages. From March 3, 1916, under the heading "Open columns", which began to appear in the pages of newspapers at various times, "Our hidden shortcomings" (B. Talibli), "What we teachers need?" (MA Shukrizada), "A religious and legal issue" (A. Rasulzada) and other articles about the problems that will make people think, were published.

The second chapter of the dissertation is called **researches for the national press in the newspaper "Achig soz"**. This chapter consists of three sub-chapters.

The first sub-chapter of the second chapter is entitled **"The newspaper's attitude to the history of the formation and development of the national press in Azerbaijan."** The authors of "Achig Soz" have always expressed valuable opinions about H. Zardabi and his "Akinchi" newspaper, which laid the foundation of our national press, and have always praised his dedication to the establishment and development of journalism. Publicists of "Achig Soz", who considered *the appearance of "Akinchi" as "not only a national but also a democratic event"*, praised Zardabi in one of the series of articles published in the May-June 1917 issues of the newspaper entitled "All-Russian Muslim Congress".

Publicists of "Achig Soz" called the 12 years that lasted without the press until 1903 "the most Muslim period of the Azerbaijani renaissance," with the exception of "Ziya" and "Kashkul" (Ziyayi-Gafgaziyya), which followed Akinchi and closed after a while. The closure of that "dark" period in 1903 with the publication of the "Eastern-Russian" newspaper did not escape the attention of "Achig Soz".

The series of articles by Y.V. Chamanzaminli entitled "We have long needed a serious press" is very important in terms of clarifying

the formation and development of the Azerbaijani press, identifying its current stages and evolutionary trends at that time. Despite the fact that he praised the activities of H. Zardabi and was aware of his "Akinchi", Y.V.Chamanzaminli considers 1904-1905 as the period of the establishment of our press. The author considers it expedient to start the history of our press with "Hayat" (Life) because "Akinchi" and subsequent newspapers and magazines "did not last long". YV Chamanzaminli characterizes "Hayat" as a progressive newspaper, emphasizing the factor of A.Huseynzada and A.Aghaoglu, who were its editors-in-chief. He noted that with the departure of A. Huseynzada and A. Aghaoglu from Baku to Istanbul, the media experienced a serious personnel crisis.

"Achig soz" newspaper, on the example of "Molla Nasraddin" magazine, made interesting remarks about the main reasons for the emergence, formation and success of Azerbaijani satirical journalism. Unlike his colleague, M.A. Rasulzada approached the issue from a different angle, combined the satirical press with literature and justified the people's tendency to comediography with other factors. He explained the penetration of a wide readership of "Molla Nasraddin" members by a simple and clear language of the magazine, praised his role in the formation and development of our satirical press, called his writings a "masterpiece of comedy" in Azerbaijan. Y.V.Chamanzaminli also shared his colleague's opinion, describing the rapid popularity of the magazine and satirical style as a requirement of the time. However, there was an issue that worried the writer. He sees the "comedy" disease of the national press as a kind of shortcoming after a successful start with Molla Nasraddin and worried that some "editors" who could not be an example to society would ridicule the people and irrelevantly make them the target of laughter.

Y.V. Chamanzaminli distinguishes the "Achig soz" period as the last stage of development of our national press. The publicist noted that the imbalance in our press, the inefficacy of the serious press ended with the publication of "Achig soz", expressed valuable opinions about the newspaper, tried to evaluate its almost a year of activity as both a researcher and an ordinary reader. Speaking about

the stages of development of our press, "Achig soz" paid special attention to the period after the February 1917 bourgeois revolution. The newspaper noted that "Hummat", "Musavat", "Beyragi-Adalat" and other publications were an important step towards the enrichment of our press.

The second sub-chapter of the second chapter is entitled **"Newspaper's researches for well-known journalists and publicists of Azerbaijan"**. "One of the issues in the focus of the newspaper "Achig soz" was to talk about the role and contribution of people in the development of public opinion in Azerbaijan. The newspaper also appreciated the work of journalists and publicists in awakening the national consciousness, and published portrait essays on the life and creativity of both Azerbaijani and all-Turkish and Muslim journalists.

"Achig soz" newspaper pays special attention to its writers and correspondents, giving informative and sometimes bibliographic articles about them, and portrait essays. An example of such articles is the material about Sanatulla Eynullayev-Ibrahimov. It is known that Sanatulla afandi, one of the Tatar Turks, was an active member of the editorial board of "Achig Soz" and was one of the permanent writers of the newspaper. He was able to make a name for himself in the press community of his time, with both his analytical and other style writings.

Among the articles published by "Achig soz" about its employees were articles on the deaths of Huseyn Talat, a correspondent for Ganjabasar, Molla Khazri Alkhasov, a correspondent for Dagestan and Samur, as well as Hashim bay Vazirov, a former editor of several media outlets.

The publicists of "Achig Soz" ignore not only the journalists working in Baku, but also the intellectuals living in the regions and fighting for the cultural development of the nation, trying to free it from the vortex of ignorance and superstition, and published articles about them. In this regard, the obituary written by H. Javid about one of the prominent national figures of his time, Gurbanali Sharifzada, in the June 9, 1917 issue of the newspaper confirms our views. In his obituary dedicated to his pen friend, H. Javid emphasized the

devotion of the deceased to the press, his speech in a number of media outlets, his enlightenment, truthfulness and erudition, drew attention to it as his most valuable quality.

The article ““Hop-hop”u yad!” published in the "Achig soz" newspaper about the prominent Azerbaijani satirical poet and publicist M.A. Sabir is another clear example of the newspaper's high appreciation of our nation and journalists. In this article, written on the occasion of the 4th anniversary of the writer's death, Tagi Shahbazi considered the great satirist a source of light "in the darkness of ignorance that invaded our surroundings and killed the spirit of our nation" and a dazzling ray that does not want to wake up from its slumber. The author touches on Sabir's journalistic activity and emphasizes that he has done a great job with both satirical poems and articles, especially in “Molla Nasraddin's” "Hop-hop", "Abu Nasr Shirvani" and other pseudonyms, as well as all the works he published without pseudonyms, calling these writings the adornment of our literature.

The newspaper "Achig soz" also published articles about other intellectuals in the press. The article dedicated to Abdullah Sur, one of the well-known representatives of the Azerbaijani press and literature, is of this kind. In the article is noted with regret that, A.Surun's memory was not remembered and erased from the remembrances. This case was criticized as a traditional disease and indifference of the Muslim world. "Achig soz" focuses on well-known Azerbaijani journalists and publicists, as well as Turkish and Muslim writers operating throughout Russia, and published valuable news and articles about them and put forward valuable views. The views of the newspaper on the great thinker, journalist and publicist Ismayil bay Gaspirali, who is respected by the whole Turkic world, are noteworthy. The article "Ismail bay Gasprinski" dedicated to the third anniversary of the death of the great thinker, despite its small size, is of great importance in terms of its meaning and content. The article praised the role of the deceased in the life of all-Russian Muslims and Turks, his work for their education and enlightenment.

Thus, although the articles published in the “Achig Soz” newspaper about well-known media and national figures of the time

are the product of individual authors, in general, they are facts that reflect the newspaper's policy and its view of the press.

The third sub-chapter of the second chapter is entitled "**The media outlets of the time in the analysis of the newspaper "Achig soz"**". In addition to publishing articles and news about well-known journalists of the time, "Achig Soz" did not ignore the newspapers and magazines in which he is a contemporary, and from time to time published advertising, informative and analytical materials about them.

The newspaper, for example, strongly supported the subscription campaigns of its contemporary media outlets and facilitated their widespread distribution. The newspaper regularly published advertisements about the Muslim-Turkish press in Baku and various Russian cities, as well as periodicals, reviews, and summaries.

The "Achig Soz" periodically reported on the difficulties faced by periodicals, censorship, fines, newspaper closures, as well as some dissatisfaction within editorial offices, protests by typographical workers, untimely delivery of newspapers and magazines, and other problems.

Along with informative materials about the periodical press, the "Achigsoz" newspaper also published analytical articles about individual newspapers and magazines. For example, in his large article published in the 166th (April 22, 1916) issue of the newspaper, M.A. Rasolzada spoke highly of "MollaNasraddin" magazine and its creators, praised it as one of the masterpieces of our national press, and drew certain parallels between the magazine and its prototype, the historical MollaNasraddin, attributing the magazine's popularity to that of KhajaNasraddin with the geniuses of Azerbaijani Turks and their skills in comedy. He analyzed the period of publication of the magazine "MollaNasraddin", especially distinguishing the first four years as the essential stage of his activity.

Along with the Azerbaijani press, "Achigsoz" always focuses on the press of neighboring nations, where it publishes articles with comments that may be of interest to local readers, and sometimes provides analytical materials about individual newspapers. At that

time, there were regular rubrics such as “Georgian press”, “Armenian press” and “National Press” in periodicals. While the first and second headlines regularly published articles about the Georgian and Armenian press, respectively, the “National Press” mainly covered the activities of Turkish-Muslim newspapers and magazines published throughout Russia. At the beginning of XX century, there were writers specializing in Armenian and Georgian languages in our national press, headed by Mirza Fatali Ismikhánov. Ismikhánov published materials in almost every issue of “AchigSoz” under the constant rubric "Armenian Press". The author's views on this issue coincided with the policy pursued by “Achigsoz”. These 16-part writings are a valuable source that shed light on the Armenian territorial claims to Azerbaijan and Eastern Anatolia from the late seventeenth to early eighteenth centuries until the early twentieth century. The articles contain valuable information on all aspects of history, about the use of Armenians to pursue an active policy of aggression in these regions by the world's major powers, especially Russia, the implementation of all these processes through the Armenian Church, the resettlement of Armenians in the Caucasus, the riots in the Ottoman and Iranian territories, their assiduousness to implement the so-called "Armenia from sea to sea" plans, and other valuable information.

In the "Achig soz", along with the neighboring nations, the Russian Turkish-Muslim press was also in the spotlight. The heading "Our Press" was considered for this purpose. Materials from Turkish-language newspapers and journals published in other cities of the empire were published here. One of the main branches of the All-Russian Turkish-Muslim press was the Tatar press. This press included "Ulfat", "Soz", "Vagt", "Goyash", "Idil" and other newspapers and journals published in Kazan, Orenburg, Uralsk, Astrakhan, Bakhchasaray, St. Petersburg, Moscow. These media outlets took an active position on the unity of the Turkish peoples, the study of cultural values, interference in the actual socio-political processes of the time etc.

The third chapter of the dissertation is called **"Issues of journalistic skills in the "Achig soz" newspaper"** and consists of

three sub-chapters. The first sub-chapter of the third chapter is entitled **"Principles of Journalism as one of the subjects of analysis of the "Achig soz" newspaper."**"Achig soz" has been able to follow many of the principles of journalism throughout its activity. It is true that the freedom of the press and the establishment of freedom of speech are the main conditions for the full application of these principles. However, at the time of the publication of "Achig soz", it was very difficult to expect such principles in full. Because the newspaper operated during the war, under very heavy censorship. However, the editorship tried to follow these principles as much as possible and coped with it to a large extent. The large audience of Achig soz's was not only due to the professional organization of its activities, interesting works by talented and professional writers, the variety and originality of the topic, and the abundance of researches. One of the main reasons was just the existence of clear and exact principles. The pages of the newspaper were always open for articles that were *"generally useful"* and aimed at *"serving the well-being of the nation, the prosperity of the homeland."* Any author who considered these conditions a priority for himself was free to easily contact the newspaper's editorial office and convey his views to the readership. Articles and news published in "Achig soz" have always been guided by the principles of detachment, impartiality and objectivity. The principles to describe the events fairly and honestly, to report the truth always and everywhere were one of the main goals of the editorship. Based on the experience of international journalism, the newspaper adheres to the requirements of the theory of free will and did not provide the reader with information of unknown source. These principles played an exceptional role in the rise of the media outlets edited by M.A. Rasulzada, especially "Achig soz" to the level of a national newspaper, and became a favorite of the entire press community. The main factor in this case was the functioning of newspapers as an independent media outlet. As an independent media outlet, the newspaper "Achig soz" pursues an independent policy and for this aspect has won the sympathy of its readers.

The "Achig soz" was able to confirm that it was really address of the "Achig Soz" during its activity. The newspaper both openly stated the issues of public interest, as much as censorship allowed, and also gave this opportunity to its compatriots who wanted to speak. In other words, the pages of the "Achig soz" which respects the principle of pluralism, were open to all members of society. Those who were criticized in the pages of the newspaper were given the opportunity to respond to these remarks. Even articles that do not coincide with the position of the editorial office are published, expressed an attitude with the note "From the Department" under it. From the first day of its publication to the last issue, "Achig soz" followed a progressive path, tried to uphold the principles it had set for itself. The newspaper's editorial office, which accepts principality as its main condition, did not change its position until the end, despite the administrative and economic difficulties of the time.

The second sub-chapter of the third chapter is entitled "**The newspaper's position on the public role and responsibilities of the press.**" It has undertaken the "national representation of the people" and fulfilled this task with honor and dignity in all times of our national press. Periodical publications edited and published by M.A. Rasulzada were distinguished by its activity in this work. Other leading journalists and publicists of the newspaper also expressed valuable views on the public role and responsibilities of the press in various articles. In this meaning, O.F. Nemanzada's opinions are very important. "*A nation without a press has no language, and those who do not have a language do not exist,*"¹⁷ said the publicist, who attached great importance to the idea of "unity in language, thought and work" (I. Gasparli), which was popular in his time and he strived for its realization in his journalistic writings. Highly appreciating the role of the press in this work, the author spoke about the press in his article "Little Opportunity, Great Need"¹⁸, which encouraged the

¹⁷<http://www.kaspi.az/az/the-first-researchers-of-our-press-history>

¹⁸Mammadova, R. Public role and responsibilities of the press in the pages of "Achig soz" newspaper / - Baku: Actual Problems of Study of Humanities, - 2019, - p. 189-196.

clergy to conduct a donation campaign for the benefit of the people and the victims of the war. He praised his work. Noting the general scientific-theoretical principles, practical significance, socio-cultural tasks of the press and journalism, O.F. Nemanzada preferred the role of propaganda and agitation of the newspaper, and pointed out that it is the most reliable tool for exchange, discussion and debate. He saw the press not only as a mirror of reality, but also as a tribune of public opinion, as the most important tool for public debate.

O.F. Nemanzada repeatedly reminded that the people of Azerbaijan lived unjustly and without rights in the colonial conditions, was stateless and uneducated, and demanded that these and similar issues be discussed in the press. Other authors of the newspaper, including Y.V. Chamanzaminli, H. Mirzajamalov and others, from time to time expressed their enlightened thoughts on the role and responsibilities of the press. One of the main features that distinguished "Achig soz" from the other media outlets was its active support for reforms in the socio-political life, literary and cultural environment. This activity of "Achig soz" authors can be valued as an integral part of building a modern society. The newspaper's pages were devoted to the training of young journalists and writers, holding of public events, charity events, as well as numerous debates, discussions, conferences, contests, etc., which just served this purpose. Political enlightenment was the basis of the general enlightenment line in "Achig soz". The newspaper also attached great importance to the political development of society. The editorship, which correctly assessed the favorable situation that arose after the revolution, expanded the range of activities to raise the revolutionary spirit of the masses of people. The articles written by its leading authors in this field played the role of a school. It is no coincidence that, the newspaper's frequent coverage of publicistic articles and literary materials justifying the transition from a monarchist to a democratic society was a manifestation of this tendency. M.A. Rasulzade, O.F. Nemanzada, Kh. Ibrahim and other authors spoke on these topics with articles and analytical articles. The "Achig soz" authors called on Muslims to live "as human being" and to reach out to civilized nations and peoples, making maximum use of the

freedoms granted and to be granted. The newspaper's articles by various authors emphasize the need for unity, the time of equality, the need to unite as a fist without waiting for denomination, group difference, and the importance of organization in this work.

"Achig soz" both offers valuable theoretical ideas about the social role and responsibilities of journalism, and the newspaper itself tried to put these ideas from theory to practice. While getting acquainted with the set of the newspaper, we see that more attention is paid to the functions of information, enlightenment, integrative, entertainment.

The third sub-chapter of the third Chapter is entitled "**The Impact of Freedom of Speech and Press on Journalistic Skill**". Speaking about freedom of the press in his articles in the newspaper "Achig soz", M.A.Rasulzada described it as one of the important factors of journalistic skills, and considered the lack of freedom of the press as one of the main factors contributing to the spread of oppression and aggression. Considering the freedom of the press as the main pillar of human freedom, MA Rasulzadeh assessed the attack on it as an aggression on human freedom. *Focusing on the fact that squeezing the press and turning it into a "bulletin board would not benefit the kingdom or the nation"*¹⁹, Rasulzada considered it one of the greatest means for "our people, left in darkness and ignorance, to be enlightened and to live a life worthy of the progress of time." He claimed that social progress was in the interests not only of nations, but also of the government and the state, and sought to emphasize the importance of freedom of the press. At the same time, when speaking about freedom of speech and press, the author objected to its understanding as a "writing anarchy." That is, a free speech, a free press should only serve the cultural progress of nations, not lead to anarchy. In the article "New Internal Wazir", M.A.Rasulzada wrote about it: *"Releasing the press does not mean giving a way the anarchy of writing," he said.* Press

¹⁹Mammadova, R. Freedom of speech and press in the "Achig soz" newspaper // - Hungary: İKSAD International congress on social sciences-VI, Szechenyi Istvan University, - 2021, - s. 424-428.

writes. *If it violates the authority given by the law, it will be punished*".²⁰In other words, he affirmed that the word has a creative, unifying power, as well as a destructive power. Therefore, in addition to demanding freedom of the press, he noted that the abuse of that freedom is unacceptable.

Also, M.A. Rasulzada's pen friends and colleagues joined to his valuable ideas, in this respect, they acted as a united and strong team in "Achig soz". As the newspaper's editor, they also voiced remarkable views on freedom of speech and the press, mentioned it as a key factor in journalistic excellence. Y.V. Chamanzaminli also characterized the freedom of the press as an integral part of human freedom. In this way, his large-scale article "Hurriyat" confirms our views. While talking about human freedoms, first of all, the article touches on the issue of freedom of the press too, praising its exceptional role in the cultural development of society. Referring to the "role" of censorship committees in this work, the author assessed censorship as one of the main problems hindering our national and cultural development in general. The publicist valued freedom of speech as the highest, most powerful point, characterizing it as a means of conditioning general liberty. The newspaper "Achig soz" consistently fought for the establishment of freedom of speech, press and expression, and considered it a key factor of progress. As a result of this struggle, after the proclamation of the Azerbaijan Democratic Republic, a number of steps were taken to ensure freedom of speech and press, as well as a number of freedoms that speech and press figures have longed for.

The "**Conclusion**" part of the dissertation summarizes the provisions and theses put forward during the research. The newspaper "Achig soz" is one of the newspapers with a special place in the history of the Azerbaijani national press, as well as in the history of socio-political and literary-cultural thought. The "Achig soz" plays an important role in providing an accurate assessment of the socio-political and literary-cultural processes that took place in

²⁰M.A. Rasulzada's Works (1915-1916): [in 5 volumes] / MA Rasulzada. - Baku: Education, - c. 3. - 2014. - p. 184.

Azerbaijan and Tsarist Russia in general during the First World War. Our research leads to the conclusion that the newspaper's activities are characterized by a reformist-reformer, independent approach to public consciousness, national reality and literary thought. "Achig Soz" has had a profound effect on the renewal and strengthening of the national and social ideology, literary and artistic thought formed in the early twentieth century. One of the greatest services of "Achig Soz" in the history of our press and public opinion is to raise the slogan "Turkification, Islamization, modernization" to the political level, as well as to actively fight for national-cultural and national-local autonomy, and finally national independence.

Thus, the daily newspaper "Achig soz", which has a special role and position in the history of the Azerbaijani national press and socio-political thought, should be studied more widely and intensively in the future, taking into account the above proposals, and passed on to future generations.

The main theses of the dissertation are reflected in the following articles and reports at the scientific conferences:

1. Publication history and activity of "Achig Soz" // - Baku: BSU, Language and literature, - 2014. № 4 (92), - p. 295-297.
2. Correspondent letters of A.Sahhat from Shamakhi to "Achig soz" newspaper // - Baku: Baku Girls' University, - 2015. № 2, - p. 43-51.
3. O.F.Nemanzada in the editorial office of "Achig soz" newspaper // - Baku: Baku University News, - 2015. № 3, - p. 214-220.
4. Huseyn Javid in the editorial office of "Achig soz" newspaper // - Baku: Philological issues, - 2015. № 1, - p. 489-497.
5. Letters of Y.V.Chamanzaminli from Kiev to "Achig Soz" // - Baku: Baku University news, - 2016. № 4, - p. 164-170.
6. M.A.Rasulzada in "Achig soz" newspaper // Materials of XXI republican scientific conference of doctoral students and

- young researchers, - Baku: - October 24-25, - 2017, - p. 140-141.
7. M.A.Rasulzada as the editor-in-chief and the leading journalist of "Achig soz" newspaper // - Baku: Actual Problems of studying of Humanities, - 2017. № 4, - p. 365-369.
 8. Questions of education in the newspaper "AchigSoz" ("Free Word") // - Almaty: KhabarshiVestnik, series "Philological Sciences", - 2018. No. 2 (64), p. 170-175.
 9. The principles of journalism in the newspaper "Achig soz" (Free word) // - Odessa: Nakovy Visnik of the International Humanitarian University, Philology series, -2018. Issue 37, volume 3, - p. 147-150.
 10. Public role and responsibilities of the press in the pages of "Achig soz" newspaper // - Baku: Actual Problems of Study of Humanities, - 2019, - p. 189-196.
 11. On the principles of journalism on the pages of the "Achig soz" newspaper // Advances in science and technology, XXI International Scientific and Practical Conference, - Moscow: - 15 June, - 2019, - p. 169-171.
 12. Freedom of speech and press in the "Achig soz" newspaper // - Hungary: IKSAD International congress on social sciences-VI, Szechenyi IstvanUniversity, - 2021,- p. 424-428.

The defense will be held on 29 April at ^{10⁰⁰} at the meeting of the Dissertation Council BED -1.17 of Supreme Attestation Commission under the President of the Republic of Azerbaijan operating at the Institute of Folklore Azerbaijan National Academy of Sciences.

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