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ABSTRACT

of the dissertation for the degree of Doctor of Philosophy

**GANJA LITERARY ENVIRONMENT
(1960-2000s)**

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GENERAL CHARACTERISTIC OF THE RESEARCH

Relevance and degree of elaboration of the topic. The literature that originated in our historically ancient territories of Tabriz, Ganja, Baku, Shamakhi, Karabakh, Nakhchivan, Gazakh, Lankaran, Guba, Darbend, Borchali has entered a new stage of its development since the 20th century. As in Baku, the literary life in the regions was distinguished by its activity, and the new works that were created were distinguished by their own characteristics.

Ganja is one of the oldest centers of culture, art and science in Azerbaijan. Poets such as Mahsati Ganjavi, Abulula Ganjavi, Givani Mutarrizi, who lived in the same century as him, also played an important role in the development of our 12th century literary history.

In the following centuries, this literary environment expanded its sphere of influence, attracting attention with new literary figures and valuable works created every century. So, for the first time in 1820, Ganja Literary Assembly (“Divani-hikmat”) began to function in Azerbaijan, and under the leadership of our great poet Mirza Shafi Vazeh, he gathered poetry and art lovers both in Ganja and Tbilisi. It should be noted that although there are no accurate historical facts and documents, the existence of literary assemblies in Ganja since the 12th century and the possibility of a literary environment within these assemblies is a logical reality.

In the 20-50s of the 20th century, Ganja began a new stage for its literary environment. Thus, starting from the end of the 20s, a literary organization began to operate here, which created the foundation for the formation of the first creative successes of talented poets and prose writers. It should be noted that among the studies conducted in the direction of researching this period, the research of Givami Gaziyeu, an associate professor at Ganja State University, should be specially highlighted, particularly his dissertation and the monograph prepared based on it.¹

¹ Gaziyeu, G. Literary environment of Ganja (1900-1930) / G. Gaziyeu. - Ganja: Ganja State University publishing house, -2024. - p. 268.

Our research is devoted to the literary environment of ganja in 1960-2000. In those years, Ganja literary environment functioned as the second literary center of Azerbaijan after Baku. It should be noted that the Writers' Union of Azerbaijan currently operates about twenty divisions (both in Azerbaijan itself and outside its borders). Among them, Ganja stands in the first place for the history of its creation.

The main reasons that determine the relevance of the topic are:

- 1960-2000 years to determine the place of ganja literary environment in modern Azerbaijani literature, i.e. to clarify the characteristics, main and specific features of ganja literary environment, it is necessary to analyze the directions of its development;

- The activities of poets, prose writers, dramatists, publicists and critics-literary critics who lived and worked in Ganja during the mentioned years have not found their scientific and philological analysis fully and fully. For this reason, there is a need to eliminate the gap in this direction;

- Ganja literary environment is an integral part of modern Azerbaijani literature and it's necessary to reveal the connection and differences of the processes taking place in this environment with writers and literary and artistic works in other regions.

As for the degree of elaboration of the topic, first of all, it should be noted that there is hardly a single study that gives a complete description of the literary environment of the young man of the 1960-2000s. The conducted studies are mostly about the creativity of specific poets, prose writers and dramatists, as well as scientists.²

² Yusifli, V. Literary life in the regions - Ganja Tovuz / V. Yusifli. - Baku: Elm and education, -2017. - p. 45-65; Mehdi, G. O, Garib ! // – Baku: Azerbaijan. – 2016. № 6, – p.118-122; Yusifli, V. The man of worldly taste // – Baku: Azerbaijan. – 2017. № 7, – p.147-151; Rustamli, A. Mammad Alim (scientific essay) // Azerbaijani literature of the period of independence: [In 2 volumes], – Baku: Science and education, – I v. – 2016. – pp. 769-794; Saladdin, A. Ahmad Javad // – Baku: Ganjlik, – 1992. – p. 333; Safiyev, A. Azerbaijani dramaturgy in the modern period (1960-1980) // – Baku: Ozan, – 1998. – p.275; Bagirov, B. Khazanli (monography) / B. Bagirov. - Baku: Ozan, - 2001. - p. 220.

The Institute of Literature named after Nizami Ganjavi of the Azerbaijan National Academy of Sciences has been holding discussions under the title “Literary results of the year” every year since the seventies of the last century. Since 2014, these reports have been published as books in the “Literary process” series.

In 2015, the addition of the topic “Literary life in the regions” to these discussions can be considered as a valuable step towards the research and promotion of Azerbaijani literature in specific regions. It should be noted that the "Literary process - 2015" report included essays about the work of Bahadur Farman, who lives in Ganja, and the "Literary process - 2016" report included essays about Khazangul and Aydın Murovdağlı.

Object and subject of research. The main object of the research is the development path of the Ganja literary environment in the 1960s-2000s, and in this process, the analysis of the creativity of writers, poets, publicists, critics and literary scholars living in that region. The subject of the research is the literary environment of Ganja in the 1960s-2000s. In addition, there are some cases of exceptional approach. So, in the research, some works created in the first half of the 21st century are also addressed at appropriate points for the purpose of comparison.

Research goals and objectives. The main purpose of the research is to investigate and analyze the works created in Ganja literary environment of Azerbaijan in 1960-2000, to evaluate each work from the point of view of artistic and aesthetic assessment and scientific approaches.

In order to achieve this goal, the following main tasks were set in the research work:

- To give concise and general information about the historical development path of Ganja, one of the oldest cultural centers of Azerbaijan;
- To summarize and explain the main characteristic features of the Ganja literary environment starting from ancient times (specifically from the time of Nizami Ganjavi);
- How to continue the historical traditions of the Ganja literary environment in the second half of the 20th century and determine the

main directions of development in the 1960s-2000s (in the new stage);

- In the second half of the 20th century - to create a certain idea about the main tendencies and directions of creative searches in Ganja literary environment;

- Poems and poems written by poets who lived and created in Ganja in 1960-2000 on various topics (Azerbaijan and Ganja, independence struggle, Karabakh theme, poems of the years of independence, lyrical-romantic feelings, etc.) in terms of content and artistic craftsmanship to value;

- To follow the creativity of the prose writers living in Ganja in different genres (story, narrative, novel) and to analyze the characteristic features of the prose works;

- To explain how the drama works created in Ganja are related to modern life and modernity;

- To provide complete information about the works of literary critics and critics who lived and worked in Ganja;

- 1960-2000 period to determine the influence of the path taken by Azerbaijani poetry, prose, dramaturgy and critical-literary studies on the literary environment of Ganja;

- To take into account the special role of journalistic works (in particular, Ahmad Isayev's book "Ganja and the Ganja people") in the study of the literary environment and history of Ganja, as well as in the promotion of the personalities he raised.

Research methods. The research work was written taking into account the important scientific and theoretical principles of modern literary criticism. During the study of the subject, comparative-historical method and systematic analysis methods were used. Typological and individual approach methods are also used in the research of the development directions of the literary environment of Ganja.

Scientific novelty of the study. The scientific innovation of the presented research is primarily that this dissertation brings together the literary-historical dynamics and development trends of the Ganja literary environment of the 1960s-2000s within separate literary genres, as well as criticism, literary studies and journalistic

works, these works are literary are analyzed within the artistic network of the environment, and their artistic and aesthetic value is revealed. Articles and reviews written about these works are also referred to, and their literary-aesthetic position is evaluated. From here, the relationship between the literary and artistic researches and the art circle in Baku is determined and the literary and historical process is valued. For the first time, the literary and scientific activities of writers who are known for their works in the literary environment of Ganja, but are not sufficiently recognized in the literary process of Azerbaijan, are also involved in the research. This work is the first scientific research work that reveals the literary-historical landscape of Ganja literary environment between 1960-2000 in a monographic aspect.

The main provisions put into defense. In the dissertation work, mainly the following provisions were defended:

- To highlight the unique place and position of the Ganja literary environment in the Azerbaijani literature in the 1960s-2000s, as well as the successes achieved during these years;

- To follow the individual, unique stylistic features in the creativity of each of the literary forces living in Ganja, to evaluate them scientifically;

- To clarify the extent to which the works included in the analysis are related to modern reality while putting forward ideas and opinions about poetry and prose;

- To clarify the relationship of the drama works talked about in the study with the Baku and Ganja theater (theatrical fate of the works), to involve in the study on the basis of specific proposals on the genre of drama works (lyric dramas ,comedies, vaudevilles);

- To reflect the important role of scholars from Ganja (critics and literary critics), as well as publicists in the literary process of Azerbaijan, in the scientific-critical circle;

- To analyze the issues of artistry in the works of writers from Ganja, their artistic style searches in different literary types and genres.

Theoretical and practical significance of the study. It is clear that each research work is valued with its practical significance. In

this sense, the research work has a lot of practical significance in the scientific and literary environment.

In the dissertation, the literary environment of Ganja (as well as its past) in 1960-2000, the artistic, scientific and journalistic works created there are theoretically and philologically studied. It can be used during teaching about the works reflected in this dissertation and their authors in humanities, especially philology faculties of higher schools. Even for Masters and doctoral students who want to explore regional literature, the scientific considerations in this work can be of benefit.

Research approval and implementation. The topic of the dissertation work was approved by the Scientific Council of Ganja State University and the Scientific Council on Philological Problems of the Council for Coordination of Scientific Research of the Republic of Azerbaijan. The main content, scientific provisions, innovations and results of the dissertation are reflected in the journals recommended by the Higher Attestation Commission under the president of the Republic of Azerbaijan, as well as in articles published in prestigious scientific collections and journals of foreign countries.

The name of the organization in which the dissertation work was carried out. The dissertation was completed at the Department of Azerbaijani and World Literature of Ganja State University.

The structure and overall scope of the dissertation work. The dissertation consists of an introduction (12 248 c.c.), three chapters (I chapter 69 279 c.c.; II chapter 78 588 c.c.; III chapter 71 028 c.c.), a conclusion (7 222 c.c.) and a list of references. The dissertation consists of 238 365 characters in total.

THE MAIN CONTENT OF THE DISSERTATION WORK

In the “**Introduction**” part of the dissertation, the relevance of the topic and degree of elaboration are justified, the object and subject, goals and tasks, methods of the research, defended provisions are

defined, scientific novelty of the research, approval and application of the research work, the name of the organization where the dissertation work is performed, separate content of the structural parts of the dissertation information is provided.

The first chapter of the dissertation is entitled **“Historical landscape of the Ganja literary environment and the main creative directions in the 20th century: poetry as the main direction of literary life”**. This chapter consists of three paragraphs. In the first paragraph called **"The Place of Literary Life in Ganja in History"**, a short excursion is made to the history of Ganja, one of the oldest cultural centers of Azerbaijan, and how it was created as an ancient city and a land that reflects natural beauty. Ganja's exceptional role in the development of Azerbaijani culture for centuries, in the formation of literary and cultural life here is noted in chronological order throughout the mentioned section, the literary fame of the great Nizami Ganjavi is mentioned, and the poetry candle lit in the XII century never went out. The decision of the great leader Heydar Aliyev on the 840th anniversary of the birth of Nizami and the assessment of 2021 as the “Year of Nizami” according to the decree of the president of the Republic of Azerbaijan Ilham Aliyev once again confirm the immortality of the art of Nizami. People's poet Mammad Araz appreciates Nizami's immortal art as a precious thought:

*If every wind I face blows in a different direction,
My golden dawn of poetry will never open.
If Nizami exists on Earth,
It is the thought that spins the world.*³

The sphere of influence of Dahi Nizami was constantly felt both in the century in which he lived and in the following centuries. The literary environment in Ganja entered a new stage in the 19th century due to the activity of the "Divani-hikmat" literary assembly that arose here. The founder of this literary assembly was the thinker poet Mirza Shafi Vazeh, whose position in the literary life of Ganja is briefly

³ Araz, M. Selected works / M.Araz. - Baku: Sharg-Garb, - 2010. - p. 309

covered in this section. It is not without reason that we start with Nizami in the 12th century and Mirza Shafi Vazeh in the 19th century to talk about the historical landscape of Ganja literary environment. The literary environment of Ganja has preserved its connection to its historical roots and initial literary-aesthetic sources, maintaining this continuity into the 20th century as well.

In the second paragraph of the first chapter **“The process of organizing new creative searches in the first half of the 20th century and literary figures realizing it”** the activity of Ganja literary environment in the 20-30s of the XX century is highlighted. The role of individual literary figures in the formation of this literary environment is undeniable. The early creative works of our great poet Səməd Vurğun, prominent writer and literary scholar Mir Jalal Pasayev, renowned Turkologist Ahmad Jafaroğlu, Ahmad Javad, national poet Nigar Rafibeyli, Ahmad Jamil, Alakbar Ziyatay, national poet Nariman Hasanzada, critic Jahanbakhsh Javadzade, and distinguished literary scholar and academician Hamid Araslı were shaped in the Ganja literary environment. Samsd Vurgun briefly worked as a teacher here, Mir Jalal Pashayev studied at the Ganja Teachers' Seminary and wrote his first stories and essays, while Ahmad Javad lived in Ganja from 1906 to 1912. His poem “O, I’m young” is one of the most beautiful poetic examples written about Ganja.

*This is Shahseven, this is Bagmand,
This is Sardar's garden, this is Ozan.
Those who see and know you, are amazed by you,
May your deserts be adorned, my Ganja, my Ganja* ⁴.

Many of these artists played a very important role in the formation of Ganja literary environment in the 20-30s. For example, Ahmad Jamil actively participated in the Ganja branch of the Azerbaijan Society of Proletarian Writers. Critic Mammad Kazim Alakbar, poet Ali Razi Shamchizade, Alakbar Ziyatay also headed the branch in different

⁴ Isayev, A. Ganja and Ganja residents / A. Isayev. - Ganja: Gapp-poligraphy, - 2010, - p.202.

years. Those literary figures had a great role in the development of Ganja literary environment. The merits of the writer-playwright-critic Altay Mammadov (1930-2003), who played a major role in this process in the fifties, are undeniable. It is impossible to imagine the social life of Ganja in this period without it.

Renewal trends in the Ganja literary environment began in the 60s of the last century. As in all Azerbaijani literature, the tendency to describe the truths of life and illuminate the inner world of man increased in the Ganja literary environment from this historical stage. In poetry, modernity was observed with qualitative changes in relation to the facts of life, world events, noticeable socio-political processes in society. Of course, at this time, the search for a new person and a new hero attracted special attention. Traditional schematic, artificial "positive" heroes were replaced by human images depicted in a simple, ordinary "mixture of paints" Poems that move away from certain templates and stereotypes in poetry sounded like a protest against the old style of expression and methods of expression.

The dissertation emphasizes that whatever processes were taking place in Azerbaijani literature, the literary environment of Ganja was also involved in those processes. Those ideas and considerations find their scientific expression in the analysis of the works created in different literary genres in the next chapter of the dissertation.

In the third paragraph of Chapter I, entitled "**Tradition in Poetry and Qualitative Renewals Beginning in the Sixties**", the poetic landscape of the Ganja literary environment in the 1960s-2000s is revived. First of all, the innovations observed in Azerbaijani poetry are noticeable. As noted by the critic Vagif Yusifli, *"In the poetry of the 60s-70s, the image of a person was more at the center of attention in two aspects. The first is a person who goes beyond the limits of the era and time, and is more of a universal person, and the second is a person who is connected to life, the world and reality, who expresses his immediate attitude to any specific event in society and the environment in which he lives, and lives with a sense of modernity. In the first case, the lyrical I became more humanized. History and modernity were concentrated in him, he loudly declared how capital that person was. In the second case, the person was noticeable on an*

*individual, subjective level. New shades in relation to the inner world of man, personal life, nature, beauty, and love attracted attention”.*⁵ In the poetry of the 1960s-2000s, the human factor had an important place, and this artistic quality was the leading one in the poems of poets living in Ganja, and this direction was also reflected in the interpretation of specific events (in nature and society).

In the dissertation, it is concretely highlighted how the topics that attract attention in the Azerbaijani poetry of the 1960s-2000s are reflected in the creativity of poets from Ganja on the basis of individual poetic examples.

*My only one underground, above, my movement,
My love, my respect, my manners and customs.
My three-colored flag—my sail of destiny,
You are the highest, the greatest, Azerbaijan.*⁶

There are events in the history of Azerbaijan that bring poets to excitement. The independence struggles of the 20th century, the events in Karabakh, the tragedy of January 20, the Khojaly genocide, were echoed in the poems of Ganja poets. Khazangul, Mammad Alim, Bahadur Farman and Aydin Murovdagli were more active in the 70s and 80s of the last century. Researcher Fazil Sanan writes in his small monograph “Perpetuating songs” dedicated to the poet Bahadur Farman: “*Bahadur Farman characterizes the concept of Motherland in his poetic creation in a unique form. The poet's poetic presentation in his poems dedicated to the martyrs of January 20 clearly shows this:*

*Fire rose in our hearts,
Light descended into our graves.
Azerbaijan reached its peak,
January – the day of martyrs”.*⁷

⁵ Yusifli, V. Paths and years of poetry (1960-2000 years) / V. Yusifli - Baku: Mutarjim, - 2009, - p.114-115.

⁶ Alim, M. World, open the door / M. Alim. - Baku: UNI print. - 2024. - p.10.

⁷ Fazil, S. Eternal songs / S. Fazil. - Baku: Vector. – 2011. – p. 9-10.

Poems about Ganja, the oldest and most beautiful city of Azerbaijan, occupy an important place in the poems of poets from Ganja. There is no such poet living in Ganja who does not dedicate a poem to his hometown. At the same time, the poems of Farida Alyarbeyli, Inqilab Isag, Aydin Murovdagli are beautiful poetic examples. A excerpt of the poem "My Ganja" by Inqilab Isag:

*I said Ganja... my words blossomed,
This name shines brighter than the sun.
A place of order, a place of Ganja,
Enchanted by God's hand.⁸*

One of the leading topics in the Ganja literary environment is the independent chanting of nature and reflecting the unity of Man-nature. Poems dedicated to Goygol, Goshgar, Maralgol by Rubail Allahverdiyev and Farida Alyarbeyli are of this kind. At the same time, the images of mountains, stones and rocks that are noticeable in nature lyrics are also noteworthy. Throughout the dissertation, the poems of poets from Ganja are widely analyzed in this direction.

The quantitative leading course of Azerbaijani poetry is undoubtedly love poems with lyric-romantic character on the theme of love, and this quality is quite strong in poetic examples. Sahib Ibrahimli's "Love", Ingilab Isak's "Is it a fairy tale or", and Khazangul's "Forgive me to the world" are remembered as some of the finest examples of modern Azerbaijani love lyric poetry.

*Now I have heard of the one wearing a shirt of fire,
I have learned the prayer of those with dark eyes,
The one who beats his chest like a master,
Love turns him to ashes with one glance⁹*

⁸ Murovdagli, A. Earthquake / A. Murovdagli. - Ganja: GSU publishing house, - 2012. - p. 63.

⁹ Ibrahimli, S. I looked again and saw that I am writing a poem / S. Ibrahimli. - Ganja: Askeroglu, - 2001. - p.182.

The dissertation analyzes numerous poems and compositions written on themes such as national independence thought, the Karabakh issue, martyrdom, the restoration of historical memory, and connection to one's roots, with general conclusions being drawn. The poems of Khazangul, Farida Aliyarbayli, and Martyr of the first Karabakh War, Nizami Aydin, related to the themes of homeland, the longing for the homeland, martyrdom in the war, and in Karabakh, are also analyzed. Khazangul's poem "A shout!" and Nizami Aydin's series of poems related to martyrdom are particularly distinguished.

*Born from the blood of the martyr sons,
The light of the homeland, the light of the land.*¹⁰

Poems and poems written by poets from Ganja during the years of independence are also characterized as poetic examples that express the spirit of freedom of the people throughout the research.

The second chapter of the dissertation is entitled "**Thematic and Genre Diversity of Creative Searches in the Ganja Literary Environment in the Second Half of the 20th Century**". This chapter consists of three paragraphs.

The first paragraph of the second chapter is called "**Manifestation and development dynamics of sixties prose in Ganja literary environment**". In this paragraph, adhering to tradition, first of all, there is a mention of qualitative innovations in Azerbaijani prose in 1960-2000. As noted by the prominent critic Akif Hüseynov in his article "The Movement of Time and Prose", "*Changes in the quality of our prose became evident starting from the second half of the 1950s, marked by noteworthy works. In prose, as in poetry and dramaturgy, genre-style searches are vividly noticeable as movement, progress*".¹¹

New literary heroes appeared in Azerbaijani prose starting from the middle of the 20th century, and the division of negative and positive heroes was gradually eliminated. According to the opinion

¹⁰ Aydin, N. Last prayer / N. Aydin. - Baku: XXI New Publishers House, - 1999. - p. 59.

¹¹ Huseynli, A. Prose and time / A. Huseynli. - Baku: Yazichi, - 1980. - p. 13.

of prominent critic Yashar Garayev, *“One thing that characterizes the literary thought of the 60s and 70s as a period unit is that in the search for a more complete and truer understanding of the modern psychological and moral truths of the modern man, the artistic thought is closer to the ordinary, ordinary, simple hero. began to meet often”*.¹² The artistic searches related to prose continued in the same vein within the Ganja literary environment as well. Prose writers such as Altay Mammadov, Garib Mehdi, Nushaba Mammadli, Rafiga Sadighova, Sahib Ibrahimli are active in Ganja, Their works were known not only in Ganja, but outside it - in the entire literary environment of Azerbaijan. The works of the authors mentioned in the dissertation - prose writers living in Ganja - are analyzed by genre, first stories, then narratives, and then novels are discussed. The main goal is the artistic solution of the realities of life, regardless of the genres, the presentation of the described images “in a mixture of paints” (this expression belongs to the critic Akif Huseynli), the observance of the poetics of the genre. Altay Mammadov's stories “Narinj”, “The voice of love”, “Fakhriyya's Wish”, “Rose-breathed”, “Muhammad” fully meet these principles. These stories, written in a lyrical style, stood out among the stories of that time both in general and in terms of form and craftsmanship. In these stories, the human factor was brought to the fore. Garib Mehdi, who lives in Ganja, also starts his creativity with a story. He has an emotional narrative and also attracts the attention of literary and theoretical thought in the seventies of the last century. At various times, the appreciative opinions about separate stories of Mir Jalal Pashayev, Akif Huseynov, Murshid Mammadov, Rahim Aliyev and Vagif Yusifli, Garib Mehdi have been welcomed by the scientific and literary community. In particular, the images of mother that she portrays in her stories (“My mother's hair”, “My mother's answer”, “My mother's hands”, “On my birthday”, “Land mother - mother land”, “My mother's voice is coming”, “O, Garib!”) written in a lyrical-psychological style. His story “Black Trumpet” (“Qara zurna”) is dedicated to the promotion of national and moral values.

¹² Garayev, Y. Poetry and prose / Y. Garayev. - Baku: Yazichi, - 1988. - p. 55.

The stories of Sahib Ibrahimli and Alamzar Alizade also talk about human destiny.

The stories of Nushaba Asad Mammadli, who lives in Ganja, “Bir An”, “Circle”, “Farewell Song”, “Sunset”, “Dance of White Flowers” touch on spiritual and moral problems. These narratives reflect various life events, the author describes the conflicts that occur in families, and thinks about the question of what a pure family model should be. Garib Mehdi's story “Coincedence” is analyzed as the most perfect example of this genre. As for the novel genre, only four novels are mentioned, and more historical novels “Javad Khan” by Nushaba Asad Mammadli and “Goodbye, beautiful world” by Altay Mammadov are mentioned. The novel “Javad Khan” was the first prose work dedicated to the brave Javad Khan in Azerbaijani prose. Doctor of philology, Vagif Sultanli wrote about this novel: *“in the novel, which is more distinguished by its historical and political features, it was tried to create the image of Javad Khan, which became legendary in the people's Blood Memory”*.¹³

Altay Mammadov's novel “Goodbye, beautiful world” (1982) was also written in a historical context. All the events in this novel are built around the life history of the main character - the character called “Millat Isa”. The author presents him as a revolutionary - bolshevik, but this is the moral criterion of man, the principle of justice.

The second paragraph of the second chapter is called **“Thematic and genre scope of dramaturgical searches”**. As the name suggests, this paragraph talks about the dramaturgical creativity of writers living in Ganja. First, a brief mention is made of the processes, theme, form, craft, and principles of Azerbaijani drama in the 1960s-2000s, of course, these processes are unambiguously related to the Ganja-literary environment and drama works created in this region. Here we talk about the plays of Altay Mammadov, who first came to literature as a prose writer, but later became famous as a playwright. Altay Mammadov's plays

¹³ Sultanli, V. The uniqueness of prose // Preface to the book "Farewell Song" by N. Mammadli. - Baku: Nurlan, - 2017. - p. 34.

“Countrymen” and “Men” were written in the comedy genre, and his play “Do you remember” was written in the lyric-dramatic genre. “When Stars Meet” and “Crazy Domrul” plays have been adapted from well-known literary works and presented as modern dramatic works. The comedies “Countrymen” and “Men” are devoted to criticism of the material and moral defects and deformities that the Soviet era caused in people's lives. If in “Countrymen” the local orientation in the Azerbaijani space is criticized both at that time and at the present time, then in the comedy “Men” the moral emptiness of people who live a stormy life is criticized as the targets of laughter. Both works were successfully staged in Baku and Ganja theaters.

The dramaturgical talent of Altay Mammadov finds its solution in the theoretical plan in the dissertation. So, after those two comedies, he writes the play “Do you remember” in a lyrical-psychological style. Later, he wrote historical lyrical dramas such as “When the Stars Meet” and “Crazy Domrul”. This shows that Altay Mammadov has mastered Jafar Jabbarli traditions well.

In addition to Altay Mammadov, other dramatists' interesting artistic pursuits are noticeable in the literary environment of Ganja. Farida Alyarbayli's historical drama “The Daughter of the Khan” is the first stage work written about Khurshidbanu Natavan. Although he could not fully recreate Nateva's life and turbulent life path, he tried to reflect her kindness as a Khan's daughter, her love for Karabakh, her uniqueness as a mother and as a poet.

Sahib Ibrahimli, who is known in the Ganja literary environment as well as in Azerbaijani literature as a poet, prose writer and literary critic, is also the author of more than twenty drama works. Most of these works are comedies. Several of his works were staged at the Ganja State Drama Theater in different years (“Car”, “Don't pull, my collar is torn.”, “Message”). Sahib Ibrahimli has also tried his hand at other types of drama, his plays “A Handful of Land” and “Black Day's Money” are tragicomedies.

The third paragraph of the second chapter is called **“Using folklore in artistic creation”**. This paragraph talks about how writers, poets and playwrights are creatively benefiting from folklore in the Ganja literary environment. The authors use different genres of

folklore, which increases the emotional tone of the text. The writer can turn to a known text and create a modern version of it, but in this new version he must keep the main subject and the development line of the events. Altay Mammadov remained loyal to this principle when addressing the “Crazy Domrul” character of the “The Book of Dede Gorgud” epic. In his play “Crazy Domrul” he included a number of pieces of poetry, as in the epic, and, by the way, he also used bayati

*I am dear, bowing head,
The fruitful branch bows its head.
The world is a treacherous world,
The brave bows his head to the coward.¹⁴*

Garib Mehdi's creativity is also rich in reference to folklore examples. His prose language is very close to the folk language and the spirit of folklore. In the story "The Black Trumpet", Aunt Pari addresses the professor and his family, telling her why they came:

*Hello Agha, I have come,
I have come to get a girl!..
I am the boy's mother,
I have come to beg.¹⁵*

Garib Mehdi frequently turns to artistic expression methods that resonate with the mindset of the people. For example, “Beautiful women have long hair, but their mind is shallow”, “Don’t worry, the dark days don’t last long”, “Later we learned that there is a mistake in words, not a lie”, etc.

The poetic language of the poet Bahadur Farman also attracts attention with the richness of the means of artistic description characteristic of folklore. He often refers to couplets, geraylis, bayatis, which are the richest examples of folklore creativity. His

¹⁴ Mammadov, A. Crazy Domrul / A. Mammadov. – Baku: Ganjlik, – 1981. – s.243.

¹⁵ Mehdiyev, G. Clean air / G. Mehdiyev. - Baku: Yazichi, - 1980. - p.50.

lyric poem “Painful roads” His lyric poem “Painful roads” is written from start to finish in the spirit of bayati. This poem reflects the sufferings of a mother waiting for her son.

*There is a tulip on our mountain,
There is dew on its petals.
Don't touch my heart,
There is a moan in my heart.* ¹⁶

Poetic forms belonging to Ashiq poetry preserved the spirit of archaic folklore for centuries, but attracted attention with new content and new means of expression at each literary stage. Sahib Ibrahimli, Alasgar Alioglu, Bahadur Farmanoglu, Mammad Alim, Khazangul, Alamzar Alizade wrote interesting and memorable examples in this direction. Məmməd Ali's ghazal with the refrain “World” is a characteristic example that carries the spirit of folklore.

*I am the one who is filled with sorrow and grief,
My chest is overwhelmed with sorrow and distress.
It is Məmməd Ali who bears the pain,
Speak, I will take the pain, oh world!*¹⁷

This poetic song from the spirit of folklore continues its successful path in the Ganja literary environment.

The third chapter entitled “**Literary criticism, philological research and journalistic activity in the region**” consists of three paragraphs. The first paragraph is called “**Directions of literary-theoretical thought in Ganja**”. In the 60-70s of the last century, New forces came in Azerbaijani literary criticism. Renowned writers such as Yashar Garayev, Shamil Salmanov, Akif Huseynli, and Asif Afandiyev stood out in Baku's literary events with their distinctive and innovative perspectives. In the following years, critics and literary critics such as Aydin Mammadov, Kamil Valiyev, Nadir

¹⁶ Ferman, B. The cranes move / B. Ferman. - Baku: Nurlar, - 2019. - p.75.

¹⁷ Alim, M. World, open the door / M. Alim. - Baku: UNI-Print, - 2024. - p. 28.

Jabbarov, Rahim Aliyev, Vagif Yusifli, Vilayat Guliyev, Nizamaddin Shamsizade, Kamal Abdullayev, Shirindil Alishanov, Ilham Rahimli, Asad Mammadov, Gurban Bayramov, Maryam Alizadeh, Rahid Khalilov expanded their field of activity. Naturally, the named critics and literary critics turned to the most important and pressing problems of literature. Of course, this process did not leave Ganja's literary environment unaffected. Unlike the hot literary environment in Baku, there were not many critics in Ganja. However, in any case, there are several literary critics in this region, and they stood out in Azerbaijan's literary process with their works.

Murshid Mammadov's monograph "Poetry in the light of new thinking" (1990) systematically analyzes the stage of Azerbaijani poetry in the 1960-1970s. In the first section of the monograph "new stage in the development of poetry" modernity and innovation are evaluated as the main characteristic features of the new stage. The author writes: "*Modernity is the artistic truth expressed and embodied in the high artistic language of the century and time. Such a concept of modernity includes the meaning of the real content of reality in the work of art, as well as the philosophical understanding of reality.*"¹⁸ In this monograph, M. Mammadov paid more attention to issues such as form, artistic searches of poets, the problem of lyrical heroes, examples of philosophical lyrics.

Writer-playwright Altay Mammadov's "Azerbaijani Story" (1984) and "Galbinur's Poetry on the Threshold of the 21st Century" (1998), Sahib Ibrahimli's "The Ganja Period of Ahmad Javad's Life and Creativity" (1998), "The Devotee of Science" (in the works of Mir Jalal) (2008) appeared as the result of long-term valuable scientific research.

The second paragraph of the third chapter is called "**Philological studies taking place in the region**". This paragraph tells about the studies of Sabir Aliyev (1936-2007), Khalil Yusifli (1935-2022) living in Ganja on classical Azerbaijani poetry. Sabir Aliyev's monographs "Fuzuli's poetics" (1986), "Fuzuli" (1996) and

¹⁸ Mammadov, M. Poetry in the light of new thinking / M. Mammadov. - Baku: Yazichi, - 1990. - p. 22.

“Fuzuli literary aesthetics” (2000) made valuable contributions to Fuzuli's studies, and Khalil Yusifli's monographs “Nizami's lyrics” (1968), “Renaissance in the East and Nizami Ganjavi” (2023) made valuable contributions to Nizami's studies. The dissertation also touches upon the works of Nazimscientist Akbar Babayev (1924-1979), who was born in Ganja and engaged in scientific activity in Russia, and Orientalist Tofiq Maliklin (1942). Sadnik Pirsultanli's “Living Legends” (1973) and Rustam Rustamzadeh's “Azerbaijani Historical Heroic Epics” (1998) are also analyzed as scientific creative searches of the 20th century Ganja literary environment, and the innovations brought by these works in literary criticism are commented on.

The third paragraph of the III Chapter is called “**The theory of historical and real facts in journalism**”, and this paragraph mainly talks about the book “Ganja and Ganja residents” (1998) by writer-publicist Ahmad Isayev. This work bridges the past of ganja to its present day, illuminates the cultural history of this ancient city.

In the **conclusion** part of the dissertation work, the scientific and theoretical conclusions from the research carried out throughout the study are summarized.

1. Ganja literary environment, which is an integral part of Azerbaijani literature, is historically very ancient and rich. Thus, the Ganja literary environment was formed in the 12th century, and not only gave immortal artists to the literature of Azerbaijan, but also to the literature of the East and the World. Sheikh Nizami Ganjavi crossed the borders of the 12th century and conquered the whole world, for centuries he instilled in people the feelings of freedom, peace, humanism and love, struggle against oppression and injustice, and in his works he illuminated the paths leading to an ideal society. Mahsati Ganjavi, who lived in the same century as Nizami, created the most beautiful examples of the rubai genre in Eastern literature, and in these rubai, he turned love, humanism, human freedom into an object of chanting. Other artists who lived in Ganja during that period and in subsequent historical stages also continued this path successfully;

2. The literary environment of Ganja has not lost its

development even in the post-medieval centuries, and has had its influence on the literary and cultural world from time to time. It was in Ganja that a literary Assembly was organized for the first time, the great poet-thinker Mirza Shafi Vazeh gathered Ganja poets at this assembly, which he called “Divani - Hikmat” (19th century), and for the first time in Azerbaijan he created an official poetry-art center. Due to the influence of this literary meeting in other regions of Azerbaijan - Karabakh, Nakhchivan, Tiflis, Iravan, Baku, Lankaran, etc. in this style, assemblies were formed;

3. No doubt, the traditions created by Nizami Ganjavi, Mahsati Ganjavi, Mirza Shafi Vazeh and “Divani-Hikmat” Majlis poets characterize the Classical period of Ganja literary environment all the time, but these traditions have made Ganja literary environment an integral part of great Azerbaijani literature;

4. The first half of the 20th century also occupies an important place in the history of Ganja literary environment. Thus, in the struggle for national independence in the first two decades of the last century, literary forces from Ganja were distinguished by their activity, and many of them had a strong influence even on the Baku environment. Later, with the advent of Soviet power, the literary environment was revived, and although it was influenced by the ideology of socialism, it was formed as the second Literary Center after Baku. During this period of the Ganja literary environment, talented writers have grown up (Ahmed Javad, Samad Vurgun, Ahmed Jamil, Mir Jalal, Alakbar Ziyatay, Jahanbakhish, Hamid Arasli, Nuraddin Babayev and others.), although they left Ganja, they achieved their first literary success in Ganja. This period can be characterized as the first stage in the development of the 20th century Ganja literary environment;

5. The brightest period of Ganja literary environment (the second stage) covers the years 1960-2000. The literary environment of Ganja has become one of the hot spots of Azerbaijan's literary life in this period. Thus, it has been proved that true literature and literary events not only arise in Baku-the capital of Azerbaijan, but also develop in a number of its regions, most of all in the Ganja literary environment. The works created in the Ganja literary environment

are also an integral part of the great Azerbaijani literature. This can also be attributed to the artists working in the literary and scientific environment of Ganja. For example, Altay Mammadov, Garib Mehdi, Farida Aliyarbeyli, Bahadur Farman, Rubail Allahverdiyev, Khazangul Huseynova, Mammad Alim, Aydın Murovdağlı, Nizami Aydın, Sahib Ibrahimli, Nushaba Asad Mammadli, Rafiga Sadighova, Inqilab Isaq, Alamzar Alizadeh, Irada Aytel, Alasgar Alioglu. not only in Ganja literary environment, but as a whole He is also known in the literary and cultural space of Azerbaijan, his works are welcomed and read. Sabir Aliyev, Khalil Yusifli, Sadig Shukurov, Murshud Mammadov, Sadnik Pashayev, Rustam Rustamzade, Fazil Sanan, Magbet Ahmadov, Nazmiyya Akhundova and Ahmad Isayev are well known not only in the Ganja scientific environment, but also in the Azerbaijani literary and scientific arena;

6. Undoubtedly, when genres are classified in the Ganja literary environment, poetry stands in the first place. Throughout the history of Ganja-since Nizami Ganjavi, powerful poets have grown up, and in the following centuries, the candle he lit never went out, it burned even more luxuriantly. In the 1960s-2000s, Ganja's poetry environment attracted attention with poems and poems expressing the most advanced and innovative tendencies of Azerbaijani poetry. The poetic works of talented poets such as Farida Aliyarbeyli, Bahadur Farman, Rubail Allahverdiyev, Khazangul Huseynova, Mammad Alim, Aydın Murovdagli, Nizami Aydın are more noteworthy.;

7. Prose works also occupy an important place in the Ganja literary environment. Here, the prose works of Altay Mammadov and Garib Mehdi, two outstanding prose writers of Azerbaijani literature, are in the spotlight with the most interesting examples of modern Azerbaijani prose, which transcend the limits of the literary environment of Ganja and always attract readers. It is impossible to imagine the lyrical tendency of Azerbaijani prose without the creativity of these prose writers. Their stories and narratives are dedicated to the problems arising from modern life. The prose landscape of the Ganja literary environment is multifaceted, and the stories and narratives of other prose writers (Sahib Ibrahimli,

Alamzar Alizade, Rafiqa Sadighova, Nushaba Asad Mammadli and others) also attract attention. The novels “Əlvida, gözəl dünya” by Altay Mammadov and “Javad Khan” by Nushaba Asad Mammadli are remembered as the success of this genre of prose;

8. Historically, theater and dramaturgy played an indispensable role in the literary environment of Ganja. Various opinions have been put forward regarding the establishment of theater in Ganja. They associate it with the beginning of the 20th century. However, starting from the twenties and thirties of the last century, the glorious period of the Azerbaijani theater began in Ganja, and Ganja theater gained fame as the second most active theater after the main theater (Academic Theater) in Baku. The theater confirms its existence with dramaturgical material, drama works written for the stage. The literary environment of Ganja is known for its poets and prose writers, as well as for the talented dramatists it cultivated during this period. At the same time, Altay Mammadov name should be mentioned first. His plays achieved great success not only in Ganja, but also in Baku theaters. A.Mammadov's plays “Countrymen”, “Men”, “Do you remember”, “The stars don't fade away” occupy a special place among the best examples of Azerbaijani drama. The number of dramatists in Ganja is not that many, but the dramaturgical creativity of Sahib Ibrahimli, who is known as a poet, prose writer and literary critic, is not overlooked. Sahib İbrahimli mainly writes comedies, and in these comedies, the author writes the events and characters of life that cause laughter and humor, and the staging of several of his comedies at the Ganja State Drama Theater proves that he has matured as a playwright;

9. Under the concept of “Literary environment of Ganja” literary-critical, literary studies, folklore studies and journalistic works that were created in Ganja and reached the national scale are also included in that circle. Because criticism, literary studies and publicism also arise in the literary environment. Literary criticism analyzes the works of fiction, evaluates them, explains the features of the subject and craft, reveals the successful aspects and shortcomings, analyzes the images and, most importantly, talks about how artistic works resonate with time. Literary criticism, on the other

hand, values scientific works that arose in the classical and modern periods of literature. Folklore studies allows collecting and researching the national and spiritual values of the region. Journalism is also in close contact with fiction. These cannot be isolated from each other. Prominent critics-literary critics, folklorists and publicists have been active in Ganja, and this tradition continues. Critics-literary critics and folklorists such as Sabir Aliyev, Khalil Yusifli, Sadiq Shukurov, Murshid Mammadov, Bagir Bagirov, Sadnik Pasha Pirsultanli, Rustam Rustamzade left valuable scientific works. The activity of such a prominent publicist as Ahmad Isayev in Ganja, and the book “Ganja and Ganja people”, one of the masterpieces of Azerbaijani journalism, is of great literary and historical importance. Of course, a new generation of critics, literary critics and publicists in Ganja continue their path.

The main content of the dissertation is reflected in the following published scientific works of the author:

1. Writer-translator Jahanbakhsh and literary environment of 20th century Ganja // – Baku: ANAS Institute of Manuscripts named after Muhammad Fuzuli, issues of philology, – 2016. № 2, – pp.345-349
2. The place of the writer-playwright Altay Mammadov in the literary and cultural environment of 20th century Ganja // Gafgaz University, IV international scientific conference of young researchers, – Baku: – 29-30 april, – 2016. – pp.1171-1172
3. Literary environment of Ganja in the 60s and 70s of the 20th century // GSU, I International Scientific Conference of Young Scientists, – Ganja: – 17-18 October, – 2016. Part II. – p.81-84.
4. On the literary environment of Ganja in the second half of the 20th century // – Ternopil: Ternopil National Pedagogical University named after Volodymyr Hnatyuk. Series Literary Studies Science Notes, – 2017. №46, – p.332-340.

5. The scope of Altay Mammadov prose // BSU, Conference on current problems of Azerbaijani studies, – Baku: – 4-5 may, – 2017. – pp. 243-245.
6. Folklore in the creativity of Altay Mammadov // GSU, II International Scientific Conference of Young Scientists, – Ganja: – 26-27 october, – 2017. – pp. 293-294.
7. The topic of the poetry of Sahib Ibrahimli, a representative of Ganja literary environment // III International Scientific Conference of Young Scientists, – Ganja: – 17-18 october, – 2018, – pp. 59-61.
8. Farida Aliyarbaylı, one the representatives of literary environment in Ganja city // – KYIV Literature in the context of culture, - 2018. Issue 29, – pp.93-96.
9. Ganja by Farida Aliyarbeyli // – Baku: BSU, International scientific-theoretical journal of Language and Literature, – 2019. №3 (111), – pp. 239-241.
10. The subject area of Sahib Ibrahimli creativity // – Azerbaijan University, Materials of the 2nd Republican Scientific-Practical Conference of Young Researchers, – Baku: – 15 march, – 2019, – pp. 180-181.
11. The topic of Khazangul poetry // GSU, IV International Scientific Conference of Young Scientists, – Ganja: – 25-26 october, – 2019. – pp.232-234.
12. Literary and critical meetings of Sahib Ibrahimli // Western Caspian University, materials of the scientific-practical conference of young researchers, – Baku: – 2019. – pp. 203-205.
13. Rose-breathed stories // – Baku: ANAS Institute of Manuscripts named after Muhammad Fuzuli, Philological issues, – 2021. – № 13, – pp. 268-275.
14. Ganja literary environment: from the past to the present (The literary environment of Ganja from the past to the present) // 6th ASIA PACIFIC International Modern Sciences Congress, – 15 december, – 2021. – pp.423-424.

15. Historical traditions of Ganja literary environment // – Baku: Institute of Manuscripts named after Muhammad Fuzuli of ANAS, Philological issues, – 2023. №10, – pp.277-284.
16. Manifestation of sixties prose in Ganja literary environment // Macedonia: XV International Conference of Social Sciences, - 31 may, – 2024. – p.483-490
17. The main characteristics of the Ganja literary environment // International Ankara Scientific Research Congress, – Ankara: – 25- 27 June, – 2024, – pp. 244-248
18. “Historical Traditions of Ganja Literary Environment” // – New York: Best Journal Of Innovation In Science, Research and Development, – 2024. № 1(9), – pp. 63-69

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