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ABSTRACT

of the dissertation for the degree of Doctor of Philosophy

**CONTEMPORARY LITERARY AND ARTISTIC
PERCEPTION OF MULTICULTURALISM**

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analysis and criticism

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Applicant: **Gunay Nazim Nadirova**

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The work was performed at the Department of Literary Theory of the Institute of Literature named after Nizami Ganjavi of Azerbaijan National Academy of Sciences.

Scientific supervisor: **Doctor of Science in Philology, Professor
Tahira Gasham Mammad**

Official opponents: **Doctor of Science in Philology, Professor
Asif Abbas Hajiyev**

**Doctor of Science in Philology,
Associate Professor
Yegana Atamoghlan Abdullayeva**

**Ph.D. in Philology
Tarana Khanlar Rustamova**

One-time Dissertation Council – **BFD 1.05** – based on the Dissertation Council – **ED 1.05** of Supreme Attestation Commission under the President of the Republic of Azerbaijan operating at the Institute of Literature named after Nizami Ganjavi of Azerbaijan National Academy of Sciences.

Chairman of the One-time
Dissertation Council:

**Academician, Doctor of Philological
Sciences, Professor
Isa Akbar Habibbayli**

Scientific Secretary of the

One-time Dissertation Council: **Ph.D. in philology
Aysel Hasan Gurbanova**

Chairman of the One-time
Scientific Seminar:

**Doctor of Science in Philology,
Professor
Mahammad Iraj Aliyev**

GENERAL CHARACTERISTICS OF THE WORK

The Relevance and Research Degree of the Subject: In general, the 20th century has witnessed radical changes in world literature and fine arts. In this period, marked by significant socio-economic, political, and public processes, multicultural literature in Europe and the USA emerges as a new trend in Western literature. When we talk about multiculturalism, it primarily refers not only to the creation of new cultures, but also to the coexistence of diverse cultures, sharing equal rights, which is reflected in the determination of new directions in contemporary literature and the convergence of Eastern and Western cultures in the cultural and literary sphere.

As with the positive aspects of multiculturalism, there are also negative aspects, making the human factor crucial in this field. The problems such as, integration and adaptation to the new culture, hybrid identity and national identity undoubtedly influence the human factor formed in the intersection of different cultures. Therefore, the problems related to multiculturalism have become the most studied issues recently, and are covered in all areas of culture and art.

In civilized countries, alongside the local culture, other cultures are developed, and since this paradoxical situation has recently become more relevant, it

In civil countries, other cultures are developed alongside local cultures, and as this paradoxical situation has become more relevant in recent years, it is researched and analysed on a global scale. In this regard, the problems raised in the dissertation should be evaluated as an attempt to show such a topical problem as multiculturalism, which may include contemporary requirements.

Multiculturalism has played a significant role in the formation of both creativity and theory in societies like Europe and the United States. Due to the importance given to multiculturalism at the state level in Azerbaijan, it is necessary to delve into its social, philosophical, and cultural implications by exploring the characteristics of the spaces where it is more widely spread,

conducting analysis, and comparisons.

Multiculturalism has recently been investigated from different directions as one of the fundamental problems of literary studies as well as other fields of humanitarian sciences. Its arrival in literature in the USA and Europe as a worldview system actually started from modernist literature that denied traditional literary themes, but it perfected itself in postmodernist literature. The problems raised by multicultural writers require identifying the reasons for conflicts between nations, national minorities, and ethnic groups, analyzing mutual relationships, and finding ways to solve them.

The theoretical foundations of multicultural literature have been studied by philosophers, theorists, and literary critics such as H.K. Bhabha [86], E.W. Said [135] [136], B.C. Parekh [131], M.M. Bakhtin (М.М. Бахтин) [38] [39] [40], M.V. Tlostanova (М.В. Тлостанова) [71] [72] [73] [74], G. Guliyev (Q. Guliyev) [19] at various times.

Although numerous research works have been conducted on American literature, especially on the creative activities of its contemporary stage representatives, and the problem of multiculturalism, the exploration of this topic in Azerbaijani literary criticism has not been addressed at the same level. Therefore, the study of multiculturalism and the creative work of multicultural writers in contemporary American literature, and determining parallels and differences with Azerbaijani literature and its environment, holds scientific relevance.

In general, the main object of literature is a human. In addition to this, describing the problems faced by humans, exploring the literatures of various nations, and learning about their national values are among its main goals. For this reason, the investigation of the human worldview in the aspect of multinationality, the analysis of the literary reflection of problems faced by a person seeking his “place” in a secluded, in-between space in the contemporary world demonstrates that the research is of great relevance in literary criticism.

As is known, our country was under the influence of the Soviet authority, which was evaluated as a closed society for many years,

and was somewhat distant from the world literary environment, its leading trends, mutual integration processes, and practically isolated. Since we are able to directly integrate into the world literary environment in the modern era, comparing the outstanding representatives of our national literature with the important wordsmiths of the world literature and exploring their main literary techniques hold significant importance for our literary criticism. Therefore, it can be said that the dissertation work is dedicated to the relevant topic.

The Object and Subject of the Research. The object of the research is to investigate contemporary American multicultural literature based on the novels of multicultural writers, and to study the creative work of writers in an external multicultural environment. The subject of the research is the determination of the forms of manifestation of multiculturalism in the context of modern American literature.

The Goal and Objectives of the Research. The main goal of the dissertation is to analyze the problems related to multiculturalism in contemporary literature, to examine the creativity of writers in the multicultural environment, the role of multiculturalism in the literary environment of the United States, and the reflection characteristics of this issue in literary and artistic examples. To achieve this goal, the following objectives have been set:

- Studying theoretical perspectives about multiculturalism;
- Exploring specific characteristics of a multicultural society;
- Familiarizing with theories evaluating multiculturalism as a literary and cultural phenomenon, along with their practical applications;
- Studying and evaluating the particularities of the formation of multiculturalism in modern American literature on the basis of theoretical and literary texts;
- Determining fundamental and contemporary issues such as national identity, hybrid identity, national and cultural conflicts, as well as phenomena like intercultural dialogue and self-determination in the creative works of American multicultural writers;

–Investigating Afro-American identity in Toni Morrison’s works and analyzing identity issues within the context of multiculturalism;

–Analyzing the issue of hybrid culture arisen from the interaction of cultures within the context of multiculturalism;

–Exploring the sources of multiculturalism in Azerbaijani literature and interpreting the artistic reflection of multicultural values;

–Researching the impact of migrant writers on the formation of the multicultural literary environment.

The Methods of the Research: The methods used in the dissertation are based on revealing the socio-cultural and literary aspects of multiculturalism. Ideas related to different mentalities, language and culture are synthesized, and cultural codes are fused with the ideology of the time and environment in multicultural writers’ works. Since the structure of the research is based on the interpretation of the creation and development of the multicultural worldview in the works of the representatives of multicultural literature, it is based on the methods of comparative and semiotic analysis.

The Main Provisions for the Defense. The dissertation defends the following main provisions based on the research:

–Multiculturalism, as a complex and dynamic phenomenon with different meanings from socio-political and cultural-aesthetic perspectives, should be interpreted as a historically formed cultural dialogue and a spiritual-ideological paradigm between various cultures and their representatives;

–The development of multicultural society is determined by the evolution of social factors, and a democratic condition plays a significant role in its formation;

–Multiculturalism, which fosters respect and equality among minorities and colonial countries while highlighting cultural legacies and social differences, has evolved from modernism, that denied traditional literary themes, to finding its most refined form in postmodernist literature. This has led to the establishment of new standards in literary form and content, creating a different narrative;

– American literature, incorporating diverse cultural elements, rapidly integrates in the 20th century and ethnic literature becomes a significant event in the history of literature, which includes works of different artistic and ideological levels;

– The reasons for the establishment of multiculturalism ideology in the United States have been revealed in T. Morrison's novels;

– The interaction of national cultures has led to their mutual enrichment, facing the problem of recognizing and accepting “the other”. Only the concept of multiculturalism has allowed their coexistence, development, mutual benefit, and common evolution in a tolerant environment;

– The culture formed by the Azerbaijani people throughout history is based on the unity of national, spiritual, and universal values. Multicultural traditions formed on the country's territory throughout history are precisely based on these values;

– Multiculturalism can sometimes lead to the deformation of national self-awareness and national identity by emphasizing individual uniqueness and reflecting one's national affiliation;

– The multicultural traditions historically formed by the Azerbaijani people, along with a sense of respect for universal values and tolerant attitudes toward different cultures since ancient times, have been reflected in literary examples attributed to prominent writers considered as classics of Azerbaijani literature;

– Migrant writers play a significant role in shaping the multicultural environment and embrace their hybridity as a new existence. When we refer to the autobiographical works of Afanasi Mammadov, a writer from the post-Soviet era, we can conclude that his main characters often reflect the author's own hybrid identification.

Scientific Novelty of the Research. The scientific objectivity of exploring creative examples that can be evaluated in the context of multiculturalism in modern American literature at the level of the modern requirements of the literary and aesthetic thought of Azerbaijan determines the scientific novelty of the current dissertation.

–The dissertation represents innovation in our literary scholarship by being the first research to provide systematic and comprehensive scientific information about the emergence and development of multiculturalism in Western and American literature.

–The research aims to evaluate the multicultural richness of American literature and analyze its character from the perspective of Azerbaijan, thus contributing to a broader understanding of literary diversity.

–In Azerbaijani literary studies, attention is paid not only to the positive and democratic aspects of multiculturalism, but also to the contradictory aspects faced by individuals who are forced to migrate and work in foreign lands, highlighting the complexities of such situations.

–The analysis of the works of a prominent master like Toni Morrison and the theoretical and conceptual analysis of the creative works of post-Soviet author Afanasi Mammadov in collaboration can also be considered as a scientific novelty in the research.

Theoretical and Practical Significance of the Research. The scientific-theoretical provisions of multiculturalism in literary studies were investigated and multicultural principles were analyzed on the creativity of representatives of American multicultural literature, the issues of application of their experience were brought up and compared with Azerbaijani literature. The results obtained from all these studies can be used as a theoretical basis in the relevant research. Since the research examines the problem of multiculturalism in modern American literature, the multicultural environment and the creativity of its representatives, and is involved in a typological comparison with Azerbaijani literature, it can be important in the research conducted in this direction, as well as in the teaching process.

As for the practical importance of the dissertation, the scientific results and generalizations obtained in the research work can be used in the teaching of basic and elective subjects such as, “Multiculturalism” and “Multicultural Literature”.

Approbation and Application of the Research. Regarding the practical importance of the dissertation, the scientific results and generalizations obtained in the research have been published in

various scientific journals both in Azerbaijan and abroad. Based on the provisions presented in the dissertation, reports have been made at international and republican level scientific conferences.

The name of the institution, where the dissertation was performed. The research work was carried out at the Department of Literary Theory of the Institute of Literature named after Nizami Ganjavi of Azerbaijan National Academy of Sciences.

The total volume of the dissertation with a sign including a separate volume of the structural units of the dissertation. The Dissertation consists of Introduction, three Chapters with three Paragraphs per Chapter, Conclusion and a list of used literature.

The total volume of the research is 7 pages for the **Introduction** with 11,062 characters; 42 pages for **Chapter I** with 82,747 characters; 42 pages for **Chapter II** with 80,854 characters; 46 pages for **Chapter III** with 83775 characters; 4 pages for **Conclusion** with 6350 characters. The total volume of the Dissertation is 264788 characters, excluding the list of used literature.

THE MAIN CONTENT OF THE RESEARCH

In the Introduction section of the dissertation, the relevance and degree of elaboration of the topic, the object and subject of the research, the goals and objectives, methods, the main provisions presented in defense, scientific novelty, theoretical and practical significance, approbation and application of the research, and the structure of the work are substantiated. Scientific information is presented in accordance with the requirements of the Supreme Attestation Commission.

Chapter I, consisting of three paragraphs and titled “**The Main Paradigms of Theoretical Approaches to the Phenomenon of Multiculturalism**”, defines the scientific-theoretical foundations of the problem. The first paragraph of Chapter I, titled “**Concept and Scientific Principles of Multiculturalism**” analyzes the understanding and scientific principles of multiculturalism. Approaches to the term “multiculturalism” by many scholars such as,

M. Tlostanova, R. Bernstein [85], N. Glazer [97] [98], B. Parekh, and N.S. Kirabayev (Н.С. Кирабаев) [52] have been explored.

Professor M.V. Tlostanova notes that, *“The concept of multiculturalism itself has today become a “rubber” term, including a huge number of often contradictory trends and phenomena, so that each of the researchers addressing this phenomenon essentially puts its own meaning into it.”*¹ According to an American publicist R. Bernstein, defining multiculturalism is undoubtedly a challenging task. He states, *“Multiculturalism is definitely an uncertain concept”*.² An American sociologist N. Glazer expresses a similar viewpoint, saying, *“The term “multiculturalism” has been used so often both defensively and offensively, covering so many various events, that it seems difficult to describe what is meant by multiculturalism.”*³

British political theorist Bhikhu Parekh emphasizes that, *“Multiculturalism is not only about minorities. It is also a link between different cultural communities. Multiculturalism is a weapon of justice. It plays a bridge role between different communities.”*⁴ Among various approaches to the concept of “multiculturalism”, the definition provided by Russian scholar N.S. Kirabayev is also interesting. According to him, *“Multiculturalism claims respect for differences without abandoning the search for universality.”*⁵

In the second paragraph of Chapter I, titled **“Interaction of**

¹ Тлостанова, М.В. Мультикультурализм: порождение или альтернатива глобализации? // Москва: Вестник РУДН, сер. Философия, – 2006. №1 (11). – с. 106-123.

² Bernstein, R. Dictatorship of Virtue. Multiculturalism and the Battle of Americas Future / R. Bernstein. – New York: Alfred A. Knopf, – 1994. – 147 p.

³ Glazer, N. We are All Multiculturalists Now / N. Glazer – Cambridge, MA and London, England: Harvard University Press, – 1997. – 396 p.

⁴ Parekh, B.C. Rethinking Multiculturalism: Cultural Diversity and Political Theory / B.C. Parekh. Cambridge, Massachusetts: Harvard University Press, – 2000. – 349 p.

⁵ Кирабаев, Н.С. Культурная идентичность, плюрализм и глобализация в современном философском дискурсе // Диалог цивилизаций: Восток-Запад: Культурная идентичность и глобализация. Доклады и выступления. 5-й международный философский симпозиум, – Москва: издательство РУДН, – 14-16 апреля, – 2003. – с. 15-20.

Multicultural Society with Culture and Literature”, the research results reveal that culture and literature have played a significant role in the formation of multicultural society. It is known that the emergence of multiculturalism as a phenomenon in modern society has highlighted the necessity of integrating individuals from diverse cultures into a unified context. The issue of intercultural mutual influence and the coexistence of different cultures has not only gained fundamental significance during the globalization era, but has also remained an immutable topic for many researchers. Y.V. Bromley (Ю.В. Бромлей) [41], L.N. Gumilyov (Л.Н. Гумилев) [47] [48] [49], M.M. Bakhtin, and others have analyzed the relationship between various cultures and ethnicities based on mutual dialogue in this paragraph.

In modern society, the emergence of multiculturalism as a phenomenon has brought attention to the urgent issue of preserving one’s national identity, which is necessary for the integration of individuals from diverse cultures into a unified context. Despite the positive aspects of multiculturalism, it can sometimes contribute to the deformation of national self-awareness and national identity that reflects an individual’s unique characteristics. According to the research conducted in the Western context, there are ethnic minorities that have completely distanced themselves from their roots, do not wish to preserve their traditions, and feel a sense of Europeanization.

This paragraph makes it evident that multiculturalism is one of the types of multidimensional cultural diversity manifested within a society. People are compelled to coexist with individuals who possess different cultural values, and they tend to accept one another’s cultural value systems and social imperatives.

The third paragraph of Chapter I is titled as **“Multiculturalism as a Literary Paradigm”**. The relevance of the issues such as, the alienation of a personality, the problem of the individual, who is disturbed in the society, and unable to adapt to it and to integrate into the social environment, which are among the main human problems in the modern era, especially in postcolonial and multicultural literature in the 20th century have been investigated. The research reveals that the formation of the literary process and, in general, the development

of literature are related to socio-political environment, socio-historical and cultural conditions. Since literature is an art form that reflects life in words, every aspect of our life has been mirrored in it.

The paragraph concludes by stating that the research results have determined that the concept of “multiculturalism” extensively and thoroughly commented upon by many researchers since the last decades of the 20th century is used in the context of the diverse life of a particular country in literary events. American intellectual tradition and interdisciplinary cultural studies related to issues of ethnic, racial, national, and cultural identity are important fields that interpret multiculturalism. Migrant writers who bring a new breath to modern American and British literature and are valued as “*remains and reminders of the historical past*”⁶ have a hybrid identity as bearers of different cultures. It is possible to express the position of immigrant writers in literature by applying the concept of “interstitial space” put forward by a prominent postcolonial theorist Homi K. Bhabha. Thus, migrant writers located between different cultures and nationalities, while belonging to two worlds, do not belong to either of them completely. “*If Renee Green’s questions open up an interrogatory, interstitial space between the act of representation - who? what? where? - and the presence of community itself, then consider her own creative intervention within this in-between moment.*”⁷

The research indicates that the literary context of multiculturalism primarily demands the portrayal of heterogeneous cultural identity. In the multicultural environment, attention is drawn not only to the diversity of ethnic belonging in the population, but also to the heterogeneity and colourfulness of culture. Multicultural writers synthesize ideas, language, and culture of various mentalities in their works. It has been determined that in multicultural works, even though the English language holds a dominant position, multicultural writers consciously incorporate words and expressions, especially those with national colour, used in native languages to

⁶ Mercer, K. *Welcome to the Jungle* / K. Mercer. – London: Routledge, – 2005. – 352 p.

⁷ Bhabha, H.K. *The Location of Culture* / H.K. Bhabha – New York; London: Routledge, – 1994. – 408 p.

differentiate their own cultural identities.

The investigation of the problem shows that the role of multiculturalism in literature is undeniable. Each literary example has its own value. In each literary example, there is a spiritual aspect conveying a humanistic worldview and promoting valuable principles for life. Respecting every nation, ethnic minority, and their culture can open a new humanist perspective on life.

Chapter II of the dissertation is titled **“Manifestation Characteristics of Multiculturalism in American Literature”** and consists of three paragraphs. The first paragraph, titled **“The Impact of the “Melting Pot” Concept on American Multicultural Literature”**, delves into the unique assimilation concept of the United States - the metaphor of the “Melting Pot”.

This paragraph states that the racial and ethnic diversity of American culture set it apart, making it distinct from other national cultures. Bringing the problem of the plurality of cultural traditions to the forefront has led to the emergence of a new concept – “multiculturalism”. Generally, from its inception to the present day, there has been a necessity to create a unified culture in the United States. In the early 20th century, this idea was formed through a specific assimilation concept aimed to melt different ethnic groups and metaphorically referred to as the “Melting Pot”. The aim was to amalgamate various ethnic groups into a new unified American culture through their coexistence.

The research indicates that the “Melting Pot” metaphor persists in the United States to this day. Observing the evolution and stages of multiculturalism, we witness that this metaphor, used to describe American culture, has ancient roots. Among the changed forms of the metaphor “Melting Pot”, originated in the 18th century, a number of metaphorical combinations such as, “Salad Bowl”, or “Vegetable Soup”, or “Ornate Mosaic”, used at the end of the last century, were notably excelled.

According to N. Glazer, *“Multiculturalism rejects assimilation and the “Melting Pot” image, favoring metaphors like “Salad Bowl” or “Gorgeous Mosaic” that preserve and support the ethnic*

*or racial characteristics of the population.”*⁸

As a result of the research, a general conclusion contradicts the “Melting Pot” process, revealing that the concept of multiculturalism, during cohabitation, inclines towards preserving the customs, traditions, and national characteristics of each ethnicity.

The second paragraph of Chapter II is titled as “**The Reflection of the Main Ideas of American Multiculturalism in Fiction**”. It reveals that, throughout the three-century historical development, American literature, which transcended the literary boundaries of the English Empire to become one of the world’s greatest literatures, has maintained a close connection with English literature and continues to preserve this connection. American literature, existing in the same language as English literature, evolving and accommodating multicultural literature, has acquired unique characteristics during this period. Pluralism, mutual influence, yet non-unification are fundamental features of the literary and cultural development of the United States.

According to Professor R.F. Berkhofer, American literature “*was superior in the formation of subsequent literary genres compared to other regions. During this period, there was the imaginary transformation of the Hindu population of a period of historical relations occurred during the colonial period of the history of American culture into symbolic and mythological Hindus.*”⁹ The last part of the American researcher’s statement draws attention to another aspect of American literature worthy of special discussion - its multicultural foundation.

Based on the results of the research, the classification of American multicultural literature can be as follows:

- 1) Racial literature - this group constitutes the main

⁸ Glazer, N. *We are All Multiculturalists Now* / N. Glazer – Cambridge, MA and London, England: Harvard University Press, – 1997. – 396 p. Berkhofer, R.F. *The White Man’s Indian: Images of the American Indian from Columbus to the Present* / R.F. Berkhofer. – New York: Alfred A. Knopf Jr., – 1978. – 250 p.

⁹ Berkhofer, R.F. *The White Man’s Indian: Images of the American Indian from Columbus to the Present* / R.F. Berkhofer. – New York: Alfred A. Knopf Jr., – 1978. – 250 p.

Afro-American part of modern American literature;

2) Ethnic literature - this group includes the literature of “Chicano” (“Chicana”) - residents who came to the United States from Latin American countries and the literature created by Jewish residents of the United States.

3) Racial-Ethnic Literature: This category predominantly comprises Asian-American literature, representing the literary works of individuals from Asian countries, including Japan, China, the Philippines, etc.

In essence, one of the most crucial components of American multicultural literature lies in its racial and ethnic elements. “Mainstream” literature is the most significant layer in this structure. Concurrently, alongside “Mainstream” literature and intersecting with it various racial and ethnic groups contribute to the rich tapestry of American culture.

In conclusion, when generalizing the themes explored in American multicultural literature, it becomes evident that the literature delves into issues such as assimilation, the journey toward becoming a genuine American, and the preservation of national and personal identities. Simultaneously, the protagonists of these literary works, embodying two distinct cultures, embark on a quest for their identities, recognizing that, as American citizens raised in the United States, speaking the English language, they carry the cultural traditions and national identities of their forebears. In this regard, the representatives of multicultural literature strive to forge a new cultural symbiosis by navigating the complexities of two separate cultures and distinct worldviews within their creative works.

The third paragraph of Chapter II called “**T. Morrison’s creativity in the Context of Multicultural Values**” examines the literary contributions of Afro-American writer Toni Morrison. Morrison’s works have garnered widespread acclaim, both domestically and internationally, notably earning her numerous prestigious awards.

During the era of multiculturalism, Afro-American writers endeavor to address global predicaments such as the evolution of civilizations, the determination of an individual’s destiny in a

changing world, mutual understanding among diverse peoples, and gender relations, all through the lens of their own cultures. During the research, it was concluded that despite varying perspectives, Afro-American literature, when viewed in mutual connection, emerges as an independent facet of American literature, encompassing both ideological and aesthetic dimensions.

The study reveals that, over the past three decades, T. Morrison stands out as one of the foremost figures among Afro-American writers, and her literary significance lies in the presentation of her individuality at philosophical and poetic levels, coupled with the fusion of Western civilization and “African roots”. The writer’s works not only captivate literary critics and scholars due to the originality of her creative style, but also address the socio-psychological mood of the African-American community in the 1970-80s, a period when Afro-American literature began to dominate. A Russian literary critic A.S. Mulyarchik asserts, *“If the writings about T. Morrison, prior to the publication of the novel “Song of Solomon” (1977), portrayed her as one of marginal “ethnic authors”, a stable opinion emerged after this book, propelling T. Morrison with her diversity to the top of the unique process of American literature as a whole”*. In an entire journal dedicated to the author, the editor noted, *“Morrison has ascended to one of the paramount figures, not only in Afro-American literature, but also on a global scale in national literature.”*¹⁰

The research concludes that most of T. Morrison’s works predominantly focus on racial disparities and feminist features. Her novel “Beloved” [122], addresses themes of physical and mental freedom, racial discrimination, the problems of the psychological state of a woman and the spiritual world of a mother. “The Bluest Eye” [128] is a manifestation of the psychological state of a young girl against the background of racial discrimination problems. The novel “Jazz” [124], which portrays processes of urbanization and the cohabitation of black immigrants with indigenous white residents

¹⁰ Мулярчик, А. Романистика Тони Моррисон // Астуриас, М. А. Сеньор Президент: Моррисон, Т. Джаз. – Москва: Панорама, – 2000. – с. 452–460.

against the backdrop of the problem of protecting black rights with the “Harlem” appeal, also delves into the self-recognition process of blacks. All her novels have attained the status of classics in the latter half of the 20th century. In “Mercy” [125], which was written in 2008, T. Morrison once again explores issues of racial disparities and women’s concerns, drawing parallels between events in the novel and those that unfolded between the 17th and 21st centuries in the modern era.

In this paragraph, it is evident that Toni Morrison’s novel “Jazz” is considered one of the most successful works in exploring multicultural issues in this field. “Jazz” serves as a prominent example of “jazz improvisation”. Despite being published in 1992, the novel sheds light on and attempts to overcome the main problems of the 1920-s. The most important of these problems are the issues of racial and gender equality.

Chapter III of the research, which consists of three paragraphs, is titled as “**Ideological-philosophical Foundations and Context Diversity of Multiculturalism in Literature (in comparative aspect)**”. The first paragraph of the chapter called “**The Interaction of Cultures in Multiculturalism and the Problem of National Culture**” analyzes the issue of national culture that arises during the interaction of various cultures. Multiculturalism, which encompasses diverse cultures, involves both individual national cultures and multicultural cultures. The research shows that ethnic and national cultures existing in the world today have not interacted during the period when multiculturalism policies were established. This process has been present throughout the human history. The problems arising during the interaction of cultures are mainly related to the recognition of “the other” because representatives of two cultures initially engage in a relationship with their cultural principles and values. Undoubtedly, there is an inevitable difference between these values. In this case, the elimination of contradictions between cultures requires a high level of tolerance potential.

A culture attempts to melt and transform its components into a whole. When referring to the culture of a nation, it encompasses literature, music, customs, and other forms that interact and

condition one another. However, the situation changes in the context of the interaction of national cultures, namely in the context of multiculturalism. Each cultural sphere strives to assert and display itself. It has been determined that multiculturalism is a problem of mutual existence and dialogue of various cultural traditions, including ethnic, national, and other diverse customs.

As it is known, a culture itself is a multifaceted and multilateral phenomenon. Literary scholar, professor Gorkhmaz Guliyev notes that, *“in the process of the interaction of various cultures in the multiculturalism project, this multilateral condition becomes more vivid, turning into a phenomenon with extremely complex and contradictory qualities and characteristics. It includes a modern human society and determines the direction of civilization’s development in the future.”*¹¹

Thus, national cultures can highlight their rich cultural values by not denying one another, but by supporting one another.

In the second paragraph of Chapter III, titled **“Sources and Artistic Reflection of Multicultural Values in Literature (Azerbaijani model)”**, involves the Azerbaijani model in the research. In this paragraph, it is determined that Azerbaijan has been an example to mankind for thousands of years as a multicultural country with its national-cultural diversity and tolerant environment, its humanistic outlook towards the different peoples living in the country, and its corresponding state policy. Thus, Azerbaijan, which has a rich history, is also known all over the world for its rich culture.

The research results show that by developing the tradition of multiculturalism over the centuries, the national leader Heydar Aliyev, with his visionary and wise policy, defined the political place of multiculturalism in Azerbaijan and became the architect of this policy. *“The rich ethnic composition of the Azerbaijani population is our wealth, our superiority. We value and will*

¹¹ Quliyev, Q. Multikulturalizmin əsasları. Dərs vəsaiti. / Q.Quliyev, Ü.Rəhimova – Bakı: Azərbaycan Respublikası Təhsil Nazirliyi, Azərbaycan Universiteti, – 2016 – 275 s.

preserve it”¹², said the national leader, reflecting the essence of multicultural traditions in the Constitution of the Republic of Azerbaijan. One of the most significant successes of our national leader was to formalize respect for other nationalities and their culture and religion, which is one of the most valuable qualities of our people, by raising it to the level of Azerbaijani ideology. Academician I. Habibbayli notes that, “*the instruction of the prominent statesman Heydar Aliyev: “We all have one homeland. It is Azerbaijan!” is based on unity and solidarity in our country, relying on international relations.*”¹³

The President of the Republic of Azerbaijan İlham Aliyev emphasized that, “*The concept of multiculturalism, recently introduced as a term, has actually existed in Azerbaijan for centuries.*”¹⁴

The study of the problem shows that the literary and artistic examples written from ancient times to the present indicate the existence of multicultural mood and tolerant relations in different periods in Azerbaijan. We see these values most vividly in the works of Nizami Ganjavi, İmadedin Nasimi, Molla Panah Vagif, Mirza Fatali Akhundov and others.

In the preface of the book “Literary and Artistic Sources of Azerbaijan Multiculturalism” published by the Baku International Multiculturalism Center, Academician Kamal Abdulla writes, “*The desire to perceive humanity as a whole, the need to seek factors that unite different peoples spiritually, efforts to bring religions closer to one another, equal respect for the sacredness of various religions, an ethics of valuing people not based on their religion, but based on*

¹² Heydər Əliyev Mərkəzində “Heydər Əliyev və multikulturalizmin Azərbaycan modeli” mövzusunda seminar: [Elektron resurs] / – 2016 URL: [https:// news.milli.az/country/409804.html](https://news.milli.az/country/409804.html)

¹³ Həbibbəyli, İ. Multikulturalizm yollarında: ədəbi-tarixi ənənələr və müasir dövr: [Elektron resurs] / – 2017 URL: <http://www.anl.az/down/meqale/azerbaycan/2017/yanvar/522893.htm>

¹⁴ Bakı Beynəlxalq Humanitar Forumunun rəsmi açılış mərasimində İlham Əliyevin nitqi: [Elektron resurs] / Bakı Beynəlxalq Humanitar Forumu. – 2014 URL:<https://bakuforum.az/az/speech-by-president-of-azerbaijan-mr-ilham-aliyev/?fid=524>.

their worth, an invitation to show compassion, empathy, and sympathy for others' suffering, and love as the highest, most sublime feeling irrespective of language or religion, are all indicators of the deep-seated spirit of our literature. It can be boldly stated that every representative of our rich classical literature, with its centuries-old history, has not only embraced these values, but has also incorporated them into their worldview."¹⁵

It is known from the opinions of the eminent academician that multiculturalism is characterized as a perspective on life and reality in the literary and artistic thought of Azerbaijan. This means that a free and tolerant attitude to multiculturalism, multi-religiousness and diversity of opinions is a characteristic feature of the worldview of the Azerbaijani people.

The third paragraph of Chapter III **“The Role of Migration in the Formation of the Multicultural Literary Environment”** explores the impact of globalization on migrant writers as part of global literature. In shaping the multicultural realm, migrant writers assume a pivotal role by engaging in the process of adapting to new spaces and cultures, attempting to depict the current situation in the country they come from or go to through their literary and artistic expressions. The unfamiliarity and nuanced differences between “self” and “the other” demand a careful and cautious perspective from every new multicultural author in each novel situation. Salman Rushdie, a prominent multicultural writer, refers to this delicate process as the *“straddling two cultures, sometimes falling between two stools”*.¹⁶

The research findings indicate that within the post-Soviet context, there are writers whose ethnic, cultural, linguistic, and religious identities remain somewhat elusive to Western readers. Among them is Afanasy Mammadov, whose attempt to bring literary visibility to this position can be observed in his works. Scholar M. Tlostanova describes Mammadov's books, *“as*

¹⁵ Azərbaycan multikulturalizminin ədəbi-bədii qaynaqları // Bakı Beynəlxalq Multikulturalizm Mərkəzi – Bakı: Mütərcim, – 2016. – 288 s.

¹⁶ Rushdie, S. Imaginary Homelands: Essays and Criticism 1981-1991 / S. Rushdie. – London: Granta Books. – 1991. – 448 p.

exemplifying a hybrid colonial subjectivity within the post-Soviet variant".¹⁷

For instance, in the novel "Mrs. Scar" ("Фрай Шрам") Afanasy Mammadov's protagonist embodies this hybrid identity, repeatedly echoing the author's own hybrid nature. This uniqueness in Afanasy Mammadov consistently reflects the sharpness of specific ethno-cultural differences, capturing the essence of Baku's multicultural environment. The author, in a single work, transports the protagonist from being Azerbaijani in the first story to choosing his own second identity, the Jewish dominion, in another narrative. The encounter between the protagonist, a former lover and a Jewish troubadour, who creates Ilya Novoqrudski, further illustrates the potential consequences as they move to a new Muslim country—Azerbaijan, represented by the penniless student of the Literature Institute.

The research highlights that the author's identity is fragmented between "home" and "street independence", representing not only a challenge for Afanasi Mammadov, but also a fundamental issue for all migrant writers.

Consequently, the analysis of contemporary literature through the lens of the multicultural environment is expected to facilitate the vivid portrayal of the creative works of migrant writers, representing the diverse cultures of the West and the East. As the process of intensive migration continues, the volume of multicultural literary works is poised to expand further.

As a result of the investigations conducted within the framework of the research work, the following **scientific conclusions** and generalizations have been obtained:

– In the analysis of the concept of multiculturalism and the scientific principles related to it, determination of the essence of the term multiculturalism, which does not give up the search for "universality" while respecting the differences and which is called the "weapon of justice" is significant. The development strategy of

¹⁷ Тлостанова, М.В. Постсоветская литература и эстетика транкультурации. Жизнь никогда, писать ниоткуда / М.В. Тлостанова. – Москва: Едиториал УРСС, – 2004. – 416 с.

the globalized world, the investigation of inter-ethnic relations, inter-cultural relations against the background of socio-political processes, imperative influence, the study of cultural values in the context of pluralism and other related issues are important. In determining the paradigm of an ideal society, multiculturalism is equated with tolerance from a moral-ideological aspect and plays a driving role in meeting the political, cultural and ethnic needs of peoples, resolving ethnic conflicts and strengthening trust between different peoples.

– Factors that condition the relationship interaction between multicultural society with culture and literature in descriptive and normative formats make cross-cultural integration necessary and provide an adequate explanation of colonial, post-colonial and multicultural ideologies. The consideration of migration and assimilation factors in creating the “solid” societal model testifies to multiculturalism’s receptive approach to intercultural dialogue. Hybrid identity, nuances like the binary opposition of “self” and “the other” and the result of civilizations weaving together are manifest in the self-development process of cultures within the multicultural context.

– The period considered as the era of radical changes in the 20th century, which is initially regarded as the foundational ground for the determination of contemporary political and cultural standards, is remembered for massive migration to Europe, world wars, and the factors of capitalism and socialism, which conditioned the era of economic and social crises. All these changes have significantly influenced the intellectualism and literary direction of nations towards multiculturalism. Multicultural works with a polyphonic feature are quite successful in comparison with homophonic works, creating conditions for the analysis of identity alienation, adaptation problems, hybrid identity, language and culture difference from various aspects, crossing the “red line” from the creativity of immigrant writers, and confirming multiculturalism as a literary paradigm.

– The complexity and diversity of socio-cultural reality in the United States, driven by racial and ethnic diversity, have contributed

to a comprehensive understanding of multiculturalism. The U.S. experience of multiculturalism is based on the assimilation principle of the “melting pot” within the framework of the acculturation process.

– The transformation of local American literature into global-scale multicultural literature is considered successful from an unconventional perspective. This dynamic change is explained by the complex mutual relationship between ethnic literature, which preserves its originality as part of regional traditions and national literature. Ethnic polyphony and the factor of hybrid individuals have propelled American literature beyond its constraints towards a multicultural direction, becoming the main thematic focus of writers such as, T. Morrison.

– T. Morrison, who attempts to illuminate the problems and difficulties of the apartheid era in her creativity, has consistently succeeded in keeping the issue of the emancipation of her race on the agenda. The weight of the issue of the selection of individuals from the mass based on human differences, such as skin colour, physical characteristics, intellectual level, thinking style, and the different citizen position regarding societal processes, forms the basis of T. Morrison’s literary credo. It is analyzed from various aspects in works such as, “The Bluest Eye”, “Song of Solomon”, “Beloved”, ”Jazz” etc.

– The efforts of cultural individuals to melt and transform their constituent parts both unite and separate them. In the context of the contact of national cultures, that is, within the framework of multiculturalism, each cultural domain seeks to present and demonstrate itself. The encounter of cultures leads to their mutual enrichment, the formation of cultural values that unite different peoples on the one hand, and on the other hand, it poses a problem of recognizing, understanding, and accepting “the other” as it is. In this case, only the concept of multiculturalism enables the coexistence, development, mutual benefit, joint formation, and development of different national cultures in a tolerant environment.

– The ideology of Azerbaijani identity, laid by the national leader Heydar Aliyev, is chosen for its uniqueness, reflecting the

harmony of various peoples and ethnic groups living in Azerbaijan, and is recognized as the main imperative of the country's democracy. While shaping Azerbaijan's attitude towards multicultural values at the crossroads of civilizations, it can be concluded that the country's tolerant attitude towards national and cultural diversity, respect for universal values, and an equivalent approach to representatives of different nations living within its borders can play a significant role in assessing the ideology of multiculturalism in various countries.

– A retrospective review of classical Azerbaijani literature, which is considered the treasure of our history of literary and artistic thought as a whole, allows us to comment on the rich artistic texture, wonderful language, and colorful subject base of our literary heritage. The merits of the literary genius of prominent writers such as N.Ganjavi, I.Nasimi, M.P.Vagif, M.F.Akhundzada are a clear proof of the establishment of the idea of multiculturalism in our literature.

– Literature and literary theory, including the development of culture, have always played a crucial role in migration. Over the centuries, the creative potential of writers who write and create outside their homeland has led to the emergence of the roots of the migration concept in world literature. In subsequent periods, many migrant writers, who turned the transcultural process into a visible image, successfully spread the ideas of multiculturalism in literature by expressing their longing for homeland, the weight of living in a different environment in their literary examples. The creative works of immigrant writers H. Hami and U. Bani, as well as the novels with dualistic identities in the cultural diffusion factor of A. Mammadov, who remained faithful to the themes of similar tales of people living in different peripheries, have given their literary contribution to the crystallization of multiculturalism in literature.

THE MAIN CONTENT OF THE DISSERTATION IS REFLECTED IN THE FOLLOWING ARTICLES AND CONFERENCE MATERIALS OF THE APPLICANT:

1. Nadirova, G.N. Multikulturalizm sosial-mədəni və ədəbi hadisə kimi // Doktorantların və gənc tədqiqatçıların XX Respublika elmi konfransının materialları, – Bakı: Azərbaycan Dövlət Neft və Sənaye Universiteti Nəşriyyatı, – 24-25 may, – 2016, – s. 576-578
2. Nadirova, G.N. Multikultural cəmiyyətin formalaşması, inkişafı və ədəbiyyatda inikası // – Bakı: Poetika.izm, – 2017. № 3, – s. 198-204
3. Nadirova, G.N. Azərbaycan ədəbi-estetik fikrində multikulturalizm // – Bakı: Humanitar elmlərin öyrənilməsinin aktual problemləri (Ali məktəblər arası elmi məqalələr məcmuəsi), – 2018. № 1, s.122-126
4. Nadirova, G.N. Heydər Əliyev dövlətçilik siyasətində multikulturalizm və ədəbiyyat // Heydər Əliyev: multikulturalizm və tolerantlıq ideologiyası, I Beynəlxalq Elmi Konfrans. Məruzələrin tezisləri, – Bakı: “MTM-Innovation” MMC, – 9 aprel – 5 may, – 2018, – 286-288 s.
5. Nadirova, G.N. Britaniya postkolonial mədəniyyəti və ədəbiyyatı // – Bakı: Müqayisəli Ədəbiyyatşünaslıq, – 2019. № 1, – s. 16-20
6. Nadirova, G.N. Müasir Azərbaycan və Amerika ədəbiyyatında multikultural dəyərlər // – Bakı: Dil və Ədəbiyyat, – 2019. IX cild, № 4, – s. 70-77
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9. Надирова, Г.Н. Феномен мультикультуралізма в сучасному світі // Баку: Filologiya məsələləri, 2019. № 12, – с. 351-355
10. Nadirova, G.N. Müasir ədəbiyyatın multikultural mühit prizması: Afanasi Məmmədovun hibrid identikliyi // – Bakı: Filologiya və Sənətsünaslıq, – 2021. № 2, – s. 206-214



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Address: AZ 1143, Baku, Huseyn Javid Avenue 115, Academy campus, Main building, IV floor, Electronic hall of the Institute of Literature named after Nizami Ganjavi.

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