

**REPUBLIC OF AZERBAIJAN**

*On the right of the manuscript*

**FOLKLORE STYLE IN AZERBAIJAN CHILDREN'S  
LITERATURE OF THE BEGINNING OF THE 20<sup>th</sup> CENTURY**

**Specialty:** 5719.01 – Folklore study

**Field of science:** Philology

**Applicant:** Gulnar Nuraddin gizi Mammadova

**ABSTRACT**

of the dissertation for the degree of Doctor of Philosophy in  
Philological Sciences

**BAKU – 2025**

The dissertation completed at the Department of Folklore and Writing literary of the Institute of Folklore of Azerbaijan National Academy of Sciences.

Scientific adviser: Doctor of Philology, Professor

**Kamran Imran oglu Aliyev**

Official opponents: Doctor of Philology, Professor,  
**Asif Abbas oglu Hajiye**

Doctor of Philology, Associate Professor  
**Agaverdi Sarkhan oglu Khalilov**

Doctor of Philosophy in Philology,  
Associate Professor  
**Mahammad Mammadsaid oglu Mammadov**

ED 1.27 Dissertation Council of the Higher Attestation Commission under the President of the Republic of Azerbaijan operating under the Institute of Folklore of ANAS

Chairman of the Dissertation Council: Doctor of Philology, Professor

**Seyfaddin Gulverdi oglu Rzayev**

Scientific Secretary of the Dissertation Council: Doctor of Philosophy in Philology

**Nizami Shamil oglu Adishirinov**

Chairman of the Scientific Seminar: Doctor of Philology, Professor,

**Afzaladdin Dagbeyi oglu Asgarov**

## **GENERAL CHARACTERISTICS OF THE DISSERTATION**

**Topicality and degree of using of the theme.** Among the philological studies of modern times the study of children's literature and its folklore source is an important direction. The methodology of mastering children's literature by children and its development by researchers are among the important issues. The children's literature of the early twentieth century has been studied by us for a long time and the artistic samples of this period have been compared with their similar examples in folklore. Despite the fact that children's literature is studied from the direction of literary criticism and is taught in the framework of the history of literature at philological-oriented faculties, this topic has not been the subject of an independent study from the point of view of the relationship of literary material of the intended period with folklore.

In many studies the children's literature as the subject of research is not defined clearly according to the terminological point. There are two main interrelated approaches here. One of them is the question of the age limit and the other is the question of the suitability of literature for children. Although children's literature is old, there is still a search for theories in this area.

The study of the formation and development of Azerbaijani children's literature is an important issue in terms of assessing literary and educational resources in the upbringing of the younger generation, which determines the future of the people. The investigation of folklore samples, which played an active role in the formation of Azerbaijani children's literature at the beginning of the 20<sup>th</sup> century, creating a literary style is one of the urgent problems facing the science of folklore-study. The influence of folklore on written literature, the study of folklore style as a problem in Azerbaijani children's literature, formed on the basis of the interaction of oral and written tradition, is among the actual tasks of philology.

The investigation of the relationship of folklore and written literature, the study of folklore as a source and the language, style and reader of literature as a determining factor has relevance from several directions. First of all, the study of the sources of literary samples created for children, the features of their form and content, is valuable in terms of moral education of the newly grown generation. It is necessary to know with what manners and moral values our children are taught. Children's literature is more important than the part of literature that is for people of mature age. Because the role of folklore and folklore-based literature for children in the formation of children's worldview, moral-spiritual qualities, behavior and tastes are great. The connection of literature created for children and folklore has existed throughout history and should always be explored. The quality of the literary product presented to the field of education must be checked and always monitored by science.

The folklore examples and poetic models of folklore, which are the main sources of children's literature, both determined the style of this literary creation and enriched its content with folk wisdom, which came through testing in the life experience of the people. Folklore style is a determining factor in the main characteristic of children's literature and should be investigated from various aspects.

On the other hand, the study of the relationship of folklore and children's literature is relevant from the point of view of the continuity of development from the past to the future, that is, the transfer of national moral values from the past to the next generation.

Literary fairy tales, which are the most popular genre in the relationship of children's literature and folklore, lullabies created in written literature (literary lullabies) have become the main subject of numerous studies, occupying the important place in the practice of studying world children's literature. At the same time, the presence of examples of literary fairy tales created exclusively for children makes it necessary to study the topic of a literary fairy tale in the future in the form of a separate dissertation. While a number of dissertations related to literary tales belonging to the circle of children's literature

have been written and monographs have been published in world folklore studies, the researches in this area are quite limited in Azerbaijan.

The poetic structure of children's literature, as well as children's prose, mastered images, artistic description and means of expression, which began in the 19<sup>th</sup> century and developed rapidly at the beginning of the 20<sup>th</sup> century, is based on children's folklore, mainly children's songs. In order to clarify this issue, it is important to examine the image system, initial origin and mechanism of their formation of genres of children's folklore (nursery songs, lullabies, etc.) that have a wide influence on the formation of children's poetry. Although children's literature and children's folklore belonged to a layer of oral culture with separate laws, they are two components of one system, namely: the upbringing of children. In this sense, children's literature combines both oral and written traditions.

The lack of theoretical base for the detection of the interaction of Azerbaijani literature and folklore, as well as Azerbaijani children's literature and children's folklore, creates considerable difficulties in the study of the theme.

The manifestation of the indirect connection of folklore and literature in the aspect of children's literature and folklore from the specifics of children's literature and children's folklore, undoubtedly, contains a certain difference. This differentiation shows itself in accordance with the functions of children's literature, the mechanism of its formation, genre criteria, linguistic and stylistic features, as well as the historical development of each country. For example, a specific feature of the relationship of folklore and children's literature is characterized by orientation towards the age stages of the child and differs from the literature of adults.

The influence of folklore samples on the formation of the genre system of Azerbaijani children's literature at the beginning of the 20<sup>th</sup> century was very great. In general, it is impossible to imagine the concept of children's literature without folklore examples. However,

at the beginning of the 20<sup>th</sup> century the use of folklore samples in the creation of literary texts was set as a goal.

Speaking about the formation of Azerbaijani children's literature in the research works about the children's poetry by T.Javadov and about the children's prose by Y.Babayev, they put forward interesting ideas about the relationship of written literature and folklore. In the research works devoted to the creativity of different writers and poets, articles and textbooks were touched on the connection of children's literature and folklore and the certain enumerations were carried out mainly on the patterns formed by the influence of folklore samples in a single-line plan. The common feature that unites these studies is the fragmentary nature of the facts<sup>1</sup>

In general, at the beginning of the 20<sup>th</sup> century (1900-1925) the systematic research work was not carried out in the direction of detection of folklore style in Azerbaijan children's literature.

Children's literature in comparison with its main source folklore has been involved in research in scientific communities of many advanced countries. For example, in Russian folklore-study the picture manifests itself in a completely different direction. Popular and readable genres of children's literature were involved in the research not in the aspect of the influence of folklore on literature, but in the aspect of interaction and renewing one another. In the direction of the study of literary fairy tales, the most widespread genre, both Russian and European folklore studies, a number of studies were carried out and valuable works were written.

---

<sup>1</sup> Babayev Y. From the history of the development of Azerbaijani children's prose (1905-1920s) / Y.Babayev. Abstract of the candidate's dissertation. – Baku, –1989. Baydilli (Mammadov) J. The system of Turkic mythological images: structure and function (monograph). /J. Baydili.–Baku: Mutarjim, –2007, –272 p.; Javadov T. Azerbaijani children's poetry at the end of the 19<sup>th</sup> - the beginning of the 20<sup>th</sup> century / T.Javadov .Candidate dissertation. – Baku, - 1988; Asgarli F. Staged development of Azerbaijani children's literature / F.Asgarli. - Baku: Publishing house of ASPU, -2009, - 435 p.; Farhadov F., Hajiyevev A. History of Azerbaijani children's literature / F. Farhadov., A. Hajiyevev. – Baku: API Publishing house, 1986).

The rich scientific experience has also been accumulated in the world folklore studies on the issues such as children's thinking, its primary sources, reflection in artistic patterns, transformation. Using the theoretical resources of these studies, it is possible to determine the folklore style of Azerbaijani children's literature of the beginning of the 20<sup>th</sup> century.

To master the folklore style of Azerbaijani children's literature means to study its original foundations, national and spiritual sources. Studying the relevance of the literature that we offer our children to our people, its language, spirit and spiritual world, allows us to imagine the relevance of our theme.

**Object and subject of the research.** The research object of the dissertation is the samples of Azerbaijani children's literature of the early 20<sup>th</sup> century created by various authors. The reference was made to the artistic samples published in various press agencies published at the beginning of the 20<sup>th</sup> century, to the initial editions of different textbooks.

The subject of the research is the folklore style that influenced the formation of Azerbaijani children's literature of the beginning of the 20<sup>th</sup> century. Children's folklore and children's literature were involved in the study in a related way and the problem of their influence on each other and their mutual development was looked through on the basis of the artistic examples.

**The aims and objectives of the research.** The main aim of this research is to study the issue of the influence of folklore in the formation of Azerbaijani children's literature at the beginning of the 20<sup>th</sup> century, as well as to reveal the genre changes-modifications and style features created in children's literature. In order to realize this goal, the solution of the following issues has been brought to the fore as the main task:

- To determine the scope, framework of the concepts of children's folklore and children's literature;

- To determine the typology of the folklore – literature relationship in children’s literature, that is, to distinguish it according to general characteristics;

- Looking through the process of formation of literary fairy tales, as well as tracking the stages of development of the genre of fairy tales characterized as oral text, as well as revealing the influence of fairy tales on the formation of the genre system of children’s literature;

- To observe the interaction and influence of folklore-literature in the aspect of children’s literature and folklore, as well as children’s literature and children’s folklore;

- To look through the forming mechanism of the poetic system of children’s poetry of children’s songs;

- To determine the role of mythological images and motifs in the formation of images in children’s literature;

- Revealing the primary sources of children’s mythological thinking and its manifestation in children’s literature;

**Methods of the research.** The theoretical and methodological basis of the dissertation is the scientific and theoretical ideas of well-known folklorists and literary critics about the oral folk literature, children’s literature, children’s folklore. The historical-comparative and comparative-typological research methods are applied in the dissertation. As a theoretical and methodological base, reference was made to the latest innovations of the study of the relationship of folklore and written literature in Russian, Turkish and world science. The experience of numerous studies of world folklore-study, especially Russian folklore-study on the investigation of the interaction of children’s literature and children’s folklore, forms the theoretical and methodological basis of this dissertation.

**The main provisions for defense.** In the dissertation the following provisions were issued for defense:

1. The main source of children’s literature is folklore. The main characteristic of children’s literature is its formation directly under the influence of folklore.

2. In the genre system of children's literature, the literary fairy-tale forms occupy an important place.

3. A specific feature of the relationship of folklore and children's literature is characterized by the orientation to the age stages of the child and is distinguished from written literature in general.

4. It is possible to evaluate the cumulative structure as the main common feature of children's literature and children's folklore. The cumulative structure is a stylistic aspect inherent in children's folklore, which plays an important role in strengthening the game element, creating a style of play.

5. Although the genre of fairy tales played a main role in the formation of the genre system of children's literature among the genres of oral folk literature in quantitative terms, a number of lyrical folklore genres also played an important role in the formation of children's poetry. The examples of quatrains, created in written children's literature, such as lullabies, riddles can be included here. These genres, like fairy tales, acted as sources and stylistic basis of the genre system of children's literature.

**Scientific novelty of the research.** The main factor contributing to the scientific innovations of the dissertation work is the systematic study of folklore style in the children's literature of Azerbaijan at the beginning of the 20<sup>th</sup> century (1900-1925) from the modern scientific-theoretical aspect. The scientific innovations obtained in the research can be grouped as followings:

- In the relationship between children's literature and folklore, the sources that create the folklore style are identified;
- Literary tales included in the genre system of children's literature are studied as one of the sources that create a folklore style;
- The interaction and development of children's literature and children's folklore are looked through;
- The direct role of children's folklore in the formation of the structure of children's poetry was investigated and it was determined

that the structure of some genres is based on children's folklore, that is, in the form of a model of questions-answers and dialogues;

- With an analysis of the relationship of children's mythological thinking and children's literature, it is explained that in the expression of the didactic functions of children's literature, the motif of fear stands in an important place. It has been clarified that the aspect of mythological images generating fear and panic has a fundamental role in the expression of the didactic purpose for children's literature in a work of fiction.

**Theoretical and practical significance of the research.** The results obtained in the dissertation can be used as a theoretical source in the study of the problems of literature and folklore, children's literature and children's folklore. It is possible to use the research work as an auxiliary tool in the teaching of folklore-study and children's literature. At the same time, it can be of great importance in the elimination of a number of problems in high school textbooks, in the choice of children's reading material.

**Approbation and application of the research.** The conclusions obtained during the development of the dissertation were published in local and international publications in accordance with the requirements of the Higher Attestation Commission under the President of the Republic of Azerbaijan.

The theme of the research was approved by the decisions of the Scientific Council of the Institute of Folklore of ANAS dated November 24, 2014 (Protocol № 7) and the Problem Council on Humanitarian Sciences of the Coordination Council of Scientific Research of the Republic of Azerbaijan dated November 16, 2017 (Protocol № 9).

**The name of the organization in which the research work is performed.** The dissertation was carried out at the department of Folklore and written literature of the Institute of Folklore of ANAS.

**The total volume of the research with a sign indicating the volume of the structural parts of the dissertation separately.** The dissertation work consists of Introduction (12461), Chapter I (87165),

Chapter II (80510), Chapter III (34199), Conclusion (6148) and the total volume consists of 220488 signs.

## MAIN CONTENT OF THE RESEARCH

The part of “**Introduction**” provides the information on the relevance of the theme, object, subject, purpose, objectives, scientific novelty, theoretical and methodological basis, theoretical and practical significance, approbation and structure of the research.

The first chapter of the dissertation called “**The issues of research of children’s literature of the beginning of the 20<sup>th</sup> century and their relationship with folklore**” consists of four paragraphs. The first paragraph of the first chapter is called “*The issues of study of Azerbaijani children’s literature of the beginning of the 20<sup>th</sup> century*”. In this paragraph, the literary activity, which is the most important area of the cultural life of society, is investigated, keeping in mind the beginning of the 20<sup>th</sup> century as a period of the special growth in the socio-cultural life of the Azerbaijani people.

One can divide the study of Azerbaijani children’s literature into three periods:

1. The beginning of the 20<sup>th</sup> century.
2. Soviet period.
3. Period of independence.

Two issues that belong to all three periods and are interconnected are noteworthy. One of them is associated with the general characteristic of children’s literature and the other is associated with the formation of children’s literature.

At the beginning of the 20<sup>th</sup> century one can find research and publication works about the children’s literature. It is known from the press of that period that the attention was also paid to children’s literature at that time. The famous book “The gift to the children” by Firudin Bey Kocharli was published in 1912. A.Akbarov wrote about the children’s literature in his article “About literature” in the

newspaper “İgbal” in 1912. In 1926 M.Rzaguluzade wrote an article entitled “Child literature” in the journal “Yeni mekteb”. In 1927 M.Huseyn made a report in the journal “Yeni mekteb” entitled “About children’s literature”<sup>2</sup>

In Soviet times R.Allahverdiyev wrote a thesis on the theme “Issues of education in Azerbaijani children’s literature (1905-1920)”<sup>3</sup> Kh.Mammadov characterized the examples of educational importance for children in the literature of the period he investigated as children’s literature in his book “Azerbaijan children’s literature of the 19<sup>th</sup> century”. This direction is also observed in the latest researches and collections. The conclusion that recent researches has come from is that the formation of children’s literature dates back to the 1870s and its first examples were written by S.A.Shirvani<sup>4</sup>.

At the beginning of the 20<sup>th</sup> century the children’s journals such as “Rehber”, “Mekteb”, “Debistanmi” were published. The beginning of the 20<sup>th</sup> century is an important period in the history of children’s literature. During this period there were prominent personalities such as Hasanaliaga Garadaghi, Safaralibey Valibeyov, Ahmed Bey Javanshir, Rashid bey Efendiyev, Firidun bey Kocharli, Soltan Majid Ganizade, Alakbar Sabir Tahirzade, Abbas Sahhat Mehdizade, Suleyman Sani Akhundov, Abdulla Shaig Talibzade and others. Each of these outstanding personalities had certain services in the field of development of children’s literature. According to the activities of such personalities, the children’s journals were published at that time,

---

<sup>2</sup> Kocharli F. Gift to the children. Baku: East-West, 2013, 172 p. 19 illustrations; Akbarov A. About literature. The newspaper “İgbal”, 1912, №16; Rzaguluzade M. Child literature. “Yeni mekteb”, 1926, №3; Huseyn M. About children’s literature. “Yeni mekteb”, 1927, № 2-3

<sup>3</sup> Allahverdiyev R. Issues of education of Azerbaijani children’s literature. Abstract of candidate’s dissertation, Baku, 1964

<sup>4</sup> Rasulova S. The problem of the formation of children’s literature of Azerbaijan and its scientific-theoretical view. Teaching Azerbaijani language and literature, 2020, №2, (264), s. 126-139).

the textbooks were written for children, the literary works were created for children<sup>5</sup>.

A.Akbarov, M.T.Sidgi, M.Rzaguluzade considered Abdulla Shaig the founder of children's literature<sup>6</sup>. The issue of children's literature in Azerbaijan was also discussed at international conferences widely. In 2008 on the 13<sup>th</sup> – 15<sup>th</sup> November "Turkic peoples literature (II) International Children's Literature Congress" was held. Many reports were made at the conference, which touched on various aspects of children's literature.

The article "Some issues of children's literature of Turkic peoples" by Fikret Seyidov published in the materials of this conference also touches on Azerbaijani literature at the beginning of the 20<sup>th</sup> century. In the article the thought given in the introduction of the work "Gifts to the children" by F.Kocharli is especially brought to attention: "The Turkish nation, which has had glory and strength in the past, forgets the stories, tales, wise sayings, proverbs, riddles with subtle meaning, truthfulness and delusions about its life and customs". One of the interesting information in this article is that at the Congress of Azerbaijani Turks in 1906-1907, it was mentioned that children's literature was an important issue. The journal "Rehber" founded in 1906 published more examples of children's literature than the journals "Debistan" and "Mekteb"<sup>7</sup>.

Sevinj Rasulova substantiated and commented this problem on her monograph "Educational-realistic stage of Azerbaijan children's literature" (Baku, Elm ve tehsil, 2018) quite fully, scientifically, logically and convincingly. The monograph is devoted to the study of

---

<sup>5</sup> Mustafayeva Kh. Azerbaijan children's literature. Baku: Elm, 2011, p. 68

<sup>6</sup> Rasulova S. The problem of the formation of children's literature of Azerbaijan and its scientific-theoretical view. Teaching Azerbaijani language and literature, 2020, №2, (264), p. 126-139

<sup>7</sup> F.Seyidov "Some issues of children's literature of Turkic peoples" / Turkic peoples literature (II) International Children's Literature Congress. Baku: East-West, 2010, pp.76-79

Azerbaijan children's literature in the second half of the 19<sup>th</sup> and early of the 20<sup>th</sup> centuries.

The creative consultation held by the Institute of Literature named after Nizami Ganjavi of ANAS and the Writers' Union of Azerbaijan in 2015 on the theme "Status and tasks of children's literature" has led to a certain turn in terms of focusing the attention of literary criticism on this necessary area.

In the second paragraph of the first chapter of the dissertation called *"Stylistic characteristic of children's literature"* in comparison with literature, the formation of children's literature is due to the literary process of a closer period, as well as children's folklore, which is the basis of children's literature, was not studied as a special branch of science in world folklore studies for a long time - until the beginning of the 20<sup>th</sup> century. The main source characterizing children's literature from a stylistic point of view is folklore. Ready-made patterns, images and motifs of folklore are widely used in children's literature and from this point of view it has received its stylistic character from its source.

S.Loiter suggests that, "Essentially, there is no listener in children's folklore who becomes the next performer. Only children's fairy tales are exceptional in this regard"<sup>8</sup>

Yagub Babayev's views about children's literature are of particular relevance: "Children's literature in a broad sense is an independent branch, a separate branch of literature with "independent rights and laws", distinguished by specific signs, having a systemic path of development"<sup>9</sup>.

---

<sup>8</sup> Loiter S.M. Russian children's literature of the 20<sup>th</sup> century and children's folklore: problems of interaction. / S.M.Loiter. [Electronic resource] Dis. Doctor of Philological Sciences, Petrozavodsk - 2002.- p.311, p.26

<sup>9</sup> Babayev Y. The problem of the formation of Azerbaijan children's literature and the main channels of the initial stage of development. II International Congress of Children's Literature of Turkic Peoples./ Qafqaz University, Baku, 2012, October 11-12, p.77

R.Yusifoglu, who has a special service in the field of children's literature, writes: *"There is no such problem in life that it is impossible to touch it in children's literature. A modern child does not have such a problem in life that he is not interested in it. The role of children's literature is invaluable in order to slow down the flood of children's interest and direct it to the right course"*<sup>10</sup>.

Children's folklore also had a certain influence on the formation of children's literature. The study of the relationship of folklore in the context of children's literature and children's folklore, which determines the stylistic character of children's literature, from various aspects should be kept in the attention in the future as one of the actual problems facing Azerbaijan science.

In the third paragraph of the first chapter called ***"Typological features of folklorism in children's literature"*** the typological elements are paid attention. From the analysis, it becomes clear that in the genre system of children's literature, which differs from general literature, formed as a result of direct folklore influence, literary fairy-tale forms occupy an important place and maintain their position as the most popular and productive genre of world children's literature from the century of its inception to modern times. Children's literature is conditioned by the orientation of the child to the age period and taking into account the abilities, their life experience, knowledge, cognitive and psychological characteristics.

It is clear from the content of literary fairy tale, published in 1912 in the 4th issue of the journal "Mekteb" under the title "Little story" (the artistic example is unnamed) by the teacher Aga Ali Gasimov that fairy-tale motifs were used widely here: "...What did the black slave see when he returned to his house: a large pot on the fire, a table laid and various exquisite dishes laid out"<sup>11</sup>

At the beginning of the 20<sup>th</sup> century on the pages of the textbooks such as "Child eyeglass" (by A.Shaig), "The first year" (by Mahmud

---

<sup>10</sup> Rafiq Yusifoglu. Children's literature. Textbook for students of higher and secondary specialized schools. Baku: Shirvanneshr, 2006, p.3

<sup>11</sup> Journal "Mekteb", 1912, № 4, pp.52-53

bey Mahmudbeyov), “Besiretul-etfal”, “Kindergarden” (Rashid bey Efendizade) and others a number of stories, consisting of one episode, small children’s poems were found, such examples were built on the basis of certain aphorisms, proverbs and sayings, idioms and served the purpose of familiarizing children with the norms of primary morality.

In the paragraph called *“Various aspects of relations between folklore and written literature”* of the first chapter the forms of relations between children’s literature and folklore are investigated. Literature and folklore as two components of oral culture have always been in the process of interaction, renewal, stimulating the development of each other and this process has been characterized by the emergence of individual features in different literary environments and eras to the front position in accordance with the course of development of time.

One of the forms of communication observed here is the emergence of literary lullabies on the basis of folklore. At the beginning of the 20<sup>th</sup> century a number of poetic examples - literary lullabies were created in Azerbaijan children’s literature with an appeal to the poetics of mother’s songs: “Mother’s lullaby voice” by R.Efendiyev, “Lullaby” by A.Shaig, “Lullaby song” by Mir Seyfaddin Seyidov Shirvani, “Besikbashi” by Arifa, “Lullaby” by Rabia and others.

Let’s look through the poem by R.Efendiyev:

Ay balam, sən neyçün yatmayırsan,  
Hər zaman ah edib, ağlayırsan?  
Yuxulamış gün, batıb rahət olmuş.  
Ol zaman gördülər gün batıbdır.  
Quşlar öz mənzilində yatıbdır.  
Həm toyuq, həm cücə, həm xoruzlar<sup>12</sup>

---

<sup>12</sup> Library of classical Azerbaijani literature. In 20 volumes. Volume I, - Baku: Science, -1982, p. 74

(Translation: *Oh baby, why aren't you sleeping? Do you sigh and cry all the time? The Sun has slept, set and relaxed. When the birds see that they also sleep in their houses, both chickens, hens and roosters*)

Various folklore genres are used in children's poetry. The poetic structure of a number of genres of children's folklore is more productive in terms of mutual development with literature. Children's songs or word sayings (interesting for the children's world are texts in which names, actions, images are repeated and do not express an independent meaning, do not have a plot) are more productive in terms of experiencing this relationship, the main reason for this productivity is due to the poetic structural features of the texts.

The example of a poem called "Violet" is taken from the selected works of Rashid Bey Efendiyev, which were reprinted in 2006. We found another version of this poem in Anthology of Azerbaijani folklore, book VI, Sheki folklore - volume II:

Qış çıxar açar yazı bənövşə,  
Eyliyər bizə nazı bənövşə,  
Hər gülün sərəfrazı bənövşə,  
Aman, ay gülüm, bəsdərəm səni,  
Dəstə bağlıyif iylərəm səni <sup>13</sup>

(Translation: *When winter ends, the violets bloom. Violets flirt with us, each flower is beautiful. Oh, my flower, I'll feed you, I'll tie the bunch and smell you*)

At the beginning of the 20<sup>th</sup> century it is observed that the mechanism of using folklore in the works of the writers such as Abdulla Shaig, Abbas Sahhat, Rashid Bey Efendizade, Suleyman Sani Akhundov has changed due to the various reasons. The formation of a stylistic characteristic in the relationship of children's literature with folklore is clearly seen from the observations on literary fairy tales. At the beginning of the 20<sup>th</sup> century, which was the decisive period of the emergence and development of children's literature in Azerbaijan,

---

<sup>13</sup> Anthology of Azerbaijani folklore. Book VI, Sheki folklore - volume II – Baku. – 2002, p. 23

the appeal to the theme of fairy tales became massive in order to meet the needs of children's reading material quickly. The process of forming the genre system of children's literature is also clearly noticeable in Azerbaijan children's literature, when the poetic pattern of fairy tales, which forms the basis of the mechanism of development and formation characteristic of world children's literature, is influenced by children's poetry and prose.

Literary examples resulting from the relation with folklore acquire the position of the genre of children's literature. "The influence of fairy tales on the genre system leads to various genre modifications such as a fairy tale-story, a fairy tale-poem, a fairy tale-novella and so on"<sup>14</sup>.

At the beginning of the 20th century the author, writing the known folk tales, legends and rumors, changed them: "*Thus, the folk language and the language of the compiler were combined in the work*"<sup>15</sup>.

Literary fairy tales gave impetus to the formation of original examples of children's prose in the period of subsequent development. The formation of children's prose of Azerbaijan children's literature is connected with fairy tales. At the beginning of the 20<sup>th</sup> century the children's prose began to be formed precisely by the examples of literary fairy tales.

The second chapter called "**The influence of mythological images and motifs in the emergence and formation of folklore style in children's literature**" consists of four paragraphs. In the first paragraph called "*Artistic and stylistic features of the development of mythological images and motifs in children's literature*" the place and role of images and motifs from folklore in the literary text is investigated<sup>16</sup>. A creative person uses examples of oral folk in

---

<sup>14</sup> Arzamastseva I.N., Nikoleva S.A. Children's literature/Academy, 2013, p.7

<sup>15</sup> Mammadov M., Babayev Y., Javadov T. Pedagogical environment and children's literature. Baku: Maarif, 1992, p. 75

<sup>16</sup> Mammadova G. The motif of fear in Azerbaijan children's literature of the beginning of the 20<sup>th</sup> century // Materials of the 8<sup>th</sup> International Scientific

different ways, that is, a folklore model, plot, image, motif, etc. with the conscious use of its levels, it creates a literary example that serves an aesthetic function. However, unintentionally, regardless of the will of the creative person, folklore thought as an individual of the ethnic group to which he belongs can manifest itself in his speech in a petrified way, in the lower layer, in any so-called expression.

The genre of Azerbaijan children's literature, formed in the late 19<sup>th</sup> and early 20<sup>th</sup> centuries, played an important role in the formation of the system. There is also an example of the influence of folklore images and motifs on children's literature by the collection of fairy tales by the brothers Grimm, their influence on European literature with their publication. Fairy-tale texts, which made up a large layer of oral folk literature, acted as the main and first source for children's poetry and prose, especially fairy tales about animals. As carriers of mythical elements, such examples are quite rich in mythological images and motifs and reflect mythopoetic thinking in themselves.

It is known that in fairy tales about animals, the images are divided into binary oppositions (opposites), which are based on the original mythical consciousness, into two corresponding places: those representing the forces of good and those representing the forces of evil. However, with naivety, cunning, cruelty, goodwill and other human characteristics are transferred to animals and the basis of the plot of fairy tales is the struggle between those forces.

In fairy-tale texts the Fox is a symbol of cunning, the Hen and the Rooster is a representative of the side that represents naivety and falls into the trap of deceivers. Images and motifs of fairy tales about animals are ready-made, as well as the productive resource for children's literature. These images play an important role in understanding attributes such as hard work, laziness, truthfulness, unfaithfulness, cruelty, mercy, purity, cunning in the examples of children's literature due to the didactic specifics of this literature and

in raising children as individuals. In the fairy-tale “Fox and Rooster” by Abdulla Shaig the image of the Fox is described in the folklore tradition in its character - cunning, and the Rooster - as a representative of credulous people.

In the second paragraph of the second chapter called “***Functional semantics of fire guards***” it is said about the images of fire. The fire guard is in its essence a function related to space. Because in folklore, fire and heat express their space. In this regard, fire guards also protect the dwelling and the native land. The functional semantics in folklore of preserving fire is so. They are realized through various images. In the examples of children’s literature, which arose on these sources, the original meaning continues and forms the basis for the patriotic education.

One of the folklore characters whose origins are connected to fire is Jirtan. The series of fairy tales related to Jirtan are considered to be one of the main genres of children’s folklore, namely children’s fairy tales.

In the third paragraph of the second chapter called “***The role of ancient ritual elements in the formation of images of children’s literature***” it is said about the use of archaic ritual elements in children’s literature. Here as an archaic ritual the initiation is chosen specially.

In the fourth paragraph of the second chapter called “***The sources of child mythology***” the aspect of children’s thinking related to mythological ideas is studied. In modern times, the study of children’s folklore in world folklore studies is moving along a new line of development. The formation of the concept of children’s mythology in world science is due to the achievements of folklore science of recent times. In countries such as England, USA, Bulgaria, Poland, Finland the concept of children’s mythology, i.e. children’s horror stories have been written and studied since the 50-60s of the 20<sup>th</sup> century. In children’s literature the motif of fear from folklore is taken as a didactic principle. Because fear in folklore by its nature does not harm child psychology. It is no coincidence that Suleyman Sani

Akhundov published the children's fairy-tales from the real-life events in the journal "Mekteb" under the title of "scary tales".

The third chapter called **"Cumilation in children's literature (the principle of chainsaw)"** consists of two paragraphs<sup>17</sup>. In the first paragraph of this chapter called ***"The characteristic of the principle of cumulativeness in the poetic structure of children's literature"*** the poetic structure that strengthens the folklore style in children's literature is investigated. From the analysis it was clear that the principle of cumulativeness had a significant impact on the formation of the poetic structure of children's literature. Although the fairy tale genre was at the forefront of the formation of the genre system of Azerbaijan children's prose at the beginning of the 20<sup>th</sup> century, the song texts played no less role in terms of influence on the genre system of children's poetry. A significant part of children's literature is formed by folklore texts based on the principle of chain, in particular, telling texts created in written literature using models of the form and content of the literary fairy tales with the cumulative structure, artistic examples created using separate mythological elements characteristic of cumulative fairy tales. When the poem "Child and ice" was written, which gained the status of eternal life of Azerbaijan children's poetry, M.A. Sabir benefited from the children's song called "Gari" ("An old woman"). In the poetics of literary fairy tales such as "Ice breaker" by Haji Salim Gazimzade, "Fall of a nut" published in the journal "Debistan" the structure of texts of a cumulative nature also retains its resource position.

In the second paragraph of the third chapter called ***"The place of dialogue and question-answer models of children's songs in the poetic structure of children's literature"*** the forms features of the game and songs are investigated. The children's poetry was widespread at the beginning of the 20<sup>th</sup> century. The famous poem

---

<sup>17</sup> Mammadova, G. Cumulativeness in children's literature and its ritual-mythological basis // - Baku: International Scientific-Theoretical Journal of Language and Literature, -2019, № 3 (110), – pp. 279-282.

“The Child and The Rabbit” by Abdulla Shaig is also a dialogue-shaped poetic example.<sup>18</sup>

(I variant)

Uşaq və dovşan:  
Dovşan, dovşan, a dovşan.  
Qaçma dayan, a dovşan  
Qaçma səni sevəndən,  
Can kimi istəyəndən<sup>19</sup>

(Translation: *The child and the rabbit: Hey, rabbit, don't run, stop. Don't run from the person who loves you so much*)

The examples of children's songs with a chain structure significantly influenced the formation of the genre system of children's literature, strengthened the folklore style of children's literature.

We present to the attention of the scientific community the following results obtained during the research:

1. The beginning of the 20<sup>th</sup> century can be characterized as a period of creation of many innovations in the history of Azerbaijani literature. This period played a special role in the in the creation, formation and development of Azerbaijani children's literature.

2. Children's literature has characteristic features and its main source is folklore. At the same time, the relationship between children's literature and children's folklore is not the same as the relationship between literature and folklore.

3. The molds of children's literature were formed by folklore. It is impossible to create children's literature without folklore.

4. The characteristic of children's literature and children's folklore demonstrates a certain difference. This differentiation manifests itself in accordance with the functions of children's literature, the mechanism of its formation, genre dimensions,

---

<sup>18</sup> Mammadova, G. Folklore sources of children's poetry (based on Abdulla Shaig's activity). // Baku: Journal Civilization - 2015, - № 8, - pp. 27-32.

<sup>19</sup> Shaig Abdulla. Selected works / Abdulla Shaig. In 3 volumes, III volume, Baku: Eurasia press, -2005, p. 27.

linguistic and stylistic features, as well as the historical development of children's literature of each country.

5. The main feature of the folklore style of Azerbaijan children's literature of the beginning of the 20<sup>th</sup> century shows the widespread use of fairy tale form in children's poetry and prose.

6. In the genre system of children's literature, which differs from general literature, formed as a result of direct folklore influence, literary fairy-tale forms occupy an important place and retain their position as the most popular and productive genre of world children's literature from the century of its inception to modern times.

7. A specific feature of the relationship of folklore and children's literature is characterized by orientation to the age stages of the child and is distinguished from literature belonging to the older age group. During the creation of children's literature samples among the predominant genres, it is possible to evaluate fairy tales, proverbs, riddles, ceremonial songs (after the transition to the repertoire of children's folklore), lullabies and children's songs (texts with mainly cumulative character and question-answer structure) as productive genres.

8. One of the main features of the connection of folklore and children's literature is that the style of play, the position of the game is brought to the fore in the literary text. In achieving the style of play, the effect of play, children's literature can be characterized by a number of different methods, for which folklore plays the main role. Folklore is the main resource for reflecting the style of play on an artistic example.

9. The use of folklore examples in children's literature takes place in a certain pedagogical direction. Thus, the role of folklore in fiction develops, entertains, teaches, educates the child in the shell of aesthetic essence, function.

10. For children's literature, which has the task of giving the child a figurative perception of life events, such an important source of folklore as initiation is a favorable embryo. Looking at the 20<sup>th</sup> century landscape of Azerbaijani children's literature and children's

artistic prose, which is in the process of new formation, the removal of images from their space plays the role of the main tool in explaining the realities of life to children.

11. In the formation of the system of images of children's literature, images that keep mythical thinking in themselves are superior and the connection of these images with mythical thinking begins to be more clearly noticeable when transferred to the plane of literature.

12. Fear is a didactic nature in the aspect of children's literature, regardless of whether the artistic example belongs to the oral or written word formation and conditions the transition of the unknown to the known. In this regard, it is also noteworthy that in folklore examples, which are considered the beginning of children's literature, fear is widely used in the education of children.

**The main provisions and results of the dissertation are reflected in the following books and articles of the author:**

1. Folklore sources of children's poetry (based on Abdulla Shaig's activity). // Baku: Journal Civilization - 2015, - № 8, - pp. 27-32.

2. M.H.Tahmasib and children's folklore issues / Materials of the Scientific Conference on the theme "Prominent Azerbaijani folklorist Mammadhuseyn Tahmasib", – Baku: October 5, – 2017, – pp. 141-146.

3. Children's folklore and literary tales // – Baku: Philological issues, – 2018, № 20, - pp. 383-396.

4. Ritual-mythological basis of Azerbaijani children's folklore / Materials of VI International Symposium on Turkic World Studies, - Baku: – June 13-15, - 2019, - pp. 181-184.

5. Cumulativeness in children's literature and its ritual-mythological basis // - Baku: International Scientific-Theoretical Journal of Language and Literature, -2019, № 3 (110), – pp. 279-282.

6. Artistic-style features of the transformation of mythological images and motives into children's literature // - Baku: International

Scientific-Theoretical Journal of Language and Literature. - 2019, - №3 (111), – pp. 265-268.

7. The motif of fear in Azerbaijan children's literature of the beginning of the 20<sup>th</sup> century // Materials of the 8<sup>th</sup> International Scientific Conference dedicated to the 94<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the National Leader Heydar Aliyev. - Baku: Mutarjim, - 2019, - pp. 321-323.

8. Ritual-mythological basis of Azerbaijan children's folklore // Researches on oral folk literature of Azerbaijan. Scientific-literary collection. 2019, №1 (54). - pp. 150-156.

9. Models of Folklore and Children's Literature / Young Researcher: Challenges and Prospects. International Scientific and Practical Conference. / Moscow: March 28, 2019, pp. 101-102.

10. The role of paremiological units in the formation of the structure of a work of art / Khabarshy / Bulletin of Kazakh MNational University named Al Farabi, philological series, 1(177), 2020, pp. 58-64



The defense of the dissertation will be held on 29  
May 2025 at 14<sup>00</sup> at the meeting of the Dissertation  
Council ED 1.27 operating under the Institute of Folklore of  
ANAS.

Address: AZ 1001, the 8<sup>th</sup> Street, 31, Kichik Gala, Baku,  
Institute of Folklore of ANAS

The dissertation is available at the Scientific Library of the  
Institute of Folklore ANAS.

Electronic versions of the dissertation and abstract are  
posted on the official website of the HAC and the Institute of  
Folklore of ANAS under the President of the Republic of  
Azerbaijan.

The abstract was sent to the necessary addresses on 29  
April 2025.

**Signed for publication: 07.04.2025**

**Paper format: 60x84/ <sup>1</sup>/<sub>16</sub>**

**Volume: 20**

**Issue: 40118 sign**