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ABSTRACT

of the dissertation for the degree of Doctor of Philosophy

**THE CREATIVITY BY ACADEMICIAN
MAMED JAFAR JAFAROV IN THE CONTEXT
OF AZERBAIJANI-RUSSIAN LITERARY RELATIONS**

Specialty: 5718.01 – World Literature
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GENERAL CHARACTERISTICS OF THE WORK

The relevance of the study and the degree of development of the topic. The study of the process of interconnections and mutual enrichment of national literatures is one of the significance tasks of literary science. The modern view on the literary process, a kind of rethinking and revision of the ideological components of societal development, and the search for ways to integrate literary, historical, and cultural plans provide an opportunity to explore the issues of literary connections, which gained particular significance after the collapse of the Soviet Union.

Although this study is dedicated to the work of one researcher of literary interconnections, it involves the study of many issues related to the imperative of a broad literary context and the enormous spiritual and aesthetic content behind it.

The creative quests of each national literature, despite the diversity of their traditions, are always linked with the process of interaction. This is one of the main reasons for the development of both national and non-national literature. One of the leading researchers of Soviet literature, Ch.Guseynov, noted: *"The connections of national literature with other literatures are constant, stable, and follow many lines, enriching both itself and others – we are talking about the modern and increasingly accelerating processes of literary interaction..."*¹

The identification and recognition of the merits and specifics of national literature most often occur in the context of its interconnection with non-national literature. In this regard, the study of works reflecting Azerbaijani-Russian literary connections holds great methodological importance. Since the 1930s, this issue has become one of the main subjects of scientific analysis in the works by leading Azerbaijani literary scholars.

One of the aspects of this issue is the study of the creative legacy of Russian classical writers. Since the mid-20th century, fundamental studies by Azerbaijani scholars such as Sh. Kurbanov,

¹ Гусейнов, Ч.Г. Этот живой феномен / Ч.Г.Гусейнов. – Москва: Советский писатель, – 1988. – с.8.

M. J. Jafarov, M. Rafili, M. Arifa, and others, dedicated to the study of Russian literature, have been published. These works played an important role not only in popularizing the works by Russian writers in Azerbaijan but also in tracing the processes of interaction between Russian and Azerbaijani literatures. They also had general theoretical significance, as they reflected many methodological questions related to the commonality and difference of literatures.

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The core of this dissertation work is the study of the creative work of one of the outstanding Azerbaijani researchers – Academician Mamed Jafar Jafarov. It should be noted that his works contributed immensely not only to addressing issues related to Russian literature and Azerbaijani-Russian literary connections but also to a number of other important problems in world literature, art, and culture. His studies on the works by the great figures of Azerbaijani literature – Nizami, Fuzuli, M.F.Akhundzadeh, M.A.Sabir, J.Mammadguluzadeh, and G.Javid – are highly significant.

This research is a sort of retrospective of the life and creative path of M.J.Jafarov, whom Sh. Kurbanov in his book *Stages of the Development of Azerbaijani-Russian Literary Connections in the*

19th Century calls one of the best researchers in this field. The relevance of the topic of this dissertation lies in the fact that, in the context of reevaluating the significance of studying interethnic literary connections, there is a need to reconsider the content of this cultural phenomenon, taking into account the correction of some of its components and filling certain gaps in the study of the works by outstanding literary scholars, one of whom is M.J.Jafarov.

The works by Academician M.J.Jafarov has been discussed in a number of scientific papers. Notably, the doctoral dissertations by N.M.Sadykhova “*Russian Classical Literature in the Scientific-Critical Heritage by Mamed Jafar*” (Baku, 1996) and S.Y.Osmanly “*The Evolution Problem of Azerbaijani Comparative Literature Studies: 1950s-1980s (Based on Research on Azerbaijani-Russian Literary Relations)*” (Baku, 2007), touched upon his work. His contributions were also covered in a number of fundamental works: “*Fuzuli and Azerbaijani Romanticism of the 20th Century*” by N.Babaev “*Academician M.J.Jafarov as a Theorist of Literature*” (Institute of Literature named after Nizami Ganjavi, NANA; authors: T.Mamed, J.Yusifli, M.Mustafaev, and others, Baku, 2019); M.Tagieva’s monograph “*History of the Study of F.M.Dostoevsky’s Works in Azerbaijan*” (Baku, 2020), and others. However, none of these works provide a complete picture of the invaluable contribution M.Dj.Djafarov made to the development of literary studies in the context of Azerbaijani-Russian literary interconnections.

Object and Subject of Research. The object of the research is the literary, scientific-pedagogical, and journalistic works by Academician M.J.Jafarov, written in the 1930s-1980s, and dedicated to Azerbaijani-Russian literary connections. The subject of the research is the creative legacy by M.J.Jafarov, examined in the context of Azerbaijani-Russian literary relations.

Goals and Tasks of the Research. The goal of the dissertation is to conduct a comprehensive study of the literary and artistic heritage by Academician M.J.Jafarov in the context of a particularly significant phenomenon for the literary process of the 20th century – Azerbaijani-Russian literary relations.

Tasks of the research:

- To trace the life and creative path of Academician M.J.Jafarov;
- To systematize the works that make up his creative legacy;
- To determine the methodological principles upon which the scholar's work is based;
- To assess the significance of his research in the study of both Russian and Azerbaijani literatures;
- To examine the methodological foundations of the scholar's works, their connection to the time and the "background" that predestined the emergence and development of the binary "national-international literary connections";
- To identify the objective and subjective factors that led the scholar to focus on research in the area of Azerbaijani-Russian literary connections;
- To find the points of intersection and differences in the concepts by M.J.Jafarov and other literary scholars;
- To analyze the different models of literary work analysis applied by the scholar in his research;
- To emphasize the importance of the scholar's legacy in the development of pedagogy, philosophy, and art, and his contribution to the creation of textbooks;
- To define the peculiarities by Academician M.J.Jafarov's artistic and journalistic works.

Main Methods of Research. The research is based on the principles of a comprehensive study by the scholar's work, combining historical-literary and theoretical-typological methods, as well as elements of biographical and systemic-functional analysis.

The following theses are put forward for defense:

- The creative legacy by Academician M.J.Jafarov is an example of the freedom of expression in the context of the ideologically conditioned imperatives of the former Soviet literature;
- The literary strategy by Academician M.J.Jafarov is revealed through the material of representative examples of literary portraits and essays dedicated to figures of both Azerbaijani and Russian literature;
- The foundation by M.J.Jafarov's theoretical views lies in a systematic approach to studying the issues of Azerbaijani-Russian

literary connections, based on the integration of literature, culture, philosophy, history, and art.

- Azerbaijani-Russian literary connections in the studies of Academician are considered as a cultural phenomenon on a parity basis;

- The universality of works by Academician M.J.Jafarov is manifested in both the scientific and pedagogical aspects;

- The creation of textbooks is based on a systematic approach to the vast body of Russian literature.

The scientific novelty of the dissertation work is primarily defined by the fact that it presents the first comprehensive study in Azerbaijani literary criticism of the life and activities of one of the greatest scholars who made a significant contribution to the development of Azerbaijani literature and Azerbaijani-Russian literary connections.

In connection with the emerging need for a comprehensive study of Academician's activities, the novelty of the work is reflected in the analysis of a number of aspects of his work: the main directions of scientific inquiry, the systemic approach in the scientific-pedagogical sphere, the contribution to the development of Azerbaijani-Russian literary connections, the methodological foundations of his work, the enrichment of scientific research with elements of journalism, prose, etc.

The theoretical and practical significance of the work is defined by the fact that the main provisions of this work can be used in the practice of university teaching of literary theory and history, literary connections, Azerbaijani and Russian literature. The research expands the understanding of the patterns of literary development in both the 19th and 20th centuries. The results of the research can also be useful in studying the fundamentals of the methodology of literary connections and its history.

Approval and implementation of the dissertation results.

The main scientific and theoretical provisions and results of the dissertation were discussed and presented in the form of reports and speeches at five international scientific conferences: 6th international Euroasia Congress on Scientific Researches and Resent Trends

(Baku, May 18-20, 2020); VI International Conference on Scientific Research and Current Issues (Baku, Eurasian University, 2020); XXI international scientific and practical conference (Penza, July 27, 2022); Al-Farabi XI International Conference (Atatürk University, Erzurum, Turkey, August 19-20, 2022);

XLVIII Scientific and Practical Conference of Students "The World of Culture Through the Eyes of Young Researchers" (Perm, 2023) and reflected in 12 publications by the author.

Name of the organization where the dissertation was completed. The work was performed at the Departement of Journalism and Literature of Foreign Countries of Nakhchivan State University.

The total volume of the dissertation with a sign, indicating the volume of the structural units of the dissertation separately. The dissertation consists of Introduction, three chapters, Conclusion and list of used literature. Introduction – 12 pages, 19363 signs, Chapter I – 40 pages, 68157 signs, Chapter II – 37 pages, 62935 signs, Chapter III – 41 pages, 70604 signs, Conclusion – 7 pages, 12155 signs. The total volume of the dissertation consists of 149 pages, 233214 signs.

MAIN CONTENT OF THE DISSERTATION

The introduction deals with the choice of the dissertation topic, provides information about its relevance, degree of study, object and subject, goals and objectives, methods, propositions to be defended, scientific novelty, theoretical and practical significance, as well as the approval and structure of the research.

The first chapter of the work, titled "**Life and Activities of Academician M.Jafarov**" consists of two sections. The first section, "**Life Path and Stages of M.Jafarov's Personality Formation**" traces the stages of the scientist and educator's life. Special attention is given to his passion for knowledge, which led a boy from a poor family first to a primary school organized in Nakhchivan by one of the charitable organizations, then to the city school, the so-called "Russian-Tatar" (Russian-Azerbaijani) school. Then he continues his education in Nakhchivan Pedagogical School (1929-1931).

Not stopping at what he has achieved, M.Jafarov moves to Baku and enrolls in the philological faculty of Azerbaijan State Pedagogical Institute. This was a time when many newspapers and journals were being established. M.Jafarov tries his hand at journalism, working in several newspapers, including "Ədəbiyyat qəzeti" (Literary Newspaper), where he rises from a literary staff member to the editor-in-chief.

Upon arriving in Baku, M. Jafarov's interest in studying world literature grows. He publishes works on the writings by A.I.Herzen, N.G.Chernyshevsky, L.N.Tolstoy, A.N.Ostrovsky, A.Barbusse, Voltaire, T.Shevchenko, and others. This was the school that formed his unique style of writing, which organically combines national and universal human values.

A significant role in the formation of the future literary scholar was played by his immersion in the creative legacy by great Azerbaijani word masters – Fuzuli, M.F.Akhundov, Samad Vurgun, and others. In his articles, he also thoroughly researched the formation of Azerbaijani romanticism, contributing his understanding of the term "criticism," generally departing from the meaning that was previously attributed to it.

This section also highlights that M.Jafarov's development as a critic and literary scholar was greatly influenced by the writer and public figure J.Mamedguluzadeh. As an adherent of his progressive ideas, Jafarov emphasized J.Mamedguluzadeh's role in the development of national literature, criticism, and journalism. He identified himself as a member of the "mollanasreddinists," and later their work became one of the subjects of M.Jafarov's scientific research.

Absorbing the traditions of his predecessors and creatively mastering them, M. Jafarov contributed to the further development of national literary studies, criticism, the promotion of world literature achievements, and the development of Azerbaijani-Russian literary connections. In his lectures on the history of literature, literary relations, and literary criticism, he applied an innovative approach, which attracted the attention of his audience and demonstrated his own interpretation of pressing literary issues.

He left behind a significant legacy, including a three-volume history of 19th-century Russian literature, a textbook addressed to students of philological faculties, and a series of specialized courses on various topics, most of which he personally taught: "Russian Literature," "Western Literature," "History of Aesthetics and Criticism," "History of Periodicals," and "History of Azerbaijani Literature." His works in the field of moral-aesthetic education of youth should also be noted: "On Aesthetic Taste" (Baku, 1964); "Aesthetic Education, Family, and School" (Baku, 1967); "On the Way to Mastery" (Baku, 1975).

As a result of analyzing the life and creative path and the formation of M.Jafarov's personality, it is revealed that the main factors in this process were: the surrounding national environment, which has always valued literature; a passion for education; a love of literature; work in publishing; an interest in world literature and its scholarly exploration; an interest in the ideas of the mollanasreiddinists; and a focus on the education and upbringing of the younger generation.

The second section, **"Main Directions of M.Jafarov's Scientific Activity"** demonstrates the multifaceted nature of his literary scholarship and pedagogical activities, which allowed for the identification of the following main areas of scientific research throughout his legacy:

- The genesis of Azerbaijani literature;
- Russian and world literature;
- Azerbaijani-Russian literary connections;
- Educational issues;
- Upbringing of the younger generation;
- The role and social significance of journalism, and others.

In M.Jafarov's studies by Nizami works, the great classic is portrayed as a vivid embodiment of the poet-creator, inspiring generations of word masters for many centuries. The study of the motifs in Nizami's works leads the researcher to the conclusion that his creations became the foundation of national poetry, embodying the richness of the best traditions characteristic of the Azerbaijani people since ancient times.

No less significant are M.Jafarov's studies on the creative legacy of Nasimi. He shows that in Nasimi's works, materialistic ideas are strongly reflected alongside Sufi views, which greatly attracted the attention of scholars and provided them with a wealth of material for analysis. M.Jafarov was the first in Azerbaijani literary studies to address the issue of mysticism present in the works of leading medieval poets, managing to differentiate the mystical element in Eastern philosophy from mysticism caused by a misunderstanding of the basics of Islam.

M.Jafarov was interested in various aspects by Nasimi creativity. Primarily, he focused on Nasimi's philosophy of verse, which he defined as a ray of light in the prevailing obscurity of literary creativity of that time. At the beginning of his study, M.Jafarov makes the comparison: "The news of Nasimi's death in the East was equivalent to the news of Giordano Bruno's death in the West"², thus emphasizing not only the scale of creativity by Nasimi but also the significance of his personality.

Speaking about the genesis of Azerbaijani classical literature, one cannot overlook M.Jafarov's research on the writer-philosopher M.F.Akhundov. Like many other literary scholars, he was interested in M.F.Akhundov's personality, noting that his works reflected the fundamental tendencies that allowed for the discussion of realism in Azerbaijani literature, as well as the progressiveness of his views on Eastern philosophy, reflected in his literary-critical articles.

In his motif analysis works by M.A.Sabir, M.Jafarov traces the development of satirical ideas in Azerbaijani literature. When analyzing the characteristics of works by H.Javid and those of his followers, the scholar highlights the principle of the exclusivity of the romantic hero. He also determines that every new form of romanticism should be perceived as a concept. In this context, M.Jafarov examines the works by A.Sahhat, M.Hadi, A.Shaig, and others.

² Cəfərov, M.C. Seçilmiş əsərləri. 2-cilddə. – 1cild / M.C.Cəfərov, – Bakı: Azər nəşr, – 1973. – s.11.

This section also draws attention to another key area of M.Jafarov's research activities: his reflections on children's literature and the role of children's magazines.

The conclusions of the first chapter, based on the study of M.Jafarov's life and his development as a scholar and educator, can be summarized as follows: the academic works by M.Jafarov was truly extensive and distinguished by the diversity of topics and issues he addressed. There is virtually no area in Azerbaijani literary studies that was left untouched by the scholar. M.Jafarov made significant contributions to the study of Azerbaijani literature and its integration not only into Russian but also into world literature.

*The main provisions and materials of the first chapter are presented in the following publications author.*³

The second chapter – **"Academician M.J.Jafarov and Azerbaijani-Russian Literary Relations"** consists of three paragraphs. The first paragraph, **"Historical Prerequisites for the Emergence of Azerbaijani-Russian Literary Relations"** studies the profound historical roots of literary connections, which are considered one of the key exploratory and research functions of literature. According to scholars, these connections should be viewed *"not as an arithmetic sum, but as an independent phenomenon unique in the history of world culture"*.⁴

If we consider that interliterary relations contribute to the development of both interacting literatures, it becomes evident that such relations create a hermeneutic situation for each literature, leading to the recognition of one literature through the lens of the other. In this regard, the works by Academician M.J.Jafarov hold

³ Ганбарова, Н.Г. Жизненный путь академика М.Дж.Джафарова. Научно-педагогическая деятельность // VI Elmi Araşdırmalar və aktual problemlər Beynəlxalq konfransın materialları: – Bakı: Avrasiya Universiteti, – 2020. – с.170-173.; Cəlil Məmməquluzadənin yaradıcılıq fərdiliyi. Akademik M.C.Cəfərovun axtarıları zəminində // Naxçıvan Dövlət Universiteti, Elmi Əsərlər, Humanitar elmlər seriyası, – 2022. № 5(118), – s.81-83.

⁴ Межнациональные литературные связи / Под ред. С. Ивановой. – Рига: Латвийский государственный университет им. П.Стучки. – Москва: – 2003. №11. – с.8.

immense literary and social significance. He portrays national literatures in a dialectical unity, opposing the predominant and overriding influence of one literature on another. By doing so, M.J.Jafarov entirely rejects the Soviet-era idea of the exclusive impact Russian literature on Azerbaijani literature, not only in an ideological sense but also in an aesthetic sense.

The fundamental work by M.J.Jafarov, *From the History of the Development of Azerbaijani-Russian Literary Relations*, is a unique study in both form and content. His research enables us to perceive individual national literatures as sources of enrichment for other literatures, which constitutes the significant historical importance of Jafarov's studies.

The paragraph also provides a comparative analysis of the works by Sh.Gurbanov (*Stages of the Development of Azerbaijani-Russian Literary Relations in the 19th Century*) and M.J.Jafarov (*From the History of the Development of Azerbaijani-Russian Literary Relations*). While both works focus on almost the same period – the 19th century – they differ sharply in their approaches to the topic.

In his research, M.J.Jafarov draws attention to certain stagnation in the development of Azerbaijani literature compared to the eras of Nizami, Nasimi, and Fizuli. He particularly highlights the lyrical works of Molla Panah Vagif in the 18th century, noting that Vagif was a follower of the traditions established by Nizami and his successors.

Jafarov discusses how, since the time of Nizami, literary relations had developed to the extent that Azerbaijani literature became a topic of interest far beyond the country's borders. However, by the end of the 18th century, Jafarov observes a "slowdown" in this process. He attributes this to the complex historical context of constant wars, feudal fragmentation, and the division of Azerbaijan into small khanates, which prevented the country from having a unified program for development across all areas, including culture, art, and literature.

Jafarov notes that after Azerbaijan became a part of the Russian Empire, new opportunities arose for Azerbaijani intellectuals to familiarize themselves with Russian literature and, through the

Russian language, with global culture and the literature of the East, including Azerbaijan's own literary heritage. At the same time, Azerbaijani literature began to reach Russian and Western audiences during this new phase of its development.

The second paragraph, "Literary Mediators Who Shaped Azerbaijani-Russian Literary Relations," highlights how the intensification of literary interactions led to a genuine synchronization of Azerbaijani and Russian literatures. It became clear that literary themes and issues could be generated between culturally close but genetically distinct peoples.

This paragraph provides a comparative analysis of the works by Azerbaijani writers, poets, and scholars such as A.A. Bakikhanov, Mirza Kazim Bek, Mirza Shafi Vazeh, Gasim Bek Zakir, and I. Gutgashynly alongside the works by Russian writers, emphasizing the dialogue between them. For example, regarding the development of satire under new historical conditions, Jafarov notes that "the satires by the well-known Azerbaijani poet of this period, Gasim Bek Zakir, were in harmony with the satires of Russian authors".⁵

In addition to analyzing the works by Azerbaijani and Russian authors, Jafarov evaluates their role in the development of literary relations. He particularly emphasizes the significant contribution of Ismail Bey Gutgashynly, a remarkable writer, close friend to Zakir, and major general in the Tsarist army, to the establishment and the growth of Azerbaijani-Russian literary relations.

In noting the achievements of G.Zardabi, M.J.Jafarov especially emphasizes the role of the newspaper "Ekinchi," founded by him, in the development of literary interconnections. One of G.Zardabi's supporters, according to M.J.Jafarov, was the outstanding poet of his time, Seyid Azim Shirvani, who also played a significant role in the establishment of Azerbaijani-Russian literary relations.

In his works, regardless of the subject matter, academic M.J.Jafarov argued and proved that Azerbaijani literature has never been characterized by "provincial narrowness" or isolation. All that

⁵ Cəfərov, M.C. Azərbaycan-rus ədəbi əlaqələri tarixindən / M.C.Cəfərov. – Bakı: Azərneşr, – 1964. – s.22

was the best in world literature was meticulously studied by Azerbaijani authors, on the basis of which unique forms of interethnic literary interconnections were formed.

Thus, it can be said that M.J.Jafarov, placing great importance on the role of so-called "literary mediators," asserted that through their creativity and personal qualities, they directly or indirectly contributed to the formation of Azerbaijani-Russian literary relations within the field of global comparative literature, which had already formed as a system by the 1880s.

In the third paragraph, "Philosophical, Cultural, and Social Aspects of Azerbaijani-Russian Literary Relations," the analysis is conducted by comparing the aforementioned monographs by M.J.Jafarov *"On the History of Azerbaijani-Russian Literary Relations"* and Sh. Kurbanov *"Stages of Development of Azerbaijani-Russian Literary Relations in the 19th Century."* The enormous role and educational significance of these works in illuminating Azerbaijani-Russian literary relations are highlighted, while also noting the differences in the positions of their authors.

In 1966, in the journal *"Questions of Literature,"* S.Abdullayeva, in her article titled *"Two Extremes,"* compares these two works. She notes that the main difference in their views on Azerbaijani-Russian literary relations lies in the following: *"Unlike Sh. Kurbanov, who believes that the first stage of Russian-Azerbaijani literary relations 'does not bear the character of mutuality,' and that it is 'difficult to speak of large-scale interrelations' in the second stage, M.J.Jafarov argues that from the very beginning, the interconnections between the two literatures are clearly visible".*⁶

In fact, in M.J.Jafarov's research, we are talking about the primary development of the material that represents the first shoots of these connections, their modeling, that is, the selection of "significant variables" that form the foundation of Azerbaijani-Russian literary relations. In our dissertation, we have focused on a number of factors that contribute to the interaction of literatures and

⁶ Абдуллаева, С. Две крайности: [Электронный ресурс] / URL: <https://volpit.ru>>... (22.05.2022)

cultures. Such factors include philosophy, overall culture, politics, the development of journalism, literary studies, criticism, and translation work.

M.J.Jafarov concentrated on establishing Azerbaijani-Russian literary relations in such a way that representatives of different mental cultures, by defining and investigating various problems related to the state and further development of society, came to a common conclusion not only in structural but also in substantive terms.

Highlighting the role of progressive Russian literature and culture in the formation and development of Azerbaijani-Russian literary relations, M.J.Jafarov also identifies the factors that contributed to the development and rapprochement of the two peoples. This, first and foremost, includes the opportunity for Azerbaijanis to receive education at the best universities in Russia.

During this period, such famous representatives of Azerbaijani intellectuals as N.B.Vezirov, Z.Maragaly, A.Talibov, and others studied in Moscow and St.Petersburg, shaping their views and positions. In the works created by these authors, the cognitive and cultural principles became the primary motivation. One of the best works of this kind, which contributed to the cultural rapprochement of the peoples, according to M.J.Jafarov, was "*The Journey of Ibrahim-bey*" by Z.Maragaly, which reflected the motifs of the philosophical letters by M.F.Akhundzadeh.

M.J.Jafarov assigns a special role to the activities of the great Azerbaijani romantic poet A.Sahat, N.Narimanov, who translated many works of Russian authors, in the development of translation, which also contributed to the rapprochement and mutual enrichment of the peoples and literatures. He highly values the role of the Gory Teachers' Seminary, whose graduate included J.Mamedguluzade, F.Kocharly, M.Magomaev, S.S.Akhundov, U.Gadzhibeyli, and others, emphasizing their connection with Russian culture and literature.

M.J.Jafarov placed great importance on the role of journalism in the formation of Azerbaijani-Russian literary relations as a holistic system. In this regard, the scholar examines a series of publications

in the periodicals of the time by J. Mamedguluzadeh. He notes that the journal titled *"Molla Nasreddin,"* created by the great satirist writer, became a platform in the sense that it published works by the prominent writers of its time, who, through this journal, called for a fight against the ongoing reactionary politics of Tsarism in relation to the national outskirts.

Summarizing the research conducted in this chapter, it should be noted that the work by Academician M.J.Jafarov, *"From the History of Azerbaijani-Russian Literary Relations,"* became one of the valuable studies that shaped literary connections as a holistic artistic system. He addressed a range of significant issues related to history, literature, philosophy, culture, and education in the 19th and early 20th centuries, pointing to the regularities and prerequisites of the formation and development of the cultural phenomenon that stimulates the intensity of literary interconnections, which continue to this day.

The main provisions and materials of the second chapter are presented in the following publications author.⁷

The third chapter, *"Academician M.J.Jafarov as a researcher of Russian literature"* consists of two paragraphs. The first paragraph called *"Russian Literature in the Researches by Academician M.J.Jafarov"* discusses the significant contribution made by the Azerbaijani scholar to the study of the works by Russian literary figures: A.S.Pushkin, N.A.Nekrasov, L.N.Tolstoy, V.G.Belinsky, N.G.Chernyshevsky, A.I.Herzen, A.N.Ostrovsky, M.Gorky.

⁷ Ганбарова, Н.Г. О факторах взаимодействия и взаимообогащения литератур // – Баки: АМЕА М.Физули adına Əlyazmalar institutu, Filologiya məsələləri, – 2022. №7, – с.322-330.; Азербайджанско-русские литературные связи: к постановке вопроса // – Москва: Современные гуманитарные исследования, – 2022. № 3 (106), – с. 18-21.; Из истории становления азербайджанско-русских литературных связей (на основе исследований ак. Ш.Гурбанова, ак. М.Дж.Джафарова) // Al-Farabi XI Beynəlxalq konfransın materialları. – Atatürk Universiteti, Erzurum, Türkiyə: – 19 – 20 avqust, – 2022, – с.357-359.; Роль переводных текстов в аспекте межлитературной коммуникации // – Бухара, Научный вестник Бухарского государственного университета, – 2024. №6(111), – с.137-143.

M.J.Jafarov developed a kind of unique model for studying the works by Russian literary figures, within which the following aspects can be highlighted: problem-thematic, interrelationship, philosophical, cultural-historical.

The historical aspect of the analysis is realized in the works by M.J.Jafarov "*The Herald of the Russian Liberation Movement*," dedicated to Herzen, where the stages of the formation of his personality are illuminated, and the ideological and artistic searches of the writer are traced within the context of the literature and philosophy of his time.

The study of works by Pushkin and Nekrasov is primarily based on the problem-thematic aspect of their works. The scholar notes Pushkin's unique ability to respond to the issues of his time, placing at the center of his works everything connected to the Russian people, their national interests, and also absorbing the traditions of the classics of European literature. M.J.Jafarov, highly valuing the work of N.A.Nekrasov, calls him one of the most beloved authors of the Azerbaijani people. He also emphasizes the role of the prominent early 20th-century Azerbaijani writer and publicist, Eynali Sultanov, in promoting Nekrasov's ideas in Azerbaijan.

The philosophical aspect considers the works by L.N.Tolstoy, where the characteristics that the writer gives to reality, in the view of M.J.Jafarov, are constants without boundaries. The scholar is interested in Tolstoy's philosophy of literature, religion, and history. On the works by N.G.Chernyshevsky, the scholar also focuses on the philosophical aspect, addressing issues of materialism, anthropology, races and nations, and the role of social sciences.

A great deal of attention is given by M.J.Jafarov to the works by the great Russian playwright A.N.Ostrovsky, whose works are considered from a cultural-historical perspective. He calls him a connoisseur of the Russian soul. The scholar also touches upon the attitudes of Azerbaijani theatrical figures toward Ostrovsky's works. The performances of "*The Thunderstorm*," "*The Dowryless*," and "*Guilty Without Fault*" are called by M.J.Jafarov some of the best on the Azerbaijani stage.

In summary, M.J.Jafarov's views on the works by Russian literary figures are a kind of diffusion in the traditional study of the creative heritage of word artists. The diversity of approaches helps to identify certain paradigms in the study of the literatures themselves and their interconnections.

The second paragraph of the third chapter, "*The Textbook 'Russian Literature of the 19th Century' as a Source for Creating Inter-Systemic Space in the Artistic System,*" emphasizes M.J.Jafarov's role not only in the establishment and development of Azerbaijani- Russian Studies thanks to his scientific research but also his contribution to the teaching of Russian literature and the creation of textbooks.

Having started teaching Russian literature in 1935, he published his first scientific work, "*Historical Sketches on Russian Literature,*" the same year. This small reference book (105 pages) essentially became the prototype for his future monumental work, the three-volume "*Russian Literature of the 19th Century*" (1970-74).

This textbook became the culmination of his many years of work as a scholar and educator. The golden age of Russian literature is presented here in the interpretation and original treatment by M.J.Jafarov. He deliberately focuses on Russian literature of the 19th century, as he believes that it was in this period that Russian literature brought new themes, genres, and literary movements to the world's artistic treasury, aided by the critical thought of the time. Moreover, by creating his textbook in Azerbaijani, he aimed at spreading information about this period of Russian literature to a wider Azerbaijani audience, including philology students.

M.J.Jafarov's "*Russian Literature of the 19th Century*" can be considered a strategically important publication, as it highlights the spiritual component reflected in the works by the remarkable Russian writers of the 19th century, which played a crucial role in elevating Russian literature to the global level. It should be particularly emphasized that M.J.Jafarov was one of the scholars and educators who viewed Russian literature not as literature of the dominant ideology but as part of world literature, in which artistic thought serves human interests.

If we talk about the structure and content of three-volume textbook by M.J.Jafarov, the material in each volume is arranged chronologically. The first volume opens with a "Preface" by A.A.Aghaev and covers the literary process from 1800 to the 1840s. In eight chapters, it examines: literature from 1800 to 1830 (Chapter 1); the works by A.S.Griboedov and A.S.Pushkin (Chapters 2-3); the development of literature in the 1830s-40s (Chapter 4); the works by M.Y.Lermontov, N.V.Gogol, A.I.Herzen, and V.G.Belinsky (Chapters 5-8).

In the first volume of his textbook, M.J.Jafarov presents a wealth of material. He addresses the main stylistic trends in literature in the first third of the 19th century, where the core principles of realism were focused. He also discusses the works by I.A.Krylov, emphasizing the significance of his works not only for Russian but also Azerbaijani literature. Talking about Lermontov, M.J.Jafarov highlights the role of the Caucasus in the creation of many of the works by poet. In discussing the works by Belinsky, whom M.J.Jafarov considers the conceptual foundation of Russian criticism, he focuses on the great critic's influence on Russian literature in the 1800-1840s. The works of A.I.Herzen are evaluated by M.J.Jafarov in two roles: both as a critic and as a revolutionary democrat.

The second volume of M.J.Jafarov's textbook contains material on Russian literature of the 1850s-1860s. It also consists of eight chapters: the development of literature in the 50s-60s (Chapter 1); a study of the works by I.S.Turgenev, N. G. Chernyshevsky, I.A.Goncharov, N.A.Nekrasov, A.N.Ostrovsky, N.A.Dobrolyubov, M.E.Saltykov-Shchedrin (Chapters 2-8). One of the features of this volume is the detailed research by the author on his own interpretation of the literary and social life of Russia in the 50s-60s, as well as a thorough monographic analysis of the works by the aforementioned writers who were active during this period.

In his discussion of Turgenev, the scholar, in addition to the major works by the writer, pays special attention to his prose poems. Here, there is also a translation from Russian into Azerbaijani translated by M.J.Jafarov, is of one of Turgenev's prose poems – "The Russian Language." In the section on Chernyshevsky,

M.J.Jafarov focuses not so much on the works by the critic and writer, but on the origins that influenced his creativity. When analyzing the works by Goncharov, M.J.Jafarov emphasizes the psychological depth of the Russian writer and discusses the translation of his works from Russian into Azerbaijani.

M.J.Jafarov touches upon great respect N.A.Nekrasov, highlighting his democratic ideas that were realized in his artistic works. To support his conclusions, the scholar frequently refers to examples from the works by writer, most of which were translated by the author himself. The academician points out one of the leading motifs of works by Nekrasov, defining as the best characteristic that *“Nekrasov’s work reflects the greatness of his people, the striving to understand them correctly, and to treat their future with respect...”*⁸

The works by the famous dramatist A.N.Ostrovsky are discussed by the scholar in comparison with the works by Nekrasov, Saltykov-Shchedrin, Uspensky, and Turgenev. In the analysis of works by Dobrolyubov, the author’s own impressions, shaped by the views of the famous critic, are also reflected.

The final third volume contains an analysis of the literature of the 1880s-1890s. The structure of this volume differs slightly from the first two. The author justifies this distinction by the historical situation in Russia during the last third of the 19th century. In the first of the four chapters of this volume, titled “Literature of the 70s-90s,” the scholar analyzes in detail the events of literary, cultural, and socio-political life in Russia during the period under review. In the Chapters 2-4, the life and creative paths of such giants of Russian literature as F.M.Dostoevsky, L.N.Tolstoy, and A.P.Chekhov are examined sequentially.

In this volume of the textbook, the overview of literature from the 70s-90s includes an analysis of the early works by M. Gorky, whereas in other textbooks, he is only presented as a representative of 19th-century literature. The chapters devoted to the works by F.M.Dostoevsky and L.N.Tolstoy are of particular interest. Their works are considered in terms of their concepts of the human being

⁸ Cəfərov, M.C. XIX əsr rus ədəbiyyatı. II hissə / M.C.Cəfərov. – Bakı: Azərnaşr, – 1974. – s.29.

and moral ideals, and the relevance and timeliness of the issues they raised is emphasized.

A great deal of attention is given in these chapters to the philosophical views of these writers. For example, it is argued that Tolstoy, having rejected all existing philosophical systems, created his own views. When discussing Dostoevsky, M.J.Jafarov emphasizes his connection with the "Russian soil" and the synthesis of his philosophical views. Contemporary scholars working on Dostoevsky's works acknowledge M.J.Jafarov's significant contribution to Azerbaijani Dostoevsky studies.

In the chapter on A.P.Chekhov, there is an analysis of the features that characterize the work of one of the greatest masters of language. M.J.Jafarov analyzes the writer's mastery in the genre of short stories, the characteristics of his humor and irony, and compares his plays, with their multiple meanings, to a "symphony."

In conclusion, it should be noted that Academician M.J.Jafarov created a truly monumental works on the golden age of Russian literature, in which each name can be compared to an entire era. His textbook, containing unique interpretations of the works of individual writers, critics, and creators of the period under consideration, remains of interest even today.

The main provisions and materials of the third chapter are presented in the following publications author.⁹

The conclusion summarizes the research conducted, emphasizing that the works by Academician M.J.Jafarov serve as an

⁹ Ганбарова, Н.Г. Пушкин в оценке академика М.Дж.Джафарова // – Белгород: Международный научный журнал «Научные горизонты», – 2017. №4, – с.211-217.; Учебник академика М.Дж.Джафарова «Русская литература XIX века» как источник создания межсистемного пространства в художественной системе // – Баку: АМЕА М.Fizuli adına Əlyazmalar institutu, Filologiya məsələləri, – 2022. №13, – с.338-348.; Творчество академика М.Дж.Джафарова в освоении русской классической литературы в Азербайджане. Книга «Русские классики» // 6th international Euroasia Congress on Scientific Researches and Resent Trends. – Баку: – 18 – 20 may, – 2020, – с.174-177.; Духовная культура России и зарубежных стран: вопросы религии, философии, науки и искусства // XLVIII Научно-практическая конференция студентов «Мир культуры глазами молодых исследователей». – Пермь: 17 – 21 апреля, – 2023, – с.287-297.

example of combining in one person the roles of literary scholar and critic, publicist and prose writer, and educator, the author of curricula, textbooks, and special courses, as well as someone who has progressed from an ordinary newspaper employee to the head of one of the most prestigious research institutes of the Azerbaijan National Academy of Sciences. He made a significant contribution not only to the study of classical Azerbaijani literature but also to Russian literature. M.J.Jafarov prioritized the study of the dialectic between national and foreign elements in the Azerbaijani-Russian literary relations, advocating for new approaches to studying literatures on an equal basis. The importance of works on Russian literature written by him, including his three-volume textbook *Russian Literature of the 19th Century*, is determined by the fact that this is a new form of literary interaction, a readiness for dialogue with other literatures, which greatly enriches Azerbaijani literature.

The main points of the dissertation are reflected in the following publications of the author:

1. Пушкин в оценке академика М.Дж.Джафарова // – Белгород: Международный научный журнал «Научные горизонты», – 2017. №4, – с.211-217.
2. Академик М.Дж.Джафаров как человек и как знаток русской литературы // Naxçıvan Dövlət Universitetinin Elmi Əsərləri, Humanitar elmlər seriyası, – 2017. № 5(86), – с. 307-311.
3. Творчество академика М.Дж.Джафарова в освоении русской классической литературы в Азербайджане. Книга «Русские классики» // 6th international Euroasia Congress on Scientific Researches and Resent Trends. – Baku: – 18 – 20 may, – 2020, – с.174-177.
4. Жизненный путь академика М.Дж.Джафарова. Научно-педагогическая деятельность // VI Elmi Araşdırmalar və aktual problemlər Beynəlxalq konfransın materialları: – Bakı: Avrasiya Universiteti, – 2020. – с.170-173.
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- Universiteti, Elmi Əsərlər, Humanitar elmlər seriyası, – 2022. № 5(118), – s.81-83.
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 8. Азербайджанско-русские литературные связи: к постановке вопроса // – Москва: Современные гуманитарные исследования, – 2022. № 3 (106), – с. 18-21.
 9. Из истории становления азербайджанско-русских литературных связей (на основе исследований ак. Ш.Гурбанова, ак. М.Дж.Джафарова) // Al-Farabi XI Beynəlxalq konfransın materialları. – Atatürk Universiteti, Erzurum, Türkiyə: – 19 – 20 avqust, – 2022, – с.357-359.
 10. Учебник академика М.Дж.Джафарова «Русская литература XIX века» как источник создания межсистемного пространства в художественной системе // – Bakı: AMEA M.Fizuli adına Əlyazmalar institutu, Filologiya məsələləri, – 2022. №13, – с.338-348.
 11. Духовная культура России и зарубежных стран: вопросы религии, философии, науки и искусства // XLVIII Научно-практическая конференция студентов «Мир культуры глазами молодых исследователей». – Пермь: 17 – 21 апреля, – 2023, – с.287-297.
 12. Роль переводных текстов в аспекте межлитературной коммуникации // – Бухара, Научный вестник Бухарского государственного университета, – 2024. №6(111), – с.137-143.



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