

REPUBLIC OF AZERBAIJAN

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ABSTRACT

of the dissertation for the degree of Doctor of Philosophy

**ARTISTIC EXPRESSION OF NATIONAL AND SPIRITUAL
VALUES IN THE JOURNAL “AZERBAIJAN” OF THE
PERIOD OF INDEPENDENCE**

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INTRODUCTION

The topicality and degree of elaboration of the research.

Although the level of study of moral values in the discourse of periodicals, the history of the press for more than a hundred years of the existence of a literary-oriented press is not the purpose of our historical research, the regular, continuous and multi-vector orientation of literary journals in terms of periodicity allows us to speak about the dynamic and strategically meaningful role of these publications in the promotion and development of literature. The development of Azerbaijani literature of the XX century is closely connected with the experience of the national press. Thus, the emergence and development of the national press, in particular literary and art journals, led to the development of new Azerbaijani literature, and this process was mutual: in the formation of the language and style of the press and in the formation of the genre system.

It is impossible to imagine Azerbaijani literature of the XX century without the journal “Azerbaijan”. Like the classic journals “Molla Nasreddin”, “Fyuzat” “Azerbaijan” is a vivid expression of our aesthetic, artistic thinking.

Since the first years of its existence, the “Azerbaijan” journal has been carrying out an important task of bringing to readers the best examples of Azerbaijani literary and artistic thought – classical and modern literature, folklore and translations. The merits of the journal in the promotion of centuries-old Azerbaijani literature highlight the importance of systematic study of its activities from different sides.

“Azerbaijan” journal occupies a special place in the history of both the national press and literature; it is one of the most important sources for studying the history of Azerbaijani literature, following and evaluating the modern literary process.

The activities and creative experience of the journal were highly appreciated by literary experts and writers.

The collapse of the USSR, the gaining of freedom and independence by the peoples, the Karabakh war, the tragedies of January 20 and Khojaly and others had a serious impact on the thematic and ideological palette of the journal.

And today “Azerbaijan” successfully continues the tradition of bringing to readers the best examples of the literary process, literature. Despite the pressure of the Soviet state and ideology, strict ideological and political prohibitions, bloody repressions, the journal rendered an exceptional service in preserving and promoting the national and spiritual values of the Azerbaijani people. In the 90s of the twentieth century, “Azerbaijan” journal, despite weak budgetary opportunities, continued to be published, expanded creative directions, played an important role in the formation of ideals of independence and statehood.

In Azerbaijan, literary journals have always played an important role as a source reflecting, guiding and historicizing the current literary process, the chronicle of national spirituality and literature. The change of national-spiritual values in the ideological-political, cultural-historical context determines the change of the aesthetic image of literature, idea-content direction. “Azerbaijan” journal is an example of a publication that not only gives a picture of this change, but also allows to follow it.

The study of the creative and ideological orientation of the journal in connection with the problem of spiritual values is one of the topical issues of research. The significant contributions of Azerbaijan in advancing its rich literary heritage underscore the significant need for a thorough examination of its efforts in promoting centuries-old Azerbaijani literature. Studying the activity of the literary body in the context of moral values is one of the important theoretical issues. Although individual published works have been specially studied, they have not been systematically studied in the context of moral values in a certain historical period as a whole. In terms of the degree of development of the topic, we can mention the following studies. First of all, it would be appropriate to mention the investigation of the history of “Azerbaijan” journal and its separate periods in various methodological aspects. Ibrahim Novruzov, in his dissertation covering the ten-year period of 1923-1932 (1968), investigated the role of the journal “Enlightenment and Culture” (“Revolution and culture”) in the development of Soviet literature in Azerbaijan. In this series, Rasim Tagiyev’s PhD thesis on the topic “Azerbaijan” journal and

current problems of Azerbaijani Soviet literature (1923-1976)”¹ and a monograph written on its basis. PhD thesis of B.Mammadov “Trends in the development of Azerbaijani art journalism and art issues (in the second half of the twentieth century)”², monograph by Aygun Azimova “Journalism in the journal “Azerbaijan”³, articles by Aynura Pashayeva “Issues of journalism in “Azerbaijan” journal (1953-2010)”⁴ (Baku, Science and Education, 2019), as well as articles about various anniversary years of the journal are serious sources related to the research of the topic. The bibliographic index “Azerbaijan – 80” (1923-2003), prepared by Amin Efendiyev on the eve of the 80th anniversary of the journal is a valuable resource in the study of the journal.⁵

Evidently, although “Azerbaijan” journal has been studied to some extent within the realms of philological thought (journalism, literary studies), the activity of “Azerbaijan” journal during the period of independence has been neglected, which is one of the factors determining the relevance of the topic.

The topicality of the research is connected not only with the activities of “Azerbaijan” journal as a literary body or the organization of the literary process, but also with the fact that it occupies an important place in the literary, cultural, socio-political life of Azerbaijan.

The examination of literary texts published in the journal since the 90s of the XX century - after Azerbaijan gained political independence - shows that the journal, in accordance with its name, has always been based on national and moral values.

¹ Tağıyev, R. “Azərbaycan” jurnalı və Azərbaycan sovet ədəbiyyatının aktual problemləri (1923-1976-cı illər). – Bakı:1977, – 235 s.

² Məmmədov, B. “Azərbaycan bədii publisistikasının inkişaf meyilləri və sənətkarlıq məsələləri (XX əsrin II yarısında)”. – Bakı: 2006, – 148 s.

³ Əzimova, A. “Azərbaycan” jurnalında publisistika. – Bakı: 2010, –174 s.

⁴ Paşayeva, A. “Azərbaycan” jurnalında publisistika məsələləri (1953- 2010). – Bakı: 2019, – 216 s.

⁵ Əfəndiyev, Ə. “Azərbaycan – 80” bibliografik göstəricisi. – Bakı: 2004, –544 s.

The object of the research is “Azerbaijan journal of the period of independence”, and the subject is the analysis of national and spiritual values in the journal.

Scientific novelty of the research. “Azerbaijan” journal is considered one of the most important sources in terms of studying the history of Azerbaijani literature, generalizing peculiarities of modern literary process.

- In a study in one literary and artistic body – the journal “Azerbaijan”, the reflection of national and spiritual values is involved in the analysis systematically, at the level of various genres and themes.

- The literary and journalistic discourse explores the forms of artistic expression of national and moral values.

- The activity of the journal during the period of independence is analyzed and evaluated in the historical-political, historical-cultural context.

- The ideas of independence, Turkism, martyrdom, national freedom are analyzed as spiritual values in the dissertation.

- The creative directions and artistic-aesthetic experience of “Azerbaijan” journal are considered in the context of the realization possibilities of statehood values in artistic texts (style, motif, idea, image).

Goals and objectives of the research. The main purpose of the dissertation is to determine the role and significance of the “Azerbaijan” journal in the field of artistic expression of spiritual values. To achieve this goal, the following tasks were set:

- to show the history of “Azerbaijan” journal of the Soviet and post-Soviet period and creative areas of activity;

- to justify the relations between the structure of “Azerbaijan” journal and the literary process;

- to determine the essence of the concept of “national-spiritual value” in philosophical, cultural, literary aspects;

- substantiation of the journal “Azerbaijan” as an artistic embodiment of the system of ethno-cultural values;

- identification of factors and reasons that led to the actualization of the ideas of Azerbaijanism, Turkism, national and ideological values in the period of independence in “Azerbaijan” journal;

- to focus on the achievements of the journal in the context of spiritual values at the level of individual areas of artistic creativity (literary criticism, journalism, prose, poetry);

- thematic and ideological classification of spiritual values in works published in the journal “Azerbaijan”.

Research methods. The methodological basis of the research is the methods of historical, descriptive, partially semiotic analysis. The research uses materials of the Azerbaijani literary critic and literary criticism, the provisions of European and Russian theoretical thought.

The main provisions submitted for defense:

- “Azerbaijan” journal, being the main literary body of the country, has determined the trends in the development of our modern literature.

– The main socio-political views of the period of independence, the ideas of national ideology are perceived as national and moral values, and also form the direction of the journal’s activities and creativity.

- The ideas of Turkism, Azerbaijanism, and the whole of Azerbaijan are becoming the leading line in “Azerbaijan” journal, especially in poetry and journalism.

- The attitude to the classical heritage and the current literary process is presented as integral components of the history of literature.

Theoretical and practical significance of the research. The theoretical significance of the dissertation work lies in the fact that the creative activity of “Azerbaijan” journal during the period of independence is studied in the historical, political, literary and aesthetic context, national and spiritual values are included in the analysis as a philological category.

Dissertation work is one of the necessary resources in the promotion and teaching of national literature. “Azerbaijan” journal is of interest from the point of view of studying the functionality and role of our literature in the axiological aspect, studying the history of printing. The practical significance of the dissertation lies in the fact

that the provisions of the research can be used in special courses and seminars, when teaching the disciplines “Literary process” and “History of journalism”.

Approbation of the research. The topic of the dissertation was approved by the Academic Council of Baku Slavic University, performed at the Department of “Azerbaijani Literature” of the University. The main provisions of the work are reflected in the materials of the reports made by the author in separate journals and collections, at conferences of international and scientific level.

The name of the organization in which the dissertation work was performed. Dissertation work was performed at the Department of “Azerbaijani Literature” Baku Slavic University.

The structure and total volume of the dissertation work. The dissertation consists of an introduction (8862), Chapter I (78707 signs), Chapter II (70525 signs), Chapter III (65134 signs), a conclusion (6388), and a list of references.

The total volume of the dissertation consists of 229616 conventional signs.

MAIN CONTENT OF THE WORK

The “Introduction” part of the dissertation substantiates the topicality and degree of study of the research, defines the object and subject, goals and objectives, research methods, provisions submitted for defense, information provides about the scientific novelty of the research, approbation and application of research work, the name of the organization in which the dissertation work was performed, the volume of individual structural parts of the dissertation.

The first chapter of the dissertation is called “**The place of “Azerbaijan” journal in the literary process of the XX century**” and consists of two paragraphs.

The first chapter “**The history of the “Azerbaijan” journal: socio-political and socio-cultural context**” notes the great role of the national press in the development of artistic, socio-political thought of the XX century.

The history of the “Azerbaijan” journal is the history of our literature and culture of the XX century in general. Despite the fact that at different times the journal was published under names of “Enlightenment and Culture”, “Azerbaijan”, the merits of the Azerbaijan journal in preserving national literature and language, ethno-cultural memory within the framework of the 70-year Soviet totalitarian system are undeniable.

The collection, published from the first issue until 1928, 48 issues under the title “Enlightenment and Culture”, until the 6th issue of 1936, was published under the title “Revolution and Culture”. The main direction of the journal, published under the title “Enlightenment and Culture”, was to strengthen education, familiarize readers with innovations in the field of literature and culture, and respond to the social and cultural challenges of modern times. The journal was called “Revolution and Culture” from the 6th issue in 1936 to the 5th issue in 1941. When the Great Patriotic War began, that is, since June 1941, the literature fulfills the task of becoming an “armed soldier” (S.Vurghun), and by the 4th issue of 1946, the 28th issue was published under the title “For the Motherland”. Since the 5th issue of 1946, including the 12th issue of 1952, the journal has been published under the name “Revolution and Culture”, and since 1953, at the suggestion of Samad Vurghun, under the name “Azerbaijan”.

The Azerbaijan journal in the XX century embodies the policy of repression of the 37th year of history, censorship of the Soviet – Bolshevik totalitarian regime, the pathos of socialist realism of the Second World War, the pain of the Great Patriotic War: *Chronicle “Azerbaijan” is not only a chronicle of luck, and on the pages of this chronicle one can see both the conjuncture of the era and “literary” events reminiscent of Dali’s surrealism (e.g. “Dede Gorgud” is actually declared an “enemy”, or the tragic repressions of 1937-39 (“revelations”) marked on these pages. This is a very important aspect – as I have already said, we are talking about an objective chronicle, a chronicle that itself, without following the conjuncture, embodies the literature and literary phenomena of that time, its foundations, its*

environment as it is”⁶.

Political “moderation” after Stalin’s death, albeit for a short time, exerts its influence on the journal, causing the maturation of the literary generation, which will be called the “60s”. Giving space to talented representatives of this generation – Ali Karim in poetry (he was also the head of the poetry department of the journal), Fikret Sadik, Vagif Samedoghlu, Isa Ismailzade, Alakbar Salahzade, Fikret Goja and other young people, Yusif Samedoghlu in prose, Anar, Elchin, Isi Melikzade and others, the journal, in fact, updated new aesthetic trends.

In 2003, on the eve of the 80th anniversary of the “Azerbaijan” journal, the President of the Republic of Azerbaijan, a great friend and patron of our literature, Heydar Aliyev, in his congratulatory letter “On the occasion of the anniversary, which is an important event in the history of our literature”, highly appreciated the activities of the journal. *“The journal, focusing on modern and classical Azerbaijani literature, also regularly introduced the Azerbaijani reader to valuable examples of world literature. Critical articles, scientific research, journalism and art materials reflecting the literary process are also widely presented on its pages. All this has made the “Azerbaijan” journal a mirror of our literature since its creation”*.⁷

Even in the period of independence, the journal continues its activity as an authoritative literary body that defines the current state and development of the literary process by challenging the innovations in Azerbaijani literature.

In the second paragraph of the first chapter, **“The artistic structure and main creative directions of “Azerbaijan” journal”**, it is noted that the artistic structure of the journal is determined based on the leading literary types of literature (prose, poetry, journalism and literary criticism). In addition to maintaining this structure during the period of independence, new rubrics were created. In this period, the

⁶Elçin. 100 ilin mühüm ədəbi salnaməsi // “Azərbaycan” jurnalı, – 2023, №1, – s.7.

⁷Əliyev, H. Ədəbiyyat tariximiz üçün mühüm hadisə olan yubiley münasibətilə... // “Azərbaycan” jurnalı, – 2003, №2, – s.4.

prose works published in the journal attract attention in terms of themes and forms. Samples of modern and postmodern prose appeared on the pages of journal.

In the examples of the novel genre of prose of the period of independence, attention is drawn to religious values, the relationship of the creator and the created, sacred values, beliefs that have been tested for centuries and distorted truths, as well as the fact that classical and oral literary traditions are included in the appeal. It is possible to trace the path of development of modern Azerbaijani prose in the twentieth century, in particular the development of the novel genre in the traditional and new context, according to artistic samples published in "Azerbaijan". Such are the novels "What has been said is over"⁸ by Y.Samadoghlu, "Haji Zeynalabdin"⁹ by M.Suleymanov, "Test Bridge"¹⁰ by A.Abdullazade, "Egg for the dead"¹¹ by M.Jafarli, "Crow Stranglers"¹² by I.Fahmin, "Samir, Samiri"¹³ by Gan Turali, "Horses bathing in mirage"¹⁴ by V.Nuru, "Butterfly model-102"¹⁵ by A.Talibzade, "Yellow chepkan of grief"¹⁶ by Z.Saritorpagh, "Hail"¹⁷ by A.Abbas, "Awakened Zangezür"¹⁸ by G.Mammadova.

Journalism is significantly activated on the pages of the journal, its subject-style palette is expanding. The writer's journalism (Anar, Elchin, I.Gasimzade, M.Oruj, B.Vagabzade, etc.), the publication of journalism reflecting a variety of views and styles in general, was not

⁸ Səmədoğlu, Y. Deyilənlər gəldi başa // "Azərbaycan" jurnalı, – 1999, №2, – s.5-67.

⁹ Süleymanov, M. Hacı Zeynalabdin // "Azərbaycan" jurnalı, – 1994, №4-6, – s. 3-53; – 1995, №1-3, – s.21-70.

¹⁰ Abdullazadə, A. Sınaq körpüsü // "Azərbaycan" jurnalı, – 2000, №3, – s.44-89; №-4, – s.56-109.

¹¹ Cəfərli, M. Ölümlər üçün yumurta // "Azərbaycan" jurnalı, – 2022, №5, – s.35-127.

¹² Fəhmi, İ. Qarğaboğanlar // "Azərbaycan" jurnalı, – 2008, №1, – s.13-64.

¹³ Qanturalı. Samir, Samiri. // "Azərbaycan" jurnalı, – 2016, №11, – 18-40.

¹⁴ Nuru, V. İlğımda çimən atlar // "Azərbaycan" jurnalı, – 2022, №9.

¹⁵ Talibzadə, A. Kəpənək modeli – 102, // "Azərbaycan" jurnalı, – 2009, №12.

¹⁶ Sarıtorpaq, Z. Dərdin sarı çəpkəni // "Azərbaycan" jurnalı, – 2014, №9, – s.52-19.

¹⁷ Abbas, A. Dolu // "Azərbaycan" jurnalı, – 2007, №12, – s.56-139.

¹⁸ Məmmədova, G. Oyanmış Zəngəzur // "Azərbaycan" jurnalı, – 2022, №1, – s.63-117.

only an indicator of democracy, but also an expression of the flexible reaction of Azerbaijani writers to the current problems of society.

This period can be characterized as the period of development of the essay genre in “Azerbaijan”. Successful examples of this genre under the heading “Essay” “Night Thoughts” (Anar)¹⁹, “Literary Thoughts” (Elchin)²⁰ aroused the interest of the literary community. Essays by Intigam Qasimzade showed that this genre is basically at the level of the artistic and aesthetic thought of Azerbaijan. The study analyzes the essays of Aydin Talibzade, Rustam Kamal, Maryam Alizade, Jalal Beydili, Zakir Sadatli, Zemfira Asadullayeva, Nizamuddin Mustafa, Azer Turan as the attitude of new literary generations (and new thinking!) to this genre.

One of the important issues in the artistic structure of “Azerbaijan” journal is the study of the classical literary heritage at the level of spiritual values. Attention and care for the classical literary heritage, the study of classics, classical texts, a return to a new system of spiritual values – these are some of the main issues that the journal poses. Starting from the first issue of “Enlightenment and Culture”, the theme of classical literary heritage (for example, Salman Mumtaz’s large-scale essay on Nasimi, examples from the work of Shah Ismail Khatai, etc.) occupies a place in the literary policy of the journal, and this tradition continues today. Among the studies expressing the position of literary studies in relation to the classical heritage, the works titled “Turkish blooded”, “European-looking and Muslim” (A.Hagverdiyev’s dramaturgy in literary studies: Is there a place for polemics?)²¹, and articles titled “M.A.Sabir: from a distance and up close (migration literary studies in the context of the methodological approach to Sabir, or while thinking about Sabir in Azerbaijani

¹⁹ Anar. Gecə düşüncələri // “Azərbaycan” jurnalı, –2001, №8-9, – s.10-39.

²⁰ Elçin. Ədəbi düşüncələr // “Azərbaycan” jurnalı, – 2000, № 9; №10; – 2001. № 10, – s.11-47.

²¹ Salamoğlu, T. “Türk qanlı” sənətkarın “Avropa qiyafəli, müsəlman etiqadlı” əsərləri” (Ə.Haqverdiyev dramaturgiyası ədəbiyyatşünaslıqda: polemika üçün meydan varmı? // “Azərbaycan” jurnalı, – 2018, №1, – s.166-181.

literature)²² by the literary critic T.Salamoglu are of special interest.

In the early 1990s, especially immediately after January 20, classical literary memory's circulation, through the transformation of subject and literary genre, historical personality and historical events into the subject of artistic thought, was accompanied in migration heritage studies.

The position of "Azerbaijan" journal in the promotion and research of the classical literary heritage as a national value not only focuses on the solution of human problems presented in the context of historical material, but also helps to understand people in the experience of stable social and moral values, thereby making the study of the classical literary heritage as a school relevant. Researcher A.Turan characterizes this approach as follows: "The passion to focus on all directions of classical spirituality is also a sign of enthusiasm to keep history alive".²³

To the 1300th anniversary of the great spiritual and cultural heritage of the Turkic world "Kitabi-Dede Gorgud" (1999), the 880th anniversary of genius Nizami Ganjavi (2021), as well as anniversaries of Fuzuli, Imadeddin Nasimi, Molla Panah Vagif, the dedication of special issues by the journal is an indicator of the its position in the transformation of the classical heritage into a new era.

This goal is served by the projects of the journal "Questions from our Unknown Monuments", "Our Boundless Verbal Treasure" together with the Institute of Manuscripts of ANAS and close cooperation with the relevant departments of the Institute of Literature. "Pearl Word", "Our name, our history, our destiny", "Karabakh: our pain", "History: truth, speculation" and other headings give enough space to materials related to our history and past, as well as to reveal

²² Salamoğlu, T. M.Ə. Sabir: uzaqdan və yaxından (Mühacirət ədəbiyyatşünaslığı Sabirə metodoloji münasibət kontekstində yaxud Sabirin Azərbaycan ədəbiyyatındakı yeri haqqında düşüncələr) // "Azərbaycan" jurnalı, – 2016, №11, – s.157-166.

²³ Turan, A. Əzəl – axır dünya türkün dünyası // "Azərbaycan" jurnalı, – 2008, №10, – s.174.

historical truths. “From convergent culture... to convergent culture”²⁴ by R.Geybullayeva, “The dual power of the Turkic-Islamic culture: poetry and music”²⁵ by N.Mustafa are of interest for the restoration of cultural memory.

In “Azerbaijan” journal, academician Isa Habibbayli notes the possibilities of writing and defence of PhD and doctorate dissertations, and of publishing volume of monographs, only on issues of criticism and literary studies: “Azerbaijan” journal played a significant role in the development of criticism and literary studies in Azerbaijan. Critics and literary researchers took an active part in literary discussions, round-table discussions organized by “Azerbaijan” journal, and also fulfilled their mission of closely interfering in creative processes. “Azerbaijan” journal served as the most active tribune of national literary criticism and literary studies in Azerbaijan. Prior to the foundation of scientific journals of the National Academy of Sciences of Azerbaijan and other literary journals, Azerbaijan journal was the main scientific press for writers and poets, as well as critics and literary researchers. Publication in the journal “Azerbaijan” has become a criterion for gaining trust and self-affirmation in the scientific and literary environment for both writers and poets, as well as critics and literary researchers”²⁶.

During the time of independence, Azerbaijani literary criticism and philological thought underwent a significant transformation. In articles and reviews by such authors as B.Nabiyev, Y.Garayev, I.Habibbeyli, N.Jafarov, A.Amrakhoghlu, V.Osmanli, Sh.Alishanli, N.Kahramanli, V.Yusifli, R.Aliyev, N.Shamsizade, V.Guliyev, B.Ahmadli, R.Geybullayeva, T.Alishanoghlu, J.Yusifli, A.Talibzade, T.Mammad, T.Salamoghlu, N.Jabbarli, E.Akimova, L.Hasanova the main place is occupied by the criteria of art and questions of skill. Both the problem of classical heritage and the modern literary process are

²⁴ Qeybullayeva, R. Konvergensiay mədəniyyətindən. konvergensiya mədəniyyətinə. // “Azərbaycan” jurnalı, – 2010, № 1, – s.161-167.

²⁵ Mustafa, N. Türk – islam mədəniyyətinin cüt gücü: şeir və musiqi // “Azərbaycan” jurnalı, 2020, № 10, – s.125-146; № 11, – s.125-158.

²⁶ Həbibbəyli, İ. Davamlı ədəbi ənənələrin və yeniləşmələrin jurnalı // “Azərbaycan” jurnalı, – 2013, №1, – s.14.

analyzed from the point of view of nationality. The general view of literary criticism materials published in “Azerbaijan” journal allows us to say that in the process of technological revolutions and globalization as a whole, which erase sharp boundaries between cultures and genres, besides expanding the scope of traditional topics, the journal gives ample space to more flexible and business-oriented forms such as literary essay, literary portrait, essay, review, literary conversation, and reflects the state and development of creative tendencies. In addition to the parts of poetry and prose, publicism, literary criticism, essayistics, classical heritage also reflect the public picture of Azerbaijani literature. The journal becomes a kind of mirror of literature by providing a broad picture of Azerbaijani literature during the period of independence.

Chapter II is called **“Azerbaijan” journal as an artistic chronicle of national and moral values**” and consists of two paragraphs. In the first paragraph titled **“Reflection of national and social ideals in “Azerbaijan” journal in the independence period”** in the works published on the journal pages, the motives of independence, Turkism, and Azerbaijaniism are presented and analyzed not only as concepts of political discourse in the new socio-political context, but also as the leading line of national literature.

The paragraph highlights that the “Azerbaijan” journal of the 20th century served not only as a chronicle and a tribune for artistic expressions but also for social, political, and literary ideas. Starting with 19th-century intellectuals, the fundamental objectives of shaping a new nation and acknowledging national identity through the literary and artistic discourse of Azerbaijan have been central to public opinion. In this sense, the formation of national ideals is based on ideas. “Modern Azerbaijani literature, first of all, is based on the ideology of Azerbaijaniism and the values of independence, the ideas of a free homeland, a free society, and a free man”.²⁷

New criteria are emerging in relation to the Azerbaijan Democratic Republic, national independence, return to the past, roots,

²⁷ Müstəqillik dövrü Azərbaycan ədəbiyyatı [2 cilddə] – Bakı: Elm və təhsil, –c.1. – 2016, – s. 1081.

national and spiritual values. In the published materials, a large place is given to national identity and the origins of spiritual values. Issues related to Southern Azerbaijan, the integrity of Azerbaijan, in the poetry of the 60s move from a subscript or symbolic language to “open” forms of expression in the 90s.

The development of the ideas of Turkism, which is part of the ethnohistorical memory, in Azerbaijani literary, philosophical and cultural thought after the 90s are classified.

The work of Azerbaijani emigrants, as well as prominent representatives of Turkism (literary heritage of Ali bey Huseynzade, Ziya Goyalp, Ahmad bey Aghaoglu, Mammad Amin Rasulzade, Mirza Bala Mammadzade, Jeyhun Hajibeyli, Alimerdanbey Topchubashov, Ahmad Jafaroghlu and others) returns to their literary-cultural environment. This, in turn, actualizes the ideology of Turkism, Islamism and Turanism in the literary and artistic agenda, including in the press. The literary legacy of emigration, banned for many years, and the presentation of the socio-political endeavors of the creators of this heritage to the society stimulate the emergence of national thought on the stage of national ideas, as a result, the clarification of the aesthetic-spiritual, ideological face of artistic thought. From the beginning of the 90s, M.A.Rasulzade’s works “The Siyavush of Our Century”²⁸, “Caucasian Turks”²⁹, “About Pan-Turkism. “On the Caucasus problem”³⁰ have been published in the “Azerbaijan” journal.

The trends of Turkism and Turanism are somehow manifested in the works of Azerbaijani poets of the young and middle generation. The description of Turkic ideals occupies an important place in the poems of Z.Yagub, M.Aslan, M.Ismail. The inclusion of the Turkic mythological images in the poetry of R.Behrudi is of great interest.

In the poems of the national poet Bakhtiyar Vahabzade, the love for the Turkic origin begins to occupy an increasing place. In his

²⁸ Rəsulzadə, M. Ə. Əsrimizin Səyavuşu. “Azərbaycan” jurnalı, – 1990, №9, –s.132-151.

²⁹ Rəsulzadə, M.Ə. Qafqaziya türkləri // “Azərbaycan” jurnalı, – 1990, №12; –1991 №1, – s.152-168.

³⁰ Rəsulzadə, M.Ə. Pantürkizm haqqında.Qafqaz problemi ilə əlaqədar // “Azərbaycan” jurnalı, – 1991, №6-8, – s.102-122.

poems “There is no your right”, “Azerbaijan-Turkey”, “Istanbul”, “I am a Turk”, “March of the Motherland”, “Let the Turks listen” and others he declares pride in his Turkic origin. In the poems of Khalil Rza Uluturk “Azerbaijan”, “Long live the land of fire, brother Turkey”, “Praise to Bozgurd”, “What is good...” and others, he faces the Turkic world. *“Mental thinking in the creative work of Khalil Rza is strongly connected with national-ideological consciousness, national ideology... Kh.Rza consistently fought for the functionality, promotion, protection and purity of his mother tongue. He expressed the attitude towards the language as an integral part of the policy of Turkism, ideological and cultural attitude.”*³¹

In journal “Azerbaijan” scientific and journalistic articles by A.Aliyeva, O.Bayramli, B.Ahmadli, A.Turan are published on the topic of Turkism, Islamism, and Turanism. B.Ahmadli’s article “Triple formula of the Republic”³², dedicated to the 100th anniversary of the Azerbaijan Democratic Republic, explores the historical, scientific, theoretical path of development of the formula of Turkization, modernization, Islamization, which subsequently reflected on the flag of the Azerbaijan Democratic Republic.

In the literary texts published in “Azerbaijan” journal, the ideas of independence and republic are not only the concepts of political discourse, but also the leading line of national poetry, civic poetry, and one of the forms of rhetorical-emotional expression. These values also bring to the literature its symbolic images (the tricolor flag of Azerbaijan, kharibulubl, etc.) and heroes.

The second paragraph titled **“Poetic expression of religious and mystical values”** focuses on appeals to Islamic spirituality, images and motives of Sufism of Azerbaijani writers, and talks about blows of the Soviet ideological, repressive machine on religious beliefs of the people.

The materials published in the journal “Azerbaijan” during the

³¹ Əsgərli, Ə. İstiqlal şairi Xəlil Rza Ulutürk.. Müstəqillik dövrü Azərbaycan ədəbiyyatı [2 cildə]. – Bakı: Elm və təhsil, –c.1. – 2016, –s.133.

³² Əhmədli, B. Cümhuriyyətin üçlü formulu // “Azərbaycan” jurnalı, – 2017, №11, s.13-24; №12, – s.72-84.

period of independence shows that religious-mystical values, neo-Sufism motifs in contemporary modern poetry changed its rhetorical system and created a certain opportunity to restore the connection with classical literary canons. Neosufism, Turanism searches are coming back to the agenda as a moral value that unites the society, and the journal is able to evaluate these possibilities.

We agree with literary critic, professor Tahira Mammad, who evaluates Neosufism not as a literary trend, but as a phenomenon of poetics that can be revealed in separate literary trends and a philosophical approach presented through artistic way: *“To characterize any transfer and transformation of Sufism as neo-Sufism would lead to the destruction and misappreciation of the progressive, humanistic traditions of Sufism”*.³³

Z.Yagub was able to achieve a successful unification of religion, morality, philosophy, artistic aesthetics in the poetic novel *“The Prophet”*³⁴ and created another legacy of the great Eastern culture to mankind. The epic way of thinking, the structure - an appeal to God, prayer, praise of the Prophet and other sequences that came from classical Oriental literature and began with Nizami’s creativity – in short, the form and content in Z.Yagub’s pen testify to the transformation of traditions into a new century, into the creativity of modern man. *“In the poetic novel “The Prophet”, numbering almost ten thousand verses, the expressiveness of the incessant poetic song, the richness of language and expression, the diversity of images of the poem, the epoch and the spiritual climate in which it is covered, indicate the return of literature to benefit from the great cultural foundations – the principles of religion and morality”*³⁵.

In the poems of B.Azeroghlu, M.Dilbazi, B.Vahabzade, J.Novruz, Z.Yagub, V.Bahmanli, A.Samad and others, the veneration of God and the prophet, the description of sacred values begins to take a leading place. The relationship between man and God acquires the

³³ Məmməd, T. Neosufizm: yaradıcılıq və nəzəriyyə. – Bakı: Xan, – 2016, –120 s.

³⁴ Yaqub, Z. Peyğəmbər // “Azərbaycan” jurnalı, – 2009, №1, – s.3-63; №2, –s.35-97; №3, – s.23-83.

³⁵ Ağabalayeva, S. Söz Tanrıdır // “Azərbaycan” jurnalı, – 2010, №1. – s.87-90.

character of metaphysical meanings. In the poems of M.Astanbayli we meet the breath of Yunus Amra and Seyid Mirhamza Nigari.

Unlike poetry, the embodiment of religious values and Sufism-motive images in prose can be found mainly in the plot of works written on historical subjects. In this sense, if we take into account that Sufism has obtained the right of genetic code, A.Talibzade's novel "Butterfly Model – 102"³⁶ draws attention in this regard. First of all, every character in the novel hides a novel potency. In addition to creating an allusion to the novel by Kh. Kortasar "62. Installation model", the work resonates with the author's article "Butterfly or Tafsiri-Sharhi-Hali Nasimi".³⁷ The novel, addressed to the intellectual reader, is narrated with the language of a child and with his impressions, and the "butterfly model" intended by the author is that child. He becomes a writer and writes himself, or rather, writes the model of his world.

The second "key" of the title of the work, is that the word "Butterfly" refers to a saghir abjad numerals. According to the abjad numerals, the word "butterfly" is "102". So, the butterfly is 102, and 102 is 1+2, which is 3. 3 alludes to the world of spirits. The number 3 is strangely repeated in the kabir abjad numerals. In the end, the result is that the butterfly can embrace the world with its little wings.

The ability to use the symbols is more clearly felt in the author's novels "Ramana"³⁸ and "Abu Hubb"³⁹.

In the first work, the dice is characterized as a symbol of the vicissitudes and games of fate. "Abuhubb" is created entirely on symbols and passwords from beginning to end. The name Abu Hubb (father of love) is also a password (ya Abu Hubb, ya Abu Hayy), a sign of Sufi love, a secret zikr. Therefore, when Tolty Bey (from Buddhism) was born as Abu Hubb in a Sufi monastery, he fell to the ground like the Arabic letter "M", prostrated, became a Sufi and

³⁶ Talibzadə, A. Kəpənək modeli.102 // "Azərbaycan" jurnalı, – 2009, №12, – s.87-90

³⁷ Talibzadə, A. Kəpənək və ya təfsiri – şərh – hali Nəsimi // "Azərbaycan" jurnalı, – 2000, №4, – s.167-170.

³⁸ Talibzadə, A. Ramana // "Azərbaycan" jurnalı, – 2019, №12, – s.97-109.

³⁹ Talibzadə, A. Əbü hübb. – Bakı: Qanun, – 2014. – 320 s.

disappeared in the desert. And Tunjal is “postmodern” Abuhubb, is Abuhubb without the power to live. Abu Hubb is born, the first part of the novel ends, and when Tuncal dies, the second part of the novel ends. On the whole, it seems as if the author wrote this work to say the phrase “I feel sorry for people”.

“What has been said is over”⁴⁰ by People’s writer Y.Samadoghlu (1999), people's writer I.Mughanna's creative work of the 2000s, as well as S.Aghayev’s work “The Seventh Adult”⁴¹ emphasize the importance of understanding and protecting oneself and the world.

Chapter III of the dissertation is called “**Literature as the integrity of moral memory**” and consists of two paragraphs. In the first paragraph entitled “**Issues of historical and spiritual memory as an object of contemporary prose and drama**” the concept of “moral memory” and “historical memory” is clarified, its philosophical and cultural essence is explained.

Among the topics touched upon by prose during the period of independence, it focuses on historical truths and the pain of repression, and also highlights the problem of national freedom and national identity. In this regard, the novels and stories of Isa Mughanna, Sabir Ahmadli, Aziza Jafarzade, Ismail Shikhli, Elchin, Movlud Suleymanli, Mammad Oruj, Elchin Mehraliyev and other writers are interesting.

It was during this period that the historical novel became a favorite genre of writers. The lives of M. Chamanli, I. Fahmi, A. Jafarzade and others are valued above ideological labels.

The novels “Letters in the Armenian Name”⁴² by Mevlut Suleymanli, “Short Circuit”⁴³, “Black Mirror”⁴⁴ by Mammad Oruj

⁴⁰ Səmədoğlu, Y. Deyilənlər gəldi başa // “Azərbaycan” jurnalı, – 1999, № 2, – s.5-67.

⁴¹ Ağayev, S. Yeddinci yetgin (Rus dilindən tərcümə edən M.Oruc) // “Azərbaycan” jurnalı, – 2004, №3, – s.3-54; № 4, – s.6-63; №10, – s.50-98; 2005, №9, – s.46-98.

⁴² Süleymanlı, M. Erməni adındakı hərflər // “Azərbaycan” jurnalı, – 2007, №8, s.6-61; № 9, – s.6-59.

⁴³ Oruc, M. Qara güzgü // “Azərbaycan” jurnalı, – 2016, №3, – s.15-74; №4, – s.65-138.

⁴⁴ Oruc, M. Qısa qapanma // “Azərbaycan” jurnalı, – 2015, №1, – s.30-82; №2, – s.3-52.

describe the national thought and values of the people.

The plot of the novel “Hurricane at sea”⁴⁵ by the people’s writer M.Ibrahimbeyov is based on the moral values of a citizen. He is interested in the moral and ethical choice of the character of his heroes.

Elchin’s novel “The head”⁴⁶ refers to historical memory and describes the events of the socio-political life of Azerbaijan at the beginning of the XIX century during the occupation of the Caucasus by tsarist Russia. The writer shows through retrospect the events that could not be touched upon in the era of socialist realism, creating a realistic picture of the occupation of Azerbaijan. *“...using new structural technologies of the genre, the author introduces a retrospective as a direct temporal element in the structure of the work. Time parallels, multi-layered spatial dimensions, a polyphony of copies, one of which replaces the other, each of which occurs in the eyes of the severed head of the hero, in his awakening memory, in his transparent and weightless presence, in the internal biological rhythms of his inextinguishable brain”*⁴⁷.

The novel “Black Mirror”, written by Mammad Oruj as a preface to the novel “resettlement”, was not only designed to restore historical and ethnic memory, but also aroused interest in the events from the writer’s point of view and was immediately evaluated as a “Vedibasar epic”. The work artistically, in the context of national and spiritual values, presents the games brought by the Russians to the people of Vedibasar, the ancestral historical land of Azerbaijan.

T.Alishanoglu, a critic, a correspondent member of ANAS who characterized A.Abbas’s novel “Hail”⁴⁸ in which the Karabakh war is considered as a people’s war for the first time, as a novel about national existence, reflecting our national existence, writes: *“At a time when the concept of the nation starts from beginning and is shaken at all levels of the society, and almost disappears, the War awakens the deeper genetic codes in the subconsciousness of the national*

⁴⁵ İbrahimbəyov, M. Dənizdə qasırga // “Azərbaycan” jurnalı, – 1998, №3-4, –s.21-78; №5, – s.68-121.

⁴⁶ Elçin. Baş // “Azərbaycan” jurnalı, – 2015, Xüsusi buraxılış, – 2015, – s.3-176.

⁴⁷ Akimova, E. Sənətkarın obrazı // “Azərbaycan” jurnalı, – 2018, №5. – s.61-68.

⁴⁸ Abbas, A. Dolu. “Azərbaycan” jurnalı, – 2007, № 12, – s.56-139.

consciousness, a land free from all kinds of false social foundations – puts in action the feelings for homeland, national spirituality - feelings of manliness”.⁴⁹

At the same time, memoir literature can be evaluated as a means of penetrating the historical truth.

Historical and literary figures, as well as socio-political realities in G.Sadigzade’s “The last apartment was the Caspian sea”⁵⁰, B.Azeroghlu’s “The Past Years of Life”⁵¹, A.Jafarzade’s “Tears of the Caspian Sea”⁵², Anar’s “Like Kerem”⁵³ and other writers’ literary and documentary prose are connected with “the persistence to deliver the warm breath of the past epoch, the second half of the 20th century” (T.Alishanoglu).

A.Amirli’s autobiographical novel named “What did I have left in Aghdam?”⁵⁴ is evaluated as a work that “*vividly and fully reflects the lives of our people in Aghdam, Karabakh, Azerbaijan as a whole, 50-60 years ago*”⁵⁵ in addition to the social content and description of childhood.

The themes introduced to dramaturgy during the period of independence are reflective of the changes in life and social relations. In these themes the ideologies and perspectives associated with the erstwhile socialist thinking with the approaches ushered in by capitalism are often compared.

In the 90s, the thoughts of a man panicking because of chaos,

⁴⁹Əlişanoğlu, T. Aqil Abbasın yazıçı – vətəndaş missiyası. Müstəqillik dövrü Azərbaycan ədəbiyyatı [2 cildə]. – Bakı: AMEA Nizami adına Ədəbiyyat İnstitutu, – c.2. – 2016, – s.398.

⁵⁰ Sadıqzadə, Q. Son mənzili Xəzər oldu // “Azərbaycan” jurnalı, – 1990, №1, – 1991, №9-10, – s.117-135, – s.12-54.

⁵¹ Azəroğlu, B. Ömürdən ötən illər // “Azərbaycan” jurnalı, – 2002, №10; №12, 2004, №11.

⁵² Cəfərzadə, Ə. Xəzərin göz yaşları // “Azərbaycan” jurnalı, – 2003, №4, – s.12-54.

⁵³ Anar. Kərəm kimi // “Azərbaycan” jurnalı, – 2010, № 5, –s.76-122.

⁵⁴ Əmirli, Ə. Ağdamda nəyim qaldı? // “Azərbaycan” jurnalı, – 2015, №10, – s.3-89.

⁵⁵ Məcid, R. “Ağdamda nəyim qaldı? – avtobiografik roman // “525-ci qəzet”, – 2015-ci il 5 dekabr, – s.24.

moral erosion, and the difficulties of the world are presented comic and tragic situations in almost all of Elchin's plays, A.Amirli's and F.Mustafa's, and A.Masud's, I.Fahmin's, K.Talibzade's dramas in the twenties.

In these works, in addition to difficulties of a man, who cannot adapt to new values against the background of the rapid change of Azerbaijani society in the last 30 years, distorted pages of history, and his artistic image free from ideological presentation of historical and literary figures are presented. *“A new stage in the dramaturgical process has begun with the end of the nineties transition when the questions such as “Can modern aesthetics survive in our national drama?” and “Will the traditional aesthetics be able to maintain its longevity? are resolved”.*⁵⁶ In the “Azerbaijan” journal of independence period the published plays of Elchin, Anar, A.Amirli, K.Abdullah, A.Masud, F.Mustafa, I.Fahmi, A.Talibzadeh and others, in addition to answering this question, allow us to follow the dynamics of revision of tradition in our dramaturgy with modern aesthetics. As for which spiritual and moral values actualized by the drama of the period of independence against the background of the social picture of the time, a theater critic A.Talibzadeh answers this question on the basis of the creative work of playwright A.Amirli: *“By reading Ali Amirli's comedies, you can get to know and understand modern Azerbaijanis. Ali Amirli's comedies are a mirror of people's independence and freedom, an concept called “people's mentality”.*⁵⁷

In the play “Winter nights of the city”⁵⁸ by the People's writer Anar, the reader meets Giyas Zeynalli, a principled, ideal Soviet intellectual and high school teacher, whom he encountered from the author's play “Summer days of the city”⁵⁹.

The “social and political environment” could not change the principles and beliefs of teacher Giyas; he is still fighting, now he is

⁵⁶ Şərifova, S. Müasir dramaturgiya və teatr. Müstəqillik dövrü Azərbaycan ədəbiyyatı [2 cildə]. – Bakı: Elm və təhsil, – c.2, – 2016, – s. 762.

⁵⁷ Talibzadə, A. Azərbaycanlıların müstəqillik sərgüzeştləri // “Azərbaycan” jurnalı, – 2019, №1. – s.154.

⁵⁸ Anar. Şəhərin qış gecələri // “Azərbaycan” jurnalı, – 2019, №10, – s.3-22.

⁵⁹ Anar. Şəhərin yay günləri // “Azərbaycan” jurnalı, – 1978, №4, – s.114-168.

“struggled” for the independence of Azerbaijan.

The events happen “around the same table” on the eve of the tragic January 20. “With this play dedicated to the 30th anniversary of the events of January 20, Anar presents the model of a national intellectual. Although these values are almost presented as “survival” in the globalized world, the reality of the day insists on the preservation of such values. In this case, the attitude of literary criticism to the last 10-15 years activity of “Azerbaijan” journal, especially in the last ten to fifteen years, is as follows: *“New samples of modern Azerbaijani and world dramaturgy are published both in separate issues of the journal and in the separate edition of “Dramaturgy”. Certainly, youth who are the authors of the first drama works also emerge in this direction. I can say that “Azerbaijan” journal has undertaken a unique and unparalleled initiative, what no other publishing house and other literary journals have achieved on their own”*.⁶⁰

Examples of prose and drama published in the journal indicate that these genres are at a new stage of development, classical traditions and innovative trends harmoniously coexist. The increase of interesting samples of modernist aesthetics is not only due to the fact of national dramaturgy, but the translation and publication of examples of world classical and modern dramaturgy and prose is also a direction of the journal’s literary policy.

In the second paragraph titled “Our righteous war and martyrdom as a superior, sacred value” it is noted that independence brought with it certain themes; The theme of martyrdom in the artistic thinking actualized on the context of “January 20”, “Karabakh war”. They were glorified as the most superior and sacred value, in particular, the tragedies “January 20” and “Khojaly” are inscribed in the bloody memory of poetry, formed in poetry a spectacular emotionally expressive rhetoric.

Literary critic Vagif Yusifli dwells on topic of the tragedy of January 20 left an indelible mark in the history of our people in detail:

⁶⁰ Yusifli, V. Son illərin dramaturgiyası // “Azərbaycan” jurnalı, – 2020, №10, – s.164.

“... The poetry written in this theme turned over the pages of heroism and martyrdom of our people, creating a spiritual bridge between the past and the present. When you understand January 20 and not as a tragedy, but as the self-realization of the people, you pull the topic out of a narrow and vicious circle.”⁶¹

January 20, the Karabakh war, the heroism of the sons of the Motherland constitute the plot and idea of the prose works published in the journal.

Martyrdom, Veteranism, along with high moral values such as Turkism, Azerbaijanism, and independence, are included in the list of literary values, form the rhetoric and style of artistic (poetic) texts.

Shortly after the tragedy on January 20, two poems – “Cry, carnation, cry” by Mammad Aslan and “Crying” by Gabil – were distributed as an expression of national pain and shock, the impact of both poems was as effective as the tragedy itself, and was imprinted in memory.

In the poem “Cry, clove, cry”, the carnation become a national symbolic image.

M. Aslan’s journalistic article “Terrible dreams come true”⁶², published in “Azerbaijan” journal and dedicated to the memory of martyrs on January 20, explores the roots of the tragedy and the layers of historical and ethnic memory.

The poem of the national poet Gabil “Crying” contains several contents. Firstly, this poem expresses an open accusation – a sharp protest to the forces (of the Russian Empire) who committed the tragedy on January 20. Secondly, the misfortune that the people got into, the fact of occupation is recognized.

This bloody tragedy immediately found its expression in the works of various poets. Balash Azeroghlu, Mirvarid Dilbazi, Fikret Sadig, Huseyn Arif, Jabir Novruz, Zalimkhan Yagub, Fikret Goja,

⁶¹Yusifli, V. On il: sözüümüzün keçdiyi yol // “Azərbaycan” jurnalı, – 2002, №2. – s.179-186.

⁶²Aslan, M. Gerçəkləşən qorxulu yuxular // “Azərbaycan” jurnalı, – 1990, №2. – s.3-6.

Eldar Bakhish, Nusrat Kasamanli and dozens of other poets with a high civic sense described this tragedy in the poems.

In Azerbaijani literature, the poem of the national poet Bakhtiyar Vahabzade “Martyrs” is estimated as the most perfect from the point of view of mastery of the works written on this topic. The study notes that even before this poem, Bakhtiyar Vagahzade wrote a journalistic article “The road on Saturday evening” in “Azerbaijan” journal, which analyzed the causes of the tragedy on January 20.

I. Ismailzade in his poem “Where does the Motherland hurt? ...”⁶³ trying to capture the picture of the pain of the motherland as a whole, the wounded and martyr experiences the pain of the motherland, our occupied lands.

Agafar Hasanli in his poem “Baku on January 20, 1990” again painted a picture of the cruelty of that cold January night.⁶⁴

Poems by F. Goja “Song of Freedom”⁶⁵, “Alley of Martyrs”⁶⁶, Musa Alakparly “Fighter”⁶⁷ express a qualitative renewal of the combat and heroic history of the people in terms of genre and style.

The young generation, who perceives January 20 not as a tragedy, but as a day of honor proved once again in the 44-day Second Patriotic War that Azerbaijan not only fought for the justice, the homeland, at the same time the Azerbaijani army changed its purpose, destroyed the myth, polished the tradition of epic plot creation, renewed the genre and stylistic qualities of the history of war, heroism and peace. “Azerbaijan” journal, presenting the poems by martyred and veteran poets – “Those whose words are homeland”⁶⁸, once again confirmed the fact that our literature is on the same front as our people in the war of justice.

⁶³İsmayılzadə, İ. Haran ağrıyor, Vətən? // “Azərbaycan” jurnalı, – 1996, №4-6. – s.3-16

⁶⁴Həsənli, A. 1990-cı ilin 20 Yanvar Bakısı // “Azərbaycan” jurnalı, – 2018, №1, – s.62-71

⁶⁵Qoca, F. Azadlıq şərqisi // “Azərbaycan” jurnalı, – 2006, №4. – s.6-11.

⁶⁶Qoca, F. Şəhidlər xiyabanı // “Azərbaycan” jurnalı, – 2008, №1, – s.5-22.

⁶⁷Ələkbərli, M. Mübariz // “Azərbaycan” jurnalı, – 2014, №4, – s.4-26.

⁶⁸Göytürk-Eyvazlı, A. Sözü Zəfər olan igidlər // “Azərbaycan” jurnalı, – 2022, №11, – s.16.

The final part of the dissertation summarizes the scientific and theoretical conclusions:

– As a whole, if it is evaluated from the perspective of historical, artistic and aesthetic understanding of national and literary thought, “Azerbaijan” journal has not only continued the ideological and professional goal of its great predecessors – “Molla Nasreddin” and “Fyuzat”, but has responded to the literary and aesthetic calls of the modern world.

The study of the creative and ideological directions of the Azerbaijan journal of the Soviet and post-Soviet period and for the first time in the “journal” discourse, the problem of the reflection of national and moral values is involved in the analysis at the philological level.

The role and importance of “Azerbaijan” journal in promoting moral values is undeniable. The attempt is made to elucidate the essence of the national-spiritual value category, examining its ethical, cultural, and literary aspects through the analysis of literary and artistic texts featured in the magazine. The goal is to explore and comprehend how this value is expressed across different genres and forms.

The priority directions of our contemporary literature are determined in the context of the journal’s publishing history, structure and main creative tendencies, genre and form diversity of artistic texts.

In the 90s of the twentieth century, “Azerbaijan” journal, despite weak budgetary opportunities, continued to be published, expanded creative directions, played an important role in the formation of ideals of independence and statehood.

The initial years of the post-Soviet era must be characterized as a challenging period in the history of journal. Consequently, as the 70-year-old political-ideological system collapsed, the perception of moral values changed.

When assessing the journal’s role and significance in the realm of artistic expression of moral values, the true nature of the “national-moral value” concept becomes more apparent within the framework of philosophical, cultural, and literary studies.

In the period of independence, the issues related to the ethnic identity, history, traditions, mythological thought, and world vision of

the Azerbaijani people became more relevant in artistic and aesthetic thinking. During that period, “Azerbaijan” journal strengthened the recovery of historical memory, the development of national self-awareness, national self-consciousness with interesting examples of prose and poetry, artistic journalism and formed new moral values.

The moral values in the works published in “Azerbaijan” journal showed that literary and artistic thought better expresses and protects the national spirit of the people when it is free. Thus, in the works published in “Azerbaijan” journal during that period, national-traditional values find its continuous expression in various genre forms.

“Azerbaijan” magazine glorifies and promotes martyrdom and veteranism as sacred values. Martyrdom, as one of the main themes and motives of Azerbaijani poetry, occupies an important place in the creativity of almost all literary generations. The Karabakh war forms the plot and idea of prose works.

High moral values (martyrdom, veteranism, independence, Turkism, Azerbaijaniism, etc.) are included in the list of literary values, form the rhetoric and style of artistic (poetic) texts.

Turkism is the name of an ethnic-ideological belief, it is accepted as moral value and forms the emotional substrate of artistic texts.

“Azerbaijan” journal, despite the total control of censorship and political-ideological bans, reflected the people's thoughts and remained loyal to its cultural and moral values.

In the period of independence, national and moral values are expressed in the context of new thinking in Azerbaijani literature. A crucial factor influencing this evolution is the release of artistic thought from the constraints imposed by the totalitarian regime. The emancipation from the shackles of censorship has allowed for a newfound freedom in creative expression, emphasizing the significance placed on national and spiritual values in literary works. Mother tongue, Turkism, martyrdom, etc. such national and moral values are prominent in “Azerbaijan” journal, mainly in poetry.

The theme of January 20, martyrdom and Karabakh are reflected in artistic thought (prose, poetry, journalism, essay, drama, story, etc.) as one of the priority directions of our contemporary literature. The

role of national literature in the great victory of the brave Azerbaijani soldier in the 44-day Karabakh war is undeniable.

Religious-mystical values, especially neosufism, the search for divinity are re-emerging as a moral value that unites society, and the journal is able to evaluate these opportunities.

The history and content of “Azerbaijan” journal show that the preservation of moral values is one of the most important issues for the restoration of Azerbaijan statehood.

The results of the research suggest that the transformation of the literary and artistic publication into a specific field – a profile media example played an important role in the organization of the literary process.

The main content of the dissertation is reflected in the following theses and articles of the applicant:

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