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ABSTRACT

of the dissertation for the degree of Doctor of Philosophy

**MODERN AMERICAN CHILDREN'S LITERATURE
(1970-1990s)**

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GENERAL CHARACTERISTICS OF THE RESEARCH

Significance of the topic. The history of American children's literature, the stages of its historical development, especially the study of the development stages of the new era in the 70s-90s of the 20th century is one of the important and urgent issues facing the science of contemporary literary studies. It is noted that the beginning of children's literature has not yet been sufficiently studied in America and other countries. However, the fairy tales, riddles, and lullabies belonging to the oral folk literature indicate that this literature is historically ancient. It can be considered a historical fact that American children's literature is younger than the literature of European and Asian nations. However, studying and researching the history of children's literature gives reason to say that the rich literary and artistic examples of this literature are not far behind the general literature.

The number of research works related to Children's literature increase day-by-day. Note that the most important pillar of American children's literature was laid in the 1970s. The children's magazine called "Signal" in Britain in 1970, and the children's magazine called "Children's Literature" were founded in the United States in 1972. "The Children's Literature Association" was established in 1973, and this association has supported scholarships for research in this area, making a tradition hold annual children's literature conferences. Recently, awards for children's book authors and illustrators in the United States, Canada, and the United Kingdom have been dramatically different from previous periods for both prestige and an increase in the number of copies. The Newbery Award was established in the United States in 1922, the Caldecott Medal in 1937, and the British Carnegie Medal of the same year are awarded to selected and beloved writers in the field of children's literature. In 2000 "The Children's Literature an Anthology 1801-1902" and in 2005 "Norton Anthology of Children's Literature" were published by Peter Hunt, they have been selected for their critical role in the study of children's literature and have encouraged young researchers to study children's literature. This work covers all periods of children's

literature in chronological order. In addition, since March 30, 1967 International Children's Book Day is celebrated every year on April 2. This date election is linked to the hero of children's literature Hans Christian Andersen's birthday. It should also be noted that when Andersen created examples of children's literature, children's literature was not yet widely available.

It should be noted that scientific studies on children's literature, as well as the publication of monthly and quarterly international research collections on children's literature in a number of countries, including the United Kingdom and the United States, are of great importance for students and researchers. Both studies and individual publications have an unparalleled role in promoting cultural and literary theories, comparative literature issues, and children's literature as world literature. Children's literature, which is constantly expanding and increasing, as well as the issues of children's literature studied and investigated, are of great importance and relevance in determining the strategy of Azerbaijani children's literature.

Now there are a number of research centers for the development of children's literature in the world. Along with the Children's Literature Association in the United States, "The Center for Children's Literature and Culture" at the University of Florida, "National Center for the Study of Children's Literature" at San Diego State University Department of Children's Literature"), the main goal of the "Center for Research in Children's Literature" at the University of Cambridge in England, the "National Center for Research in Children's Literature" at the University of Roehampton bring together researchers in the field of children's literature and bring to the reader's attention the innovations in children's literature.

Acquaintance with American children's literature proves that children's literature, which is not of such serious interest to scientists and researchers, has been brought to the agenda in the last 50 years with serious scientific importance and relevance, starting from the 1970s. It is a serious scientific study of the creativity of well-known figures of children's literature, which contains serious social and political topics, the most delicate issues of "childhood" and "child" issues, and even instills in the reader that children are a great force in

solving many problems of the "adult" world, in the circle of comparative literature is important and relevant. In modern Azerbaijani literary studies, a team of scientists and researchers has developed both the specific development picture of American literature, its directions, issues specific to the creativity of individual writers and poets, and the specific parallels of the creativity of American and Azerbaijani writers in the context of comparative literature. In this regard, the late literary critic, prof. Zeydulla Aghayev, from doctor of philological sciences, prof. Aynur Sabitova, Nigar Isgenderova, Naila Sadikhova, from Ph.D.s in philology, Nurana Nuriyeva, Sakinakhanim Valiyeva, Ulkar Shafiyeva, Keklik Gozalova, Ulviyya Aliyeva, Gila Huseynli, Mushfiq Babayev, Arif Asadov, Yusif Aliyev and others are great names in this field. But considering that the issues of American children's literature have been little studied in many countries of the world, including the United States, compared to the research of general literature. In this regard, American researchers Karin Bit Lesnik-Oberstein, Matson Kristina Phillips, and Russian researchers Nenilin Alexander Gennadyevich, Belova Anastasia Olegovna and others conducted scientific research on one or another issue of American children's literature¹. However, in the 1970s-1990s of the 20th century, which has its own place in world history and thought, the issues of

¹ Karin Beate Lesnik-Oberstein. Principles and Practice in Critical Theory. Children's Literature: /A Thesis Submitted to the University of Bristol in accordance with the Requirements for the Degree of Doctor of Philosophy in the Faculty of Social Sciences, School of Education. Doctoral Thesis./ – The University of Bristol: September 1990, – 236 p // URL:<http://research-information.bristol.ac.uk>; Mattson, Christina Phillips. Children's Literature Grows Up: / Dissertation for the degree of Doctor of Philosophy in the Subject of Comparative Literature/ –Harvard University: Cambridge, Massachusetts. – May, 2015. – 390 p.; Ненилин Александр Геннадьевич. С.Кинг и проблемы детства в англо-американской литературной традиции: /дисс. кандидата филологических наук/ [Электронный ресурс] /– Нижний Новгород, 2006. – 177 с. URL: <http://chtloveknauka.com/s.pdf>; Белова Анастасия Олеговна. Творчества Луизы Мэй Олкотт в контексте детской литературы Англии и США второй половины XIX – начало XX вв.: /дисс. кандидата филологических наук/ [Электронный ресурс] / – М.: МГПУ, 2013. – 244 с. URL: <http://dslib.net/literatura-mir.pdf>

American children's literature did not become an independent research object.

The object and subject of the research. The enrichment of existing scientific-theoretical principles with constructive values of the new period of American children's literature of the 1970s-1990s, the investigation of the artistic originality, description and expression diversity of prose, poetry and children's dramas on the basis of its main development directions is the object of the research. The subject of the research is systematization of the results obtained in the mentioned research field.

Aim and duties of the research. The main purpose of the dissertation is to identify the important goals and objectives of children's literature in the 1970s and 1990s along with all the emerging fields of science amid the general developmental stages of American children's literature. In our modern-day, awards for children's book authors and illustrators in the United Kingdom, the United States and Canada are distinguished by their increasing prestige and number. This stimulates the development of children's literature as a separate field in the world literature. The following tasks are planned to be implemented:

- To study and analyze the socio-political factors that have contributed to the emergence of American children's literature and main themes which were separated in literature;

- To identify the main criteria of existing scientific-theoretical literature on children's pictures books and comics, which have been widely used in children's literature since the beginning of the XX century;

- In the American prose by analyzing on the ideas of multiculturalism in William Edward Burhardt Du Bois and Mildred Taylor's works to find out children's rights of living freely in the country;

- To investigate the poetic genre in American children's literature by identifying and analyzing the poets' main motives who wrote in this area;

- To look through the history of American children's playwriting, identify the peculiarities of innovations in the field in

the second half of the twentieth century, and to identify famous playwright Susan Zeder's creative connections with the literary audience of Azerbaijan;

– Investigate the cultural influences of children's literature in America and identify the characteristics of films, especially Walt Disney films methods;

– To analyse and generalise the issues of children's literature in the 70-90s of the XX century on the basis of research on American children's literature.

The research methods. Comparative, biographical, historical methods and discourse analysis were used in the dissertation.

The main provisions for defense:

1. The history of the creation of American children's prose and a general description of the stages of its development are given;

2. The emergence of picture books and comics in American children's literature and the development of this field in the second half of the 20th century, especially in the 70s and 90s, the important role and importance of picture books in the formation of children's personality is determined in the background of Arnold Lobel's work;

3. The place of William Edward Burhart Du Bois and Mildred Taylor's work in children's literature is defined in the new stage of development of American multicultural children's fiction;

4. Based on the work of Mary Ann Hoberman, Marilyn Nelson and Arnold Spilka, who wrote and created in the second half of the 20th century, the specific characteristics of children's poetry are examined;

5. In the second half of the 20th century, especially in the 70s and 90s, the development and characteristic features of American children's drama are determined;

6. The development of children's culture in 20th century America, the influence of children's literature on this field are analyzed and summarized;

Scientific novelty of the research. One of the factors that can be considered as a scientific novelty of the research is the creation of a certain literary-scientific idea about the stage of development of children's literature in the United States, which is considered a

multicultural country, mostly in the 70s-90s of the 20th century, and the determination of the main goals and objectives of this literature. The stage marked with its specific laws and criteria in the basis of the organization of children's literature, along with its development stages, mainly in the context of world children's literature, the investigation of the search trends of contemporary American children's literature and the features of artistic craftsmanship that distinguish them can be considered an act of innovation in the more comprehensive study of the research work in the context of literary relations. The first monographic study of this topic, which is important and relevant for the scientific, literary and critical opinion of Azerbaijan, can serve as a basis for the more comprehensive study and research of other areas of American children's literature in the future.

Theoretical and practical significance of research. In today's globalized world, the study and research of American children's literature is of special importance, both theoretically and practically. The research aims to clarify the level of theoretical and aesthetic regularities of the period in order to study the rise or renaissance of the characteristic literature with the search trends and certain contradictions of the new period American children's literature in the 70s and 90s. From the point of view of the literary and cultural evolution of American children's literature, special attention was paid to the analysis of the scientific-theoretical thought specific to the mentioned stage, especially the artistic and poetic materials related to the contemporary period.

As for the practical importance of the research work, it should be noted that the research materials can be used as a useful tool in the study of "Children's literature", which is taught as an elective subject in the higher schools of our Republic.

Approbation and application. Scientific innovations, main theses and scientific results of the research were reflected in international and republican conferences and reports, and were published in conference materials, scientific magazines and collections in foreign countries and the Republic of Azerbaijan.

Name of the organization where the dissertation work is performed. The dissertation was prepared at the Department of

English Language of Baku Engineering University.

The total volume of the dissertation with a sign indicating the volume of the structural sections of the dissertation separately. Dissertation consists of Introduction, 3 chapters, Conclusion and list of used literature. The Introduction part of the dissertation is 6 pages, 11115 characters, Chapter I is 55 pages, 109214 characters, Chapter II is 50 pages, 93429 characters, Chapter III is 29 pages, 55685 characters, Conclusion is 3 pages, 5162 characters. The total volume of the dissertation is 274605 characters, excluding the list of used literature.

BASIC CONTENT OF THE RESEARCH

In the **“Introduction”** the relevance and degree of development of the topic is justified, its object and subject, goals and tasks, methods, the main provisions defended, as well as information about the scientific innovation, theoretical and practical importance, approval and structure of the work are disclosed.

In the first sub-chapter **“Modern American Children's Prose”** of Chapter I called **“Organization and Development Stages of American Children's Literature”** of the dissertation, it is noted that it is possible to see more historical traces of Western European literature in American children's literature. As the Azerbaijani literary scholar, professor Gorkhmaz Guliyev (1941) noted: *“It would be appropriate to seek the roots of American literature in European literature, especially in English literary and artistic thought”*². The foundation of the publication of a children's book in the United States was based by the author John Newbery (1713-1767) who was the father of children's literature in Britain in the eighteenth century.

The first textbook on American children's literature was considered **“Spiritual Milk for Boston Babes in Either England”** in 1656. This work was originally published under the name **“The Breast of Both Testaments for their Soul's Nourishment”** in England in 1646. Subsequently, making several changes and additions to the

² Quliyev, Q. Amerika ədəbiyyatı: Tarixi öçerklər / Q.Quliyev, Ü.Əliyeva. – Bakı: “Elm və təhsil”, – 2016. – s.4.

work in America it was introduced as a new textbook for publication. Although the main theme of the textbook is devoted to religious rituals and themes, here also includes examples of alphabet, lexicology and poetry³.

The development of American literature refers to the development path of this literature from the 18th century to the present day. Prominent representatives of Enlightenment literature Jonathan Edwards (1703-1758), Benjamin Franklin (1706-1790), Thomas Paine (1737-1809), Thomas Jefferson (1743-1826), Philip Freneau (1752-1832) were leading figures in American literature during these periods. The novel genre appeared at the end of the eighteenth century in the American literature. Hugh Henry Brackenridge (1748-1816) and Charles Brockden Brown (Charles Brockden Brown, 1771-1810) were regarded as the first artists to write this genre in American literature.⁴

In American literature, the romantic period began from the second decade of the nineteenth century and lasted until the late 60s. As Washington Irving (1783-1859), Nathaniel Hawthorne (1804-1864), Henry Longfellow (1807-1882), Edgar Allan Poe (1809-1849), Herman Melville (1819-1891) prominent American poets and prose writers lived in the period of romanticism. This period, Edgar Allan Poe, Nathaniel Hawthorne have written a series of poems and stories for children besides elders.

Since the 70th years of XIX century, realism has begun to develop in American literature. James Russell Lowell (1819-1891), Mark Twain (1835-1910), Francis Brett Hart (1836-1902) and Henry James (1843-1916) were famous representatives of the realism in American literature. Mark Twain is well-acquainted with his novels "Adventures of Huckleberry Finn" and "Adventures of Tom Sawyer." Well-known American writers William Faulkner said that Mark Twain was the "father" of American literature, and Ernest

³ Huck, C.S. Children's Literature in the Elementary Schools / C.S.Huck, S.Helper, J.Hickman. – New York: Holt, – 4th ed. – 1987. – 541 p..

⁴ Cullinan, B.J. Literature and the Child / B.J.Cullinan. 2nd edition. – New York: Harcourt, – 1989. – 117 p.

Hemingway said that "modern" American literature originated from the novel "The Adventures of Huckleberry Finn"⁵.

Writing children's works in American children's literature has become a tradition in the 20th century. Children's literature, written in the second half of the twentieth century, has already got away from its traditional themes. "William's Doll" written by Charlotte Zolotow (1915-2013), and illustrated by William Pène du Bois (1916-1993) overturned the overall stereotype created for male heroes in children works.

From the second half of the twentieth century, the issue of racism along with gender has become widespread in American children's literature. American researcher Alan Okada also talked about racism by discussing children's literature. He cited the American's writer Marjorie Ann Waybill's work called "Chinese Eyes" and sounded people the active struggle against racism⁶.

The theme of racism, which was gaining popularity in American children during 1970s and '90s, was also reflected in Judy Blume's (1938) works. She has been rewarded more than 90 times. The works written by Judi Blum for children are "Tales of a Fourth Grade Nothing", "Forever" and "Tiger Eyes", "Iggie's house", some of them are also the favorite works for both children and adults in American children's literature. The writer touched on the theme of racism in her work "Iggie's house". The main purpose of the literature's dissemination of the ideas in her work is to distance people from the old-fashioned ideas of racism and to promote racial equality in society.

The second subchapter of the first chapter, entitled "***Pictures' books and Comics (based on Arnold Lobel creativity)***", is devoted to the analysis of graphic novels, picture books, comics and their superheroes, as well as analysis of a number of works written by Arnold Lobel who was famous for his pictures works in American children's literature.

⁵ Abdullayeva, T.M. Amerika uşaq nəsrinin yaranma tarixi // – Baku Journal of Baku Engineering University, Philology and Pedagogy, – 2017. – s.194-199.

⁶ Alan Okada. How Children's Books Distort the Asian American Image / – Interracial Books for Children, – 1976. – 23 p.

American author, well-known graphic novelist Perry Nodelman (1942) writes in his work called “Words about Pictures: The Narrative Art of Children's Picture Books”: *“Every picture book for children should not be considered good quality and interesting. Like every literary method, graphic works have their own drawing templates. In England, for example, more images are given from left to right under the cover topic. However, in other literature of the world, this trend can be changed, you could observe a full picture on the front page and full text a back cover. Sometimes it seems that there is a bigger difference between the pictures and the subject, which, on the contrary, reduces the quality and makes it difficult for children understand the text and the subject”*⁷

The first real graphic book is “A Contract with God” written by William Erwin Eisner (1917-2005). The book was published with both text and the illustrations related to subject in 1978. Graphic novels combine several features of genres and making enough difference between them. According to G.Weiner there are six graphic novella genres, here included: The Superhero story, the Manga, the Nonfiction, Adaptations or Spinoffs, Human Interests and Satire. In 2007, Michael Pawuk (1971) proposed nine genres for the graphic novella, they are Super heroes, Action and Adventure Science Fiction), Fantasy, Crime and Mysteries, Horror, Contemporary Life, Humor and Non-Fiction⁸.

A number of writers believe that story and pictures, verbal and visual communication in picture books should complete and follow each other. Such relationships between images have been investigated by a number of literary scholars, and theoretical works have been written in this direction. The writer Perry Nodelman’s researches in this field especially attract attention of readers. According to him, images and story limit each other's functions in the work. The theoretical scientist calls the relationship between the

⁷ Nodelman Perry. Words about pictures: The Narrative Art of Children's Picture Books / – Children’s Literature Association Quarterly. – The University of George Press, – 1988. – p.8

⁸ Michael, Pawuk. Graphic Novels: A Genre Guide to Comic Books, Manga, and More. / Pawuk Michael. – Thompson Public Library, – 2007. – 633 p.

story and the images irony: words and images seem to ironically embody what is in the same work. On the other hand, Perry Nodelman points out that contrary to Barthes's theory about semantic signs, although images and text limit each other's function, in picture books they must complement each other, otherwise the idea to be expressed in the work will not have any meaning.

This section also reflects American children's writer Arnold Lobel's works. Arnold Lobel published his first book, "Red Tag Comes Back" in 1961. The book was decorated with drawings by the writer. The following year, he published a new book called "A Zoo for Mister Muster" and the book also based on the author's stories. Later his other works called "Dinosaurs", "Turn Around Wind" were published. Arnold Lobel, the author of about one hundred children's books, has also published more than sixteen books with his illustrations. Among these works was "Tod and Frog" which most popularized him in the literary world. According to researcher Margery Fisher (1913-1992), "Tod and Frog" is considered the peak of Arnold Lobel's creativity⁹. Arnold Lobel is the author of other popular picture novels for children, such as "Odd Owls and Stout Pigs" and "Mouse Soup".

The work "Tod and Frog" consists of several parts: "Frog and Toad Are Friends" (1970), "Frog and Toad Together" (1972), "Frog and Toad All year", (1976) and "Days with Frog and Tod "(1979). Each of these works has been rewarded special awards. His work "Frog and Tod are Friends" was awarded by the American Library Association's Caldecott Award which is very famous for American Literature. The work was ranked 15th place among the selected graphic books in America in 2012. "Frog and Tod Together" was gained the Newbery award, and the book "Frog and Tod all year" was awarded the Christopher Prize in 1977.

In the first sub-chapter of Chapter II, called "**American Multicultural Children's Literature**", William Edward Burhardt Du Bois and Mildred Taylor's creativity in American Multicultural Children's Prose was investigated. American multiculturalism refers

⁹ Fisher, M. Review of Frog and Toad Together, by Arnold Lobel / M.Fisher. – Growing Point, – 12 October – 1973. – 229 p.

to the common culture of African, Latin, local Indians, Asian, and European peoples who live here. Until the civil movement swept the country during 1960s, multiculturalism was not used as a term. American multicultural literature refers primarily to literary works are created by African-American, American-Indian, Latin and American-Asian writers.

Sandra Cisneros is known as a Mexican-American writer. Undoubtedly, her dual culture and language have been affected to her works. The author has many famous works, "The House on Mango Street", "My Wicked, Wicked Ways", "Caramelo" are among them and they were designed for teens. At the age of 23 (in 1977), her work "The House on Mango Street" was met with great interest by readers.

American Indian culture was also selected for its role in the creation of multicultural literature. There are two types of Hindu literature. Traditional Hindu Literature and Modern Hindu Literature. Traditional Hindu literature refers to various genres: dreams, oaths and curses, anecdotes, customs and traditions, proverbs, riddles, beliefs, puzzles, tricks, legends, fairy tales, ballads, folk songs, children's folklore, tests, corrections, misleading, some festivals, and even folklore from the science of medicine. It is shown that the basis of modern Hindu literature began with the editions of Samson Occom (1723-1792) in 1772. In the late XIX century and the beginning of the XX century the works of William Apes, (1798-1839), Simon Pokagon (1830-1899), Sarah Winnemucca (1844-1891, and a number of writers' works began to be published. China, Japan, Korea, the Philippines, Vietnam, Malaysia are known Asian-American writers.

In the American multicultural literary world, African-American culture and literature have a special place. W.E. Du Bois' creativity is distinguished by certain qualities during 70-90s years of the last century. In the history of African-American culture, he was even called the "Black King". He has made a successful debut in the field of culture and sociology with the work of "The Philadelphia Negro: A Social Study, 1899", which is considered the beginning of his rich work. His work, "The Souls of Black Folk", written in 1903, introduced the notion of binary thinking, which was the first popular

idea in African-American literature. One of the main ideas that Du Bois put in his works is in the future of black children in America.

The subject of Mildred Taylor's (1943) works who is awarded Newbery prize, are based on historical realities and her contemporary concerns, such as homeland love, historical roots and national culture, and racial discrimination. The stories written by the author are both funny and tragic, but all the main problems presented in her nation's problems in society. She mentioned: "*On the one hand, it describes the people's efforts to protect their dignity in their homeland, and on the other hand, their struggle for survival. Most of the historical truths are concentrated in these stories, and I have never been tired of listening to them. It contained interesting stories about slavery and post-slavery, as well as family and friends*"¹⁰.

Violet J. Harris (1938-2013) referred to Mildred Taylor as a writer who "had a clear intention of writing and illustrating children's books, close to Du Bois' ideas" in her literature review during 1970s. However, Violet Harris has not shown how Mildred Taylor's books reflect Du Bois's goals. He also emphasizes that Mildred Taylor's basic ideology is the relevance of race and racism. But he also pointed to another problem in Mildred Taylor's creations. The researcher mentioned that it was a matter of gender and social class, which was one of the main problems the writer wanted to show¹¹.

In general, Mildred Taylor's creativity is divided into three periods: Early, Middle, and Last. The early literary works started from the mid-1970s. and ended at beginning of 1980s. Her such works "Song of the Trees", " Roll of Thunder, Hear My Cry" and "Let the Circle Be Unbroken" belong to the early period of her creativity. The second period of the literary creativity includes works written in 1987-1990. Here's "The Gold Cadillac", "The Friendship", "The Mississippi Bridge" and "The Road to Memphis," which is the first creative example for teenagers. Mildred Taylor's recent creations

¹⁰ Fogelman, Phyllis J. Mildred D. Taylor //– The Horn Book Magazine, – March 1989. – p.179.

¹¹ Harris, V.J. Children's Literature Depicting Blacks, in Using Multiethnic Literature in the K– 8 Classroom // – Christopher – Gordon Publishers. Norwood Mass. – 1997. – p.21-58.

cover the period from 1995 to 2001. Mildred Taylor's first famous work and her first award-winning book is "Song of the Trees." For her work, she was awarded the Inter-American Council of Racial Books in 1974 and it was the first among the books dedicated to African American children.

The writer wrote four popular works in her middle period of creativity. In 1988, she was awarded the Christopher Prize for the "Golden Cadillac". Her other work, called "Friendship", was awarded the Coretta Scott King Award in the same year. Another work of the author, "The Mississippi Bridge" was rewarded the Coretta Scott King Award among the adolescents and young adults in 1991. The writer's books have won more awards during her last creation period. The story of "The Well" was awarded several prizes in the field of children's literature in 1996. For this literary work, she gained Jane Adams prize, the Lamplighter's prize of the National Christian Schools Association and it has been included in the best-selling children's books in America.

The second subchapter of the II Chapter of the dissertation is called "*American Children's Poetry*". Anonymous American poems or examples in the book "Alphabet" in 1727, declare that it is about 300 years of American children's poetry. One of the greatest of nineteenth-century American poetry is Henry Wadsworth Longfellow who published several books of famous poems, one after another. Henry Wadsworth Longfellow's services should not be forgotten in American children's Literature. "The Arrow and the Song", "The Children's Hour", "Paul Revere's Ride", "The Rainy Day", "The Village Blacksmith", "There was a Little Girl", "A Psalm of Life", "The Skeleton of Armor" are popular children's works which were written by Henry Wadsworth Longfellow. One of the most famous poems by H.Longfellow for children is called "The Children's Hour".

In the 70-90th years of the XX century children's poetry in American literature reached its peak. One of the authors of these poems is Mary Ann Hoberman (1930). In 1957, she published her first collection of children's poems "All My Shoes Come in Two". This is the second joint work by Mary Hoberma's husband. The work illustrates the laconic variety of shoes that children wear on their feet.

Norman Hoberman's paintings in "The Hello and Good-bye" was published in 1959, added new colors to the young children's world. Later she published two books called "What Jim Knows" and "Not enough Beds for the Babies" in 1965. In the 1970s and '90s of the XX century, she was known as a productive author. "A Little Book of Little Beasts", "The Raucous Auk" were published in 1973, and "The Looking Book" and later "Nuts to You and Nuts to Me" in 1974, "I Like Old Clothes" in 1976, "Bugs" in 1976, "A House is a House for Me" in 1978, "Yellow Butter, Purple Jelly, Red Jam, Black Bread" in 1981, "The Cozy Book" in 1982, and "Mr. and Mrs. Madl" became a favorite book for children during these periods. Since 1990, Mary Hoberman has written her selected and lovely poems in children's literature.

Her book "A House is a House for Me" published in 1978 which is one of the most well-known and read publications in children's literature. Mary Hoberman is chosen not only for her work, but also for the illustrations presented in the book. Mary Listad Ann writes: "*Mary Hoberman writes in her poems so beautifully that the readers do not need any imaginative descriptions when they are reading the work, they could read everything they want*"¹².

Critic Sharon Elswit (1947) writes: "*Mary Hoberman has created a book that is easy for children to read and understand clearly, illustrating poems can inspire a younger reader to read the book with greater interest and enthusiasm*"¹³. Another explorer Harold Rice called the writer's work an unusual book. In his opinion, the reason for the book's award is its illustrations¹⁴.

Shahin Khalilli translated one of Mary Ann Hoberme's poem called "The Folk Who Lived in Backward Town" from her book entitled "The Llama who had no Pajam, 100 Favorite Poems", the book was illustrated by Fauzer in 1998.

Known for his original poems, Arnold Spilka (1917-2002) also

¹² Lystad, M.A. From Dr.Mather to Dr.Seuss: Two hundred Years of American Books for Children. / M.Lystad. – Boston: G.K.Hall-Schenkman. – 1980. – p.48

¹³ Sharon, Elswit, Review of A House is a House for me // – School Library Journal, – October, – 1978. – p.133-136.

¹⁴ Harold, C.K. Rice. Good Looking // – New York Times Book Review, – December 10, – 1978. – p.72-73.

has a special place in the American children's literature during 1970-1990th years. He painted interesting drawings not only for his own works, but also for the works of a number of writers. His interesting illustrations for Robert Froman (1917), John Shultz Lawson (1923-1993), Beman Lord (1924-1991) and Ann McGovern (1930-2015) were very famous in literature and it was regarded as an important art event of the 1970s and 1980s. The artist and poet also touched upon issues that he called "nonsense" those children could only be interested in them. The collection of other poems are "A Lion I Can Do without You, 1964", "The Frog Went Blah, 1972". He was author both poems and illustrations of these books.

In his poems "Don't Tell Me that I talk Too Much" and "Flowers are a Silly Bunch," he first wanted to describe trees, flowers, and nature as a whole. Although he wished to glorify beauty, he later expanded the subject matter of the work, focused on the city's description at the end of the poems, and directly linked the subject with the city. Some of Arnold Spilka's poems have also been translated into Azerbaijani. Among these translations we have to mention Shahin Khalilli's poetical translations. Arnold Spilka's poems written in the "Random House Book of Poetry for Children" are the most popular works for children¹⁵.

The rhymes created by Arnold Spilka are attractive for their entertaining and poetic stance. He got achievement in poetry for his simplicity and naturality in poems, selection of words with special rhyme. In these poems, the active forms of the word game are widely used. On the other hand, Arnold Spilka's paintings in his book of poems have influenced the literary understanding of the poems and made author be one of the children's poets who have a special place in contemporary American poetry.

Today, we must not forget the name of the poet Marilyn Nelson (1946), who has a special place in children's poetry and won a number of awards in this field. She is one of the most famous and prolific poets of American children's literature, a three-time National Book Award finalist, and a recipient of such prestigious awards as

¹⁵ Britaniya və Amerika uşaq şeirindən seçmələr. Tərcümə edəni: Şahin Xəlilli. // Ədəbiyyat qəzeti. – 2016. – 23 aprel. – s. 21

Newbery, Printz, and Coretta Scott King.

Marilyn Nelson is the author of more than twenty books of poetry and a number of translations. Marilyn Nelson differed from other poets in the field of modern children's poetry with her poems written in the 70s and 90s of the XX century. Family and domestic issues draw special attention in the poet's children's poems. The African-American writer could not escape the features of racial discrimination in her poems. Her first book of poetry called "For the Body", was written in 1978. The second book of poems, "The Cat Walked through the Casserole and other Poems for Children" was published in 1984. In these poems, which are mostly written on family and domestic issues, both poets addressed topics of interest to children. There are many poems called "Grampa's Whiskers", "When I Grow up", "Mary Ann the Witch Girl" and "Queen of the Rainbow" and other poems which are devoted to the topics that children can love, children's games, pets, problems that can arise from them and even lead to disputes with neighbors. Marilyn Nelson's work continued after 1990.

Chapter III of the thesis is called "**American children's culture**". The first sub-chapter of this chapter examines the issues of "*American children's drama in the second half of the 20th century*", especially their structural principles in the 1970s-1990s.

The history of children's playwrights in America dates back to the 19th century. During 40 years from 1880 till 1920, children's playwright was played by professional theater and it helped to create legitimate and popular form of children's theater. American children's playwriting, which lived in stagnation until 1928, ended with the play by Charlotte B. Chorpenning (1873-1955). Including more than 40 tales into her repertoire. Roger Berdad wrote: "*Charlotte Chorpenning had an interest and sensitivity to children's dramatic works. Under her leadership, American children's playwrights lived in the Renaissance until 1945. A number of writers have also tried their pen in this field*"¹⁶.

¹⁶ Roger, L. Bedard. A Brief Survey of the Development of Dramatic Literature for Children // – Johns Hopkins University Press, Children's Literature Association Quarterly, – Fall – 1983. Vol. 8, No 3, – p.35-36.

In the 1970s, American children's playwright Suzan Zeder (1948) has an outstanding service. Suzan Zeder, best known for her works in drama for children, has been awarded a number of awards. She won the Charlotte Copenhagen Prize by the American Theater Association in 1978, and the Best Playwriting Grant of the Children's Theater Foundation in 1980. She was awarded the Best Playwright in the Southwest Theater Association in 1988 for her works "The play called Noah's Flood" in 1985, "Doors" in 1986 and "Mother Hicks", in 1987.

"Step on a Crack", the play was written by the playwright in 1974, is considered to be the first work to be celebrated with a remarkable place in her creation. The writer, who began her career with "Step on a Crack", later became known as the author of numerous plays in the drama genre. She published her other famous plays one by one in the following years, here included "The Wiley and the Hairy Man" in 1978, and "The Mis-Uses of Enchantment: Another Look at Bettelheim" in 1979, "Ozma of Oz: A Tale of Time" 1981, "I've Heard some of them before" in 1984, "The Play Called Noah's Flood", "Doors" in 1985, "Mother Hicks" in 1986, "In a Room Somewhere", "Igniting Young Talent" in 1989, "The Road to Ware", "Wish in One Hand and Spit in the Other. In the late XX and early XXI centuries, some of her plays like "The Journey of the Yellow Boat", "The Death and Life of Sherlock Holmes", and "The Taste of Sunrise" have become the favorite and staging scenes of modern times.

*"The main difference between Suzan Zeder's works and other children's playwrights is that she addresses more diverse themes in this genre in American children's literature. She, like her predecessors as a playwright, enjoys not only folk tales but also the colorful, diverse themes of the time. One of these topics was the issue of feminism, which gained popularity in the society since the 1960s"*¹⁷. Bringing this issue into American children's playwriting has been one of the greatest innovators of the Suzan Zeder's era. The

¹⁷ Abdullayeva, T.M. 1970-1990-cı illər Amerika uşaq dramaturgiyası // – Bakı: Bakı Dövlət Universiteti, Dil və Ədəbiyyat, Beynəlxalq elmi-nəzəri jurnal, – 2018. № 3, – s.329-331.

theme of gender has not found its balance in the literature as long as it exists in society. Perry Nodelman and several writers who are members of the Children's Literature Society also try to link the existence of feminism ideology in children's literature with the development of history of children's literature. They believe that women's role in society has grown rapidly since the 1970s. This period is also considered to be a period of rapid development in American children's literature, with an increasing percentage of female writers in the field. However, the impact of feminist approaches to children's literature suggests that female writers are more structurally different than the writers who write for children's literature. The aesthetically and strategically different approach of women to children's literature is a clear expression of the impact of the feminist approach on children's literature¹⁸.

Suzan Zeder wanted to emphasize that the portrayal of women in witchcraft is also a misnomer, and she reproached the styles which was very popular in Western Europe literature during XV and XIX centuries. One of the writer's admirable playwrights "The Wiley and the Hairy Man" was readings by children with great pleasure. In fact, Suzan Zeder has created a modern tale of her time with this work. Her work calls on a young audience for courage and fearlessness and shows that they can overcome any challenge by building confidence in themselves¹⁹.

"The Thousand Cranes" was written by Kathryn Schultz Miller, a writer for the genre of children's drama during second half of XX century has been played in a number of children's theaters in America. Since 1976, she wrote more than 70 works for children, many of which have been awarded prizes. Kathryn Schultz Miller and her husband, Barry Miller, set up the famous ArtReach Touring Theater in Ohio, which is designed for more children and young people. The works of the writer have been shown later in a number of theatrical scenes around the world and can still be viewed on the

¹⁸ Nodelman, Perry. *Children's Literature as Women's Writing* // – Children's Literature Association Quarterly, –1998. Vol.13, No1, – p.31-34.

¹⁹ Allison, G.Belnap. *Children's Book and Media Review*: [in 22 vol.]/ G.Belnap Allison. – St. Martin's Press, – Vol.1. – 2001. – 24 p.

internet. As a result, there are more than 15,000 theatergoers in 124 countries across the globe today.

Kathryn Schultz Miller's works "Island Son", "Amelia Earhart", "The Legend of the Sleepy Hollow", "The Thousand Cranes", "Haunted Houses", "You Don't See Me and Blue Horses" have been staged repeatedly and have been rewarded awards. She was bestowed as the best playwright by the Post Corbett Award in America in 1985. "Thousands of Cranes" published by the Dramaturg publishing house in 1990 and it was considered a new milestone in this regard. Playwright Kathryn Schultz Miller continues her career today and performs on interesting topics for children. Her recent works which are "Nutcracker Prince" devoted to Christmas, and "Kid Frankenstein", "The Legend of Mulan", "Jungle Book" are also popular today. Performances of these works are watched by young audiences with great interest. Although the creativity of Susan Zeder and Kathryn Schultz Miller differs in each other, the similarities between the writers' works and the ideas they want to convey to children can be seen. For example, as the hero of Suzan Zeder's works Kathryn Schultz Miller's Sadiko has a strong will, the strength of the human spirit, the determination to rise again after the fight, and Sadiko tries to achieve a thousand years of suffering. Another feature that combines both writers is a theatrical document. They prefer to share their work with the audience on stage. But Kathryn Schultz Miller is a playwright who has made her commercial debut today, even though she started her career commercially. When Suzan Zeder started her career, she did not think that one day she would achieve such a success in the theater.

In the second sub-chapter of III Chapter entitled "***Children's Culture, Movies. Walt Disney Films***" has revealed that American children's culture has a unique way of developing in the XX century. The most popular freelance thinking of the 70s of the twentieth century is rhythmically poetic in the poem dedicated to freedom by Margaret Julia "Marlo" Thomas, (1937). The main purpose of Marlo Thomas was to write an alternative poem for children's stories and songs. During those years, a series of stories and sketches under the title "Must be Free, Free" were written. The album, which was

nominated for the Grammy Awards, has sold 150,000 copies since its release until March 1974. The book has been nominated for an Emmy Award, as well as a Peabody Award for special ratings on broadcast.

Talking about the relationship between children's literature and Walt Disney (1901-1966), we have to note that Walt Disney, a film studio that has made an indelible mark on 20th century American culture, produces not only films in its home country but also in many countries around the world.

Walt Disney created his own small company, Laf-O-Grams. He has filmed "Red Hats", "Cat with Boots" and other fairy tales. He created a two-part animated film "Alice in the Wonderland". Also, the company has released a new children's movie "Oswald the Happy Rabbit" to younger audiences. Mickey Maus, a new character who has made great strides in the art world, first appeared in Disney's movie "A Plane of the Damn." He was awarded the Oscar for the creation of Mikki Maus' character in 1932.

In 1939, Leon Schlenzer wrote about Mickey Mouse in Look magazine: "*Although the animated film is perfect for children and adults today, it is primarily a great entertainment for children. That's why we always have to produce our products to fit their thinking*"²⁰. Disney's first full-length animated movie was a magical tale of the German people "Snow White and the Seven Dwarfs". Theme of this film was taken from the folk tale, first published in 1812 by the German Brothers Grimm. "Sleeping Beauty" and "Cinderella" are among the best children's movies. These are the tale variants of the Western European fairy tales, known with the name of Charles Perrault (1628-1703), the Grimm brothers, and Giambattista Basile (1566-1632).

The Disney film company has continued to produce new films since the 60s, including "The Jungle Book" (1967), "The Wild Country" (1970), and "The Million Dollar Duck" (1971), "Robin Hood" 1973, "The Many Adventures of Winnie the Pooh" (1977), "Little Mermaid" 1989, "All Dogs Go to Heaven" 1989, "Lion King"

²⁰ Sampson, Henry. That's Enough, Folks: Cartoon Images in Animated Cartoons, 1900-1960 / H.Sampson. – London: Scarecrow Press, – 1998. – p.173

(1994) which have attracted a great deal of attention from the audience. Walt Disney has not gone beyond political issues in films. "The Jungle Book" is in fact reflected in the colonial policy of Britain in India. Even the company was here to represent Mowgli as a British, and growing animals as an Indian. At the end of a well-known film, the abandonment of animals that grew up and protected it resembled British post-colonial politics. Another movie, Robin Hood, is based on English ballads. This animated film was one of the best ways to describe the arbitrariness of British officials at the time. Generally, animated films are considered one of the best ways to reflect the reality.

In the "**Conclusion**" the ideas, results and considerations put forward in separate chapters of the thesis are summarized and the future perspectives of contemporary American children's literature in this area are outlined:

- As in a number of fields, the influence of Western European countries, especially British literature, in the creation of American children's literature is undeniable;

- It is difficult to trace the development of early children's literature written before printing. Even after the development of the printing press, many classic children's stories were first created for adults and later adapted for children and adolescent audiences. Since the 17th century, many examples of moral or religious literature have been made available to children. From the end of the 19th century to the beginning of the 20th century, the term "Golden Age of Children's Literature" was included in the literary circulation. Of course, a number of classic children's works were created during this period;

- The main essence of authors' works of the stage we are researching is to inculcate the feeling that a person should not see other people as slaves, to instill in parents not to crush their children spiritually and physically in order to punish them, to show the most sincere feelings and emotions to people, regardless of their colors, beliefs and financial status. is to inoculate;

- In the 70s and 90s of the 20th century the issue of gender and nationalism became widespread in American children's literature, first of all, it was related to the socio-political changes that took place in the

society. Instead of engaging in consistent criticism, simplifying the language of children's literature, including stories written for boys and girls, changing the notion of literature dedicated to black people or readable only by whites, ensured the success of a more useful approach;

- Comics and illustrated novels that appeared in children's literature in the 20th century contain new trends;

- Comics and graphic novels have become popular genres of modern literature. Usually, comics are shorter (up to about 40 pages or less) but are published continuously, weekly, bi-monthly, that is, once in a certain period of time, and the topics complement each other with the author's ideas in his work. In picture books, the subject is composed of one or more parts, like a long novel. Sometimes comics are used as a source in graphic works. For example, famous graphic novels called "Captain America", "Hellboy", "Justice League of America" were previously published as comics. Or vice versa, after any graphic novel, its theme was replaced by appropriate comics. For example, "Watchmen" or "Sin City" were first written as a graphic novel, and later comics were created based on it;

- Arnold Lobel's books are comic tales of love and friendship, most of which feature animals as symbolic characters. Writer called himself more than a writer or an artist, but a person who brings works to the agenda. Arnold Lobel, who wrote "I can't think of anything more satisfying and fun than making books for children", created one of the great pillars of modern American children's literature with his nearly 100 illustrated books;

- In the United States, which is known as a multicultural country, the socio-political situation of the country was not left out of its literature, especially Du Bois, who was distinguished by his undeniable services in the creation of African-American children's literature, was selected for his important services in the creation of African-American children's literature;

- Mildred Taylor, a prominent representative of African-American children's literature, a world-renowned children's writer, who has been awarded a number of awards for American literature, has had a positive impact on multicultural children's literature, which, despite the fact that she is a woman and black-skinned,

highlighted the problem of racism in her works. It played the role of a moral bridge for writers writing in this field. For the first time in the works of Mildred Taylor, black female heroes were presented as fearless and courageous characters who coped with their duties;

– In the 1970s and 1990s, Mary Ann Hoberman, Marilyn Nelson and Arnold Spilka who are famous for their poems and the innovations they brought to this genre with existing poetry traditions in American children's literature, give reason to say that they combined the poetic unity of imagination and reality with poetry, created a new type of illustrations;

– New themes based on the combination of new forms of realism, modernity and unreal events characteristic of the historical period in formation of the drama genre in American children's literature played an important role in expanding the boundaries of children's plays in the 70s and 90s of the last century;

– A number of works of the American playwright Susan Zeder, who is in close contact with the literary and social environment of Azerbaijan, take a central place in her work, and indicate her important services in children's drama;

– The main problems posed in Susan Zeder's works are the simple comfort of people who distance themselves to trust each other, to overturn assumptions that cause anger and conflicts, and to ensure personal relationships, the value of honest communication is brought to the fore;

– In the 70s of the 20th century, the ideology of freedom of the famous writer and actress Marlo Thomas laid the foundation for the formation of a new stage in American children's literature and the embodiment of innovative ideas, and became an important literary event in the formation of a new idea-aesthetic platform;

– The connection of Walt Disney films with children's literature, the popularity of the film studio in the 20th century gives a certain idea about the international fame of this artist's films not only in his homeland, but also far from his homeland. It can be said that an important stage in the development of American children's literature was created with the establishment of close relations between Disney films and children's literature.

The main provisions of the dissertation are reflected in the following publications:

1. Formation of Black British Literature // 1st International Scientific Conference of Young Researchers Dedicated to the 90th Anniversary of the Birth of the National Leader of the Azerbaijani People H. Aliyev, Qafqaz University, – Baku: – 25-27 April, – 2013, – p.572-573.
2. Judy Blume’s and her Book Iggie’s House Position in Children Literature of America// Збірник наукових праць, за матеріалами ІХ Міжнародної науково-практичної конференції від, України: – 29-30 грудня, – 2014, – p.123-124
3. The Main Topics of Black British Literature// 2nd International Scientific Conference of Young Researchers Dedicated to the 91st Anniversary of the Birth of the National Leader of the Azerbaijani People H. Aliyev, Qafqaz University, – Baku: –18-19 April, – 2014, – p.394-395.
4. Understanding the Children's Inner World in the Work of Arnold Lobel's *Tod and Frog*// 3rd International Scientific Conference of Young Researchers Dedicated to the 92nd Anniversary of the Birth of the National Leader of the Azerbaijani People H. Aliyev, Qafqaz University, – Baku: – 17-18 April, –2015, – p.1064-1065.
5. History of the Emergence of American Children’s Literature// 4th International Scientific Conference of Young Researchers Dedicated to the 93rd Anniversary of the Birth of the National Leader of the Azerbaijani People H. Aliyev, Qafqaz University, – Baku, – 29-30 April, – 2016, – p.1197-1198.
6. The History of Formation of American Children’s Prose // – Baku: Journal of Baku Engineering University, Philology and Pedagogy, – 2017. №2 (1), – p.194-199.
7. Superhero in American Graphic Novels and Comics // – Baku: Journal of Philology Issues, – 2018. №9, – p.330-336.
8. Effect of Different Cultures on American Children's Literature // – Baku: Journal of Philology Issues, – 2018. №11, – p.309-316.
9. Children’s Literature Tracks in Disney Films and Azerbaijani Children’s Auditorium // – Canada, Intellectual Archive, – 2018. №7(5), – p.45-49.

10. American Children's Drama in 1970s-1990s // – Baku: Baku State University, Language and Literature, International Scientific Theoretical Journal, – 2018. №3 (107), – p.329-331.
11. Contemporary American Children’s Poetry and Translations into Azerbaijani // – Austria, Vienna: The European Journal of Literature and Linguistics, – 2018. №4, – p.8-11.
12. American Multicultural Society’s Integration into Children’s Literature in XX Century // – Norway, Oslo: Norwegian Journal of Development of the International Science, – 2020. № 39(14), – p.3-7
13. The Main Idea of Kathryn Schultz Miller’s “A Thousand Cranes” in Modern American Children's Drama // 4th International Scientific Conference of Young Researchers Dedicated to the 97th Anniversary of the Birth of the National Leader of the Azerbaijani People H. Aliyev, – Baku: Baku Engineering University, – 5 June – 2020, – p.220-222.
14. Mildred Taylor and his Work "Song of the Trees" in American Children's Literature // – Baku: Azerbaijan University, Scientific Journal “Ipek Yolu”, – 2020. No. 3, – p.119-126.
15. Development of American Children's Drama // – Ukraine, Lviv: Drohobych Pedagogical University, Topical Issues in the Humanities: An Intercollegiate Collection of Scientific Papers of Young Scientists of Ivan Franko, – 2022. – p.132-138.

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