

**THE REPUBLIC OF AZERBAIJAN**

*On the rights of manuscript*

**ABSTRACT**

of the dissertation for the degree of Doctor of Philosophy

**THE BEGINNING OF THE 20<sup>th</sup> CENTURY  
AZERBAIJANI POETRY IN ENGLISH  
LITERARY CRITICISM**

Specialty: 5718.01- World literature (English literature)  
5716.01 – Azerbaijan literature

Field of science: Philology

Applicant: **Turkan Anvar Zeynalova**

**Baku – 2024**

Dissertation was performed at Department of Azerbaijani and World Literature at Ganja State University.

Scientific Supervisors: Doctor of Philology, Associate Professor  
**Alkhan Bayram Mammadov**

Doctor of Philosophy on Philology, Associate Professor  
**Leyli Aliheydar Aliyeva**

Official opponents: Doctor of Philology, Professor  
**Naila Mammadhuseyn Sadigova**

Doctor of Philology, Professor  
**Leyla Majid Imamaliyeva**

Doctor of Philosophy in Philology, Associate Professor  
**Nurana Majid Nuriyeva**

One-time Dissertation Council registered under BFD – 1.05 within the base of ED 1.05 – Dissertation Council of the Supreme Attestation Commission under the President of the Republic of Azerbaijan attached to the Institute of Literature named after Nizami Ganjavi of ANAS

Chairman of the One-time  
Dissertation Council:

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

Scientific Secretary of the

One-time Dissertation Council: PhD in Philosophy  
**Aysel Hasan Gurbanova**

Chairmen of the One-time  
Scientific seminar:

**Aynur Zakir Sabitova**  
Doctor of Philological Sciences, Professor

## INTRODUCTION

**Relevance and studying degree of the research issue.** The independent development of Azerbaijani literature has created great opportunities for its literary relations with the peoples of the world, enabling it to promote its national values and customs among these peoples. One of the most important issues facing our literary scholarship is to expand, to study and to explore the literary traditions of Azerbaijani literature and world literature in a mutual context.

It is not a coincidence that our national intellectual history has always been closely intertwined with world literature in ancient, medieval, as well as in the new and modern periods. Literary connections have played a significant role in shaping the cultural aspirations of our people. Starting from ancient times, the relationship of the Azerbaijani people with Eastern nations has been closer and more intimate compared to other societies throughout history. Therefore, in order to comprehensively understand the processes occurring in the world intellectual history, it is crucial to have literary connections for the comparative analysis and research of the divergent aspects of global issues in various literatures. Especially in ancient times, the relationship of the Azerbaijani people with Eastern nations has been closer and more intimate compared to other nations. Therefore, for a comprehensive understanding of global processes in the history of public thought, the comparative analysis and research of contrary issues in literary works within different literatures hold particular importance.

The presence of literary connections is indispensable in developed states. This indispensability manifests itself in public-social relations, in literary-scientific, ethical, and aesthetic forms in the most civil manner. Since ancient times, literary-cultural relations have been utilized between peoples and nations in various forms, and at times, these connections have played a supporting role in regulating interstate relations. Therefore, these connections play a significant role in regulating international relations and in the manifestation of literary and cultural development. One of the

important issues for today is not only preserving and maintaining these connections but also further developing and improving them through civil means. One of the important current issues is not only preserving and maintaining these connections but also further developing and improving them through civil means. In this regard, the early 20th century highlights the relevance of studying and translating Azerbaijani poetry into English. The study and translation of the works of Azerbaijani classics in the early years of the century encompass an exclusive approach to understanding the depth of the history of literary connections among these nations.

In this regard, the early years of the 20th century are selected for the study and translation of Azerbaijani poetry in English literary criticism due to its inherent relevance. This research which encompasses the translation of the creative works of artists, who lived and worked in the early century into the English language, prioritizes the exclusive approach to the study of Azerbaijani classics in world literary criticism. It will shed light on the depth of the historical roots of literary connections between these nations, revealing how profound these ties are.

“As of the early 20th century, the translation and study of the works of Azerbaijani classics in English literature are well-known to us. This manifests itself as an expression of nations’ relation to Azerbaijani literature, language, customs, traditions, and, in short, spiritual values. This interest is evident in the works of the most distinguished wordsmiths of classical heritage such as Mahsati Ganjavi, Nizami Ganjavi, Gazi Burhaneddin, Imadeddin Nasimi, Shah Ismail Khatai, Muhammad Fuzuli and other artists, whose creativity in English literature highlights a clear interest.

Azerbaijan’s English literary and cultural relations have been the focus of various researchers with their rich and diverse history. These connections have been developing more extensively and comprehensively since the early 20th century until today. One of the issues that keeps the topic relevant is the translation of works by artists such as Mirza Alakbar Sabir, Abbas Sahhat, Huseyn Javid, Abdulla Shaig, Ahmad Javad, and Aliaga Vahid into English, and the uniqueness of the poetic expressions and descriptive tools in

their creativity carrying distinct meanings. The translations by Dorian Rottenberg, Gladys Evans, Eugene Felgenhauer, Avril Pyman and others, who consistently translated the works of these artists into English, shed light on the nuances of meaning conveyed by expressions and words during translation. These translations reveal that the works of these artists, who distinguished themselves with their innovative ideas in the early 20th century, have not only preserved their distinctive features to the present day but have also served as a source of research for the literature of other nations, contributing to the development of translation as well.

After gaining independence, numerous works reflecting the reciprocal relationship of literary connections have been written, research has been conducted, and monographs have been published. One of the factors characterizing this work is the involvement of English-speaking artists in Azerbaijan and the examination of the works of Azerbaijani poets by whom. In this regard, researchers and scholars such as Rukhsara Gayibova, Sayyara Mammadova, Akbar Agayev, Ismikhan Rahimov, Anvar Rza, Gazanfar Pashayev, Zeydulla Agayev, Vaqif Arzumanli, Shahin Khalilli, Vilayat Guliyev, Kilinckhan Bayramov, Huseyn Hashimli, Nigar Iskanderova, Leyli Aliyeva, Rasim Nebioglu, Shahla Nagiyeva, Aida Huseynova, Aytan Kazimova, Fikrat Guliyev, Mayil Ismayilov, Shafıga Atayeva, Metanat Mammadova, Seyran Aliyev, Vafa Ibrahimova, Guler Hasanova and other researchers have provided specific information in their writings about the need for more in-depth study and exploration of Azerbaijani-English literary relations.

In the research, there has also been an exploration of the literary heritage of the great playwright and poet Shakespeare, who was a luminary in the Western world in the early 20th century. Mirza Fatali Akhundov, Firidun bey Kocharli, Jafar Jabbarli, Ahmad Javad, Aziz Sharif, Mirza Ibrahimov, Talat Ayyubov, Sabir Mustafa, Jafar Jafarov have shared their thoughts and translations on the art of this great artist, discussing the value attributed to Shakespeare's art during the early 20th century.

**Object and subject of the research.** The object of the

research is the translation into English of the works of artists such as Mirza Alakbar Sabir, Abbas Sahhat, Huseyn Javid, Abdulla Shaig, Aliaga Vahid, Ahmad Javad who lived and created in the early 20th century, and the comparative analysis of the uniqueness in their poetry. When it comes to the research, examples from the art anthologies of classical and contemporary Azerbaijani poets have been included, published in the Moscow “Progress” publishing house, “Azerbaijan International”, “Soviet Literature”, the U.S.-based “Edebiyyat” journal, and the recent anthology “Azerbaijani Poetry” published in Pakistan - (“A Drop from the Sea”). The subject of the research includes the main aspects of the period in which these poets lived, the history and stages of development of Azerbaijani-English literary relations, and an examination of the role in literary connections.

**Aims and duties of the research.** The purpose of the research is the translation of the works of Azerbaijani artists who lived and created in the early 20th century into English, reflecting the nuances of Azerbaijani literary subtleties in English poetry. The focus of the research is primarily on translating the works of artists such as Abbas Sahhat, Mirza Alakbar Sabir, Huseyn Javid, Abdulla Shaig, Ahmad Javad, and Aliaga Vahid into English, as well as analyzing the translations.

Dissertation objectives have been defined to address the main goal of the research. These objectives are as follows:

- To examine the literary heritage of Azerbaijani poets discussed in Azerbaijani literary criticism, analyze the opinions expressed about them, and stimulate further research on their works.

- To analyze the character and principles of translation art to explore the history of translation, particularly focusing on Azerbaijani-English literary connections.

- To highlight the distinctive features of literary translation, specifically focusing on poetic translation, as one of the fundamental factors in Azerbaijani-English literary connections.

- To identify and evaluate the stylistic nuances in the translation of poetic expressions of poets into the English language.

- To illuminate different aspects of translations done through poetic and prose means into English.

- To create a comprehensive overview of translations of poems written in various genres.

- To demonstrate and evaluate the different and common aspects of translation methods used by English and English-speaking translators.

**Research methods.** The research titled “The Beginning of the 20<sup>th</sup> century Azerbaijani Poetry in English Literary Criticism” relies on comparative analytical methods. To achieve this goal, the study extensively explores the typological and comparative methods of literary criticism, drawing on the analytical approaches of Azerbaijani, English, Russian, Turkish, and global literary critics”.

**Main clauses set for defense.** The following provisions are considered in this scientific paper:

- To trace the lives and creative works of prominent scholars and artists who played a significant role in the development of Azerbaijani-English literary connections.

- To analyze comparatively the translated works of English poets and dramatists into our native language.

- To examine poetic examples translated into English from classical Azerbaijani poets, as well as contemporary poets, highlighting their literary connections and the role of translation in their artistic development.

- To evaluate the similarities and differences in the translated literary examples and provide a critical assessment.

- To demonstrate the role of contemporary Azerbaijani poets, whose literary works are translated into English for the first time, in the development of literary connections and translation art.

**Scientific novelty of dissertation.** The research work titled “The Beginning of the 20<sup>th</sup> century Azerbaijani Poetry in English Literary Criticism” addresses a problem that has not been extensively and systematically studied in Azerbaijani literary criticism until now. This research marks the first comprehensive and thorough investigation into the translation and comparative analysis of Azerbaijani poets' works into English. The scientific novelty of

this topic lies in its dual focus, encompassing not only the translation of poetic examples from Azerbaijani poets but also providing a detailed analysis of the artistic uniqueness of these poems from a poetic expression perspective.

It is also noteworthy as an innovation in the research that, for the first time, the poetry samples of Abbas Sahhat, Mirza Alakbar Sabir, Abdulla Shaig, Huseyn Javid, Ahmad Javad, Aliaga Vahid have been systematically analyzed. The meanings and peculiarities of the words and expressions used therein are elucidated. These poetic examples, systematically introduced for the first time in the research, have been organized thematically, contributing to a more structured understanding of the subject matter.

In Azerbaijani literary criticism, the research and translations of prominent scholars and translators such as Rukhsara Gayibova, Sayyara Mammadova, Shahin Khalilli, Leyli Aliyeva, Mustafa Gul, Sabir Mustafa, Vafa Ibrahimova, Nigar Iskanderova, Fargana Zulfugarova and esteemed translators including William Jones, Atkinson, Edward Brown, Elias John Wilkonson Gibb, Peter Tempest, Dorian Rottenberg, Eugene Felgenhauer and other talented translators regarding Azerbaijani poetry are reviewed, evaluated, and critically examined. This involves revisiting issues that have sparked debates, providing a critical perspective on both the objective and subjective aspects of the subject matter.

The exploration of the identified issues in poetic examples engaged in the research is considered both theoretically and practically, representing a scientific novelty in the research.

**Theoretical and practical significance of research.** The translation of the poetry of artists who played a significant role in conveying innovative ideas in the early 20th century holds a unique place for Azerbaijani literature on the global stage. Considering this, it can be said that the dissertation work is of great importance not only in the study of English literature but also in the exploration of Azerbaijani and Turkish literature. Additionally, it contributes to the investigation of Azerbaijani-English mutual literary and cultural relations. Furthermore, the dissertation can be utilized in the exploration of the identified issues in poetry analysis.



The dissertation can be utilized for the creation of an Azerbaijani-English anthology, the development of new textbooks, research on 20th-century English literature and poetry, and the organization of specialized seminars and courses within the humanities departments of higher education institutions.

**Approbation and application of research.** The main provisions and results of the research have found reflection in the volumes recommended by the Higher Attestation Commission, the author's presentations at various international and national scientific conferences, as well as in articles published in various scientific journals.

**Name of the organization where the dissertation work is performed.** The research work was conducted at Department of Azerbaijani and World Literature of Ganja State University.

**Structure and total volume of the dissertation.** The dissertation has been written in accordance with the requirements set by the Higher Attestation Commission under the President of the Republic of Azerbaijan.

The total volume of the research, consisting of Introduction, three chapters, conclusion, and the list of used literature, is 214,673 characters. Separately: Introduction – 12,127 characters, the first chapter – 63,117 characters, the second chapter – 62,979 characters, the third chapter – 72,931 characters, conclusion – 3,171 characters.

## MAIN CONTENT OF THE WORK

The “**Introduction**” section of the dissertation explains the relevance and degree of elaboration of the topic, the object and subject of the research, research methods, objectives and tasks, scientific novelty, and theoretical and practical significance. Information is provided about the main points raised during the defense and the approval of the work.

The first chapter of the dissertation is titled “**The study of Azerbaijani poetry in English literary studies**” and consists of two paragraphs. The first paragraph, titled “**Azerbaijani classics in the research works of world English-oriented scholars**”, explores

the special place of prominent Azerbaijani poets such as Mahsati Ganjavi, Nizami Ganjavi, Afzaladdin Khagani and Muhammad Fuzuli in Azerbaijani literature. It highlights the translation of their artistic works into the languages of European nations, particularly the examination of these poetic masterpieces in English-language sources. It is noted that Mahsati Ganjavi's creativity attracted the attention of European orientalists from the 19th century onwards, with orientalist Samuel Russo being the first to discuss his quatrains. Russo translated and published several quatrains, providing information about the poet's life and creativity and effectively conveying the realities of Azerbaijan at that time to the readers. In the subsequent stages, information about Mahsati Ganjavi can be found in the work of English orientalist Edward Brown.”.

In this paragraph, information is provided about the life of Afzaladdin Khagani, whose creativity attracted the attention of English-speaking peoples and the translation of his famous ode “The ruins of Madain” by Jerome Clinton and Tom Botting. Here, the translations of this work into English by Tom Botting and the English translator Jerome Clinton, who translated the verses directly from the original, are compared.<sup>1</sup> The first paragraph also discusses the renowned Azerbaijani poet Nizami Ganjavi, expressing interest in his creativity and highlighting the presence of his famous poems in English-language sources. It is emphasized that the global interest in Nizami Ganjavi's creativity is primarily due to the immortal artist's dedication to universal ideas, which have addressed human concerns throughout the ages. As noted by Professor Akbar Agayev: *“In Europe, the works created by orientalist scholars about Nizami Ganjavi have sometimes been research-oriented, sometimes aimed at introducing European readers to Nizami's works. Often, this research and commentary were taken from known Eastern treatises in Europe, and some incorrect and inaccurate facts and ideas from these treatises were reiterated by European scholars”*.<sup>2</sup>

---

<sup>1</sup> Edebiyat. (A journal of Middle Eastern Literature), – USA: 1976, – v.1. – pp. 153-164.

<sup>2</sup> Ağayev, Ə. Nizami və dünya ədəbiyyatı. Redaktoru: C.Bağirov / – Bakı: Azər nəşr, – 1964. – s.16

Translator Atkinson also became acquainted with Nizami's "Leyli and Majnun" narrative poem, translating it from the original Persian into English verse. This section also discusses Nizami's 'Iskandarnama' poem translated into English by Clark in 1881. It is emphasized that the characteristics of the conqueror Alexander, who lived before our era and valued knowledge and art, are known precisely through the words and wisdom of Nizami. Notably, the qualities of Nizami are highlighted, such as his focus on civilization and literature, which contributed to the enrichment of world literature through translations. As noted by the esteemed researcher and translator Shahin Khalilli: *"The language that translates world civilization and literature, and the literature enriched in these translations, reaches the language and world literature of the world. More precisely, any language that translates world literature, regardless of its size, creates and enriches the spiritual bridge of literary connections. Nizami Ganjavi, with his "Khamsa", has earned a permanent place in world literature and introduced the spiritual existence and eternal being of Azerbaijani Turkic peoples to the whole world".*<sup>3</sup>

Charles Rieu, Wilkinson Gibb, Alessio Bombaci, and Sofi Huri are mentioned for their interest in studying the immortal works of Muhammad Fuzuli, who rendered incomparable services to the development of the Azerbaijani literary language. It is noted that Gibb, in particular, played a significant role in the study of Fuzuli's literary legacy in English Orientalism. In his work 'A History of Ottoman Poetry,' Gibb provided extensive information about the Eastern poet Fuzuli, shedding light on the artistic qualities in the poet's works.

In the second paragraph titled **"World classics in Azerbaijani literary criticism"**, the role of world literary figures, including William Shakespeare, George Gordon Byron, Virginia Woolf, Walter Scott in enriching Azerbaijani literature through the

---

<sup>3</sup> Xəlilli, Ş. Klassik poeziya və ədəbi əlaqələr. Azərbaycan-İngilis ədəbi əlaqələri  
Elmi redaktor və ön sözün müəllifi: filologiya elmləri doktoru Vaqif Arzumanlı /  
– Bakı: – 2003, – s.14-15

translation, study, and publication of their works is highlighted. The translation methods of our poets and writers, who played a significant role in translating literary examples of these artists, are discussed. The indispensable contributions of Azerbaijani artists such as Firidun bey Kocharli, Abbas Sahhat, Abdurrahimbey Hagverdiyev, Jafar Jabbarli, Ahmad Javad, Hashimbey Vazirov who played a crucial role in translating and disseminating Russian and European literary examples, are emphasized. The second paragraph of the first chapter also explores the translation style of Azerbaijani literature researchers, literary scholars, and translators from English literature, such as Ismikhhan Rahimov, Anvar Rza, Zeydulla Agayev, Vilayat Guliyev, Sabir Mustafa, Shahin Khalilli, Leyli Aliyeva, Rasim Nabioglu and others with examples from their translations.

In the research work, the contributions of artists such as Hashimbey Vazirov, Abbas Sahhat, Abdurrahimbey Hagverdiyev, Firidun bey Kocharli, Jafar Jabbarli, Ahmad Javad and Mirza Ibrahimov, who turned to the immortal creativity of Shakespeare, are appreciated. The dissertation presents three different translations of the “Madrigal” (“Naghme”) poem, which reflects the subtleties of Shakespeare’s art, and the translations by A.Rza, L.Aliyeva, and R.Nabioglu are evaluated comparatively. In this chapter, the issue of studying the works of classical Azerbaijani poets in the research of Western orientalist and the investigation of world classics in Azerbaijani literary criticism are illuminated with scholarly arguments. The translation activities of the great poet and translator Ahmad Javad are highlighted, particularly the analysis of his translations of Shakespeare, addressing the great playwright’s works in a comparative manner.<sup>4</sup>

The second chapter of the dissertation is titled “**Azerbaijani Poetry and Translation in English Publications**”. In the paragraph “**Issues of Azerbaijani literature in English journals**”, the reflections of translations of Azerbaijani classics in “Literature”

---

<sup>4</sup> Zeynalova, T. Əhməd Cavad poeziyasının ingilis dilinə tərcüməsi və müqayisəli təhlili – Dil və ədəbiyyat // Beynəlxalq elmi-nəzəri jurnal 1 (105), – Bakı: – 2018, – s.247-249

journal, published in English and specializing in the literature of the Middle East, and the examples of Azerbaijani artists' works in "Azerbaijan International", published in the United States since 1993, are discussed.

It is noteworthy that Huseyn Javid's work "Masud ve Shefiga" has found its reflection in the English-translated version published in "Azerbaijan International" journal. In general, several examples from Javid have been translated into English and published in this journal, including his poem "Yesterday and Today", a fragment from the "Azar" poem titled "Prisoners of Freedom" and the poetic dialogue "Bakida".

In the second paragraph titled **"Comparative parallels in the translation of Abbas Sahhat and Mirza Alakbar Sabir's poetry into English"** an analysis is presented regarding the English translations of poetic examples from Abbas Sahhat's significant body of work, which includes his original compositions and translations that occupy a crucial place in 20th-century Azerbaijani literature. The translation of his poem "Vatan" into English is particularly highlighted in this context. This distinguished poet's work, which has retained its relevance for all periods and still characterizes his patriotic sentiments in a poetic form today, can be observed through the translation of the poem "Vatan". The English version of the poem has successfully captured its essence. Notably, the poem "Vatan" with its strong ideas and literary merits stands out among the works dedicated to the homeland. As noted by Dr. Baba Babayev: "Among his works dedicated to the homeland, the poem "Vatan" is powerful both in terms of its ideas and literary features. Sahhat wrote this poem when the fate of the country was at a critical juncture, expressing the love for the ancestral land in the hearts and national consciousness of every Azerbaijani. He poetically revealed the spiritual borders of his sacred homeland and voiced it in a melodious way".<sup>5</sup> The English translation of this poem is included in the collection "The Garland of Poetry", translated by the talented

---

<sup>5</sup> Abbas Səhhət, Abdulla Şaiq. Seçilmiş əsərləri. Tərtib edən, ön sözün müəllifi: Baba Babayev. Redaktor: Xeyrulla Məmmədov / – Bakı: Çarşıoğlu, – 2006. – s.7

translator Sabir Mustafa. Sabir Mustafa's translation captures the essence of the poem by preserving the national color and being precise and concise. The translation ensures the retention of the national color in a selective and meticulous manner. Let's take a closer look at a fragment from Abbas Sahhat's "Vatan" poem, which was published in 1909, as translated by Sabir Mustafa:

*Vətənim verdi mənə nanü nəmək,  
Vətəni, məncə unutmaq nə demək,  
Anadır hər kişiyə öz vətəni:  
Bəsləyib sinəsi üstündə onu.*<sup>6</sup>

The topic of the homeland is a subject addressed by all our poets. Academician Kamal Talibzade wrote about this: "In poems dedicated to the homeland, one can hear the passionate, fiery heartbeat of a citizen's heart, the heart of a humanist poet, the true human heart! Abbas Sahhat, with his patriotism, sowed love for all nations, proclaiming a humanist message urging everyone to love their homeland".<sup>7</sup>

Let's look at the English translation of this poem, which is the essence of inexhaustible love and affection for the homeland:

*Motherland gave me salt and bread, oh heavens,  
To forget the motherland, what does it mean?  
Motherland is a mother for everyone,  
I grew up in her breast as a son.*<sup>8</sup>

When we translate Sabir Mustafa's poetic translation, it resonates in our native language as follows:

*My homeland gave me salt and bread, oh Allah,*

---

<sup>6</sup> Poeziya çələngi. (Azərbaycan poeziyasından nümunələr, Azərbaycan və ingilis dilində), Redaktor: Professor Şahin Xəlilli / – Bakı: Avrasiya Press, – s.46.

<sup>7</sup> Talibzadə, K. Abbas Səhhət. Seçilmiş əsərləri. Ön söz / – Bakı: Lider, –2005, – s.15

<sup>8</sup> Poeziya çələngi. (Azərbaycan poeziyasından nümunələr, Azərbaycan və ingilis dilində), Redaktor: Professor Şahin Xəlilli / – Bakı: Avrasiya Press, – s.47.

*To forget the homeland, what does that mean?  
The homeland is a mother for everyone,  
I grew up in its embrace like a son.*

Here, Sabir Mustafa skillfully expresses Abbas Sahhat's understanding of the homeland, his love for the homeland. The translator not only preserves the rhythm, form, content, intonation, and rhyme of the poem in English but also translates it into Azerbaijani without losing its essence.

In this research the English translation of Abbas Sahhat's small dramatic poem "Poet, a fairy of poetry and Urban" is presented. It is compared with the original English poetic translation and is analyzed to bring it to the attention of readers. The main idea of the dramatic poem is the tragedy born from the contradiction between the protagonist, who strives with great aspirations to direct art towards the literary solution of social issues, and the environment and society in which he lives. In this poem, Abbas Sahhat declares his literary manifesto in the sharp struggle of the era. The talented translator Dorian Rottenberg translated the poem into English. While certain flaws are noted in the translation, Dorian Rottenberg's translation style, which faithfully conveys the poetic beauty of the poem, is highly appreciated.

It is worth noting that Dorian Rottenberg's successful translation is also analyzed in the dissertation in the context of Mirza Alakbar Sabir's unique role in the development of Azerbaijani poetry. Academic Isa Habibbayli writes: "In the early 20th century, Azerbaijani satirical poetry had reached its highest stage. Mirza Alakbar Sabir became the classic of this satirical poetry, achieving the highest peak of satirical poetry that played a crucial role in the early 20th century".<sup>9</sup> Like Sabir, a master of colorful creativity with vivid expressions and idiomatic style, expressing artistic principles in another language requires great skill. Therefore, the translation skills of Dorian Rottenberg, who played a significant role in the

---

<sup>9</sup> Habibbayli, I. Azerbaijani Poetry: Tradition and Modernity. Poetry of Azerbaijan. (A Drop in the Ocean). I.Habibbayli / – Islamabad : – 2010. – p.8

Englishization of Azerbaijani poetry, are highly valued.

For example, let's look at a passage from the poem "Ploughman":

*Cütçü babasan, buğdanı ver, darı yeyərsən,  
Su olmasa, qışda əridib qarı yeyərsən,  
Daşdan yumuşaq zəhr nədir, marı yeyərsən,  
Öyrənməmişən ət-yağa dünyadə, əkinçi!  
Heyvan kimi ömr eyləmişən sadə, əkinçi!<sup>10</sup>*

These verses sound like this in English:

*Your job is to plough, eat millet yourself; give me wheat,  
ploughman!*

*As long as it's softer than stone-any stuff you can eat,  
ploughman.*

*If you don't have water, there's plenty of snow to heat,  
ploughman!*

*You have never seen butter or cream or meat, ploughman,  
You're used to a simple life, like a beast, ploughman!<sup>11</sup>*

In the analysis of another satirical poem "To the workers of Baku" ("Bakı fəhlələrinə") by the eminent poet, its distinctive feature is illuminated. The translator has skillfully conveyed this unique aspect in the translation. Sabir's satire is not only laced with criticism, bitter laughter, and mockery but is also interwoven with profound philosophical judgment and thought. The poet doesn't merely strive to astound and entertain the reader but also steers them towards contemplation, reflection, and an understanding of the essence of societal events. His critical laughter is intricately blended

---

<sup>10</sup> Hophopnamə. Tərtib edəni: Məmməd Məmmədov / – Bakı: Yazıçı, – 1980, – s.86.

<sup>11</sup> Mirza Alekper Sabir (Tair-zade), translated by Dorian Rottenberg, Azerbaijani Poetry / – Moscow: Progres Publishers, – 1969, – p.221



with profound social meaning and substance”.<sup>12</sup> In this context, the poem “Lonely Patience” candidly delineates all these societal predicaments. While Dorian Rottenberg’s translation maintains the content of the poem, the cadence and intonation suffer, resulting in an imperfect translation. Nevertheless, Dorian Rottenberg’s endeavor to acquaint English-speaking readers with Sabir’s poetry is commendable.

The third chapter of the dissertation titled **“Artistic characteristics of translations of Azerbaijani poetic samples into English”** is comprised of two paragraphs.

The first paragraph of the third chapter titled **“Forms of poetic possibilities in the English translations of Huseyn Javid and Abdulla Shaig’s poetry”** commences by presenting the insights of relentless researchers into Javid’s creativity. Scholars such as academician Mammad Jafar, academician Isa Habibbeyli, Kamran Aliyev, a connoisseur of Javid’s works, Gulbeniz Babakhanli, a doctor of philological sciences, Rasim Nabioglu, and other researchers and intellectuals share their perspectives on Javid. The chapter thoroughly investigates the value attributed by these scholars to the great artist, acknowledged as the creator of romantic drama, in their research. Subsequently, the analysis delves into the translations of Javid’s immortal works. The dissertation provides an extensive analysis of the translation of the poem “Baku” (“Masud and Shafiga”), demonstrating that while there is poeticism in the translation, the essence and richness of Javid’s poetry are somewhat weakened. The research also includes the translation of Javid’s poem “Yesterday and Today” undertaken by Gladys Evans, who not only presents the content but also maintains the rhyme scheme from the original. Upon scrutinizing the translation, one can witness the translator’s proficiency once again.

In the first paragraph of the third chapter, the research explores the translation features of another poem by Huseyn Javid, “Sheikh Sanan” from Azerbaijani to English. This poem, narrated in the

---

<sup>12</sup> Novruzov, T. Sabir ədəbi məktəbi. Redaktor: Filologiya elmləri doktoru, professor Xeyrulla Məmmədov / – Bakı: Yazıçı, – 1992, – s.35

Arabic language of the deaf Arab in the tragedy, has been researched for its translation by the poet and translator Sabir Mustafa. Sabir Mustafa, an accomplished translator, successfully delivers this philosophical and content-rich poem in English to a high standard for English-speaking readers.

In the dissertation, attention is directed towards selected aphorisms from Huseyn Javid's works and their translation into English. The translation styles of Nigar Babakhanova and Farida Aliyeva, who translated these aphorisms into English, are evaluated. Scholar Gulbeniz Babakhanli, when discussing the wisdom of the poet-dramatist, states: "Javid's aphorisms are the words of a wise old sage who deeply understands life, human character, has experienced the warmth and coldness of life, carefully selects good from evil, a philosopher-minded and beautiful poet. These are words that come from the deep layers of an artist's heart, touching the reader's heart due to their sincerity, influencing, making them think, and calling on them to fulfill the most sublime meaning of human emotions in life."<sup>13</sup>

As an example from the selected aphorisms of the great thinker, let's consider a verse from his socially meaningful poem "Gadin" ("Woman"):

*Pərdeyi-zülmət içindən sıyrıl!  
Qəhrəmanlar kimi qovğaya atıl!*<sup>14</sup>

In this poem, Huseyn Javid voices the struggle of a woman living in humiliation, urging her to fight for her rights. Let's take a look at the English translation of these lines:

---

<sup>13</sup> Cavid Hikməti. Seçmə aforizmlər. Tərtibçi və ön sözün müəllifi Gülbəniz Babaxanlı. Elmi məsləhətçi İsa Həbibbəyli. Redaktor Teymur Kərimli. İngilis dilinə tərcümə edən Nigar Babaxanova, Fəridə Əliyeva / – Bakı: Elm və təhsil, – 2016, – s.7

<sup>14</sup> Hüseyn Cavid. Əsərləri. 3 cildə, I cild, Tərtib edəni: Kamal Abdulla və Turan Cavid / Azərbaycan Mədəniyyət Fondu, – 2003, – s.40.

*Don't hide in the dark!  
Shine out and fight like a hero!<sup>15</sup>*

The couplet has been translated as follows, and the overall content of the original has been preserved:

Javid is a great philosopher, his advice is a treasure of wisdom. In every line, in every verse, we witness this. He is an inexhaustible treasure. Therefore, in the research work, the art commandments of this great artist are analyzed extensively, and we witness once again how great an artist he is.

Aphorisms are widely used in Huseyn Javid's dramatic works and poems. Here, the translation of some excerpts from the work "Iblis" is extensively analyzed, and the meaning peculiarities cut by some words and expressions in the translation are clarified. Let's look at the translation of a part from the work:

*Iblis nədir?  
-Cümlə xəyanətlərə bais  
Ya hər kəsə xain olan insan nədir?  
-Iblis!<sup>16</sup>*

In English, this section is expressed as follows:

*What is Satan?  
- He is the cause of all wickedness.  
Then, who is the human doing all evil acts?  
- Satan!<sup>17</sup>*

Literal translation:

---

<sup>15</sup> Cavid Hikməti. Seçmə aforizmlər. Tərtibçi və ön sözün müəllifi Gülbəniz Babaxanlı. Elmi məsləhətçi İsa Həbibbəyli. Redaktor Teymur Kərimli. İngilis dilinə tərcümə edən Nigar Babaxanova, Fəridə Əliyeva / – Bakı: Elm və təhsil, – 2016, – s.34

<sup>16</sup> Hüseyn, C. Əsərləri 4 cildə, I cild. Tərtib edən: Turan Cavid. Redaktoru: Əkrəm Cəfər / – Bakı: Yazıçı, – 1982, – s.321

<sup>17</sup> Cavid Hikməti. Seçmə aforizmlər. Elmi məsləhətçi İsa Həbibbəyli / – Bakı: Elm və təhsil, – 2016, – s.137

*Şeytan nədir?*

*O bütün xəyanətlərin səbəbidir..*

*Bəs bütün zalım olan işlərə səbəb olan insan kimdir?*

*- Şeytan!*

The ideas expressed by the great dramatist are preserved in the translation as well. However, let's provide a subtle suggestion here. In our opinion, if the word "Şeytan" in the translation were rendered as "Demon" it would be more fitting to the original.

In the poet's poem "Azer" we also observe the presence of aphorisms. When analyzing the "Azer" poem, the eminent researcher, academician Mammad Jafar, states: "The importance of the "Azer" epic lies primarily in the fact that the poet has demonstrated his complex artistic world, boiling and mingling with new realms, and has devoted all his existence to it".<sup>18</sup> For example, let's take a look at the translation of a few lines from the "Usyan" section of the "Azer" poem:

*Söz yox ki, bugün gəncliyə baxsan,  
Bir sel kimi hər an  
Onlar qoşacaq, çarpışacaqlar,  
Bir çox uçurumlar aşacaqlar.<sup>19</sup>*

If we consider these lines in English:

*If you watch the young people of today,  
You will see that they are very active  
And try to achieve something,  
They will overcome many obstacles!<sup>20</sup>*

---

<sup>18</sup> Məmməd Cəfər. Böyük şair, mütəfəkkir. (Ön söz). Hüseyn Cavid. Əsərləri 4 cildə, I cild. Tərtib edəni: Turan Cavid / – Bakı: Yazıçı, – 1982, – s.16-17

<sup>19</sup> Hüseyn Cavid. Əsərləri 4 cildə, I cild. Tərtib edəni: Turan Cavid. Redaktoru: Əkrəm Cəfər / – Bakı: Yazıçı, –1982, – s.214

<sup>20</sup> Cavid Hikməti. Seçmə aforizmlər. Elmi məsləhətçi İsa Həbibbəyli / – Bakı: Elm və təhsil, – 2016, – s.91

Literal translation:

*Əgər sən bu gün gəncliyə baxsan,  
Görərsən ki, onlar çox fəaldır.  
Onlar bir şeyə nail olmaq üçün çalışacaqlar,  
Onlar bir çox sədləri aşacaqlar.*

The translation has been successfully completed. In the translation, the poet's profound spirit resonates with the young generations who are inspired to build a new life, becoming an anthem of triumph on their lips. The immortal artist Huseyn Javid's historical work, titled "Timur the Lame," like many of his other works, has also been translated into English. Characterized as a valuable work of the Islamic and Turkic world from a national perspective, it exhibits significant philosophical content and deep thoughts.

The translator Malahat Babayeva skillfully rendered a portion of the work into English. Let's take a look at this translated excerpt:

"In Samarkand, in the sitting-room of Teymur's palace that is decorated according to the eastern taste... The sitting-room has been covered with Turkistan, Iran, and Indian kilims and carpets... Silver eagles standing in every corner, gold columns in the middle, shiny tables and chairs... a big window facing, beautiful and well-groomed garden with flowers which could be seen through the window, created a wonderful view... Seems Olga outing around thoughtfully... Military song is being performed outside".<sup>21</sup>

Upon examination, it's evident that Malahat Babayeva's English translation preserves the same essence as the original. There are no changes in content or form. The event described in the Samarkand palace of Amir Teymur is also well-preserved in the translation, demonstrating the success of the translation.

The dissertation delves into the distinguished literary contributions of Abdulla Shaig, an illustrious representative of the

---

<sup>21</sup> Babayeva, M. The Translation and explanation of Hussein Javid's "Topal Teymur" play / – Baku: – 2012, – s.41

literary school renowned for his multifaceted talents as a poet, dramatist, lyricist, and pedagogue. The poetic legacy of Abdulla Shaig, known for his profound impact on Azerbaijani literature, is examined within the scholarly context.

Translator Dorian Rottenberg has adeptly rendered Abdulla Shaig's 1910 poem, "We are all a particle of the sun" showcasing exceptional linguistic prowess. The translation, a focal point of rigorous investigative scrutiny, is subjected to an expansive analytical exploration within the research. Let's focus on a concise segment of the translation:

*Hamımız bir yuva pərvərdəsiyiz!  
Hamımız bir günəşin zərrəsiyiz!  
Ayramaz bizləri təğyiri-lisan,  
Ayramaz bizləri təbdili-məkan.*

Let's take a look at the English translation of this remarkable poem, which can be considered a symbol of unity:

*Yet all of us come from a single nest,  
All were born of the sun and fed at its breast.  
No difference of language should tear us apart,  
No distance should sever heart from heart.*

Dorian Rottenberg, a talented translator, has translated the poem "Look Forward" ("İrali") written by Abdulla Shaig in 1914, into English.

The second paragraph of the third chapter of the dissertation is titled **"Artistry and individual style characteristics in translations, preservation of national color (Based on the poetry of Ahmad Javad and Aligha Vahid)"**.

A prominent artist and thinker, Ahmad Javad (1892-1937), distinguished himself from many poets and writers of his time with his nationalistic thinking and free style of thought. With his creative work, Javad left behind a heritage that deeply resonates with hearts. Though always drawing attention with his creativity, Javad's literary

legacy remained in the shadows for many years. Targeted by criticism and subjected to repression due to his innovative ideas that echoed national freedom and unity, Ahmad Javad became a victim of persecution. Researcher and scholar Nigar Iskanderova, particularly characterizing Ahmad Javad's translation activities, especially as an excellent translator of Shakespeare, rightfully values Ahmad Javad's world highly, stating: *"By paying attention to the socio-economic contexts of Shakespeare's renowned works such as 'Othello' and 'Romeo and Juliet,' we can see that, in comparison with other translators, Ahmad Javad's translation experience is enriched with novel discoveries and stylistic innovations in addressing the cultural nuances of the translated pieces"*.<sup>22</sup>

The eminent wordsmith Ahmad Javad gained increased attention in our country after achieving independence, with a continuous interest in his creative works. Notably, the poet's verses have been translated into the English language consecutively. It is worth mentioning that in the anthology "The Garland of Poetry," available in both Azerbaijani and English languages, the poem "Azerbaijan, Azerbaijan" (Azerbaijan, Azerbaijan), resonating as the State Anthem, has been beautifully translated into English by the accomplished translator Sabir Mustafa. Simultaneously, within the same collection, the linguistically versatile poem "**Çırpınırdı Qara Dəniz**" ("Throbbing was the Black Sea raged") has also been presented in translation. The preface to this "Poetry of Garland" states: "Sabir Mustafa is a renowned Azerbaijani Turk poet with the moral right to translate poetry... We believe that this valuable collection of poems will be a thoughtful gift to those who read and appreciate poetry, as well as those in search of philosophical ideas"<sup>23</sup>

In the second paragraph, the poem "Azerbaijan, Azerbaijan" (Azerbaijan, Azerbaijan) translated by Vahid Arabov, Sabir Mustafa,

---

<sup>22</sup> Искендерова, Н. Ахмед Джавад-переводчик Вильяма Шекспира. Автореферат на соискание ученой степени кандидата филологических наук. На правах рукописи / – Баку: – 1998, – с.29

<sup>23</sup> Abdullayeva, F. Xəlilli Ş. Sabir Mustafanın poetik tərcümə toplusuna müqəddimə. Poeziya çələngi. ("The Garland of Poetry") / – Bakı: Avrasiya Press, – 2012, – s. 3-4

and Aynur Hajiyeva, has been extensively analyzed through comparison. As a result, the translation abilities of the talented translators Vahid Arabov (Turksoy) and Sabir Mustafa have been highly praised for their attention to preserving the original form, content, harmony, intonation, and rhythm. The comparison assures the experienced and talented nature of both translators.

The dissertation also dedicates a section to the analysis of translations of several ghazals from the creative works of the great wordsmith and poetry advocate Aliagha Vahid. The translator Eugene Felgenhauer renowned for his poetic style and vivid depiction in translating ghazals that showcase the beauty of Aliagha Vahid's poetry plays a crucial role in delivering Azerbaijani classical poetry to English readers. The translation of ghazals is widely known to be a challenging task, and in this regard, the decision of the talented translator Eugene Felgenhauer to delve into the creativity of the great wordsmith Aliagha Vahid deserves attention:

*Uyma hər zülfü qara, sevgili cananə, könül,  
Bu vəfasızlar edərlər səni divanə, könül.*

*Mümkün olduqca çalış, yanmayasan eşq oduna,  
Şəmdən gör nə çəkir hər gecə pərvanə, könül.<sup>24</sup>*

The poet's profound expressions, articulated in a refined and mystical style, do not merely revolve around the fear of the beloved's unfaithfulness. "To burn in the fire of love is to ultimately be consumed and reduced to ashes" declares the poet. This sacred sentiment is also conveyed in Eugene Felgenhauer's translation:

*My heart, beware of maidens fair with tresses black and  
smart,  
Their wiles will drive you to despair and make your wits  
depart.*

---

<sup>24</sup> Əliağa, V. Seçilmiş əsərləri: 2 cilddə/ V.Əliağa. – Bakı:Azərbaycan Dövlət Nəşriyyatı, – c.2. – 1975. – s.208.



*How can a man so madly love and die not in the flame,  
Just think of what the moths must bear that round a candle  
dart.*<sup>25</sup>

The talented translator Eugene Felgenhauer has skillfully conveyed the underlying idea present in the original, preserving both the content and form of the ghazal for the readers.

In the **“Conclusion”** section of the dissertation, the overarching conclusions derived from the general content of the research are summarized as follows:

- The translation of Azerbaijani poets' works into English constitutes the main criterion in the research on **“The beginning of the 20th century Azerbaijani Poetry in English Literary Criticism”**.

- The research on “Azerbaijani Poetry in English Literary Criticism in the Early 20th Century” encompasses a wide range of literary and scientific works, including translations, analyses, and research, sourced from various literary journals and catalogs.

- As an innovative aspect of the research, the poetic examples of Abbas Sahhat, Mirza Alakbar Sabir, Abdulla Shaig, Huseyn Javid, Ahmad Javad, Aliagha Vahid have been analyzed through translation for the first time. The study sheds light on the semantic peculiarities and the nuances of meaning that words and expressions carry. They are systematically integrated into the research for the first time, providing organized insights based on thematic threads.

- The use of literary, poetic, and expressive forms depends on the author's intent and genre in any translated work. Both literary forms, whether in the original work or the translation, are interrelated on the principle level. This relationship is explored as diversity in the dissertation's innovation.

- Researchers and translators such as Rukhsara Qaibova, Sayyara Mammadova, Shahin Khalilli, Leyli Aliyeva, Vafa Ibrahimova, Nigar Iskanderova, Fargana Zulfugarova and distinguished scholars in oriental poetry, including William Jones,

---

<sup>25</sup> Azerbaijanian poetry: Classic, Modern, Traditional. – Moscow: Progress Publishers, – 1969, – p.275.

Atkinson, Edward Brown, Elias John Wilkinson Gibb, Peter Tempest, Dorian Rottenberg, Eugene Felgenhauer, Fritz Mayer and others are reviewed and critically evaluated for their research on Azerbaijani poetry. The dissertation re-examines contentious issues, offering a balanced and subjective critique.

- A scientific innovation of the research lies in scrutinizing the problems in the poetic examples in both theoretical and practical contexts.

- The dissertation does not limit its analysis of the translation problem in the creativity of these artists to predetermined forms in scientific and theoretical thought. Instead, it explores unique forms that align with the idea-content characteristics of the translations. To achieve this, the dissertation brings clarity to the poetic meanings that words and expressions convey in the translations. Special attention is given to aspects such as their connection to national life and thought, illumination of the spiritual realm of the artists, the portrayal of their psychological experiences, and a detailed depiction of their high moral qualities.

- The art of translation is of a multifunctional nature and possesses various forms of expression. One of their distinctive features is their direct connection to national thought and contemporary life. Therefore, it is possible to differentiate translations based on this aspect. Throughout the research, this diversity has been utilized. What makes some of these translations interesting is their ability to convey the author's ideas directly and literally to the reader. This depends more on the translator's skill than anything else.

- In the research titled **“The beginning of the 20th century Azerbaijani Poetry in English Literary Criticism”** the translation of Azerbaijani poets' works into the English language takes a central place. The scientific innovation of this topic lies primarily in its exploration of the poetic uniqueness and artistic perspective of Azerbaijani poems alongside their translation.

**THE MAIN CONTENT OF THE STUDY IS REFLECTED  
IN THE FOLLOWING ARTICLES AND CONFERENCE  
PROCEEDINGS OF THE APPLICANT:**

1. Zeynalova, T. Əliğa Vahid ədəbi irsinin ingilis dilinə tərcüməsi // Gənc alimlərin II Beynəlxalq konfransı. Konfrans materialları, Gəncə: – 2017, – s.393-396
2. Zeynalova, T. Abdulla Şaiq ədəbi irsinin ingilis dilinə tərcümə məsələsi // Elmi Xəbərlər, – Gəncə: – 2018, № 2, – s.90-94
3. Zeynalova, T. Əhməd Cavad poeziyasının ingilis dilinə tərcüməsi və müqayisəli təhlili // Dil və ədəbiyyat, – Bakı: – 2018. № 1(105). – s.247-249
4. Zeynalova, T. Əhməd Cavad poeziyasının ingilis dilinə tərcüməsi // Dil və ədəbiyyat. – Bakı: – 2018, № 1(109). – s.196-199
5. Zeynalova, T. Hüseyn Cavidin zəngin dili və dünya şöhrəti // Filologiya məsələləri. – Bakı: – 2018. №1. – s.310-318
6. Зейналова, Т. О переводе поэзии Мирза Алекпера Сабирова на английский язык // Алматы: Филологические науки ВЕСТНИК, – 2018. №1(63). – с.120-124
7. Zeynalova, T. Hüseyn Cavid poeziyasının ingilis dilinə tərcümə xüsusiyyətləri // Dil və ədəbiyyat. Bakı: – 2019. №1(109). – s.199-200
8. Zeynalova, T. Abbas Səhhət “Vətən” şeirinin ingilis dilinə tərcümə xüsusiyyətləri // Elmi Xəbərlər. Gəncə: – 2019. №1. – s.188-192
9. Зейналова, Т. Афоризмы в произведениях Гусейна Джавида и их переводы на английский язык // Пятигорск: - 2019. Научные исследования в сфере гуманитарных наук: Открытия XXI века Материалы X Международной научно-практической конференции, – с.62-66
10. Zeynalova, T. Abbas Səhhət yaradıcılığında “Vətən” sevgisi // Doktorantların və gənc tədqiqatçıların XXIII Respublika elmi konfransının materialları. – Bakı: – 2019, – s.146-148
11. Zeynalova, T. “Topal Teymur” əsərinin ingilis dilinə tərcümə xüsusiyyətləri // AMEA Nizami Gəncəvi adına Ədəbiyyat İnstitutu. Müqayisəli ədəbiyyatşünaslıq. – Bakı: – 2023. №2. –

s.91-96.

12. Zeynalova, T. Şekspir əsərlərinin Azərbaycan ədəbiyyatşünaslığında öyrənilməsi məsələsi // Elmi Xəbərlər. – Gəncə: – 2023. – s.271-277.
13. Zeynalova, T. İngilis klassiklərinin əsərləri Azərbaycan tədqiqatçıların elmi-nəzəri fikrində // Filologiya məsələləri. – Bakı: – 2023. №10, – s.293-299.



The defense of the dissertation will be held on 25 April 2024 at 15<sup>00</sup> at the meeting of one-time Dissertation Council registered under BFD 1.05 within the base of ED 1.05 – Dissertation Council operating under the Institute of Literature named after Nizami Ganjavi of ANAS.

Address: AZ 1143. Baku, Huseyn Javid Avenue 117, Academy Campus, Main building, IV floor, Electronic assembly hall of the Institute of Literature named after Nizami Ganjavi.

The dissertation is available in the library of the Institute of Literature named after Nizami Ganjavi of ANAS.

Electronic versions of the dissertation and abstract are posted on the official website of the Institute of Literature named after Nizami Ganjavi of ANAS.

The abstract was sent to the necessary addresses on 14 March 2024.

Signed for publication: 27.02.2024

Paper format: A5

Volume: 41035

Circulation: 20