

REPUBLIC OF AZERBAIJAN

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ABSTRACT

of the dissertation for the degree of Doctor of Philosophy

**THE PROBLEM OF NATIONAL INDEPENDENCE IN
MODERN AZERBAIJAN PROSE (1991-2011)**

Speciality: 5716.01 – Azerbaijan literature

Field of science: Philology

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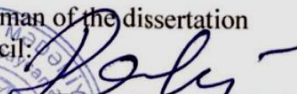
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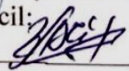
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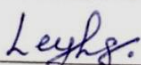
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GENERAL CHARACTER OF THE WORK

The 20th century is characterized by the abundance and richness of various political events and sometimes it is a period of clashing of ideas and thoughts that are not accepted unambiguously. In this sense, the investigation of national and moral values in the artistic expression of the ideology of independence in the prose works created after independence, which attract more attention as a literary event, is one of the important tasks facing literary studies. The written scientific work focuses on this issue. The national and moral values, which were mentioned cautiously for a long time during the Soviet period, began to take a central place and strengthen in the literary process after independence. In this regard, the dissertation can play a fundamental role in the ideologically objective assessment of contemporary Azerbaijan prose.

The Relevance and Scope of the Research. In the dissertation, samples of artistic prose written during the next twenty years from the first year of Azerbaijan's declaration of independence, i.e. 1991, were included in the research. The achievement of national independence also created political opportunities and conditions for literature. One of the important factors in the dissertation is to take a look at cultural and moral values in this period from a new point of view, an approach away from all kinds of ideological influences and pressures. Created artistic examples are examined within the framework of stories, narratives and novels as genres. The question of attitude to national statehood, homeland, people's fate in a new way is considered in a historical-comparative context and the role of literature and national ideology in the formation is investigated based on the analytical method. The research work talks about the tense, socio-politically crisis period of contemporary Azerbaijan literature, the actual importance of examples with new ideas and new content brought about by the process of national self-awareness. The topic of the presented dissertation is of scientific importance from this point of view. Except for some literary-critical articles written about the works of individual writers, it is necessary to approach this topic in a compre-

hensive way, since specific researches are not devoted to the topic. Taking into account the need for extensive and systematic investigation of this issue, it was considered acceptable to include specific artistic examples in the analysis from the point of view of modern scientific and theoretical principles. By trying to solve the issues posed in the research to a certain extent, taking into account the importance of the works that do not attract attention in terms of the requirements and tastes of the time in terms of studying the literature of a specific period, in the dissertation, as far as possible, analyzes were made on the works that are integral parts of the literary process, overlooked by literary criticism, left in the shadows, little studied or not studied and require special study in terms of the artistic analysis and development of the national independence ideology. This is considered one of the factors that includes the relevance and scientific innovation of the research. The possibilities of literature are highlighted in the artistic solution of the problem of artistic understanding of the struggle for national independence, arising from the demand of the dissertation in the face of the problem. The activity of individual literary personalities is given priority and it emerges as the literature of the return to the national roots and the awakening of national self-awareness. Literature rich with new, national, bold ideas is created.

One of the points that determine the relevance of the dissertation is the examination of the research at the national-theoretical level, the rejection and denial of traditional stereotypes that have become the writing style of literary studies from time to time. This aspect is evident throughout the study.

In one way or another, the issue of independence has become the object of research in dissertations, monographs and articles dedicated to the various problems and personalities of Azerbaijan literature, including prose. However, these studies are more widely manifested in the field of poetry.

In the field of prose, Vagif Yusifli¹, Yavuz Akhundlu², Tofik

¹ Yusifli, V. 2003-cü ilin nəşri // – Bakı: Azərbaycan jurnalı. –2005. №4, – p.156-166

Huseynoghlu³, Tayyar Salamoghlu⁴, Tehran Alishanoghlu⁵, Elchin Mehraliyev⁶, Ahmad Sami El Aydi⁷, Nargiz Jabbarli⁸, Irada Musayeva⁹, Salida Sharifova¹⁰ and other critics and literary scholars have conducted certain studies.

It has been presented articles in compilations and collections dedicated to various problems of Azerbaijan literature, including artistic prose and expressed views on this subject as often as possible. In various types of monographic studies dedicated to the works of individual writers, certain considerations have been made about the three main leading genres of the new prose: story, narrative and novels. In the dissertations on the general theoretical issues of modern Azerbaijan literature, a certain attitude was also expressed to the novel genre.

The two-volume textbook "Modern Azerbaijan Literature"¹¹ prepared by the Department of Modern Azerbaijan Literature of Baku State University, the two-volume "Azerbaijan Literature of the Independence Period"¹² prepared by the Institute of Literature named after N.Ganjavi of ANAS, the "Azerbaijan Literature of the Years of

² Axundlu, Y. Azərbaycan tarixi romanı: mərhələlər, problemlər: 1930-2000 / Y.Axundlu. - Bakı: Adiloğlu, – 2005. - 550 p.

³Hüseynoğlu, T. Söz – tarixin yuvası / T.Hüseynoğlu. – Bakı: Azərneşr, – 2000, – 166 s.

⁴ Salamoğlu, T. İsmayıl Şıxlının bədii nəsr (monograph) / T.Salamoğlu. – Bakı: NPS MMC, – 2014, – 176 p.

⁵ Əlişanoğlu, T. Müstəqillik illərində Azərbaycan ədəbiyyatı (textbook) / T.Əlişanoğlu. – Bakı: Qanun, – I hissə, – 2013. – 216 p.

⁶ Elaydi, Ə.S. Müstəqillik dövrü Azərbaycan romanı: mövzu, problematika və sənətkarlıq məsələləri (1991-2005) / Ə.S.Elaydi. – Bakı: Nurlar, – 2017. – 191 p.

⁷ Cabbarlı, N. Yeni nəsil ədəbiyyatı / N.Cabbarlı. – Bakı: Qanun, – 2008. – 218 [2] p.

⁸ Musayeva, İ. Roman müəllifləri və roman qəhrəmanları // Ədəbiyyat qəzeti. – 2015, 11 April, – p. 6-7.

⁹ Şərifova, S. Ədəbi prosesə nəzəri baxış: Tənqidi məqalələr 2003-2005-ci illər / S.Şərifova. – Bakı: Maarif, – 2006. – 210 p.; Şərifova, S. Klassiklər və müasirlər söz müstəvisində / S.Şərifova. – Bakı: Elm və təhsil, – 2018. – 568 p.

¹⁰ Akimova, E. Müstəqillik dövründə Azərbaycan ədəbi tənqidi (90-cı illər): / dissertation for the degree of Doctor of Philosophy / E.Akimova. - Bakı, 2000. – 133 p.

¹¹ Müasir Azərbaycan ədəbiyyatı (textbook for higher schools) [in 2 vol.] / – Bakı: Bakı Universiteti nəşriyyatı, – 2007.

¹² Müstəqillik dövrü Azərbaycan ədəbiyyatı [in 2 vol.] / – Bakı: Elm. – 2016.

Independence"¹³ by Tehran Alishanoglu's textbook for the master's level of higher schools, the period of independence in Azerbaijan literary prose has become the object of analysis in different contexts.

Despite all these studies, the problem of independence in the Azerbaijan literary prose of the mentioned period has not been systematically investigated until now. Despite all these studies, the problem of independence in the Azerbaijan literary prose of the mentioned period has not been systematically investigated until now.

The object and subject of the research. Examples of artistic prose of the period involved in the research are Sabir Ahmadli, Ilyas Afandiyev, Ismail Shikhli, Isi Malikzade, Vidadi Babanli, Aziza Jafarzade, Anar, Elchin, Ali Samadli, Agarahim Rahimov, Elchin Huseynbeyli, Orkhan Fikratoglu, Zaman Garayev, Mustafa Chamanli, Fikrat Goja, Alisa Nijat, Agil Abbas, Sabir Rustamkhanli, Fakhri Ughurlu, Mehriban Vazir, Elchin Mehraliyev, Yunus Oghuz, Nasir Manzuri. In these works, the establishment of independence ideas is taken as the object of research. The subject of the study is the artistic expression of the ideology of independence, the promotion of national and moral values in the Azerbaijan literary prose of 1991-2011 and its investigation and analysis from various aspects.

The objectives and tasks of the research. One of the main goals and tasks of the work is to reveal the characteristics of the ideology of independence in modern Azerbaijan prose in the period (1991-2011) indicated in the dissertation. In order to achieve the goal set in the research work, it was mainly tried to fulfill the following tasks:

- To evaluate the artistic examples involved in the research in a comparative manner with the existing artistic examples created in the two decades after the independence of Azerbaijan — 1991-2001 and 2001-2011;
- To turn Azerbaijan artistic prose created in 1991-2011 into an object of analysis in the context of genre features;
- To analyze the history of Azerbaijan in 1991-2011 by charac-

¹³ Əlişanoğlu, T. Müstəqillik illərində Azərbaycan ədəbiyyatı (textbook) / T.Əlişanoğlu. – Bakı: Qanun, - part I, – 2013. – 216 p.

terizing it problematically;

- To characterize contemporary stories on the level of socio-political contradictions;
- To turn the Azerbaijani narratives created in 1991-2011 into an object of analysis in terms of themes and problems;
- In contemporary narratives, the expression of historical reality, truths in an epic plan, to involve in research in the context of artistic issues;
- To investigate the role of contemporary literature in the formation of national ideology, the question of attitude to national statehood, homeland, people's destiny in a new way;
- To involve in research the issues of return to self, artistic expression of national independence ideology, promotion of national and moral values in Azerbaijan novels created in 1991-2011, based on analytical method;
- To examine the development of society, genetic memory, social injustice and other issues in contemporary Azerbaijan novels form-structurally and turn them into an object of analysis.

The methods of the research. Scientific, theoretical and artistic materials, scientific results of analogous studies were referred to in the writing of the research paper and the twenty-year development path of the Azerbaijan novel became the object of analysis in a systematic and comparative manner. Historical-comparative and typological analysis methods based on the comparison of different purpose art systems were used in the study according to the nature of the problem.

The main clauses presented in the defense. The dissertation intends to investigate and systematize the three main branches of contemporary Azerbaijan artistic prose, story, narrative and novel genres in the context of setting the problem of national independence, social-political and national-spiritual ideals:

- Setting the issue of national independence in Modern Azerbaijan prose created in 1991-2011;
- The story of contemporary Azerbaijan as the most flexible genre that gives an artistic reflection of the struggle for independence;

- Drawing attention to the theme-idea modernity of the stories;
- Revealing the context of spiritual and moral values in narratives;
- Historical reality in narratives and artistic expression of historical reality in an epic plan;
- Introducing the ideas of homeland, people and national statehood in a new way in the narratives;
- Presentation of the ideas of independence in a wide epic context;
- Azerbaijan novel in the context of political-ideological processes and national-moral ideals.

The Scientific novelty of the research. The scientific innovation of the dissertation is determined, first of all, by the fact that the discussed topic is involved in serious, systematic research for the first time. In the research work, the theme, problematic, artistic conflict, image creation in Azerbaijan artistic prose created in 1991-2011 were investigated against the background of national issues. In the research work, the theme, problems, artistic conflict, image creation in the Azerbaijan artistic prose created in 1991-2011 were investigated against the background of national issues. The literary environment and artistic examples that give the artistic vision of the national independence war have been studied by making generalizations. The return to the national spiritual root, the awakening of national self-awareness has been elaborated to some extent in poetry. However, this cannot be said about prose. For the first time, the literary samples created in the period involved in the study were included in the study in the form of collection and their role in the literary process was specially noted.

One of the points that determine the originality of the research is that the artistic examples of the period mentioned here are involved in the analysis in a comparative manner with the existing artistic examples created in the previous decades. This, of course, gives an opportunity to evaluate the literary process of the period as a whole.

Another important aspect that characterizes the scientific novelty of the dissertation is that it interprets existing artistic examples

not only in the background of aesthetic principles, but in certain moments in a sociological context, which helps to comprehensively evaluate the contemporary literary process. This kind of approach to literary material reflects the extent to which artistic thought is connected to social life, along with issues of craftsmanship.

The theoretical and practical significance of the research.

The research work "Problem of Independence in Azerbaijan's Artistic Prose of the Independence Period (1991-2011)" is of particular importance in terms of the transformation of historical reality into artistic truth and the transfer of truths about the fate of independent Azerbaijan to future generations. The actuality, innovations and obtained scientific results of the dissertation topic have both theoretical and scientific-practical importance. The theoretical importance of the study is related to the fact that it creates a certain ground for further research on the artistic prose of the period of independence.

The practical importance of the work is also that for the first time, the ideas of independence and the struggle for national independence in literary works covering the years 1991-2011 were involved in the research in literary prose, stories, narratives and novels. Its results and materials can be used as a source in studies devoted to literary studies, literary theory and literary criticism.

Dissertation work is of scientific importance for the researches of the later period in terms of methodological aspects, directions of analysis, theoretical approach and research forms.

The research work can also be used as an auxiliary tool in the teaching of general and special courses at the bachelor's and master's degrees of humanities faculties of various universities.

The approbation and implementation of the research. The dissertation work was registered in the Problem Council operating under the National Museum of Azerbaijan Literature named after Nizami Ganjavi and was prepared and completed at the Department of Philological Sciences of "Tafakkur" University. The results of the research were reflected in various collections and magazines published in the republic ("Pedagogical university news", "Manuscripts do not burn", "Philological issues", etc.) and in articles published abroad, as well as in reports and speeches read at scientific conferences.

The organization where the research work was carried out. Science and Education Center "Tafakkur" University.

The volume of the structural sections of the dissertation separately and the total volume with a sign. The dissertation consists of an introduction (9976 s.), three chapters (Chapter I - 65744, Chapter II - 40444, Chapter III - 99552 s.), conclusion (12037 s.) and a list of references. The total volume of the dissertation is 227,753 symbols.

THE MAIN CONTENT OF THE DISSERTATION WORK

In the **"Introduction"** part of the research, the relevance of the topic is justified, the degree of development of the problem, goals and objectives, research methods, main clauses defended, scientific innovation, theoretical and practical importance, approval, research and structure of the research are given.

The first chapter of the dissertation is called **"Independence theme-problem discourse in Azerbaijan literature"**. Based on the theoretical conclusions, in accordance with the requirements of the dissertation, the stories created in the years 1991-2011 were problematically characterized and the analysis was conducted in the following direction.

1. History of development of the problem of independence in Azerbaijan literature;
2. The artistic reflection of the struggle for independence in the story of Azerbaijan;
3. The theme of the Karabakh war in contemporary stories.

Division research in this context is typical in terms of uncovering more systematic, topic and problematic searches.

In the sub-chapter **"The history of the development of the independence problem in Azerbaijan literature"**, the fact that the struggle for independence is the subject of literature and the contribution of literature to the freedom movement are evaluated. Literary works of this period are important documents that reflect people's self-awareness, patriotism and spirit of resistance. The works that choose the history of struggle in different genres of prose reflect the

struggle of a nation for independence and freedom, the experiences of the society in this direction and historical events and influence the reader to remember the past and national identity. In the first years of independence, the press called for mass education and struggle for this ideal based on national ideology. In the periodicals of the period, we often come across articles with titles like "Sweet Dream of Independence" by Anar, "People's Salvation and Literature", "New Thinking, New View" by Murshud Mammadli, "From the History of the Independence Struggle" by Sh. Nowruz, "For Self-Awareness" by Maksud Farhadoghlu, "Herald of Freedom" by Shamil Zaman, "First words lose their freedom, then people" by Yashar Garayev etc. However, in order to support the poetry trying to reflect the social and political climate of the time, which freed the literature from inertia, some examples of prose were created. Later, Khalil Rza Uluturk's memoir "Lefortovo Prison", Ilyas Efendiyev's "The lonely elaeagnus tree" (1991), "The ruler and his daughter" (1991), Ali Amirli's "Aghgoyunlular and Karagoyunlular" dramas are included in the analysis. For example, *"The work of national freedom fighter Khalil Rza Uluturk, "In Lefortovo Prison," is very valuable in reflecting the struggle for independence. The work belongs to the memoir genre. Since this work contains scientific and historical facts, it is considered a scientific - historical memoir. Writing a work in this form makes it unique. Other researchers, talking about this work, emphasize that it has no analogs in the world. The number of such works is almost insignificant. The active participation of the remarkable Turk Khalil Rza in the struggle for freedom, his appeals to his countrymen to take a direct part in the struggle for independence, and his activities in this direction are very valuable. His rich knowledge of history, his phenomenal fighting spirit, his subconscious memory of repression, and the spirit of the struggle for independence extend into his works. These qualities can be seen in his work "In Lefortovo Prison," as in all his works"* ¹⁴

¹⁴ History of the development of national independence theme in Azerbaijani literature // Сборник статей по итогам Международной научно-практической конференции, - Стерлитамак: – 30 June, – 2023.

In the literary process of the period involved in the research in the second sub-chapter entitled "**Artistic reflection of the struggle for independence in the story of Azerbaijan**", the genre of the story still attracts attention with its themes, the world of images, idea-artistic features, unlike the novel and the narrative, it shows a flexible way of thinking in setting and solving problems and ideas. Literary works of this period are important documents that reflect people's self-awareness, patriotism and spirit of resistance. In addition to experienced writers, it is possible to see preparation for the war of ideologies in the works of writers who are new to literature. S.Ahmadli's "January Stories" (1990-1991), I.Sikhli's "Murder" (1991), F.Ughurlu's "Stumps in the Road" (1991), A.Samadli's "Black Cloud", I.Afandiyev's "Death of Fugitive Suleyman "(1993), M.Vazir's "Third Anniversary" (1995), A.Rahimov's "Wolf Cub" (1996) and other stories can be considered as examples of fiction written on this topic in the first years of independence. The historical facts given in the stories of the period in question once again prove that a nation that is constantly fighting for its independence loses its freedom after being betrayed by unscrupulous people. For example, A.Samadli's story "Black Cloud" is presented to the reader against the background of historical facts, having a retrospective character. *"The enemy, being strong, is very cunning...I cannot sink the name of a nation with great Sheikh Nizami, Babak and Javanshir."*¹⁵ Far from the author's encouragement, these thoughts from Javad Khan's tongue increase the psychological tension in the reader, which prompts the reader to open a new page in the evolution of his thinking, cognition and spiritual world.

The works involved in the research show that independence, which is one of the most important issues for society and statehood and its artistic solution were tried to be revealed.

In the third sub-chapter of Chapter I, titled "**Theme of the Karabakh War in Contemporary Stories**", the Karabakh War appeared in the background of the socio-political processes taking

¹⁵ Səmədli, Ə. Hekayə // - Bakı: Azərbaycan jurnalı, - 1992. №5-6, - p.134.

place in Azerbaijan, in addition to the national independence propaganda aimed at literature. In the literary environment of the new era, the collision and intersection of great changes arising from the demand of the era is noteworthy. But the nuance that mitigates this conflict is the position of citizenship. At a time when quantity exceeds quality in literature, the subject of Karabakh has been based on the national ground since the 90s. Although the Karabakh war is not based on an ideological basis, but on a national basis, the depth of the conflict, the desire of the Armenians to wipe them off the face of the earth, having been brought up in the spirit of hatred for the Turks, has been formed as their national ideology. From this point of view, the war they waged was based on such a stupid, Nazi ideology and the transformation of the subject of the Karabakh war into an ideology creates the socio-political environment and the demands arising from it. The works created by the circumstances and the demand of the time are delivered to the reader through stories as the most flexible genre.

The everyday life and psychology of a war man in the story creation of such contemporary novelists as Elchin, Orkhan Fikratoghlu, Firuz Mustafa, Mubariz Jafarli, Elchin Huseynbeyli, Abbas Abdullah, Kamil Afsaroghlu, Nariman Abdurrahmanli, Sharif Aghayar, Azad Garadarali and others is kept in focus. Looking at the period involved in the study, we see that the theme of war in the contemporary literature was less developed in the 90s than in the 2000s.

We think that there are certain reasons why events in a war-torn country are not recorded at the time of war or just after it. Due to the prolongation of war conditions, writers tried to reflect individual moments of the war in the works created during this period. For example, E.Huseynbeyli's story "Sun gets in my eyes" attracts attention with its perfect composition and description of psychological moments. The hero of the work, the doctor suffering from an incurable disease, struggles with his illness in a different way. The hero mobilizes all his strength to fight not physical, but spiritual pains and wounds. His wish is to die in his native village under occupation. In the plot, the author presents the ethnic psychology of his people in the person of his hero. In every sample of artistic prose written at

that time, the subject of Karabakh cannot go beyond the psychological aspect. In most of the works on this topic, struggle is in the center.

The second chapter of the dissertation is called "**The Issue of Independence in Narratives**". Taking into account the requirements of the dissertation, in this chapter, an attempt was made to analyze the examples of artistic prose created in the years 1991-2011, characterizing the problematic aspect of the narrative genre. The narrative genre is developing on an upward line in the known period (1991-2011) compared to the novel genre. The ideology of independence is formed in literature, which is considered a form of social consciousness and becomes a factor of self-affirmation of the nation. The research of the chapter entitled "**The Issue of Independence in Narratives**" is carried out in two directions and named as follows.

1. Artistic expression of historical reality and historical truthfulness in an epic plan;
2. Introduction of ideas of motherland, people and national statehood in narratives.

Giving the division in this direction expands the possibilities of literature being involved in research in the context of national values. Since the written artistic examples shed light on the national, socio-political and spiritual-moral landscape of our time, it is important to turn this genre into a special object of analysis.

Since the artistic examples written in the sub-chapter "**Artistic expression of historical reality and historical truthfulness**" shed light on the socio-political-historical and spiritual-moral landscape of our time, it is necessary to turn this genre into a special object of analysis. *"...There really was a national-ethnic explosion in Azerbaijan. In this particular case, the people's struggle for independence was prepared by the great independence literature of Azerbaijan. And the artistic energy of the previous two or three decades turned into the energy of the people overflowing and roaring in the square."*¹⁶

¹⁶ Qarayev, Y. Əcdadın yaddaş harayı: Halallıq // Ədəbiyyat qəzeti. – 1997, 31 yanvar. - p.4.

In this sub-chapter, the works of A.Jafarzade, Z.Garayev, A.Nicat, M.Chamanli were included in the study and analyzed. In the current period, the writers tried to present dialogues based on real facts in order to shed some light on the hidden history, which remained in the darkness of history for many years. For example, in M.Chamanli's story "Rebellion of the Souls", he tries to reveal the details accurately and delicately, but this sometimes leads to superficiality, primitiveness and distortion. In terms of artistry, the works that attract the literary-theoretical opinion of the period, in A.Jafarzade's story "Trouble", the writer tried to express the essence and spirit of the historical events as they were. In the narrative, the author highlights the struggles of Muhammad Khudabanda's wife, Mehd-Ulya in her efforts to promote Persianization and the bitter consequences of this policy.

In A. Nicat's historical novel "Rza Khan" (2010), the story primarily centers around the lives and hardships of Azerbaijani Turks living in the south of Azerbaijan within the Iranian Empire. The writer explores the social and political reasons for the plight of the Azerbaijani people, attributing it to the weakness of their national identity and the absence of political will. So, the author vividly portrays epic descriptions of events and situations at certain points, while at other times, he expresses his thoughts on the historical and political processes of the era in a journalistic manner. Of course, this aspect somewhat compromises the literary quality of the work. However, considering the extreme relevance of the issue, it is possible to grant the author some degree of leniency in this regard.

In Z.Garayev's work "They Passed the Kura River" written on a historical theme, an artistic description of the events taking place in Azerbaijan against the historical background of the 18th century Karabakh Khanate is given. In the narrative written on the basis of facts and documents, he created images of historical figures such as Panah Khan, Chalabi Khan, Kazim Khan, Heydargulu Khan, Irakli Second and others. The main aspect that characterizes the relevance of the narrative is that it resonates with today's events.

The twenty-year history of the narratives is reviewed in the sub-chapter entitled **"Introduction of the ideas of homeland, peo-**

ple and national statehood in the narratives". In the early 1990s, works were created that shook and awakened the historical memory of the people and called them to the native land war. Among the works written in this direction, "Red Devil" by I. Malikzade, "Snowy and Bloody Carnations" by F.Goja, "Mother's Revenge" by V.Babanli, "Flag bearer" by Elchin and "White Ram, Black Ram" by Anar are of interest. For example, in the story "Red Devil" by I.Malikzade, the author expressed his inner anger, protest and dissatisfaction with the society he lived in for many years in artistic words. In the narrative, the bloody crimes committed during two sharp periods of history—the rise and fall of the Soviet empire—are similar, even though seventy years have passed. The time parallelism, similarity and repetition of events in the work call the people to national awakening. The plot of the work is based on national memory and its restoration. In 1920, the "red-horned devil", who tried to destroy the people, returned after seventy years.

Chapter III of the dissertation is entitled "**The issue of self-return and self-awareness in the novel of contemporary Azerbaijan**". In the first twenty years of independence, there are enough works calling for national awakening with issues such as homeland, people and national thought. In this chapter, taking into account the requirements set by the dissertation, several novels of the period are included in the study and divided into sub-chapters in two directions:

1. National memory, historicity and artistic imagination in contemporary Azerbaijan novels;
2. Reality and parallel history in modern Azerbaijan novels.

In the sub-chapter "**National memory, historicity and artistic imagination in contemporary Azerbaijan novels**" of the dissertation, systematic analyzes were carried out in order to clarify the general picture and the content change in the literary-cultural and ideological process in order to reveal the essence of the ethno-cultural system after independence. I.Shikhli's "My Dying World", K.Abdulla's "Incomplete Manuscript", S.Rustamkhanli's "Devotees of Difai", N.Man-zuri's "Garachukha" (guardian soul) and Y.Oguz's "Nadir Shah" are included in the analysis and are studied as a work containing a part of the people's social and political life and the struggle for independence.

From this point of view, the creativity of Ismayil Shikhli should be specially appreciated. As in the novel "Crazy Kura", in the novel "My Dying World" the main artistic quality that makes the work special is the realistic depiction of national and moral values. Against the background of intertribal hostility in the novel, the artistic embodiment of the national-patriarchal way of life and national-spiritual values takes on special significance. The artistic reflection of the national and moral values, which constitute the leitmotif of the writer's creativity and the extensive use of attributes that indicate the nation's national and moral existence are also characteristic of the novel "My Dying World". The author compares the parallel times with the method of retrospective research and describes the social and political processes as a whole against the background of the tragic fate of the two generations and in general, the most complex period in the history of Azerbaijan.

Nasir Manzuri's novel "Qarachukha" (1995) is also a very different and interesting example in terms of valuing the great historical period. In the novel, the writer conveys the national struggle of the people of southern Azerbaijan for independence to the reader with an interesting method of development, which is significantly different from the artistic development style of Azerbaijan.

An interesting plot based on various folklore examples is presented. The principles used by the author to achieve the goal seem to point right and hit left. *"Bütün bu Azərbaycan mahalında üç dənə qızlar qızı tapılıb. Üç dənə "qızlar" tapılıb. Azca dayandı genə dedi:*

Hər qıza "qızlar" deməzlərki. Bütün bu mahallarda üç dənə "qızlar" tapılıb. Üç dənə cüvanəzən, üç gəlin, üç dənə el dayağı, ürəklərə od yaxan tapılıb. Bağrı dağlanmış, al yanaqlı yaz laləsi deyim. Maral körpəsi, dağlar balası, ala gözlü dəli ceyran deyim. Bütün bu Azərbaycan mahalında üç dənə qızlar qızı tapılıb. Dördüncüsü yox..." ("Three girls were found in this entire Azerbaijan district. Three "girls" were found. He stopped a little and said: They don't call every girl "girls". Three "girls" were found in all these districts. Three brides, fire to the hearts were found. Let me say a burning spring tulip and ruddy cheeks. Baby deer, mountain baby, hazel-eyed crazy gazelle. Three girls were found in this entire district of

*Azerbaijan. No fourth... ”)*¹⁷

The maneuvers made by the author are the result of the influence of the social and political environment in which he lives. The praiseworthy girls in the author's work are actually great independence fighters and heroes in their own right. Therefore, the artist uses them symbolically in the plural. The fact that Azerbaijan is called a district, homeland rather than a country comes from the fact that southern Azerbaijan is a district of current Iran. After the division of Azerbaijan into two according to the 1828 "Turkmenchay" treaty, three major independence movements took place in southern Azerbaijan: In 1905-1911, the national liberation movement in Tabriz led by Sattarkhan ("Mashruta movement"), in 1920, the Tabriz rebellion led by Sheikh Mohammad Khiyabani. In 1945, 21 Azer movements resulted in the establishment of the National Government. In order to present the struggle of the people in the work, the writer describes it against the background of folk legends that have nothing to do with the struggle.

The problems brought by independence provided literature with new topics. *"Fiction is read more than history, so its correct and objective position is more important. The works that do not meet these requirements do not just spoil the subject, they appear as something harmful by creating a wrong attitude to the era"*.¹⁸ From this point of view, K.Abdulla's "Incomplete Manuscript" deserves special attention. He makes the events in the work somewhat comical and uses the principles of postmodernism to present many events in a comical way. The author presents the novel as a copy of an ancient manuscript found at the Institute of Manuscripts and tries to convince the reader of the story by continuing the novel in the historical vein. This was a new perspective on contemporary Azerbaijan fiction.

"Today, a return to spiritual roots is felt all over the world.

¹⁷ Əliqızı, A. Cənubi Azərbaycan ədəbiyyatı müntəxəbatı / A.Əliqızı. - Bakı: Bakı Universiteti nəşriyyatı, – 2003, – p.376

¹⁸ Kazımov, Q. Sənət düşüncələri/ - Bakı: Azərbaycan Dövlət Kitab Palatası, – 1997. – p. 68

*Everyone, regardless of their nationality, realizes that a society that is not based on moral foundations sooner or later goes bankrupt. Because they understand this, everyone tries to prevent spiritual decay and spiritual decline by studying, researching the root and applying it to life.*¹⁹ In order to know the national identity and essence, to protect and enrich the national memory, one should be informed about history. We are of the opinion that the author addresses the topic as a way to return to the roots, to awaken national consciousness.

S.Rustamkhanli's novel "Devotees of Defai" is one of the works of special importance in terms of re-remembering the historical truths and clearly drawing the path of the national struggle. The novel is about Ahmad Aghaoglu, one of the first signatories in the history of both thought and independence movement and his activities. In the novel, apart from Ahmad Aghaoglu, we see the youth silhouettes of other national socio-political opinion holders, thinking people who love their nation dearly, Ali bey Huseynzade, Alimardan bey Topchubashov, millionaire Haji Zeynalabdin Taghiyev, Mahammad Amin Rasolzade. Throughout the work, the ideologues fighting for the independence of Azerbaijan devoted an important place to the promotion of the national-spiritual treasure in order to understand this cause not only in the political framework, but also in the national-spiritual aspect.

In the novel "Angels and Devils" by A.Nijat, the struggle of good and evil is reflected in the background of the encounter between the supporters of the republic, who strive for independence and freedom, and the opponents of the republic - the Devils, putting the ideology of national independence in the foreground. Therefore, the author, by creating memorable characters such as Jafar Jabbarli, Abdulla Shaig, Uzeyir Hajibeyov, Muslim Magomayev presents to the reader the struggles and difficulties faced by educated and talented people. Considering the historical reality, the author concludes the novel with a sad ending. No matter how difficult and unbearable the

¹⁹ Əliqızı, A. Yazıçının şəxsiyyət və bədii həqiqət axtarışları, "Müasir ədəbiyyat məsələləri"/ A.Əliqızı. – Bakı: Elm və təhsil, – I book, - 2010. - p.42

situation is, as a citizen of the country, one should not give up the struggle for the independence of the motherland, the nation at the cost of their lives, the reader should not be fooled by games and be united against those who fight against the people as a whole and drag them into slavery.

In the second subsection of the third chapter entitled "**Reality and parallel history in modern Azerbaijan novels**", the themes of homeland, nation and war in the novels written in the twenty-year time period, which we have taken as a specific research object, serve to solve a problem in essence and to reveal the objection of literature against the injustice directed against the nation. The problems are refined based on the realities arising from the concrete general picture of the time, then the topics of homeland, people, war are analyzed in the context of national-moral values, ideas of national independence. The novels "Love of the Hereafter" by S.Ahmadli, "Hail" by A.Abbas and "90s" by E.Mehraliyev are analyzed.

Contrasting socio-political events experienced in the period involved in the study had their impact on literature. Withstanding these blows, time-tested masters of words created new works. In the "Karabakh Trilogy", which includes novels such as "Love of the Hereafter", "Enjoyment", "Hooray of the Life" by the writer S. Ahmadli, the issues that occupy the thinking of the society for the sake of the development and formation of the young generation are highlighted. In all three novels, he approached life, human destiny and society's problems from a different, original perspective and was able to convey the development trends of society by creating vivid life scenes using words.

The subject of Karabakh unites contemporary Azerbaijan writers from the position of active citizenship to the injustices directed against our nation. In terms of the form and structure of the problem, it has not only lost its position compared to the 1990s, but has even developed further and undergone an evolutionary process as it passes from work to work, from author to author. However, the quality is still not at the desired level. *"Our literature is still powerless not only to solve the problem of Karabakh, but also to express it, just like politics and the military. Karabakh people feel the shape, image,*

character and expression of the war in which they witnessed the catastrophes of their Karabakh fate, participated in it, tasted its pain, more prominently in world literature than in our own works. For example, in the works of Antoine de Saint-Exupéry, Lev Tolstoy, Albert Camus, Hemingway, John Steinbeck and Ivo Andrić, he knows, lives and feels the images of war more and finds commonalities and parallels with his psychological state...".²⁰

As one of the novels written about the unresolved Karabakh war at the time it was written, "Hail" by A. Abbas is a prose example of a lost war in politics. The Karabakh war was actually not based on an ideological basis, but on a national basis. This war was carried out in the form of genocide of Azerbaijan Turks by Armenians. But this anger, hatred towards the enemy cannot overcome the feeling of compassion. The cruelty and ruthlessness of the enemy is pouring down in the form of hail on innocent people.

The novel, based on historical facts, reflects the events that took place in the World's Richest City during the Karabakh War and in Azerbaijan in general. The work sheds light on two periods - the war and the real historical and political events that took place after the occupation of Aghdam. Elchin Mehraliyev, while examining the subject of war in literature, rightly said that *"War is not a national event regardless of where it takes place. It is a universal activity in all cases. The fact that the Karabakh conflict has already become a problem of the world community is related to this. This determines the new, more serious creative task of literature - the task of understanding the fair struggle of our people for Karabakh from the level of the anti-war movement of the century."*²¹

The war going on in the country is felt more in this city, in the Richest City in the World, in Karabakh in general. As if this war was not between two states, but between a province, between Karabakh and Armenia. The author used symbolic expressions and names in

²⁰ Musayeva, İ. Yeni romanlar- mənzərə, yoxsa görüntü...// - Bakı: Azərbaycan jurnalı, - 2015. №10, - p. 38.

²¹ Mehraliyev, E. Azərbaycan ədəbiyyatında Qarabağ mövzusu: ideya və sənətkarlıq məsələləri (monograph) / E.Mehraliyev. - Bakı: - 2008. - p.210

accordance with his purpose to make the work impressive and touching. The author's dictation can be heard from every image in the work, from his thoughts, from the position he presents. In general, when looking at the literary sphere of the period, the novel is considered the best among the works written on the subject of the Karabakh war.

Another work that reflects the landscape of the era is the novel "90s" by Elchin Mehraliyev. In the novel, the events and stories that took place in the 90s of the last century, during the most heated times of the conflict, became the object of description. The work, which arouses interest in the artistic reflection of the socio-political landscape of the time, consists of realistic descriptions of the unfolding socio-political events and the heated periods of the war. In the work, which has a deep socio-political essence, the turbulent and painful days of the republic in the hot periods of the conflict against the background of the tragedy of a family have found their artistic solution.

The image of Gamza Abbas, the white-haired mother who urges to fight with her death, is one of the fully elaborated images in the work. As Husnubanu and Zarish, teacher Matlab, who tries to teach history to his students as well as fellow villagers, represent the people in general. With their death, they cause Umid to live and save the people. Here, Umid is symbol of the hope of the people, the Motherland.

We are of the opinion that the war and its serious consequences brought up in the works are not only for one period, but due to the relevance of the destructive traces of the war in all periods.

As a result, the main provisions and scientific theoretical **conclusions** obtained by concluding the research are summarized:

- In Modern Azerbaijan prose created in 1991-2011, the issue of national independence is developing on an upward line. The mentioned time period is characterized as a period of new observations and searches for Azerbaijan literature, quantitative and qualitative changes, turning to history, national-spiritual roots. In the true sense of the word, freedom of speech and thought was created during this period. Literature begins to use these opportunities as much as possible. However, the opportunities created

brought successes to literature as well as shortcomings. The story of Azerbaijan, which emerged during the years of independence, first and adequately reflected the landscape of the time. In the works included in the study, independence, which is one of the most important issues for society and statehood, and its artistic solution were tried to be solved;

- In the period covered by the study, the topic of independence is the only topic that unites most writers and wordsmiths of the time. The subject of Karabakh unites all representatives of our literature from the position of active citizenship to the injustices directed against our nation. In terms of form and structure, the topic does not lose its position, but develops, as it moves from work to work, from author to author, compared to the 90s. In the narrative creations of S.Ahmadli, Anar, Elchin, O.Fikratoghlu, F.Mustafa, E.Huseynbeyli, A.Abdulla, M.Vazir and others, the life of a war man and how the truth of war turns into artistic truth in general are focused on. In contemporary literature, the theme of war was less developed in the 90s than in the 2000s. There are many reasons why events in a war-torn country are not recorded during the war. Thus, the artists who watched the events through the eyes of the writer were perhaps waiting for the final result. However, they could not remain indifferent to the events after seeing the prolongation of the war and its futility. In the works they created, they tried to reflect the individual moments of the war;
- We see the story of contemporary Azerbaijan as the most flexible genre that gives an artistic reflection of the struggle for independence. In order to determine the level of recognition of the ideas of national independence in contemporary literature, it is necessary to clarify the specific conditions and characteristics of the period. Investigating the roots of attachment to the national democratic spirit and the ideology of independence, the newly emerging literary examples should be analyzed and their importance should be determined. Even in the Soviet era, Azerbaijan's progress towards independence was reflected in literary and artistic examples. The message of the new era that was emerging in the future was clearly reflected. In the later period, the literary generation directly ac-

- tively participates in the struggle for independence;
- From the first years of independence, the national spirit and national color began to be felt in every example. The motives of national self-awareness, patriotism and faith in the future occupy a large place in many examples of narratives created in these years. Although the creative styles, philosophical and socio-political views of the creative generation were different, they ultimately served one purpose: to achieve the formation of democratic, national-social consciousness;
 - After Azerbaijan signed the act of independence, finding its own artistic solution of democratic processes in our literature has become a necessity in the literary process. Since the possibilities of the novel genre were wider, it illuminated the social and political problems of the time in more detail. The common theme of most of these works is freedom and the Karabakh war. Among the themes of the novels written in the 90s, the artistic reflection of war and national patriotism prevails. The simultaneous coverage of the issue of national liberation and Karabakh is related to the arrival of both problems in our history at the same time. The events that took place in the same period of time: the January 20 tragedy caused by the Soviet troops, the lands occupied by Armenia and the persistent struggle of our people for freedom and independence resulted in the parallel processing of both war and freedom issues;
 - Looking at the history, culture and values of the people from the level of the requirements of the modern era, turning our national spirituality from this aspect into an object of artistic research is one of the important tasks of contemporary Azerbaijan literature. In terms of studying the centuries-old spiritual and moral qualities of the people, their way of life and household, their traditions, their struggle against foreign invaders and their literary and cultural progress in different periods, the merits of artistic works written on historical subjects are not few. Unlike the examples of world literature, Azerbaijan literature plays the role of a strong ideological and moral force in the 21st century on the way to awakening the national consciousness of the people, to freedom and independence.

The list of scientific works related to the content of the dissertation work:

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