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ABSTRACT

of the dissertation for the degree of Doctor of Philosophy

CHARACTER OF SHAH ISMAIL IN AZERBAIJAN AND TURKISH HISTORICAL NOVELS

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INTRODUCTION

The actuality of the subject and research degree. The leader of the Azerbaijani Safavid state, a prominent statesman, an invincible commander, and a powerful poet, Shah Ismail Khatai has secured an everlasting place in the spiritual and intellectual history of our nation as a literary and historical figure. Despite more than 500 years having passed since his time, interest in this great personality's life and activities continues to be relevant today and remains the subject of numerous works.

The study of Shah Ismail's life path is of great importance, first of all, from the point of view of the study of the Safavid era of Azerbaijani history. In this context, the study of Khatai's life and activities, leveraging the opportunities afforded by independence, is of significant relevance not only from a historical perspective but also from a literary and artistic standpoint. The examination of this issue is particularly important in light of the unique contributions of historical novels dedicated to Shah Ismail Khatai in Azerbaijani and Turkish literature. Notably, works by Azerbaijani historical novelists such as Aziza Jafarzade's "Baku-1501" (1981), Farman Karimzade's "The Khudafarin Bridge" (1982) and "The Battle of Chaldiran" (1987), and Alisa Nijat's "The Qizilbash" (1982) present varied portrayals of Shah Ismail. Similarly, Turkish literature offers distinct perspectives through Reha Chamuroghlu's "Ismail" (2001), Iskender Palan's "Shah and Sultan" (2010), and Reha Bilge's "1514 Yavuz Sultan and Shah Ismail" (2010). These works provide both comparable and contrasting interpretations, raising essential questions regarding the nature of the representations—whether they are objective or subjective, and whether they depict realistic or fantastical elements. This necessity for comparative analysis underscores the importance of revealing the underlying truths about this historical figure.

The study of Azerbaijani historical novels began in the 1930s. A significant number of articles were written about the works produced during this period. Among the numerous scholarly contributions that brought historical novels into focus, it is important to highlight that the first substantial articles on this topic were Mehdi Huseyn's "On

Azerbaijani Novels” (1954) and Mammad Arif’s “Azerbaijani Soviet Novels” (1957). These foundational works played a crucial role in shaping the discourse around Azerbaijani historical literature and laid the groundwork for subsequent research in this field. In addition to these studies, notable monographs such as Seyfulla Asadullayev’s “Notes on the Novel”¹, Gulu Khalilov’s “The History of the Development of Azerbaijani Novels”², Yavuz Akhundov’s “Azerbaijani Soviet Historical Novel”³, Himalay Qasimov’s “Modern Azerbaijani Novel: Poetics and Typology of the genre”⁴ and “Development problems of the Azerbaijani novel”⁵, Tayyar Salamoglu’s “Azerbaijani Novels of the 1980s: Evolution of the Genre”⁶, Salida Sharifova’s “Genre Changes in the Novel: A Communicative-Sociocognitive Approach”⁷, as well as the third volume of the three-volume “History of Azerbaijan Literature”⁸ and the two-volume “History of Azerbaijan Soviet Literature”, theoretical investigations and studies encompassing various aspects of 20th-century Azerbaijani literature, Nargiz Pashayeva’s “Human as an Object of Artistic Inquiry”⁹, Isa Habibbeyli’s “Literary Personality and Time”¹⁰, Tehran Alishanoglu’s “Poetics of 20th Century Azerbaijani Prose”¹¹, Badrikhan Ahmedov’s “20th Century

¹ Асадуллаев, С. Заметки о романе. – Б.: Гянджлик, – 1970, – 156 с.

² Xəlilov, Q. Azərbaycan romanının inkişaf tarixindən. – Bakı: Elm, – 1973.

³ Axundov, Y. Azərbaycan sovet tarixi romanı. – Bakı: Yazıçı, – 1979, – 550 s.

⁴ Qasimov, H. Müasir Azərbaycan romanı: janrın poetikası və tipologiyası / H.Qasimov, elmi redaktor: A.H.Nacıyev. – Bakı: ADPU, – 1994. – 148s.

⁵ Ənvəroğlu (Qasimov), H. Azərbaycan romanının inkişaf problemləri //H. Ənvəroğlu. – Bakı: Nurlan, – 2008, – 336 s.

⁶ Salamoğlu, T. 80-ci illər Azərbaycan romanı: janr təkamülü (monoqrafiya). Ən yeni Azərbaycan ədəbiyyatı məsələləri / T.Salamoğlu. – Bakı: Səda, – 2012. – 480 s.

⁷ Шарифова, С. Жанровое смешение в романе: коммуникативно-социокогнитивный подход // С.Шарифова. – М.: Независимое литературное агентство Московский парнас, –2011, – 400 с.

⁸ Azərbaycan ədəbiyyatı tarixi. III cild, – Bakı: Elm, – c.3. – 2020, – 1090 s.

⁹ Paşayeva, N. İnsan bədii tədqiq obyektı kimi / N.Paşayeva. – Bakı: “XXI” - Yeni. Nəşrlər Evi, – 2003. – 256 s.

¹⁰ Həbibbəyli, İ. Ədəbi şəxsiyyət və zaman. – Bakı: Elm və təhsil, – 2017, –1068 s.

¹¹ Əlişanoğlu, T. XX əsr Azərbaycan nəsrinin poetikası // T. Əlişanoğlu. – Bakı: Elm, – 2006. – 312 s.

Azerbaijani Literature: Phases, Directions, and Issues”¹², and Elchin’s “What did socialist realism give us?”¹³ have extensively examined the novels written during the 1930s to 1950s. In this phase of the century, the research dedicated to the analytical analysis of the works of writers such as Suleyman Rahimov, Yusif Vazir Chamanzaminli, Mammad Said Ordubadi, Mir Jalal, Abdulhasan, and Mehdi Huseyn occupies a special place among these studies.

The study of historical novels holds significant importance in Azerbaijani literary criticism, just as Turkish historical novels have become a focal point for both Azerbaijani and Turkish researchers. Works such as H.Argunshah’s “Historical novel in Turkish Literature”¹⁴, I.T.Kirilmish’s “Historical novels in Turkish literature” (Related to Turkish History, 1961-1965)¹⁵, and R.Topdemir’s “Historical novels in Turkish literature” (Related to Turkish History, 1971-1980)¹⁶, engage with the examination of historical novels.

In V.Quliyev’s “Our Prose and History”¹⁷, V.Yusifli’s “Prose: Conflicts, Characters”¹⁸, B.Nabiyev’s “The Novel and the Modern Hero”¹⁹, A.Huseynov’s “Prose: A Literary Review of 1982”²⁰, Y.Akhundov’s “History and the Novel”²¹, G.Babayeva’s “The Creative Path of Farman Karimzade”²², T.Salamoghlu’s “Issues in

¹² Əhmədov, B. XX yüzil Azərbaycan ədəbiyyatı: mərhələləri və problemləri // B. Əhmədov. – Bakı: Elm və təhsil, – 2015, – 554 s.

¹³ Elçin. Sosrealizm bizə nə verdi? // Elçin. – Bakı: Mütərcim, – 2010, – 76 s.

¹⁴ Argunşah, H. Türk Edebiyatında Tarihî Roman / Marmara Üniversitesi Sosyal Elmler İnstitutu, Yayınlanmamış Doktorluq Dissertasiyası / – İstanbul, – 1990. – 432 s.

¹⁵ Kırılmış, İ.T. Türk Edebiyatında Tarihi Romanlar (Türk Tarihi ile İlgili, 1961-1965). – İstanbul: İstanbul Üniversitesi, Doktora Tezi, – 2007. – 1135 s.

¹⁶ Topdemir, R. Türk Edebiyatında Tarihi romanlar (Türk Tarihi ile İlgili, 1971- 1980). – İstanbul: İstanbul Üniversitesi, Doktora Tezi, – 2005, – 765 s.

¹⁷ Quliyev, V. Nəsrimiz və tariximiz // – Bakı: Azərbaycan, – 1984. № 4, – s. 164-175 s.

¹⁸ Yusifli, V. Nəsr: konfliktlər, xarakterlər / V.Yusifli. – Bakı: Yazıçı, – 1986, – 166 s.

¹⁹ Nəbiyev, B. Roman və müasir qəhrəman / B.Nəbiyev. – Bakı: Yazıçı, – 1987, – 195 s.

²⁰ Hüseynov, A. Nəsr (82-ci ilin ədəbi icmalı // Ədəbi proses-81-82. – Bakı: Elm, – 1987, – s. 217.

²¹ Axundlu, Y. Tarix və roman (məqalələr toplusu) / Y.Axundlu. – Bakı: Yazıçı, – 1988. – 192 s.

²² Babayeva, G. “Fərman Kərimzadənin yaradıcılıq yolu”. – Bakı: – 2004, – 144 s.

Contemporary Azerbaijani Literature”²³, E.Rasulov’s “A War Without a Victor: The Battle of Chaldiran”²⁴, S.Aliyeva’s “The Image of Shah Ismail Khatai in I.Pala’s Works”²⁵, “Azerbaijan in I.Pala’s Works”²⁶, “Historicity and Modernity in Contemporary Turkish Prose” (Based on Iskender Pala’s Novels), and Deger Murat Tunjaroghlu’s “The Genre of Historical Novel in Turkish and Azerbaijani Literature” (Based on the Works of Samiha Ayverdi and Aziza Jafarzade) and other studies, the social and political activities of Shah Ismail Khatai and his struggle for statehood are examined from various perspectives. In this regard, the reciprocal analysis of the representation of Shah Ismail in works that depict his life and era in both countries is a significant issue that draws attention. Additionally, the examination and systematization of the attitudes of both Turkish states toward Shah Ismail, as reflected in these works, underscores the relevance of this dissertation.

Object and Subject of the Research: The object of the research is the life and work of Shah Ismail Khatai, the founder of the Azerbaijani Safavid state, a prominent statesman, a powerful ruler, and a poet. The study focuses on historical novels that depict his life, creative endeavors, social and political activities, and struggles for statehood through extensive epic portrayals.

The dissertation examines historical novels written in connection with the life, environment, and era of Shah Ismail Khatai, beginning from the establishment of the Safavid state. Thus, the object of the research comprises historical novels from Azerbaijan and Türkiye. Specifically, it analyzes works dedicated to Shah Ismail

²³ Salamoğlu, T. *Ən yeni Azərbaycan ədəbiyyatı məsələləri. Monoqrafiya və ədəbi tənqidi məqalələr* / T.Salamoğlu. – Bakı: “E. L.” NPŞ MMC, III nəşr. –2012. – 480 s.

²⁴ Rəsulov, Ə. “Qalibi olmayan müharibə: Çaldıran savaşı” // 525-ci qəzet. – 15 iyun 2012-ci il, – s.15-28.

²⁵ Əliyeva, S. “İ.Pala yaradıcılığında Şah İsmayıl Xətai obrazı” (AMEA akademik Z.Bünyadov adına Şərqşünaslıq İnstitutu, Şərq araşdırmaları. – Bakı: – 2019, №1, – s.120-123.

²⁶ Əliyeva, S. “İ.Pala yaradıcılığında Azərbaycan” (İsmayıl Şıxlı yaradıcılığına həsr olunmuş “Filologiyanın aktual problemləri” mövzusunda beynəlxalq konfrans// – Bakı: – 2019, – s. 201-204.

by Azerbaijani authors such as Aziza Jafarzade, Farman Karimzade, and Alisa Nicat, as well as Turkish authors like Iskender Pala, Reha Chamuroghlu and Reha Bilgen.

The subject of the research encompasses numerous studies that detail the life of Shah Ismail Khatai, his environment, ideological struggles and conflicts, as well as the historical processes involved in the establishment of the Safavid state and its transformation into a powerful authority.

Research goals and objectives: The main goal of the dissertation is to find out from what position and how the image of Shah Ismayil Khatai was created in the historical novels of Azerbaijan and Türkiye, as well as to investigate the issues of the socio-political, literary and cultural activities of this historical figure, the struggles he carried out to build the Safavid Azerbaijan state. In order to achieve the set goal, an attempt was made to fulfill the following tasks:

- To follow the formation and development stages of the historical novel genre consistently and systematically, to determine the place of novels dedicated to Shah Ismayil Khatai in this sphere;

- To find out the similar and different aspects of the historical view of Shah Ismayil Khatai in the literature of Azerbaijan and Türkiye;

- To study the general state of relations between Azerbaijan and Turkic states during the reign of Shah Ismayil Khatai;

- To identify the reasons for the occurrence of the Battle of Chaldiran and the primary objectives of the imperialist powers that incited the two Turkish rulers to engage in war;

- To analyze Shah Ismail Khatai's activities in the development of the contractual and legal foundations of Azerbaijan's relations with Türkiye;

- To determine the characteristic features and distinctive traits of the representation of Shah Ismail in Alisa Nicat's "The Qizilbash", Aziza Jafarzade's "Baku-1501", Farman Karimzade's "The Khudafarin Bridge", and "The Battle of Chaldiran".

- To investigate the representation of Shah Ismail in Iskender Pala's "Shah and Sultan" and Reha Chamuroghlu's "Ismail" in terms of abstraction and historical reality, and to clarify the true

facts;

- To shed light on the artistic reflection of the Battle of Chaldiran in Reha Bilgen's "1514: Sultan Yavuz and Shah Ismail", uncovering the underlying realities;

- To clarify the issue of the equivalence of historical authenticity and artistic truth in these novels, based on factual materials, and how they reflect reality.

- To clarify, through scientific analysis, the issues of preserving the principles of historicity and modernity in novels dedicated to Shah Ismail in Azerbaijani and Turkish literature;

- To elucidate the role of Shah Ismail Khatai in the development of diplomatic and political relations between the two countries;

- To identify historical contributions of Shah Ismail Khatai to the advancement of commercial-economic, scientific-technical, literary-cultural, and humanitarian cooperation between Azerbaijan and Türkiye.

Research Methods. In the dissertation, the investigation and analysis of literary, artistic, and historical materials, as well as archival documents related to the topic, employed historical-chronological, analytical-typological, historical-comparative, and ideological-artistic analysis methods. The principles of historicity and contemporaneity, as well as time and space, were adhered to throughout the process. Additionally, substantial materials and facts relevant to the problem were collected and systematized, leading to comparative analyses, interpretations, and scientifically generalized conclusions. The principle of historicity, which reveals objective scientific truths, was consistently observed during the research. The typological-comparative analysis method was prioritized, and both deductive and inductive methods were used in the analysis of facts.

The main provisions of the defence. The main provisions of the defence are as follows:

- The role and place of Shah Ismail Khatai in the socio-political and literary-cultural life of the Azerbaijani people.

- The importance of the historical novel in terms of studying historical events;

- Historical novels written in Azerbaijan during the USSR were written according to the wishes of the regime;

- The importance of the works of both Turkish and Azerbaijani writers in terms of obtaining information about Shah Ismail's life and the history of Shah Ismail's era;

- The viewpoints of Turkish writers in historical novels are different from those of Azerbaijani writers;

- Finding the differences between Türkiye and Azerbaijan's attitudes towards the character of Shah Ismail.

The scientific innovation of the dissertation. In the dissertation, all scientific issues addressed have been investigated with reference to primary sources, with factual materials and archival documents being prioritized. Specifically, the following scholarly tasks have been undertaken in the course of this research:

- The development stages of the historical novel genre were investigated, and various facts related to the historical novel were determined;

- The ideological pressures and influences of the colonial regime on historical novels emerging in Azerbaijani literature during the Soviet period have been analyzed from various perspectives.

- The issue of the writer's freedom and autonomy in the portrayal of historical figures in novels written during the years of independence has been addressed.

- Historical novels reflecting Shah Ismail Khatai's socio-political and literary activities have been examined, with a comprehensive analysis of his representations as a leader, ruler, invincible commander, and sensitive poet.

- The similarities and differences in the characteristics of historical novels in Turkish and Azerbaijani literature have been explored, leading to objective conclusions based on these comparisons.

- The approach to common historical figures in historical novels written in the literature of Türkiye and Azerbaijan has been refined;

- Historical novels related to Shah Ismail Khatai in Turkish literature have been analyzed through comparisons and parallels,

clarifying the differing attitudes toward the Safavid ruler.

- The causes of the Battle of Chaldiran have been elucidated, and the influence of European states and foreign imperialist forces on the occurrence of this conflict has been identified.

- Articles, books, research works, and archival materials related to these historical novels have been collected, reviewed, and referenced.

- The perspectives of Azerbaijani and Turkish researchers, literary critics, and historians regarding historical novels written in both countries have been clarified, analyzed, and convincing conclusions have been drawn.

- The representation of Shah Ismail in Azerbaijani and Turkish historical novels has been compared, revealing complex and contradictory aspects, while attitudes toward positive and negative trends have been articulated.

- The dissertation references existing scientific and theoretical perspectives in both Azerbaijani and Turkish literary studies, analyzing the results of research conducted at various stages and in different directions.

Theoretical and practical significance of the research.

Given its scientific-theoretical, historical, and practical significance, the main provisions and results of the dissertation can be used in the writing of relevant sections of Azerbaijani and Turkish literature. Additionally, it may serve as a reference in dissertations and monographs concerning the emergence, formation, and development of the historical novel genre in the 20th and 21st centuries.

At the same time, the findings can be applied in the writing of generalized works, textbooks, and teaching materials dedicated to Azerbaijani history, general history, and the history of international relations. They may also be relevant in scientific-pedagogical activities, including the lectures and seminars in the faculties of higher education institutions at the bachelor's and master's degrees. Furthermore, these findings can contribute to the activities of state, government, and public organizations involved in the development of Azerbaijan's relations with Turkic states and in promoting the foreign policy activities of the Azerbaijani government.

Approbation and application of the dissertation. The main provisions and results of the research have been published in scientific journals recommended by the Supreme Attestation Commission under the President of the Republic of Azerbaijan, as well as in prestigious foreign journals, including international scientific databases, international conferences and symposiums.

Name of the organization where the dissertation work is carried out: The dissertation work has been performed in the “Literature of the Turkic peoples” department of the Institute of Literature named after Nizami Ganjavi of ANAS, it was completed following the research direction of the department.

Structure of the dissertation. The dissertation consists of an introduction (18.952), three chapters (the first chapter - 82.224 the second chapter - 51.382, the third chapter - 79.392), a conclusion (12.841) and a list of used literature.

The total volume of the dissertation consists of 244.797 characters.

MAIN CONTENT OF THE WORK

The relevance and degree of development of the topic are discussed, its goals and objectives, research methods are defined, main provisions for the defence are indicated, the scientific novelty, the theoretical and practical significance of the dissertation are substantiated in the “**Introduction**”.

The first chapter of the dissertation titled “**The Historical Novel Genre: Formation and Evolution Process**” consists of two paragraphs:

- 1.1. Stages of Development of the historical novel genre
- 1.2. Perspectives on the artistic representation of historical figures

The chapter entitled “**Development stages of the historical novel genre**” elaborates the historical novel genre.

The history of every nation embodies the path of heroism and struggle it has traversed, preserving its millennia-old national and ethnic identity, ensuring its continuity, and serving as an interpreter

of its life journey. Writers turn to history to highlight significant social, political, and societal issues of their time, utilizing it as a backdrop to convey their goals and aspirations to the people while seeking solutions to these challenges.

According to Yavuz Akhundlu, “*there is no unified opinion about the historical novel*”.²⁷ The concept of “historical novel” is one of the controversial issues in literary studies. The debates on what the main aesthetic principles of the historical novel are and which works should be included in this genre, etc., the clash of different points of view continues even now.

A. I. Pautkin described the historical novel in his book “Soviet Historical Novel” published in 1970: “Historical novel is to describe the past in a historical sequence... The requirement of the genre is to be based on historical documents, to reflect historical events and people in terms of modern requirements”.²⁸

If this issue is considered in Türkiye, we will see that there is no common thought. The thoughts of writers such as Taner Timur, Mustafa Nihat Ozon, Sadık Tural are constantly repeated in this matter. So, if we gather the discussions of historical novels under several headings:

“a) *The reason for the emergence of the historical novel and the nationalism that gives direction to the historical novel, etc. ideologies,*

b) *Research aimed at defining the historical novel,*

c) *Discussions about historical novel writers,*

d) *Lives and works of historical novelists,*

e) *It can be classified in the form of historical and novel relations*²⁹.

In the historical novels written about Shah Ismail, it is possible to get information about the environment where Shah Ismail grew

²⁷ Axundlu, Y. Tarix Roman və Müasirlik / Y. Axundlu. – Bakı: Azərbaycan SSR EA Mətbəəsi. – 1975. – s. 16.

²⁸ Пауткин, А.Н. Советский исторический роман / А.Н. Пауткин. ИАД. «Знание». – 1970, – 111 s.

²⁹ Uygun, İ. Cumhuriyet Dönemi Tarihi Romanları 1923-1946: “Eski” Kahramanların Yeni Söylemleri / İ. Uygun. – Ankara: – 2014. – s. 160.

up, his interests, his relationships with the people around him, Shah Ismail's emotions, state management and political steps taken. A peculiarity of the novels written on this topic is that their authors present the stories and historical events to the readers in a high-quality manner of expression. Under the following heading, it is considered necessary to conduct a study related to Shah Ismail Khatai and the Safavids, focusing on the life and political activities of Shah Ismail.

In the second paragraph of this chapter, titled **“Perspectives on the artistic representation of historical figures”**, the depiction of Shah Ismail's artistic image in the works discussed is examined. Among the historical novels written in the 1980s, it is noteworthy to mention works such as Isa Huseynov's “Mahshar”, Aziza Jafarzadeh's “Return to the Homeland”, “I Have a Voice in the World”, “Remember Me”, “Baku 1501”, Jalal Bergushad's “The Drawn Sword”, Chingiz Huseynov's “Fathali's Conquest”, “Doctor N”, Alisa Nijat's “The Qizilbash”, “Life Turned into Song”, Mahmud Ismayilov's “Khagani”, “White woolen cloak”, Elchin's “Mahmud and Maryam”, Farman Karimzadeh's “Snowy Pass”, “The Khudafarin Bridge”, “Battle of Chaldiran”, “Honor of Tabriz”, “Death of the Old Eagle”, Yunis Oghuz's “Nadir Shah”, “Tahmasib”, “Amir Timur”, and Elchin Huseynbeyli's “Shah Abbas”, as well as Farman Eyvazli's “Gachaq Karam” Qaçaq Kərəm. In these novels, vivid portrayals are created of prominent figures and thinkers such as Imadeddin Nesimi, Seyid Azim Shirvani, Abbas Sahhat, Mirza Fatali Akhundov, Nariman Narimanov, Mirza Shafi Vazeh, and Afzaladdin Khagani, as well as national heroes and statesmen like Babek, Amir Timur, Shah Ismail Khatai, Chingiz Khan, Panah Khan, Haji Chelebi, Ziyad Khan, Abbasqulu bek Shadlinsky, Shah Abbas, and the Gachaq Karam. The complex and contradictory aspects of their characters are illuminated throughout these works.

The historical contributions of Shah Ismail to the establishment, formation, and transformation of the Safavid state into a significant, influential, and stable power are highly regarded in Azerbaijani literature. These themes are extensively reflected in

works such as Alisa Nijat's "The Qizilbash", Aziza Jafarzadeh's "Baku 1501", and Farman Karimzadeh's duology "The Khudafarin Bridge" and "Battle of Chaldiran".

The critic Vilayet Guliyev provides a comprehensive analysis of Shah Ismail's character in Alisa Nijat's novel "The Qizilbash" stating: "...Alisa Nijat does not separate the poet Khatai from the statesman Khatai; rather, to present his image in a more complete manner, he has embodied the paradoxical elements of his biography and personal life in a unified portrayal"³⁰.

Unlike the novels of Alisa Nijat and Farman Karimzadeh, Aziza Jafarzadeh's work has not been highly regarded by literary criticism and literary studies. Vilayet Guliyev expresses a definitive opinion about the work, stating: "A. Jafarzadeh's novel "Baku-1501" does not meet the serious demands placed on historical prose"³¹. The ideological and artistic features of the work, as well as the characteristic traits and distinctive aspects of the figure of Shah Ismail, have been discussed as being distorted from their originality, according to thoughts and opinions expressed by Akif Huseynov, Yavuz Akhundov, Gulu Khalilov, Vilayet Guliyev, and Nadir Jabbarov. Unlike Gulu Khalilov, who expresses a critical stance towards Aziza Jafarzadeh's novel, he presents a different attitude towards Farman Karimzadeh's "The Khudafarin Bridge" and its hero, asserting that Farman Karimzadeh has successfully created the figure of Shah Ismail in this novel. Vilayet Guliyev's views also align with those of Gulu Khalilov. He approaches Aziza Jafarzadeh's work from a critical perspective while positively evaluating Farman Karimzadeh's novels, noting that "in Farman Karimzadeh's "The Khudafarin Bridge", a clearer and more concrete attitude to history is felt"³².

Tayyar Salamoghlu, in contrast to "The Khudafarin Bridge", categorizes the novel "Battle of Chaldiran" as a "a novel of tale" rather than an "a novel of event". He states: "The novel "Battle of Chaldiran" is an artistic expression of the writer's conception related to

³⁰ Quliyev, V. Nəsrimiz və tariximiz // – Bakı: Azərbaycan, – 1984. № 4, – s. 167.

³¹ Quliyev, V. Nəsrimiz və tariximiz // – Bakı: Azərbaycan, – 1984. № 4, – s. 165.

³² Quliyev, V. Nəsrimiz və tariximiz // – Bakı: Azərbaycan, – 1984. № 4, – s. 167.

the true character of a ruler. The ideological and aesthetic value of the novel is determined by the artistic interpretation of the problems between the ruler and the people, as well as the ruler and the state. The entire system of characters in the work, the nature of the events brought to the center of the depiction, and the decisive factor in the movement of the plot are all related to this problem. The central figure of the novel - Shah Ismail - draws strength from the author's artistic intentions in terms of action, thought, and character³³.

Shah Ismail has remained a significant figure in Azerbaijani history for his contributions to the development of the Azerbaijani language and literature. During his reign, the Azerbaijani language served not only as a means of communication but also held political significance. The Azerbaijani Turkish language had already undergone considerable development prior to Shah Ismail. In his era, the role of this language in the life of society and the state, its status, and its level of development are among the aspects that define Shah Ismail's character. The level of development and usage of the Azerbaijani language may also be significant for determining the origins of the Safavid state. Furthermore, Shah Ismail played a distinctive role in the advancement of Azerbaijani literature. Understanding this role, how Azerbaijani literature developed in the context of Shah Ismail's persona, clarifying the diversity of its form and content, and examining how this literature is connected to the life of the people and Azerbaijan's literary traditions could yield interesting insights into the study of Shah Ismail's history.

The provisions of this chapter have been summarized and published in various scientific journals³⁴.

The second chapter of the dissertation named **“The image of Shah Ismail in historical novels of Azerbaijan”** consists of three paragraphs:

2.1. Shah Ismail as a warrior character in Aziza Jafarzadeh's novel

³³ Salamoğlu, T. *Ön yeni Azərbaycan ədəbiyyatı məsələləri. Monoqrafiya və ədəbi tənqidi məqalələr* / T.Salamoğlu. – Bakı: “E. L.” NPŞ MMC, III nəşr. –2012. – 480 s.

³⁴ Meydan Y. *Tarixi Roman Anlayışı // “Azərbaycan Respublikasında kitabxana-informasiya fəaliyyətinin inkişaf meyilləri”* adlı Respublika Elmi Konfransı, – Bakı: – 2021, – s. 83-85.

“Baku-1501”;

2.2. Characteristics of the development of the character of Shah Ismail at the level of Farman Karimzadeh’s novels named “The Khudafarin Bridge” and “The Battle of Chaldiran”;

2.3. Shah Ismail as the head of the Qizilbash in novel called “The Qizilbash” by Alisa Nijat;

2.4. A postmodernist view of the character of Shah Ismail in Kamal Abdulla’s “Incomplete Manuscript” novel.

In the first paragraph named **“Shah Ismail as a warrior character in Aziza Jafarzadeh’s novel “Baku-1501” the character of Shah Ismail Khatai is developed in a comparative manner.** According to Akif Huseynov, *“the main events in the work, as the author noted, revolve around four main images - Bibikhanim-Sultankhanim, Aytekin, dervish Ibrahim and Shah Ismail”*³⁵. The writer concentrates his attention on them, conveys the essence of his work to us by focusing on those images, following their life paths and destinies. In the novel, Shah Ismail stands out as the leading hero, the idea is mainly visualized in his face.

The novel “Baku-1501” consists of three parts. The first part, titled “Baku-1501”, depicts Ismail’s arrival in Baku and his conquest of Baku as well as the entire Shirvan region. This arrival is based on his desire to avenge his family. At the same time, we can see that the historical facts given in the research work about the life of Shah Ismail are included in the work. Thus, the reason for Shah Ismail’s march to the country of Shirvan is clearly shown in the work as a sense of revenge. This can be considered one of the important points that reveal the connection of the historical novel with history.

In the second part of the novel, called “The Bloody World”, Shah Ismail is described as a powerful ruler who has already conquered many countries. The ruler’s love for poetry and art and his young wife Tajli Khanum’s indifference to this matter, palace life, and other events are reflected here. *“In the work, Alavi dervishes and their meetings become the subject of artistic research, Shah Ismail and the Qizilbash*

³⁵Hüseynov, A. Nəsimiz və Keçmişimiz // – Bakı: Tənqid və Ədəbiyyatşünaslıq jurnalı, – 1982. №10.

movement in general are justified as sources of ideas”³⁶. The third part, “The Poet’s Heart of the Ruler”, sheds more light on his relationship with Sultan Selim and his spiritual qualities. In the novel, Shah Ismail is shown as the founder of the state of Azerbaijan. Its negative and positive aspects are written down.

One of the most remarkable features of the novel is the author’s impartiality, as he does not exhibit any bias.

When examining the character of Shah Ismail in the work, it becomes apparent that a figure is described through historical facts. The novel clearly illustrates how the difficulties and moral blows Ismail experienced during his childhood influenced his psychology. He emerges before us as both a ruler capable of fighting and shedding blood to achieve his goals and a sensitive soul as a poet. However, this portrayal does not idealize Ismail’s inner world; it also reveals the existence of certain contradictions in his character.

This characteristic can also be observed in his interactions with various figures in the narrative. On one hand, he engages sincerely and amicably with those around him, while on the other, he remains unwavering in his struggles to establish a unified and powerful Azerbaijani state, refusing to make any concessions in pursuit of his objectives. These traits highlight Ismail as a smart and thoughtful politician.

Two historical novels of Farman Karimzade are detailed in the paragraph **“Characteristics of the development of the character of Shah Ismail at the level of Farman Karimzade’s novels “Khudafarin’s Bridge” and “The Battle of Chaldiran”** of the second chapter.

“The Khudafarin Bridge”, named after the Khudafarin Bridge built between Azerbaijan and Iran in the 11th-13th centuries on the Araz River, describes the historical events that took place at the end of the 15th - beginning of the 16th centuries, the childhood and youth years of Shah Ismail Khatai, his struggle for power and his multi-directional activities. The novel also describes the historical circumstances in which Shah Ismail Khatai grew up as a poet, general and statesman,

³⁶ Əliyeva, A. Əzizə Cəfərzadənin bədii yaradıcılığı / A. Əliyeva. – 2005, – s. 72.

and created memorable images of historical figures such as Uzun Hasan, Sara Khatun, Husein Lala Bey and Abih Sultan. The admirable point of the work is that the dialogues of the persons whose names we see in history are perfectly captured and can take the reader on a journey along the paths of history.

Through his expansive imagination and rich artistic creativity, the author has artistically embodied Shah Ismail's actions and ideals, utilizing various literary maneuvers to penetrate the complexities and contradictions both in that era and in the hero's character, thereby achieving a comprehensive portrayal. "The author simultaneously endeavors to keep the characteristic traits and fate of this historical figure in the spotlight from his early years, attempting to center the interpretation of events around him"³⁷. The subsequent plot in the novel develops around events occurring during the final years of Uzun Hasan's reign. All of this stems from the artistic interpretation of the unified Azerbaijani state idea presented in the novel. The author illustrates that "even in the past, Shah Ismail's father, Sheikh Heydar, reflected the need to put an end to the wars and the arbitrariness of feudal lords throughout Azerbaijan, south of Derbent, and to create a centralized and powerful state"³⁸.

The plot of the novel primarily revolves around Shah Ismail's campaign in Shirvan and the conquest of Baku. A key feature that distinguishes this work from other historical novels is the vivid portrayal of dialogues between historical figures.

Another novel, "Battle of Chaldiran", was published in 1988. Shah Ismail, who has just entered the political arena, the intense struggles for a united and powerful Azerbaijan, the care of a smart statesman for the development of culture and art, and the medieval lifestyle of our people are the main themes of the novel.

The writer sees Shah Ismail as the creator of a single state of Azerbaijan. In addition to reviving the current political conditions by

³⁷ Mustafayeva, N. Fərman Kərimzadənin "Xudafərin Körpüsü" əsərində Şah İsmayıl Xətai obrazının bədii əksi // Şah İsmayıl Xətəinin qılıncı və qələmi mövzusunda respublika elmi konfransı, – Bakı, – 2017, 23 Noyabr. – s.99-101

³⁸ Axundlu, Y. Azərbaycan Tarixi Romanı: Mərhələlər, Problemlər (1930-2000) / Y. Axundlu. – Bakı: Adiloğlu, – 2005. – 550 s.

referring to the times before Shah Ismail came to power, he succeeds in creating a certain idea in the reader about the main aspects of the religious ideology referred to by the Safavids. The exposition of the novel begins with the artistic description of such necessary historical events.

The author reveals *Shah Ismail's deep psychological world with natural colours in this novel called "The Khudafarin Bridge"*³⁹. In particular, in order to show the hero's attachment to the tribe and the spirit of the people, he uses the historical sources, as well as the folk tales about Shah Ismail, his own poems, as well as the folk tale about Ashiq Gurbani. Shah Ismail is always in thoughts. People's concern and homeland are mixed with his personal grief. Even on the wedding day, when everyone is happy, under the influence of wonderful folk music, the king recalls some bitter memories of his turbulent life.

In Farman Karimzadeh's novel "The Khudaferin Bridge", the artistic character of Shah Ismail is created with a high level of artistry. Similarly, in the novel "Battle of Chaldiran", the literary activity of Shah Ismail Khatai is portrayed, encompassing his worldview as a poet and his knowledge as a theologian. Rich artistic tools take the reader 500 years into the past, entering the atmosphere of the described era. A symbolic connection of social events is created with beautiful nature paintings, a thousand colors of admiration.

The plot line of the novel "The Qizilbash", which Alisa Nijat started writing in 1959, is detailed in the paragraph called **"Shah Ismail as the head of the Qizilbash in novel called "The Qizilbash" by Alisa Nijat"**.

The novel begins with the battle of Aghgoyunlu Baisungur and Rustam Mirza near Barda in 1494 and the killing of Baysungur, the heroism and bravery of Shah Ismail's elder brother Sultanali's gilded squad in this battle.

In Alisa Nijat's novel "The Qizilbash", Shah Ismail is characterized as a ruler who fights for the unity of the homeland and

³⁹ Axundlu, Y. Azərbaycan Tarixi Romanı: Mərhələlər, Problemlər (1930-2000) / Y. Axundlu. – Bakı: Adiloğlu. – 2005, – s. 270.

the people, fights for his convictions and actions, expresses the will of the masses of the people, and wins their love. Thus, the author highlights the life and struggle of his hero.

In the novel, against the backdrop of alternating events and stories, Shah Ismail's character of struggle is revealed in all its fullness. The writer, on the one hand, referring to historical facts and sources, on the other hand, relying on the power of artistic imagination, tried to create his personality.

It should be emphasized here that Alisa Bey wrote the first novel about the Qizilbash (1959). This first still remains the most valuable of all the novels of the Qizilbash. From the point of view of the analysis of the novel, it is possible to rank the factors that make the writer valuable as follows:

1. The work is historically significant and highly valuable. (Thus, the writer uses historical information in a very fluid way and has created a work that can provide readers with information, without dark moments);

2. The peculiarities of historical identities are shown very well (In other words, it is not difficult to understand the negative and positive aspects and thoughts of each historical hero while reading the historical novel. When talking about the battle of Chaldiran, the sound of Azan is heard at the same time and the Azan sound of both sides is heard at the same time. The writer who describes his mixing with artistic creativity, in fact, does not bring religion to the fore. The real purpose here is to express that the warring kings are from the same religion and the same blood);

3. Arbitrariness is not allowed, as in some novels full of nonsense about the Qizilbash (As mentioned before, it is possible to understand that the author has deep historical information while reading the work. However, the author does not burden his readers with too much historical information. The novel creates a harmony between historical authenticity and artistic expression. This makes the work even more is also the aspect that makes it readable);

4. It is written in a clear, understandable language (although the author includes historical information as mentioned above, the language of the novel is fluid and simple. Heavy terms and

incomprehensible words are not included, and difficult academic language is not used. The novel is written in a style that harmonizes history and literature. Not only Shah Ismail, but the Qizilbash in general, and the history of the Qizilbash in a simple language has taken place in this novel).

The last paragraph of the second chapter is called **“A postmodernist view of the character of Shah Ismail in Kamal Abdulla’s “Incomplete Manuscript” novel”**. Unlike his predecessors, the writer in the novel “Incomplete Manuscript” brought together the past and the present. Thus, Shah Ismail Khatai, who lived in the 16th century, is seen through the eyes of the author living in the 21st century. The character of Shah Ismail in this work is different from the character of Shah Ismail in earlier novels.

In general, when looking at the image of Shah Ismail in the historical novels of Azerbaijan, although it seems that attention is paid to the preservation of objectivity, it is also possible to observe cases of partiality and exaggerated depictions of Shah Ismail’s positive aspects.

The statements reflecting the main conclusions of the second chapter have been inversed in the articles published in the scientific press⁴⁰.

The third chapter of the dissertation: **“The image of Shah Ismail in the level of historical novels of Türkiye”** consists of two paragraphs:

3.1. Shah Ismail in the historical novels “Shah and Sultan” by Iskender Pala and “Ismail” by Reha Chamuroghlu – the context of abstract and historical reality;

3.2. “Battle of Chaldiran in the work by “Reha Bilge “1514.

⁴⁰ Meydan, Y. Azərbaycan tarixi romanlarında Şah İsmayıl obrazı // – Bakı: Nizami adına Ədəbiyyat İnstitutunun əsərləri, – 2017. XXIX cild. – s. 99-103; Fərman Kərimzadənin “Xudafərin körpüsü” və “Çaldıran döyüşü” romanlarında Şah İsmayıl xarakteri // – Bakı: Kitabşünaslıq və redaktor sənəti, -2021, №1, – s. 5-11; Azərbaycan Tarihi romanlarından Azize Caferzadənin “Bakı-1501” romanında Şah İsmail xarakteri // - Turan Strateji Araşdırmalar Merkezi, – 2021. №49, – s.30-38; Əzizə Cəfərzadənin “Bakı-1501” romanında Şah İsmayıl obrazı // “Türk dillərinin və ədəbiyyatının tədqiqi və tədrisinin aktual problemləri” beynəlxalq elmi konfransı, – Sumqayıt, – 2021, – s.396-398.

Yavuz Sultan and Shah Ismail”.

In the paragraph titled Shah Ismail in the historical novels “Shah and Sultan” (2010) by Iskender Pala and “Ismail” (2001) by Reha Chamuroghlu – in the context of abstract and historical reality” it is evaluated how Shah Ismail Khatai is described as a heroic character.

In Iskender Pala’s works, the historical past of the Azerbaijani people, along with the lives and socio-political activities of prominent figures, holds a special place. The author’s works dedicated to the history of the Safavids focus on the historical phases of this dynasty, the statehood of rulers such as Shah Ismail and Shah Tahmasib, their relations with Türkiye, and other significant issues. This aims to shed light on these historical processes for contemporary Turkish readers.

In his novel “Shah and Sultan” Iskender Pala shows the relations and conflicts between the Ottoman and Safavid empires, revealing the tragic consequences that arose from the different sectarian beliefs of two Turkish states that were, in essence, friends and brothers. While the primary aim of the novel is to provide contemporary readers with insights into the tumultuous lives of historical figures who spent their lives in struggle, the author also seeks to convey his ideological perspectives on these significant historical personalities, particularly the lives and socio-political activities of Shah Ismail and Yavuz Sultan Selim.

In the novel, the author deeply examines the era of Sultan Selim and his interactions with the Safavid ruler Shah Ismail, captivating the reader with his insights. Another distinctive feature of the work is its narrative style, presented through the perspectives of two different individuals. Iskender Pala employs this technique to objectively depict the viewpoints of both sides. Thus, part of the novel is narrated by Kamber Jan, who is close to Shah Ismail, while the other part is narrated by Jan Huseyn, a supporter of Yavuz Sultan Selim.

According to the novel, there are some reasons for the conflict between Shah Ismail and Sultan Selim. So, both rulers are in love with Tajli Hatun. According to the long correspondence between the parties,

both rulers intend to be the head of the Turkish people and have no intention of understanding each other in this regard. It is interesting that the competition between both rulers is so strong that they strive to prove which ruler is the greatest poet. In fact, both are quite capable and both are representatives of the same culture. But unfortunately, when interests collide, wars break out.

In the work, the writer seeks to highlight the fact that Alevism and Sunnism created discrimination as a factor that leads to the disputes, struggles and wars between the two rulers. Therefore, Iskender Pala gives a wide place to these issues in the novel. In the novel “Shah and Sultan”, the ending of the two Turkic states leading to bloody wars evokes bitter regret.

Reha Chamuroghlu’s novel called “Ismail”, known for her identity as a historian and her research on Alavism, takes the reader on a journey to the world of the fifteenth century. This novel describes the life of Shah Ismail, the transformation of a sect into a state, and the bloody process. Reha Chamuroghlu’s first novel Ismail focuses on three main points:

- The first is that Islam, which avoids any political power and establishes a throne in hearts, which causes these persecutions, is alienated from its essence when it is a state with a heterodox understanding.

- Secondly, the Ottoman Empire, which accepted the Safavid state, which made up most of its social base and especially its armed force, as a kind of treason by the Anatolian Turkmens, took revenge from the Shiites in a bloody way and caused the Alevi-Sunni conflict in Anatolia.

- Thirdly, the Safavids also isolated the Shia Turkmen who opposed the Sunni Sharia beliefs accepted by the Ottoman Empire.

Reha Chamuroghlu’s novel is an important and necessary work for understanding Anatolian Alevism. It successfully explains the transformation of the Safavid order over time, the clash between the Turkmen’s interpretation of Alevism and the rigid jurisprudence of the Qom clerics, particularly during the Safavid transition from a religious order to a state. Ismail, his grandfather, and his father all fight for the same cause: to throw away the cloaks and handstick and take up sword.

Ultimately, they succeed and secure their place in history as the last great glimmer of nomadic civilization.

In the paragraph entitled **“The Battle of Chaldiran in the work by “Reha Bilge “1514. Yavuz Sultan and Shah Ismail”** of the third chapter, we can analyze the novel under four main headings: 1) before Chaldiran; 2) Chaldiran, a brotherly battle; 3) the causes and consequences of Chaldiran; 4) Turkmen, Turks and Persians.

The Safavid state, which was founded in 1501 by Shah Ismail, left deep traces in the region and ruled over the lands of Iran, Iraq, Azerbaijan, Armenia, Afghanistan, Turkmenistan and Southeast Anatolia during the two and a half centuries of its existence. While they were influenced by the synthesis of Ottoman and Persian culture, the Safavids in the Persian-dominated Iranian geography were more attached to the Turkish language and culture than the Ottomans. Shah Ismail paid attention to using the Turkish language in his poems as well as using the Uyghur alphabet.

Selim, who eliminated not only his brothers, whom he saw as rivals in the throne struggle, but also his cousins in Bursa, turned his face to the East and South. The first target is Shah Ismail.

It is an understatement to see the causes of the war in sectarian differences alone. The battle that took place in 1514 was the result of a huge political and economic struggle. So, on one side there is the existing empire, on the other hand, the determination to build a religious state and empire. As a result, there is a political struggle.

The most important result of Chaldiran is that it provided a great political unity that continued to exist from Imperial Türkiye to Republic Türkiye. With the Battle of Chaldiran, the leadership struggle of the Ottomans over the Muslim geography is quickly completed. The Battle of Chaldiran was nothing more than a victory for Western countries. Not repeating the mistakes our ancestors made in the past should be the best diplomatic move. Therefore, it would be a significant mistake to be faced with a choice between Shah Ismail and Sultan Selim in both politics and literary creation, allowing for biased opinions. Thus, we must accept our history, with all its flaws and merits, and be careful not to repeat the mistakes of the past.

The main scientific results and propositions obtained in this

chapter of the research work are reflected in the following articles⁴¹.

In the **Conclusion** part of the dissertation the scientific-theoretical conclusions obtained from the research carried out during the study are summarized as follows:

- The historical novel genre in Azerbaijani literature has undergone significant development, enriched in recent decades with new themes, issues, and artistic qualities. During the Soviet era, important events and prominent historical figures from phases of our history that were prohibited from being discussed were brought to the forefront in the years of independence. This aspect has been reflected in various ways in the research and monographs written about historical novels, providing scientific and theoretical interpretations.

- The artistic portrayal of Shah Ismail Khatai in Aziza Jafarzadeh's "Baku-1501", Farman Karimzadeh's "The Khudaferin Bridge" and "Battle of Chaldiran" depicts him as the founder of the Azerbaijani Safavid state, an astute and wise politician, an invincible commander, and a powerful, talented poet. He is even elevated to the status of an ideal ruler, being referred to as "master of the time" and "complete guide" (F.Karimzadeh).

- In Azerbaijani historical novels, Shah Ismail is portrayed as a ruler who grew up in a socio-political environment from a young age, displaying maturity beyond his years. He receives wise counsel from the prudent figures of the Safavid dynasty and gains substantial experience in the arena of political struggles, ultimately ascending to the throne. He is depicted as a great conqueror and an invincible

⁴¹ Meydan, Y. Türk tarixi romanlarında Şah İsmayıl obrazı // – Bakı: Filologiya və sənətsünaslıq jurnalı, – 2020. №2, – s. 192-197; Feridun Fazıl Tülbentçinin "Şah İsmail" əsərində Şah İsmayıl obrazının təhlili // – Bakı: Filologiya məsələləri jurnalı, – 2021. №4, – s. 274-282; Türk tarix romanlarında Şah İsmayıl karakteri // – Eskişehir: Motif uluslararası genç halkbilimciler ve türk dünyası kongresi bildiri tam metinleri kitabı, – 2019. – s. 876-886; Türkiyə tarixi romanlarından Reha Çamuroğlunun "İsmail" romanında Şah İsmayıl xarakteri // – Bakı: Filologiya və sənətsünaslıq jurnalı, – 2021. №1, – s.146-153; Meydan, Y. Türk tarix romanlarında Şah İsmail karakteri: İskender Pala // – Antalya: II. Uluslararası Yörük yaşamı, kültürü ve türk sanatları sempozyumu, – 2019. – s. 390-396; Meydan, Y. Türk tarix romanlarında Şah İsmail xarakteri // -Ankara: Kültür Evreni dergisi, – 2021. №42, – s. 90-105.

personality with formidable military capabilities, continuously achieving victory after victory.

- Shah Ismail used the Shia sect for political purposes to realize his ideas, successfully expanding his following and laying the foundation for a great state. Shia beliefs and the ideology of Qizilbash played a significant role in the establishment of the Safavid state and in shaping Shah Ismail's identity. When examining the Qizilbash ideology, we see a confluence of respect for the past, unity, loyalty, and symbols of strength. As a result, those united under this ideology were able to protect themselves from external pressures, invasions, and dangers, contributing to state-building efforts. Alisa Nijat's novel "The Qizilbash" extensively addresses these issues. Thus, this historical novel is not only valuable for revealing the distinctive features of Shah Ismail's character but also for understanding the true essence of the Qizilbash ideology.

- Based on these novels, it is possible to assess the exceptional significance of Shah Ismail's movement, his military and political activities, and the role of the Safavid state's military affairs in shaping Azerbaijan's military history. These works provide insights into the influence and impact of these historical events on the broader context of the region's history and identity.

- Shah Ismail Khatai is portrayed in Azerbaijani history as a ruler who elevated the Azerbaijani language to the status of a state language, preserving its purity and integrity while also transforming it into a medium for politics and diplomacy. He is depicted as a passionate advocate for national values and as a talented poet, deeply connected to Azerbaijani folk literature, contributing to the development of bayati forms and syllable-verse poetry drawn from its rich folklore.

- Unlike Turkish novelists, Azerbaijani writers characterized Shah Ismail's provision for the development of the Azerbaijani language and expansion of its level of use as one of the main factors in determining the fact that the origin of the Safavid state was not related to Iran, but to Azerbaijan.

- In each of the novels, the authors successfully highlight Khatai's socio-political activities alongside his poetic nature, his admirable human qualities, and his profound spiritual depth.

Occasionally, the duality and contradictions within the personality of the ruler Khatai and the poet Khatai become apparent; the contrast between the poet's spirit and the ruler's position is highlighted within various event contexts. Nevertheless, in all instances, there is a strong inclination in the historical hero's nature to seek solutions in the given situation and to constantly strive for moral perfection.

- In Aziza Jafarzadeh's novel "Baku-1501", Shah Ismail's character is depicted through four dimensions: as a commander, shah, sheikh, and poet. The author focuses on these aspects, conveying the essence of the work by following their life paths and destinies. Shah Ismail emerges as the main hero, and the main ideas are embodied in his character. However, the other three figures are also interpreted as key carriers of the narrative's themes. More specifically, the author attempts to represent Shah Ismail as a complex, contradictory character, and through his portrayal, the life truths, thoughts, and fates of these figures are tested and enriched with new emphasis and strength, encapsulating broader meanings and intentions.

- In the epilogue of the novel "Baku-1501", when examining the section written on behalf of Shah Ismail, he is portrayed as a figure who acknowledges his mistakes but refuses to accept his defeat against Sultan Selim, labeling it an unfortunate failure that tarnishes his name and reputation. The scenes depicting Ismail listening to the opinions of the dignitaries around him and those attempting to sway his decisions reveal moments where he self-accuses and admits to the mistakes that led to his defeat by Sultan Selim. This presentation of the ruler's character shows a comprehensive portrayal of Ismail. The author regretfully presents to readers how Ismail, by occasionally heeding incorrect advice, finds himself defeated. In other words, within the novel, Ismail emerges as a character who has been defeated due to his misjudgment of the advice given to him.

- Farman Karimzadeh effectively presents the historical role of individuals who fought for great ideals and endured significant struggles in the establishment of the Safavid state of Azerbaijan, ensuring the longevity of their rule through wise and intelligent politics. He succeeds in addressing the interplay between personality and time against the backdrop of real realities. The writer provides

comprehensive information about the environment that raised Shah Ismail Khatai and the key figures involved. Historical personalities such as Uzun Hasan, Sara Khatun, Sheikh Heydar, Alemshahbeyim, and Sultan Yaqub are precisely positioned within this context, with their characters, socio-political activities, and relationships to their era presented in a seamless integration of historical truth and artistic representation.

- In Azerbaijani historical novels, there is often a tendency to justify Shah Ismail as a ruler who sometimes makes contradictory or drastic decisions to maintain his power. However, this perspective is not found in Reha Chamuroghlu's "Ismail" (2001), Iskender Pala's "Shah ve Sultan" (2010), and Reha Bilge's "1514 Yavuz Sultan and Shah Ismail" (2010). In these works, all three Turkish writers characterize Shah Ismail as a figure who artificially exploits the Sunni-Shia divide among his co-religionists of the same sect, fostering discord and division. This portrayal emphasizes his role in creating conflict rather than presenting him as a ruler who navigates challenges for the sake of stability or unity.

- In the historical novels of Reha Chamuroghlu, Iskender Pala, and Reha Bilge, Shah Ismail is presented as the instigator of the Battle of Chaldiran and depicted as a negatively characterized ruler. While the Turkish authors strive to maintain objectivity in portraying his individual traits, the presence of justifications for Sultan Selim's actions draws attention. This duality in characterization highlights the complexities of historical representation, where Shah Ismail's actions are framed within a context that often emphasizes conflict and division.

- Research suggests that the true instigator of the Battle of Chaldiran was not Shah Ismail Khatai, as portrayed by Turkish writers. Instead, it was the European monarchs and political powers, unable to accept the existence of two major Turkish states - the Safavid Empire of Azerbaijan and the Ottoman Empire - who sowed discord between them and incited war to further their own nefarious agendas. Consequently, the Ottoman-Safavid wars, which resulted in fratricide, weakened the social, economic, political, and cultural strength of both states.

- In the theoretical frameworks and historical sources that

Iskender Pala draws upon, a prevailing notion has emerged across history of Europe, the East, and Türkiye: that the Safavid rulers were leaders of a state belonging to Iran, implying that the Safavid state was Iranian rather than Azerbaijani. This misconception has found its way into literature, permeating historical novels and creating confusion within literary scholarship and critical discourse.

- The main reason Turkish writers came to this conclusion is that a significant portion of the Safavid state and its capitals were located within the territories of Iran. Unfortunately, this misconception persists to this day. As a result of this lack of objectivity, many historians, scholars, and writers portray Shah Ismail and other Safavid rulers as leaders of an Iranian state rather than an Azerbaijani one. Iskender Pala is among those who perpetuate this viewpoint.

- In the works of Farman Karimzadeh, Aziza Jafarzadeh, and Alisa Nijat, historical facts and realities are more prevalent. This characteristic is similarly observed in the writings of Turkish novelists such as Reha Chamuroghlu, Iskender Pala, and Reha Bilge. In this regard, benefiting from factual materials and archival documents can be considered as a reflection of the shared traits and common values of writers from both Azerbaijan and Türkiye.

- In Farman Karimzadeh's duology "The Khudaferin Bridge" and "Battle of Chaldiran", the childhood and adolescence of Shah Ismail are vividly depicted through realistic and convincing imagery of his struggles for power. In both novels, Shah Ismail's character is comprehensively portrayed, highlighting his profound convictions and principles. His struggle for statehood is presented in chronological order and with high artistic mastership.

The main content of the dissertation is reflected in the following published works- articles and conference proceedings:

1. Meydan, Y. Azərbaycan tarixi romanlarında Şah İsmayıl obrazı // Bakı: Nizami adına Ədəbiyyat İnstitutunun əsərləri, – 2017. XXIX cild – s. 99-103.
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