

REPUBLIC OF AZERBAIJAN

On the rights of the manuscript

ABSTRACT

of the dissertation for the degree of Doctor of Philosophy

**MEANS OF EXPRESSION OF THE PAST IN THE
NARRATIVE STRUCTURE OF MODERN ENGLISH
LITERARY TEXTS**

Speciality: 5708.01 – Germanic languages

Field of science: Philology

Applicant: **Yegana Khaleddin Isgenderova**

Baku – 2025

The dissertation work was performed at the Department of Translation and Philology of Azerbaijan University.

Scientific supervisor: Doctor of Philological Sciences, Professor
Azad Yahya Mammadov

Official opponents: Doctor of Philological Sciences, Professor
Farman Husan Zeynalov

Doctor of Philological Sciences,
Associate Professor
Lala Gadir Gurbanova

Doctor of Philosophy on Philology
Khayala Ramiz Ahmadova

Dissertation council ED 2.12 of Supreme Attestation Commission under the President of the Republic of Azerbaijan operating at Azerbaijan University of Languages.

Deputy Chairman of the Dissertation council: Doctor of Philological Sciences,
Associate Professor
Sevinj Saday Zeynalova

Scientific secretary of the Dissertation council: Doctor of Philosophy on Philology,
Associate Professor
Irada Nadir Sardarova

Chairman of the scientific seminar: Doctor of Philological Sciences,
Professor
Fakhraddin Yadigar Veysalli



GENERAL DESCRIPTION OF THE RESEARCH

Relevance and degree of investigation of the research. A literary text is different from other texts in the development of unique compositions, plot lines, events and the complexity of these events. That is why literary text always attracts the attention of researchers.

Different texts are products of different individual thinking and they differ in content and form. All of the author's thoughts are formed and realized within the literary text, creating opportunities for readers to think and make conclusions about it. In other words, all the analyses carried out by the reader originate from the literary text itself. A literary text is the point of reference for an author, any linguist, literary critic, or philosopher. In addition to other features when evaluating the literary text, the researcher's ability to both sensitivity and individual approach is important. The analysis of the literary text is significantly dependent on the investigator from which prism is approaching the text, literary purpose and integration.

Text is an object of literary analysis and assessment. The criterion for evaluating a text is an indicator of not only the scientific potential, literary taste and level, and worldview of its author, but also of the researcher.

One of the main characteristics of a literary text is related to narration, which stems from its presentation by someone. Studies have shown that the literary text is mainly presented with the author's speech, and these texts are dedicated to the events in the past. However, this does not mean that the events described or delivered to the reader are only given by the author's speech. In a number of works, events are spoken and narrated in the language of one of the characters or an outsider. Although sometimes there is such a narrator, in some cases the author also joins in the narration. In this case, the narrative becomes a complex structure. The above requires studying the general mechanism and system of narration in a literary text, and determining the speech forms and types of such texts is emphasized.

The text is considered an object of linguistic analysis and literary evaluation. The mechanism of text organization has aroused

interest among world and Russian linguists, therefore, V. Matezius, F. Danes, Y. Firbas, A. Weil, I. Vardul, M. Gukhman, R. Khaverd, V. Dressler, R. Hliteraryman, N. Isenberg, G. Weinrich, G. Lapteva, I. Kovtunova, T. Nikolaeva, K. Krushelnitskaya, I. Raspopov, V. Panfilov and many others have conducted research on this topic. M. A. K. Halliday and R. Hasan have very successfully systematized the means of cohesion in the text based on English-language materials. I. R. Galperin and others have conducted research in this area using Russian-language materials. In Azerbaijani linguistics, A.Khalilov, A.Javadov, K.Abdullayev, K.Narimanoglu, A.Abdullayev, F.Alizadeh, N.Novruzova, N.Mammadli, N.Hajiyeva, A.Alekperova, V.Ibishova and others have followed the process of text formation at various levels and considered its structural, semantic and grammatical aspects, including its being a larger complex language and speech unit. Azerbaijani linguists have also had very valuable scientific results in the aspect of discourse and text. In this regard, we should highly appreciate the activities of K.M.Abdullayev, F.Y.Veysalli, A.Y.Mammadov, M.Y.Mammadov and others. As a form of specific speech, narrative itself is based on special principles. The narrative provides events in terms of space, time and literary participants. Such presentation of language material creates different speech situations.

The second unique aspect of the literary text is that the events have more past and in the speech of the transport, in general, as a rule, more than the means of expression of the past. This also requires the study of literary and its organizers. The literary time structure is not just the past time. Although the narrator or narrative takes the reader to the past, development of events is directed from present of the past to the future. This aspect is the specific aspect of the literary text, and in this regard, the transitions to the literary past, literary present this regard, attract attention. The past is not only in the speech of the narrator or the author, it excludes in the characters' speeches. The issues were not studied so far in Azerbaijani linguistics. In research work dedicated to the analysis of text lingualism and discourse, it is only from the issues that are commonly encountered in the structure of literary in general, and in

the structure of literary.

The presentation of the former time in English-speaking exercise and the investigation of the forms of expression is also important. Of course, the means of expression of the past in the language are not acute differences. However, it is also interested in the fully organized by the fully formed a unit, and the specific sequence in the transportation of incidents is also interested in determining time reconciliation. It is known that human activity is closely linked to the real time. There is nothing in life that can happen from time to time and space. Speaking in linguistic studies of recent years, the research of his thoughts and opinions is in the spotlight. The absence of a single time concept in modern linguistics is one of the following features of the subject.

The object and subject of research. The subject of the study is the means of expression used in English-language literary texts of the past tense. These means of expression are divided into several groups: lexical, syntactic, morphological and specific. These means of expression will be selected from various works. The object of the study is the structure and content of the literary past tense.

Purpose and tasks of the research. To clarify the main content and structural features of the past tense in a literary text, to study the means of expression of the past tense in narrative speech in English. To achieve this goal, the following tasks are intended:

- Determination of the speech structure of a literary text;
- Determination of the forms and types of narrative speech;
- Comparative study of the author's speech, character's speech and narrator's speech in English;
- Study of real and fictional time;
- Determination of the components of fictional time in this language;
- Determination of the place of the past tense in fictional time;
- Comprehensive study of the means of expression of the past tense in a literary text in English;
- Clarification of the features of past tense changes in fictional time and revealing the forms of its manifestation in an English-language text.

Research methods. During the research work, written literary texts covering various periods of modern English literary language, historical sources, especially the works of 20th century writers, and scientific journals were used. Linguistic description, discourse analysis, and contextual analysis methods were used in the study of the work.

The main provisions presented for the defense:

- The main speech forms of a literary text are the author's speech, the character's speech and the narrator. Thus, in research on the text, issues such as the specific features of the narrative and the principles of the transition from the narrative to the character's speech arise.

- The temporal structure of an English-language literary text is systematized on a conceptual, real and literary basis. The temporal mechanism plays an important role in literary time. And from this point of view, the past tense mechanism, which is considered an important time in English narrative, and the analysis of temporal leaps in narrative are appropriate.

- When we say explication of the past tense in literary time, we mean lexical, morphological, syntactic means of expression that are time indicators in a literary text. Of course, the study of the means of expression of the past tense in narrative and character's speech is one of the main issues.

Scientific novelty of the research. For the first time in Azerbaijani linguistics, narrative speech in a literary text and the means of expressing the past tense in this speech are studied in a complex way on the basis of English language materials. The expression of literary time and real time in language has been studied for the first time in our linguistics on the basis of English-language literary works. The semantic problems of expressing the past tense in a literary text will also be the object of research for the first time in Azerbaijani linguistics.

The working hypotheses of the study are as follows:

- The literary text is narrated, the narrator is the author, character or a third person chosen by the author;

- The study of English-language texts shows that the literary

tense is past-oriented, since events are narrated, they mainly occur in the past;

- The past tense structure of the literary text finds expression mainly through grammatical means of the past tense;

- The expression of the past tense in a literary text may have different aspects in content and semantic terms.

The material of the study will be the literary works of English writers.

Theoretical and practical significance of the research. The dissertation is of theoretical and practical importance for the study of the English language and its use in various aspects. The results of the research can be used in the study of literary texts. At the same time, it can be used in the study of problems related to this topic.

Since the research conducted and the results obtained are of important nature, it is advisable to use the premises and conclusions in the teaching of subjects related to the English language.

Approbation and application. The main content of the presented research work has been reflected in articles published in various scientific journals. Reports on the research work and its results have been made at both international and republican scientific conferences and seminars. Published articles and theses fully cover the content of the dissertation. Articles and theses of the author on the topic have been published in Azerbaijan and abroad.

The title of the institution where the research was carried out. The dissertation was completed at the Department of Translation and Philology of Azerbaijan University.

The total volume of dissertation, including symbol indicators of the structural sections of the dissertation separately. The dissertation consists of an introduction, three chapters, a conclusion, a list of used literature. The introduction literary of the dissertation consists of 7 pages, 12640 characters, the first chapter 31 pages, 61344 characters, the second chapter 23 pages, 45835 characters, the third chapter 45 pages, 86150 characters, conclusion 2 pages, 2932 characters. The total volume of the dissertation, excluding the list of used literature, is 208901 characters.

MAIN CONTENT OF THE RESEARCH

Chapter I of the dissertation discusses the narrative structure of a literary text, Chapter II discusses the role of the past tense in the narrative structure of an English-language literary text, and Chapter III discusses the linguistic explication of the past tense in the narrative structure of an English-language literary text.

The first chapter of the dissertation is called “**The narrative structure of a literary text**” and consists of three paragraphs. The first section of this chapter provides information about “*The forms of speech (author's speech, character's speech, narrator) in a literary text*”.

Language (speech) is a means of communication and information transmission between people. More precisely, the leading task of speech is the transmission and reception of information by creating an exchange of information. Along with all this, speech also has the function of recording and storing information. Since the 19th century, linguists have been trying to distinguish language and speech from each other in their research. In their opinion, language was a social creation, while speech was an individual one. It is impossible not to mention the well-known German scientist Wilhelm Humboldt, who was the first to speak out in favor of differentiating language and speech. “*He saw the spirit of the people in language, and individuality in speech. He distinguished theoretical and social reasons in the diachronic separation of language and speech.*”¹ Along with these ideas, it is worth noting some points that in the research of V. Humboldt this conflict was not fully and completely revealed. V. Humboldt, who saw the spirit of the people in language and different meanings in speech, did not sharply contrast them. Using various means of language, the process of realizing speech is carried out.

Two mutually related aspects of speech activity of the same phenomenon are language and speech. In addition to manifesting language, speech also forms and develops it. That is, language that is

¹ Abdulla, K.M. Qeyri-səlis məntiq və dil – nitq / K.Abdulla, R.Əliyev. – Bakı: Sim-Sim, – 2024. – s.66

in action and also fulfills its function is a speech act. The realization of language during a certain communication, the transmission and acquisition of information is speech. If we consider language as a means of communication, we must know speech as communication itself. The similarities and differences of language and speech were first explained in detail in the work of the famous Swiss linguist F. de Saussure in his work *“General Course in Linguistics”*. He put forward the idea that *“language is the grammatical system and vocabulary, that is, language units, and speech is the use of these units for the purpose of communication,”*² and considered language and speech to be two different phenomena. F. de Saussure used the methodology of dichotomy separating language units belonging to the people from speech units belonging to the individual, thus gaining the opportunity to consider the language layer and the speech layer as different, but certainly interconnected systems and structures. There are a number of parameters that characterize speech. One of the factors reflecting the clarity of speech is its understanding by the addressee without any difficulty. Speech can be specific in time, active, unstructured and spontaneous. Tempo, continuity, timbre, loudness, articulation (the work done by the members of the speech to produce a certain sound), accuracy, emphasis are the characteristics that characterize speech and do not depend on the language. For example, standard English or modern Azerbaijani literary language (far from dialects, slang, slang words, etc.) has become everyone's common speech. Now the question of "what can be said and how?" has become very relevant. Today it is very important for us to learn how to accurately express our thoughts (actively using the vocabulary of the language) while maintaining the purity of the language and to follow it in practice. The existing difference between language and speech was put forward by the prominent linguist F. de Saussure at the beginning of the 20th century.

It should be noted that F. de Saussure also put forward other dichotomy (logical division) related to the linguistic space. Synchronous and diachronic linguistics, dichotomy between signifier

² Соссюр, Ф. Курс общей лингвистике / Ф. Соссюр. – Москва, – 1933. – с.67

and signified, and other dualistic juxtapositions have enabled linguists, as well as philosophers, psychologists, and sociologists, to gain a deeper understanding of the nature of language and speech. It should be noted that the dualism (dichotomy) put forward by F. de Saussure, which is considered the most important and significant in the field of linguistics, is considered to be the dualism of language and speech. F. de Saussure and W. Humboldt were appreciated at the beginning of the 20th century, in the Soviet linguistic school. Of course, one should not forget the influence of European linguistics here. Saussure's hypotheses on language-speech relations have become the alphabet of the course "General Linguistics" and can currently be considered a fundamental source of linguistics. For example, some exceptions to the law of harmony, which has become an iron law in Azerbaijani, as well as in Turkish, (lightning, mirage, etc.) occurred in the speech process. Never can individual speech affect the language to such an extent and take it out of the norm, ensuring that this contradiction becomes the norm again. Speech can only be individualized in the process of instant manifestation. Speech as a whole is a product of the collective and serves it. If speech were completely individual in nature, it could not affect the language, change its system and structure, and create a norm. It is precisely the existence of the norm in the form of a system that is the result of speech activity. In this research work, we will not discuss language separately or separately from speech. We will simply focus on their specific statuses. Of course, when talking about language, we should consider speech, and when talking about speech, language. Because in any case, if we use the language of F. de Saussure, the main source when comparing them will be the unity of "language + speech" (speech activity). Written speech mainly uses the means of expression of language, such as accent, epithet, inversion, ellipsis, anaphora, rhetorical question, etc. Written speech, on the other hand, coincides with the periods after the emergence of writing. The stage of the emergence of written speech did not occur simultaneously in all places with different human societies. As human society developed, the need to record certain information and events arose. Writing also has an ancient history and it had a period before the

alphabet. We come across the concept of a literary text that generalizes both written and oral speech and is the result. Literary speech is not isolated from literary language, colloquial language, in the broad sense of the word, from the universal language; it is a capacious, polished, newly developed branch, an effective field of it. Therefore, all words used in the universal language, which seem very flexible and very functional in lively speech, pass into literary language and cannot easily, find a place for themselves in a work of literary.

From this perspective, the analysis of literary texts and the identification of their stylistic features always attract attention with its relevance in linguistics.

The second paragraph of the first chapter of the dissertation discusses *“The specific features of narration”*.

Each text is a perfect formation. Many points, methods and tools are considered important for its creation. The study of these tools necessitates research and analysis on the language of literary texts. Rhetoric and philology sciences have an exceptional role in the creation of text theory. Regarding the characteristics of rhetorical speech, Adil Babayev writes, *“Just as speech itself is created entirely on the basis of language, eloquent speech (rhetoric) is also created on the basis of language norms. No rhetorical act can be created outside of language norms. Since the science that regulates and generalizes language norms is linguistics, rhetoric based entirely on language laws is considered a field of linguistics.”*³ A.Y. Mammadov, who wanted to clarify the concept of text, drew attention to the meanings in which it is used: *“On the one hand, the concept of “text” is used to designate any utterance consisting of one or more sentences that, according to the speaker’s opinion, contain a complete meaning in themselves.”*⁴ The theories put forward have been generalized and specified, and it has been concluded that text linguistics arose and developed for two closely related reasons: 1.

³ Babayev, A. Azərbaycan dili və nitq mədəniyyəti./ A.Babayev. – Bakı: Elm və təhsil, – 2011. – s.84

⁴ Məmmədov, A.Y. Mətn yaranmasında formal əlaqə vasitələri sistemi. / A.Y.Məmmədov. – Bakı: Elm, – 2001. – s.89

Text improvement – text interpretation, reading learning and linguistic support. 2. Incompatibility of structural and generative linguistics methods when studying the properties of discrete language units without taking into account their use. The term “text” is approached differently in linguistics. On the one hand, text analysis as a term consists of a sequence of several sentences uttered by the narrator to express his idea. On the other hand, the term text is used to denote the names of prose works – novels, stories, etc. A. Mammadov, in his textbook “Modern Problems of Linguistics”, discusses its essence when discussing intratextual relations: *“Intratextual relations, their structural and semantic parameters, are of great importance for text linguistics in general. The very concept of grammar, which is the criterion for the separation of complete language units from a direct objective communicative point of view in linguistic studies, has been made dependent on the concept of coherence in modern text linguistics. Within the framework of such an approach, the main attention is paid to the means of formal communication in the text.”*⁵

The explanation of the text is given in various ways in linguistic sources. In this subchapter of our research work, the main object of discussion is the literary text and the specific features of the narrative in the literary text. In the previous chapter, we provided extensive information about the narrative. It is known that the narrative is the process of both describing events in literary works and telling them in a kind of way. The main goal of the narrative is to inform the reader or listener about a certain event that has occurred, the actions and situations of the characters.

The transmission of information, that is, the reader or listener being informed and the story being fully conveyed to them, are specific characteristics of narration. Another unique feature of narration is that it creates communication with the reader and provides emotionality here. In other words, in this case, the reader or listener is as if directed to the center of the events taking place. In the

⁵ Məmmədov, A.Y. Dilçiliyimizin müasir problemləri / A.Y.Məmmədov, – Bakı: ADU Nəşriyyatı MMC, – 2008. – s.52

truest sense of the word, the events that occur in a work of fiction are brought to life through narration and deepened as a theme.

The third section of the first chapter of the dissertation covers *“The principles of the transition from narrative to character speeches”*. In a literary text, the triad “reality – meaning – text” turns into the triad “reality – image – text” and determines the nature of the reflection of reality in this text. It turns out that the role of the bearer of the author’s attitude to the reality he describes is played by the means of imagery. *“Any act of evaluation is aimed at a certain goal, for example, the creation of a verbal literary image; the model of this image is thought out in advance in the author’s mind. The author and the images he creates are generally included in a single system and are interconnected with each other. First of all, the author himself must believe in the reality in the work, because only then can he convince his reader.”*⁶ For this, each writer must perfectly filter the language and style features in the work he creates and ensure the connection of each image with reality. Here, the character’s speech plays an important role. Basically, a literary work is created on the basis of the author’s speech, the character’s speech, and the semi-direct speech between them. Narrative sentences constitute the majority in the author’s speech. This speech describes the events, stories and facts in the literary text in a neutral style. Authorial speech is based on the norms of the literary language. Character’s speech, on the other hand, is the richest type of speech in a literary work and consists of narrative, question, exclamatory and command sentences. Character speech is based on monologue, dialogue and polylogue and reflects the general speech of the character or characters in the work, both internal and external, and even reveals and shows their relationship to the environment, the events taking place around them and to each other. Character’s speech, while being the richest type of speech in a literary work, is composed of four sentence types: 1) affirmative, 2) interrogative, 3) exclamatory, and 4) imperative. Character speech is based on monologue, dialogue, and polylogue. Here, various styles are used, with rich shades of

⁶ Сазонова, Е.Б. Метафора как одно из средств выражения связности текста. Теория и методы исследования текста и предложения / – Л.: – 1981. – с.7

emotionality, expressiveness and intensity. At the same time, there are cases of both compliance with the norms of the literary language and deviations from these norms. Character speech is composed in both direct and indirect speech forms or in a combined mix of these. In fact, semi-direct speech is character speech expressed through the author's speech. In a literary work, semi-direct speech means more that the feelings and emotions of the character are conveyed within the author's speech. Although this speech is structured as an author's speech from a structural point of view, it has the essence of an indirect speech in terms of content. As a rule, semi-directed speech is between the author's speech and the character's speech. After the character's speech, semi-directed speech is preferred to reveal the character's personality. The specific features of semi-directed speech are that it is used in plots narrated not by the author, but by the hero. All three forms of speech - author's speech, character's speech and semi-directed speech - are used in a work of fiction and serve to ensure the believability of the facts, events, and stories described in the work, and their maximum correspondence to the facts, events, and stories in life. It is as if these three speech forms provide for the creation of a kind of literary and literary portrait of the hero, which, in turn, is reflected in the character's speech.

From the research conducted within the framework of this paragraph, we conclude that the analysis of examples of literary texts in English clearly shows how this transition occurs. This fact also gives grounds to suggest that the principles of the transition from narrative to character speech may have common characteristics across different languages and cultures.

The second chapter of the dissertation is called **“The role of the past tense in the narrative structure of the English-language literary text”**. The first paragraph of the three-paragraph chapter discusses *“Conceptual, real, and literary time.”* In linguistics, storytelling and narrative (narratology) are distinguished, and storytelling does not mean narrative at all. Narrative has subjective characteristics; that is, the feelings and emotions inherent in the subject, their evaluation play a major role. Storytelling is considered a method of communication, as well as a method of delivering and

receiving factual information. Narrative is distinguished from narration by its evaluative characteristics. For example: the structure of the narrative is variable because it is diverse, and any narrative structure is created depending on the situation according to its meaning. Moreover, this structure covers the process of mutual interpretation, including the author, listener and reader. If we look at the determination of time in the narrative language in English, we will see that it is determined by the time it occurs and clarifies the temporal relations between the reader and the author's speech. In the narrative language, there is an important active tense, and other tenses can be formed based on the general meaning. In English texts, the present simple and the simple past tense are considered as active tenses; the change of tense depends on its formal counterpart in grammatical tense. The tense used in narrative does not change in narrative language, so if it changes, it must have a certain basis.

The second section of the chapter discusses ***“The mechanism of past time in the literary text”***.

The concept of space and time has not remained outside the scientific and philosophical relationship for a long time and will not remain outside the sphere of interest in our modern era, as well as in all periods of human existence. We are always within space and time. Because the events surrounding us, the space in which we are located, the period of the events taking place - each of them is included in this concept.

Sometimes the question arises. What is time? What do we understand by space? Of course, everyone answers these questions from their own point of view. Only in terms of scientific thoughts, the answers given to these questions open the way to points that will become the object of another study. Of course, in works of literary, their value increases by giving importance to space and time issues. Within the text, there is a special connection mechanism between sentences, so that there is a logical connection between the next sentence and the sentence before it. The text is also like a sentence. Because the text is also composed of sentences, and in this respect, the logical connection of their components is also similar. The idea that the text is an expanded sentence is not in vain. “Space” means

that material objects and events have a certain capacity for space, and are located in a special way between objects. All material objects have width, length and height. Unlike space, time is one-dimensional. In other words, it is enough to give only one quantity to determine a given moment of time. Within the framework of time - an object can simply move in the direction of past, present and future time. Time does not return. This axiom of irreversibility inherent in time has been proven by people's life experience. It is conditioned by the irreversibility of relations during the interaction of events and the upward nature of development. Time is infinite, because it has neither a beginning nor an end. It is endless. Time is not only a grammatical category, but also a logical category. Ideas about the issue of time can be found since ancient times - in times when linguistics was not yet formed as a science. It is known that both Aristotle and representatives of the Alexandrian grammar school, including Dionysius the Thracian, divided the verb into past, present and future tenses in terms of time. The category of time constitutes the most important grammatical layer of the verb.

The third section of the chapter is called “*Time leaps and past time in narrative*”.

In narrative time, along with the main time, there are other times related to the content. It is known that the times that play a leading role in narrative language in English literary texts are the present simple and past simple. The fact that the narrative language is determined by grammatical tense causes the time to change. If the time spoken during the narrative does not change, the tense of the narrative language remains unchanged. If it does change, it is required to be logically justified. The time of the events may not coincide with the time of the events. The time of the events coincides with the time of the events that occurred. When we say the time of the events that occurred, the literary texts covered by this time are different - historical texts, modern works, mythological works, etc. What is retrospective tense? If we look at works written in the traditional style, we will see that in those works the time of the events that occurred develops forward. In works written in the modern style, the literary tense develops differently. At this time, by

combining different times in a work of fiction, the author conveys his idea in the work to the reader more clearly. The depiction of the past in works of fiction is called retrospection. Retrospection is usually reflected in works not only in the author's narration, but also in the reader's memory and memories. The main function of retrospection in a literary text is to shed light on issues such as the historical past and customs of the people, etc. In addition, retrospection also plays a great role in a clearer perception of the work. The points that remain obscure to the reader are later illuminated in the work thanks to the memories of the character and the author's narration about the past. Retrospection both complicates the conflict of the works and makes it difficult to perceive them at first reading. The abundance of mysterious events in a work of fiction that keep the reader in suspense shows that the retrospective interpretation of that work is all the more important. The writer explains the events that are mysterious to the reader in various ways. Examples of this include the reflection of past events in the narrative given by the author, the memories brought to life by the characters, and the dreams they have. T.Ahmadova groups the main functions of retrospection in a literary text as follows: *“a) restoring previously given information in the reader’s memory, b) realizing the necessary importance of new information about the past and presenting it to determine the development line of the narrative, c) analyzing and evaluating the previously given information in the context after the narrative, taking into account the information in the narrative given up to the retrospective part, d) updating individual parts of the text regarding the content and essence of the information”*⁷. Just as we observe the return of memories of the past in a work of fiction, it is also inevitable that events will occur in the future. A time that does not currently occur in the text, but is assumed to occur in the future, is called prospective time.

Speaking about the grammatical categories of the text, linguist N.Novruzova characterizes propection as follows: *“Prospection is a grammatical category that ensures the sequence in the text and the*

⁷ Əhmədova, T. Bədii mətndə retrospeksiya kateqoriyasının formalaşması (ingilis dili materialı əsasında): / filologiya üzrə fəlsəfə doktoru dis./ – Bakı, 2005. – s.36

connection of texts with each other. Therefore, prospection connects the information presented in the text with events that will occur later."⁸ From the above, it can be concluded that retrospection, which provides a connection between parts of the text and serves a better perception of the text, and prospection have the same function in this regard. Also, the role of retrospection and prospection is of particular importance both in ensuring the perception and memorization of a literary text, and in connecting events that occurred in the past with the future.

The third chapter of the dissertation is called **“Linguistic explication of the past in narrative structure of English-literary texts”**. The first paragraph of the chapter consisting of five paragraphs discusses **“Lexical means of expression of the past in literary texts.”**

Time and space, which are the main properties of objective reality, play an important role in human life. In all areas of practical activity, a person is faced with his own time factor. That is why researchers working in different fields of science, as well as scientists engaged in linguistics, have paid attention to the issues of the time category, its importance and means of expression in language at different times. Many works on the development and use of time issues in language are included in the general linguistic literature. The means of expression of the objective time category are classified as follows:

1. Morphological means of expression - these include tense forms of the verb.

2. Syntactic means of expression - reflect the time branch sentence, time conjunctions, and some types of single-component sentences.

3. Lexical means of expression - these include nouns, adjectives, fixed conjunctions and adverbs with time meaning.

4. Lexical-grammatical means of expression – this includes the use of nouns with temporal meaning with case suffixes and prepositions, as well as free word combinations created by these nouns together with adjectives and pronouns.

⁸ Novruzova, N. Mətn sintaksisi / N.Novruzova. – Bakı: “Təhsil”, – 2002. – s.59

“Since the late 60s of the 20th century, the concept of lexical time indicators, or lexical indicators of time, specifying or accompanying the tense forms of the verb and expressing meanings similar to the grammatical meanings of these forms, has begun to be expressed in linguistic literature. The development of A.V. Bondarko’s theories on semantic categories and E.V. Guliga and E.I. Shendels’ theories on lexical-grammatical or grammatical-lexical fields indicates the emergence of this concept.”⁹ As we know, the structure of such fields consists of a core, center and periphery. Sometimes, however, lexical and lexical-grammatical means are often presented in the form of general lexical means without distinguishing between them. Usually, adverbs of time, combinations of nouns with temporal meanings with prepositions and case suffixes, as well as adjectives and pronouns, are attributed to lexical means of expression. A number of studies have put forward considerations in the direction of differentiating lexical and lexico-grammatical means of expression.

The functions of the temporal lexicon or means of expression in English are revealed in terms of situation and content. Grammatical time is one of the important functions of the temporal lexicon, and here, due to its specific lexical meaning, the temporal issues expressed by the tense forms of the verb are concretized and localized. In English, the main function of the temporal lexicon is to encourage the more explicit expression of the important meanings acquired by the tense forms of the verb.

The second section of the chapter includes “***Morphological means of expression of the past in the literary text***”.

The analysis of the conducted studies shows that the morphological temporality or morphological temporal micro-field, which consists of a set of morphological means from micro-fields, constitutes the core, that is, the basis, of the time macro-field. This is due to the fact that despite the fact that there are the most diverse, colorful ways of expressing time in the language, the most important means of expression is the method of expression morphologically.

⁹ Гульга, Е.В. Грамматико-лексические поля в современном немецком языке / Е.В. Гульга. – Москва: «Просвещение», – 1969. – с. 173

The elements or components of the morphological temporal micro-field are precisely the morphological indicators of the grammatical tense forms of the verb. In this chapter, we will describe the morphological means of expression of the temporality field in modern English. It is known that the system of tense forms of the verb is formed by the morphological means of expression of temporality. In this regard, both in general linguistics and in German studies, tense forms of the verb have been widely studied and investigated as a field. The studies conducted by numerous scholars on the issue in question consist of rich ideas and analyses. Nevertheless, there are still unexplored aspects of the morphological means of expression of temporality. The unexplored aspects primarily cover the issues of meaning of the system specific to verb forms. Of course, this issue is expected to be studied in a more prominent form and with more modern methods and approaches in the future as a comparative continuant (as a continuation of syntactic typology) typology. Focusing attention on the universal and national features of the time category in English creates conditions for the practical prediction of interference and the detection of places that are considered relatively “weak”. Grammatical verb tenses, being constituents of the morphological temporality field, constitute the core of the temporality micro-field. If we look at the concept of past tense in all languages, we will see that it has a universal character and exists. Due to the universal character of the past tense as a micro-field, it can be imagined as variants of the same scheme. The only invariant, that is, unchanging feature is the attribution of action to the past. This, in turn, acts as the semantic core of the interaction of the constituents (syntactic words consisting of several words) that make up the means of morphological expression. In general, in English, this content is distributed differently among the particles included in the micro-field. In this language, examples collected from novels, stories, dramas and newspaper materials are used to create a morphological past tense model.

The characters' dialogical, monological, and narrative speech of the author, etc. were involved in the study. As we know, in fiction, works represent the living speech activity of the language, and here

the norms of the literary language are observed and even the colloquial language of the people is embodied. It is from this point of view that works of fiction are involved in the study as rich material. It is known that the scope of the past tense in English demonstrates more diverse distances than in the present tense.

The third section of the chapter covers *“The syntactic means of expressing the past in the literary text”*.

Naturally, when considering the means of expression that form the text, the studies conducted are also of interest in the typological specification of the language itself. About the means of cohesion that form the text, K.Abdulla writes: *“The cohesion of the text - that is, the sum of the intratextual relations of the components - is realized with the help of a number of factors. Practically, any level of the language provides something for cohesion, and among these means, it is necessary to distinguish two generalizing groups of means. One of them is the semantic relationship of the components; the other is the structural relationship of the components. It is possible to combine both types of relations under the name “syntactic”¹⁰.*

Studies show that syntactic temporality and syntactic time are considered very little studied areas. Many researchers and scholars have expressed different attitudes towards this category. Academician K.Abdulla explains his opinion in this area as follows: *“This phenomenon, which is realized through the ideas of predicativity, modality, time and person, which return to the immediate characteristic of the sentence, also arises at a purely formal level from the combination of the verb or noun form with the predicate in the person signs that represent the idea of the subject common to them.”¹¹*

In English, there are two types of verb adjectives: The present tense verb adjective is formed with the suffix “ing”. Depending on the verb, the formation of the second verb adjective occurs in different forms. This is called the past tense verb adjective. Verb

¹⁰ Məmmədov, A. Diskurs tədqiqi / A.Məmmədov, M.Məmmədov. – Bakı: Elm və təhsil, – 2016. – s.28

¹¹ Abdullayev, K. Azərbaycan dili sintaksisinin nəzəri problemləri. / K.Abdullayev. – Bakı: Maarif, – 1998. – s.195

adjectives in a sentence have the property of forming a composition. In English, the present tense verb adjective is close in meaning to the adjective and adverb. This is because it expresses a sign of an object and action. The composition of the verb adjective depends on both the object it determines and the predicate in the semantic-syntactic structure of the sentence. The fact that the verb adjective indicates relative time is known. In English, adjectival constructions provide additional information about the action expressed by the main verb. This information is affected by whether the action expressed by the adjectival is simultaneous with the action expressed by the main verb, is simultaneous with it, or comes before or after it. According to some observations, it can be said that the simultaneity of the action expressed by the adjectival with the action expressed by the main verb manifests itself in two ways: complete simultaneity and partial simultaneity. Complete simultaneity, expressed by the adjectival and the main verb, occurs when the time fragments of the actions, actions, and events coincide at all points. We see that this feature is more relevant to the present tense adverbial.

The fourth section of the chapter is called the ***“Past tense in narrative and character speech”***. *“The main “building material” of a work of literary is the word; memory and observation, impression and thought, idea and feeling are expressed in words, through the internal poetic possibilities of the word. The work of literary neither itself, nor the literary image, nor the expression of the writer’s social and intellectual activity is possible without words. Because the first element of literature is language, it is its main tool and, together with facts and life events, is the material of literature.”*¹² Regardless of genre and size, characters also participate in works of literary along with the author. Everyone expresses their own attitude to the events and stories described. Of course, here tastes, desires, approaches and worldviews are different. In an interesting and significant work of literary, the word creates opportunities for literary shades and realizes a clear expression of thought. In this case, in addition to playing a main role, the word increases in artistry and increases in

¹² Qurbanov, A. Bədii mətnin linqvistik təhlili / A.Qurbanov. – Bakı: Maarif, – 1986. – s.18

influence. Language plays an important role in fiction and is considered its main tool. Each created image - character forms the basis of a work of literary, and here their psychology, portrait and language are individualized. Despite their positive or negative nature, characters choose words that are appropriate for their way of thinking and expressing themselves. As we know, telling a story in a work of fiction is considered the primary sign of narration. Extensive information about narration has been provided in the previous chapters. The structure of a literary text includes two relatively independent speech segments: the author's and the character's speech. Each of these speech segments has linguistic means through which the participants are described. In general, the author's speech is formed from articles that connect the text with the author, and the character's speech is formed from text articles that connect with the character's image. One of the main components of the character's speech is the reflection of the image in speech. The unity of the literary text and all the articles, and even the sum of the articles of the author's narrative, come together during this process. The above-mentioned fragments characterize the character's style during speech, the expressive features of presenting his thoughts. The speech uttered by the character and the text particles that are his inner speech, in general, form the speech structure of the image, mutually complementing each other. The main indicator in the formation of figurative speech is the speech structure. Figurative speech is formed by the system of linguistic forms of figurative means.

In English, the past tense forms are used in narration. Let us once again examine the issues of tense and style in this language. If we analyze tense forms in English, we will observe their formation based on style. The trichotomous view of the category of time is accepted by many linguists, since this view implements all stages of the tense-tense system of the English language, namely, past, present and future. This model is considered a traditional model of the tense-tense system. According to A.I.Smirnitsky, *“the category of time in English is not limited to two categorical forms, namely, present and past, “most verbs are given in three grammatical tenses, namely,*

present, past and future”¹³. According to Y.M.Bloch, “two time categories can be distinguished in the English language system, playing a leading role. The past tense, the past non-past process, which is aimed at evaluating the process in the past and is a marked member of the opposition, is defined as the “primary tense”¹⁴. The future tense, the future non-future process, which is aimed at evaluating the future and is also a marked member of the opposition, is defined as the “prospective tense”. Based on the interrelation of time and style, it can be said that in some languages, the categories given are considered as a whole from ancient times to the modern era. However, despite this, we see that in Indo-European languages, the verb has a more diversified tense system. That is, in these languages, the verb is given in two tenses - absolute and relative. The process of forming the tense system began in the 18th-19th centuries BC and continues to our time. The present tense, indicated by words and word combinations, reflects the moment of speech: “this day” and “this month”. Since the past tense sphere preceding the present tense sphere is evaluated as retrospective, it can be expressed in the lexical background by words and word combinations such as “last month, a few days ago”.

The fifth section of the chapter is called “*Specific means of expression of the past tense in the text*”.

When talking about the means of expression of the past tense in literary texts, we have provided sufficient information about lexical, syntactic and morphological means of expression in previous chapters. When we talk about specific means of expression of the past tense, we are talking about means of expression that characterize the past tense and are characteristic only for it. As we know, there are 16 tense forms in English and there are adverbs of time that characterize each tense form. The grammatical tense category of the English language, unlike the Azerbaijani language, includes four past tense forms: 1. The Past Simple (Indefinite) Tense. 2. The Past

¹³ Смирницкий, А.И. Морфология Английского языка / А.И.Смирницкий. –Москва: Изд. Лит. на англ. языке, –1959. – с.334

¹⁴ Блох, М.Я. Практическая грамматика английского языка / М.Я.Блох. – Москва: Высшая школа, – 2003. – с.401

Continuous Tense; 3. The Past Perfect Tense; 4. The Past Continuous Tense. The indefinite form of the past tense is used to express the following actions: 1. to express actions that occurred in the past. 2. Actions that occurred and were performed sequentially in the past. 3. Repeatedly occurred and performed in the past. 4. The past indefinite tense that occurred before the moment of speech. In both examples, it is encoded with the verbs “want”, “think” to express the meaning of a polite proposal or request. Even the Past Simple tense is used to express events after the speech period.

As a rule, the Past Simple is used as an adverb or adverbial combination, such as “yesterday”, “three days/weeks/months/years ago”, “last week/month/year”, “the other day”, “two days later”, “once upon a time”. We form the past continuous tense using the past tense form of the auxiliary verb to be, “was”, “were” and the present tense of the main verb (Participle I). Let us look at the usage of the past continuous tense: 1. It shows an action performed at a specific time in the past: a) if another action is expressed in the past simple tense of the verb. b) With the expressions at six o’clock yesterday, at midnight, at that time last week/month. 2. It shows the duration of an action performed continuously in the past using the expressions always, constantly, ever, continually. 3. When two events are simultaneously expressed using the Past Continuous Tense, it is determined that both events were performed at the same time. 4. In English, a series of events are used sequentially to describe a situation in the past. The description of these events expressed in the Past Simple (Non-Definite) Tense - The Past Continuous Tense is used with the Past Continuous Tense. 5. It is used in formal meetings and dialogues when asking questions about the past out of politeness.

In the **conclusion** of the dissertation, the following provisions are summarized:

1. In a literary text, three speech forms are identified: author's speech, character's speech, and narrator's speech. The subject of speech of the work can be both the author himself, that is, the narrator, and various characters. When a narrator or narrator participates in a literary text, the author assigns him his role. Here,

the speech of the characters and the given literary quotations are mainly considered author's speech.

2. One of the main features of a literary text is related to narration, which stems from its presentation by someone. Narration is divided into two branches: story and description.

3. In most cases, author's speech is constructed in full compliance with the norms of the literary language. It is inevitable that the internal and external speech belonging to the character manifests itself in a literary work as both mediated and unmediated speech. The construction of a literary work based on author's speech, character's speech, and semi-mediated speech that takes its place between them constitutes a unity. Author's speech is mainly constructed based on narrative sentences. Character speech, which is the richest type of speech in a work of fiction, is structured in the form of questions, exclamations, commands and narrative sentences.

4. In the 20th century, a separate literary criticism movement called narratology emerged based on narrative science. The existence of the concept of “narrativeness” in literary criticism and the fact that this concept is interpreted in various ways are undeniable. At the same time, there are also linguistic grounds for the formation of the narrative structure in the text based on the sequence of time.

5. In the narrative structure of a literary text in English, there are various means of expression formed in the form of semantic categories in order to show time relations. Here, lexical, morphological, syntactic means of expression of the past tense are of great importance.

6. Since English is classified as an analytical language, one of its unique features is the presence of a special syntactic unity. Along with a number of means of expression, there are also specific means of expression characteristic of the past tense.

7. Adverbs of time, prepositions and time names Prepositions play a special role in the formation of temporal word combinations in the English language. Day, month, season, parts of the day, days of the week, etc. indicate time. Their nominative function is to express time. These units of the lexical temporality field express the main time indicators of Modern English. These lexical units express syntactic temporality within the word combination by creating

relationships with other categories. They participate in the expression of syntactic temporality at the word combination level by entering into relationships with other word categories.

8. If we look at the shades of modal verbs as a specific means of expressing the past tense, we will see that the main specific feature is the use of modal verbs such as “could, should, might, would” with simple infinitives. Therefore, the fact that the time system consisting of only two tenses, present and past, is preserved in modal verbs is undeniable.

9. As we know, the event described in the work of fiction is an event that occurred in the past. The time of the participant is also in the past tense. Since the author has already written the story and the event took place in the past, the time of the author is also in the past tense. The moment in which the event occurs is divided into three periods: 1) the time when the event occurs; 2) the time when the author narrates the event; 3) the time when the reader is informed.

The main content and scientific provisions of the dissertation are reflected in the following articles and theses of the author:

1. Окно в будущее через прошлое: Future-in-the-past // XLI Международная научно-практическая конференция. Научно-издательский центр «Актуальность РФ». Сборник статей, – Moscow, – 15 November, – 2021, – с.173-175
2. Nitq mədəniyyətinin yaranma tarixi və inkişafı // International Scientific Conference on World Scientific Reports. Proceedings of the 4th International Scientific Conference. – Paris, France, – 12-13 October, – 2023, No 4, – p.135-138.
3. Danışiq normaları və nitq xüsusiyyətləri // International Scientific Conference on Reviews of Modern Science. Proceedings of the 4th International Scientific Conference, Zürich, Switzerland, – 19-20 October, – 2023, No 4, – p.194-202.
4. Bədii mətndə təhkiyənin əsas tipləri // – Bakı: “İpək yolu”, –2024. № 3, – s.162-165.
5. Bədii zamanda keçmişin sintaktik ifadə vasitələri // – Bakı: “İpək yolu”, – 2024. № 4, – s.125-130.

6. Təhkiyəçilik və hekayəçilik dilçiliyin tədqiqat obyektı kimi // – Bakı: AMEA, M.Füzuli adına Əlyazmalar İnstitutu, Filologiya məsələləri, – 2024. №7, – s.352-357.
7. Language and Speech // – Киев: Вчени записки Таврийский Национальный Университет имени В.И.Вернадського, – 2024. Том 35 (74), No 4, часть 1, – с.47-51.
8. Bədii zamanda keçmiş zaman mexanizmi // – Bakı: Bakı Dövlət Universiteti, “Dil və Ədəbiyyat” Beynəlxalq elmi-nəzəri jurnal, – 2024. №2(125), – s.19-22.
9. Retrospeksiya – mətnin sistemli kateqoriyası kimi // – Bakı: AMEA, M.Füzuli adına Əlyazmalar İnstitutu, Filologiya məsələləri, – 2024. №11, – s.132-136.
10. Mətn – Qələmə alınmış hər hansı bir əsər, habelə bir əsərin hissəsi // “Azlıq 2024 – Azərbaycan dili və müasir dilçilik: Problemlər, Perspektivlər və Çağırışlar” mövzusunda Beynəlxalq Konfrans, – Neftçala: – 7 oktyabr, – 2024, – s.67-70.
11. Analysis and Research of time categories // European Congress on Scientific Research, – Rome, – November 11-13, – 2024, – p.456-458.
12. Bədii mətndə keçmişin spesifik ifadə vasitələri // “Qloballaşma şəraitində yeni nəsill universitetlərdə müəllim hazırlığının əsas hədəfləri” Respublika elmi konfransı, – Quba, – 20 dekabr, – 2024, – s.102-105

The defense will be held on 23 October 2025 at 11.00 at the meeting of the Dissertation council ED 2.12 of Supreme Attestation Commission under the President of the Republic of Azerbaijan operating at Azerbaijan University of Languages.

Address: AZ 1014, Baku, Rashid Behbudov Street, 134.

Dissertation is accessible at the Azerbaijan University of Languages Library.

Electronic version of the abstract is available on the official website of the Azerbaijan University of Languages.

Abstract was sent to the required addresses on 22 September 2025.

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to be 'S. Yusupov', is centered below the text.

Signed for print: 18.09.2025

Paper format: 60x84 1/16

Volume: 45682 characters

Number of hard copies: 20