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ABSTRACT

of the dissertation for the degree of Doctor of Philosophy

**REALITY AND ITS POSTMODERN STRUCTURE
IN DAN BROWN'S LITERARY TEXTS
(Based on the Novels "The Da Vinci Code", "Inferno",
"Angels and Demons")**

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GENERAL CHARACTERISTICS OF THE WORK

Urgency of the theme and the degree of research. As the church was dominating in Middle Ages, the coverage area of reality was limited. Later the movement of humanism defined the main conceptions¹ of the Renaissance period as the first philosophical and literary movement. This movement which mainly existed in the XIV-XVI centuries gave its floor to classicism. Humanism reshaped reality. Many changes have taken place in terms of theory and aesthetics not only in the field of prose, but also in other literary disciplines as well beginning from “Don Quixote”² by Miguel de Cervantes, who is a humanistic author till now. Attitude of movements of fine arts such as classicism, romanticism, realism, surrealism, modernism, postmodernism towards reality boosted philosophical essence of this notion. Though reality is a philosophical term, as a general term it is used in several fields of profession. Truth which is the subjective perception of reality is perceived as a synonym of the term justice. Relativity of truth is also directly related with the subjective perception of reality. *“Actually, “truth”; that is to say “reality” is the main problem of the movements of all fine arts. The matter the movements contradict one another in this problem is primarily if “truth” exists or not. For this reason, it is impossible to state that a single definition of “truth” has been agreed on throughout the history”*³. The term reality is widely applied in the field of literary studies and literature. This term is used as reality and truth, as well as in the names of some of literary movements in literary studies (e.g.: realism, surrealism). Reality and its postmodern structure have been applied directly proportional to realities of modern society in this research paper. It's clear that spiritual-social problems of the mankind accelerated the transition to postmodernism after World War II, and enabled the formation of

¹ Çeşitli, İ. Batı edebiyatında edebi akımlar / İ.Çeşitli. – Ankara: Akçağ Yayınları, – 2019. – 315 s.

² Servantes, M.S. Don Kixot / M.Servantes. Tərcümə edəni: Pənah Xəlilov. – Bakı: Öndər, – 2004. – 576 s.

³ Çeşitli, İ. Bakı edebiyatında edebi akımlar. / İ.Çeşitli. – Ankara: Akçağ Yayınları, – 2019. – s. 89.

several fields such as architecture, painting, literary studies soon. Postmodernism which means period after modernism has started to be formed since the 50s of the last century. As a result of speedy improvement of high technology, postmodernism fitted the regularities of chaos. Through time postmodernism has further improved, its structure has been formed and become a theory. The development of industry and economy prepared the foundation for postmodernism formed on the basis of philosophical concept by J.Liotard⁴, J.Derrida⁵, M.Foucault⁶ and others. The transition from household economy to society economy can be counted as the early indicators of the post period. Socio-economic deformations occurred in the Western lifestyle in the period when urban economy started to dominate over rural economy. *“In short, postmodernism presents a world of fantasy and images in which real and unreal, reality and absurdity are embedded and wisdom and reason have challenges to perceive far away from the truth which was built or tried to be built by various religious, ideological and philosophical schools (great narrative styles) for hundreds of years”*⁷.

Postmodernism which appeared in the USA for the first time is also known as a modern period in the US literature. The movement which was formed after 1950s joined the ideas of multiculturalism and globalization since 1960s. Though for the time being there doesn't exist a single opinion about the current existence of postmodernism, fast growing number of the world population, rapid development of high technology indicate that postmodernism still exists. In the present period when the theory of artificial intelligence is widespread it is useful not to forget that postmodernism has fused into chaos and is stepping towards a new direction.

Postmodernism exists in the US literature in the works such as

⁴ Lyotard Jean-François. Postmodern durum. Çevirmen: İsmet Birkan. Ankara: Bilgesu yayıncılık, 2013, 128 s.

⁵ Derrida, J. Edebiyyat edimleri / J.Derrida. Çevirmenler: Mukadder Erkan, Ali Utku. – İstanbul: Otonom Yayıncılık, – 2010. – 498 s.

⁶ Şərifova, S. Çağdaş Azərbaycan postmodern romanı / S.Şərifova. – Bakı: Elm və təhsil, – 2015. – 104 s.

⁷ Çeşitli, İ. Bakı edebiyatında edebi akımlar. / İ.Çeşitli. – Ankara: Akcağ Yayınları, – 2019. – 315 s.

Kurt Vonnegut's "Cat's Cradle", Thomas Pynchon's "Gravity's Rainbow", John Barth's "Chimera", Amy Tan's "The Kitchen God's Wife", Toni Morrison's "Beloved", Sandra Cisneros's "Caramelo", Philip Roth's "The Ghost Writer", including Dan Brown's "Inferno".

In the center of postmodernism's concept "The world is a text" there exists the idea of its being both simple and complex. Postmodern writers' producing literary text benefitting from this contradiction is one of the indicators of literary text's borderlessness. Thus, we have to consider that Dan Brown's literary texts have been formed based on realistic and postmodern methods. The hypothesis of other movements' being form of display of realism in this way or another maintains its factual relevance in Dan Brown's prose.

The theme of reality and its postmodern structure have been studied in Western and Azerbaijani literary studies by and large. E.g., Brianne Keith had an overview on the US literature in her studies, gave information about the notion of reality to a large extent. In the works by authors such as John Helfers, Michael Haag, Simon Cox Dan Brown's literary texts have been studied from different points of view. Furthermore, there are sufficient articles, interviews and sources of review in the literary studies of the US related with Dan Brown.

Topic hasn't been fully investigated in the literary studies of Azerbaijan as well. Before this research work researcher Fakhriyya Rahimova⁸ defended her dissertation about the features of the genre of detective in Dan Brown's works. The author studied Dan Brown as a detective writer in her paper work, stated the peculiarities of syncretic detective novel based on his novel "The Da Vinci Code". On top of that, researchers such as Gorkhmaz Guliyev, Dilbar Zeynalova, Salida Sharifova, Narmin Kamal, Gila Huseynli, Ulvi Babasoy and others have research works interconnected with social reality, alternative history, also postmodernism. Taking the mentioned things into account, it's possible to say that the problem of reality and its structure haven't been investigated together.

⁸ Rəhimova, F.C. Çağdaş Amerikan detektiv janrının ədəbi-bədii xüsusiyyətləri (Dən Braun yaradıcılığı əsasında): / filologiya üzrə fəlsəfə doktoru dis. avtoreferatı. / – Bakı, 2018. – 25 s.

The object and subject of the research. Dan Brown's novels "Angels and Demons", "The Da Vinci Code" and "Inferno" constitute the *object* of the research. Furthermore, additional literary materials e.g., Dante's narrative poem "The Divine Comedy", "Book of Dede Korkut", as well as, modern Azerbaijani novels such as Anar's "White Ram, Black Ram", Kamal Abdulla's "Incomplete Manuscript", Sharif Aghayar's "The City beyond the Dreams" have been used in order to improve analysis apparatus.

The *subject* of the research is defined by suggestions about literary-scientific basics of reality and its postmodern structure and its being applied in literature and literary studies.

Aims and objectives of the research. The main aim of the dissertation work is to analyse the reality and its postmodern structure in Dan Brown's literary texts. This aim considers the realization of the objectives below:

- The analysis of social reality in the novel "Angels and Demons" as the first component of reality and its postmodern structure;
- The analysis of alternative reality defined based on the novel "The Da Vinci Code";
- Ending of the problem of reality and its postmodern structure as a result of explanation of postmodern reality in the novel "Inferno";
- Providing literary-scientific interpretation of "Dan Brown literary triangle";
- The analysis of the image Robert Langdon in the context of reality and its postmodern structure;
- Enhancement of the achieved results via additional artistic materials.

Research methods. The dissertation has been written with a historical-comparative method and based on analytical analysis. That is to say, in order to advance the theoretical-aesthetic structure of the three literary texts comparisons have been carried out, historical data has been considered, and the achieved conclusions have been involved in the analytical analysis. During the writing process of the dissertation researches by Azerbaijani, Turkish and Western scientists have been cited, their theoretical-methodological opinions have been employed.

Jacques Derrida⁹, J.F.Liotard¹⁰, Milan Kundera¹¹, Andrey Bennet, Nicolay Royle¹², Christopher Butler¹³, David Harvey¹⁴, Thomas Eliot¹⁵, Ismail Cheshitli¹⁶, Semih Gumush¹⁷, Yashar Chabuklu¹⁸, Akif Huseynov¹⁹, Tehran Alishanoghlu²⁰, Javanshir Yusifli²¹, Narmin Kamal²², Ulvi Babasoy²³ and other authors have been addressed, the analysis apparatus of these comparisons has been developed.

The main provisions for defence:

- The problem of reality and its postmodern structure in Dan Brown's novels which have been involved in the research is revealed based on the chaos and uncertainty;
- The problem of reality and its postmodern structure in Dan Brown's structure provide big opportunities for the conceptual

⁹ Derrida, J. Edebiyyat edimleri / J.Derrida. Çevirmenler: Mukadder Erkan, Ali Utku. – İstanbul: Otonom Yayıncılık, – 2010. – 498 s.

¹⁰ Lyotard, J. Postmodern durum / J.Lyotard. Çeviren: İsmet Birkan. – Ankara: Bilgesu yayıncılık., – 2013. – 128 s.

¹¹ Kundera M. Roman sanatı / M.Kundera. Çevirmen: Aysel Bora. – İstanbul: Can yayınları, – 2012. – 155 s.

¹² Benett, A. An introduction to literature, criticism and theory. Fourth edition / A.Benett, N.Royle – New York: Routledge, – 2009. – 392 p.

¹³ Butler, C. Postmodernism: A Very Short Introduction / C.Butler. – Oxford: Oxford University Press, – 2003. – 141 p.

¹⁴ Harvey, D. The condition of postmodernity / D.Harvey. – Cambridge: Blackwell Publishers, – 1992. – 379 p.

¹⁵ Eliot, T. Edebiyat üzerine düşünceler / T.Eliot. Çeviren: Doç.Dr. Sevim Kantarcıoğlu. – İstanbul: Paradigma Yayıncılık, – 2007. – 267 s.

¹⁶ Çeşitli, İ. Batı edebiyatında edebi akımlar / İ.Çeşitli. – Ankara: Akçağ Yayınları, – 2019. – 315 s

¹⁷ Gümüş. S. Roman kitabı / S.Gümüş. – İstanbul: Can Yayınları, – 2011. – 224 s.

¹⁸ Çabuklu, Y. Postmodern Toplumdan Kesitler / Y.Çabuklu. – İstanbul: Paloma yayınevi, – 2010. – 174 s.

¹⁹ Hüseyinov, A. Həyat və sənət həqiqəti. / A.Hüseyinov. – Bakı: "TS", – 2001. – 204 s.

²⁰ Əlişanoğlu, T. XX əsrin Azərbaycan nəsrinin poetikası / T.Əlişanoğlu. – Bakı: Elm, – 2006. – 312 s.

²¹ Yusifli, C. Mətn, işarə, məna / C.Yusifli. – Bakı: Mütərcim, – 2019. – 178 s.

²² Kamal, N. Umberto Eko və postmodernizm fəlsəfəsi / N.Kamal. – Bakı: Qanun, – 2012. – 204 s.

²³ Babayev, Ü.A. Türkiyə və Azərbaycan postmodernist nəsrində sosial funksiya probleminin bədii ifadəsi: / filologiya üzrə fəlsəfə doktoru dis. avtoreferatı / – Bakı, 2021. – 40 s.

solution of social, alternative and postmodern reality;

- Social reality is defined as the first component of reality and its postmodern structure in the novel “Angels and Demons”. Literary structure of reality, time concept, also Robert Langdon’s search for truth come forth as the major directions of social reality. During the explanation of social reality in the novel in terms of extra artistic material Anar’s novel “White Ram, Black Ram” is involved;

- Notions such as alternative reality, absurdity, intellectuality and entertainment, as well as the image Robert Langdon’s being defined as an individual model of alternative reality in the novel “The Da Vinci Code” is underscored as an extension of social reality. When the existing problem is analysed, Kamal Abdulla’s novel “Incomplete Manuscript” is used as an extra literary material;

- The notion of postmodern reality in the novel “Inferno” is determined as the last component defining reality and its postmodern structure. Notions such as pastiche, deconstruction, intertextuality which are among the crucial components of postmodernism are studied embedded with the motif of freedom in the dissertation. In order to strengthen the literary explanation of the given problem Sharif Aghayar’s novel “The City Beyond the Dreams” is referred to as an additional literary text;

- “Dan Brown literary triangle” is applied as a main literary formula in order to establish components and directions of reality and its postmodern structure.

Scientific novelty of the research. As a result of the research the following scientific conclusions have been attained:

- Different scientific-theoretical basics of reality and its postmodern structure in Dan Brown’s literary texts have been determined;

- Dan Brown’s presenting the existing problem as the combination of social, alternative and postmodern reality has been clarified;

- The essence of social reality based on the novel “Angels and Demons” has been established;

- Conclusions have been drawn about alternative reality in the novel “The Da Vinci Code”;

- The elements of postmodern reality in the novel “Inferno” have been interpreted;
- During the research a literary formula named “Dan Brown literary triangle” consisting social, scientific and religious lines has been stated and offers about its conceptuality and apply in literary studies have been provided;
- It has been found out that the results attained for the literary-scientific interpretation of reality and its postmodern structure are useful.

Theoretical and practical importance of the research.

Theoretical importance of the research paper is determined with its conclusions’ being used mainly in the studies related with prose.

Speaking of its practical importance, the problem of reality and its postmodern structure can be used as a main and supplementary reference in the subject programs belonging to philosophy, literature and art taught at universities. Also, the ones who are engaged in the above-mentioned professions can benefit from the scientific conclusions of this dissertation in a theoretical and practical way.

Approbation and application. The main results and innovations the author attained in the dissertation have been reflected in his articles and conference materials published in national and international journals and conferences suggested by the High Attestation Commission.

Name of the organization where the dissertation has been performed. The work was performed at the Department of the English Language at Baku Engineering University.

The total volume of the dissertation with a sign including a separate volume of the structural units of the dissertation. The thesis consists of an introduction, three chapters, a conclusion and a list of references. The introduction of the dissertation consists of 12 pages, 22311 characters, Chapter I 33 pages, 65904 characters, Chapter II 33 pages, 66091 characters, Chapter III 35 pages, 70247 characters, Conclusion 4 pages, 6676 characters. The total volume of the dissertation, excluding the list of used literature consists 231229 characters.

THE MAIN CONTENT OF THE RESEARCH WORK

In the “**Introduction**” part of the research work it is indicated how trending the topic is, the information about scientific novelty, aims and objectives, methodological basics, approbation and apply of the work is given. The dissertation consists of three chapters.

The I chapter of the dissertation entitled “**Social Reality in the Novel “Angels and Demons”**” has three paragraphs.

In the first paragraph of the I chapter entitled “*Literary Structure of Reality in the Novel “Angels and Demons”*” scientific-literary essence of general reality has been explained as an introduction to social reality. The struggle between the Church and Illuminati in the novel has been analyzed in the form of the struggle between science and religion.

The development of postmodernism as a trend or method is determined on the basis of society's attitude to content and form. Social reality is a conceptual reality that combines different and aesthetic components. The choice of social reality as the first component of reality and its postmodern structure is not accidental. Because postmodernism itself is a social phenomenon. Though social reality changes in content and form, it maintains its topicality. The attitude of the novel “Angels and Demons” towards social reality, as well as its genre enable to present it as a syncretic detective sample. The novel’s literary material is mainly formed on reality, it turns into a literary game getting mixed with the features of postmodernism. The author’s attitude towards the struggle between the Church and Illuminati through the novel plays a key role for the literary structure of reality in the research. The explanations have been given about the literary-theoretical shortages of author’s narration and the characteristics defining postmodern structure of reality in literary text. In the research work the relativity of reality in the struggle between science and religion, as well as postmodern structure’s turning into uncertainty and chaos have been studied. In order to strengthen the conducted analyses Anar’s novel “White Ram, Black Ram” has been used in the other paragraphs of the I chapter besides its I paragraph.

The narration of the literary text has been written in a simple language, the descriptions have been given in the frame of the opportunities of detective genre. In this point of view, idea-literary structure of reality in the novel has a weak impression in terms of general novel principles. The features of literary style such as narration, figurativeness, emotionality decrease the aesthetic value of the novel. But in terms of detective principles, only literary side of the novel is not strong. *“In the novel “Angels and Demons” this structure is followed and helps to determine certain directions of the author’s works. As the contradiction between the church and the anti-church, and dogma and anti-dogma are essential factors in the work, readers try to read the original variant of the text in the first place.”*²⁴

The primitiveness of narration also weakens the unity of content and form. The content of the novel is broadly based on the struggle between truth and lies. In the novel, the informativeness arising from the unity of imagery and narration forces the author to be democratic. Although Dan Brown's magic is powerful, he is unable to fully utilize it. This incompleteness is completed by the uncertainty of which side is true and which is false in the Church-Illuminati struggle. Dan Brown's narration brings his attempt to create an alternative reality closer to reality as a mere image.

Detective apply of postmodern structure in Dan Brown’s prose causes his novels to be lost between theory and artistry. The author’s identity as a researcher-writer impedes to approach his literary texts in terms of general novel principles. In this view, it is correct to name Dan Brown’s literary texts a detective sample in literary-scientific terms. The novel’s literary-scientific components are primary literary methods to clarify reality and its postmodern structure in a literary text.

In the second paragraph of the I chapter entitled ***“Time Concept in the Novel “Angels and Demons”*** time concept has been studied as a continuation of reality’s literary structure in the novel.

In the center of social reality time concept gets relative with the struggle of the Church and Illuminati. Dan Brown uses stream of

²⁴ Cəfərli, Y. Den Braunun “Mələklər və Şeytanlar” romanında postmodern oyun texnologiyası // – Sumqayıt: Sumqayıt Dövlət Universiteti, Elmi xəbərlər, sosial və humanitar elmlər bölməsi, – 2017. № 3, – s. 25-30.

consciousness as a literary method in the interpretation of social reality. That is to say, Freud's loyal attitude towards personality makes the solution of social problems complete via consciousness and subconsciousness. *"With his works in the field of psychiatry, Freud, who deeply influenced almost all thought and artistic movements in the 20th century, presents the identity of a person with a terrible nakedness and makes him take down the mask of hypocrisy and see his own reality."*²⁵

The concept of time is used in philosophy as well as in fiction and scientific literature. Since the process of relativization of truth takes place as a result of the rapid development of events in the current period, the transfer of information is also accelerated. As such, agility becomes an accelerating factor in agile work environments. The degree of impossibility of doing great things in a short time becomes a forced solution with the relativization of time. The extreme development of capitalism has also changed the content of time. The concept of time, which changes shape according to the realities of the day, is of particular importance within reality and its postmodern structure. As one of the main reasons for the chaos and uncertainty of the modern era, the transformation of time creates serious social and moral difficulties. Therefore, the clarification of the concept of time in the novel stands out as the next stage of social reality.

In the work, the parties in the fight between reality and lies are unknown. In the novel, where the author's esotericism and the realities of society intersect, what form of perception of reality reflects is at the center of this comparison. Dan Brown uses literary games as a literary weapon more than figurativeness not being apart from narration.

In the novel, time changes its shape and becomes a concept based on social reality. The relativity of truth, as one of the problems underlying the postmodern structure of reality, has been confronted with the idea and content of the literary text. Dan Brown's attempt to make the past timeless in the novel is a modern way of his attempt to transform historical truths from dusty manuscripts into elegant books.

²⁵ Çeşitli, İ. Batı edebiyatında edebi akımlar / İ.Çeşitli. – Ankara: Akçağ Yayınları, – 2019. – s. 148.

The author's artistic game technology changes the idea-artistic form of the novel. With these moves, he tries to give an objective assessment to the concept of relativity of truth, drawing attention to timelessness. For example, in Anar's novel "White Ram, Black Ram", time is not very strong outside the author's utopian world.²⁶ The concept of timelessness in the novel "Angels and Demons" is directly proportional to the realities of today. In the research work, the literary-theoretical bases of the mentioned differences are identified and summarized. Symbols and facts in the novel "Angels and Demons" provide rich material for analyzing the novel's concept of time. Dan Brown brings religion to the center of existing places by using the concept of absurd time.

The author turns the concept of time into a social event in the course of the conflict (or union) of science and religion. Being accepted sacred of Jesus in Christianity, his acceptance as the son of God by some sections, changes its format with Dan Brown's modern presentation. In these processes, where the religious line of the "Dan Brown literary triangle" is observed, the author stands on the border of science and religion. The images in the novel cannot create time, rather time shapes them in the desired shape. Therefore, Dan Brown draws attention to the transformation of man.

In the third paragraph of the I chapter entitled "**Robert Langdon's Search for Truth**", the main character of the novel, Robert Langdon's search for truth has been analyzed.

The author turns the Church-Illuminati struggle into a detective case by editing the simple language and style of the novel to Robert Langdon's search for truth. Robert Langdon's search for truth creates a visual fiction impression in the novel. The main character's search for a way out of events, his dynamism, and his intelligence further strengthen his search for truth. So, he starts looking for the trace of the murder from the beginning of the work.

Symbols of the novel "Angels and Demons" serve to strengthen the cause-and-effect sequence. The reality-absurdity

²⁶ Elaydi, A.S. Müstəqillik dövrü Azərbaycan romanı. Mövzu, problematika və sənətkarlıq məsələləri (1991-2005) / A.S.Elaydi. – Bakı: "Nurlar" nəşriyyatı, – 2017. – s. 14.

struggle formed by the Church-Illuminati conflict is also a utopia-dystopia struggle. The simple development apparatus of the literary text also reflects the components of the journalistic style. The application of journalism is proportional to the detective line of the novel.

In Dan Brown's novels as a whole, symbols help to convey the idea of the work. Taking all of these into account, in the dissertation work, the struggle between the Church and the Illuminati in the novel "Angels and Demons" has been approached as a struggle between reality and fantasy, as well as their combination. One of the conclusions reached in the research work is the objective attitude of Robert Langdon, the main character of the novel "Angels and Demons", as the author's alter ego. "Dan Brown literary triangle" is more structurally pregnant in the novel "Angels and Demons". In the novel, the scientific line of "Dan Brown literary triangle" is formed by the author's dystopian opinions, and the religious line by the Church-Illuminati struggle. The social line rises to the level of social reality in the work and forms the basis of the novel.

In the detective genre, events are more based on reality. This principle is sometimes enriched with fantastic elements. The author makes it clear that Robert Langdon, as a fictional hero, represents real people who are actually fighting for the truth. His goals and struggle grow him and make him a character. The fact that Dan Brown is sometimes outraged by the actions of the Church²⁷ and sometimes criticizes the activities of the Illuminati is an indication of the author's neutral attitude to social reality. With Robert Langdon's search for the truth, the novel's detective work oscillates between dystopia and utopia. Robert Langdon's search for truth is combined with the author's attempts to restore social reality. These characteristics bring him close to the image of Malik Mammadli. The author who searches for the trace of the murder gives a dystopian value to the struggle for the truth via Robert Langdon. This impression can also be perceived as the possibility that possible realities can be absurd. Although the simple language and style of the novel does not match the large scale of events, it is satisfactory.

²⁷ Braun, Den. Mələklər və Şeytanlar. / Den Braun. Tərcümə edən: Yaşar Əsədov. – Bakı: Qanun, – 2015. – s. 49.

Robert Langdon's search for the truth is incomplete within the frame of the detective genre. Taking all this into account, Robert Langdon's impartiality, uncertainty and obscurity in his fate have been clarified. Robert Langdon's search for truth stands out as a continuation of the concept of time. So, although the main character goes in search of the truth, he finds it difficult to determine his direction. In the last paragraph of chapter I, the search for truth of Robert Langdon, the protagonist of the novel "Angels and Demons", is analyzed as a continuation of the artistic structure of reality and the concept of time, and the social reality component is completed.

Chapter II of the dissertation, called **"Alternative Reality in the novel 'The Da Vinci Code'"**, consists of three paragraphs.

In the first paragraph of chapter II called ***"Transformation of the Absurdity in the Novel 'The Da Vinci Code'"*** the absurdity in the novel has been analyzed on the basis of alternative reality.

The literary-scientific explanation of the absurdity as an introduction to an alternative reality is given as the basis of the literary text.

The dogmatic and anti-dogmatic tendencies determined by the purification of the truths presented by Dan Brown as an alternative to the current history have been investigated as one of the main features of the novel. Alternative reality must be consistent with reality as it is in historical reality. For example, presenting a text showing that Hitler's Germany won World War II as an alternative reality does not correspond to existing realities. Alternative history and reality in the novel "The Da Vinci Code" attract attention as a combination of absurdity, intellectualism and individual artistic games of the writer. Throughout the chapter, Kamal Abdulla's novel "Incompleter Manuscript" has been used as additional material in order to specify the artistic setting and application of the alternative reality in the novel "The Da Vinci Code".

As it is known, the main theme of the novel "The Da Vinci Code" is the life and work of Leonardo da Vinci. The author creates an alternative reality by building the idea-artistic line of the artistic text on the corresponding principle through the absurdity. Although the availability of rich sources about Leonardo da Vinci's life and

activities are interpreted differently by researchers, it is highly likely that there are various secrets in the works of art such as “The Last Supper”, “The Virgin of the Rocks”, as well as “Mona Lisa”. Such issues analyzed in the novel “The Da Vinci Code” move between the absurdity and reality throughout the novel. In this sense, the novel “The Da Vinci Code” is an absurd example of an intellectual combination of the author's imagination with an attempt to reveal the hidden secrets of Leonardo da Vinci's works of art. It is unknown whether Dan Brown studied Leonardo da Vinci as he was or as he intended. Although the current uncertainty makes it difficult to distinguish between reality and lie, it defines the essence of an alternative reality. *“Natural sexual intimacy, which is the union of a man and a woman not only physically, but also spiritually, was once considered a sacred act. And now it is seen as a bad deed.”*²⁸

As a result of the generalizations, it was concluded that the absurdity itself is a form of reality. The invisibility and secrecy of this reality gains artistic value in the course of the truth-lie struggle in the novel. The author does not aim to replace the absurdity with the truth. Dan Brown is simply trying to change the nature of the absurdity. In this paragraph, the transformation of the absurdity is determined on the basis of the novel, and its reflection of subjective or objective realities is explained. The transformation of the absurdity has been investigated as the first direction of the alternative reality in the research work. Absurdity is formed based on Leonardo da Vinci's legacy in the literary text. The transformation of the absurdity in the novel is determined by finding its similarities and differences within an alternative reality. The novel “The Da Vinci Code” is a reflection of reality based on absurdity and alternative reality. Robert Langdon, as the main hero who carries out this process, participates in the work as an individual model of an alternative reality. Although the genre of “The Da Vinci Code” is not a historical novel, references to historical facts are strong in the work. The format of the science-religion struggle in the novel is different. The secrets that the author is looking for in the works of Leonardo da

²⁸ Braun, D. Da Vinçi şifrəsi / D.Braun. Tərcümə edən: Samir Bulut. – Bakı: Qanun, – 2012. – s. 148-149.

Vinci are gathered around the religious literature – apocrypha – that do not coincide with the Christian holy book and are rejected by the official religious figures.

In the second paragraph of the chapter II of the dissertation called *“Intellectuality and Entertainment in the Novel “The Da Vinci Code”* the novel has been interpreted as an example of intellectual prose.

The presence of reasonable suspicions at the root of certain realities is the definition of reality in the novel. The postmodern structure of known reality consists of the author's attempts to eliminate these doubts. Alternative reality is a continuation of social reality, enhanced through intellectualism and entertainment. Dan Brown's alternative reality is a deconstruction of the past. In this sense, the analysis of the novel as an example of intellectual prose reveals the author's different attitude towards alternative history. Dan Brown tries to combine history and religion by criticizing the alternative reality he created. With this attempt, the author montages the detective in intellectual prose. In the novel it is primarily noted that the tradition of rejection in the modernism turns into the process of the rejection of the rejection in postmodernism. What Dan Brown denies is the unreal aspect of the absurdity. It should be taken into account that as a result of the social weakening of literature, art, and culture, the essence of the idea “art is for art's sake” is also changing. Thus, the wide spread of capitalism allows the application of conjuncture topics in literature.

Examples of intellectual prose not only provide additional knowledge to the reader, but also entertain him. Therefore, in the novel, intellectuality is united with entertainment. In intellectual novels, the preparedness of the reader is one of the main criteria. The novel “The Da Vinci Code” as the bearer of the listed features is dedicated to a broader and more relevant topic than the author's other novels. The rich information provided allows the presentation of the novel as an intellectual literary text. The novel stands out as an example of intellectual and entertaining prose as a second direction of alternative reality. The personalities such as Leonardo da Vinci, Jesus Messiah, Mary Magdalena have been investigated as the

components of idea-literary features of this literary text in the center of this presentation. The need to get additional information about Opus Dei, the Priory of Sion, as well as the concept of the Church makes the intellectual prose affiliation of the novel relevant. From the beginning of the novel, Opus Dei and the Priory of Sion have been known to be non-absurd. It is difficult to read and analyze the novel without having information about these organizations. Dan Brown's democratic attitude to events is a sign of the limitlessness of an alternative reality. Intellectuality and entertainment have preserved their essence, although they have changed mainly due to the influence of globalization and artificial intelligence. So, although people's views on intellectuality and entertainment are different, the point where these two concepts overlap is catharsis. The known approach in the research work has been treated as a social phenomenon arising from the combination of history and religion. Thus, in the novel "The Da Vinci Code", intellectualism and entertainment are summarized as the direction of an alternative reality.

In the third paragraph of chapter II entitled ***"Robert Langdon as an Individual Model of an Alternative Reality"***, Robert Langdon's image is interpreted as an individual model of an alternative reality.

The current reality has been defined by the transformation of absurdity, intellectuality and entertainment. The mentioned combination is important in terms of determining the idea-artistic features of the work in the research work.²⁹ The tradition of using "Dan Brown literary triangle" as the main artistic formula of reality and its postmodern structure is continued in the novel.

Robert Langdon's logical judgments make it possible to characterize him as an individual. The characters in the novel play a key role in defining Robert Langdon as an individual character through the "Dan Brown literary triangle". In the novel, postmodern elements are overshadowed by symbols. Therefore, in the novel "The Da Vinci Code", deconstructivism is defined more in relation to

²⁹ Jafarli, Y. The Novel "Da Vinci code" as a symbolic-semiotic model of alternative history // – India: The Achievers Journal. Journal of English Language, Literature and Culture, – 2020. № 1, – p. 18-30.

history and absurdity. In the novel, the search for truth is the object of the social line. Robert Langdon becomes the main character in this search and determines the cause-effect relationship of the social line. Truth rises to the highest level of value at the base of the social line. This path comes from destroying idols. Destroying idols is interesting as an attempt to transform the postmodern subject into an object position.

Robert Langdon, a product of the writer's imagination, is at the center of events, forming the climax, which is the highest stage of development of events in the novel's plot line. This relationship is reinforced through the stream of consciousness, strengthened through the “Dan Brown literary triangle”. Proposing the search for truth as a solution to the current chaos creates polyphony in the novel through symbols. In the role of the main executor of “Dan Brown literary triangle”, Robert Langdon tries to combine science and religion.

The processes formed between the supporters of traditionalism and the differences of opinion of innovators attract attention as a mirror of the postmodern era. By personalizing Robert Langdon, the author lays the foundation of his struggle against the general truth. The idea that the development of society starts from the individual is relevant in the novel. This thesis is clarified by Robert Langdon's participation in the literary text as an individual model of an alternative reality.

Chapter III of the dissertation, called **“Postmodern Reality in the Novel “Inferno”**, consists of three paragraphs.

In the first paragraph of chapter III, called ***“Imitation of Reality in the Novel “Inferno”***, the imitation of reality in the novel, i.e. imitation, is defined on the basis of pastiche.

In the literary text, postmodern reality is investigated as the last component of reality and its postmodern structure. Compared to the novels “Angels and Demons” and “The Da Vinci Code”, the postmodernism in the novel “Inferno” is more complete. In the novel “Inferno”, the postmodern reality is accompanied by the problem of sharp population growth that humanity is facing. In Chapter III of the research work, in order to strengthen the scientific-theoretical interpretation of components such as pastiche, deconstruction, and

intertextuality, Sharif Aghayar's novel "The City beyond the Dreams" has been addressed as an additional material.

Pastiche is "*a serious, not comic, imitation of the form or content of a text.*"³⁰ Due to this feature, pastiche differs from parody. The novel "Inferno" is an imitation of "Divine Comedy" as an example of pastiche. Dan Brown tries to find the truth by reshaping Dante's concept of "The Purification of Man" to fit the realities of today. Traditionalized daily processes in modern society are a common product of postmodernism and chaos. The events in the novel "Inferno" share a common social space with Dante's "Inferno". Dante's concepts of "Hell" and "Heaven" are presented by Dan Brown as the problem of today and the future. Using the "Dan Brown literary triangle" helps to justify the imitation of reality. Dan Brown transforms Dante's idea of the purification of man from sin into a component of the postmodern era in content and form. Dan Brown's major aim is to find truth here as in the other two novels. The difference is that the search for truth is postmodern. Thus, Dan Brown describes human problems as global deficiencies in society.

Dante's Inferno is more spiritual, while Dan Brown's Inferno is material. In the novel "Inferno", the concept of the salvation of people, in other words, freedom, is one of the factors that determine the postmodern structure of reality. However, there are ideological and artistic deficiencies in the novel's development apparatus. Dan Brown's attempt at imitation by elevating The Divine Comedy is successful. By analyzing the imitation of reality in the novel, an initial idea of reality and postmodern reality, which is the last component of its structure, is formed. Thus, the ground is prepared for the deconstruction of reality, which is the second direction of postmodern reality.

In the second paragraph of chapter III, called "***Deconstruction of Reality in the Novel "Inferno"***", the application of deconstruction in the literary text is analyzed.

A text-metatext transition is formed by Dan Brown's transformation of Dante's principles of humanism into postmodernism. In

³⁰ İsmayilov, R. Ədəbiyyatşünaslıq terminləri lüğəti. / R.İsmayilov, E.Nəcəfov – Bakı: Altun kitab, – 2017. s. 164.

postmodernism, history acts as the material of literature. The reality in the novel “Inferno” is the modern problems of humanity. Its postmodern structure is the relativization of the known problem for humanity. In this novel, written as a deconstruction of Dante Alighieri's poem “Divine Comedy”, postmodern reality is referred not only in terms of trends, but also as the direction of reality.³¹

Deconstruction in the novel “Inferno” is limited by the subjectivity of the author's detective investigation within the postmodern reality. The replacement of modernism with postmodernism after World War II created fertile conditions for the formation of deconstruction. Rewriting the text in deconstruction should not mean destroying the subject. What is important here is that the literary spirit of the deconstructed text is not damaged. The deconstruction side of postmodern reality is closer to reconstruction. Dan Brown deconstructs Dante's “Inferno” and changes the status of reality. Living in this hell is more a compulsion than an individual's choice.

The novel “Inferno” is interesting as a modern version of the salvation model in “The Divine Comedy”. Like Dante, Dan Brown believes that people need to be cleansed of their sins in order to find the truth. In the novel, the author characterizes the “trouble” brought by science in view of the past and present of mankind by touching on the Seven Deadly Sins (SALIGIA). Although it is thought that the Church was at the center of the superiority of religion over science in medieval Europe, this is only a version. Inactivity and chaos in the society in general should be considered the center of this reason. Religious superstition easily defeated science and surrounded people. Superstitious tendencies became people's way of life, life philosophy.

The people seen in the “Divine Comedy” who are not loved by God and his enemies are the ones who cause chaos in today's world. Dante's simple language technique is more vivid than Dan Brown's detective language. This work of Dante, written in the Tuscan dialect, has preserved its universality and originality even today, along with its invaluable service in the development of the modern Italian language.

³¹ Cəfərli, Y. “Cəhənnəm” romanında obrazlar sisteminin gerçəklik və alternativ tarix kontekstində təhlili // – Bakı: Journal of Baku Engineering University, – 2017. № 2, – s. 174-181.

The said work of Dante, a representative of the humanism trend, gains a new artistic value through Dan Brown's postmodern game technology. Malthusian theory combined with Dan Brown's attempt to create a universal man creates a deconstructive picture of reality. Although those universal people try to find a model of salvation, the disorder of the modern age prevents them from making this initiative a reality. In other words, Dan Brown modernizes humanism and deconstructs reality in the novel "Inferno". The goal here is to strengthen the general idea-artistic effect of the work. Dan Brown presents his attitude to the past based on the immutability of the concept of freedom. Thus, Dan Brown's deconstruction of the "Divine Comedy" is proportional to the relativization of concepts such as freedom and war, past and future. The deconstruction of reality and its application in the novel, the artistic-scientific shortcomings of the problem are discussed in the appropriate paragraph. Thus, the deconstruction of reality as the second direction of postmodern reality is defined as Robert Langdon and transition to the modernization of reality.

In the last paragraph of chapter III entitled ***"Robert Langdon and the Modernization of Reality"***, as in other chapters, Robert Langdon is singled out.

Postmodern terms such as pastiche, deconstruction, intertextuality are widely used terms in the artistic interpretation of postmodern reality in the novel "Inferno". In the novel "Inferno", postmodernism expresses the postmodern understanding of today and the future of mankind. In the novel, the scientific line of "Dan Brown literary triangle" is determined by the concrete steps to be taken to prevent the sharp increase in population. The basis of the religious line is the modern projection of the "Divine Comedy". In the novel, Robert Langdon and the modernization of reality can be presented as a component of the social line.

In the detective-thriller "Inferno", the modernization of reality is combined with the dynamic development of events. The author symbolically brings Dante back to life by opening Robert Langdon's eyes in Dante's hometown of Florence. In other words, Dan Brown visualizes Dante's "Inferno" by combining Robert Langdon's amnesia with his intellectuality.

Like other characters in the novel, Robert Langdon's struggle for truth as a modern “Inferno” inhabitant, as well as the introduction and development of the concept of freedom, stand out as the main pillars of the modernization of reality.

The modernization of reality stands out as the main module of Robert Langdon's struggle. He maintains his neutrality as the main character in the novel, adhering to the concept of freedom. Thus, the factors that lead to the modernization of reality reveal the visual aspects of postmodern reality. Unlike the novel “Angels and Demons”, Robert Langdon's search for truth is in a different status. As the author is aware that reality has become a postmodern reality, he tries to explain the important dangers that await the world with reference to Dante's humanism. In the process of modernization of reality, Robert Langdon acts not only as a person of today, but also of the future. By making Langdon timeless, the author highlights the seriousness of the threat facing humanity. A child of a chaotic society, Robert Langdon's concussions while in the hospital, wishing for his memory to come back soon, is a simple example of said chaos. A complex example is related to the upheavals experienced during the salvation, anti-salvation struggle. Robert Langdon's character traits are combined with the reality that his struggle will lead to positive results. Thus, the salvation of the world also depends on the sensitive attitude of people to themselves and to the environment. *“If you want to increase the amount of clean water per person, then you have to decrease the number of people on earth. In order to reduce the amount of toxic gases, it is necessary to reduce the number of drivers. If you want to restore the fish stock in the ocean, the number of people who feed on it should be small.”*³²

Robert Langdon's accident trauma becomes a psychological trauma. In the novel, the inhabitants of a chaotic society break the order of cause and effect by changing their freedom according to the essence of postmodern reality. In the literary text, the connection of events with reality rather than absurdity allows for the conceptual completion of the problem of reality and its postmodern structure.

³² Braun, D. Cəhənnəm / D.Braun. Tərcümə edən: Əfsanə Nurəli Həmzəyeva. – Bakı: Qanun, – 2013. – s. 175.

With the analysis of the image Robert Langdon and modernization of reality in the novel “Inferno” reality component of reality and its postmodern structure is completed.

In the introduction and the conclusion of the three chapters of the dissertation, it is possible to come to the conclusion that reality and its postmodernist structure can provide an important material for the study of chaos and uncertainty in the modern era. In Dan Brown's literary texts, this transformation becomes a structure through the Dan Brown literary triangle. All three novels are scientifically and theoretically compatible with each other in terms of reality and its postmodern structure.

The main conclusions of the study are summarized in the **“Conclusion”**.

It has been concluded that reality and its postmodern structure was formed from the unity of social, alternative and postmodern realities. Social reality is interpreted on the basis of the novel “Angels and Demons”. During the analysis of social reality, the artistic structure of reality in the novel has been determined, the concept of time has been clarified, and the search for truth of Robert Langdon has been analyzed. As a continuation of the problem, in the novel “The Da Vinci Code” an alternative reality is defined, and its directions of absurdity, intellectuality and entertainment are defined. Robert Langdon's participation in the literary text as an individual model of an alternative reality is discussed. In the novel "Inferno", postmodern reality has been analyzed as the last component of reality and its postmodern structure, directions such as pastiche and deconstruction have been revealed. Robert Langdon and his modernization of reality are summarized as the result of postmodern reality. Analyzes conducted and conclusions reached are accompanied by literary examples such as Dante's poem “Divine Comedy”, epic “The Book of Dede Korkut”, as well as modern Azerbaijani literature novels “White Ram, Black Ram”, Kamal Abdulla's “Incomplete Manuscript”, Sharif Aghayar's “The City beyond the Dreams”. During the analysis of reality and its postmodern structure, the literary formula called “Dan Brown literary triangle” was defined, and suggestions were made about its application in literary studies.

The main content and scientific statements of the dissertation have been reflected in the following articles and theses of the author:

1. Jafarli, Y.I. The Analysis of the Systems of Characters in the Novel “Inferno” in the Context of Reality and Alternative History” // – Baku: Journal of Baku Engineering University, – 2017. № 2, – p.174-181.
2. Jafarli, Y.I. The Novel “The Da Vinci Code” as a Postmodern Literary Text: Intertextuality and Deconstruction in the Novel // – Baku: Azerbaijan University, “İpək Yolu”, – 2017. № 3, – p.159-168.
3. Jafarli, Y.I. Postmodern Game Technology in the Novel “Angels and Demons” by Dan Brown” // – Sumgayit: Sumgayit State University, “Scientific News”, – 2017. № 3, – p.25-30.
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11. Jafarli, Y.I. “The Da Vinci Code” and “Dan Brown Literary Triangle” // The materials of the International Scientific Conference of the Young Researchers dedicated to the 75th Anniversary of Professor Hamlet Isakhanli entitled “Humanities in the Context of New Paradigms”. – Baku: Khazar University, – 29 March, – 2023, – p.181-184.
12. Jafarli, Y.I., Jafarli, Kh. The Literary Structure of Time in the Novels “Angels and Demons” and “Animal Farm” // The materials of the International Scientific Conference of the Young Researchers dedicated to the 75th Anniversary of Professor Hamlet Isakhanli entitled “Humanities in the Context of New Paradigms”. – Baku: Khazar University, – 29 March, – 2023, – p.185-189.
13. Jafarli, Y.I., Jafarli, Kh. The Struggle of the Images Robert Langdon and Winston Smith on Truth in a Literary Context” // The materials of the VII International Scientific Conference of the Young Researchers dedicated to the 100th Anniversary of the National Leader Haydar Aliyev. – Baku: Baku Engineering University, – 28-29 April, – 2023, – p.1878-1880.
14. Jafarli, Y.I. Pastiche in the Novel “Inferno” // The materials of the VII International Scientific Conference of the Young Researchers dedicated to the 100th Anniversary of the National Leader Haydar Aliyev. – Baku: Baku Engineering University, – 28-29 April, – 2023, – p.1880-1882.

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