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**ABSTRACT**

of the dissertation for the degree of Doctor of Philosophy

**MIRZA IBRAHIMOV'S LITERARY-CRITICAL  
OPINIONS**

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Field of science: **Philology**

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## GENERAL CHARACTERISTICS OF THE DISSERTATION

**Topicality and degree of using of the theme.** The 20<sup>th</sup> century literature and literary-critical heritage is one of the richest spiritual treasures of the Azerbaijani people. The study of this heritage is important not only to look at the bright pages of our national past, but also to learn from the historical processes of the century of revolutions full of contradictions. The modernity of the Azerbaijani people, the formation of national consciousness, the acquisition of independence and statehood, cultural development and becoming one of the world's leading nations are directly related to the name of the 20<sup>th</sup> century. The role and active participation of literature and literary-critical thinking in these processes are undeniable. It is also important to investigate this heritage in terms of estimating the values of modernity and independence.

Mirza Ajdar oglu Ibrahimov (1911-1993) is one of the most prominent figures of the Azerbaijani people in the 20<sup>th</sup> century. In addition to being a writer, playwright, socio-political and cultural figure, he left a rich heritage as a literary scientist, critic, art critic and culture-study. Mirza Ibrahimov started to his literary and social activity in the late 1920s and early 1930s, he worked hard in parallel in all spheres of life along with his socio-cultural activity and wrote poems, stories, narratives, novels, essays, made consecutive speeches in the press with publicist writings, at the same time he gave impetus to the creation of modern literature with literary-critical articles. The writer's scientific activity began during 1930s. The first systematic research about the great Azerbaijani writer and thinker Jalil Mammadguluzade "Great democrat"<sup>1</sup> brought a serious literary fame to Mirza Ibrahimov

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<sup>1</sup> Ibrahimov, M. Great democrat / M. Ibrahimov. – Baku: Azerneshr, - 1939. – 160 p.

and made his consistent activity in this field. Mirza Ibrahimov was one of the founders of modern literary studies and one of the first creators of Azerbaijan National Academy of Sciences in the humanitarian sphere. Academician Mirza Ibrahimov has a worthy contribution in the formation and development of academic literary science in Azerbaijan.

The study and estimation of Mirza Ibrahimov's literary and scientific-critical heritage is very urgent. In Soviet times the hundreds of articles were written about the author, his artistic activity and literary criticism caused serious reactions. However, this estimation was given preference to the ideological views in accordance with the patterns of the Soviet period. It should be considered natural. Because as a writer Mirza Ibrahimov was one of the theorists of the Soviet period and at the same time he was one of the formers of Azerbaijani literature. He substantiated that socialist realism as a creative method was a new stage of realism, and identified it in his critical articles. From this point of view, it is important to study Mirza Ibrahimov's literary-critical heritage and estimate it from the prism of independence values. It is one of the important problems of modern literature to reveal the national and Azerbaijani values that transcend the boundaries of his time.

The investigation of Mirza Ibrahimov's literary and critical views is important both in terms of re-understanding and estimating the author's self-esteem, it is also urgent in terms of characterizing the 20<sup>th</sup> century literature and literary-critical idea and revealing its modern importance.

All these points form the urgency of the research and show the importance of studying literary-critical thoughts of academician Mirza Ibrahimov.

At the time of the prominent Azerbaijani writer and literary critic Mirza Ibrahimov's artistic activity of the 20th century gained great fame both in the country and outside the country, it has been studied in this and other way. Great-scale studies,

articles of various styles and memoirs have been written about the works of the writer.

By the order<sup>2</sup> of the President of Azerbaijan Ilham Aliyev dated July 19, 2011 the 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Mirza Ibrahimov was celebrated at the state level and scientific and literary-critical articles were published in the press.

During the Soviet period Mirza Ibrahimov's scientific and critical heritage was studied relatively little. His different monographic researches and literary-critical collections have been appreciated highly by the scientific community and his scientific judgments and reports on realism in classical literature and oral folk literature have aroused great interest and polemics.

In the investigations such as "For the native land and nation"<sup>3</sup> (1981) by Professor N.Guliyev and "Mirza Ibrahimov"<sup>4</sup> (1982) by Professor A.Hajiyev the literary-critical activity of the outstanding writer are studied along with his artistic activity.

The scientific and literary- critical activity of the scientist was studied more in the years of independence and monographs and dissertations were written about him. It proves the historical value and modern importance of academician Mirza Ibrahimov's scientific works. In monographic studies such as "Mirza Ibrahimov" and "Academician Mirza Ibrahimov" by Professor T.Ahmadov the effective services of the outstanding writer in the development of scientific and theoretical thought and literary studies in the history of national literature against the background of his life and creative way, literary-artistic and socio-political activity have become the object of systematic analysis. In the mentioned researches Mirza Ibrahimov's role in the socio-political

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<sup>2</sup> Order of the President of the Republic of Azerbaijan on holding the 100th anniversary of Mirza Ibrahimov (July 19, 2011, № 1642) // Azerbaijan. - 2011.-20 July. - № 156. – p. 3// <https://files.preslib.az/site/decrees15.pdf>

<sup>3</sup> Guliyev, N. For the native land and nation / N. Guliyev. – Baku: "Bilik" organization, - 1981. – 65 p.

<sup>4</sup> Hajiyev, A. Mirza Ibrahimov / A.Hajiyev. – Baku: Yazichi, - 1982. – 207 p.

life of the South Azerbaijan of the 20<sup>th</sup> century was characterized and his activity in the direction of literary-artistic thought was investigated. The researcher's work "People's writer of Azerbaijan, public-political figure, academician Mirza Ibrahimov" was prepared as an album-book. Professor T.Ahmadov also gave detailed information about the biography of Mirza Ibrahimov and bibliography of his published books in the large volume encyclopedic book "Azerbaijani writers in the 20<sup>th</sup>-21<sup>st</sup> centuries".<sup>5</sup>

In the monographic book "Academician Mirza Ibrahimov", which was written in the series of "Founders of Azerbaijan Academy of Sciences" by academician T.Kerimli, the scientist's scientific activity and the organizational activities related to the science and Academy are investigated. In the monographic book the productive activity of Mirza Ibrahimov, who was among the first fifteen founders of ANAS, worked as the director of the Institute of Language and Literature named after Nizami during 1948-1954, after the separation of the 19<sup>th</sup> century literature department of the same institute, worked as the head of the department of "South Azerbaijan literature" of the Institute of Literature, are reflected comprehensively. The scientist's research on classical heritage and modern literature are explained from the position of modern Azerbaijanism.<sup>6</sup>

The monographic book "Mirza Ibrahimov: literary-aesthetic thoughts and art issues" by Professor E.Guliyev is of great importance in the years of independence as the first monograph about the scientific-criticism of Academician Mirza Ibrahimov. In the research work the scientist's heritage is looked through with

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<sup>5</sup> Ahmadov, T. Mirza Ibrahimov | T.Ahmadov. – Baku: Burlar, - 2001. – 184 p.; Ahmadov, T. Academician Mirza Ibrahimov / T.Ahmedov. – Baku: Nurlar, - 2015. – 296 p.

<sup>6</sup> Karimli, T. Academician Mirza Ibrahimov / T.Karimli. – Baku: Elm, - 2015. – 135 p.

artistic activity mutually, the author's literary mastery issues are mainly analyzed by interpreting aesthetic views.<sup>7</sup>

The literary-artistic and scientific-theoretical heritage of the writer in the context of folklore is involved in the study "Mirza Ibrahimov and folk studies" by the literary critic F.Aliyev.<sup>8</sup>

The object of the researches by PhD U.Bakhshiyeva was "Mirza Ibrahimov and the issues of Azerbaijan literature".<sup>9</sup>

In the monographic book titled "The expansion of horizons: Mirza Ibrahimov and Russian literature" by PhD S.Agayeva the activity of the outstanding literary man is studied in the context of literary relations, the attention was paid to the points related to Russian literature. In the monographic books such as "Mirza Ibrahimov and freedom movement in South Azerbaijan" by S.Jalalgizi, "The theme "South" in Mirza Ibrahimov's prose" by G.Aliyeva the aspects of the author's work on socio-political processes in the south of our native land have been revived.<sup>10</sup>

In the two-volume textbook "Modern Azerbaijan literature" (2007) prepared by the department of Modern Azerbaijan literature of Baku State University, many aspects of the problem investigated against the background of Mirza Ibrahimov's activity are analyzed.

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<sup>7</sup> Guliyev, E. Mirza Ibrahimov: literary-aesthetic thoughts and art issues / E.Guliyev. - Baku, 1997. – 98 p.

<sup>8</sup> Aliyev, F. Mirza Ibrahimov and folk studies / F.Aliyev. – Baku: Elm ve tehsil, - 2013. – 160 p.

<sup>9</sup> Bakhshiyeva, U. Mirza Ibrahimov and the issues of Azerbaijan literature: / dissertation for the degree of Doctor of Philosophy. / - Baku, 2016. – 156 p.; Bakhshiyeva, U. Mirza Ibrahimov's thoughts about folklore language // - Baku: Dede Gorgud, - 2015. № 3, p.115-121.; Bakhshiyeva, U. Great democrat: national ideology and realism // - Baku: Azerbaijan, - 2016. № 5, p.183-188.

<sup>10</sup> Agayeva, S. The expansion of horizons: Mirza Ibrahimov and Russian literature / S.Agayeva. – Baku: 2003; Jalalgizi, S. Mirza Ibrahimov and freedom movement in South Azerbaijan / S.Jalalgizi. – Baku: Elm, - 2011. – 144 p.; Aliyeva, G. The theme "South" in Mirza Ibrahimov's prose / G.Aliyeva. – Baku: Elm ve tehsil, - 2016. – 171 p.

In some of the articles written about Mirza Ibrahimov the aspects of his life and activity related to South Azerbaijan are studied.

In a number of dissertations written in recent years Mirza Ibrahimov's activity has become the object of analysis.

In monographic books and collections of articles dedicated to the various problems of Azerbaijani literary criticism the various aspects of Mirza Ibrahimov's activity are investigated.

In many important parts of the research works Mirza Ibrahimov's artistic prose and literary-theoretical heritage are investigated in the context of linguistics problems.

At the same time in various studies published in the Azerbaijan press Mirza Ibrahimov's activity has become an object of analysis in one way or another.

The collection "Mirza Ibrahimov's "Bibliography"" has been prepared and published in Azerbaijan National Academy of Sciences and Central Scientific Library in Azerbaijani, Russian and English languages by A.Aliyeva-Kangarli and I.Safarov.<sup>11</sup>

Despite all these studies, Mirza Ibrahimov's literary-critical thoughts have not been studied seriously from a modern scientific point of view. The dissertation work presented to the defense arose from this necessity.

**The object and subject of research.** The object of the research is literary- critical activity of academician Mirza Ibrahimov and his literary-study heritage. The subject of the research is to identify, analyze and explain, characterize and evaluate Mirza Ibrahimov's literary-critical views. To investigate and explain the academic-scientific views, aesthetic-theoretical views of the scientist and critic, his attitude to the classical heritage, the concept of modern literature, the credo and principles of criticism, as well as socio-political and ideological-publicist position are the issues included in the subject of the dissertation.

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<sup>11</sup> Ibrahimov, M. Bibliogrphay / M. Ibrahimov. – Baku: Elm, - 2013. – 460 p.



**The aim and objectives of the research.** The aim of the study is to investigate and study the literary-critical thoughts of academician Mirza Ibrahimov on the basis of rich literary and literary-critical heritage, at the same time in accordance with the whole activity way in mutual relations. The following objectives arising from this aim are ahead in the dissertation:

- Identification of monographic studies, problem articles, literary-critical reviews and articles containing Mirza Ibrahimov's literary-critical opinions, the classification on topics;
- Determination of attitude to classical heritage, analysis and estimation of studies about the ancient and medieval literature;
- Revealing literary-aesthetic views, research principles;
- Explanation of the platform of folklore and realism-based literature historiography; research and analysis of the research about the history of Azerbaijani literature beginning with realism;
- Investigation and estimation of the research about the literary school "Molla Nasreddin", which is considered the peak of Azerbaijani realism;
- Generalization of researches about realism; estimation of researches on realism in folklore, classical literature and modern literature;
- Research of articles and literary-critical views on the theory and literature of socialist realism and estimation of the position of modern scientific approach;
- About various problems of literary theory – modernity of literature, art and master, folk and ideological content, tradition and innovation, satire and laughter, composition and plot, principles of literary criticism, etc. description and analysis of the articles on the issues;
- Analysis of research on modern literary process – poetry, prose, dramaturgy, revealing its value;
- Analysis of articles about the literary criticism and literature-study, clarification of modern scientific position;

- The concept of modern literature, the study of critical credo and principles, interpretation and estimation of ideas and ideological-publicist position.

**Research methods.** The research was carried out by historical-comparative method and written on the basis of achievements of modern Azerbaijani literature. Knowledge of modern literature theory and literature historiography was used in solving concrete problems.

**The main provisions for defense.**

1. Academician Mirza Ibrahimov, deeply aware of the ideological character of the Soviet period, was one of those who cared about the development of national culture in this period.

2. Academician Mirza Ibrahimov's literary-critical thoughts were formed on the basis of Marxist-materialist outlook and literary criticism traditions of Mirza Fatali Akhundzade. In the literature and art principles the writer was one of the most consistent followers of M.F.Akhundzade.

3. Problems such as studying and immortalizing the classical heritage, issues of protection and development of the national language, the development of modern artistic-aesthetic taste and literary-critical thinking, etc. were the main lines in Mirza Ibrahimov's activity.

4. Mirza Ibrahimov's attitude on the theory and literature of socialist realism, scientific opinions and judgments were also part of the concept of general realism.

**The scientific innovation of the research.** The dissertation is the first research work that covers the scientific and literary criticism activity of Academician Mirza Ibrahimov and studies his literary-critical views and systematically.

- For the first time, the scientist's original attitude to the classical heritage, the problem of renaissance in medieval literature, the study of realism in oral literature, the study of medieval literature from the position of folk and realism was explained widely.

- For the first time in the dissertation the scientific attention is drawn to Mirza Ibrahimov's research on the literature of enlightenment and critical realism, which began in the ancient and Middle Ages, and modern literature in a whole way – from the point of view of development of realism.

- Mirza Ibrahimov's position on the theory and literature of socialist realism, scientific opinions and judgments are also considered and estimated as the composition of the concept of general realism.

- One of the innovations of the research is the classification and study of critical activities of Mirza Ibrahimov on literary genres. In this activity, not only literary critic, theorist of modern literature, but also theoretical-critical and artistic-publicist-critic's activity and writer's unique heritage are preferred.

- On the basis of Mirza Ibrahimov's activity heritage the literature-study and literature of the Soviet period are considered and valued in terms of the values of Azerbaijanism and modernity of the period of independence.

#### **The theoretical and practical significance of the research.**

The scientific and theoretical considerations of the dissertation can be used in the study and re-estimating of Mirza Ibrahimov's activity, in the study of the literary-theoretical idea of the 20<sup>th</sup> century, in the study of problems of realism literature, in the investigation of issues of attitude to the 20<sup>th</sup> century literature and classical heritage. The results of the dissertation can be benefited from the preparation of textbooks of the higher school, special courses about the life and activity of Mirza Ibrahimov, teaching literary criticism subjects, practical-theoretical seminars about the 20<sup>th</sup> century literature.

**Approbation and application of the research.** 10 scientific works on the theme of dissertation, including 6 articles and 4 reports were published. The main results of the dissertation work were presented at the following conferences: The international scientific-practical conference dedicated to "Kitabi-Dede Gorgud"

and Turkic world, to the translation and publication of “Kitabi-Dede Gorgud” (Baku, 2015), the Republican scientific conference on the theme “Azerbaijani philology: a new stage of development” dedicated to the 80<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the prominent turkologist scientist, Honored scientist, academician T.I.Hajiyev (Baku, 2016), at the Republican scientific conference “Modern Turkology: yesterday, today and tomorrow (problems and prospects)” dedicated to the 90<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the First Turkological Congress (Baku, 2016) and the 4<sup>th</sup> International scientific conference “Classical and contemporary literature: continuity and prospects of updating” (Prague, 2019). 6 scientific articles related to the dissertation work were published in the scientific journals such as “Language and literature”, “Philological issues”, “Мова і Культура”.

**Name of the organization in which the research work is performed.** The research work was prepared at the department of History of Azerbaijan literature of Baku State University. The theme of the dissertation was confirmed at the meeting of the Scientific Council of Baku State University on the 3<sup>th</sup> of April in 2014 (Protocol №6) and the Scientific Research Coordination Council of the Republic of Azerbaijan on the 2<sup>th</sup> of July in 2014 (Protocol №4).

**Structure of the research.** The dissertation work consists of introduction (15865 signs), Part I (77256 signs), Part II (64310 signs), Part III (97464 signs), conclusion (5038 signs) and the total volume is 259933 signs.

## THE MAIN CONTENT OF THE DISSERTATION

In the part “**Introduction**” of the dissertation the information about subject’s actuality, the level of its research, the object and scientific resources of the work, as well as the main aim of the research and the proposed tasks, theoretical-

methodological bases of the research, scientific innovation, practical significance of the work, as well as the structure of the study is given.

The first part of the dissertation called “**M.Ibrahimov as a researcher of classical Azerbaijani literature**” consists of two chapters.

The first chapter is called “*Studies on Azerbaijani poetry of ancient and Middle Ages*”. The studies about the classical literature occupy an important place in Mirza Ibrahimov’s criticism and literary activities. At all stages of his activity he applied to the classical heritage and searched the beginning and foundation of national literature in ancient and medieval poetry, in this regard he devoted dozens of investigations to many Azerbaijani classic poets such as Nizami Ganjavi, Afzaladdin Khagani, Mahammad Fuzuli, Imadaddin Nasimi, M.P.Vagif and others.

One of the characteristic features of “Mirza Ibrahimov’s researches is the presentation of Azerbaijani literature in the context of Eastern and Western culture”.<sup>12</sup> In general, *Mirza Ibrahimov’s researches and articles about the ancient and middle period of national literature devoted*<sup>13</sup> to the promotion of Azerbaijani literature can be divided into two parts: 1) Researches and articles created directly from the investigation of classical poetry; 2) Articles and reviews written about the classical theme and literature researches.

M.Ibrahimov searched ways of studying and solving various problems in the history of ancient and medieval literature, put forward academic opinions about it and said the word of a respected scientist. As in Mirza Ibrahimov’s “*artistic activity there is a broad political view in his literary and theoretical*

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<sup>12</sup> Sultanli, V. Literary criticism of Azerbaijan / V.Sultanli. – Baku: Elm ve tehsil, - 2012. – p. 122

<sup>13</sup> Yusifli, V. Introduction // Mirza Ibrahimov. Selected works: [in 2 volumes]. – Baku: Sharg-Garb, - v. 1. – 2005, - p. 4-12

*heritage, which has a strong national attitude to events and facts. He did not accept any classical and literary works in a narrow frame, but drew attention to the modernity of his public-social meaning. It is no coincidence that in his works with national and world classics, folklore monuments, modern literary process, as well as in the theoretical styled works the sign of the national-political figure was observed*".<sup>14</sup>

Mirza Ibrahimov's views about the classical literature were formed from his first researches. In the article "Azerbaijani literature on the way of people's progress" by him one of the main ideas of Azerbaijani literature giving a high value to science, knowledge, "mind and cognition above all" is considered.

Starting from the "ideal state" wishes of Nizami regarding "judges being philosophers and philosophers being the head of power", in medieval literature "immortal artists such as Khagani, Mahsati, Saib Tabrizi, Fuzuli, Shah Ismail Khatai, Molla Panah Vagif, Molla Veli Vidadi and Zakir always being tireless propagandists of science and knowledge, intellect and wisdom" are studied and estimated in the article. The author, who determined that the opinions of Azerbaijani writers and poets, such as beginning from M.F.Akhundov to all educators - H.Zardabi, S.A.Shirvani, "Molla Nasreddin", M.Hadi, M.A.Sabir and others, all scientists and figures, and the national idea are "to wake up the Azerbaijani people, to bring it into the world's cultural circle", looks for the reality of this idea in today's literature.<sup>15</sup>

Mirza Ibrahimov, as a scientist, was engaged in the most advanced, peak moments of the ancient and medieval literature –

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<sup>14</sup> Alishanli, Sh. Mirza Ibrahimov and Azerbaijan literary-theoretical idea of the 20th century // Newspaper Literature. – 2011, November 25, № 43

<sup>15</sup> Nasibova, V. Mirza Ibrahimov's literary-critical views about the classics of XIX-XX centuries // Materials of the Republican scientific conference "Azerbaijani philology: a new stage of development". – Baku: Baku State University, November 2, 2016, - p. 337-339

Nizami Ganjavi's and Muhammad Fuzuli's activities. Each article devoted to Nizami Ganjavi's activity was the result of the great research and clarifies concrete problems, it draws attention to some or other urgent issues of Nizami-study and gives its scientific solution. As a writer, scientist and critic M.Ibrahimov was interested in Nizami's activity in the poet's 800th anniversary, the scientific-publicist articles such as "Great word creator", "Great Nizami", "Let's prepare with dignity for the anniversary of Nizami Ganjavi", "The honor of our people and culture", etc. were written.

Mirza Ibrahimov's reports on the Renaissance character of medieval Azerbaijani literature are not limited to his research on Nizami Ganjavi. The articles written by the scientist devoted to Muhammad Fuzuli are also of great importance.

Mirza Ibrahimov sees the rise of Fuzuli's poem to the summit of his time and its relationship to us and today's readers, first of all, in his national roots, folk point of view.

The second chapter of the first part of the research work is called "***Research of realist and educational literature***". As a writer and a scientist Mirza Ibrahimov was interested in one of the scientific problems - issue of realism. It is also confirmed by his literary-critical and scientific activity as a whole.

Mirza Ibrahimov looked for "early realism" not only in M.P.Vagif's activity, but also in ashug activity, in the works of the great poets such as Nizami and Fuzuli, and it was related to the ideas and aspects belonging to "Renaissance realism". In the article "Vagif's period and poetry" Mirza Ibrahimov looks through the formation of Azerbaijani realism in mutual relation with the emergence of Vagif's poetry. Let's give an example from Europe, the thought told by "the great French philosopher and writer Denis Diderot comparing the second half of the 18<sup>th</sup> century, that is, the period Vagif lived": "*In our time, the geniuses managed to reduce philosophy from the world of abstract ideas to the real world. Is there any genius to show this service in the field*

*of lyric poetry and bring it down to the land where we live from magical worlds?”, such a skill was found by M.Ibrahimov in Molla Panah Vagif’s poetry, in Azerbaijan where the central state based on ruthless despotism collapsed by the feudal lords”. “Vagif’s greatness is that he filled the lyric poem with real life, civil spirit and again raised it to the classical level”.*

Mirza Ibrahimov mentions that Vagif’s activity belonged to three great features - realism, folk and high-quality folk art language and these characteristics take root in all elements of the poetry-language, series of characters, compositions, poetic style in general, substantiates all three aspects with concrete evidence. Vagif’s realism lies in the fact that the lyric hero is *“alive and lively”, “he doesn’t become stereotyped”, “because it is taken from life, it has a different appearance, a different nature”*. In each poem the author of the article highlights examples of beauties showing different appearance, character, vivid mood: *“This richness of the lyrical poem hero can only be found in Vagif’s activity for the first time in Eastern poetry, because his poetry is inspired by life, concrete and living people, and it is from “nature”*. Mirza Ibrahimov mentions that *“Vagif does not distinguish the realism and the nationality of the poem”*: *“that is, there is no element of this poem that would seem strange to the Azerbaijani people, not to correspond to the tastes, lives and desires of this people”*.<sup>16</sup>

Like many researches of the academician the articles about Mirza Fatali Akhundzade, the founder of Azerbaijani education, author of the idea of transition to Latin graphic alphabet, made great reforms in national literature, brought for the first time the genres of dram, new type prose, philosophical publishing, literary criticism to our literature can be shown as the examples.

Mirza Ibrahimov praised M.F.Akhundzade as *“a great artist with no precipice between his aesthetic-theoretical program and*

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<sup>16</sup> Ibrahimov, M. Vagif’s period and poetry // Selected works: [in 10 volumes] / M.Ibrahimov. – Baku: Yazichi, p. 9, - 1982. – p. 600-617



*his artistic studies*” and estimated his works in different genres for his “*deep social contents*” and “*high artistic value*”.

In the monographic book “Great democrat” the author pays attention to M.F.Akhundzade’s activity among the idea-artistic predecessors of J.Mammadguluzade very much, he connected directly the strengthening of the place of realism in literature with him: “*He firmly brought the literary literature directly to real public life. Due to the efforts of this great historical figure, then Azerbaijani literature is slowly, but surely at the pulse of the century, period, time, daily living and concrete issues of life and social struggle are reflected*”.<sup>17</sup> One of the educational writers studied by Mirza Ibrahimov and devoted to his articles is Nariman Narimanov. In general, Mirza Ibrahimov highly valued Nariman Narimanov’s personality, conducted extensive research on his life and activity, wrote the first part of the novel “Parvana” in 1971 and worked on the second part. Mirza Ibrahimov wrote a play called “Glowing hearths” reflecting N.Narimanov’s image on the stage.

Mirza Ibrahimov’s article “About the 19<sup>th</sup> century South Azerbaijan literature”, written as a preface to the collection “The 19<sup>th</sup> century South Azerbaijan literature”, published in 1979, reflects the period of formation of the direction of enlightenment and realism in Azerbaijani literature in details.

The second part of the dissertation is called “**M.Ibrahimov and “Molla Nasraddin” literary school**”. This part consists of two chapters. The first chapter is called “***Study of Jalil Mammadguluzade’s heritage***”.

A large part of Mirza Ibrahimov’s researches about realism is devoted to the researches of “Molla Nasreddin” literary school - Jalil Mammadguluzade’s and Mirza Alakbar Sabir’s heritages. The founders of this school are J.Mammadguluzade and M.A.Sabir, who laid the foundation of the new satiric-realistic

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<sup>17</sup> Ibrahimov, M. Selected works: [in 10 volumes] / M.Ibrahimov. – Baku: Yazichi, v. 9, - 1982. – p. 28

poetry, there are a lot of monographs and articles written by the scientist.

Mirza Ibrahimov wrote the monographic book “Great democrat” as a historical necessity, he protected Mirza Jalil’s heritage from the vulgar approaches of the turbulent period and brought it to research in a decent way – from the “front of nationalism and realism”. It was also important from the position of Mirza Ibrahimov in the literature of socialist realism in which he was represented. The representatives of this literature just learned from J.Mammadguluzade’s works and studied creation lessons from him.

According to the scientist’s thought: *“The accusing speech of his writings during Soviet period lived together with the decisive, advanced trends of our lives with the great force of artistic confirmation and helped our people to create new life and new culture”*.<sup>18</sup>

M.Ibrahimov admits that J.Mammadguluzade’s arsenal of ideas, as in the classic writers, is based on humanism. It is more difficult to stand behind humanism at a time when social classes are opposed to each other, created a national struggle artificially.

The journal “Molla Nasraddin” fights with enemies of humanism as a realist, invites society to humanity by telling the truth and exposing the sides and causes of conflicts.

Finally, M.Ibrahimov estimates J.Mammadguluzade’s attitude to the language as *“a great patriot of the native Azerbaijani language”*. The scientist *“knowing Persian, Arabic and Russian perfectly”* was not against learning other languages at all, he noted that *“learning the language of peoples will have a positive impact on the development of national culture and languages”*, the writer mentioned that his real intention was not to

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<sup>18</sup> Ibrahimov, M. Selected works: [in 10 volumes] / M.Ibrahimov. – Baku: Yazichi, v. 9, - 1982. – p. 591

reduce the level of his native Azerbaijani language in front of other languages.<sup>19</sup>

The second chapter of the second part of the dissertation is called “*About satiric poetry school*”.

Though Mirza Ibrahimov connects the establishment of the literary school “Molla Nasreddin” with the activity of Jalil Mammadguluzade, he relates the formation of the satirical poetry school with Mirza Alakbar Sabir’s activity.<sup>20</sup> In general, the scientist considers these two writers as the main pillars of critical realism, not separating their historical services from each other.

Monographic book can be considered a generalized conclusion of M.Ibrahimov’s research about M.A.Sabir. Till nowadays the articles by the scientist about the great satirist were published and the poet’s exceptional place in the history of literature was also mentioned in other works especially.

All these facts don’t deny the formation of Sabir’s satire and the satiric poetry school as a whole in the epoch of revolutions of the early 20<sup>th</sup> century. “I am a poet, a mirror of my century” told by Sabir shows the reality of his attitude to the subject of the revolution. In particular, the fact that M.A.Sabir’s satires include the theme of workers and peasants than other masters of the time also allows the poet to speak sympathy for the lower classes.

Giving an important place to Sabir’s art views Mirza Ibrahimov considers him “the continuation of M.F.Akhundov’s materialist aesthetics principles”, “the triumph of realist literature of full meaning”. The poems written by the poet determine his artistic ideal and credo.

The third part of the dissertation is called “**Mirza Ibrahimov and modern literary process**”. This part consists of four chapters. The first chapter is called “*About poetry*”.

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<sup>19</sup> Ibrahimov, M. Selected works: [in 10 volumes] / M.Ibrahimov. – Baku: Yazichi, v. 9, - 1982. – p. 204

<sup>20</sup> Ibrahimov, M. Sabir // - Baku: Azerbaijan SSR News of SA, - 1952. – №7, – p. 85-98

M.Ibrahimov as a literary critic studied the ways of Azerbaijani poetry, investigated the activities of art masters such as Nizami, Nasimi, Fuzuli, Vagif, Sabir. Therefore, M.Ibrahimov, as a critic, was aware of the demands of modern poetry and had always worked for the development of new poetry.

In his articles such as “War and literature” (1943), “New inclinations” (1954), “Literary innovation and life” (1961), “October and our literature” (1967), “Modernity in our literature” (1946), “Great ideas, deep passions, vivid literature” (1960), “Art and mastership” (1945), “Patriotic poets” (1945), “Tops of mastership” Mirza Ibrahimov tried to create a modern picture of Azerbaijani poetry with a thousand-year history. In some articles such as “S.Vurgun’s poetry”, “The eternal flame of poetry” (1957), “Sensitive attitude to tradition” (1959), “Cranes” (1942), “The poet can’t become older” (1954), “Glorifier of great friendship” (1958), “Lines of fire” (1960), “Poet from Heyderbaba” (1963), “Open way to horizons” (1964) etc. the author determines the activity image and the poetical thinking of some poets such as Samad Vurgun, Mikayil Mushfig, Suleyman Rustam, Rasul Rza, Osman Sarivelli, Mammad Rahim, Bakhtiyar Vahabzade and others.

Mirza Ibrahimov was able to illuminate masterfully and professionally the overall picture of Azerbaijani poetry in his articles describing poetic qualities and features of the poem” characterized “*as the most flexible and literary type in terms of reflection*”<sup>21</sup>. Paying attention to the issues such as modernity, realism, nationalism and vitality, humanism, craftsmanship, traditionalism, poetic thinking, high ideality in poetry the prominent scientist noted the importance of these qualities and advised the prominent representatives of poetry to follow them.

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<sup>21</sup> Pospelov, G. N. Lyrics (among literary genres) / G.N. Pospelov. - Moscow: Publishing House of the Moscow University, - 1976. - p. 96

The second chapter of the third part of the dissertation is called “*Problems of artistic prose*”.<sup>22</sup> The national consciousness, national thinking of each people is found in prose works, first of all, in their artistic embodiment. There is a special interest in prose in literary-theoretical thoughts of the prominent writer and critic Mirza Ibrahimov.

Mirza Ibrahimov, *who paid attention to human values in his literary-critical writings*”<sup>23</sup>, as well as in his fiction, had shown the exceptional services in the development of realism and socialist realism both as a scientist and as a writer in the direction of national prose realism.

In the articles written by the scientist such as “War and literature” (1943), “Modernity in our literature” (1946), “Mastery, artistic language and plot” (1955), “The hot spring of activity”, “Vitality and folklore in art”, “Innovation and folk” (1959), etc. the concrete problems of Azerbaijan prose in different periods are investigated and ways of solution are looked through.

M.Ibrahimov’s views on ideas and humanism in prose, vitality and folklore, realism, tradition and innovation, artistic language and plot many-coloredness still retain their actuality. Noting the importance of the quality of folk art and realism in prose, the prominent writer mentioned that they were born of artistic existence, perception of life, attitude to events, upbringing and feelings of the artist, connected with the life, past and future of the people.<sup>24</sup>

Different literary writings such as “What to do?” (1931), “Sabit Rahman’s activity” (1932), “World breaks out” (1934),

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<sup>22</sup> Nasibova B. Problems of artistic prose in Mirza Ibrahimov’s collections // Classical and contemporary literature: continuity and prospects of updating. – Materials of the IV international scientific conference. – November 7-8, 2019, – p. 65-67

<sup>23</sup> Huseynov, Ch. This living phenomenon / Ch.Huseynov. – Moscow: Soviet writer, - 1988. – p. 202

<sup>24</sup> Prose as an artistic mirror of life in Mirza Ibrahimov’s investigations. - Baku: Philological issues, 2016, №11, - p. 470.

“About a valuable novel” (1941), “Ramon’s nephew” (1948), “Outstanding Soviet writer” (1952), “Pride of Russian literature” (1952), “Great writer and revolutionary democrat” (1953), “About L.N. Tolstoy’s realism” (1953), “Anri Barbus” (1953), “Diplomat” (1953), “About the novel “Separated roads”” (1956), “Old writer and public figure” (1956), “Live pages of the past” (1958), “Seyid Huseyn” (1959), “Chekhov and his period” (1960), “Eternal memory” (1965), “Giant of intelligence” (1966), “The word master of the new world” (1968), etc. are dedicated to the portraits of creativity, analysis of the works by the world literature classics such as N.G.Chernishevski, N.V.Gogol, L.N.Tolstoy, A.R.Chekhov, M.Gorki, K.Fedin, D.Didro, Anri Barbus, R.Rollan, J.Oldrij and the modern Azerbaijan writers such as S.Rahman, Abulhasan, Sleyman Rahimov, S.Huseyn, Abdulla Shaig, A.Valiyev, Mehdi Hueyn, Ismayil Shikhli and others.

The issue of artistic hero has always been one of the most important issues for Mirza Ibrahimov as a writer and a critic. Each literary man/woman enriches the literature with new speeds, suitable for heroes in life, living people. It means that the issue of artistic speed is the backbone of the work of art, such as nationalism and vitality, tradition and innovation and other issues.

Mirza Ibrahimov noted that literary language and plot are of great importance in literary work, along with ideality and vitality, high artistic language and plot solve the fate of the work and emphasized the importance of these artistic qualities for prose examples in his article “Mastery, artistic language and plot”.

Speaking about the emotional power of typification and artistic generalization, in other words, the citizen enthusiasm the author considered the artistic importance of the living and internal relations of the writer with life, the struggle of the people.

The third chapter of the third part of the dissertation is called “*Theatre and dramaturgy issues*”.

Mirza Ibrahimov’s relation with the theatrical art and his constant writing on the way to its development are also evident in

his literary-critical activity. The author's articles such as "About the development of our dramaturgy and some issues of art" (1953), "Chekhov's dramaturgy" (1954), "Dramaturgy and modernity" (1961), "Theater living with time" (1961), "Actor's art and time" (1961), "Javid's art" (1976)" about dramaturgy and general problems of the theatre show closeness he is interested in the significance and concrete fate of the genre.

In his articles such as "Remembering J.Jabbarli" (1948), "J.Jabbarli" (1955), "Pride of Azerbaijani dramaturgy" (1959), "Unforgettable artist" (1959), "Our Jafar" (1960), "Great writer, simple man" (1960), "Our master" (1960), "Singer of the life" (1960), "Passionate and warlike art" (1969) Mirza Ibrahimov analyzed J.Jabbarli's dramaturgy and created a full portrait of the writer.

The articles such as "Great composer of the people" (1960), "Uzayir Hajibeyov about art and crafts" (1964) and the book "A pen that helps thunderstorms" (1987) were also written by him.

According to the author the process of creativity in the drama passes through two stages: abstract and concretization, the playwright first isolates in his mind many concrete people and events he observes in life. In other words, this is not just a concrete person, it chooses a quality from each of the many people, typifies the event by abstract way and then it concretizes these qualities not in several ways, but also in an artistic way.

The last chapter of the third part is called "***Literary theory, criticism and literary-studies***". Mirza Ibrahimov's deep connection with the literary process does not end with just following modern literature and his critical articles.

The research work shows that, in addition to seriously dealing with the problems of science - literary studies studying literature, the scientist also paid attention to the relationship and interaction of scientific-critical thought with artistic practice. Mirza Ibrahimov has dozens of theoretical and critical articles on

all three departments of literary studies – theory of literature, history of literature and literary criticism.

In the articles such as “Good smiling is strong”, “Development ways of our language”, “Connection of activity with life”, “Dramaturgy, conflict, beauty”, “Innovation and nationalism”, “Uzeyir Hajibeyov about art and mastership”, etc. modernity, tradition and innovation, nationalism and vitality, plot and composition, unity of content and form, artistic language, writer personality and artistic regularity, reality and forms of artistic reflection and other main problems have found the explanation. Modernity, realism, sensitive attitude to tradition are the main qualities required of the writer, regardless of the critic’s experience, his position in the literary process.

In his articles such as “For meaningful works of art”, “About some issues of our literary development”, “War and literature”, “Great life requires great art”, “For high-quality literary works of art”, “Azerbaijan Soviet literature in front of new tasks”, “About artistic language and plot”, “Life, being, creativity”, “Life must be learnt and described with art”, “About seeing, choosing and putting into artistic form”, “Great ideas, deep passions, literature of vivid images” Mirza Ibrahimov spoke about the influence and aesthetic qualities of the artistic image.

Mirza Ibrahimov had a great role in writing the history of Azerbaijani literature in the first fundamental three volumes. A member of the editorial board of the book, the author wrote in the third volume “A few words”<sup>25</sup> dedicated to the modern period. The articles written by Mirza Ibrahimov about the history of the literary criticism, about the great Russian critics V.G.Belinski “Thinker critic” (1948) and “Chernishevski” (1953), about the founder of our modern criticism M.F.Akhundzade “Herald of advanced ideas” (1951), about Ali Nazim, who was the Marxist critic during 1920-1930, “Talented literary critic” (1961) are

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<sup>25</sup> History of Azerbaijani literature: [in 3 volumes]. – Baku: Azerbaijan SSR AS Publishing house, - v. 3. – 1957. – p. 5-10



examples of literary criticism as a genre to study its definition, basic requirements and characteristics. Mirza Ibrahimov, speaking about the richness of modern poetry in his article “Believe, influence” (1969), justifies the invasion of “intellectual poem”, which caused the polemics and based on the experience of classical poetry, it deepens the idea of the many-coloredness of poetry.

In the part of “**Conclusion**” the opinions and considerations in different chapters of the dissertation are explained. In the research work academician Mirza Ibrahimov’s literary-critical views are analyzed and summarized thematically in three chapters. Although the researches about the literary heritage of the scientist are based on the theory of classicism of his time and adds the certain ideological colors to his scientific views, it does not lead to distortion of our rich national literary heritage. On the contrary, the scientist, who was against the curves of vulgar sociology, presents reasonable examples of the correct reading of the history of national literature in the Soviet period. As Mirza Ibrahimov’s artistic activity, the literary criticism heritage protects the qualities of modernity. However the scientific works of the writer helped the literature history and the cognition of the classical heritage, his own name has become the line of the classics. The research work is the beginning of the systematic study of Mirza Ibrahimov’s scientific and literary criticism and shows the need for further researches.

**The main theses of the dissertation are reflected in the following scientific articles, materials of national and international conferences:**

1. Mirza Ibrahimov and ashug poetry. – Baku: Language and literature. – 2015. №1 (93), - p.196-199
2. Mirza Ibrahimov about the issues of modern literature. – Baku: Language and literature. –2016. № 3 (99), - p.191-194

3. The main features of the dram art in Mirza Ibrahimov's investigations. - Baku: Philological issues, 2016, №10, - p. 333-339.

4. Prose as an artistic mirror of life in Mirza Ibrahimov's investigations. - Baku: Philological issues, 2016, №11, - p. 469-475.

5. Mirza Ibrahimov and folklore. – Київ: Київський національний університет імені Тараса Шевченка. Мова І Культура. – 2016, Випуск 22, Том V (182), – p.18-24.

6. On the Satirical Poetry School. – Bulletin of science and practice. – 2020. Volume 6. №6. – p. 323-330. <https://doi.org/10.33619/2414-2928/55/43/>

7. Mirza Ibrahimov and folklore // Materials of the International scientific conference dedicated to the translation and publication of “Kitabi-Dede Gorgud”, “Kitabi-Dede Gorgud” and the Turkic world. – Baku: Baku State University. – 29 December 2015. - p. 449-454

8. Mirza Ibrahimov's literary-critical views about the classics of the 19th-20th centuries // Materials of the Republican scientific conference “Azerbaijani philology: a new stage of development”. – Baku: Baku State University. – 2 November 2016, - p. 337-339

9. Prominent literary critic Mirza Ibrahimov about our classical heritage // Materials of the Republican scientific conference on Modern Turkology: Yesterday, today and tomorrow (problems and perspectives) dedicated to the 90th anniversary of the First Turkological Congress. – Baku: Baku State University. - December 2016. - p. 440-443

10. Problems of artistic prose in Mirza Ibrahimov's collections // Classical and contemporary literature: continuity and prospects of updating, Materials of the IV international scientific conference. – November 7-8, 2019. – p. 65-67

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