

# **REPUBLIC OF AZERBAIJAN**

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## **ABSTRACT**

of the dissertation for the degree of Doctor of Philosophy

### **CULTURAL RELATIONS OF THE REPUBLIC OF AZERBAIJAN WITH THE RUSSIAN FEDERATION (1991-2013)**

Speciality: **5507.01 – History of international relations**

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Applicant: **Yagut Yagub gizi Mammadova**

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The work was carried out at A.A.Bakikhanov Institute of History of the Azerbaijan National Academy of Sciences in the department of "History of Azerbaijan-Russia relations".

**Scientific supervisor:** Full member of ANAS,  
Doctor of Historical Sciences,  
Professor  
**Yagub Mikayil oglu Mahmudov**

**Official opponents:** Doctor of Historical Sciences, Professor  
**Ikram Karim oglu Agasiyev**  
Doctor of Philosophy in History,  
Associate Professor  
**Sevinj Farrukh gizi Ruintan**  
Doctor of Philosophy in History  
**Azim Isgander oglu Heydarov**

One-time Dissertation Council BED 1.30/1 of Supreme Attestation Commission under the President of the Republic of Azerbaijan operating at the Institute of History and Ethnology named after A.A.Bakikhanov of the Azerbaijan National Academy of Sciences

Chairman of the Dissertation  
council:

Doctor of Historical Sciences,  
Professor

**Karim Karam oglu Shukurov**

Scientific secretary of the  
Dissertation council:

Doctor of Historical Sciences,  
Associate Professor

**Ilgar Vahid oglu Niftaliyev**

Chairman of the scientific  
seminar:

Doctor of Historical Sciences,  
Professor

**Ismail Maharram oglu Musa**

## **I.GENERAL CHARACTERISTICS OF THE DISSERTATION**

**Relevance and development of the subject:** One of the current problems of historical science is the study of the history of relations between nations. The theoretical significance of these relations is determined by a scientific understanding of the role of mutual relations in the history of nations. The study of cultural ties and relations between different peoples and countries has been one of the most important theoretical problems in all periods of history. Especially at present stage, at a time when political, economic and cultural ties between nations and peoples are expanding, and globalization is gaining momentum, this problem has become even more urgent. In this regard, the study of Azerbaijani-Russian cultural relations is not only of scientific but also political interest.

Azerbaijan has established cultural cooperation with more than 100 countries. Among these countries, the former USSR republics, first of all the Russian Federation, which is geographically, historically and culturally close to us, have a special place.

One of the main directions in the relations between our countries is the supremacy of the principles and norms of international law, mutual trust and commitment to universal values, as well as taking into account the specific national characteristics of each country.

Mutually beneficial cultural and humanitarian cooperation can play an important role in meeting the goals and objectives of the country's foreign policy and increasing the effectiveness of this policy. In particular, the preservation and development of cultural ties between peoples located in the same geography, with centuries-old political, economic and cultural ties, is one of the main conditions for peace, tranquility and progress in the world and in the region. In this regard, the study of the history of cultural relations of our country with the Russian Federation is of great scientific, theoretical and political importance. The history of cultural and spiritual ties between the peoples of Azerbaijan and Russia is old. This is primarily due to the fact that both nations are neighbors and have lived in the same state

for a long period of history. The Russian language has played the role of a bridge in the acquisition of Azerbaijan universal cultural heritage. After gaining independence, the Republic of Azerbaijan has always proved its interest in expanding political, economic and cultural ties with neighboring peoples. The nearly 200-year history of Azerbaijan's relations with its northern neighbor Russia is characterized by the fact that both peoples exist in a single political and social space, first as part of tsarist Russia and then the USSR. During this period, the Azerbaijani and Russian peoples had close cultural contacts, and the cultures of both peoples developed and enriched each other.

With the collapse of the Soviet Union, a new era began in the political and cultural relations between the Republic of Azerbaijan and the Russian Federation, which gained independence, based on international law as independent states. Unfortunately, in the first years of independence, the contradictions between the two countries dealt a severe blow to the Azerbaijani-Russian political and cultural relations that based on historical traditions. After the coming to power of the national leader of Azerbaijan Heydar Aliyev in 1993, these contradictions gradually began to be eliminated. In his first speech as the head of the Azerbaijani state, Heydar Aliyev noted and pointed out that our country should establish the necessary cultural, economic and state relations with our neighbors.<sup>1</sup>

After the election of Vladimir Putin as President of the Russian Federation in 2001, a new phase of mutual cooperation began. President of the Republic of Azerbaijan Heydar Aliyev used all opportunities to further develop bilateral relations. After his first visit to Russia as President, Heydar Aliyev noted that there was a very high level of political dialogue between Azerbaijan and Russia, mutual understanding in bilateral relations and issues related to regional policy. Economic and humanitarian cooperation was developing very successfully. Great attention was paid to the

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<sup>1</sup> Əliyev, H. Müstəqilliyimiz əbədidir: [46 cildə] / H.Əliyev. –Bakı: Azərnəşr, – c.1. –1997. – 612 s. s.12

preservation of Russian culture and language in Azerbaijan, and this policy would be continued. He said: *"I am pleased to say that, according to the unanimous opinion of the leadership of Russia and Azerbaijan, the relations between our countries can be an example of neighborly relations. There is no unresolved issue between us"*.<sup>2</sup>

The main document of the legal framework of bilateral relations is the "Agreement on Friendship, Cooperation and Mutual Security between the Russian Federation and the Republic of Azerbaijan" signed on July 3, 1997.<sup>3</sup> Russia is an important strategic partner of Azerbaijan. The basis of relations between the two countries is equal rights and mutual respect, the principles of good neighbourly relations and centuries-old traditions of friendship. The development of mutual cooperation contributes to ensuring stability and security in the South Caucasus and the Caspian region. High-level cooperation between the two countries continues.

Azerbaijan maintains interregional relations with more than 70 regions of the Russian Federation.

Since 1993, cultural cooperation between the two neighboring peoples has expanded and enriched with new forms. A branch of M.V. Lomonosov Moscow State University has been operating in Baku since 2008, and a branch of I.M. Sechenov Moscow First State Medical University has been operating since 2015. Every year, great and important events are held in Azerbaijan with the participation of well-known Russian figures of culture and art. Performances of Azerbaijani cultural teams in different cities of Russia, organization of colorful cultural events have already become a tradition.

During the period of independence, the Republic of Azerbaijan has gained great experience in interrelation with the Russian Federation in the field of culture. The study and analysis of this experience, the investigation of Azerbaijan's relations with Russia and the CIS states, as well as the study of international

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<sup>2</sup> Əliyev, H. Müstəqilliyimiz əbədidir: [46 cildə] / H.Əliyev. – Bakı: Azər nəşr, – c.3. – 1997. – 488 s. s.16.

<sup>3</sup> Əliyev, H. Müstəqilliyimiz əbədidir: [46 cildə] / H.Əliyev. – Bakı: Azər nəşr, – c.10. – 2002. – 472 s. s.102.

cultural and humanitarian relations of our country, is of great scientific relevance in terms of drawing conclusions and making certain recommendations and suggestions on this basis.

The history of Azerbaijan's relations with Russia, especially the independent interstate relations that began in 1991, has been sufficiently studied in both domestic and Russian historiography. However, more political aspects of these relations have been studied, and cultural-humanitarian interactions have either been investigated in general terms or covered a more chronologically limited framework of period.

Many works in our national historiography are dedicated to the history of Azerbaijan's relations with Russia. In the monographs, books articles<sup>4</sup> by Z.İbrahimov, D.Gudratov, A.Guliyev,

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<sup>4</sup>İbrahimov, Z. Azərbaycan və rus xalqlarının dostluğu tarixindən // – Bakı: Təbliğatçı, – 1943, №7. – s.81-82. ; Qüdrətov, D. Azərbaycanın qardaş sovet respublikaları ilə iqtisadi və mədəni əməkdaşlığı: 1920-1932-ci illər /D.Qüdrətov. – Bakı: Elm, – 1973. – 278 s.; 188. Mahmudov, Y. Azərbaycan diplomatiyası. Ağqoyunlu və Səfəvi dövlətlərinin Avropa ölkələri ilə əlaqələri (XV-XVII yüzilliklər) /Y.Mahmudov. – Bakı: Təhsil, – 2006. – 416 s.; Quliyev, Ə.N. Azərbaycan-Rusiya münasibətləri tarixindən: XV-XVIII əsrlər /Ə.N.Quliyev. – Bakı: Bilik Cəmiyyəti, – 1958. – 52 s.; Mustafazadə, T. Azərbaycan -Rusiya münasibətləri (XVIII əsrin ikinci yarısı - XIX əsrin əvvəlləri) /T.Mustafazadə. – Bakı: Şərq-Qərb, – 2013. – 528 s.; Sayadov, S. XX əsr: Azərbaycan və dünya /S.Sayadov. – Bakı: Elm, 2006. – 186 s.; İbrahimov, M.Sahilyanı dövlətlərin xarici siyasətində Xəzər problemi (XX əsrin sonu-XXI əsrin əvvəlləri) /M.İbrahimov. – Bakı: Turxan NPB, – 2020. – 224 s.; Ахундова, Н. Из истории развития культурных связей Азербайджана с Россией и другими государствами в 60-е годы XX – начале XXI вв. // Материалы Международной научной конференции, посвященной 25-летию образования Республики Ингушетия. – Магас: 2017, с.56-60.; Гасымлы, М.Дж. Азербайджан в международных культурных связях (1946-1990 гг.) /М.Дж.Гасымлы. – Тбилиси: Артанучи, – 2005. – 300 с.; Гусейнов, А. Азербайджано-русские отношения XV-XVII веков /Гусейнов А. – Баку: Изд. АН, – 1963. – 162 с.; Искендерова, М.С. Азербайджано-русские отношения XVIII – начала XIX вв. в азербайджанской и русской историографии (20-80-е годы XX века) /М.С.Искендерова. – Баку: ЭЛМ, – 2009. – 440 с.; Таирова, Ф.

Y.Mahmudov, T.Mustafazadeh, S.Sayadov, N.Akhundova, M.Qasimli, A.Huseynov, M.Isgandarova, F.Tahirova, M.Ibrahimov political, economic, and cultural aspects of the history of these relations have been studied. Azerbaijani-Russian literary relations are analyzed in the works of A.Almammadov, M.Jafar, A.Gahramanov, Sh.Gurbanov, K.Talibzadeh, S.Asadullayev and M.Sadigov.<sup>5</sup>

The works by A.Abbasbeyli, N.Abbasov, K.Abdullayev, A.Hasanov, I.Huseynova, M.Qasimli, Y.Mahmudov, F.Mammadov, S.Mammadaliyeva, T.Ahmadova, S.Mammadova and other authors<sup>6</sup>

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Дмитрий Шостакович и Азербайджанская музыкальная культура /Ф Таирова. – Баку: Нурлан, –2006. –304 с.

<sup>5</sup> Alməmmədov, A. Azərbaycan-rus ədəbi əlaqələri (1900-1920-ci illər) / A. Alməmmədov. –Bakı: Yazıçı, –1982. –214 s.; Alməmmədov, A. Lev Tolstoy və Azərbaycan ədəbiyyatı / Alməmmədov A. – Bakı: Yazıçı, –1972. – 112 s.; Qəhrəmanov, Ə. Rus-Azərbaycan ədəbi əlaqələrinə dair /Ə.Qəhrəmanov. – Bakı: Azər nəşr, – 1962. – 124 s.; Qurbanov, Ş. A.S.Puşkin və Azərbaycan /Ş.Qurbanov. – Bakı: Azər nəşr, – 1959. – 137 s.; Talibzadə, K. Qorki və Azərbaycan /K.Talibzadə. – Bakı: EA nəşriyyatı, – 1959. – 215 s.; Asadullaev, C. М.Горький и Азербайджан // – Баку: Литературный Азербайджан, – 1961. № 2, – с.148-154.; Sadiqov, A. Rusiyada Azərbaycan mədəniyyətinə böyük maraq var // Panorama, – 1999, 13 oktyabr. – s.2.

<sup>6</sup> Аббасбейли, А. Азербайджан в системе международных и региональных организаций // А. Аббасбейли – Баку: Азернешр, – 1999. – 256 с.; Abbasov, N. Mədəniyyət siyasəti və mədəni irs (Kulturoloji təhlil). /N.Abbasov. – Bakı: ADMİU, –2011. –220 s.; Abdullayev, K. V. Putin, Heydər Əliyev //Azərbaycan. –2001, 11 yanvar. –s. 2. ; Həsənov, Ə. Müasir beynəlxalq münasibətlər və Azərbaycanın xarici siyasəti /Ə.Həsənov. – Bakı: Azərbaycan nəşriyyatı, – 2005. 752 s.; Hüseynova, İ. Müstəqil Azərbaycan dövlətinin qurucusu / İ.Hüseynova. – Bakı: Təhsil, – 2004. – 470 s.; Qasimli, M. Azərbaycanın xarici siyasəti (1991-2003): [2 hissədə]. – Bakı: Mütərcim, – h.1. – 2015. – 648 s.; Mahmudov, Y. Heydər Əliyev ideyalarının zəfər yürüşü /Y.Mahmudov. – Bakı: Təhsil, – 2011. – 547 s.; Məmmədov, E. Müasir dövrdə Azərbaycan - Rusiya əlaqələri /E.Məmmədov. – Bakı: Yazıçı, – 2014. – 184 s.; Мамедалиева С. Культура в эпоху глобализации / С.Мамедалиева. – Баку: Сада, – 2004. – 234 с.; Ахмедова, Т. Культура Азербайджана в условиях глобализации / Взаимодействия культур в условиях глобализации. – Москва: Конан+, – 2010. – 516 с.; Məmmədova S. Rusiya Federasiyasının mədəniyyət günləri // – Bakı: Mədəni- Maarif işi. – 2002. №4, s.4-5.; Xəlilov (Ulusel), R. Heydər Əliyev və Azərbaycan –

deal with establishment and development of relations with Russia, various areas of bilateral cooperation, the place and role of Russia and other CIS countries in Azerbaijan's foreign policy in the context of international cultural relations during independence. M.Qasimli's monograph elucidates the general dynamics of development of Azerbaijan's relations with Russia.<sup>7</sup> In the book "H.Aliyev XXI century: Azerbaijan - CIS countries (humanitarian relations, 1991-2005)" Azerbaijan-Russian cultural relations are considered in the context of humanitarian relations with CIS countries.<sup>8</sup> In the monograph by E.Mammadov the establishment and development of relations between the Azerbaijan state and Russia in various fields after gaining independence, is investigated.<sup>9</sup> Chapter III of this monograph, which covers the years 1991-2011, is dedicated to cultural relations between the two countries. The monograph covers only some aspects of the relationship, which are mainly periodical materials. The chapter also briefly covers the role of diaspora organizations operating in Russia. In terms of covering the activities of diaspora organizations operating in the neighboring country, in Russian-Azerbaijani cultural relations, M.Seyidbeyli's monograph draws attention.<sup>10</sup> The monograph provides detailed information on the condition of the Azerbaijani community in Russia, the national

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Dünya münasibətləri: siyasətdən mədəniyyətədək R.Xəlilov (Ulusel). – Bakı: İdeal-Print, – 2010. – 608 s.; 2007-2015-ci illərdə Azərbaycan gənclərinin xarici ölkələrdə təhsili üzrə Dövlət Proqramı. Azərbaycan Respublikasının Prezidenti İlham Əliyevin 16 aprel 2007-ci il tarixli sərəncamı. URL: <http://www.e-qanun.az/framework/13001>; Азербайджан-Россия: Подписан договор о дружбе, сотрудничестве и взаимной безопасности // Бакинский рабочий, – 1992, 14 октября. – с.1.

<sup>7</sup> Qasimli, M. Azərbaycanın xarici siyasəti (1991-2003): [2 hissədə]. – Bakı: Mütərcim, – h.1. – 2015. – 648 s.

<sup>8</sup> Əliyev, H.H. XXI əsr: Azərbaycan – MDB ölkələri (humanitar əlaqələr, 1991-2005-ci illər) / H.H.Əliyev. – Bakı: ULU, – 2008. – 316 s.

<sup>9</sup> Məmmədov, E. Müasir dövrdə Azərbaycan - Rusiya əlaqələri /E.Məmmədov. – Bakı: Yazıçı, – 2014. – 184 s.

<sup>10</sup> Сейдбейли, М. Азербайджанская диаспора в России: Особенности и тенденции формирования и развития (1988-2010 гг.) /М.Сейидбейли. – Баку: Шарп-Гарб, –2011. –576 с.



and cultural societies of Azerbaijanis, as well as various aspects of Azerbaijani-Russian relations, and analyzes Russian-Azerbaijani cooperation in the humanitarian sphere. Some aspects of the cultural activity of Azerbaijani diaspora organizations in Russia are also reflected in the works of E.Kerimli,<sup>11</sup> R.Huseynov,<sup>12</sup> R.Mammadov,<sup>13</sup> G.Novruzova<sup>14</sup> and others. S.Aliyeva's fundamental monograph provides information about the Azerbaijani Diaspora in the North Caucasus.<sup>15</sup> On the basis of historical facts and documents the rich history of political, military, economic and ethnocultural relations between the peoples of Azerbaijan and the North Caucasus was investigated in the monograph, emphasizing the role of the Azerbaijani language in the cultural development of the peoples of the North Caucasus. Certain aspects of Azerbaijan-North Caucasus relations in the late 20th - early 21st centuries are also reflected in the monograph.

The second chapter of N. Mammadzadeh's three-chapter monograph on Azerbaijan's relations with the CIS and Eastern European countries is about the relations with Russia.<sup>16</sup> One section of the chapter is devoted to Azerbaijani-Russian relations in the humanitarian sphere.

The socio-political relations between the two states and the

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<sup>11</sup> Kərimli, E. Moskvada Azərbaycan diasporu /E.Kərimli. – Bakı: Şuşa, – 2001. – 239 s

<sup>12</sup> Гусейнов, Р. Глядя из Москвы: год в жизни России и Азербайджана в репортажах, очерках и интервью российского журналиста / Р.Гусейнов. – Баку: Азернешр, – 2015. – 448 с.

<sup>13</sup> Мамедов, Р. Сыны Страны Огней в истории России: диаспора (2-е изд., испр. и доп.) / Р.Мамедов. – Баку: Зия, – 2011. – 320 с.

<sup>14</sup> Новрузова, Г. Азербайджанская диаспора Российской Федерации: проблемы исторической демографии (1989-2002 гг.): / автореферат дис.. доктора философии по истории. /– Баку, 2010. – 28 с.

<sup>15</sup> Алиева, С. Азербайджан и народы Северного Кавказа XVIII- начало XXI века) / С.Алиева. – Баку: Şərq-Qərb, – 2010. – 620 с.

<sup>16</sup> Мамед-заде, Н. Взаимоотношения Азербайджанской Республики со славянскими странами СНГ и Восточной Европы / Н.Мамед-заде. – Баку: Ганун, – 2006. – 200 с.

Russian community integrated into Azerbaijani society, public organizations of the peoples of the subjects of the Russian Federation living in our republic, and their role in the socio-political and cultural life of our country are interpreted in the work of A.S. Rustamova in a popular-scientific context.<sup>17</sup>

Azerbaijan's relations with Russia in modern times are also covered in a number of articles published in Azerbaijan<sup>18</sup>.

The cultural aspects of the topic of Azerbaijani-Russian relations are mostly reflected in scientific and journalistic articles.<sup>19</sup>

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<sup>17</sup> Rüstəmovə A. Azərbaycan – Rusiya əlaqələri. Tarixi-bibliografik araşdırma (1992-2022) / A.Rüstəmovə. – Bakı: “BİROL GROUP MMC”, – 2023. – 252 s.

<sup>18</sup> Azərbaycan Respublikasının xarici siyasətinin əsas istiqamətləri: 1991-2016 (məqalələr toplusu) / Azərbaycan Respublikasının Prezidenti yanında Strateji Araşdırmalar Mərkəzi. – Bakı: Poliart MMC, – 2017. – 904 s.; Azərbaycan-Rusiya münasibətləri yeni müstəvidə // Dırçəliş - XXI Əsr, 2004, s. 14-17.; Азербайджан - Россия: новые взаимоотношения, новые горизонты. – Баку: Nurol, – 2002. – 575 с. ; Азербайджанская Республика в Содружестве Независимых Государств. – Баку: Nurol, – 2001. – 287 с.; Взаимодействие культур в условиях глобализации // Материалы Международной научной конференции, посвященной памяти общенационального лидера азербайджанского народа Гейдара Алиева, – Москва: – 15-16 июня, – 2009 г. – Москва: Канон+ РООИ Реабилитация, – 2010. – 528 с.; Диалог культур в условиях глобализации: материалы Бакинского форума, посвященного памяти Гейдара Алиева. – М.: Канон+ РООИ Реабилитация, – 2012. – 616 с.; Культурная политика в Азербайджане: доклад, тезисы доклада / Министерство Культуры Азербайджанской Республики. – Баку: Нагыл эви, – 2004. – 254 с.; Российско-азербайджанские отношения за 20 лет: история и перспективы / Е. В. Бахревский [и др.]. – Баку: РИСИ - ЦСИ ПАР, – 2011. – 124 с.

<sup>19</sup> Azərbaycan-Rusiya münasibətlərində yeni mərhələ: Azərbaycan-Rusiya danışıqları //Azərbaycan, –2001, 10 yanvar. –s. 2-3.;Azərbaycanda Rusiya Federasiyasının mədəniyyət günlərinin təntənəli açılışı mərasimi: Azərbaycan Prezidenti İlham Əliyev mərasimdə iştirak etmişdir. //Azərbaycan, 2004, – 13 iyun. – s.1-2; Azərbaycan-Rusiya mədəniyyəti günləri //Azərbaycan, – 1994, 8 aprel. –s.3.; Azərbaycan-Rusiya mədəniyyəti günləri: (iyunun 12-dən 16-dək ölkəmizdə keçirilən növbəti Rusiya mədəniyyəti günləri haqqında) //Azərbaycan, –2004, 13-17 iyun. –s.4.; Əməkdaşlıq protokolu

Although it is not possible to give a separate scientific analysis of these articles, especially the number and chronological scope of articles published in the periodicals, in general, these articles discuss the development of cultural relations between the two countries. There is a rich factual material on the documents signed in connection with the expansion, mutual cultural visits of cultural organizations, days and years of culture, and they were used effectively in the course of the study.

In the works of Russian authors on Russian-Azerbaijani relations,<sup>20</sup> especially in the books of S.Chernyavsky<sup>21</sup> and

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imzalanmışdır: Azərbaycan Respublikası Mədəniyyət Nazirliyində respublikamızın və Rusiya Federasiyasının Mədəniyyət Nazirlikləri arasında əməkdaşlıq haqqında protokolunun imzalanması haqqında //Azərbaycan, – 1998, 11 mart. – s.1-2.; Hacızadə, A. Moskvada Azərbaycan mədəniyyəti günləri keçirilmişdir //Azərbaycan, –2007, 18 aprel. – s.3.; Hübətov, İ. Mədəniyyət bayramı // Mədəni-Maarif işi, – 2000, №3. – s.4.; Qarayev, Ə. Mədəni inkişaf: 10 ilin uğurlu mənzərəsi //Mədəniyyət, – 2013, 20 sentyabr. – s.5.; Qarayev, Ə. Mədəniyyət və turizm davamlı inkişaf dövrünü yaşayır //Azərbaycan, – 2011, 15 oktyabr. – s.3.; Məmmədova S. Rusiya Federasiyasının mədəniyyət günləri // – Bakı: Mədəni- Maarif işi. – 2002. №4, – s.4-5.; Nuriyev, F. Moskvada Azərbaycan mədəniyyət günləri // Xalq, – 1999, 28 aprel. – s.2.; Sadiqov, A. Rusiyada Azərbaycan mədəniyyətinə böyük maraq var // Panorama, – 1999, 13 oktyabr. – s.2.; Süleymanov, Ə., Həsənov, S. Azərbaycan-Rusiya münasibətləri: reallıqlar və perspektivlər //Azad Azərbaycan, – 2003, 8 fevral. –s.2.; Şahmurov A.Ş. 1991-1995-ci illərdə Azərbaycan – Rusiya münasibətlərindəki problemlərə dair // –Bakı: Bakı Universitetinin Xəbərləri, Humanitar Elmlər Seriyası, –2010, №2, – s.193-197.; Азербайджан-Россия: Подписан договор о дружбе, сотрудничестве и взаимной безопасности // Бакинский рабочий, – 1992, 14 октября. –с.1.; Русская община – 20 лет в семье народов нового Азербайджана. URL: / <http://old.xalqqazeti.com/ru/news/official/13742.>; Рустамова, А.С. Деятельность общественных организаций Российских общин в Азербайджанской республике /Государство и право народов Кавказа: становление, развитие, современное состояние //Материалы Международной научно-практической конференции. Махачкала, 14–15 декабря 2018 г. (Сборник научных статей). –Махачкала: 2019, –248 с. – с.194-199.

<sup>20</sup> Взаимодействие культур в условиях глобализации //Материалы Международной научной конференции, посвященной памяти

Y.Pivovar,<sup>22</sup> in the collections of documents and articles<sup>23</sup> published in Russia, along with Russia's historical, political and economic relations information on cultural relations with Azerbaijan is reflected as well.

One of the main consequences of global change is the growing interest in the interrelation of cultures and the problems of cultural identity of peoples. Although the subject of globalization in the field of culture has long been studied in world social sciences, it was only in the mid 1990s that it began to be dealt more closely with this problem in Azerbaijan. Representatives of various fields of science conducted a number of researches on cultural globalization, forms and results of interaction and interrelation of cultures, directions of development of cultural transformations, history and current state of cultural relations of Azerbaijan with different

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общенационального лидера азербайджанского народа Гейдара Алиева, – Москва: – 15-16 июня, – 2009 г. – Москва: Канон+ РООИ Реабилитация, – 2010. – 528 с.; Гаджиев, К. Геополитические перспективы Кавказа в стратегии России // – Москва: Мировая экономика и международные отношения, – 1993. №2, – с.20-37.; Гусман, М. Формула власти. 55 интервью в золотом галстуке /М.Гусман. – Москва: Терра – книжный клуб, – 2005. – 592 с.; Зенькович, Н. Ильхам Алиев: взгляд из Москвы /Н.Зенкевич. – Москва: Яуза: Эксмо, – 2008. – 512 с.; Колесниченко М. Внешнеэкономическая политика Азербайджанской Республики в 1991-2011 г.г. Автореф. дис. ... канд. ист. наук. / – СПб., 2012, –24 с.; Цыганов, О. Ильхам Алиев: открытый мир = İlham Aliyev: open world /О.Цыганов. – Москва: ИД Хроникер, – 2008. – 308 с.

<sup>21</sup> Румянцев С. Миграция и диаспоростроительство в постсоветском Азербайджане: основные тенденции и доминирующие дискурсы. Баку: Сабах, 2014, 165 с.; Чернявский, С. Десять лет истории Азербайджана: 2003-2013 годы / С.Чернявский. – Москва: Флинта, – 2013. – 400 с.; Чернявский, С. Новый путь Азербайджана / С.Чернявский. – Москва: Азерьмедиа «Книга и бизнес», – 2002. – 352 с.

<sup>22</sup> Хоşməramlı səfir: [5 cildə]. – Bakı: Şəms, – с.5. – 2007. – 160 s.

<sup>23</sup> Независимый Азербайджан: новые ориентиры: монография: [в 2-х т.] / В. Г. Митяев [и др.]. – Москва: РИСИ, – Т. 1. – 2000. – 423 с.; Независимый Азербайджан: новые ориентиры: монография: [в 2-х т.] / Э. М. Иванов [и др.]. – Москва: РИСИ, – Т. 2. – 2000. – 322 с.

countries, participation of our country in world cultural process. These researches provide ample material for a broader and more in-depth study of the problem.

As is obvious, during the years of independence, especially during the period between the 1990s and the mid-2000s, Azerbaijan's relations with Russia have been sufficiently studied in domestic historiography. However, these researches have studied more political and economic aspects of relations, and Azerbaijan's interrelations with Russia in the field of culture have either been considered or studied in general, or covered a more limited chronological time framework.

**The object and subject of the research.** The object of the research is cultural relations of the Republic of Azerbaijan with the Russian Federation.

The subject of the research is a detailed study of the role of state heads' speeches and meetings between the Republic of Azerbaijan and the Russian Federation in 1991-2013, adopted state programs, as well as cultural organizations, cultural figures, cultural days in both countries.

**Goals and objectives of the research.** The main goal of the research is to study the place and role of cultural ties in the development of Azerbaijan's relations with Russia in 1991-2013, to identify features of the development of Azerbaijani-Russian cultural cooperation. The objectives of the dissertation include stages of development and the current state of humanitarian and cultural relations of the Republic of Azerbaijan with the Russian Federation after gaining independence, as well as the analysis of existing problems in this field. In order to achieve these goals, the following tasks have been identified in the research process:

—To reveal the historical, political and cultural-spiritual conditions of modern cultural relations between Azerbaijan and Russia;

—To analyze the historical experience of bilateral cultural cooperation in the Soviet period and to determine the main forms and types of cooperation;

— To analyze with the collapse of the USSR the directions of development of political and cultural relations between the two independent states - the Republic of Azerbaijan and the Russian Federation;

— To identify the place and role of the Russian state in the foreign policy and international relations of independent Azerbaijan;

— To study the impact of conflicting political processes on cultural relations in the Azerbaijani-Russian relations in the 90s of the 20th century;

— To show the role of the National leader Heydar Aliyev in the formation of the relations of the Republic of Azerbaijan and the Russian Federation;

— To study the connection between the development of Azerbaijan and Russia relations and the foreign policy courses of Presidents Ilham Aliyev and Vladimir Putin;

— To provide scientific analysis of agreements and contracts concluded in the field of culture;

— To analyze the role of organized cultural events in the development of bilateral relations;

— To highlight the contribution of cultural, artistic and literary figures in strengthening relations between the two countries in the establishment of mutual cultural dialogue;

— To provide a scientific analysis of the activities of the Heydar Aliyev Foundation and the Foundation's Russian office in Azerbaijan-Russia cultural relations;

— To analyze the place and importance of cultural relations in the system of relations with the Russian Federation;

— To identify the problems of the Republic of Azerbaijan with the Russian Federation in the field of culture and to put forward concrete proposals and recommendations for their elimination.

**Methods of research.** The basis of this is general scientific methods. The historical approach, critical-analytical method, comparative analysis, cause-and-effect method were used in the study of the problem, the achievements of world and homeland history were taken into account. The historical-comparative and

systematic approach was widely used in the research.

**The main provisions of the defense.**

— Although the Soviet state collapsed, cultural ties between Azerbaijan and Russia were not broken. Cultural figures from both countries have used personal contacts to sustain these ties;

— In the first years of our independence, diplomatic relations were established between the Republic of Azerbaijan and the Russian Federation, and common borders were defined. Russia used various internal and external means in the early 1990s to keep Azerbaijan in its sphere of influence, and as a result of attempts to create tension, accusing our country in “assisting Chechen armed men”, closed the border.

— The attitude to the Russian language in the country is one of the important factors of cultural ties between Azerbaijan and Russia. There are more than 340 schools and 1 university (Baku Slavic University) in Azerbaijan, where 100.000 people study in Russian. The operation of the Baku branch of the M.V. Lomonosov Moscow State University and the Baku branch of I.M.Sechenov First Moscow State Medical University in Azerbaijan contributes to the development of partnership, friendship and good neighborly relations between our countries;

— All conditions have been created for the citizens of Azerbaijan from Russian and other nationalities to create their own organizations and participate in the socio-economic, political and cultural life of the country;

— Mutual visits, meetings and speeches of the Presidents of the Republic of Azerbaijan and the Russian Federation created a basis for the development of relations between the two countries;

— The role of non-governmental organizations and civil societies in the implementation of Azerbaijan’s cultural cooperation with Russia has expanded;

— Days of Culture in both countries, Humanitarian Forums, in particular, the First Azerbaijan-Russia Forum on Humanitarian Cooperation, established in Baku in 2010 by President Ilham Aliyev and President of the Russian Federation Vladimir Putin, have

expanded Azerbaijani-Russian cultural ties;

— The Republic of Azerbaijan has established cultural ties with the subjects of the Russian Federation and held regular cultural events.

— National leader Heydar Aliyev played an important role and contributed to the formation of the relations of the Republic of Azerbaijan with the Russian Federation;

— The Heydar Aliyev Foundation and the Russian Representation of the Heydar Aliyev Foundation have done important work in Azerbaijan-Russia cultural relations;

**Scientific novelty of the research.** The presented dissertation can be characterized as the first research work of the experience of cultural cooperation of the Republic of Azerbaijan with the Russian Federation in 1991-2013, which is comprehensively and systematically studied on a scientific basis;

— In the study the facts and materials collected from various sources were systematized and analyzed;

— As a result of the research conducted, new facts and materials on the dynamics of the development of humanitarian and cultural relations between the two states have been put into circulation from the archives of the Committee for the Russian region of the State Committee for Work with Diaspora of the Republic of Azerbaijan, the Milli Majlis of the Republic of Azerbaijan, and the Ministry of Culture and Tourism of the Republic of Azerbaijan;

— The legal and regulatory framework of the Azerbaijani-Russian cultural cooperation was analyzed, the role of the concluded agreements in bilateral relations was determined;

— The dissertation reveals the positive impact of bilateral cultural cooperation on the cultural development of both countries, the expansion of mutual humanitarian ties, the development of peace and stability in the region as a whole;

— The factors that necessitate the development and improvement of cultural relations between the Republic of Azerbaijan and the Russian Federation are highlighted in the research.



— Practical proposals and recommendations were made to expand bilateral cultural ties and cooperation, increase its effectiveness.

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

The theoretical significance of the research is determined by the complex analysis of cultural cooperation between the Republic of Azerbaijan and the Russian Federation in 1991-2013. The provisions of the dissertation, the issues raised in it can be useful in terms of studying modern international cultural and humanitarian relations, the study of Azerbaijan's participation in the dialogue of cultures. The results of the research can be the basis for expanding the scientific knowledge on the subject as a whole.

Materials, main provisions and results of the research can be used in future scientific researches, bilateral and multilateral relations of the Republic of Azerbaijan with Russia and CIS countries, preparation of generalized works on international relations and political history, writing of textbooks, teaching aids, as well as in the system of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Culture, the activities of state, government, cultural figures and public organizations involved in relations with the Russian Federation, at international symposia and conferences on cultural and religious relations, as well as tolerance, various scientific and cultural events examining Azerbaijani-Russian relations, promotion of national and cultural values of Azerbaijan. The dissertation is of scientific-theoretical and practical importance for further research in terms of areas of analysis and research methods.

**Approbation and application of the research.** The dissertation was discussed at the meeting of the department "History of Azerbaijan-Russia relations" of A.A.Bakikhanov Institute of History of the Azerbaijan National Academy of Sciences on November 11 2018 and was recommended for defense.

The main content of the dissertation is reflected in 9 articles and 2 scientific conference materials (Republic of Azerbaijan and the Russian Federation).

**Name of the organization where the research is carried**

**out.** The dissertation work was carried out at A.A.Bakikhanov Institute of History of ANAS, in the department of the “History of Azerbaijan-Russia relations”.

**The total volume of the dissertation.** The total volume of the dissertation abstract (except the list of references) consists of 44,303 characters. Introduction: 28,802 characters, Chapter I – 4,907 characters, Chapter II–6,517 characters, Chapter III – 2,390 characters, Conclusion– 1,687 characters.

## **II. THE MAIN CONTENT OF THE DISSERTATION**

**In the introductory** section of the dissertation the relevance of the subject is substantiated, the degree of development is analyzed, the object and subject, goals and objectives of the research are defined, methods are indicated, main provisions are noted, and scientific novelty of the research, theoretical and practical significance, abrobation and structure of dissertation work are given.

**Chapter I “The formation of cultural relations of the Republic of Azerbaijan with the Russian Federation (1991-1993)”** consists of two sub-chapters. The first sub-chapter is called ***“From the history of Azerbaijan-Russia mutual cultural relations”***. This sub-chapter deals with the existence of trade relations between Azerbaijan and Russia since ancient times.

Although the division of Azerbaijani lands between Russia and Iran in the early 19th century resulted in the loss of the country’s political independence and violation of economic, political and spiritual unity, it led to some progressive changes in culture and public opinion as well. Many examples of Azerbaijani literature and folklore have been translated into Russian and published in various magazines. Mirza Kazim bey, who conducted research at the Universities of Kazan and St. Petersburg, prepared a critical text based on the manuscripts of Derbend-nameh, a valuable source on the history of Azerbaijan, wrote commentaries, and translated Sadi’s “Gulistan” into Russian.

The translation of M.F.Akhundzadeh’s comedies into Russian

by author and their spread in Russia, the publication of his “Oriental poem to the death of A.S.Pushkin” in Russian in the magazine “Московский наблюдатель (Moscow Observer)” built a spiritual bridge between the Russian reader and Azerbaijan.

The most common forms of Azerbaijani-Russian cultural relations were the translation of literary samples of the two peoples. A.A.Bakikhanov, Abbas Sahhat translated works of Russian classics, as well as works of Azerbaijani writers were translated into Russian. Classical and modern examples of Russian literature were published and promoted in the pages of such press organs as “Molla Nasreddin”, “Debistan”, “*Şərqi-rus*” (“Eastern Russian”), “*Həyat*” (“Life”), “Fuyuzat (*from the arabic word “feyz” which means “abundance”*)” and “Caspi”. Visits of representatives of creative intellectuals of Russia – A.M.Gorky, A.F.Pisemsky, A.N.Ostrovsky, G.N.Uspensky, V.Nemirovich-Danchenko, A.P.Chekhov and classical Russian musicians such as F.Shalyapin, L.V.Sabinov, S.V.Rakhmaninov to Azerbaijan in 1912-1914 helped to spread Russian culture here.

U.Hajibeyov’s operas and operettas were staged in Moscow, St.Petersburg and other cities, and translated into Russian.

In the sub-chapter is stated that the days of literature and art, festivals and tours held in both countries played an important role in the rapprochement of Azerbaijani and Russian cultures during the Soviet era. A nation with a rich culture is a happy nation. Regardless of nationality, culture reflects the identity of nations by dominating people’s thinking and conquering their hearts.<sup>24</sup>

The second sub-chapter of Chapter I, is entitled “*The state of Azerbaijan’s cultural relations with Russia in the first years of independence*”. Since January 20 rightly aroused natural anger and resentment against Russia among the Azerbaijani people, it was certain that this would have a very negative impact on cultural

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<sup>24</sup> Məmmədova Y. SSRİ-nin süqutu ərəfəsində Azərbaycan-Rusiya mədəni əlaqələri // – Bakı: AMEA A.A.Bakıxanov ad. Tarix İnstitutunun Elmi Əsərləri, –2016, – c.59.

relations between the two peoples. Taking this into account, a group of progressive intellectuals from both sides established the “Russian-Azerbaijani Friendship Society” to prevent the cultural relations between the two peoples from being disrupted. It is noted that the collapse of the Soviet government initially led to a sharp weakening of cultural ties. At this event, which took place after the 20<sup>th</sup> January tragedy in Baku, Russian composer Alexander Tchaikovsky described the conditions of the plenum as follows: *“I listened to delicate symphonies in the city living in state of emergency; To be honest, I cannot hide my admiration for the perseverance of the people who found the courage to hold such an event after the January tragedy”*.<sup>25</sup> Thus, among the intellectuals who voiced their protest against the January 20 tragedy were A. Prokhanov, O. Suleymanov, and A. Tchaikovsky.

The friendship societies established in Russia, the All-Russian Congress of Azerbaijanis and the Federal National Cultural Autonomy of Russian Azerbaijanis have played an important role in the development of friendly relations and the expansion of cultural ties between the peoples of Russia and Azerbaijan.

The second sub-chapter covers the participation of Azerbaijani students in competitions in Russia, performances of theater groups on Russian stages, a symposium of Soviet artists in Azerbaijan, the celebration of the 850th anniversary of the 12th century great Azerbaijani poet Nizami Ganjavi in Moscow and St. Petersburg.

In the first years of Azerbaijan’s independence, the main burden of establishing relations and cultural ties with the Russian Federation fell on the “*Dayaq* (Support)”, “*Azeri*” in Moscow, “*Azerbaijan National Cultural Center*” in St.Petersburg, “*Bulaq* (Spring)” in Kemerovo and other societies.<sup>26</sup>

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<sup>25</sup> Hüseynova, L. Azərbaycan Bəstəkarlar İttifaqı: Böyük yolun tarixi /İ.Hüseynova. – Bakı: E.L. NPŞ MMC, – 2010, s.276.

<sup>26</sup> Moskvada “Dayağ”ımız var //Mədəniyyət, – 1991, 25 aprel. – s. 1.

In 1992, the participants of the founding conference of the Azerbaijan-Russia Society in Baku adopted an appeal to the parliaments of Azerbaijan and Russia.<sup>27</sup>

It should be noted that in the first years of independence, the reactionary forces, which insisted on restoring Russia's geopolitical and geostrategic positions, prevented Moscow from normalizing relations with the near abroad. On April 4, 1992, an agreement on diplomatic relations was signed between the Republic of Azerbaijan and the Russian Federation.<sup>28</sup>

**“The place and role of cultural ties in the development of Azerbaijan-Russia relations (1993-2003)”** was investigated in Chapter II. This chapter consists of two sub-chapters. In the first sub-chapter, entitled *“The beginning of a new stage in mutual cultural relations (1993-1997)”* was illuminated the expansion of cultural ties between the Republic of Azerbaijan and the Russian Federation in connection with the coming to power of Heydar Aliyev in 1993-1997.

Armenia's territorial claims against Azerbaijan, the support by some Russian political and military forces, threatened our independence. Heydar Aliyev, who came to power in June 1993, saw the restoration of relations with the Russian Federation as one of the ways to preserve independence, and during his visit to the Russian Federation in September 1993, he said:

*“Present meetings have allowed us to melt the “ice” of distrust”.*<sup>29</sup>

The improvement of bilateral relations between Azerbaijan

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<sup>27</sup> Azərbaycan – Rusiya” cəmiyyəti yaradılmışdır //Xalq, – 1992, 31 iyun. – s.3

<sup>28</sup> Rüstəmov A.S. Azərbaycan Respublikası və Rusiya Federasiyası arasında əlaqələr: Azərbaycanda Rus İcması // “Heydər Əliyev və Azərbaycanda iqtisadi islahatlar: nəticələr və perspektivlər” mövzusunda Ümummilli Lider Heydər Əliyevin anadan olmasının 98-ci ildönümünə həsr olunmuş Respublika elmi-praktiki konfransın materialları.

– Bakı: İqtisad Universiteti Nəşriyyatı, – 2021. – s.574.

<sup>29</sup> Азербайджан - Россия: новые взаимоотношения, новые горизонты. – Баку: Нуrol, – 2002. – с.9.

and Russia also had a positive impact on bilateral cultural ties. In March 1994, soloists of the Moscow Bolshoi Theater played the leading part in Tchaikovsky's "Swan Lake" ballet on the stage of the Azerbaijan State Opera and Ballet Theater.<sup>30</sup>

This sub-chapter deals with the impact of mutual exhibitions of Azerbaijani and Russian artists in Russia and Azerbaijan on cultural relations. The Moscow press called one of such exhibitions "a unique tuning fork of modern fine arts of Azerbaijan".<sup>31</sup>

Heydar Aliyev, who took part in the solemn evening dedicated to the 500th anniversary celebrations of the classic Azerbaijani poet Mohammad Fuzuli on November 17, 1994, said: *"The art and culture of the Russian and Azerbaijani peoples are so closely intertwined that it is impossible to destroy them"*.<sup>32</sup>

On June 6, 1995, the "Agreement on cultural and scientific cooperation between the Government of the Republic of Azerbaijan and the Government of the Russian Federation" regulating the Azerbaijani-Russian relations in the field of culture was signed.<sup>33</sup>

In 1993-1997, mutual visits of cultural and artistic figures of the two countries were intensive. The contradictions and problems between the two countries did not bypass cultural ties either. However, it should be noted that the expansion of mutually beneficial cooperation between the Russian Federation and the Republic of Azerbaijan is important for both sides.<sup>34</sup>

The second sub-chapter of Chapter II is entitled ***"Expansion of cultural cooperation between the countries (1997-2003)"***. This

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<sup>30</sup> Qaradağlı, S. "Ulduzlar" Bakıda //Mədəniyyət, – 1994, 5 mart. s. 2.

<sup>31</sup> Moskvada fərdi sərgi //Azərtac, – 1994, 30 may.

<sup>32</sup> Азербайджан-Россия: Подписан договор о дружбе, сотрудничестве и взаимной безопасности // Бакинский рабочий, – 1992, 14 октября. –с.1.

<sup>33</sup> Rusiya Federasiyası Mədəniyyət Nazirliyi ilə Azərbaycan Respublikası Mədəniyyət Nazirliyi arasında mədəniyyət sahəsində əməkdaşlıq haqqında Saziş, (16 iyun 1995-ci il) //ARMTN Beynəlxalq əlaqələr/ Rusiya / inventar № 351.

<sup>34</sup>Мамедова Я. «Культура как моральный мост между народами» //Материалы конференции «Кавказоведение история и современность», –Магас, 2017. – с.418.

sub-chapter shows that personnel changes in Russia's ruling circles since 1997, President Heydar Aliyev's first official visit to Moscow and numerous meetings have led to significant changes in Russia's policy towards Azerbaijan, as well as in the field of cultural relations between the two countries. Receiving Russian guests during the Days of Culture of the Russian Federation held in Azerbaijan on April 1, 1997, Heydar Aliyev said: *"You have represented Russia at a high level skillfully and decently. I am very glad that our Azerbaijani audience, which understands and has high sensation of art, warmly welcomed you"*.<sup>35</sup>

The celebration of Mstislav Rostropovich's jubilee in Baku on April 29, 1997 and the awarding of him the Order of "*Şöhrət* (Glory)" were remembered as a great cultural event.<sup>36</sup>

During Heydar Aliyev's visit to Moscow in July 1997 at the invitation of President of the Russian Federation Boris Yeltsin, the "Agreement on Friendship, Cooperation and Mutual Security between the Republic of Azerbaijan and the Russian Federation" was signed.<sup>37</sup> The agreement, which defines a wide range of areas, also covers cultural issues.

This sub-chapter covers the celebration of M. Magomayev's anniversary, the 200th anniversary of Imam Shamil, the Festival of Festivals, and the organization of an exhibition by Nikas Safronov, the visit of prominent Russian ballerina Maya Plisetskaya to Baku, concert of Uzeyir Hajibeyov Azerbaijan State Academic Opera and Ballet Theater, performance of Moscow Academic Satire Theater and Gennady Khazanov, Days of Azerbaijani Culture in Moscow, Days of Dagestan Culture in Azerbaijan.

The Protocol of Cooperation signed between the Ministries of Culture of the Republic of Azerbaijan and the Russian Federation on

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<sup>35</sup> Azərbaycanca Rusiya Federasiyasının mədəniyyət günləri //Xalq, – 1997, 4 aprel. – səh 2.

<sup>36</sup> Azərbaycan prezidenti Heydər Əliyev Böyük musiqiçi Mstislav Rostropoviçi qəbul etmişdir //Azərbaycan. – 1997, 30 aprel. – s. 3.

<sup>37</sup> Əliyev, H. Müstəqilliyimiz əbədidir: [46 cildə] / H.Əliyev. –Bakı: Azərnəşr, – c.10. –2002. – 472 s.s.102

March 10, 1998 was a legal support for the expansion of cultural events.<sup>38</sup>

On November 5, 1999, the “Long-term cooperation program in the fields of culture, science and education for 2000-2002 years” was signed between the Republic of Azerbaijan and the Russian Federation in Baku.<sup>39</sup>

Speaking at the opening ceremony of the monument to the great Azerbaijani poet and thinker Nizami Ganjavi in the garden on Kamennostrovsky Avenue in St. Petersburg on June 9, 2002, the new President of the Russian Federation Vladimir Putin noted: “*Nizami’s creativity belongs to all of us, to entire mankind*”.<sup>40</sup>

The opening of the Grand Cathedral Church in Baku in this sub- chapter showed that tolerance has become a way of life in Azerbaijan.<sup>41</sup>

In the first years of independence, the preservation and development of cultural ties with the neighboring Russian people, located in the same geographical area, with centuries-old historical, political, economic and cultural ties, contributed to peace and prosperity in the region.<sup>42</sup>

### **Chapter III, entitled “*A new stage of cultural cooperation relations between the Republic of Azerbaijan and the Russian*”**

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<sup>38</sup> Əməkdaşlıq protokolu imzalanmışdır: Azərbaycan Respublikası Mədəniyyət Nazirliyində respublikamızın və Rusiya Federasiyasının Mədəniyyət Nazirlikləri arasında əməkdaşlıq haqqında protokolunun imzalanması haqqında //Azərbaycan, – 1998, 11 mart. – s.1-2

<sup>39</sup> Azərbaycan Respublikası və Rusiya Federasiyası arasında 2000-2002-ci illər üzrə mədəniyyət, elm və təhsil sahələrində uzunmüddətli əməkdaşlıq proqramı (Bakı 5 noyabr 1999-cu il) URL: <http://www.e-ganun.az/framework/4480>

<sup>40</sup> Dahi Azərbaycan şairi Nizami Gəncəvinin abidəsinin açılış mərasimi //Azərbaycan, –2002, 11 iyun. s.1.

<sup>41</sup> Məmmədova Y. Dini tolerantlıq Fondu xalqımızın zəngin mədəniyyətinin göstəricisidir // –Gəncə: Gəncə Dövlət Universitetinin Elmi Xəbərləri, –2018. № 2, – s.299-303.

<sup>42</sup> Мамедова Я. «К истории азербайджано-российских культурных связей в постсоветский период» // –Москва: Современная Научная Мысль. – 2021, № 3 – стр.101-111. с.111.



***Federation (2003-2013)***” **Cultural cooperation between the Republic of Azerbaijan and the Russian Federation in modern times (2003-2013)**” also consists of two sub-chapters. In the first sub-chapter, entitled ***“Development of humanitarian and cultural relations between Azerbaijan and Russia”***, is stated that the first official visit of the President of the Republic of Azerbaijan İlham Aliyev to the Russian Federation in February 2004 was accepted as a program of humanitarian cooperation. As V.Putin noted, *“This line is extremely important for our countries, which have rich cultural potential and traditionally close ties in science, art and education”*.<sup>43</sup> This sub-chapter extensively deals with the Year of Azerbaijan in Russia, Humanitarian Forums in Azerbaijan and events with the participation of cultural and artistic figures in both countries, book festivals, exhibitions and shows that 2003-2013 was rich in events aimed at expanding cultural ties.

The second sub-chapter, entitled ***“The role of the Heydar Aliyev Foundation in the development of bilateral cultural cooperation”***, illuminates the extensive activities of the Heydar Aliyev Foundation in the humanitarian sphere, the contribution provided by the Foundation’s Russian Office in expanding Azerbaijani-Russian cultural and humanitarian ties. It is noted that President of the Heydar Aliyev Foundation M.Aliyeva was awarded the “Ruby Cross” order of the “Centenary’s Maecenases (sponsors), International Charitable Foundation and the “Golden Heart” international award for her services. Leyla Aliyeva, head of the Russian office of Heydar Aliyev Foundation, highly appreciating Azerbaijan-Russia relations stated: *“There have always been very good cultural relations between our countries. Now we must continue this tradition and pass it on to new generations”*.<sup>44</sup> This sub-chapter also deals with the activities of the RAYO, a public organization of Azerbaijani youth living in Russia,

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<sup>43</sup> Azərbaycan prezidenti İlham Əliyev Rusiyaya rəsmi səfərə yola düşmüşdür //Azərinform. – 2004, 6 fevral; Əliyev, İ. İnkişaf – məqsədimizdir: [çoxcildlik] / İ. Əliyev. – Bakı: Azərbaycan, – c.2. – 2009. – 432 s. –s.198

<sup>44</sup> Heydər Əliyev Fondunun Rusiya Federasiyasındakı nümayəndəliyini öz fəaliyyətini genişləndirir //Xalq, – 2008.- 5 fevral. – s.3.

chaired by Leyla Aliyeva, and its contribution to relations between the two countries.

Since the establishment of the Heydar Aliyev Foundation, mutual cultural relations have been one of the main priorities of the Foundation. The Foundation has also been active in other regions of the Russian Federation.<sup>45</sup>

**The Conclusion.** It should be noted that cultural ties between the Republic of Azerbaijan and Russia have always been strengthened by the coming of Heydar Aliyev to power. The adopted cultural programs, culture days held in both countries, anniversary events created conditions for the expansion of cultural ties. The Humanitarian Forums held in the country have also contributed to the development of cultural ties.

The Heydar Aliyev Foundation has played a special role in the development of humanitarian and cultural cooperation between Azerbaijan and Russia. The Foundation has been holding a number of charity events in Russia since 2005 and has acted as an organizer of cultural events.

Various humanitarian projects and events have been implemented on the initiative of Leyla Aliyeva, chairwoman of the Coordination Council of Azerbaijani Youth in Russia, by the Russian Representation of the Heydar Aliyev Foundation and head of the Representation operating in Russia since 2007.

The Russian Azerbaijani Youth Organization (RAYO), established on the initiative of Leyla Aliyeva, has served to expand relations between the Republic of Azerbaijan and the Russian Federation.

Non-governmental organizations and civil societies have played an important role in the implementation of cultural cooperation between our countries.

One of the important factors in cultural relations between Azerbaijan and Russia is the positive attitude to the Russian language

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<sup>45</sup> Мамедова Я. «Фонд Гейдар Алиева: Духовный мост между народами»  
// –Gəncə: Gəncə Dövlət Universiteti, Elmi Xəbərlər, –2019, №1. – с.278.

in the country. All conditions have been created for Russian citizens of Azerbaijan to participate in the socio-economic, political and cultural life of the country. The Russian community is a real unifying link between the two peoples. The Russian Orthodox Church in Baku plays an important role in preserving the cultural and spiritual heritage, customs and traditions of the Russian community.

All these once again confirms the existence of partnership, friendship and good neighborly relations between our countries.

**The main content of the dissertation is reflected in the following published articles of the author:**

1. SSRİ-nin süqutu ərəfəsində Azərbaycan-Rusiya mədəni əlaqələri // – Bakı: AMEA A.A.Bakıxanov adına Tarix İnstitutunun Elmi Əsərləri, –2016, – c.59, – s.80-86.
2. «К вопросу об Азербайджано- российских культурных связях в 1991-1993 гг» // – Москва: Современная Научная Мысль. – 2018, № 3, – с. 123.
3. Dini tolerantlıq Fondu xalqımızın zəngin mənəviyyatının göstəricisidir // –Gəncə: Gəncə Dövlət Universitetinin Elmi Xəbərləri, –2018, № 2, – s.299-303.
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7. Azərbaycan və Rusiya Federasiyası mədəni əlaqələrində Heydər Əliyev Fondunun rolu // Azərbaycan Respublikasının diplomatik xidmət orqanlarının 100 illiyinə həsr olunmuş “Azərbaycan müasir beynəlxalq münasibətlər sistemində” mövzusunda doktorant, magistr və tələbələrin Elmi-praktik konfransının materialları (22 noyabr, 2019) – Bakı: Slavyan universiteti, – 2019, s.147-149.
  8. «К истории азербайджано-российских культурных связей в постсоветский период» // – Москва: Современная Научная Мысль. – 2021, № 3 – стр.101-111.
  9. Из истории изучения Азербайджано-Российских историко-культурных связей. // – Нальчик: Научные Известия. – 2021, № 3 – стр. 55-61.
  10. Məmmədova Y. Qarabağ münaqişəsi dövründə Rusiya Federasiyası və Azərbaycan Respublikası arasında əlaqələr //Azərbaycanın ərazi bütövlüyünün təmin olunması uğrunda ikinci Qarabağ müharibəsi: Dövlət, Xalq, Ordu birliyi.”Uğurlar və Perspektivlər” adlı Beynəlxalq Elmi Konfrans. Məruzələrin tezisləri. (Bakı 29-30 oktyabr, 2021), – Bakı: 2022. –572 s. – s.361-366.

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Address: Baku, AZ 1073, H. Javid Avenue 115

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