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ABSTRACT

of the dissertation for the degree of Doctor of Philosophy

**CHARACTER OF SHAH ISMAIL IN AZERBAIJAN
AND TURKISH HISTORICAL NOVELS**

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INTRODUCTION

The actuality of the subject and research degree. In history, there are such great personalities who enter eternity with their own death, but they always set an example to the generations after them with their bravery and tenacity. Shah Ismail Khatai is also one of such historical figures. Shah Ismail did not live long, he lived for 39 years. However, as an outstanding head of state, poet and wordsmith, literary and historical personality, he has taken an eternal place in the history of our nation's spiritual thought. Despite the fact that more than 500 years have passed since his lifetime, the interest in the life and activities of this great personality has not lost its relevance even today and remains the subject of various works. It is true that in all the works that shed light on Shah Ismail's life path, it is impossible to see the equally sympathetic and sincere attitude and objective approach to this historical figure of the Azerbaijani people. However, although continuous researches have been conducted for several centuries in the direction of creating a historical picture of Shah Ismail's life, it is impossible to say that this work has been concluded. Because Shah Ismail left behind him such an indelible legacy that every new research can make it possible to reveal new scientific and historical conclusions about this legacy.

The study of Shah Ismail's life path is of great importance, first of all, from the point of view of the study of the Safavid era of Azerbaijani history. The 15th century, when the movement formed under the leadership of the Safavids acquired political content, was an important period in the history of Azerbaijan and the region. Political disorganization, dynamism of military processes, the increasing influence of the Teimuri state and the Ottoman state on the military and political life of the region led to the emergence of a rather complex and unstable life. At such a time, the political content of the Safavi sect movement, the development of this movement under the leadership of Shah Ismail (Ismail Mirza), and what role it played in the lives of the people of the region can be revealed through objective research and research.

The study of the history of the Shah Ismail period would have opened the way to the creation of an objective picture of the military and political processes taking place in the region during his time, as well as the correct assessment of the essence of these processes. The study of the history of the Shah Ismail period is of special importance in terms of revealing the history and traditions of Azerbaijan's statehood, the experience of centralized Azerbaijani statehood, determining and summarizing the place of this experience in the history of Azerbaijan in specific historical conditions, as well as throughout the past history. Also, the study of the era of Shah Ismail is important in terms of enabling the study of the essence of the Safavi sect movement in general, as well as the role played by this movement in the socio-political and religious life of Azerbaijan and the region.

In order to study the history of Shah Ismail's era, a lot of research has been carried out either in Azerbaijani historiography, Iranian and Turkish historiography, or in Soviet and Western historiography. In other words, the interest in the personality of Shah Ismail and the history of his activity has always attracted the attention of researchers. It goes without saying that not all of these studies are at the same level in terms of scope and scientific depth. In fact, the goal set during the conduct of these studies is not the same. Along with a large number of studies that include an objective approach, an impartial assessment of source materials, and a real picture of historical events, it is possible to find one-sided, controversial, and sometimes superficial studies. In order to cast a shadow on the personality of Shah Ismail, it is even possible to encounter a biased approach to the evaluation of facts in some cases, and specific facts related to this have been shown in the present study. It is impossible to come to correct scientific conclusions by showing open bias towards the subject in scientific research. A comprehensive study of the history of Shah Ismail's period is also of scientific importance in terms of establishing a correct attitude towards the tendencies to question his historical activity. But Shah Ismail is such a phenomenal historical

personality that it is necessary to study him continuously and from different perspectives.

It would not be correct to leave aside the positive and interesting aspects of the scientific research works published so far in the field of studying the history of Shah Ismail. Academician Yagub Mahmudov, deceased correspondent member of the National Academy of Sciences Ogtay Efendiyev, professor Shahin (Farzaliyev) Fazil, doctor of historical sciences Tofiq Najafli, as well as Mirza Abbasli, Namig Musali, Zafar Bayramli and others have made valuable contributions to the study of Shah Ismail's life and activities. Many interesting works published by the mentioned authors have great scientific-historical importance in the field of studying and uncovering the history of Shah Ismail. There is also a rich source for the study of the history of Shah Ismail and the Safavid state as a whole. This topic was reflected in a large number of works that appeared both in the region and outside the region, either during the reign of Shah Ismail, before or after it. Shah Ismail was a representative of a generation whose activity was important for the peoples of the region starting from the 13th century. Therefore, this activity became the subject of various works. Most of those sources have been brought into scientific-historical circulation. But there is no doubt that not all sources related to the life of Shah Ismail and the history of the Safavid state have been brought into scientific circulation. Future studies will probably bring new and interesting sources related to this history into the scientific circulation and they will also create a basis for a deeper study of the history of Shah Ismail. There is a need for a critical approach to the materials of many sources in scientific circulation related to the history of Shah Ismail. It is possible to find cases where one of the sources is not confirmed by the other or there are different approaches to specific events in different sources. Therefore, for the correct study of the history of Shah Ismail, comparative work on the sources and the application of the historical approach should be kept in focus.

Studying the social, economic and political history of the medieval period of Azerbaijan in depth has still maintained its

relevance as one of the important tasks facing the science of history. One of the most important tasks facing the modern national Azerbaijani historiography is to show an objective scientific attitude to the social political and military processes that took place in all periods of the national history, and to achieve their scientific research and solution.

In the history of the statehood of the Azerbaijani people, the Safavid Empire of Azerbaijan is of great importance as the highest stage.

In Turkish literature, the character of Shah Ismail was revived in the works of authors such as Iskender Pala, Reha Chamuroglu, and Reha Bilge. Thus, the historical novels “Ismail” written by Reha Chamuroglu in 2001, “Shah and Sultan” written by Iskender Pala in 2010, and “1514 Yavuz Sultan and Shah Ismail” written by Reha Bilge in 2010, Shah Ismail Khatai are very important works in terms of character description in Turkish literature.

In 1501, Shah Ismail I founded the Safavid state of Azerbaijan (1501-1736). His son Shah Tahmasib I added Shirvan and Sheki provinces of Azerbaijan to the Safavi state. Thus, all Azerbaijani lands were united in a single, centralized state. The presence of two great Turkic states located on the important trade routes of the world - the Safavids of Azerbaijan and the Ottoman Empire - worried European rulers a lot. European diplomacy skillfully used the differences between the Safavid and Ottoman empires of Azerbaijan to provoke them to war. The Ottoman-Safavid wars resulted in the weakening of the socio-economic, political and cultural potential of both states. The Safavid-Ottoman conflict, which continued intermittently for 150 years, left both states powerless in the face of pressure from the Western states. The military operations between them led to the destruction of trade routes, the economy, and the bankruptcy of the population. From this point of view, the mutual analysis of the image of Shah Ismail in the works written about the life and times of Shah Ismail in both countries is seen as a very important issue, and the problem of investigating and systematizing the relations of both Turkish states towards Shah Ismail from the works determines the main relevance

of the dissertation work.

The object and subject of research. As the object of the research work, the historical novels written related to the life of Shah Ismail and the history of his time since the establishment of the Safavid state have been analyzed. Thus, the object of the research work is historical novels of Azerbaijan and Turkey. Aziza Jafarzadeh, Farman Karimzadeh, Alisa Nijat, Kamal Abdulla and examples of Turkish writers Iskender Pala, Reha Chamuroglu, Reha Bilge were involved as the object of the research.

The subject of the study is the research works on the life and history of Shah Ismail involved in the research, which are available in Azerbaijani and Turkish literary studies.

The aim and objectives of the research. The main goal of the dissertation is to investigate the historical role of Shah Ismail Khatai in the development of the relations of the Republic of Azerbaijan with the Turkic states. In order to achieve that goal, the following tasks were attempted:

- To study the general state of relations between Azerbaijan and Turkish states when Shah Ismail Khatai came to power;
- To analyse the activity of Shah Ismail Khatai in the development of the contractual and legal basis of mutual relations between Azerbaijan and Türkiye;
- To interpret the role of Shah Ismail Khatai in the development of diplomatic and political relations between the two countries;
- To investigate the role of Shah Ismail Khatai in the development of trade-economic, scientific-technical, cultural and humanitarian cooperation between Azerbaijan and Türkiye.

Research methods. The research work is written based on a historical-comparative method tested in the scientific-theoretical field. The methodological and theoretical basis of the research is the systematic study of national and universal values, literary and artistic material in the field of philology. During the research, the principle of historicity, which allows revealing the objective scientific truth, was consistently observed. In this case, the method of typological-comparative analysis was preferred, deductive and

inductive methods were also used in the analysis of facts. In the dissertation work, based on the first copies of the novels, research was carried out on the original texts, and, if necessary, attention was paid to the materials translated into the Azerbaijani language. During the research, the opinions of Azerbaijani, Turkish, Western, and Russian scientists were referred to from the theoretical point of view, and the theoretical and methodological opinions of prominent scientists were used.

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

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

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

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

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

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

The scientific innovation of the dissertation. When examining all the scientific issues presented in the presented dissertation, the data of the first sources, first of all, factual materials were used as the basis. Thus, the following scientific works were carried out in the studied research:

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

- The influence of Azerbaijan's colonial past on its historical novel genre has been refined;

- The similar and different features of works in the genre of historical novels in the literature of Türkiye and Azerbaijan were investigated;

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

refined;

- Historical novels written in Azerbaijan about Shah Ismail Khatai were analyzed;

- Historical novels about Shah Ismail Khatai in Turkish literature were analyzed;

- Articles and books written about those historical novels have been collected and carefully refined;

- Attention was paid to how Ottoman and Safavid relations were reflected in historical novels written in both countries;

- The negative and positive sides of the image of Shah Ismail in both countries were compared.

Theoretical and practical significance of the research. As it's scientific-theoretical, historical and practical importance, the main propositions and results of the dissertation work are written in generalized works, textbooks and teaching aids dedicated to the history of Azerbaijan, General history and the history of international relations, in scientific-pedagogical activities, in reading lectures and holding seminars in the relevant faculties of higher schools. The research can be used in the activities of the state, government and public organizations involved in the development of the relations of the Republic of Azerbaijan with the Turkish states, and in the promotion of the foreign policy activities of the Azerbaijan state.

Approbation and application of the dissertation. The subject of the dissertation was determined in the "Literature of the Turkic peoples" department of the Institute of Literature named after Nizami Ganjavi of ANAS.

Each chapter of the dissertation was discussed in the seminars of the department. The main provisions and results of the research have been published in scientific journals recommended by the Supreme Attestation Commission under the President of the Republic of Azerbaijan, as well as in prestigious foreign journals, including international scientific databases (Copernicus, Ulakbim, etc.), international conferences and symposiums.

Name of the organization where the dissertation work is carried out: The dissertation work has been performed in the

“Literature of the Turkic peoples” department of the Institute of Literature named after Nizami Ganjavi of ANAS, it was completed following the research direction of the department.

Structure of the dissertation. The dissertation consists of an introduction (12.837), three chapters (the first chapter - 60.110 the second chapter - 61.373, the third chapter - 67.869), a conclusion (5.070) and a list of used literature.

The total volume of the dissertation consists of 207.410 characters.

MAIN CONTENT OF THE WORK

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

The first chapter, “**Historical Novel Genre and Image of Shah Ismail in Historical Novels of Azerbaijan and Türkiye**”, consists of two paragraphs:

- 1.1. Stages of development of the historical novel genre
- 1.2. A historical overview of the era of Shah Ismail Khatai

Chapter entitled “Development stages of the historical novel genre” elaborates the historical novel genre. According to Yavuz Akhundlu, “*there is no unified opinion about the historical novel*”.¹ The concept of “historical novel” is one of the controversial issues in literary studies. The debates on what the main aesthetic principles of the historical novel are and which works should be included in this genre, etc., the clash of different points of view continues even now. In general, there is no unanimity in defining the genres of works, and it is very difficult to give a universally accepted definition of genres, to define their boundaries, and to cover the richness of literary experience.

¹ Axundlu, Y. Tarix Roman və Müasirlik / Y. Axundlu. – Bakı: Azərbaycan SSR EA Mətbəəsi. – 1975. – s. 16.

If time determines the order of historical use of the novel, historical novelists can use history as an ideological representation of their time according to their creativity. Thus, they can choose the necessary ones according to the needs of the time from the historical facts. If we express this intervention in an architectural term, it can be thought of as a restoration of history. If the matter of selecting the necessary facts is practical, writers may appear who think of recreating history, or of creating a perfect history. In this case, after a while, it will be forgotten which historical fact was used and which was removed, and the real history will appear as if it was written.

A. I. Pautkin described the historical novel in his book “Soviet Historical Novel” published in 1970: “Historical novel is to describe the past in a historical sequence... The requirement of the genre is to be based on historical documents, to reflect historical events and people in terms of modern requirements”.² However, it should not be forgotten that when reflecting the events in terms of modern requirements and since the writer’s imagination is also an important issue for the formation of the novel, distortions are inevitable. Thus, it turns out that the historical novel does not always conform to the law of accuracy and consistency.

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

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

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

c) *Discussions about historical novel writers,*

d) *Lives and works of historical novelists,*

² Пауткин, А.Н. Советский исторический роман / А.Н. Пауткин. ИАД. «Знание». – 1970.

e) *It can be classified in the form of historical and novel relations*³.

A historical novel is not just about narrating a historical event and characters, but also takes on the role of protecting the present and the future. The historical novel with its artistic and literary circles is our tomorrow. A historian trying to write the political and social history of any nation should not ignore epics, legends, novels, stories and theatre works. On the other hand, those who write works on history should also have deep historical knowledge about the event they are working on. It should also be noted that a writer can create a historical novel by writing down the events he saw and witnessed with his own eyes.

Doctor of philological sciences, Professor Vilayat Guliyev writes: *“It seems to us that the main factor determining the historical theme in an artistic work is documentation. Novels and narratives based on specific historical events and real historical figures, referring to facts and information already established by science in descriptions and analyzes meet the requirements of the concept of historical work more”*⁴.

The approach to the first historical novels in Azerbaijani literature is ideological, as in all fields of literature. In these works, the foundations of socialism, which is the dominant ideology, are sought in the depths of history. The historical novel, which is based on the foundations of nationalism strengthened by the French Revolution in Europe, was distanced from the nationalist identity structure by Soviet ideologues and literary scholars, and an attempt was made to give this novel genre a revolutionary appearance. Therefore, when examining historical novels of Azerbaijani literature, special attention should be paid to this approach of ideology.

In this regard, we can mention the name of Mahmud Ismayilov, a distinguished historian and scientist who wrote several

³ Uygun, İ. Cumhuriyet Dönemi Tarihi Romanları 1923-1946: “Eski” Kahramanların Yeni Söylemleri / İ. Uygun. – Ankara: – 2014. – s. 160.

⁴ Quliyev, V. Nəsrimiz və tariximiz // – Bakı: Azərbaycan, – 1984. № 4, – s.164-165.

novels about the significant periods of our past. In his historical novels, serious problems related to the ancestry of our people have always been in the centre of attention. In this regard, M. İsmayilov's novel "Your great grandfather" attracts attention⁵. He skillfully used both artistic means and, when appropriate, the possibilities of journalism.

It should be noted that the historical novel of Azerbaijan has undergone a unique development path in the last decade and has been enriched with new themes, issues and artistic merits. Important events and outstanding personalities of separate stages, which were somehow forbidden to be touched upon in our literature during the Soviet era, have now been brought into the spotlight. In some of the historical novels created in modern Azerbaijani prose, the scenery of the distant past was revived, while in the other part, the events and stories that happened in the recent period found an artistic embodiment. Especially the events that took place during the years of Soviet rule are becoming the subject matter of novels written in recent years.

In the historical novels written about Shah İsmail , it is possible to get information about the environment where Shah İsmail grew up, his interests, his relationships with the people around him, Shah İsmail's emotions, state management and political steps taken. A peculiarity of the novels written on this topic is that their authors present the stories and historical events to the readers in a high-quality manner of expression.

The second paragraph, entitled "**Historical overview of the era of Shah İsmail Khatai**", discusses the life and times of Shah İsmail. The analysis shows that each of the murshidis-kamils who led the Safavi sect movement, starting from Sheikh Safiaddin to Shah İsmail, can be revealed through the research, which individual role they had in the history of social and religious thought of Azerbaijan, and in the formation of the personality of Shah İsmail as the pinnacle of this movement.

It is impossible to fully reveal Shah İsmail's character without

⁵ İsmayilov, M. Sənin ulu baban / M. İsmayilov. – Bakı: Azərənəşr, – 1989. – s.301.

studying his military qualities, military management skills, military sense, leadership skills, and mobilization skills. In the successful completion of a large movement that had been started, in overcoming the large number of troops of the regional states, in the rapid expansion of the borders of the kingdom and in their defence, the activity of the Safavid troops occupied the main place, without a doubt. Clarifying the role of Shah Ismail in the organization of these troops, in mobilizing all the strength of the troops to perform military tasks, and in directing these troops during the battle is of particular importance and relevance. Because if Shah Ismail himself did not have high fighting skills, he probably would not have been able to lead his troops after him.

An outstanding statesman, with special care for the development of poetry in his native language, who was sympathetic to the art of ozan-ashik as a man firmly attached to his native land, who himself created immortal pearls of art in this language, along with classical forms of poetry, works that can be memorized by languages in various forms of folk poetry. This rare person who created, benefited from the rich traditions of written literature and folk creativity on the one hand, and who had exceptional services in the socio-political and cultural development of the Azerbaijani people - "*Shah Ismail Khatayi was born on July 23, 1487, in the city of Ardabil, in an influential and famous Azerbaijani family that his roots and traces are very long in history going back to very distant times*"⁶. It should be noted that, in fact, Ismail's fighting at a very young age and the establishment of the Safavid state, a powerful state of Azerbaijan, were the results of the centuries-long struggle of his grandfathers. Thus, "*Darul-irshadi, which began its activity during the time of Sheikh Safiaddin Ardabili, who lived at the turn of the XIII-XIV centuries and will be named for the future state, has become one of the most powerful centers of scientific and philosophical meetings in the Middle East world. The Safavid movement, known as Kyzilbashlik, was formed here and spread to*

⁶ Şah İsmayıl Xətayi. Əsərləri / Şah İsmayıl Xətayi, tərt. ed., Ə. Səfərlı, X. Yusıflı. – Bakı: Şərq-Qərb, – 2005. – s. 384.

many countries of the East. Sufis and murids who came here with confidence supported Ismail's grandfather, Sheikh Juneyda, and his father, Sheikh Heydar, and closely helped them to lay the foundation of a new state"⁷. Although he had a strong family on his mother's side, the struggle for power damaged these family ties, and Ismail exerted all his strength to build the Safavid state.

The religious devotion of the Safavids and the step taken by Sheikh Heydar to perpetuate the ideology of Kyzilbashlik in order to keep his father alive undoubtedly had an impact on Shah Ismail's life as well. It is no coincidence that Ismail revealed his attachment to the newly established state by calling it the Safavids out of respect for the name of Sheikh Safiaddin.

In honour of the 12 Shia imams, the red-striped turbans "*Kyzilbash united the Shamli, Rumlu, Ustajli, Tekali, Afshar, Qajar, Zulghadar, Varsaq, Karadag, Bayat, Karamanli, Baharli, Alpaut, Arashli, Kazakh and other Turkic-speaking tribes*"⁸. As can be seen from here, the widespread opinion that the Safavids are an Iranian-Persian state in some sources cannot be justified.

Ismail managed to expand his circle and avenge his father and grandfather. As it can be seen, Shiism and Kyzilbashlik ideology have a very important place in the establishment of the Safavid state. The ideology of Kyzilbashlik played an invaluable role in the formation of Shah Ismail's thoughts and personality. When looking at the ideology of Kyzilbashlik, it can be seen that the symbols of respect and value, unity, connection and strength come together. It is as a result of this that various Turkic-speaking tribes, only the Talysh were Iranian-speaking, united under the umbrella of this ideology and were able to protect themselves from the threat of foreign forces and contributed to state building. The provisions of this chapter have been summarized and published in various scientific journals⁹.

⁷Rəşidqızı, Ə. Tarixi şəxsiyyət I Şah İsmayıl Xətai: Ya bir yol seç, ya bir yol tap, ya da yoldan çəkil! // Ədalət. – 8 iyun, 2010. – s. 5.

⁸Azərbaycan Sovet Ensiklopediyası. III cild. – Bakı: –1979.

⁹Meydan Y. Tarixi Roman Anlayışı // "Azərbaycan Respublikasında kitabxana-informasiya fəaliyyətinin inkişaf meyilləri" adlı Respublika Elmi Konfransı, – Bakı: – 2021, – s. 83-85.

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

2.1. Shah Ismail as a warrior character in Aziza Jafarzade's novel “Baku-1501”;

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

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

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

In the first paragraph named **“Shah Ismail as a warrior character in Aziza Jafarzade's novel “Baku-1501” the character of Shah Ismail Khatai** is developed in a comparative manner. According to Akif Huseynov, *“the main events in the work, as the author noted, revolve around four main images - Bibikhanim-Sultankhanim, Aytekin, dervish Ibrahim and Shah Ismail”*¹⁰. The writer concentrates his attention on them, conveys the essence of his work to us by focusing on those images, following their life paths and destinies. In the novel, Shah Ismail stands out as the leading hero, the idea is mainly visualized in his face.

At the same time, we can see that the historical facts given in the research work about the life of Shah Ismail are included in the work. Thus, the reason for Shah Ismail's march to the country of Shirvan is clearly shown in the work as a sense of revenge. This can be considered one of the important points that reveal the connection of the historical novel with history.

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

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

*dervishes and their meetings become the subject of artistic research, Shah Ismail and the Gilzalbash movement in general are justified as sources of ideas*¹¹. The third part, “The Poet's Heart of the Ruler”, sheds more light on his relationship with Sultan Selim and his spiritual qualities. In the novel, Shah Ismail is shown as the founder of the state of Azerbaijan. Its negative and positive aspects are written down. The author is not biased.

In general, looking at the image of Shah Ismail in the work, it is possible to see that an image is recreated based on historical facts. The impact of Shah Ismail's childhood traumas on his psychology and his ability to shed blood mercilessly to achieve his goals, as well as writing poetry and being recognized as a gentle soul, actually show that Ismail is experiencing contradictions in his inner self. In the work, the fact that a person who can be sincere and friendly with those around him can be ruthless towards those in front of him means that Ismail will not turn from his path in any way, and in a way, it can be evaluated as the secret of Ismail's success.

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

“Khudafarin’s Bridge”, named after the Khudafarin Bridge built between Azerbaijan and Iran in the 11th-13th centuries on the Araz River, describes the historical events that took place at the end of the 15th - beginning of the 16th centuries, the childhood and youth years of Shah Ismail Khatai, his struggle for power and his multi-directional activities. The novel also describes the historical circumstances in which Shah Ismail Khatai grew up as a poet, general and statesman, and created memorable images of historical figures such as Uzun Hasan, Sara Khatun, Husein Lala Bey, and Abih Sultan. The admirable point of the work is that the dialogues of the persons whose names we

¹¹ Əliyeva, A. Əzizə Cəfərzadənin bədii yaradıcılığı / A. Əliyeva. – 2005, – s. 72.

see in history are perfectly captured and can take the reader on a journey along the paths of history. The plot of the novel is mainly based on the events of Shah Ismail's march to Shirvan and the capture of Baku.

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

The writer sees Shah Ismail as the creator of a single state of Azerbaijan. In addition to reviving the current political conditions by referring to the times before Shah Ismail came to power, he succeeds in creating a certain idea in the reader about the main aspects of the religious ideology referred to by the Safavids. The exposition of the novel begins with the artistic description of such necessary historical events.

The author reveals *Shah Ismail's deep psychological world with natural colors in this novel called "Khudafarin's Bridge"*¹². In particular, in order to show the hero's attachment to the tribe and the spirit of the people, he uses the historical sources, as well as the folk tales about Shah Ismail, his own poems, as well as the folk tale about Ashiq Gurbani. Shah Ismail is always in thoughts. People's concern and homeland are mixed with his personal grief. Even on the wedding day, when everyone is happy, under the influence of wonderful folk music, the king recalls some bitter memories of his turbulent life.

Both books ("*Khudafarin's Bridge*" and "*Chaldiran's Battle*") "*attract attention with their high ideological-aesthetic qualities, strong social and political merits, as well as with their structure and language features*"¹³. Rich artistic tools take the reader 500 years into the past, entering the atmosphere of the described

¹² Axundlu, Y. *Azərbaycan Tarixi Romanı: Mərhələlər, Problemlər (1930-2000)* / Y. Axundlu. – Bakı: Adiloğlu. – 2005, – s. 270.

¹³ Şərq qəzeti. Fərman Kərimzadə sənətkar kimi də, şəxsiyyət kimi də vaxtdan ucada dayanıb / – 1 iyun, 2011. – s. 11.

era. A symbolic connection of social events is created with beautiful nature paintings, a thousand colors of admiration.

The plot line of the novel “Kızılbaşlar”, which Alisa Nikat started writing in 1959, is detailed in the paragraph called **“Shah Ismail as the head of the Kızılbaş in novel called “Qızılbaşlar” by Alisa Nijat”**.

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

In Nijat's novel “Kyzilbashlar”, Shah Ismail is characterized as a ruler who fights for the unity of the homeland and the people, fights for his convictions and actions, expresses the will of the masses of the people, and wins their love. Thus, the author highlights the life and struggle of his hero.

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

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

1. It is quite good from a historical point of view (Thus, the writer uses historical information in a very fluid way and has created a work that can provide readers with information, without dark moments);

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

The real purpose here is to express that the warring kings are from the same religion and the same blood);

3. Arbitrariness is not allowed, as in some novels full of nonsense about the Golden Heads (As mentioned before, it is possible to understand that the author has deep historical information while reading the work. However, the author does not burden his readers with too much historical information. It is possible to find the harmony of history and art in the novel. This makes the work even more is also the aspect that makes it readable);

4. It is written in a clear, understandable language (although the author includes historical information as mentioned above, the language of the novel is fluid and simple. Heavy terms and incomprehensible words are not included, and difficult academic language is not used. The novel is written in a style that harmonizes history and literature. Not only Shah Ismail, but the Kyzilbashlar in general, and the history of the Kyzilbashlar in a simple language has taken place in this novel).

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

“Incomplete Manuscript” should be evaluated as an example of the first post-modern novel, although it is still new in Azerbaijani literature. It is extremely normal for post-modern thought, which is characterized by its opposition to art due to its complete rejection of previous art rules, to confront traditional thoughts, and with the publication of the “Incomplete Manuscript” in Azerbaijan, according to Ogtay Hajimusali, a conflict between innovators and newcomers has begun in literary circles. .

The “Incomplete Manuscript” contains two texts. One of the texts relates to the notes taken by Dede Gorgud during an interrogation by Bayandur Khan, and the other relates to Shah

Ismail and his time. The events in each story are presented in 29 scenes that follow and complement each other.

The second plot line in the novel “Incomplete Manuscript” is related to Shah Ismail. It should be noted that although the plot about Shah Ismail in the work is not extensive compared to the Dede Gorgud line, it attracts attention with its drama and unpredictability of events.

Farman Karimzadeh, Aziza Jafarzadeh and Alisa Nijat's works contain more historical facts and realities than this novel by Kamal Abdulla, and these aspects can be evaluated as similar features of the historical novels of the other 3 writers.

Alisa Nijat's novel is not only Shah Ismaili, but also a valuable work for understanding the ideology of Kyzilbashlik.

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

The statements reflecting the main conclusions of the second chapter have been inversed in the articles published in the scientific press¹⁴.

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

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

¹⁴ Meydan, Y. Azərbaycan tarixi romanlarında Şah İsmayıl obrazı // – Bakı: Nizami adına Ədəbiyyat İnstitutunun əsərləri, – 2017. XXIX cild. – s. 99-103; Fərman Kərimzadənin “Xudafərin körpüsü” və “Çaldıran döyüşü” romanlarında Şah İsmayıl xarakteri // – Bakı: Kitabşünaslıq və redaktor sənəti, -2021, №1, – s. 5-11; Azərbaycan Tarihi romanlarından Azize Caferzadənin “Bakı-1501” romanında Şah İsmail xarakteri // - Turan Strateji Araşdırmalar Merkezi, – 2021. №49, – s.30-38; Əzizə Cəfərzadənin “Bakı-1501” romanında Şah İsmayıl obrazı // “Türk dillərinin və ədəbiyyatının tədqiqi və tədrisinin aktual problemləri” beynəlxalq elmi konfransı, – Sumqayıt, – 2021, – s.396-398.

3.2. “Chaldiran battle in the work by “Reha Bilge “1514. Yavuz Sultan and Shah Ismail”

In the paragraph titled Shah Ismail in the historical novels “Shah and Sultan” (2010) by Iskender Pala and “Ismail” (2001) by Reha Chamuroglu - abstract and historical reality” it is evaluated how Shah Ismail Khatai is described as a heroic character. Turkish professor writer and divan literature researcher Iskender Pala's historical novel “Shah and Sultan” has the power to endear history to people who handle historical events in a different and unique way.

Part of the book is narrated by Kamber Jan, who is close to Shah Ismail, and the other part is narrated by Jan Husein, who is on the side of Yavuz Sultan Selim.

If we talk about the short gist of the work, in the novel, twin brothers Hasan and Husein from Anatolian Turkmens go in two different directions. Hasan moved from Anatolia to Iran and became close to Shah Ismail, and Husein was close to Sultan Selim. Iskender Pala creates a very interesting dilemma here. Both brothers, who serve their leaders wholeheartedly, see the oppression that their leaders inflict on their people for their power. As a result, they begin to question their love and trust in their leaders. In Chaldiran, Husein killed Hasan and entered the service of Shah Ismail.

According to the novel, there are some reasons for the conflict between Shah Ismail and Sultan Selim. So both rulers are in love with Tajli Hatun. According to the long correspondence between the parties, both rulers intend to be the head of the Turkish people and have no intention of understanding each other in this regard. It is interesting that the competition between both rulers is so strong that they strive to prove which ruler is the greatest poet. In fact, both are quite capable and both are breedings of the same culture. But unfortunately, when interests collide, wars break out.

Reha Chamuroglu's novel called “Ismail”, known for her identity as a historian and her research on Alawism, takes the reader on a journey to the world of the fifteenth century. This novel describes the life of Shah Ismail, the transformation of a

sect into a state, and the bloody process. Reha Chamuroglu's first novel *Ismail* focuses on three main points:

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

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

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

In fact, “*Ismail*” is the story of an atypical dictator. Unlike other rulers in history, Shah *Ismail* derives his power from love. He is a ruler who can make some mistakes over time. Perhaps, this is a character passed down to him. It would not be possible for the people of Ardabil to come up with a concept of justice and humanism that is suitable for today's conditions if they always worshiped their grandfathers. He has a mystical and pleasant side, he has poems, and he has his own world where he is always with his disciples. But he is still the one who makes hot pots. As a result, man is a strange and contradictory creature. We see this especially in the example of *Ismail*. I see *Ismail* as a child who is loved unconditionally and without limits. Despite this love, he lived a lonely and sad life. He is forced to kill his mother. He takes hard steps. But these are not the factors that will make a person happy, especially someone like *Ismail*. Perhaps, the pain of the steps he had to take made him live a sad life.

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

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

Selim, who eliminated not only his brothers, whom he saw as rivals in the throne struggle, but also his cousins in Bursa, turned his face to the East and South. The first target is Shah Ismail. Salim took the fight against the Safavids beyond military strength and brought the issue to an ideological discussion, and for this he tried to make the army and society psychologically ready by receiving opinions and fatwas from religious people. Moreover, in the eyes of the janissaries, Selim is a sultan with a warrior identity, unlike Gorgud and Ahmed. All-round preparation before the battle shows that Ismail is not an easy bite. According to historical information, Salim also used tools such as disinformation and psychological lies in espionage. A former Bey of Aghgoyunlu went over to Salim's side to fight against Farrukhshad Ismail.

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

The most important result of Chaldiran is that it provided a great political unity that continued to exist from Imperial Turkey to Republic Turkey. With the Battle of Chaldiran, the leadership struggle of the Ottomans over the Muslim geography is quickly completed. However, it should not be forgotten that the battle of Chaldiran should be evaluated as a victory of the Western

countries, which brought two Turkish states against each other. Because the real winner of this war was the Western countries, which instead of supporting each other, caused the two enemies Turkish states to become enemies.

The main scientific results and propositions obtained in this chapter of the research work are reflected in the following articles¹⁵.

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

- Although historical truths are included in historical novels, there is a possibility of distortions;

- In a historical novel, it is necessary to pay attention to the fact that when the writer uses history as material, he completely reflected the historical realities, or did he take the history from the literary aspect in the events;

- The writer should synthesize time and space to internal elements, and culture, art, history and life in accordance with customs and traditions in the events that occur in historical novels. It should reflect the realities of the chosen time in a good way. In historical novels, believability, time and place, subject and relationship must be balanced. Otherwise, it loses its importance in terms of reality. The main character in historical novels should not be an ordinary person. Otherwise, the novel will be far from reality;

¹⁵ Meydan, Y. Türk tarihi romanlarında Şah İsmayıl obrazı // – Bakı: Filologiya və sənətsünaslıq jurnalı, – 2020. №2, – s. 192-197; Feridun Fazıl Tülbentçinin “Şah İsmail” əsərində Şah İsmayıl obrazının təhlili // – Bakı: Filologiya məsələləri jurnalı, – 2021. №4, – s. 274-282; Türk tarih romanlarında Şah İsmayıl karakteri // – Eskişehir: Motif uluslararası genç halkbilimciler ve türk dünyası kongresi bildiri tam metinleri kitabı, – 2019. – s. 876-886; Türkiyə tarihi romanlarından Reha Çamuroğlunun “İsmail” romanında Şah İsmayıl karakteri // – Bakı: Filologiya və sənətsünaslıq jurnalı, – 2021. №1, – s.146-153; Meydan, Y. Türk tarih romanlarında Şah İsmail karakteri: İskender Pala // – Antalya: II. Uluslararası Yörük yaşamı, kültürü ve türk sanatları sempozyumu, – 2019. – s. 390-396; Meydan, Y. Türk tarih romanlarında Şah İsmail karakteri // -Ankara: Kültür Evreni dergisi, – 2021. №42, – s. 90-105.

- Writers in Türkiye tried to capture historical events based on their viewpoints and ideologies. That is, there are very few works with chronological order. The roots of the historical novel must, in fact, be based on historical events. In the countries that remained under the rule of the communist regime after the 1920s, especially in Azerbaijan, the historical novel is a political product of the Soviet era. In the later period, historical novels were written with an entirely ideological character. The reason is the works born against the ruling ideology of the Soviet era. The works of M.S.Ordubadi and Aziza Jafarzadeh in the 1930s are among the best examples of historical novels of Azerbaijani literature. In the late 1970s and early 1980s, the genre of historical novels in Azerbaijani literature entered a new stage of its development. Unlike previous years, historical novels written in this period pay more attention to the struggles of the Azerbaijani people for statehood;

- The independence of the country contributed to the theme of Azerbaijan's historical novels;

- Among the historical novels of Azerbaijan, we found four novels about the prominent statesman and powerful poet of Azerbaijan, Shah Ismail Khatai. These are the novels “Baku - 1501” by Aziza Jafarzadeh, “Kyzilbashlar” by Alisa Nijat, “Khudafarin's Bridge” by Farman Karimzadeh, “The Battle of Chaldiran” and “Incomplete Manuscript” by Kamal Abdulla;

- There are aspects that connect and differentiate these novels dedicated to Shah Ismail. Except for the novel “Incomplete Manuscript”, Khatai's Azerbaijani statehood and the unification of our divided lands are the main themes in all three novels, and more attention is paid to the struggles of the Azerbaijani people for statehood. Also, in all three novels, the authors, along with Khatai's socio-political activity, succeeded in illuminating the selfless spiritual depth of a perfect person with a poet's nature. The duality and contradiction in Khatai's personality is noticeable in all three novels, the contrast between the gentle poet's spirit and the ruler's position is noticeable in the context of various events, but in all cases, the tendency to always

strive for moral perfection is felt in the nature of the historical hero. Novel authors follow this tendency, which is complicated by the influence of various events, with high skill and reflect the belief in the infinite possibility of human development in the context of historical events;

Apart from A. Jafarzadeh, Alisa Nijat and Farman Karimzadeh, Kamal Abdulla also mentioned Shah Ismail in one of his novels. Although Kamal Abdulla's novel "Incomplete Manuscript" was not dedicated to Khatai, Abdulla mentioned him in his novel. In the novel, Shah Ismail Khatai, who has an exceptional role in the history of Azerbaijan, is reworked in the postmodern way of thinking as an artistic image;

- In Azerbaijani historical novels, Shah Ismail was revived as a more positive character; there was a place for re-enactments to justify beheadings and bloodshed;

- Analyses show that Shah Ismail Khatai is an important person for the history of Turkey as well as for the historiography of Azerbaijan due to his important position in history. For this reason, Shah Ismail Khatai was depicted as a hero in Turkish historical novels. Historical novels by Reha Chamuroglu "Ismail" (2001), Iskender Pala "Shah and Sultan" (2010), Reha Bilge "1514 Yavuz Sultan and Shah Ismail" (2010) can be cited among the best examples of this;

- In his novel "Shah and Sultan", Iskender Pala added his fantasy to the historical reality and dedicated the novel to the conflict between Shah Ismail and Sultan Selim;

- Reha Chamuroglu's novel "Ismail" takes the reader on a journey to the world of the fifteenth century. This novel describes the life of Shah Ismail, the transformation of a sect into a state, and the bloody process;

- Reha Bilge dedicated her historical novel "1514 Yavuz Sultan and Shah Ismail" to the Battle of Chaldiran;

- In historical novels of Turkey, Shah Ismail appears before us as a negative character as the cause of the battle of Chaldiran. No matter how much one tries to maintain objectivity in the revitalization of negative and positive qualities, it is necessary to

note the existence of moments that justified Salim;

- Based on the results of the research, we can say that the battle of Chaldiran was nothing but the victory of Western countries. It should be the best diplomatic move not to repeat this mistake made by our forefathers in the past. Therefore, it would be a big mistake to be faced with a choice between Shah Ismail and Sultan Selim, not only in politics, but also in literary creativity, and giving room to biased opinions.

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

1. Meydan, Y. Azərbaycan tarixi romanlarında Şah İsmayıl obrazı // Bakı: Nizami adına Ədəbiyyat İnstitutunun əsərləri, – 2017. XXIX cild – s. 99-103.
2. Meydan, Y. Türk tarix romanlarında Şah İsmayıl karakteri // Eskişehir: Motif uluslararası genç halkbilimciler ve türk dünyası kongresi bildiri tam metinleri kitabı, – 2019. – s. 876-886.
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4. Meydan, Y. Türk tarixi romanlarında Şah İsmayıl obrazı // Bakı: Filologiya və sənətşünaslıq jurnalı, – 2020. №2, – s. 192-197.
5. Meydan, Y. Feridun Fazıl Tülbentçinin “Şah İsmail” əsərində Şah İsmayıl obrazının təhlili // Bakı: Filologiya məsələləri jurnalı, – 2021. №4, – s. 274-282.
6. Meydan, Y. Fərman Kərimzadənin “Xudafərin körpüsü” və “Çaldiran döyüşü” romanlarında Şah İsmayıl xarakteri // Bakı: Kitabşünaslıq və redaktor sənəti, – 2021, №1, – s. 5-11.

7. Meydan, Y. Türk tarix romanlarında Şah İsmail xarakteri // Ankara: Kültür Evreni dergisi, – 2021. №42, – s. 90-105.
8. Meydan, Y. Azərbaycan Tarihi romanlarından Azize Caferzadənin “Bakı-1501” romanında Şah İsmail xarakteri // - Turan Strateji Araşdırmalar Merkezi, – 2021. №49, – s.30-38.
9. Meydan, Y. Türkiyə tarixi romanlarından Reha Çamuroğlunun “İsmail” romanında Şah İsmayıl xarakteri // Bakı: Filologiya və sənətsünaslıq jurnalı, – 2021. №1, – s. 146-153.
10. Meydan, Y. Əzizə Cəfərzadənin “Bakı-1501” romanında Şah İsmayıl obrazı // “Türk dillərinin və ədəbiyyatının tədqiqi və tədrisinin aktual problemləri” beynəlxalq elmi konfransı, – Sumqayıt: – 2021, – s.396-398.
11. Meydan, Y. Tarixi Roman Anlayışı // “Azərbaycan Respublikasında kitabxana-informasiya fəaliyyətinin inkişaf meyilləri” adlı Respublika Elmi Konfransı, Bakı: – 2021, – s.120-122.

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