

**REPUBLIC OF AZERBAIJAN**

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**ABSTRACT**

of the dissertation submitted for the degree of Doctor of Philosophy

**CRITICISM AND LITERARY PROCESS IN THE  
NEWSPAPER “KOMMUNIST”  
(1919–1991)**

Specialty: 5716.01– Azerbaijani literature

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## GENERAL CHARACTERISTICS OF THE RESEARCH

**The relevance and use degree of the theme.** In the twenties of the last century, after the establishment of the Soviet power in Azerbaijan, as in the socio-political environment, new approaches arising from the requirements of the time appeared in the literary environment as well. The new authorities, as in all spheres, monopolized literature and began to set conditions for the creative intelligentsia, demanding writers to write works promoting the Communist Party, the political line that was being pursued in the country.

Starting from the first years of the establishment of Soviet power in Azerbaijan, bans were imposed on the publication of independent press bodies, and only with the official permission of the state was it allowed to print newspapers and magazines that could keep up with the new structure. National intellectuals who wrote and created during the 23-month rule of the Azerbaijan Democratic Republic (ADR) began to be followed and persecuted. During these years, those who had kinship and friendship with members of the national government, as well as those who accepted their thoughts and beliefs, were included in the list of politically suspicious, removed from party and government affairs. The saddest thing was that the activities of writers and poets, who had a certain weight and authority in the literary world until that time, were being inspected, they were required to promote the policy of the new government, and describe the occupation of Azerbaijan by the Bolsheviks as a voluntary association.

As is known, during the period of the Azerbaijan Democratic Republic, along with the state press bodies, there were a number of independent and political newspapers published legally and secretly, one of which was the newspaper “Kommunist”, published by the supporters of the Bolsheviks in Baku in 1919 on August 29.

The editor's name was not mentioned in the first issue of the “Kommunist” newspaper, which was published on August 29, 1919 and was active until August 1991 (since 1991, it has been published under the name “Xalq Newspaper”). Many researchers of our press

history believe that the materials of the first issue were edited by Ruhulla Akhundov. The first issue of the newspaper published revolutionary calls to overthrow the current government. Taking this into account, the National Government suspended the newspaper and confiscated the printed copies.

The regular publication of the newspaper began on the night of April 27-28, 1920, after the Red Army overthrew the power of the Azerbaijan Democratic Republic, more precisely on April 30. In those days, the publication of “Azerbaycan” and “Azerbayjan” newspapers, published in Turkish and Russian languages, was stopped, and instead of them, attention was paid to the activities of “Kommunist” newspaper, published in Turkish and Russian languages.

It should be noted that the ideologues of Bolshevism were well aware of the power of the newspaper in the field of propaganda and tried to gather talented journalists and intellectuals around “Kommunist”. In 1924, when the exhibition of the South Caucasian press was held in Tbilisi, “Kommunist” was evaluated as the best represented newspaper at the event. “Zarya Vostoka” newspaper, published in Georgia, wrote on May 7, 1924 that now “Kommunist” in Turkish is one of the best newspapers in the USSR.

In the first years of Soviet rule, most of the literary and artistic examples published in the newspaper consisted of feuilletons and satirical poems. In those examples, the signatures of the authors were, in most cases, kept secret. Against the background of the socio-political struggle in the country, many writers and poets promoted the policies of the party and the government from the first days, while others wanted to continue their creativity freely as before. Based on the examples published in the newspaper, although we do not observe serious pressure on the work of literary figures in 1920-1926 by government agencies, we see that after the first Turkological Congress held in Baku, especially since 1927, specific tasks and tasks were set before the writers. We are witnessing such a situation that in those years, the authorities, which were relatively “soft” with writers with certain literary experience, openly required young people who had just started to create to create artistic examples that supported the Soviet government, and gave a “green light” for the publication of

their works by appreciating their activities in this field. Starting from the mentioned period, socialist realism made specific demands on literary figures. These were real reflection of life events by the artist in his works, description of events in revolutionary development and real historical conditions.

One of the main aspects observed in this period was that writers who wrote and created during the Azerbaijan Democratic Republic were persecuted, mistrust was shown to them, and various accusations were made during the analysis of their works. In particular, ideas such as “pan-Turkist” and “pan-Islamist” were raised, prominent writers were accused of Turkism and nationalism.

Even if there was no literary and artistic body in the later periods - whether it was the 30-40s, the World War II, trace the literary landscape in parallel with the socio-political landscape of the period in the articles published in the “Kommunist” newspaper.

Without hesitation, we can say that the socio-political, cultural and economic life of our republic in the 1920s-1990s was reflected in the “Kommunist” newspaper, which was published during the existence of the Azerbaijan Soviet Socialist Republic, the official organ of the Azerbaijan Communist Party, and the number one socio-political newspaper of the republic. Although it was a socio-political newspaper, the pages of the newspaper periodically included examples and works of literary criticism, the study and evaluation of these works from the level of modern scientific requirements is one of the main criteria for determining the relevance of the work.

We believe that the systematic study of the literary-artistic examples and literary works published in the “Kommunist” newspaper is important for studying the influence of social and political conditions on the literary environment, as well as the influence of writers and literary critics on the social environment.

Literary-artistic examples and works of literary studies published in “Kommunist” newspaper, with a few exceptions, have not been scientifically and philologically investigated in a systematic way. In 1986, Ogtay Mammadov defended his candidate's dissertation entitled “The role of the press in the moral education of workers”

(based on the materials of republican newspapers - the 70s) <sup>1</sup>, in 2010, Ismayil Mammadov's book entitled "The Lexicon of Newspaper Language" (based on the materials of the "Communist" newspaper of the 1960-70s) <sup>2</sup>, on the eve of the newspaper's 90th anniversary, a book entitled "From the history of the creation and development of the "Xalq newspaper" <sup>3</sup> compiled by Elmar Maharramov and Aytan Maharramli was published, and in 2020, Lutviyya Asgarzade's book entitled "Ahmad Trinich" <sup>4</sup> was published. In the book of E.Maharramov and A.Maharramli, mainly, the readers were informed about the creation of the newspaper, the role it played in the social and political life of the country (in 1919–1929), but individual literary and artistic examples published in the newspaper, articles related to literary studies, their subject, content, ideas and craftsmanship the conversation has not been opened. In his book, L.Asgarzade talked about the life and activities of Ahmad Trinich, a social and political figure who was the editor of the newspaper.

**The object and subject of the research.** The literary and artistic examples published in the 1919–1991 issues of the "Kommunist" newspaper and the attitude of literary criticism to these examples, what is written about individual writers and literary critics constitute the object of the presented dissertation.

Literary-artistic and literary criticism works published in the newspaper "Kommunist" at different times and with different attitudes, articles about the influence of the newspaper on the literary process and the place of the newspaper in the literary environment, analysis and evaluation of literary samples published on the pages of the newspaper for 71 years from today's point of view constitute the

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<sup>1</sup> Мамедов, О. Рол печати в нравственном воспитании трудящихся (По материалам республиканских газет–70-е годы) / Автореферат на соискание ученой степени кандидата филологических наук. О.Мамедов. – Киев: – 1986, стр. 24.

<sup>2</sup> Мəммədov, İ. Qəzet dilinin leksikası: / (1960-70-ci illərin "Kommunist" qəzetinin materialları əsasında). İ.Məmmədov,- Bakı: Elm və təhsil, - 2010. - 161 s.

<sup>3</sup> Maharramov E. From the history of the creation and development of the "Xalq newspaper" ("Kommunist"). On the occasion of the 90th anniversary of its publication / E. Maharramov, A.Maharramli. – Baku: Elm & təhsil, - 2009. - 88 p.

<sup>4</sup> Asgarzade, L. Ahmad Trinich / L.Asgarzade, - Baku: Elm & təhsil, - 2020. - 210 p.

subject of the research.

**Research purpose and objectives.** The main purpose of the dissertation is to investigate the literary process in the context of the literary-artistic and literary works published in the “Kommunist” newspaper in Azerbaijan during the years of Soviet rule, to reveal the innovations that occurred in our literature in different periods, the obstacles and prohibitions placed before our poets and writers under the requirements of the socialist realism creative method, the positive and negative influence of literary critics on the literary process, and to objectively evaluate the works published in the newspaper. Based on this requirement, the following tasks are expected to be fulfilled in the dissertation:

–To show the reasons for the threats and pressures that our national-minded poets and writers were subjected to in the first years of publication of “Kommunist” newspaper;

–To comprehensively involve the literary and artistic examples published in the newspaper with the old alphabet;

–To provide information about the difficulties faced by well-known representatives of our literature during the period of repression who cooperated with the newspaper;

–On the basis of the examples published in the “Kommunist” newspaper, to investigate the literature of the Great Patriotic War years and the works related to the subject of South Azerbaijan published in the newspaper as a separate research object;

–On the basis of newspaper materials, the arrival of new topics in Azerbaijani literature in the post-war period and the attention of critics to this field, etc.

**Research methods.** The following empirical and theoretical research methods were used in the dissertation work:

- collection and systematization of facts;
- systematic analytical analysis and interpretations;
- complex approach to problems, the principle of historicity;
- obtaining scientific results based on generalizations.

**The main provisions submitted for defense.** The main propositions obtained and defended as a result of the research are as follows:

– Although the main part of the materials published in the “Kommunist” newspaper, including the materials related to literature and literary studies, was related to the requirements of the Soviet ideology, it also played an important role in the development of culture and education, and poetry in Azerbaijan.

– “Kommunist” newspaper played a positive role in mobilizing the capabilities of our intellectuals in the fight against superstition and mass education of the population.

– The newspaper staff worked tirelessly for the development and enrichment of the Azerbaijani language and literature.

– Although the newspaper is forced to implement the policy of the organization it is an organ of, many authors whose literary articles and artistic works were published on its pages never forgot the national interests of their people, and as a result some of them were punished under the name of “nationalist-bourgeois representatives”.

– By uniting the most educated representatives of our intellectuals, the newspaper created conditions for the efficient use of their talent and skills in the cultural advancement of our people and the development of our literature.

– Azerbaijan's leading poets and writers have often made speeches on various literary and theoretical issues in the pages of “Kommunist” newspaper.

– Unfortunately, articles criticizing a number of national poets were also published on the pages of the newspaper by individual Soviet ideologists.

– Due to the fact that some of the poets published in the newspaper wrote only based on the requirements of the Bolshevik ideology, their works were not distinguished by their high artistic merits.

**Scientific novelty of the research.** For the first time in this dissertation:

– Hundreds of artistic examples published in the “Kommunist” newspaper during seventy-one years are investigated and evaluated from a modern point of view;

– From 1920 to the period of the World War II, the topic of the columns published in the newspaper, the targets of criticism of our



poets are studied;

–The materials published in the newspaper with the old alphabet are studied comprehensively for the first time;

–The search for the “enemy” in literature, the persecution of writers and poets from the end of the 20s and the beginning of the 30s of the last century is systematically investigated based on the materials of the “Kommunist” newspaper;

–Information is given about the struggle of our outstanding artists, victims of repression, for living with dignity, the requirements and prohibitions imposed on the publication of their works;

–On the eve of the World War II and during the Great Patriotic War, the literary works dedicated to the praise of the heroic sons of Azerbaijan in the newspaper are reviewed and evaluated;

–The works written on the topic of South Azerbaijan in the newspaper are studied separately;

–Complex research is being conducted on the works taught in the newspaper in connection with the 800th anniversary of Nizami Ganjavi;

–Based on newspaper materials, the characteristic features of literary criticism in the period after the Great Patriotic War, new literary forces that came to literature in the 60s and artificial obstacles created to them are talked about;

–In the newspaper, works on the topic of Karabakh, on the painful problems of refugees and IDPs are involved in research.

### **Theoretical and practical significance of the research.**

–The dissertation can be a source for future research works in the direction of studying the literature of the Soviet period - 1920-1991 with the methods of theoretical approach and conclusions;

–This work can be used in dissertations and monographs to be written on literature and art issues in various media;

–This work may also have a certain role in writing the relevant volumes of the history of the 20th century Azerbaijani press and the multi-volume history of Azerbaijani literature;

–Students of the philology and journalism faculties of higher schools, those working in the press and scientific-pedagogical fields can benefit from this work.

**Research approbation and application.** The main content, provisions, scientific novelties, conclusions and results of the research work are reflected in the author's articles and theses in the authoritative scientific journals and collections recommended by the Supreme Attestation Commission under the President of the Republic of Azerbaijan, works “Poetry in the “Kommunist” newspaper during the Great Patriotic War”, “Literature and criticism in the years of repression in the “Kommunist” newspaper (1936-1937)”, “History of the research of Nizami Ganjavi's works in Azerbaijan”, “Literature of Turkic-speaking peoples in the Soviet period in the Azerbaijani press”, “The subject of Southern Azerbaijan in the newspaper “Kommunist” (1945-1959)”, “Alishir Navain's work in the press pages of the 20th century (1941-1968)” (material of the international conference), Nazim Hikmat's work in the press pages of the last century (“Kommunist” newspaper 1932-1957) and “Azerbaijani and Uzbek literary relations in the pages of the “Kommunist” newspaper” published in foreign scientific publications and international conference materials.

**Name of the organization where the dissertation work was performed:** The dissertation work, written in accordance with the requirements set by the Supreme Attestation Commission under the President of Azerbaijan, was performed at the “Department of research and presentation of new and modern Azerbaijani literature” of the National Museum of Azerbaijani Literature named after Nizami Ganjavi of the Ministry of Culture of the Republic of Azerbaijan

**Structure of the dissertation.** The dissertation work consists of an introduction (13 232 marks), 3 chapters (Chapter I – 79 717 characters (1.1. – 38220, 1.2 – 41497), Chapter II – 87 495 characters (2.1. – 27284, 2.2. – 15967, 2.3. – 17890, 2.4. – 26354), Chapter III – consists of 84 311 characters (3.1. – 40746, 3.2. – 34443, 3.3. – 9080), a conclusion (6 120 signs) and a list of references. The total volume of the work is 27 1098 characters.

## MAIN CONTENT OF THE DISSERTATION WORK

In the “**Introduction**” part of the dissertation, the relevance and degree of development of the topic were discussed, the object and subject, purpose and tasks, methods of the research were determined, the main propositions defended were indicated, and the scientific novelty, theoretical and practical importance of the dissertation were justified.

The first chapter, called “**Literary issues in the newspaper “Kommunist” in the first decades of publication activity (1919-1930)**” consists of two paragraphs. In the first paragraph entitled “**Literary and artistic examples created by the influence of Soviet ideology in the pages of the “Kommunist”**”, as a result of the political changes that took place in Azerbaijan at the beginning of the last century, Bolsheviks seized power by force, used the power of the press to spread their ideas among the population, preparations for new alphabet reforms and other issues are discussed here. It is reported that the national republics that declared their independence on the territory of Tsarist Russia, including the Azerbaijan Democratic Republic, were overthrown by the Bolsheviks after only 23 months of operation. The “Red terror”, which began in April 1920, attacking in a broader direction than in the early thirties, turned against the idea of independence, national ideology, democratic ideas and people who were carriers of these ideas as a nightmare of the death of totalitarian ideology. No matter how hard the Bolshevik authorities tried, it was not possible to break and destroy the traditions of national self-awareness, independence and democracy of the Republic, which shed light on the history of the nation during the short period of its existence.

In the 1920s, one of the issues that became the subject of discussion on the pages of the newspaper “Kommunist” was the issue of the transition to a new alphabet. Thus, the lack of alphabetic unity among Turkic-speaking peoples at that time was one of the main issues that made progressive intellectuals think. Khalid Said correctly wrote: “*We need an alphabet that will gather together the Turkic-Tatar peoples who speak a language close to each other and advance*”

*rapidly through letters and culture*”<sup>5</sup>.

As a result of the efforts of the “New Turkic Alphabet Committee”, which was established by the decision of the Azerbaijani government in 1922, the process of switching to the alphabet based on Latin script was accelerated from 1923, which gave impetus to the more organized activity of the Turkic-speaking peoples who were hesitant about switching to the new alphabet.

As we mentioned in the “Introduction”, Ruhulla Akhundov edited the first issue of “Kommunist”, which was published secretly in 1919, and the newspaper was closed after the first issue. After the establishment of Soviet power in Azerbaijan, Aliheydar Garayev was the first editor of “Kommunist”, which resumed its newspaper activities on April 30, 1920 and was published legally. In the following years, the newspaper was edited by Aghababa Yusifzadeh (1920–1921), Boyukagha Talibli (1921), Habib Jabiyev (1921–1922; 1923–1927), Ruhulla Akhundov (1922–1923); Yusif Gasimov and Ahmad Trinich (1927–1931), Yunis Hajiyev (1931–1941), Rza Guliyev (1941–1944; 1949–1953), Aghababa Rzayev (1945, 1953–1955; 1963–1980), Ali Valiyev (1945–1949), Khasay Vazirov (1955–1958), Israfil Nazarov (1958–1963), Rashid Mahmudov (1980–1987), Ramiz Ahmadov (1987–1988), Jamil Alibeyov (1988–1990), Tofiq Rustamov (1990–1991). The most successful period of the newspaper covers the period of 1963–1980. During the time when Heydar Aliyev headed the Central Committee of the Communist Party of Azerbaijan, the influence of “Kommunist” published under the editorship of Aghababa Rzayev increased many times. The newspaper published sharply critical articles about the flaws in the society, deficiencies in the administration and enterprises, and a special meeting was held in the Central Committee regarding the problem. Correspondents of the newspaper, Tofiq Hasanov, Sadig Garayev, Ali Ildirimoglu and others brought great prestige to “Kommunist” with the materials they wrote with their professionalism.

Prominent intellectuals of our people Mammad Said Ordubadi,

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<sup>5</sup> Khalid, Said. My old memories and emotions in new alphabet ways / Said Khalid. – Baku: New alphabet committee, - 1929. - p. 21.

Taghi Shahbazi, Mahammadali Sidgi, Shamseddin Abbasov, Suleyman Malikov, Khalil Ibrahimov, Huseyn Javid, Uzeyir Hajibeyli, Jalil Mammadguluzade, Bekir Chobanzade, Salman Mumtaz, Omar Faig Nemanzade, Aliabbas Muznib Mutallibzade, Abdurrahim bey Hagverdiyev, Jafar Jabbarli and others regularly cooperated with “Kommunist” newspaper.

In the poetry samples from the first years of the newspaper, the lack of appreciation of the work of the disenfranchised, simple people who moaned about the oppression of the lords and khans before the establishment of Soviet power in Azerbaijan was criticized, calls for youth to be ready for state building and defense of the motherland, mocking of religious traditions, religious figures and other domestic issues were brought to attention. *“The “red Soviet hammers” brought down on the heads of many artists in these years were aimed at removing those artists from the platform of national literature and transferring them to the proletarian platform. No matter how barbaric the political regime fought against national literature, national literature emerged and became a fact of the literary process”*<sup>6</sup>.

In the poetry section of the chapter, the works of Balagadesh Sattaroglu, Huseyn Javid, Maqşud Sheikhzade, Mammadsaid Ordubadi, Ahmad Javad, Bayramali Abbaszade and other poets are analyzed. It is noted that the “Little feuilleton” by Hardamkhayal states that espionage was a characteristic feature of all classes of the Armenian people, even religious figures. For hundreds of years, they have been engaged in stealing the culture of the peoples in the areas where they were resettled, and in eliminating their political figures through terrorism. In this way, the Armenians tried to break the unity of the Turkic peoples and divide them from within:

*Nə qədər xidmət edib dində, şəriətdə keşiş,  
(The priest served many religions and sharia)  
İndi də xidmət edir tazə hökumətdə keşiş.*

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<sup>6</sup> Salamoglu, T. Modern Azerbaijani literature / T.Salamoglu. – Baku:[314 s.n.] - 2012. – p. 13.

*(He is still serving as a priest in the new government.)  
Bir zaman Əbdülhəmid etmiş idi bunları “şad”,  
(Abdulhamid once made them “happy”),  
İndi də başda durar bir katolik pak “neyad”<sup>7</sup>.  
(Even now, a pure Catholic “priest” stands at the head.)*

In the prose examples published on the pages of newspapers in the first years of the publication of the “Kommunist”, the issues such as the marriage of teenage girls from an early age, the freedom of women, the strengthening of Soviet power in Azerbaijan, and the discrediting of religious figures were kept in mind. Huseyn Nejdət's story “Ushagmish”<sup>8</sup> describes the above-mentioned issues in detail. The story shows that Gullu, who has just turned thirteen, is in a hurry to get married, and the women who come to their house ask for her from her mother Zeynab for their sons. Despite her teacher's insistence against this marriage, 13-year-old Gullu is married off by her mother Zeynab and gets divorced after a while.

Thus, during the period when the newspaper was published with Arabic graphics, until the establishment of the Soviet power in Azerbaijan, we come across more artistic examples that talk about the insufficient appreciation of the work of ordinary people. In many of the articles in the newspaper, we witness that those who do not follow the policy of the party are discredited with various stigmas, and obstacles are created for their creativity and the publication of their works.

In the second paragraph entitled “**Reflection of the literary processes in the twenties and thirties of the 20th century in the newspaper**”, the works devoted to the issues of literary studies published in the newspaper at that time are analyzed, the main trends in the formation of Soviet literature are revealed. It is noted that the struggle for the purity of the language, the purification of the literary language from Arabic and Persian words, the writing of fiction,

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<sup>7</sup> Hardamkhayal. From today's telegraphs: (poem) // “Kommunist” newspaper. – June 8, 1924. – p. 3.

<sup>8</sup> Nejdət, Huseyn. Ushagmish: (story) // “Kommunist” newspaper. – 1926, September 6, 1926. – p. 3.

especially poems in simple colloquial language, began to be focused on from the first issues of the newspaper. Ali Razi's (Shamchizade Ali Mashadi Yahya) article "Let's try to fix our language instead of fixing our alphabet"<sup>9</sup> is dedicated to this very topic, the article touches on important issues such as cleaning the Azerbaijani language from Arabic-Persian words and taking measures for the purity of our mother tongue.

Aliheydar Garayev's article "There is no such criticism"<sup>9</sup> is published at a time when persecution and pressures against our prominent intellectuals are increasing. In this article A.Garayev emphasizes that it is inadmissible to suppress the literary forces of the time, to accuse the writers and poets who serve the people of working for the enemy front.

In that period, a number of articles published in newspapers reviewed the works of Huseyn Javid, Ahmad Javad, Samad Vurgun, Jafar Jabbarli, Mikayil Mushfiq, Nigar Rafibeyli and other writers and poets, and the authors of the poems called on them to actively promote the policies of the party and the government in their works.

The second chapter is entitled **"Reflection of Azerbaijani literature in the newspaper "Kommunist" during World War II and the subsequent years of construction"**. In the first chapter entitled **"Poetry and prose of the war and post-war years"**, it is noted that from the beginning of the war until its end, most of the works of Azerbaijani poets and writers published in the newspaper glorified the bravery of the sons of the country at the front, calls to the people to unite against the scourge of fascism, and the sacrifices of the people at the rear were the main themes of these works. R.Rza's "Bakhtiyar", "To the warriors of the Patriotic War", Mammad Rahim "Homeland calls", "Three brothers", "To the sons of Azerbaijan", "The word of the Daglis", "Oil Epic", Jafar Khanda's "The enemy will be crushed this year", "Commissar", "To my Kazakh brothers", Suleyman Rustam's "A million hands throw flowers at him saying "thank you", "Mother's heart", "Mother and the postman", "A letter

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<sup>9</sup> Garayev, A. There is no such criticism // "Kommunist" newspaper. – February 15, 1929. – p. 3.

to a warrior”, “To the sons of the Caucasus”, “Let the day be that day”, “Stalingrad”, “Lightning”, Samad Vurgun's “Fire”, “For partizan Babash”, M.Biparvan's “Rolling and falling into the river”, “Oh, come to my help”, Ahmad Jamil's “To my soldier brothers”, “To the sons of Caucasian”, “To the son of the motherland” and other poems reflect the tragedies caused by the war, the people's faith in victory, and the bravery shown by the sons of the motherland in battles. For example, Mammad Rahim's poem “Letter to the golden soldier” is one of the works in this spirit. We read in the poem:

*Fikrimiz, xəyalımız hər zaman yanındadır,*  
(Our idea, our imagination is always with you)  
*Döyünən ürəyimiz döyüş meydanındadır.*  
(Our beating heart is on the battlefield.)  
*Biz səndən arxayınıq, sən bizdən ol arxayın,*  
(We rely on you, you rely on us as well,)  
*Əlinlə döyülərkən hər müxənnət, hər xain.<sup>10</sup>*  
(While every traitor is beaten by your hand.)

After the end of the Great Patriotic War, new topics and new literary forces began to appear in literature. In the poems “Beautiful Homeland” by Ali Saleh, “Lights” by İslam İbrahimov, “Palace of Eternity” by Bakhtiyar Vahabzade, “Come”, “The Word of the heart” by Suleyman Rustam, “Shalala” by Gabil Nikbin, “Today” by Ali Nazmi, “Stable companion”, “Malikov” published under the signature of “Cooperator”, “To Uzeyir Hajibeyov” by B.Adil, “Mingachevir stars” by Ahmad Jamil, “To the founders of Mingachevir” by Allahverdi İmanov, “The mountains are calling” by Novruz Ganjali, “To my southern brothers” by M.Rahim, “Four years” by Agasalim Fedai, issues of post-war reconstruction are mainly highlighted.

The second paragraph of the second chapter is called “**Issues of literary studies on the pages of the newspaper**”. In the years under discussion in the “Kommunist” newspaper, in addition to examples of

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<sup>10</sup> Rahim M. Letter to the Golden Soldier: (poem) // “Kommunist” newspaper. – March 3, 1941. – p. 3.



poetry and prose, quite a few works related to literary studies were also published.

In addition to perfect artistic examples in the newspaper, it was worrying to give “poetry” pieces with weak, meaningless vocabulary, in the article titled “Poetry or nonsense”, the author of which was not specified, such works were criticized by citing the following verses from the poem titled “Women in the past and now” published in one of the regional newspapers at that time.

*Kişi-qadın qüvvələri kommunizm əsasıdır,  
(Male-female forces are the basis of communism,)  
Həqiqətən sovet dövrü elmdə, siyasətdə,  
(Indeed, in the science and politics of the Soviet era,)  
Bir sayıldı kişi-qadın hüquqda, mədəniyyətdə.<sup>11</sup>  
(Men and women considered equal in law and culture.)*

The end of the war created the basis for the reactivation of literary criticism, which was relatively in the background in our literature. The published articles analyze the creativity of young people who have recently come to literature. It is noted that in the creativity of the forces that came to the new literature, the pure, virgin emotions of youth flutter, and a deep love for our homeland lives. Among the young poets, Nabi Babayev, Bakhtiyar Vahabzadeh, Adil Babayev, Jamil Valeh expressed their feelings around certain topics rather than general words and allusions. B.Nabi's “Hand Tree”, B.Vahabzade's “Lamp with soot”, B. Adil's “When spring comes”, Huseyn Abbaszade's “Two friends”, J.Valeh's “Bonfire” can be examples of this.

The third paragraph of the second chapter is entitled **“Kommunist” newspaper and the literary process in South Azerbaijan**. This paragraph talks about the National Government created in South Azerbaijan in the post-war years and its role in the national awakening of our compatriots in Iran. The theme of South Azerbaijan was always kept in mind in the “Kommunist” newspaper in 1945-1950, and was widely reflected in the creativity of our poets

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<sup>11</sup> Poetry or nonsense! // “Kommunist” newspaper. – April 9, 1946. – p. 3.

and writers. In these works, first of all, feelings and emotions such as the relationship of the people divided into two, the difficult conditions faced by our compatriots living in South Azerbaijan, the reactionary policy of the Iranian regime against them, and the suppression of the ideas of national freedom were among the main topics.

The fourth paragraph of the second chapter is entitled **“Research, promotion and publication of Nizami Ganjavi's works as one of the main themes of the newspaper”**. In this paragraph, issues of publication and study of the works of the great Azerbaijani poet Nizami Ganjavi in the “Kommunist” newspaper are touched upon. It is noted that although the publication of Nizami Ganjavi's works in Azerbaijan began in 1907, the study of the poet's artistic heritage in Azerbaijan mainly began in the 40s of the 20th century. In 1939, on the eve of the 800th anniversary of Nizami Ganjavi's birth, scientific research and translation of the poet's works were started. Valuable research on works of the poet involved in scientific research by Yevgeni Bertels, Mikayil Rafili, Hamid Arasli, Mammad Mubariz, Mirza Ibrahimov, Jafar Khandan, Mir Jalal and other scientists occurred at that time.

The third chapter, called **“The literary process after the softening of the socio-political environment”**, consists of three paragraphs. The first paragraph was given under the title **“Poetry and prose in the columns of the newspaper after the era of cult of personality”**. In this paragraph, the innovation that took place in the Azerbaijani literature in the sixties, the problems faced by various poets and writers, new topics brought to literature using the change of political power, and other issues are analyzed. As we analyze the works written after Stalin's death, we witness significant positive changes in our literature. Huseyn Huseynzade's poem mentioned below was written under the influence of sincere feelings. In the poem **“When spring comes”**, the poet draws attention to the fact that with the arrival of spring, the awakening of nature, the boiling of springs, the sound of water, and the chirping of birds give people a pleasant mood. Here, the author seems to be reliving the joy and unforgettable moments that spring brings to human life and writes. The poet wishes for spring to bring back his past childhood and past youth.

*Xəyalın, ilhamın yoxdu dincliyi,*  
(*There is no peace of imagination and inspiration,*)  
*Könül, fikr etmə ki, saçlarım ağdır.*  
(*Mind, don't think that my hair is white.*)  
*Ötən uşaqlığın, ötən gəncliyin,*  
(*Past childhood, past youth*)  
*Bahar elə bil ki, qayataracaqdır.*<sup>12</sup>  
(*As if will be returned by spring.*)

In Nigar Rafibeyli's poem "Baby", although at first sight the crying of a baby and the anxiety it causes in the family at night, but the hope for the future, the poet emphasizes freedom here. N.Rafibeyli, who compares her homeland Azerbaijan - the Azerbaijan Democratic Republic, which has only lived for 23 months, to a baby with his hands and arms tied - says that the sapling calls out to the world and seeks justice:

*Hələ dan yeri ağarmamış,*  
(*When it is still dark,*)  
*əfsanəvi gecə,*  
(*legendary night,*)  
*Qısa ömrünü qurtarmamış,*  
(*A tiny being that has not finished his short life,*)  
*ağ bir bükülü içindən,*  
(*from inside a white wrap,*)  
*Xırdaca bir varlıq bağırtyla oyanır.*  
(*Wakes up with a scream,*)  
*Nə yorğunluq bilir nə sükut qanır.*  
(*Knows neither fatigue nor silence.*)  
*O, azadlıq istəyir,*  
(*Wants freedom,*)  
*əl qolunu çıxardıb qundaqdan.*  
(*By taking his arm out of the swaddle.*)  
*Çabalamaq istəyir,*  
(*Wants to try,*)

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<sup>12</sup> Huseynzade, H. When spring comes: (poem) // "Kommunist" newspaper. – March 18, 1956. – p. 3.

*varlığını elan edib dünyaya*  
(announcing his existence to the world)  
*Canlılar aləmində*  
(In the living world)  
*özünə haqq istəyir.*<sup>13</sup>  
(wants justice for himself).

The second paragraph of the third chapter talks about “**New approaches in evaluating the literary process of criticism**”. “For high craftsmanship in our poetry”<sup>14</sup>, by Suleyman Rustam, “Some notes about our poetry” by M.Arif, “A novel about a collective farm village” by A.Zamanov, “To the level of today's demands” and in other articles, innovations in Azerbaijani literature, bans on the works of poets and writers on the instructions of the party, inappropriate criticism are collected from newspaper pages and brought to attention.

In the late 1950s and early 1960s, in the new poems of our poets, there are no longer undue praises for the party, Lenin or Stalin, as in the Stalin period. The positive tendencies noticeable in the literary examples of this period consist of bringing spiritual values to the fore, especially the harmony between man and nature, man and society, taking national characteristics into account. Those characteristic features did not appear easily in Azerbaijani literature. Literary criticism was constantly checking new works and looking for “defects” and trying to be an obstacle to innovation and positive tendencies in literature.

In addition to the above, the newspaper always keeps in mind that there are gaps in the field of literary criticism. It is clear from our research that in the 60s, highly qualified and experienced critics paid little attention to contemporary literary problems, as they now moved to the field of literary history. The newspaper article “For the

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<sup>13</sup> Rafibeyli, N. “Baby” (poem) // “Kommunist” newspaper. - December 22, 1961. - p. 3.

<sup>14</sup> Rustam, S. For high craftsmanship in our poetry // “Kommunist” newspaper. – April 15, 1954. – p. 3.

partisanship and national character of literature and art”<sup>15</sup> states that it is also very bad that many of the experienced, older writers consider themselves above criticism, and react to even the slightest remark about their works with excitement, attack, and malice, and try to disprove this criticism in various ways.

The third paragraph of the third chapter is entitled **“The Karabakh theme (1980-1991) in the literary works published in the “Kommunist” newspaper”**. In this paragraph, the coverage of the topic of Karabakh on the pages of newspapers, the works written by our poets and writers on this topic are analyzed on the basis of specific examples. From our research it is clear that at first they were in no hurry to publish in the press poems with a patriotic spirit, which they wrote, avoiding the persecution of the Soviet regime. Because the Soviet literary environment and critics demanded from them to write works glorifying the friendship of peoples with an international spirit. However, as the claim of Armenians against our lands increased, every poet and writer who was a participant in the political processes in the country did not hesitate to express their position, they started to bring the feelings such as national spirit and love for their native land, which they carried in the depths of their hearts for years, into literature.

The works of N.Khazri, T.Bayram, J.Novruz, H.Abbas, J.Alibayli and other writers published in the pages of the newspaper on Karabakh are literary examples of this kind.

The Armenian claims that started around Nagorno-Karabakh, the pain of our native children have been among the topics that our poets and writers have addressed the most since the beginning of this problem, and the struggles of our people for every inch of their ancestral lands have been reflected in our artistic works. For example, In Tofiq Bayram's “I swear”, Hamid Abbas's “Speak clearly, write the truth!”, Jabir Novruz's “Enough, stop, it's enough”, Yusif Hasanbey's “Each is a sword with high-carbon steel”, Khalil Rza Ulutürk's poems “A Tree Growing in Thirst” poems, Isi Malikzade's “Beydulla Bush

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<sup>15</sup> For the partisanship and national character of literature and art // “Kommunist” newspaper. – March 23, 1963. – p. 2-4.

and Seyfulla Saddam”, Jamil Alibeyov's “Stranger homeland, new home” stories, we witness protests against the atrocities committed by Armenian nationalists in our lands, our people united like a fist and calling for the defense of our lands.

Our poets and writers, who called the people to national unity and fight for every inch of the Motherland with their above-mentioned works, deserve to be involved in scientific research from today's point of view.

In the “**Conclusion**” part of the dissertation, the scientific-theoretical conclusions obtained from the research conducted during the study are summarized in the following manner:

1. It required great courage from the writers to develop our national literature, having withstood the difficulties in the conditions when the Azerbaijani people of the Soviet period were cut off all ties with the external environment, and poets and writers were faced with the tasks of creating works in terms of the requirements of socialist realism. In our research dedicated to the investigation of literary and literary works published in the pages of “Kommunist” newspaper during the 70-year period, based on the materials published in the newspaper during the mentioned time period, the general picture of our literature, the pressures on individual writers, and the existing problems in the field of literary criticism were shown. The problem of changing the alphabet, the difficulties faced by our people during the years of repression, the glorification and description of the valor shown by the sons of Azerbaijan in the Great Patriotic War in our poetry and prose, attention to the creativity of South Azerbaijani poets and other issues formed the leading direction of our research.

2. It was concluded that in the materials published in 1920-1991, the purity of the Azerbaijani language, especially in the 20s-30s of the last century, the purification from Arabic-Persian words, the writing of fiction, especially poetry, close to the simple spoken language, presented in words that the reader can understand were kept in the spotlight from the first issues of the newspaper.

3. As it is known, the wave of repression destroyed many national writers and literary critics of the Azerbaijani people and put an end to their dreams of writing and creating. Our people suffered

from these pains for a long time, and even today the scars of those blows have not fully healed. The national intelligentsia, which lived in Azerbaijan during Tsarist Russia and the republic, was presented to the people in the form of enemies in the first decades of the Soviet era. It would be naive to attribute this to the “betrayal” of the pen pal of the repressed, or the “poor quality” of the works they wrote, writing works that did not meet the requirements of the time. It can be said with certainty that repression was a punitive tool used by the supreme party leadership against the people to lose track of the past, forget national traditions, and create fear and panic in the society. As a result of this, our writers and poets, scientists were deprived of writing new beautiful works, writing poetic feelings and thoughts coming from the depths of their hearts, and they did not even have any hope of surviving tomorrow. It should be borne in mind that the newspaper “Kommunist” was the official body of a party that ruled the country, which had no alternative, and in such conditions it would not be right to look for high professionalism in the artistic merits and ideological features of the literature published on the pages of the newspaper. It should be especially noted that these works realistically reflect the socio-political events of the time, the desire to continue the traditions of our classical writers, which themselves demanded courage from writers and literary critics.

4. In the victory in the Great Patriotic War, all classes of the Azerbaijani people took part and share. Today, in our opinion, it is not correct to cross out the artistic examples of that period, to erase them from memory with the stigma of “weak works of art”. In the 44-day war for Karabakh, we can see the traces of the literature of the Great Patriotic War in the works calling the people to national unity and the war for the Motherland.

5. The main features that we found in the literature of South Azerbaijan were, first of all, the protest against the forced separation of the people from each other, the strong desire to fight to get out of the bitter situation in which it fell. The enthusiasm generated in the South as a result of the activities of the National Government, the opening of schools in the native language, and the demands for autonomy from the central authorities left a deep mark on the people's

memory. In their works, our creative intellectuals raised great hopes in the hearts of Azerbaijanis living in the South by expressing fateful issues such as the division of a historically united nation into two, the separation of a brother from a sister, and a mother from a child. The fact that these poems do not specifically mention the factors contributing to the division of Azerbaijan into two does not diminish the value of artistic examples. Despite the fact that, contrary to the political will of the Soviet leadership, writers and poets could not clearly show the real troubles of Azerbaijan, which was divided into two, and its becoming a victim of political games, in their creativity they always called our people to national unity. Thus, it can be seen from the examples that we have included in the study that these works were an artistic expression of the sacred dreams of a nation that had been separated for years, such as the reunification, at least the restoration of free movement.

6. The conditions that arose in the 40s and 50s of the last century not only awakened the national spirit, but also had a positive effect on the development of our language and literature. In that period, there were poets and writers among the people who moved from Iran to Azerbaijan. Balash Azeroglu, Madina Gulgun, Hokuma Billuri, Ali Tuda, Ashig Huseyn Javan, Mir Mehdi Cavushi and others can be cited as an example that the newspaper “Kommunist” not only published the works of these people, but also published articles about their creativity.

7. Despite the political pressures on our writers and poets during the Soviet era, censorship and publication of their works, as well as bans on the expression of free speech, the contributions of the writers of those years to the development of Azerbaijani literature are undeniable. Today's and tomorrow's literature is formed from the works created by the next generations, fed by the works of the writers and poets of those years. That's why we considered that it is useful and relevant to examine the issue that we have involved in the research on the basis of the materials presented in the “Kommunist” newspaper of the literature of 1920-1991.

8. In our study, the literary and critical material of the newspaper “Kommunist” for a period of 71 years was involved in the



study in a complex way. For the first time, the samples of poetry and prose published in the newspaper, including articles related to literary criticism, were systematically studied and scientific analysis prepared and made available to future researchers during the mentioned period. At the same time, the issues of research and publication of Nizami Ganjavi's works, the development of South Azerbaijani literature in 1945-1950, the theme of the works published in the newspaper, and the struggle for the unification of the divided Motherland were reflected in the research work.

9. During the beginning of the Karabakh problem, the poems, stories and narratives of our poets and writers calling for the mobilization of the people in the direction of the defense of our lands were also analyzed, and their scientific and philological analysis was given.

### **THE MAIN CONTENT OF THE DISSERTATION IS REFLECTED IN THE FOLLOWING WORKS OF THE AUTHOR:**

1. "Poetry in the "Kommunist" newspaper during the Great Patriotic War" // – Baku: Risala. Collection of studies. – 2017. 13th book, - p. 137-153
2. Literature and criticism in the "Kommunist" newspaper during the years of repression (1936–1937) // - Baku: Risala. Collection of studies. – 2020. №1 (18), - p.112-127.
3. History of research of Nizami Ganjavi's works in Azerbaijan (1939-1948) // The place of Nizami Ganjavi "Khamisa" in the system of Eastern and Western literary and cultural relations and the new directions created. Proceedings of the international scientific conference. – Baku: November 25-27, –2021. – p. 272-275
4. Issues of research and translation of Nizami Ganjavi's works (1939-1948) // - Baku: Azerbaijani literary studies. – 2021. №2. - p. 212-222

5. Literature of Turkic-speaking peoples in the Soviet period in the press of Azerbaijan // - Türkiye: TuranSam. – 2021. 13th volume, № 49, - p. 180-188.
6. The topic of South Azerbaijan in the “Kommunist” newspaper (1945–1959) // - Baku: Risala. Collection of studies, - 2021. № 2, - p. 101-117
7. Alishir Navai's work in the press pages of the 20th century (1941–1968) // “Views of Uzbek thinkers about the theory of language” Proceedings of the international scientific and theoretical conference. - Tashkent: - May 15, - 2021, - p. 149-154
8. Nazim Hikmat's creativity in the press pages of the last century (“Kommunist” newspaper 1932-1957) // Materials of the Republican scientific conference dedicated to the 120th anniversary of Nazım Hikmet on the theme “Nazim passing through the world and the world passing through Nazim” – Baku: - December 5-6, 2022, - p. 31-36.
9. “It was reflected in his works entitled “Azerbaijan and Uzbek literary relations in the pages of the newspaper “Kommunist”. // International scientific-practical conference on “Attitudes towards languages with different structures in the era of globalization”, – Navai (Uzbekistan): - November 15, - 2023, - p. 309-314.

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