ABSTRACT

of the dissertation for the degree of Doctor of Philology

LITERARY RELATIONS BETWEEN AZERBAIJAN AND GREAT BRITAIN OVER THE PERIOD OF INDEPENDENCE

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GENERAL CHARACTERISTICS OF THE WORK

Revelance and studying degree of the topic. The dissertation "Literary relations between Azerbaijan and Great Britain over the period of independence," is devoted to one of the most important and relevant areas of modern comparative literary science. The further development of political, economic, cultural and literary relations with the foreign countries over the period of independence played an important role in the recognition of our country in many countries of the world. From this stand, Azerbaijan-UK relationship can be called a “spiritual bridge” in strengthening mutual literary ties, cultural relations and ties between the two countries.

The study of relations between the Republic of Azerbaijan and the United Kingdom, which has occupied a special place among Western States throughout the period of independence, is important and relevant from the point of view of new ideas in the cultures integration process in the modern world and globalization in the conditions of multiculturalism.

As National leader Heydar Aliyev said, “Azerbaijan has consistently strived for Europe, Western culture, and universal values not only in the last decades, but also in the last two centuries of history” ¹.

Since independence, Azerbaijan has made significant strides aimed to developm and enrich cultural and literary relations, as in all areas. From this point of view, it is very important to look at the course of cultural and literary relations between Azerbaijan and the UK over the period of independence, to study and evaluate the interrelationship issues between them. Among the outstanding scientists of Azerbaijan who have great merits in comparative studies, literary relations and translation studies, Mirza Ibrahimov, Mamed Arif, Mamed Jafar, Isa Habibbeyli, Ismikhan Rahimov, Zeidullah Aghayev, Shahin Khalilov, Anwar Rza, Gazanfar Pashayev, Farida Valikhanova Arif Hajiyev, Vagif Arzumanly, Akif

Bayramov, Gorkhaz Guliyev, Jalil Naghiyev, Agil Hajiyev, Lyudmila Samadova, Ulfat Badalbeyli, Guler Abdullabekova, Leyli Aliyeva, Atami Mirzoev and others, have done valuable work.

In Azerbaijani literary criticism, many research works (books and monographs) are written describing the forms and methods of Azerbaijani-British literary relations, as well as scientific articles have been published and dissertations have been defended on various periods of these literary ties, since mutual translation and publication of literary, artistic and literary-scientific works is one of the most reliable means of strengthening and further enriching literary ties between the two countries. We highly appreciate the work done so far and have benefited greatly from the work of our valuable scholars and translators. The dissertation touches upon English-language publications (although not all of them) related to Azerbaijani literature in the UK, our country and other countries, and to some extent touches upon and mentions the activities of young specialists who have significantly enriched Azerbaijani-British literary relations along with representatives of the older and middle generations.

The purpose and objectives of research. The topic of the dissertation *Literary relations between Azerbaijan and Great Britain over the period of independence*, deals with the problem of mutual study of cultures of the peoples of the world.

The main goal of developing this topic is to trace the stages of the establishment and development of literary relations between Azerbaijan and the United Kingdom with different languages and beliefs, a unique culture, as well as to explore the interaction of literature created by both peoples for centuries. The dissertation defines the following tasks arising from this goal:

– To consider the life and work of outstanding representatives of British literature in Azerbaijani literary studies, to analyze research works dedicated to them and samples of literature translated into our language, literary and artistic events held in our country in connection with this literature, and conversely, to involve in the study of literary processes and cultural events related to Azerbaijani literature in the UK;
– To review the history of translation art and of translation;
– To identify a number of important and characteristic features of literary translation, the history of national translation and translation studies as one of the main means of literary relations covering certain periods of the literary process;
– To give a scientific assessment of the place and importance of the English language in the translation and study of British literature;
– To rewind the origins of Azerbaijani-British literary relations;
– To create a general picture of national folklore, classic and modern Azerbaijani literature translated into English;
– To determine the place and role of Azerbaijani-British literary relations in the period of Azerbaijan's independence based on the works of Azerbaijani immigrant literature, especially in English and native languages by the well-known writer and scholar Gulamrza Sabri Tabrizi.

**Methods of Research.** The systematic scientific approach to the study of Azerbaijani-British literary relations, the scientific principles applied by prominent scientists and literary critics in the field of literary relations have been taken as the theoretical and methodological background to the dissertation.

The study of theoretical and experimental materials of Azerbaijani-British literary relations using historical and comparative method forms the methodological basis of the thesis. The dissertation was based on the achievements of literary studies of both countries in Azerbaijani-British literary relations, covering the period of independence of Azerbaijan.

**Main Postulates Represented for Defense:**
– To keep a close watch on the life and work of outstanding representatives of British literature in Azerbaijani literature studies;
– To compare works of outstanding representatives of the literature of Great Britain with the originals translated into our language;
– To identify the sources of Azerbaijan-UK literary relations;
– To analyse works of national folklore, classical and modern Azerbaijani literature translated into English;
– To show the role and place of Azerbaijani immigration literature in the Azerbaijani-British literary relations over the period of independence of Azerbaijan;
To make aware of the literary examples of both national literatures involved in analysis and research for the first time over independence.

**Scientific Novelty of the Research.** The dissertation submitted for defense is the first dissertation work devoted to the study of Azerbaijani-British literary relations in the years of independence. It has been established that various literary monuments in Azerbaijan and the United Kingdom have been talked about in various years, and literary monuments, mainly translated from Russian, have been explored within a range of topics. For the first time, in the dissertation *Literary relations between Azerbaijan and Great Britain over the period of independence*, the literary relations of the two countries were explored as a complex object of research. In some studies, the literary relations between Azerbaijan and the United Kingdom were mainly studied in the context of the translation and research of various poets and writers. However, translation and its contents were not a separate research object. In the dissertation, for the first time, works published on the Azerbaijan and Great Britain literature were studied based on the regularities of literary-historical development and literary relations.

Literary works, articles and books involved in analysis and research for the first time, as well as translation the English writer Aldous Leonard Huxley's story *The Crows of Pearblossom* into our language, study of literary heritage of scientist, poet and public figure Gulamrza Sabri Tabrizi as the example of Azerbaijani emigrant literature in the UK, can also be considered to be this dissertation novelty.

**Theoretical and practical importance of the research.** From a scientific and theoretical point of view, the dissertation summarizes numerous studies devoted to the process of creation, formation and development of Azerbaijani-British literary ties over the period of independence, reveals the scientific and theoretical essence of the literary ties role in the literature of both peoples and their positive impact on cultural life. The obtained results and innovations can be useful as an example of methodological experience, a theoretical source and analysis for a nationwide study of other areas of literary
criticism for certain periods. In its problems, this dissertation is a work on the history of literary relations. Therefore, research can be used as a source in the preparation of lecture courses and seminars at the philological departments of universities, study guides in the *World Literature* specialty, as well as in the preparation of a bibliographic reference to the study and publication of British literature in Azerbaijan and vice versa. Specialists in British literature and its history can also benefit from this dissertation.

**Approbation and application of the dissertation work.** The main ideas and results of the study were published in the Supreme Certifying Commission-recommended research articles, as well as in foreign prestigious collections and journals, and were resulted in reports and speeches made at a number of international and national scientific conferences.

**The Affiliated Institution.** The dissertation was performed and discussed in the Department of World Literature and Comparative Studies of the Nizami Ganjavi Institute of Literature of ANAS (Azerbaijan National Academy of Sciences).

**Structure and total volume of the dissertation work.** The total volume of the dissertation, consisting of three chapters, conclusion and list of references, is equal to 280,969, characters. Separately: Introduction – 12,426, Chapter I – 92,564, Chapter II – 54,155, Chapter III – 75,886, Conclusion – 11,739, List of references – 31,524.

**MAIN CONTENT OF THE DISSERTATION WORK**

The “Introduction” section of the research provides relevant details covering the relevance of the topic, the history, the object and subject of the dissertation, its goals and objectives, methodological basis, main provisions, scientific novelty, scientific practical significance, approbation, and structure.

The Chapter I (“Issues of British Literature in Azerbaijani Literature”) of the dissertation consists of two paragraphs and the 2nd paragraph of two sections. The 1st paragraph of the Chapter I is devoted to the problem of “Translation and Translation Studies”.

According to the general feeling of scientists and translators,
translated literature in our time is one of the most important tools in the life of every nation and one of the most important factors in its development. On the other hand, translation is a means of communication between people, nations in general, and literature. Therefore, translation literature, which plays an important role in the integration of world cultures, is rapidly developing in all nations. It's hard not to agree with Professor G.Bayramov that “translation is an art; for his mastery, in addition to language skills as well as the subject of the text and knowledge of the world, you must have the talent of the translator, good writing and speaking skills, creative thinking”\(^2\). Like all over the world, Azerbaijan takes this art of great importance very seriously. Translations from the native language into other languages not only significantly expand the worldview of our people, their science and culture, literature and art, but also have a positive impact on the dissemination and use of progressive ideas as well as scientific achievements of other peoples.

Back in the 1990, People's writer, Academician Mirza Ibrahimov wrote in the Preface to The Art of Translation collection of articles: “One of the true principles of literary translation is the issue of translation from the original. Of course, it's good to know the language of the original, it's a wonderful feature. Then, it is fine that the translator knows the language of the original and is creative, as well as has artistic qualities and figurative thinking. He has the ability to sense the difference between artistic word, artistic expression, and ordinary expression”\(^3\).

The activities of Firudinbey Kocharli, Abbas Sahhat, Mikayil Rafili, Mammad Arif, Mirza Ibrahimov, Kamal Talibzade, Bakir Nabiyev and many others in this field deserve further study and research. However, in the current situation, it is necessary to approach any problems of literary relations, including literary translation from a new position, as well as from the position of assisting in the progress of independence, national identity, national literature. The correct scientific and theoretical interpretation of this eternal problem, using the

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\(^3\) Tərcümə-sanəti: Məqalələr məcmuası // – Baki: Elm, – 1990. – s. 5.
opportunities provided by independence, depends on the position and theoretical training of our creative people and scientists.

While on the subject of about translations of Western literature into our language, Mirza Ibrahimov wrote: “... we have been translating world literature, especially European classics, into Russian for a long time, and currently, one of the factors indicating our common cultural advance is that our specialists translate the best scientific and literary monuments of Europe and a number of other Nations from the original”\(^4\). It is of interest to note that these ideas, expressed by Academician M.Ibrahimov in the 90's, became the subject of a wider study and promotion of interesting ideas by modern researchers of the 2000’s Shahla Naghieva (Preserving the Reality in the Translation of Azerbaijani Poetry into English; Baku, 1995), Kamalya Jafarova (Ensuring the Adequacy of the Shakespeare's Sonnets Translation into Azerbaijani; Baku, 2005), K.S.Huseynova (Some Important Factors of Direct English Translation in Azerbaijani Fiction; Baku, 2007). Ulviyya Abbasova (Methods of Applying Epithets in English Literary Translation (based on the works of Chingiz Abdullayev); Baku, 2015).

The great writer and talented translator M.Ibrahimov, reiterating his own experience, repeatedly stressed the importance of finding adequate expression of some figurative expressions, pronouns and idioms that cannot be independently translated.

In terms of the work Poetic Equivalents in Literary Translation (2010), in which the famous translator and poet, author of direct translations from the original language into Azerbaijani of folk and classical poetry of the English people and English-speaking peoples, as well as Shakespeare's sonnets, his tragedies Romeo and Juliet, Hamlet, Othello, The Tragedy of King Lear, Macbeth, Injured innocence poem Mustafa Sabir describes the literary ties between Great Britain and Azerbaijan, in particular in this regard, the work of Aytekin Gulieva “Anglicisms and Translation” (2008) is also of great interest caused by new ideas.

For historical reasons, translations of fundamental texts have

\(^4\) Tərcümə sənəti: Məqalələr məcmunu // – Bək: Elm, – 1990. – s. 6-7.
had a significant impact on the development of world languages. Currently, the rich resources of the language itself prove the possibility of adequate translation.

Academician Mamed Arif rightly believed that, “*It is the richness of the Azerbaijani literary language that has allowed Azerbaijani translators to translate works of geniuses of Russian literature, preserving the beauty of the content and form of their works*”\(^5\). It stands to reason that this idea can also be attributed to English translations. This precise and well-founded note proves that the ability to demonstrate the capabilities of the translator depends to a large extent on the correct use of the language's capabilities. Numerous studies conducted in this area show that, since the 19th century, our classics, enlightenment writers played a big role in the formation of the Azerbaijan school of literary translation, the formation of its best traditions, and developing national Interpretation and Translation Studies. However, literary translation always exists, has been, and will be in the future.

And the the prominent scholar-philologist Shamil Salmanov – expressed idea back in 1995 “*At present, the Azerbaijani art of literary translation is entering a new, more important stage in its development, putting forward new tasks, and therefore there is now a great need for its study*”\(^6\), sounds more relevant now.

And today, we can definitely say that the words spoken at the time by Shamil Salmanov and sounded like a wish, have become a reality. New names and new translations have appeared in Azerbaijani translation. And a significant part of these translations and research works are related to Azerbaijani-British literary relations. In terms of the translation of prominent Azerbaijani writers over the period of independence, Academician Isa Habibbeyli said: “*Translation of writers' works into Turkish, English, French, Greek, Italian, Spanish, Japanese and other European and world languages, as well as publication abroad recognize our country and Azerbaijani literature.*

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The publication of Anar's works in world languages, the staging of Elchin's plays in London and America, as well as the publication of Vagif Samadoglu's poems in English in the United States testify to the powerful success of our literature in recent years”7.

In the second paragraph of the Chapter I “Translation and Study of Samples of Great Britain literature into Azerbaijani”, the issue “Language Factor in Azerbaijan-Great Britain Literary Relations” analyzed.

The language factor plays a major role in Azerbaijan-Great Britain literary relations. Scholars contend the basis of the original translation work is knowledge of English, books and textbooks on grammar, phonetics and lexicography, teaching aids, studies, dictionaries and lexicography of linguistics”8. From this point of view, the work done over the years in this area by prominent specialists and English teachers of Azerbaijan, including Zemfira Verdieva, Ismikhan Rahimov, Hajar Naghieva, Sadulla Babayev, Vahid Arabov, Rukhsara Gayibova, Minara Garayeva, Oruj Musayev, Tahir Abbasguliyev, Abbas Abbasov, Elton Hajiyev as well as others is worthy of great praise. A number of monographs and dissertations of young researchers who have written and created extensive comments on the dissertation work in the modern period clearly confirm that research on the mutual study of the Azerbaijani and English languages continues. In terms of linguistics, these studies opened a new page in Azerbaijani-British literary relations. According to researchers, the study of a foreign language is the beginning of work on understanding and acquisition of language phenomena inherent in this language. The main and the key issue in this process is to acquire the skills and abilities to put into practice the grammatical rules of the language based on the social function of the language.

In modern English, phrases and syntactic-grammatical

7Həbibbəyli, İ.Ə. Ədəbi şəxsyyət və zaman / Əsərləri: [10 cilddə], – Bəkə: Elm və təhsil, – 2017. c.2. – s. 839.
relationships between words in a sentence are expressed by auxiliary verbs, phrases, articles, and other means. Since most of these analytical tools do not have direct opposition in the Azerbaijani language, it is really hard to express them in a proper way. The historical fact is that the language of every nation is its national treasure, and the struggle to preserve this wealth has been waged for centuries. According to the genealogical division, the Azerbaijani language is the part of the Turkic languages.

Since our country gained independence, our language has passed a long and difficult path of development. At present, the free people of Azerbaijan and the independent state of Azerbaijan establish mutual and equal political, economic, cultural ties and relations with near and far countries, West and East, North and South. The Azerbaijani-British cultural and literary bridge is of great value, in this regard. The translation of historical and literary works covering various topics into our native language is an obvious example of our achievements resulting from the serious work done to establish a spiritual bridge between the West and the Eastern world.

As a result of the development of the art of translation, the readers of Azerbaijan during those years got acquainted with the translated Western works, including “J.Salinger, J.Steinbeck, T.Wolf, S.Maugham, S.Sveyq, O.Wild, J.P.Sartr, A.Kristi, A.Conan Doyle, J.Simenon, D.Butsati, J.Baldwin, S.Anderson, as well as looked through dozens of other authors. Translation works of classical Azerbaijani poets have been published again, research works written in this field have been edited”9.

In order to regulate and coordinate the work in the terminology in the Azerbaijani language, one of the most commendable is the creation of a terminology Commission under the Cabinet of Ministers, as well as Translation Center for centralized and targeted translation work in our country. The dissertation provides detailed information on all this.

The 2nd section of the 2nd paragraph of the Chapter I explores

9 Həbibbəyli, İ. Ə. Ədəbi-mədəni proses / İ.Ə.Həbibbəyli // – Bəki: Elm və təhsil, Müstəqillik dövrü Azərbaycan ədəbiyyəti: [2 cilddə], – 2016. c.2. – s.81-82.
the “Translating and Studying Samples of British literature into Azerbaijani" problem.

Research shows that William Shakespeare was the first and most widely researched and translated writer whose works have been translated into our language.

This is evident not only in literature of Azerbaijan, but also in many other literary works. Interest in the great English playwright has never faded in Azerbaijan, his works have been repeatedly translated into our language, and his work has been the subject of research. When the first samples of European classics were translated into the Azerbaijani Turkic language, Ahmed Bek Aghayev, who always attached great importance to progressive Western values, did not conceal his satisfaction while said: "I expect more, much more from these translations – I expect a lot from what schools and newspapers will give!" ... At the initial stage, the works of the great English literary giants were translated into Azerbaijani only through the second language, Russian.

Speaking about such translations, Professor Q.Bayramov has justly noted that: “...when translating from the second, third, and other languages, the target text is gradually removed from the original, leaving no trace of the original's artistic character and author's line”.

A more accurate and close translation from the original can be seen from Shakespeare's 10th sonnet, translated by Sabir Mustafa, which is very popular:

For shame deny that thou bear'st love to any,
Who for thyself art so unprovident.
Grant, if thou wilt, thou artbeloved of many,
But that thou none lovest is most evident:
For thou art so possessed with murderous hate,
That 'gainst thyself thou stick'st not to conspire,
Seeking that beauteous roof to ruinate

10 Ağayev, Ə. Şekspirin “Otello”su və Şillerin “Qaçaqlar”ı tatar dilində // 525-ci qəzet. – 2019, 2 oktyabr.
Which to repair should be thy chief desire.
O! change thy thought, that I may change my mind:
Shall hate be fairer lodged than gentle love?
Be, as thy presence is, gracious and kind,
Or to thyself at least kind-hearted prove:
Make thee another self for love of me,
That beauty still may live in thine or thee. 12

Comparison of verses demonstrates sufficient compatibility and level of translation both in the original and in the number of lines, as well as in the means of description used. Noting the superiority of the translations from the original, Sabir Mustafa also emphasizes degree of this literary process complexity: “Although we have a strong tendency to translate from the original, it is still underestimated as art, as an independent field of artistic creation. Translation is still considered as a minor light work. However, the pain of creativity

and difficulties in the art of translation are no less than others”

The work of the great English playwright William Shakespeare has had an unprecedented impact on Azerbaijani culture, especially on our drama and theater.

Ismikhan Rahimov, one of the most prolific researchers of the English playwright in Azerbaijan, rightly noted that: "The authors who tried to translate shekspir have made a great contribution to the development of our translation art by finding ways to express Shakespeare's idea, rich language and expression in our language”.

In the years of independence, the theme Shakespeare and Azerbaijan becomes one of the most significant pages of our literary relations. His Sonnets were published as a separate book in 1992; in 2004, by the Decree of H.E. Mr. Ilham Aliyev, President of the Republic of Azerbaijan On the Implementation of Mass Publications with Latin Graphics in the Azerbaijani Language, along with many works, by William Shakespeare’s two-volume Selected works were reissued. Today, separate works of the writer, especially sonnets, are regularly translated and published by new authors in almanacs, magazines, collections, magazines and newspapers.

In general, among the works of Shakespeare, his sonnets occupy a particular place. According to Professor Zeydulla Aghayev: “The sonnets of Shakespeare are well-known, effective and valuable from the sonets of the poet's predecessors, contemporaries and successors”.

It may be no accident that that Shakespeare's sonnets have been translated into almost all languages. Azerbaijani Shakespeare writers and translators have also repeatedly referred to the Sonnets; each translator has contributed to this work.

In addition to translations, researchers have written a number of research papers over the years of independence on various aspects of the work of the English playwright W.Shakespeare. In this respect, Shakespeare's work has always taken pride of place.

Case in point are such works as Kamalya Jafarova’s *Preserving the Adequacy of the Translation of William Shakespeare's Sonnets into Azerbaijani* (2005), Shahla Naghieva's *Soliloquy of Hamlet in Azerbaijani translations* (2007), Nigar Isgandarova's *Ahmed Javad as Shakespeare's translator* (2007), Leyla Masimova’s *Love in Fizuli and in Shakespeare* (2009), *The Problem of Conformity and Adequacy in the Translation of the Tragedy of Hamlet by W. Shakespeare into the Azerbaijani language* by Esmiralda Rahimi (2011), as well as other works.

Among English writers, the most outstanding representative of world romanticism, translated into our language, along with the great playwright, writer, poet William Shakespeare, is the poet George Gordon Byron. After Azerbaijan gained its independence, a new phase entered upon the study and translation of Byron's creativity. By the order of H.E. Ilham Aliyev, the President of the Republic of Azerbaijan *On the Implementation of Mass Publications with Latin Graphics in the Azerbaijani Language*, Byron's second edition *Selected Works* was published in 2006. This edition was reprinted on the basis of Byron's plays *Gabil* (Baku, 1934) and *Eastern poems* (Baku, 1959). The introductory part of Byron's poem *The Prisoner of Chillon*, as the part of this book, sounds like the original:

> My hair is grey, but not with years,
> Nor grew it white
> In a single night,
> As men’s have grown from sudden fears:
> My limbs are bowed, though not with toil,
> But rusted with a vile repose,

> For they have been a dungeon’s spoil,
> And mine has been the fate of those\(^\text{17}\).

And this is a translation of the same passage made by Anwar Rza:

Saçım qırov kimi ağdırm necə də,
Amma yaşında deyil bu ağlıq, inan.
Nə də çallaşmayib birə gecədə
Qəfil vahimədən, qəfil qorxudan.
 Ağır zəhmət deyil belimi əynən...
 Qəmli sükunətdə pas atmışam mən,
Məhəbəs salib bu hala mən, məhəbəs!

From this small lyric fragment, you can see that the translator, fully aware of the main essence of the work, without going far beyond the scope of the text, distinctively expressed the poet's thoughts.

In general, encounter with Byron's works translations shows that, in general, the features of Byron's poetry in the English style have found adequate expression to a significant extent in the Azerbaijani language. The translation and study of works written in English into Azerbaijani was further expanded over the period of independence. Selected works by Somerset Moem (Baku, 2010) (translated by Yashar), Selected works by Oscar Wilde (Baku, 2013) (translated by Kamran Nazirli), 1984 by George Orwell (Baku, 2014) (translated by Vilayat Guliyev) were published in Azerbaijani, as well as Shahin Khalilli, Vilayat Quliyev, Gazanfar Pashayev and other authors' research works have been published. The role of large-scale studies of the general real picture of literary studies over the period of independence of the Republic of Azerbaijan is undeniable in the development of Azerbaijani-British literary relations.

Thus, for several centuries in Azerbaijan, our writers, poets, intellectuals, translators have done a great and multifaceted work in the field of translating and studying samples of British literature into the Azerbaijani language, played a big role in the development and enrichment of Azerbaijani-British literary relations.

The first paragraph of the Chapter II of the dissertation Azerbaijani Literature and Literary Studies in English is entitled Translation and Research of National Folklore Examples into English.

As a product of the national thinking of each nation, folklore has cast deep roots in its literature and played a crucial role in the promoting and revealing the idea of the work. As the researcher Sevda
Sarkova noted: “The samples of folklore created by the Azerbaijani people, occupying different positions among the peoples of the world in the wealth and antiquity of oral folk literature, have always attracted Western scholars. Undoubtedly, among these samples were the epics “Kitabi Dede Gorgud” and “Koroglu”, which aroused interest among foreign scientists, travelers, translators and publishers.”¹⁸ Notwithstanding the foregoing, “In English-language scientific sources, Azerbaijani folklore is better known as an integral part of common Turkic folklore”¹⁹.

As the oldest example of folklore in the Azerbaijani literature, the epic Kitabi Dada Gorgude is taken. This ancient monument, as a joint towering achievement of all Turkic-speaking peoples, reflects the life and thinking, psychology, life, and national identity of the Turkic world. It may be no accident that in 2000, the 1300-year anniversary of this grandiose monument Kitabi Dede Gorgud was celebrated at the world level.

National Leader Heydar Aliyev said about this: We are proud to be the children of Dede Gorgud ... We are proud that Kitabi Dede Gorgud constitutes a part of all Turkic-speaking States, at the same time and, first of all, of the Azerbaijani people²⁰.

It is worth noting here that in the last century, a number of serious works on the study of Azerbaijani folklore were carried out in English-language sources, as well as scientific thoughts were expressed, and works were written.

Over independence, key attention was paid to classical literature and our ancient monuments. As Academician Isa Habibbayli has justly noted: “Kitabi Dede Gorgud not only solves the problem of national identity, but also reveals the formula of religious ideology that symbolizes the green color of our flag”²¹.

¹⁹ İbrahimova, V. Azərbaycan folklorunun inglisdilli qaynaqlarda təqdimi və tərcümə məsələləri / V.Ibrahimova. – Baki: Şəms, – 2010. – s. 10
²¹ Habibbayli, I. The wisdom of Dede Korkut // – Baki, Husein Javid’s Home.
In the years of independence, new editions of *Kitabi-Dede Gorgud* in English were presented to readers, a number of new works related to the study of English-language sources, including Sanar Mammadov's *Our Oral Folk Pearls in English* (Baku, 2003), Seyran Aliyev's *Kitabi Dede Gorgud in English* (Baku, 1990), *Linguistical Poetic Features of Kitabi-Dede Gorgud's Translation by P.Mirabl in English* (Baku, 2004) as well as other works have been written. In the second article, Seyran Aliyev analyzed the translation of the Kitabi-Dada Gorgud epic into English. He also paid attention to the first translation of *Kitabi-Dede Gorgud* by F.Sumer, A.Uysal, W.Walker, the second translation by J.Lewis, and the third translation by P.Mirabl, but just the last translation was highlighted\(^{22}\). Leyli Aliyeva's articles covering *Kitabi-Dede Gorgud* as well as several medieval books on the study of Azerbaijani poets in English-based sources (Baku, 2000), and also such works as *Dede Gorgud translation in English and research* by S.Ibrahimova (Baku, 2002), R.Maharramova's *Word Treasure of Kitabi Dede Gorgud* (Baku, 2009) are also worth mentioning. Khalilli's articles on this topic are distinguished by their originality\(^{23}\). Regarding the work done on this topic, it is also important to emphasize the PhD thesis of the researcher A.Hasanov's *Kitabi-Dede Gorgud epic in English-language sources*\(^{24}\).

The most obvious example of national folklore samples translated into English is the *Koroglu* epic. Given the fact that this epic was translated into English as a whole and studied extensively, a series of articles were written about it, as well as


dissertations were defended. During the years of independence, a number of works related to the study of Koroglu, were carried out in English-language sources. Of these, there are Sh. Balakishiev's PhD thesis Epic Koroglu in Europe (Baku, 2005), Professor Sh. Khalilli’s research work On the Translation of Epic Koroglu into English and About One Quote (Baku, 2002), Epic Koroglu: From the Archive of Ali Kamali (Baku, 2009), V. Ibrahimov’s research work Research of Azerbaijani Folklore in English-language Sources and Translation Issues (Baku, 2010), A. Ibrahimov’s research work Azerbaijani Heritage: Stages of History and Development (Baku, 2014), which significantly increase views on this topic. The epics “Dede Gorgud” and “Koroglu” are also included in the almanac published in Islamabad in 2010.25

There is extensive information on this issue.

The second paragraph of the Chapter II of dissertation is called “Translation and Study of Samples of Azerbaijani Classical and Modern Literature into English”. This chapter contains information to analyse and explain the translation into English of works of classical and modern Azerbaijani literature, in particular Mehseti Ganjavi, Nizami Ganjavi, Muhammad Fizuli and other classical poets, who play the role of a rich source for comparative literature, as well as novelties of recent periodicals. According to Leyli Aliyeva, a prominent researcher of the Azerbaijani-English literary relations, “although it is still impossible to determine the exact date of translation of Azerbaijani literature into European languages, ...the comprehensive translation of classical Azerbaijani literature into Western Europe languages dates back to the 18th century.”26 As stated in Professor Sh. Khalilli’s “From the history of translation from Azerbaijani to English (and Vice versa)” article, “In different years, excerpts from individual works or works of such Azerbaijani classics as Saib Tabrizi, falaki Shirvani, Molla Panah Vagif, Mirza Shafı Vazeh, Mirza Fatali

26 Əliyeva, L. Füzuli və ingilis şərqşünəşlə / L.Əliyeva. – Bakı: Ozan, – 1997. – s. 4.
Akhundov were translated into English”27.

Mahsati Ganjavi, one of our first Azerbaijani female poets, is a brilliant representative of the Azerbaijani Renaissance. Based on the methods of Oriental poetry, she painted the feelings, joy, sorrow of the loving soul using rich colors. The *Divani of Mahsati Ganjavi*, consisting of rubais, qita (style of poetry), ghazals and about 200 pieces of poetry, collected from various sources, was published for the first time in 1957 by Shahab Tahiri.

The Decree of H.E. Ilham Aliyev, the President of the Republic of Azerbaijan dated 2013 on the 900th anniversary of Mahsati Ganjavi gave the immortal works of the poet a new lease of life.

In 2014, with the support of the Foundation Heydar Aliyev, Irina Zubanova and Olga Moiseenko translated and published books such as *Rubaiyat of Mahsati Ganjavi* authored by Sugra Ibrahim, Paul Smith’s *The Life and Poetry of Mahsati Ganjavi*, R.Huseynov’s *Mahsati Ganjavi. Essai-Portrait*. The books cover widely the life, environment and work of the poetess, examples and the history of rubaiyat.

To show the accuracy of the translations, the correspondence to the original, let's pay attention to the example from the poetess rubai:

*Yarım dedi ki, durma, ələ bir cam al.*

*Qəm çəkmə, mey iç, bu dünyadan ilham al.*

*Sordum ki, noğul, heyva, yoxsa nar olsun?*


*Take the glass in your hand, said the beloved,*

*From grape water succeed in your object.*

*İ asked, “pomegranate, nogul or quince is good?”*

*– Peach, – the apple jaw answered*29.

As you can see, the rubaiyat were translated in accordance with the original, without jeopardizing the poetry, in a style that could

easily be perceived by the reader. Most of the researchers believe that most studied in the world Oriental Studies and their works translated into European languages, especially English, is the principal shining light, the great Azerbaijani poet Nizami Ganjavi.\(^{30}\)

Generally, the history of Nizami studies in Europe is ancient. However, studies show that “Nizami's creativity... has engaged the most English Orientalists, writers and poets writing about Nizami and translating his works, along with the study the East, was also a literary and aesthetic goal”\(^{31}\). The comprehensive study of the poet's heritage has now become more widespread in the period of independence. This is evidenced by the re-publication of his works and the writing of new research works. Among the most famous poets in Europe and translated into Western languages, Nizami Ganjavi is still the leader.

According to Academician T.Kerimli, “Nizami’s genius is still one of the global phenomena; he is a major figure in the world of literary, cultural and socio-philosophical thought. Therefore, the interest taken in the work of Nizami by world scientific and public opinion never ceased, and the immortal works of the poet are now and again translated into Western or Eastern languages, as well as play a role in the process of moral improvement of mankind”\(^{32}\).

Two works by Nizami with copies of ancient miniatures, published in English in 2014 with the support of the Heydar Aliyev Foundation are valuable way of this kind.

One of them is Nizami Ganjavi’s poem *Seven Beauties*\(^{33}\) translated in 1924 by Arthur Probstein and published in London, and the second work is *The Tale of the Seven Princesses*\(^{34}\) translated by Dr. R.Gelpke and first published in London by Bruno Cassirer in 1976.

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\(^{30}\) Heydar Aliyev Foundation / – Baku, – 2014. – p.76.


After Nizami, Muhammad Fuzuli was one of the poets best regarded by British researchers. One of the first researchers of the great poet, Academician Hamid Arasly making point of Fuzuli’s high appraisal won in the West, said: *Mr. Gibb, the famous English orientalist never made a mistake comparing him to the sun. Indeed, Fizuli’s poetry shines like the sun in the horizons of Azerbaijani literature, and for centuries Azerbaijani poets have derived light from it.*

English literature’s comparative analysis of great poet of the East and the Azerbaijani people Muhammad Fuzuli who created three divani in Arabic, Persian and Turkish languages, added a completely new wrinkle to the *Leyli and Majnun* poem, has been the subject of many studies during independence.

For example, in Samira Mamedova’s “*Fizuli’s Leyli and Majnun in English*”, Leyli Aliyeva’s *Fizuli and English Orientalism*, Lala Masimova’s *The Theme of Love in Fizuli and Shakespeare* works, this subject has found a wide and detailed reflection.

The services of the Heydar Aliyev Foundation, which has been working since 2004 to promote and popularize Azerbaijani literature, culture, art and history in foreign countries, including the UK, are invaluable.

As a result of the initiative and activities of the Heydar Aliyev Foundation during the years of independence, as well as due to the fact that Peter Tempest translations of Nasimi Imadeddin, Ismikhan Rahimov and Dorian Rottenberg’s *Mirza Alekper Sabir*, Tom Botting, Peter Tempest, Walter May, Gladys Evans’ *Samed Vurgun. Poems*, Rottenberg’s *Mirza Alekper Sabir*, Tom Botting, Peter Tempest, Walter May, Gladys Evan’s *Samed Vurgun. Poems*, L.

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Heydar Aliyev Foundation. – Baku, – 2014.

36 Məmmədova, S.A. Klassik Azərbaycand poeziyası ingilisdilli ədəbi-mədəni mühitdə: / filologiya elmləri doktoru dissertasiyası / – Bəک, 2018
Goldenfarb’s *Muslim Magomayev*, Talat Sait Halman, Alex Miller, *Peter Tempest*, Luis Zelikoff, Dorian Rottenberg’s translation of Bakhtiyar Wahabzadeh. *Poems*, translations by Kamran Nazirli, Ainura Huseynova’s *Jabir Novruz*. *Value the people while they're alive (101 verses)*, and works by other authors are distinguished by their proximity to the originals and the sophistication of their design, they instill in English readers a deep knowledge of antiquity, wealth and the colorfulness of Azerbaijani literature and culture in general.

Presentation of the book *The World Dissolves like a Dream* published in English by Leila Aliyeva, Vice-president of the Foundation Heydar Aliyev, poet and artist, on October 6, 2018 at the Yunus Emre Cultural Center in London confirms our opinion.

The Chapter III of the dissertation, which consists of two sections, is called “Novelty of the topic in translations and researches of the period of independence”. The first section covers “Issues of Azerbaijani and British literature in the new research plane”.

After Azerbaijan gained its independence, it became necessary to study its national identity on a wider scale – at the international level, as well as to study and promote the scientific, literary and cultural values tied to our people with and created by it.

Academician I.Habibbeyli characterizes the literary process of the period of independence: “Azerbaijani literature of the period of independence is many-sided, multivoiced, and multifaceted. Many-sided Azerbaijani literature has already made it own presence felt. Moreover, at the present stage of state independence, the variety of existing artistic methods, styles and genres determines the appearance of the literary direction and the individuality of the writer. In the literary environment as well as in the process of artistic creativity, this wave, this trend continues in strength and wide range. This demonstrates that the period of independence of Azerbaijan literature has already established its own multifaceted creative path, has started in all directions and has a serious pace of development”.

When discussing similar or joint issues of Azerbaijani and British literature, first of all, the human concept has top priority in

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world literature. The reason is that at all times this was the main theme in prose and poetry. This topic has been the focus of attention of scholars, including literary scholars, at different times in many countries. In the new era, this topic has become even more relevant, acquiring new shades.

The monograph of Academician Nargiz Pashayeva *A New Man of Updated Literature* [based on the work of the people's writer Elchin], research works *The Concept of Personality in American and Azerbaijani Romanticism* (based on the work of Herman Melville and Jafar Jabbarly) by Nailya Aslanova, *The Problem of the Educational Environment and Personality in the Prose of Great Britain and the USA of the XIX century* by N.Velieva may be cited as an example.

The role of large-scale studies of the general actual picture of literary studies covering period of independence of the Republic of Azerbaijan in the development's history of Azerbaijani-British literary relations is undeniable.

There are countless works on this subject in the literature of both countries. In this regard, great interest is aroused by L.Masimova's research work *The Theme of Love in Fizuli and Shakespeare*. Some typological parallels between Fizuli’s *Leyli and Majnun* and Shakespeare's *Romeo and Juliet* give the author reason to say that “in general, this topic moves from East to West”\(^{40}\). The new way of thinking in the period of independence of Azerbaijan literary studies, the comparative study of the creative works of the writers of the West (Britain) and the East (Azerbaijan) in different contexts has built a new bridge to a clearer scientific understanding of literary and vital problems.

From this point of view, it seems fair to say that the process of searching for parallels made in Professor G.Guliyev’s *Jalil Mammadguluzade and world drama* (Baku, 2012) research work between the works of the Renaissance world-famous playwright and poet William Shakespeare (1564-1616) and the Azerbaijani writer Jalil Mammadguluzade (1866-1932) which lived in a very different place and time from each other, in terms of many virtues was successful.


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literature in Azerbaijani literature, as well as about the *Azerbaijan International* magazine founded in 1993 by Piruz Khanly and his wife Betty Bleyer, which began publishing in the USA, Los Angeles, in English and fully covered the culture and history of Azerbaijan.

Late Professor Zeidulla Aghayev, famous translator and researcher of English literature, once wrote: “*The Azerbaijani school of translation, since the last decade of the XIX century (Hashim Bek Vezirov translated W. Shakespeare's tragedy “Hamlet”) constantly refers to English literature*”\(^{41}\). New authors, new artistic and scientific works translated from English into Azerbaijani prove how true these arguments are.

**In the second paragraph of Chapter III of the dissertation, Gulamrza Sabri Tabrizi discusses the role of Azerbaijani immigration literature in mutual literary relations.**

On April 1, 1991, Baku hosted the First (plenary) Session of the First International Scientific Symposium on *Azerbaijani Emigration Literature*, organized by the Nizami Ganjavi Institute of literature of ANAS (Azerbaijan National Academy of Sciences), the Union of Writers of Azerbaijan, the *Veten (Motherland)* Society, the National Creative Organization of Azerbaijan and Ankara Association of Culture of Azerbaijan. The *Azerbaijani Migration Literature: Realities, Problems, Tasks* 2nd International Scientific Conference organized in 2013 by the Department of Azerbaijani Emigration Literature of the Nizami Institute of Literature of the National Academy of Sciences of Azerbaijan, which was held on October 10-11, 2016, can also be considered a notable success achieved in studies of immigrants in recent years.

This section of the dissertation provides detailed information covering conference activities, issues raised and pending, changes that occurred in the periods following the conferences, as well as anniversaries, presentations, published papers, and upcoming tasks. One of the most important missions of representatives of Azerbaijani emigration literature is to make the cultural and sacred bridge

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between the literature of this country and Azerbaijani literature in the countries of emigration. Scientific, literary and poetic works of Turhan Ganjeyi, Hamid Nitgee, Muhammad Mahmud, Nigar Hasanzade, Gulamrza Sabri Tabrizi among the well-known figures of Azerbaijani emigrant literature in the UK have an important and actualistic importance in the literary-cultural area. From this point of view, it is noteworthy that emigrant literature is the strongest means of mutual literary relations. Therefore, as a representative of emigrant literature in this Section, it is natural to choose Gulamrza Sabri Tabrizi, who worked as a professor in Edinburgh in Scotland and Baku State University in Azerbaijan. Therefore, as to this Section, it is natural to choose as a representative of emigrant literature Gulamrza Sabri Tabrizi, who worked as a professor of the Baku State University in Edinburgh University (Scotland) and in Baku State University (Azerbaijan). Gulamrza Sabri Tabrizi, an Azerbaijani scientist and translator from Tabriz, who has lectured in UK and Oriental Literature at various universities around the world, is well known not only in the field of education, but also in the UK as the author of a number of research works in the in the academic circles. The dissertation covers the activities of this outstanding person and his numerous works.

**In the last paragraph of the Chapter III, the initiatives to establish close scientific cooperation between the western and Oriental literary community are also considered.**

First of all, we are talking about the Nizami Ganjavi Research center for Azerbaijani and Kavkaz Studies, the first research institution established over the period of independence by the ANAS (Azerbaijan National Academy of Sciences) on the initiative and with the assistance of Academician Nargiz Pashayeva in 2013 at the University of Oxford to study the rich historical and cultural heritage of Azerbaijan and popularize it by the international scientific community.

As a small contribution we made to the development of Azerbaijani-British literary relations, at the end of the dissertation, along with the English version of the work by English writer, essayist, critic and philosopher, author of nearly 50 novels, essays, poems and other works Aldous Leonard Huxley (26 July 1894-22
November 1963), we presented our Azerbaijani version of this work.

The “Conclusion” section of the dissertation summarizes the main scientific conclusions and considerations obtained during the research.

The main provisions of the research are reflected in the following articles published by the dissertator in scientific publications:


7. Features of literary relations between Great Britain and Azerbaijan in the years of Independence (features of the British-Azerbaijani literary


The dissertation defense will be held on “04” “May” 2021 at the session of the Dissertation Council ED 1.05/1 at the Nizami Ganjavi Institute of Literature, the Azerbaijan National Academy of Sciences (ANAS).

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The dissertation is available in the library of the Nizami Ganjavi Institute of Literature, the Azerbaijan National Academy of Sciences.

Electronic versions and extended abstract of dissertation are available on the official website of the Nizami Ganjavi Literary Institute, the Azerbaijan National Academy of Sciences.

Extended abstract of dissertation was sent to the necessary addresses on “31” “March” 2021.