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ABSTRACT

of the dissertation for the degree of Doctor of Philosophy

**POETIC CHARACTERISTICS
OF THOMAS ELIOT'S POEMS**

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GENERAL CHARACTERISTICS

The urgency of the theme and the degree of the research.

T.S.Eliot is one of the most prominent representatives of literary modernism. Paradoxically, modernism began to manifest itself more implicitly despite being criticized by postmodernism. From this point of view, the works of classical modernists such as T.Eliot are widely spread. As the gap between past and present grows, the importance of modernism and its role in world culture becomes clear. We are beginning to see the work of artists like Thomas Eliot from a completely new perspective in the era of postmodernism, which is the essence of virtually all aesthetic values. Today's literary criticism has the opportunity to evaluate the works of T.Eliot and another classical avant-garde from a new angle. Modernist writer Thomas Eliot laid significance on symbols, subconscious thoughts, mythological and genetic memory in his poetry, and used a free verse that did not correspond to rhyme. This is the main factor proving the relevance of the poet's literary activity.

Another factor that determines the relevance of the dissertation is the fact that his works are viewed from a Christian point of view. The poet was disappointed that people completely lost faith in God and the saints in the modern world. He points to the fact that humanity is facing a great catastrophe due to the rejection of divine forces which is consequently leading to the eternal tragedy of mankind.

Eliot's views on European culture and its preservation are of special importance in his poetry. His critical treatise "Notes Towards the Definition of Culture"¹ contains valuable insights into the cultural integration of peoples, especially European countries. According to Eliot, all European cultures must unite harmoniously and form a common Western culture. The study of the poet's works from a multicultural point of view shows the relevance of the research.

The twentieth century saw wars, human bloodshed, epidemics, abandonment of moral values, frequent terrorist attacks in various

¹ Eliot, T.S. Notes towards the Definition of Culture / T.S.Eliot. – London: Faber, – 1948. – 124 p.

countries, economic and moral crisis, the development of science and technology, which in turn resulted in less communication and cognitive distortion of people. These events allowed T.S.Eliot to re-examine the existential problems in his poems. In the 21st century, alienation from the outside world has become even more prevalent in comparison with the previous 100 years. From the point of view of analyzing these issues, this study is considered to be expedient.

The images of women in T.Eliot's poetry have not lost their essence today. Issues of the humanity of World War II, as well as the unsuccessful choice of a woman in private life, led the poet to the depiction of female characters as "devils" in his pre-religious poetry. The change in the artist's thoughts and spiritual world brought a new perspective to his work, which in turn led to a positive attitude towards women. Relationships between men and women based on betrayal and hypocrisy do not last long and only result in misery. In a such relationship, the two different sexes, men and women, could not establish a fertile relationship with each other and suffer from a lack of communication.

A new approach to myths and a different perspective on mythological images in T.Eliot's poetry is still relevant today. The author compares mythical motifs with contemporary images by consciously embracing them in poetic examples.

Although T.S Eliot's poetry has been analyzed in the aesthetic view of world literature, his poetry has not been studied as a whole in Azerbaijan. Peter Ackroyd², Ronald Bush³, Jane Worthington⁴, F.Matthiessen⁵, and other famous researchers examined T. Eliot's life and literary activity from various aspects. Eliot's poems and critical essays have been translated into Azerbaijani, but the poet's

² Ackroyd, Peter. T.S.Eliot: A Life. / Peter Ackroyd. – New York: Simon and Schuster, – 1984. – 440 p.

³ Bush, Ronald. T.S.Eliot. / Ronald Bush. – Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, – 1991. – 210 p.

⁴ Jane, Worthington. The Epigraphs to the Poetry of T.S.Eliot // American Literature, – 1949. – Vol. 21, No. 1, – p.1-17

⁵ Matthiessen, F.O. The achievement of T.S. Eliot: an essay on the nature of poetry. / F.O.Matthiessen. – London: Oxford University Press, – 1969. – 276 p.

poetry has not completely been studied in a mythological-symbolic, religious, philosophical context.

The object and subject of the research. Modernism, which has become one of the leading literary movements in world literary and artistic thought in the twentieth century, various literary and philosophical approaches, their reflection in English, as well as in world literature, T.S.Eliot's poems are the objects of the dissertation.

The study of the poetics and artistic features of the poetry of T.S. Eliot, one of the prominent representatives of Western European literature, is the subject of the dissertation.

The goals and objectives of the research work. The main purposes of the dissertation are to thoroughly study the features of T.Eliot's poetry in the literary and philosophical context and to study the features of his poems, which are of exceptional importance in the history of world literature. These goals can be achieved by accomplishing the following tasks:

- To study the main features of the literary movement of modernism;

- To determine the general features of Thomas Eliot's literary activity;

- To study the influence of modernism on T. Eliot's poetry;

- To discuss existential problems in the poems of Thomas Eliot;

- To reveal the ideological and artistic features of poems;

- To identify socio-philosophical tendencies in T.Eliot's poetry;

- To analyze the moral and psychological aspects of characters in poetry;

The research methods. Comparative, descriptive, and analytical methods were used in the research.

Using a comparative method, we analyzed different poems, compared literary examples, and drew parallels.

Since Eliot's poems are structurally complex literary works, they have been analyzed by a descriptive method. His poems have been interpreted based on examples alluded to from polytheistic and monotheistic religious literature, as well as works of literary artists living in different historical periods.

Also, scientific-theoretical generalizations have been made by referring to the methods of analytical analysis.

The main provisions for defense. The following theoretical provisions are presented for defense:

- Chaotic perception of the world, fragmentation, pessimism, irony, disorder form the basis of T.Eliot's poetics.

- Epigraphs and names define the inner-esoteric and outer-exoteric layer, artistic-aesthetic origin, the main idea, and problems of T.Eliot's poetry.

- Existentialism, intra-personality, derealization, depersonalization are the leading features of T.Eliot's poetry.

- Gender perception and the decline of moral qualities are the cornerstones of T.Eliot's early poetics.

- The transformation of religious faith affects the moral qualities of T.Eliot's poetic characters.

- The concepts of life, death, eternity, and time are the basis of T.Eliot's poetry.

The scientific novelty of the research work. The research is the first large-scale study of the poetic features of Thomas Eliot's poems in Azerbaijan. Descriptions and analyzes were conducted here for the first time which is one of the factors determining its scientific novelty. Eliot's poems have not been sufficiently analyzed in Azerbaijan, and the poems that made the writer popular in the history of world literature have not been studied on a broader scale. Another factor that determines the scientific novelty of the research is the view of T. Eliot's work from a new angle; precisely, it was studied by a researcher living in the postmodern period in the context of the Azerbaijani way of thinking.

The theoretical and practical significance of the research work. The results of the research can be used in the teaching of Western literature at the Philology departments of universities. It can be used as a research tool in the study of English and American literature courses and lectures, as well as in preparation for seminars. It is also possible to use the materials of this research work when preparing a textbook or research on the history of foreign literature.

Approbation and application of the research work. The ideas and considerations put forward in the research are reflected in scientific conferences, seminars, as well as in 15 articles published in our country and abroad.

Name of the organization where the dissertation is performed. The work was performed at the Department of Literature of Foreign Countries of Azerbaijan University of Languages.

The total volume of the dissertation with a sign including a separate volume of the structural units of the dissertation. The dissertation consists of an introduction, three chapters, a conclusion, and a bibliography. Introduction – 6 pages, 7700 characters, Chapter I – 47 pages, 91383 characters, Chapter II – 61 pages, 111420 characters, Chapter III – 34 pages, 63229 characters, result – 3 pages, 4380 characters, excluding the list of references, the total number of characters is 278112.

BASIC CONTENT OF THE RESEARCH

In the *Introduction* urgency of the theme and the degree of the research, the object and subject of the research work, the purpose, and objectives, the hypothesis, background of the thesis, its scientific novelty, and methodology, the theoretical and practical significance of the research, approbation, and structure of the research work are presented.

The first chapter of the dissertation entitled as **“Characteristics of Thomas Stearns Eliot’s poetry”** consists of three sub-chapters. In the first half of this chapter, entitled **“Modernism and T.S.Eliot”**, the history of modernism as a literary movement, the leading features of European modernism, the influence of modern thought on artistic examples in English literature in the first half of the twentieth century, and modernist elements in Thomas Eliot's poetry are widely discussed. The art of modernism, which was formed in the late XIX and early XX centuries, is the opposite of traditional art. For modernist artists, literature must embody the processes around them, not as they are in real life or as they wish, but as they feel them inwardly, because the writer and

poet recreate the world within themselves, and their literary works must be reflected in their worldview. The philosophical basis of modernist thought is mainly introduced by A. Schopenhauer, F. Nietzsche, and H. Bergson. In this regard, Arthur Schopenhauer's philosophical views "The World as Will and Representation" are noteworthy: "*The being of an object in general belongs to the form of appearances, and is conditioned by the being of the subject in general, just as the object's manner of appearance is conditioned by the subject's forms of knowledge. Hence, if the thing in itself is to be assumed, it cannot be an object at all.*"⁶ According to A.Schopenhauer, people are captives of their will.

Another philosopher who influenced the aesthetic trend of modernism was Friedrich Nietzsche. According to F.Nietzsche, who said that "God is dead", " *nihilism is a necessary consequence of the bankruptcy of values and ideals.*"⁷ The fundamental features of Nietzsche's philosophy are the perception of the world as chaos and the idea of a "superhuman" who can regulate chaos. The superhuman is completely free, and he consciously takes full responsibility for his actions and is isolated from the masses.

Another philosopher, Henri Bergson, who defined the basic principles of modernism, put forward the philosophical doctrine of intuition. According to Bergson, truth is not perceived by the mind, but by intuition. *Henri Bergson's teaching stems from a lack of confidence in one's mental and cognitive abilities.*⁸

According to the psychoanalyst S.Freud, human actions are regulated not by consciousness, but by subconscious instincts. He tried to prove that people were victims of their erotic instincts.⁹

⁶ Robert J. Wicks Schopenhauer. / Wicks J.Robert. – New Jersey: John Wiley & Sons, – 2008. – 47 p.

⁷ Qunnar, Skirbekk. Fəlsəfə tarixi. / Qunnar, Skirbekk. Nils Gilye. – Bakı: Zəkioglu, – 2007. – s.651

⁸ Abdullayeva, Y.A. XX əsr ədəbiyyatında modernizm. / Y.A.Abdullayeva. – Bakı: Mütərcim, – 2005. – s.12

⁹ Freyd, Ziqmund. Yuxuların Yozumu. / Freyd Ziqmund. – Bakı: Qanun nəşriyyatı, – 2014. – s.99

Thus, the theoretical concepts of the above-named philosophers transformed anthropocentric ideas that had been ingrained for centuries.

Modernism as an artistic trend became widespread after World War I. According to modernists, the world is chaos, and we are on the verge of extinction. The cause of the deaths of millions of people can never be logical. One of the prominent representatives of the trend of modernism in the history of world literature is Thomas Stearns Eliot. T.Eliot presented the bitter truths of the disaster in a modern style in his poetry. The main feature of Eliot's poetry is the use of the "stream of consciousness" technique. He goes back in time, quoting the works of medieval metaphysical poets of the ancient culture and the Renaissance, and echoing them with the problems of his time. T.Eliot highly appreciated the works of Renaissance writers such as A.Dante, Shakespeare, C.Marlowe, and cited their works. At the same time, ancient mythological literature covered the sphere of interests of T.Eliot, describing the difficult situation in which modern society faced through the heroes of that time.

His worldview was characterized by eclecticism. The poet's attitude towards religion has changed significantly during his career. Along with Christianity, his interest in Eastern religious beliefs (Buddhism, Hinduism) is one of the points that makes it difficult to understand the poetry of T.Eliot. Fragmentation, fragility, pessimism, irony, obscenity are obvious features of his poetry.

Theoretical concepts such as objective correlation, impersonal poetry, the collapse of the integrity of the worldview are reflected in the poetry of the poet. According to him, *"The only way of expressing emotion in the form of art is by finding an 'objective correlative'; in other words, a set of objects, a situation, a chain of events which shall be the formula of that particular emotion; such that when the external facts, which must terminate in sensory experience, are given, the emotion is immediately evoked."*¹⁰ His concept of *"dissociation of sensibility"* in literature was based on the

¹⁰ Eliot, T.S. The sacred wood; essays on poetry and criticism. / T.S.Eliot. – London: Methuen & Co, – 1950. – 100 p.

theory of form, not content. *"In the seventeenth century a dissociation of sensibility set in, from which we have never recovered."*¹¹ Therefore, in his poetry, he presents the heroes not as a whole, but in the form of separate parts – eyes, hands, feet, head.

The second half of Chapter I, *"The Role of Titles in T.S.Eliot's Poetry,"* examines the special importance of names in conveying the main idea of a literary text. The names have a certain sense of advanced information about the content of the work, the problems, and the character of the heroes. *"The name frames the character to which it belongs, the name reveals the character, national and cultural affiliation, the character of the personages a certain sense of the time and place in which he lived."*¹² Names the poet utilizes in his poetry are of different origins: some of them are mythological heroes, others are formed just by combining the letters, and some are acquaintances or place names. Negative meanings preoccupy his early poems. They are associated with animals who only rely on their basic instincts, the living deads who only exist physically, infertile and unloving creatures that betray each other. Thomas Eliot, using various names in poetry, directed readers and researchers in a certain direction in revealing several contradictory points in the works, as well as in solving problems related to the load on semantic significance. However, sometimes the poet uses names in combination with different letters that do not exist, a product of his imagination and fantasy. In general, in the poetry of T. Eliot, names play an essential role in revealing the characteristics and temperament of the personage.

In T.S.Eliot's poetry, the titles sometimes are called by musical terms. Poems such as "The Love Song of J. Alfred Prufrock," "Rhapsody on a Windy Night," "Preludes," and "Four Quartets" mention different terms in music theory. "Preludes" was published in 1917 in his first book of poems, "Prufrock and Other Observations." The prelude is a short introduction before a long piece in music.. The

¹¹ Eliot, T.S. The annotated waste land, with T.S.Eliot's contemporary prose. / T.S.Eliot. – New Haven, CT: Yale University Press, – 2005. – p.198

¹² Quliyev, Q.H. Dəliddən doğru xəbər. / Q.H.Quliyev. – Bakı: Mütərcim, – 1999. – s.96

verse depicts the worries of city life in a short period. To be more precise, the events in the poem take place in one day. The title of the poem can be related to the beginning of the poet's literary activity.. The title of the poem "Rhapsody on a Windy Night" destroys the romantic tone. A rhapsody is a free-flowing structured instrumental work written on the base of folk songs and dances. It usually expresses strong and romantic feelings. Although free rhyme is preserved in Eliot's poem, the reader feels an irony against festivity. Although rhapsody is associated with ideas such as passion and extreme enthusiasm, these feelings are not reflected in the poem. The main themes are distrust of God, alienation, people's hatred of each other, and less communication. The poem emphasizes the merits of loneliness, decline, frustration, and disappointment. "Four Quartets" is considered one of the largest poems of T.S Eliot's poetry. The title is associated with the musical term "quartets." A quartet is a music played or sung to the accompaniment of four instruments or performers.

Some of the titles in T.S.Eliot's poetry are directly related to the names of the protagonist or anti-heroes: "The Love Song Of J.Alfred Prufrock", "Gerontion", "Aunt Helen", " Sweeney Erect", " Sweeney Among the Nightingales", "Mr. Apollinax" and others. In the poetry of T. Eliot, the name Sweeney is found in various works. In samples such as "Sweeney Among the Nightingales", "The Waste Land", "Sweeney Erect" the image of Sweeney is presented in a negative tone, with the help of various fictional and mythological images, his inner world, ugly deeds, and ruthless attitude towards women are revealed. Sweeney is presented as a traitorous figure, completely far from moral perfection image. The title of "The Love Song Of J. Alfred Prufrock" is ironic, because the main theme is not love, pure feelings, divine love, but the suffering of a middle-aged man deprived of love, the inner turmoil is mainline.

Due to T.Eliot's conversion, the naming of personages underwent a religious transformation. After changing of faith, he added Christian names to power his poetry. The names of such poetic examples as "The Journey of the Magi", "A Song for Simeon", "Ash

Wednesday" create an associative-semantic connection with the main idea.

In the poems "Aunt Helen", "La Figlia Che Piange", "Portrait of a Lady", T.Eliot points out that the poems are written about the suffering of women. The woman depicted in the poem "Aunt Helen" (1917) is the complete opposite of Helen portrayed in Greek mythology. The mythical image Helen, who is an incomparably beautiful and irresistible woman, is compared to a woman who has no beauty. She can only be proud of her luxurious mansion. Helen of modern times is a poor being who only exists physically.

T.S. Eliot keeps the names of the poems the same as they are in their original languages. The poems such as *Melange Adultere de Tout* (An Odd Mixture), *Lune de Miel* (The Honeymoon), *Le Directeur* (The Director) were written in French. The title of the poem "La Figlia Che Piange" (1916) means "young weeping girl" in Italian translation.

The third half of the first chapter is entitled "*The characteristic features of epigraphs in the literary text*". The functions of epigraphs, which are essential in the work of T.S.Eliot, the source of the wise expressions cited, and their interaction with examples of poetry have been studied. In the poetry of T.Eliot, the role and function of epigraphs are quite multifaceted. Epigraphs, which are used at the very beginning of his poems makes the poet's literary creativity quite varied and colorful. It can be stated that in nearly all of the works, he presented poems to his readers, citing various literary samples and quoting wise words. As an epigraph, the artist refers to ancient literary samples, religious literature, works of the Renaissance literature, as well as to other poets. In most cases, T.Eliot presents epigraphs without translating and disregarding details of the original text. Jane Worthington notes in the article "The Epigraphs to the Poetry of T.S.Eliot": "*Apparently readers of Eliot's poetry sense a peculiar fitness in the quotations which head his poems; they recognize that the quotation, no less than the title, belongs inherently to the text which it serves. Even when the aptness*

of the quotation is not perfectly understood, its authority is clearly felt."¹³

The texts given in Eliot's poetry are sometimes fully understood, and sometimes their connection with the text requires in-depth research. The texts given after the title are translated into other languages in the original form. In "The Achievement of T.S.Eliot" F.Matthiessen emphasizes: *"The epigraph can illuminate the whole work and is intended to be formed itself as an integral part of the poet's influence."*¹⁴ The epigraph defines the general spirit, feature of the work and, as an artistic aesthetic technique, plays a unique role in organizing the main artistic idea of the work. The poetry of T.Eliot almost completely, skillfully is conveyed to readers according to the selected "hints." Epigraphs define not only the inner-esoteric layer of poetic patterns, their artistic-aesthetic origin but also the outer-exoteric layer with their particular language and style. Traditionally, epigraphs in TS Eliot's poetry reveal the general content of the work, the writer's idea, the main points. They are directly related to the semantic load of the work.

Eliot also benefited from Greek myths and legends in the presentation of epigraphs. In works such as "The Waste Land", "Sweeney Among the Nightingales", "La Figlia Che Piange", the introductory words are taken from the myths and presented in the original languages. The epigraphs of the poems "Sweeney among the Nightingales", "Mr. Apollinax", "Four Quartets" are presented in Greek, "La Figlia Che Piange", "The Hippopotamus", "Marina" in Latin, "The Love Song of J. Alfred Prufrock" in Italian languages. They play the role of a bridge between the poetry of the past and present. Thomas Eliot gave examples of literary and artistic images of other literary philosophers, poets, linguists, and writers, harmonized his poems with their semantic nuances. Using the examples of ancient Greek and Roman mythology, antiquity pre-Renaissance, and Renaissance literature, T. Eliot added diversity to his works and also

¹³ Jane, Worthington. The Epigraphs to the Poetry of T.S.Eliot // American Literature, – 1949. – Vol. 21, No. 1, – p.1

¹⁴ Matthiessen, F.O. The achievement of T.S. Eliot: an essay on the nature of poetry. / F.O.Matthiessen. – London: Oxford University Press, – 1969. – p.52

carried out artistic generalizations through epigraphs from several samples belonging to the art of speech of those periods. Words borrowed from the world's most eminent writers such as A.Dante, K.Marlowe and Shakespeare play the role of guidelines for the content of poems.

The second chapter of the dissertation is entitled "**The problem of self-realization and self-awareness in the poetry of T.S. Eliot**". In the first half of this chapter ("*The Problems of Existence in the poetry of T.S. Eliot*") topics such as the inner turmoil of the characters, emotional traumatization, and sinful beginnings are covered. Issues such as life and death are widely discussed in these poetries. Although the concepts of death and mortality are conflicting, one can transform into the other, or both can exist at the same time. T.Eliot approached the question of existence from a completely different perspective. The human model created by the poet is exhausted, alienated, and hopeless. They move away from objective reality and prefer a subjective worldview, even if they want to solve their problems and injustices without outside interference, they are not able to do it. Existential problems are raised on the example of such artistic examples as "Rhapsody on a Windy Night", "Preludes", "Gerontion".

T.Eliot's poem "Rhapsody on a Windy Night", which coincides with his early creative years, is of particular importance from an existentialist point of view. The poem was written in 1915 when the European society were about to collapse. Events take place at midnight, on a windy winter night. The person who narrates the story is wandered down on an abandoned and silent street, while lost in thought. Along the way, he walks through the street lamps, talks to them, and conjures up disorganized and hazy images in his mind. "Preludes" is one of Thomas Eliot's most famous poems about society depicted as a wasteland. In this example, written in 1917, the poet describes the life of the city metaphorically through specific objects and descriptions exposing the society in which he lived. The poem deals with the daily life of the inhabitants of a morally degraded and ruined society. "Preludes" is an art that reveals the meaninglessness of modern industrial life. It can also be considered a

song that reflects the despair, hopelessness, and loneliness of the gray city.

In the poem "Love Songs of J.Alfred Prufrock", Prufrock invites readers to travel around the city. Though T.Eliot wrote it at a young age, the main character, Prufrock, is bald and middle-aged. T.Eliot thus denies the idea that the protagonist is the poet himself. The poem is made in the style of a dramatic monologue. In this example, Prufrock equated with Hamlet in terms of indecision. Prufrock is a fake hero, and even the absence of the word "I" (*Am an attendant lord*)¹⁵ testifies his absence of ego. The only thing that is not paralyzed is time. Prufrock's aging highlights his weakness, ugliness, and uselessness, exacerbating his hair loss. In a dashed society, he is bored, and he lives a monotonous life. One of the main problems of the hero is the lack of communication. Throughout the work, he finds it difficult to convey his voice and questions to other people, and as a result, he fails. Lack of communication is directly related to a person's isolation, loneliness, and alienation.

"Gerontion" was published in 1920. The old man, who lived most of his life in the 19th century, witnessed the First World War. Here the poet describes the life experiences of an old man, a description of Western civilization, far from spiritual perfection. The society that the old man is living in is materialistic, and they prefer money and worldly values to the spiritual world. He was alienated from the world of nightmares, isolated from the mentally retarded people. The main reason for his failure is his inability to fight. Gerontion, living in a rotten inner civilization, not only fails to restore lost mental values but also becomes a slave to money during the reign of materialism. The woman depicted in the poem personifies a robotic human who looks like an ordinary housewife, unable to fulfill the duties of motherhood and wife. Sevim Kantarcioglu notes: "*For him, history is like a labyrinth, every curve,*

¹⁵ Eliot, T.S. The Complete poems and plays: 1909-1962. / T.S.Eliot. – New York: Harcourt Brace and Company, – 1963. – p.7

every corridor is built with deceit. Cunning is the misuse of intelligence or the key to faithless knowledge."¹⁶

The second half of the second chapter of the dissertation ("***The Evolution of the Poet's Attitude Toward Women: From Devil to Angel***") explores the tendency of Thomas Eliot's negative attitudes toward women in his early poetry to change for the better in the next stages of creativity. In the works of T.Eliot, women spend a dual life: they are the creatures hiding under the veil of decency and vulgarity, outwardly cultured, inwardly and spiritually weak. In the poems "Portrait of a Lady" and "Aunt Helen" women, despite their aristocratic class and high intellectual intelligence, were experiencing a deep spiritual crisis and decline. Even if they exist physically, they represent images of women who are spiritually dead and whose all pleasures and desires in their lives are destroyed. One of the works depicting the image of a woman, her inner turmoil, and loneliness is "Portrait of a Lady". The poem tells the story of a young man who visits an old woman throughout the year. N.Tiwari claims that the image of the old woman in the poem is Mrs. Moffat: "*Mrs. Adeleine Moffat, the protagonist of the poem, a woman who lived behind a government building in Boston and invited prominent Harvard students to a tea party.*"¹⁷ Eliot visited Mrs. Moffat several times and in 1814 received a Christmas greeting from her.

In the poems such as "The Waste Land", "Sweeney Among the Nightingales", "Sweeney Erect", women are embodied as satanic, superficial beings. In the poems "Sweeney Among the Nightingales" and "Sweeney Erect", Sweeney's relationship with prostitutes goes beyond the moral framework. The poem "The Waste Land" reflects the unhappy, loveless, anxious, and hopeless life of both aristocratic women and women from a relatively low class. They lose the desire to live and lead a stagnant, emotionally unsettled lifestyle. Concerning the relationship between a man and a woman, H. Bloom

¹⁶ Sevim, Kantarcıoğlu. T.S.Eliotun şiirlerinde insanın kendisini gerçekleştirme teması. / Sevim, Kantarcıoğlu. – Ankara, – 1981. – s.43

¹⁷ Nidhi, Tiwari. Imagery and Symbolism in T.S.Eliot's Poetry. /Tiwari Nidhi. – New Delhi: Atlantic Publishers & Distributors, – 2001. – p.202

regrets that feelings are mechanical and insensitive. “*They are apathetic: both morally and emotionally-human machines.*”¹⁸

Due to the change in the faith of T.Eliot, the representation of female images underwent a great transformation. Over time, they are considered a symbol of equality, unity, generosity. Following his poem "The Waste Land", he revived women in his poetry as a luminous image of a person with more merciful, compassionate, healing hands, rather than seductive, dangerous creatures. Even though in works such as "Gerontion," "The Waste Land," "The Hollow Men", women are represented in positive and negative tones, "Ash-Wednesday" and later poetic examples ladies act only in the image of positive heroes. In the poem “*La Figlia Che Piange*”, Eve and the virgin Mary are represented in a bright shadow. L. Gordon justifies that the image of a woman in the poem “*Thomas Eliot and an Imperfect Life*”¹⁹ is Emily Hale, whom the artist met in 1912 and whom he wanted to perpetuate in his poetry. Matthew Geary in his article “*Mother-son love in T. S. Eliot’s ‘La Figlia Che Piange’*”²⁰ guided by Lacan's theory, justifies that the separation of lovers who form the basis of the work is associated with deep ambivalent feelings that mother and son experience directly. In the poem “*Ash-Wednesday*”, the artist defies the woman as Saint Mary and gives her high value. Here, a woman plays the role of a bridge between the two: the material and spiritual worlds. Although Mary is compared to her mother, she is also a secular creature with various feelings and emotions and belongs to a material world. According to Eloise Knapp Hay, *the woman in the art model is Beatrice*²¹, who accompanies Dante to paradise. Researcher Seymour Jones claims

¹⁸ Bloom, Harold. T.S.Eliot. / Harold Bloom. – Broomall, PA: Chelsea House Publishers, – 1999. – p.82

¹⁹. Gordon, Lyndall. T.S.Eliot: An Imperfect Life. / L.Gordon. – New York: Norton, – 2000. – p.82

²⁰ Geary, M. ‘Unkind and cruel, to deceive your Son // In borrow’d Shapes, and his Embrace to shun’: Mother-son love in T.S.Eliot’s ‘La Figlia Che Piange’. England, Studies in the Maternal, – 2015. No 7(1), – p.2.

²¹ Hay, E.K. T.S.Eliot's negative way. / E.K.Hay. – Cambridge, Mass.: Harvard University Press, – 1982. – p.92-93

that *the image of the woman was Vivienne*²², and in subsequent editions, her name was removed from the title. A woman unites worldly and heavenly love. Thus, Eliot's perception of femininity changed from negative to positive. In his poems, he prays for the woman to be free from the difficult situation she is in and the sins she has committed.

The third half of the second chapter of the dissertation is entitled *“Manifestations of Christianity in the poetry of T.Eliot.”* When the poetry of T. Eliot included elements of Christianity, his worldview and attitude to images differed greatly. If in the poem "The Waste Land", there was a reference to the Fisher King and the Holy Grail quoted from Buddhism, Hinduism, and Paganism. However, in the later poems T. Eliot began to create Christian images. This manifested itself in the poems "The Hollow Men", "Journey of the Magi". His Christian faith and thoughts were more vividly expressed in his poems after the publication of the poem "Ash-Wednesday" in 1930. After that, the poet-philosopher began a long trip in search of truth, and in his sense, the discovery of faith begins with Christianity.

Europe after World War I, the Treaty of Versailles, Eliot's negative attitude, a change of religion, and his failed marriage to Vivienne²³ in his personal life led to the writing of the 1925 poem "The Hollow People." For these reasons that despair, sadness, and frustration embody the general spirit of the work. As features of modernist literature, fragmentation, symbolism, allusion, and repetitions are widely used in the poem The Hollow People. The eyes, the shadow, the other kingdom of the dead, the death of another kingdom, the fading star, the twilight are the main symbols used in the work. The leading theme in the poem is related to spirituality. The poem can be considered as a journey of faith because the main subject line here is the tragic state of morally dead people living in

²² Seymour-Jones, Carole. *Painted shadow: the life of Vivienne Eliot, first wife of T.S.Eliot, and the long-suppressed truth about her influence on his genius.* / Carole Seymour-Jones. – New York: Nan A. Talese/Doubleday, – 2002. – p.4

²³ Gordon, Lyndall. *T.S.Eliot: An Imperfect Life.* / L.Gordon. – New York: Norton, – 2000. – p.196

disbelief. There are two ways to reach infinity, and that choice depends on who you are. Either we are "full" beings with strong beliefs, or we are "empty" people with weak faith. The former will turn to the imaginary kingdom for their deeds, and the latter to another realm of the dead. The benevolent representatives (eyes) frighten the accursed people and prevent them from looking straight into the eyes of the truth. Such an empty, vain life is very long, arduous, and painful.

"Journey of the Magi" is the first of Ariel's poems, written in 1927. The poem describes the visit of three wise astrologers to the place where Jesus was born which is also shown in Matthew 2: 9-11, in Bible: *"After the wise men heard the king, they left. The star that they had seen in the East went before them until it stopped above the place where the child was. When the wise saw the star, they rejoiced with exceedingly great joy. They came to the house where the child was and saw him with his mother, Mary, and they bowed down and worshiped him. They opened their treasure chests and gave him gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh."*²⁴ The frosty weather, the winter months, indicate December 25, the birthday of Jesus. During this difficult time, the victory of the former prevails over the confrontation between the angel and the demon. The main themes in the poem cover suffering, death, and resurrection. Physical suffering includes the journey of travelers, the refusal of camels to travel long distances in exhaustion, and the unbearable pain of the moment Mary gave birth to Jesus. Moral and psychological pain arises since the soul's failure to follow religion or spirituality." "A Song of Simeon", "Animula", "Marina", "The Cultivation of Christmas Trees", which include Ariel's poems are about Christianity.

In the poem "Ash-Wednesday", the new believer refuses eternal existence, by turning his back on the transient. In Christianity, from the fourth century onwards, the Orthodox Church called the Great Diet forty days before Easter, and this is due to 40 days Jesus Christ spent fasting in the desert, in the wilderness, as recorded in Matthew 4: 2.²⁵ Except for Sundays, the Great Diet begins on Ash

²⁴ <https://www.bible.com/af/bible/compare/MAT.2.9-11>

²⁵ Incil. Əhdi-Cədid. / – Stokholm: Bibliya Tərcümə İnstitutu, – 1996. – s.14

Wednesday and lasts until the last Sunday of Easter. An artistic example is in the form of a diary rich in words, but this diary applies to a single person, but the whole of humanity. The words "turn" and "transformation" repeated in the first lines of the poem are the main theme of the work, and it is stated that the decision to turn conveys two very difficult and complex meanings.

The third chapter of the dissertation is entitled **“Issues of time, life, death, an eternity in the poem of Four Quartets.”** This masterpiece was written between 1936-1942. The literary work consists of four poems: "Burnt Norton," "East Coker," "The Dry Salvages," and "Little Gidding." Each poem consists of five parts. It is important to note that the above-mentioned works were originally published as a separate poem. Each of them explains the nature of time (past, present, future) from different religious and historical points of view and also explores their impact on modern people. Each poem is associated with classic elements such as air, earth, water, and fire.

In the first half of the third chapter (*“The Problem of Time in the Poem of Burnt Norton”*) T.Eliot, who perceives the past and present in the future tense, puts forward the concept of fate. The poem "Burned Norton" was named after a destroyed village house in Gloucester and was published in 1936. The main theme of the poem is the nature of time and the way of salvation. Eliot encourages people to pay attention to the present and believes that there is a universal order, that man is a mortal being, and that every moment in the past is a passing moment in his life. Tired thoughts of the past sound like steps in our brains and memories, reminding us that we have not chosen the right path in time. Only after understanding the nature of time and the human order will people be saved through the recognition of God. Peter Ackroyd describes Burned Norton as a religious and philosophical work. *“Burnt Norton as a result been described as a religious and philosophical poem.”*²⁶

²⁶ Ackroyd, Peter. T.S.Eliot: A Life. / Peter Ackroyd. – New York: Simon and Schuster, – 1984. – p.230

The philosophical layer of the poem is associated with the ideas put forward in the book of St. Augustine "*Confessions*"²⁷ Thus, the importance of the present is emphasized here because the past is already behind, and it is impossible to change it. What will happen in the future is unknown. From this point of view, the only way to understand the world and yourself is to live in the present and obey the supreme being. The people depicted on the London Underground are in a state of spiritual exhaustion because they have no conformity to natural laws or no faith in God. Only God is timeless, and he is everywhere. In the fall of 1934, while collecting information about an abandoned house in the English village, Eliot founded that the area was called Burned Norton by locals, which had been burned down by its owner Kate. The once blooming space is now deserted and empty. From a religious point of view, the garden refers to paradise, a place of inaccessible prosperity and peace, where forbidden creatures are sentenced to death. The following lines describe the flower garden with rose petals, not the flower garden as a whole. The main goal of the poet is to emphasize that reality cannot be replaced by anything. The main theme of the poem is the idea that people are still affected by the original sins, and they cannot distinguish good from evil. For the forgiveness of sins, they have to surrender their body and soul to divinity.

The second half of the third chapter of the dissertation ("*The Concept of Eternity in Peom of East Coker*") covers topics such as the place of man in the natural order, rebirth, the embodiment of Christian thought, and war. "East Coker" begins with the sentence "*In my beginning, my end*"²⁸, which became an aphorism after T.Eliot. East Coker is the name of a small village in England where T.Eliot's ancestors lived, and the place where the remains of the poet's body were kept after his death. These expressions in the poem represent the inversion of the slogan expressed by Queen Mary Stuart of Scots. H. Garnder writes: "*It opens with a translation and*

²⁷ Augustine, Saint. Bishop of Hippo. *Confessions*. / Saint Augustine. – New York: Fathers of the Church, Inc., – 1953. – p.481

²⁸ Eliot, T.S. *The Complete poems and plays: 1909-1962*. / T.S.Eliot. – New York: Harcourt Brace and Company, – 1963. – p.182

*inversion of Mary Stuart's motto "En ma fin est mon commencement" reverting to it in its original form at the close."*²⁹

The poet understands that in a certain period, according to the laws of nature, everything; people, buildings that they build are temporary and doomed to creation and destruction. Spotless, pure love, wonderful feelings already belong to a past life. As described in Dante's "Divine Comedy,"³⁰ young people jumping over the fire and circular dance symbolize the salvation of evil deeds, evil forces, and immortality. In the past, people were bound by religion, rituals, and nature in addition to making joint decisions. To get away from the chaos of the modern world, the poet prays to God with the people in the church, and this ritual helps him to get closer to the past, to the divine power. Long before us, the ancients observed the seasons with the weather and took the necessary measures. Due to technological development, we are separated from nature. It must not be forgotten that every being created by nature must return to it because this is one of the basic laws of the natural order. The most important factor is to understand the philosophy of still points of the turning world. Thus, by causing spiritual changes within us, we can continue to live for the time given to us. The concepts of physical stability and internal change clarify the logic of the still point of the turning world. The poem ends with the lines "The end is the beginning". Every moment of our lives has a beginning and an end. If we can find a cure for our modern mental illness and put an end to negative thoughts, we can embark on a new journey to understand the beauty and importance of life.

Thus, the poem "East Coker" describes wartime England and her people through historical examples and religious texts. The first two parts of the poem contain some information about the Renaissance and the history of the modern world. In the third part, the dark landscape of modernity is equated with the inner dark world. The fourth section describes people in spiritual agony. The way to salvation is to find refuge in the inner world and know God through

²⁹ Gardner, Helen. The composition of Four quartets. / Helen Gardner. – New York: Oxford University Press, – 1978. – p.42

³⁰ Dante, A. İlahi komediya. /A.Dante. – Bakı: Öndər nəşriyyat, – 2004. – s.17

Jesus. In the last section, the poet stresses the importance of such positive qualities as humility and determination.

The third half of the third chapter of the dissertation is entitled *“Analysis of the concepts of life and death in the poem Dry Salvages.”* The epigraph notes that the "dry salvages" are a group of small islands in the northeastern Gulf of Massachusetts, where the poet spent his childhood. In this sense, the poem is more autobiographical than other sections. In the book titled "The Composition of Four Quartets,"³¹ H.Gardner informs that the area described in that poem played an important role in the life of the poet.

At the beginning of the poem, T.Eliot identifies the image of water with God. Here the river and the sea act as central figures. In his opinion, as a result of technological development, humanity is stepping back and moving away from traditions. According to Eliot, every human being has a connection with the whole human race. Although each of us is limited in time, the way of salvation is possible. For the spiritual wealth, we must follow the path that Jesus instilled in us and be reunited with eternity. The sin of the first man, Adam, affected the human race. Therefore, people entered the world of darkness by repeating the same mistakes. Besides Christianity, the poet quotes Krishna³² and his disciple. Krishna argues that death is inevitable and emphasizes that people can be freed from the limitations of time and their ego through divine love. The way to understand the holy world is to pray and believe in the holy spirit. Prayers to the Virgin Mary help people on a long journey, guiding them to understand the truth.

"The future is futureless,"³³ says the poet, emphasizing that it is useless to make plans for the future because the force that can repel death cannot exist in mortal beings. The poem "Dry Salvages" touches on issues such as human suffering and the inevitability of death. Using the innovations of science and technology, people

³¹ Gardner, Helen. The composition of Four quartets. / Helen Gardner. – New York: Oxford University Press, – 1978. – p.50

³² Mahabharata. Bhagavad Gita. / – Bakı: YYSQ, – 2016. – s.14

³³ Eliot, T.S. The Complete poems and plays: 1909-1962. / T.S.Eliot. – New York: Harcourt Brace and Company, – 1963. – p.192

create a new god for themselves and use it to seek salvation which leads humanity in the wrong direction. From this point of view, the human race must approach time from a different angle. People can be freed from hardships by faith, belief in God, and recognition of spiritual reality. In the poem, T. Eliot takes the opposite position to the modern world and blames those who accept materialism as the new god.

The fourth half of the third chapter of the dissertation is entitled *“Poetic Reflection of Philosophical thoughts in the Poem Little Gidding.”* The last poem of the quartet "Little Gidding" covers such topics as time, humanity, salvation. The publication of the poem was delayed for a year due to the air attack on Great Britain during World War II and the deterioration of T.Eliot's health and was published in September 1942. The fire described in the poem signifies purity. Little Gidding is named after a small Anglican community founded in the XVII century and destroyed during the English Civil War. According to the poet, the renunciation of God and the departure from moral values humanity creates a deep abyss like war and serious disasters. The first part begins with a description of the peculiarities of spring in the winter. The spring described by the poet, unlike the poem "The Waste Land," promises a revival. The poet understands that despite the coldness of the world around him, there is an inexplicable force that warms and softens the heart. Although people always imagine the spring and summer months in the depths of the spiritual world, the images of endless happiness in the imaginary world, coming of cold seasons are inevitable. If we continue on the path of spirituality described by the poet, we will witness the immersion of the whole world in the light. In winter, spring helps us find the perfect life. It is difficult to understand the meaning and purpose of life because once it is achieved, a person strives for the realization of other desires. The poet, who wrote his poem in the context of the bombing of England, is worried about when the tragedy and suffering will end. The only way to salvation is to think deeply about death and to understand nothingness in the face of a higher being: *“Here Eliot is a prophet warning the civilization he respects and would perpetuate, warning it of the doom that shall*

surely come unless its people turn and repent, surrendering their prideful lives to the doings of God's will and to the promotion of love and peace."³⁴

According to the poet, every last lays the foundation for a new beginning, and the world moves in this stream. In other words, to build a successful civilization, it is necessary to overthrow the former. A happier future awaits us if the cause of the two world wars is radically changed and replaced by a healthier, friendlier, and more peaceful society. The more important words are understandable and expressive in the sentence, the more important for people to live happily and peacefully, in a harmony. Death is the only inescapable, unavoidable, sure thing. We are sentenced to die the day we're born. Deep inside, man realizes that he is a mortal being. Therefore, man must appreciate the time given to him by the divine, get rid of himself by worshiping the divine power, and refrain from evil deeds.

In the **Conclusion** section of the thesis, the scientific generalization and the results obtained in the research process are presented as follows:

1. Tomas Eliot had played a significant role in the development of the literary modernism. The "Stream of Consciousness" technique that he employed helps to reveal the heroes' moral and psychological characteristics.

2. Most of T. Eliot's poetry is in the style of dramatic monologue. Here, the narrator introduces himself as a passive participant by addressing another person.

3. The poet made wide use of chiasmus (inverse parallelism) in his poetry. "In my beginning is my end," "Our only health is the disease," "If to be warmed, then I must freeze" in the East Cocker poem, "Time present and time past are both perhaps present in time future", "And the way up is the way down, the way forward is the way back" are encountered in *The Dry Salvage*.

4. In his poems, T. Eliot pays much attention to the use of synecdoche based on the idea of dissociation of sensibility put

³⁴ Booty, John E. *Meditating on Four quartets.* / Hohn E. Booty. – Cambridge, MA: Cowley Publications, – 1983. – p.50

forward by T.S.Eliot. People are depicted not as a whole, but as separate parts of the body: eyes, hands, and feet.

5. Mythical images are the main means of affecting the poet's mythological-genetic memory in poetry. Following it, he "modernizes" the ancient texts and brings them to the reader's attention. According to Eliot, myths are directly related to the realities of the time.

6. His transformation of Christian faith is one of the main factors that diverted T.S. Eliot's work. In his modern society, the poet conceived the way of salvation in union with God and faith in him. In T.Eliot's poetry, the artist used the quoted statements from the Bible to advise mankind to follow the path commanded by God.

7. One of the issues that make it difficult to understand T.S. Eliot's work is the quotations taken from different works and identifying their connection with poetry. The artist creates diversity in the poetry by referring to the metaphysical poets' works of ancient world literature.

8. Symbolism is the main feature that determines T. Eliot's works. The symbols used by the poet play an irreplaceable role in the presentation of the idea, theme and images of poetic examples.

9. In the poet's work, names and epigraphs have great importance in making initial impressions about the literary text. The artist paid special attention to the choice of names and epigraphs. For this reason, his works are very colorful in terms of style.

10. The existential problems touched upon by the philosopher-poet are still relevant today. The human race, described in Eliot's poetry and subjected to total alienation due to wars, still faces the problems of existence. People who are alienated from each other are looking for the only way out is to take refuge inside. This, in turn, leads to personal indifference and more serious complications.

11. The relationship between a man and a woman is very cold. In the poet's early poetry, there is a lack of communication between men and women. Women are and men are captives of their instincts and irrational in nature.

12. The poet's impersonal theory is connected with his personal life. Although the artist denies the poet's participation in the work of

art, there are biographical elements in his poetry. It is no coincidence that he wrote his poems in a pessimistic spirit at a time when his relationship with his first wife, Vivienne, was strained. Also, the change of religious beliefs did not pass unnoticed in the artist's poetry.

13. His role in the formation of literary thought and its influence on poetry is an undeniable fact. The terms he introduced to literary theory have been used both in his work and in other writers' poetic heritage.

14. The description of city life in T. Eliot's poetry is obvious. The characters' loneliness is remarkably noticed while walking through the abandoned city. The city is a place that reflects the decline of modern times and solitude in society.

15. Approaching the old tradition through a new perspective is another factor that determines T. Eliot's poetry. He established poetry samples based on the past religious and literary traditions. According to him, the past should live in the present literature.

The main content and scientific provisions of the dissertation are reflected in the following articles and theses of the author:

1. The Poetics of the poem "The Waste Land" by T.S.Eliot // – Baku: "Science and Education", Literary Links. IX Collection, – 2015. – p. 48-53;
2. Characteristics of T.S. Eliot's poetry // – Kiev, Language and Culture, Kiev University named after Tarasa Shevchenko, – Volume VI (183). – 2016. №17, – p. 214-218;
3. T.Eliot's Attitude towards European Multiculturalism // Proceedings of the XX Republic Scientific Conference of Doctoral Students and Young Researchers.– Baku: ASOIU, – 24-25 May, – 2016. №2 – p. 541-543;
4. Analysis of the concepts of time and spirituality in the poem "Burnt Norton" // – Baku, Baku Slavic University, Scientific Works, – 2016. № 2, – p.214-218;
5. The Problem of Morality in the Poem "The Hollow Men" // IV International Scientific Conference of Young Researchers, – Baku, Qafqaz University, – 29-30 April, – 2016. – p. 1206-1209;

6. The Reflection of Inner Agitation in “The Love Song of J. Alfred Prufrock” // – Baku: Science and Education, Philological Issues, – 2016. № 10, – p. 339-344;
7. General Information about Modernism // Materials of the Republic scientific-practical conference on actual problems of foreign language teaching, – Baku, Azerbaijan University of Languages – 5-6 May, – 2016. – p. 464-465;
8. “Reflection on the Ideas of Beginning and Ending in the Poem of “East Coker” // – Baku, Azerbaijan University of Languages, Language and Literature, – Vol. 7.–2016. № 5, – p. 172-175;
9. “Artistic embodiment of Christian ideas in the poem Ash Wednesday” // – Baku, Baku Slavic University, Tagiyev’s Readings, – 2016. № 2, – p. 158-163;
10. Manifestation of Philosophical Thoughts in the poem “Little Gidding”// – Baku, Baku Slavic University, The Actual Problems of Study of Humanities, – 2016. № 4, – p. 119-122;
11. The Problem of Alienation in “Gerontion” // I International Scientific Conference of Young Researchers, Baku Engineering University, – 05-06 May, – 2017. – p.833-834;
12. The Role of Epigraphs in Thomas Eliot’s Poetry. // – Baku, Baku Engineering University, Journal of Philology and Pedagogy, – 2019. № 2, – p.129-136
13. Changing Attitudes Towards Women in T.S.Eliot’s Poetry // VII International Scientific and Practical Conference “Labyrinths of Reality”. – Ukraine, – 14-15 February, – 2020. – Issue 2(7), – p.26-28;
14. The Importance of Names in T.S.Eliot’s Poetry //International Journal of Innovative Technologies, – Warsaw, RS Global, – September, – 2020. No 6(27), – p. 71-75
15. A Study of Existentialism in the Poems “Rhapsody on a Windy Night” and “The Prelude” // V International Scientific Conference of Young Researchers, Baku Engineering University, – 29-30 April, – 2021. – p. 1419-1420;

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