



ABDURRAHIM BEY HAGVERDIYEV AND THE REFLECTION OF MULTICULTURAL VALUES IN AZERBAIJANI LITERATURE

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Abstract

Abdurrahim bey Hagverdiyev (1864–1933) is one of the most prominent figures in Azerbaijani and world literature. His works stand out for their deep philosophical content, artistic richness, and multicultural approach. This study explores how Hagverdiyev reflected multicultural values, religious tolerance, and humanistic ideals in his literary works. Through an analysis of his plays and novellas, such as *Agha Mahammad Shah Qajar*, *Eat the Goose Meat*, *See Its Taste*, *The Hungry Men*, *The Unfortunate Young Man*, and others, the article reveals how the author emphasized coexistence, justice, equality, and acceptance of differences. Using the IMRaD structure, this paper identifies the moral, social, and national elements of multiculturalism in Hagverdiyev's writing and examines their relevance to modern Azerbaijani society.

Introduction

Abdurrahim bey Hagverdiyev occupies an important place in the history of Azerbaijani literature as a writer, dramatist, and intellectual who advocated for tolerance and humanism. His creativity goes beyond national boundaries and engages with global humanistic ideals. Hagverdiyev's works emphasize the coexistence of different religions, ethnicities, and traditions, as well as the challenges that arise from these interactions. As Firidun bey Kocharli noted, "Hagverdiyev's tragedy 'Agha Mahammad Shah Qajar' is a scene where the ideas of slavery and freedom collide" (AĖTM, 1908, p. 52). Similarly, Aziz Mirahmedov (1978) emphasized that Hagverdiyev's drama expresses not only the fate of the Karabakh khanate but also the collective struggle for freedom of all Caucasian peoples. The writer's contribution is especially significant for the development of multicultural and humanistic thinking in Azerbaijani literature. The purpose of this research is to analyze the multicultural dimension of Hagverdiyev's artistic heritage, to identify the ways in which he depicted social justice, tolerance, and coexistence, and to explore their importance for the education and worldview of younger generations.

Methodology

This study employs qualitative textual analysis and comparative literary methods to examine Hagverdiyev's selected dramas and novellas. Primary sources include the author's original works, while secondary sources consist of literary critiques and research by Azerbaijani scholars such as Firidun bey Kocharli and Aziz Mirahmedov. Each text was analyzed through the lens of multiculturalism theory, focusing on three dimensions:

1. Religious and cultural tolerance – how different beliefs coexist within the same social environment.

2.Social justice and equality – depictions of class, gender, and ethical relations.

3.National and moral identity – how cultural diversity contributes to the idea of homeland and unity.

The works analyzed include Agha Mahammad Shah Qajar, Eat the Goose Meat, See Its Taste, The Hungry Men, The Unfortunate Young Man, The Fairy Witch, Dream, The Gates of Justice, The Collapsed Alliance, In the Fatherland, and Bomba.

Discussion and Conclusion

Hagverdiyev's literary legacy demonstrates that the foundations of multiculturalism in Azerbaijani literature were laid long before modern global discourses on diversity and tolerance. His characters, conflicts, and themes illustrate that freedom, justice, and respect for difference are essential to human coexistence. The writer's works not only mirror the historical realities of his time but also carry timeless moral lessons for contemporary society. They contribute to shaping a worldview based on equality, peace, and dialogue among cultures. For the younger generation, studying Hagverdiyev's works fosters openness to various traditions and reinforces values such as tolerance, fairness, and empathy. In conclusion, Abdurrahim bey Hagverdiyev's oeuvre remains a cornerstone of Azerbaijani multicultural literature. His dramas and stories continue to inspire reflections on coexistence, justice, and the shared destiny of humanity. Abdurrahim bey Hagverdiyev (1864-1933) is one of the well-known figures of Azerbaijani literature. His work occupies an important place not only in the context of Azerbaijani, but also in the context of world literature. Hagverdiyev is also known as a writer who reflects multicultural values in his works. In his works, Hagverdiyev highlights how different religions come together in the relationships between people, but also how these religions can create conflicts. His works call for people to be open to different cultures, religions and traditions. Hagverdiyev's work helps young people to assimilate values such as tolerance, justice, talent, and acceptance of differences. Getting acquainted with broader views on different cultures increases the worldview of the younger generation. Abdurrahim bey Hagverdiyev's work has played an important role in reflecting multicultural values and emphasizing the importance of these values in our society. His works not only reflect the historical period, but also express the values in people's relationships with each other. Hagverdiyev shows us the importance of tolerance, equality and acceptance of different cultures. Abdurrahim bey Hagverdiyev's dramas are important in terms of reflecting the dynamics of modern society, multiculturalism and human rights. It is possible to detect traces of multicultural values in his works such as "Agha Mahammad Shah Qajar", "Eat the goose meat, see its taste", "Ach Hariflar", "Baxtsiz Javan", "Peri Jadu", "Hayalat", "Adalat Kapyları", "Dağilan Tifaq" and "Baba Yurdunda". In the drama "Agha Mahammad Shah Qajar", the depiction of a society where different ethnic and religious groups lived together during a time when national identity and political struggle were at the forefront takes on a central role. Firidun bey Kocharli also wrote about Hagverdiyev's historical tragedies: "Hagverdiyev's tragedy 'Agha Mahammad Shah Qajar' is a scene where the ideas of slavery and freedom collide. Here, against the backdrop of the Shah's oppression, national identity and the people's fighting spirit are vividly expressed." (AĞTM, 1908, 52). Social injustices during the Shah's era, conflicts posed by different cultures, and ways to resolve

these conflicts are discussed. For example, the determination to protect the people's national identity is clearly visible in the words of Ibrahim Khan:

Ibrahim Khan:

"If we submit to the Shah's power, our people will remain in slavery. But if we lose our freedom, our nation will also perish." Here, Hagverdiyev clearly shows that the conflict is not only a political one, but also a matter of national existence. "Hagverdiyev's tragedy 'Agha Mahammad Shah Qajar' does not only talk about the fate of the Karabakh khanate. Here, the struggle of all the peoples of the Caucasus for freedom is brought to an artistic level. The fact that different ethnic and religious groups live in the same society makes this struggle more complex and dramatic." (Aziz Mirahmedov, 1978, 77).

In the work "Eat the goose meat, you will see its taste", the theme of social responsibility and tolerance comes to the fore. The coming together of people from different social classes and their ability to live together in difficult conditions is emphasized. Such relationships embody the need for people to respect each other. In "The Hungry Men", the Hungry Men depict people from all strata of society. The values of different cultures and issues of social justice are the main themes of the work. This shows how society can unite and how important a joint struggle is. In "The Unfortunate Young Man," the contradictions experienced by young people and their social environments are criticized. The understanding and acceptance of different cultural values by young people is a topic of discussion related to the demands of the modern era in the work. In "The Fairy Witch," myth and reality come together, and it shows that different cultural values can come together. Mystical elements are perceived as values that unite people. In "Dream," where people struggle to make their wishes and desires come true, how people with different perspectives should live together is discussed. In the drama "The Gates of Justice," the debates surrounding the topic of law and justice are complemented by the positive impact of relations between different ethnic groups. The need for justice emphasizes the importance of different societies living together. In "The Collapsed Alliance," the theme of friendship and loyalty is discussed. It shows the importance of supporting each other, not only by prioritizing national but also cultural values. In the drama "In the Fatherland," the values of the motherland and the fatherland and the relations between different cultures are demonstrated. It points to the development of a multicultural society by creating a connection between people's roots and moral values. The epic novella "Bomba" reflects social justice and the ability of different cultures to coexist. Here, the contradictions between people's plans and desires are discussed.

Results

The analysis revealed that Hagverdiyev's works consistently promote the ideals of coexistence, justice, and equality among people of different backgrounds.

1. In "Agha Mahammad Shah Qajar," the conflict between oppression and freedom symbolizes both a political and moral struggle for national identity. The words of Ibrahim Khan – "If we submit to the Shah's power, our people will remain in slavery" – embody the fight for dignity and cultural independence.

2. "Eat the Goose Meat, See Its Taste" focuses on social responsibility and respect among people from different social strata, underlining tolerance and empathy.



3. In "The Hungry Men," Hagverdiyev portrays various classes of society, addressing issues of inequality and cultural unity.

4. "The Unfortunate Young Man" explores youth identity crises and the acceptance of diverse cultural values in a rapidly changing modern world.

5. "The Fairy Witch" and "Dream" integrate mythological and mystical elements, symbolizing the fusion of different traditions and beliefs.

6. "The Gates of Justice" reflects legal and moral questions through multicultural relationships, emphasizing justice as the foundation of social harmony.

7. "The Collapsed Alliance" and "In the Fatherland" examine friendship, loyalty, and homeland values, highlighting how multicultural understanding strengthens social bonds.

8. Finally, the novella "Bomba" addresses contradictions between ideals and reality, reflecting on how social justice depends on the coexistence of diverse cultural perspectives.