Journalism issues in Sheki’s literary environment in the 20th century
(based on the creativity of Mustafa bey Alibeyov, Nurpasha Hummetov and Tofig Gaffarov)

The article describes the development of journalism in Shaki in the 20th century. The main goal of the author is to highlight the influence and role of publicity in the development of the literary environment in Sheki. The role of the regional press in the development of journalism and some examples of the journalistic legacy of Mustafa bey Alibeyov, Nurpasha Hummetov and Tofig Gaffarov, who were talented publicists of the time, are systematized by the researcher and taken as the object of analysis. The article stands out for its scientific innovation as an initial step in the study of journalistic heritage in the Sheki literary environment.

Keywords: publicism, publicist, article, “Sheki worker”, “Ipekchi”, N. Hummetov, T. Gaffarov, Mustafa bey Alibeyov.

Introduction

Characterizing the content and essence of journalism, Professor Vugar Ahmed rightly writes: “Publicism as social literature being the most active field of literature, is a literary field that conveys what the people, the public, society, and the population want to know” [1; 3]. In the years 1900–2015, publicism was at the root of literary-cultural and social-political propaganda in Shaki which was directly related to the press. At that time, publicism gained dominance in the press and influenced the social-political, literary-cultural world of thought. Shaki writers published articles of various contents on the pages of local newspapers and central periodicals, and journalism became a consistent tool in their hands to influence the society. In the studied years, publicism in Shaki was rich in terms of ideas and topics and covered problems related to social-political, social-moral and literary issues of Shaki and Azerbaijan as a whole. In the researched period of time, the representatives of journalism in Shaki’s literary and cultural life were Mustafa Bey Alibeyov, Nurpasha Hummetov, Teymur Khalilov, Sabir Efendiyev, Nizami Nabiyev, Mahyaddin Abbasov, Vagif Aslan, Shahid Mammadkarimov, Alashraf Shayan and others. “Sheki Fahlesi” and “Ipekchi” newspapers had a leading role as the main journalistic press. Interesting examples of socio-political and artistic journalism, socio-political articles, feuilletons, questions and answers, news and reviews were published on the pages of “Sheki Fahlesi” newspaper. “Ipekchi” newspaper was not far behind “Sheki Fahlesi” in this matter. The pages of both newspapers were dominated by articles that were the basis of journalism. These articles were devoted to literary, cultural, historical, moral, spiritual, as well as socio-political issues.
At the head of the journalistic struggle of “Sheki Fahlesi” and “Ipekchi” newspapers were Mahyaddin Abbasov, Nizami Nabiyev, Teumur Khalilov, Akif Salamov, Salis Mammadov, Nurpasha Hummetov, Tofiq Gaffarov, Sabir Efendiyev, Alashraf Shayan, who were editors and reporters of the newspaper.

Methods

The article used historical-comparative, hermeneutic and descriptive methods.

Results

Mustafa Bey Alibeyov was one of the publicists who played an important role in Shaki’s literary and cultural life at the beginning of the 20th century. At the beginning of the 20th century, Mustafa Bey, who gained fame as a lawyer, was also known as a publicist, writer, and dramatist and was an active member of the “Yashil Qalam” writer’s union during the Azerbaijan Democratic Republic. In his publicism, the economic issues that occurred in Azerbaijan, especially in Baku and Baku suburbs, were reflected, and the article “Absheron Oil Island” was written for this purpose. This interesting journalistic example was first made known to the world of science in 2000 by the literary critic Kheyrolla Mammadov. The article is presented to readers in two parts. In the first part, called “Fear of wasting an opportunity”, the author is afraid of the illiteracy and lack of knowledge of the people of his time, and warns that the land of Absheron, “every sand of which is equal to gold”, may pass into the hands of foreigners due to the ingratitude of his contemporaries. And so it happened. Muslims, who are ignorant of science and economics, cannot control themselves and sell their oil fields to foreigners because of their ignorance. The author, who feels regret about this issue, writes: “Did our gentlemen who sold those places to foreigners become a state themselves? No! However, remaining in their ancient ignorance, they took the small amount they received for a short period of time and spent it on entertainment in the country of foreigners and sometimes here” [2; 109]. The deplorable situation that has arisen hurts the heart of the enlightened Mustafa Bey. The danger of enslavement to foreigners in one’s native land made the author get afraid. The most terrible thing is that those who have been insulted by a foreigner do not want to wake up and understand their rights. At the end of the first part of the article, the author hates the gentlemen and landlords who sold their ancestral lands to foreigners and bought potatoes and cabbages from them, cursing them with the phrase: “There is nothing left in the hands of blokes, no head no bandage” [2; 111]. The second part of the article is called “The intention to create Islamiyyah-partnership-guidance and three attempts to do so”. The main question that bothers Mustafa Bey is how foreigners and non-neighboring nations can create more than a hundred companies in a strange place, but not us? The facts that we will bring from the article are thought-provoking. The publicist seems to be conveying to his readers the content of the old saying “Yersiz goldi, yerli qaç”(which literally means when new settlers come there is no place left for natives): “Approximately 25 thousand Iranian Muslims work only as porters and laborers in Baku mines, and more than twenty thousand Kazan Muslims work only as carriage drivers, telephone drivers and porters, and about thirty thousand Lezgi Muslims work as guards, blacksmitthers, and bodyguards engaged in guarding, tinsmithing, jewelry and shoemaking” [2; 111]. I wonder if ours can’t do what foreigners do? Is it due to ignorance and illiteracy? According to the author, of course not! Then the author mentions the names of Haji Zeynalabdin Taghiyev, Shamshi Asadullayev, Agamusa Naghiyev and Murtuza Mukhtarov in his notes and reminds the reader that they helped everyone as owners of wealth. So, it is ignorance and illiteracy that prevent development. In order to serve his contemporaries, Mr. Mustafa decides to create a company. However, due to the ignorance of the local ulama, the author cannot buy land. It is written in the article: “...I declared that it is possible to buy ten hectare of good oil land in Surakhani with three thousand rubles, but they replied that “we — muslims cannot have such partners among us. And we can’t take our hard-earned money and give it to Surakhani” — they said and dispersed” [2; 118]. Apparently, the author’s first attempt does not work. However, eight months later, the author found out that the land he wanted to buy was sold to a foreigner with the initials Feigelman, and he got millions. Then Mustafa Bey prepared the document of “shakarati-islamiyya” and presented it to the ulama in Baku and got their approval, but in the end those ulama left with an excuse and left the work unfinished. The author’s second attempt is also in vain, and the response of the ulama to his third attempt arouses disgust in the reader: “...We, the ulama tribe, are the priests of a prikhod and live our lives with the donations of the community in a way. ...If we work hard and collect a hundred manats from one place and become founders or members of this company, the community will probably not look at us from a spiritual point of view and call us merchants. Since our livelihood is with the community, we cannot get involved in such affairs” [2; 119]. In the article, the author puts the Armenian national bigotry against the national lack of zeal of the Muslim scholars with heartache and writes: “...our
neighbor, the great priests and catalikos of the Armenians declared many things for them. But at the same time, there was an Armenian nation standing on the branch of the Catholicos with their lives and goods” — they dispersed” [2; 119-120]. Confessions of Muslim scholars born out of ignorance and ignorance does not discourage the author. Hoping that the nation will wake up one day, he prepares a fifty-point manifesto and organizes the “Shararati-Hidayati-Islamiyya” oil society in Baku. In the 20s and 30s of the 20th century, the “Nukha worker” and “İpekçi” newspapers gathered publicist thinkers and about 200 workers-peasant correspondents.

Journalistic writings of Mahyaddin Abbasov, Rasul Rasullu, Lutfali Hasanov, Teymur Khalilov, Nizami Nabiyev, Sabir Efendiyev, Salis Mammadov, Akif Salamov and others were editors and correspondents of the newspaper from the first years of “Sheki Fahlisi” until 1991, when it stopped publishing, reflected Sheki’s social-political, economic-cultural life from various aspects. Since we have provided information about the activities of these publicists in our notes on the publication history of the dissertation, we do not need to provide extensive notes in this section.

We can group the journalistic writings created in the literary and cultural environment of Shaki in the studied period of 1900–2015 as follows: 1. Reflection of literature and art issues in journalism; 2. Reflection of art, theater, cinema, music and other fields in journalism; 3. Reflection of economic issues in journalism; 4. The embodiment of literary portraits in journalism; 5. Reflection of educational issues in journalism. A broad reflection of the topics mentioned in journalism was manifested in the works of Nurpasha Hummetov, Alashraf Mammadov, Nizami Nabiyev, Teymur Khalilov, Vagif Aslan, Shahid Mammad-karimov, Ramiz Orser, Gurbanali Jamalov and others, who are well-known authors of the literary environment.

Journalism, which strengthened its foothold in the republican and local periodical press from the 60s-90s of the 20th century, developed rapidly in the following years, especially at the beginning of the 21st century.

In the 1960s–1980s, Nurpasha Hummetov was one of the well-known publicists who published articles in the “Sheki Fahlisi” newspaper and periodicals at the national level. Education, educational issues, creation of literary portraits, literature and art issues occupy an important place in his journalistic creativity. As a talented teacher, Nurpasha Hummatov always thought of developing students’ creativity and making them love classical and modern literature. In addition to regularly giving scientific lectures to help teachers in this field, he also published articles in various media. The progress of the research confirms that from 1963 to the end of the 1970s, the pages of the local and republic periodical press of a pedagogical and scientific nature dozens of “N. Hummetov” signed articles were published. For example, in the May 19–22, 1963 editions of the “Lenin Bayragi” newspaper, “From the experience of developing communicative speech in students” [3; 293–300], in the March 6, 1964 edition of the “Lenin Bayragi” newspaper, “Aesthetic education is an important issue ” [3; 303–306], in the May 13, 1960 edition of the “Nukha Fahlisi” newspaper, “Ways of development of student creativity in essays” [3; 268–270], “The parent is also responsible” in the issue of May 18, 1966 [3; 290–292], in the issue of November 30, “The role of fiction in the formation of the correct worldview in students” [3; 261–263], in the issue of September 1, 1967, “Speech culture” [3; 279–281], “Important issue” in the January 25 issue [3; 281], in the August 9, 1969 edition of the “Sheki Fahlisi” newspaper, “Poetry is created with hard work” [3; 306–308], in the issue of October 20, 1970 “Useful type of exercises” [3; 283–285], in the issue of August 28, 1971 “Teacher, parent, pupil” [3; 288–290], “Educative role of creative essays” in the July 21, 1966 issue of the “Azerbaijani teacher” newspaper [3; 261–263], “The role of creative tasks in speech development” in the issue of September 11, 1968 [3; 275–279], “Essays and plan” in the March 15, 1974 issue [3; 271–275] etc. dozens of articles have been published.

Nurpasha Hummetov, who created interesting examples of artistic journalism, spoke about the important problems of literature in this field and drew attention to the life and creativity of the luminaries of literature and art with journalistic reflection. His “M.F. Akhundzade and the issue of women's freedom”, “Great democrat and enlightened artist”, “Unbreakable bonds of friendship” he mentioned M.F. Akhundzade, and in the article “People’s Writer” Mehdi Huseyn's personality and creative path as an artist is mentioned. In his article “Unbreakable Friendship Strings”, the publicist introduced his students and readers to M.F. Akhundzade’s Georgi Erstavi, Odoevsky A.A. where he wrote the lines of friendship with Bestujev-Marlinski. In the article introducing Akhundzade to his readers as a person with multicultural values, the author writes: “While drinking water from the fountain of brotherhood, friendship, and solidarity, Akhundov thought of his nation and fellow citizens. This communication crossed borders. Correspons with the Indian scientist Sahib... Khasay Khan Usmiyev, who was originally a Kumyk, had great sympathy” [4]. Nurpasha Hummetov, in the article “A great democrat and enlightened artist”, reminds the readers of the
main points of the meaningful life path of a genius artist, and draws attention to the factors that played a role in his formation during the years he worked in Tbilisi with the pen of a talented publicist. Showing the influence of Akhundzadé’s literary and critical meetings, he writes: “The irreplaceable talent of M.F. Akhundov educated a large group of progressive thinkers, writers, revolutionary-democrats in the countries of the Middle East” [4]. “In Akhundzade and the issue of women's freedom, the author describes the most relevant topic of Akhundzade studies. The fact that the Eastern woman, whom he always wanted to see free, was enslaved by the veil, always made Akhundzadeh think, he created interesting female images in his works. As an excellent literary expert in the article, commenting on the female protagonists of Akhundzade’s comedies, where women's freedom issues are discussed, he turns to the comedies “Monsieur Jordan and Dervish Mastali Shah” and “The Story of the Appeal Lawyers”. The author notes that “M.F. Akhundzade created the image of Azerbaijani women who think deeply, fight against injustice, are intelligent and shrewd, and raise their voice of protest with the images of Ms. Shola, Ms. Nisa, Ms. Farzad, Ms. Sona, and Ms. Tukez” [4]. Nurbasha Hummetov’s publicism includes the topic of creating a literary portrait. He wrote the article “People’s writer” on the occasion of the 60th anniversary of the famous prose writer Mehdi Huseyn. Nurpasha Hummetov met Mehdi Huseyn at the “Sabuhi” literary event in Shaki and presented his works to the writer. The progress of the research confirms that Mehdi Huseyn met with the Sheki writers while he was in Sheki many times with the folk poet Bakhtiyar Vahabzade and guided their creative path. The author’s reflections in the article are vital. There is a crowd in the Okhud village secondary school headed by N. Hummetov for the anniversary of Mehdi Huseyn. A writer’s creative evening is held at the school. The writer’s letter of thanks to the school students on the occasion of the anniversary is one of the interesting artistic details of the article. N. Hummetov was a creative teacher. As a literature specialist, he sprinkled his creativity according to literary norms and rules, and gave necessary recommendations for the creative path of the young members of “Sabuhi”. In this regard, the article “Suragat Gurbani” written by him about Suragat Gurbani, a member of the “Sabuhi” literary assembly from Balakan, is one of interesting publicist records. Commenting on Suragat Gurbani’s creative path, Nurpasha Hummetov writes: “Suragat is a teacher in the Katex village school of Balaken district. As he loves his profession, he often speaks in front of readers as a talented poet. In Gurbani’s poems, Motherland, love and self-sacrificing work of heroic Soviet people are glorified with inspiration” [5]. In his article “Poems, Dreams and Emotions” [3; 327–330], Nurpasha Hummetov spoke about literature and art issues and gave recommendations by evaluating the creativity of young literary forces who sent poems and stories to the editorial office of “Sheki Fahlesi” newspaper. In the article “Beautiful dream ways” [3; 333–336], the author, while commenting on the works of young poets, confirmed that the artistic work is a means of reflecting human feelings and dreams in poetic language. The penman’s essays “Our Teacher Nabat”, “Great impression”, “Work and joy”, “Sweet desire, beautiful work”, “Work and wish”, “Birthday in the family of a soldier” also met the requirements of the journalistic style, the author focused on more influential topics like the development of the person and society.

In the studied years, interesting examples of literary journalism were also written by Tofiq Gaffarov. Literature and art, school and education, literary portrait, theater and culture, historical topics were included in his journalism, and he wrote seventeen articles in this direction. In his article “The issue of women's freedom in “Letters of Kemaluddovla”, which is one of the interesting examples of his journalistic meetings analyzing M.F Akhundzadé’s female heroes, he opposed the spread of religious fanaticism like a plague in the 19th century. Tofiq Gaffarov, defending the human ideals of the genius philosopher, writes: “M.F. Akhundzade felt all the bitterness of the spiritual sufferings of Muslim women who trampled on their rights for many years, and acted as a benevolent and militant defender of women's rights” [6; 258]. Literary articles of Tofiq Gaffarov, who was a literature expert with rich knowledge, have rich ideas and rich content. The content of the article proves that the publicist has the ability to select and summarize facts. In his article entitled “Founder of our public satire”, the satirical work of Gasim Bey Zakir, one of the carriers of satirical ideas of the 19th century, is discussed. Determining the targets of the poet’s criticism, the author writes: “In the poet’s works, “scholars who turn their backs on God”, pilgrims who poison the people’s mouths, and “authorities who control the village of orphans” are exposed in dark colors. These satires are so serious that they arouse bitter hatred rather than laughter in the reader” [7]. In order to promote not only national literature, but also the creative path of representatives of Russian literature, in his articles “The standard-bearer of our poetry” and “The great friend of the Azerbaijani people” the author writes about the art world of Mayakovsky, one of the founders of Soviet poetry, and Maxim Gorky’s visit to Baku. In his journalistic articles, he created Nizami (“Great patriot”) [6; 286–289], Vagif (“Beauty lover”) [6; 292–294], M.F. Akhundzade’s (“the greatest philosopher of the East”) [6; 266–268], Samad Vurgun (“Folk poet and Islamic
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(religion”) [6; 264–266] literary portraits. Sheki’s theatrical life was also included in Tofig Gaffarov’s journalism. The articles “Wedding”, “Master and Margarita”, “For the sake of moral purity” are from this series. The author expressed a literary attitude to the performances he watched on the stage of the Shaki State Drama Theater named after S. Rahman and evaluated their role in the development of the cultural environment. The article written by the author’s art friend, local dramatist Mammad Chalabiyev, about the stage version of “The Erroneous Cain” meets all the requirements of journalism. The author sees the success of the play in the unity of the director and actors and writes: “All the components of the play, the work of the artist (S. Arabov), the use of musical pieces, are adjusted according to a good ensemble of actors and help a lot to reveal the real idea in a strong director’s structure” [6; 276].

Conclusion

In conclusion, we can note that in the 20th century, the newspapers “Sheki Fahlesi” and “Ipekchi” played an important role in the development of journalism in the literary environment of Sheki. Both newspapers played the role of the main tribune for photo writers to express their journalistic views. As it can be seen from the analysis, the photo publicists wrote interesting examples on social-political, literary-artistic, scientific-economic topics by applying to various genres of publicism, which are of great importance for studying Shakin’s scientific-literary, social-political and economic life.

References

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K.Ф. Адиширинов

XX ғасырдағы Шекі әдеби ортасындағы журналистика мәселелері
(Мұстафа бей Әлібеков, Нұрпаши Гумметов және Тофик Гаффаров шығармашылығы негізінде)

Макалада XX ғасырдағы Шекіндегі журналистикалық дамуы сипатталған. Автордың негізгі мақсаты — Шекіндегі әдеби ортандың дамуында жұмыс істейтін жұмысшының қоры мен ролін көрсету. Журналистикалық дамуындағы аймақтық баспасөздің ролі мен оның өзінің таңдамасы жұмыс істейтін публицист болған Мұстафа бей Әлібеков, Нұрпаши Гумметов, Тофик Гаффаров туралы журналистиқ мұрақсатын кейібір жұмысшыларды жәрдемді тарапаның жұқылығын, талдау нысанын ретінде алынған. Макала шекіндің әдеби ортадағы журналистиқ мұрақсаты тұрғындардың тұрғындарының қадамын ретінде өзінің ғылының жаңалығымен ерекшеленеді.


K.Ф. Адиширинов

Проблемы журналистики в литературной среде Шеки в XX веке
(на основе творчества Мустафы бей Алибекова, Нурнаша Гумметова и Тофика Гаффарова)

В статье описано развитие журналистики в Шеки в XX веке. Основная цель автора — осветить влияние и роль рекламы в развитии литературной среды в Шеки. Роль региональной прессы в развитии
журналистики и некоторые примеры журналистского наследия Мустафы бей Алибекова, Нурпаш Гумметова и Тофика Гаффарова, которые были талантливыми публицистами того времени, систематизированы исследователем и взяты в качестве объекта анализа. Статья выделяется своей научной новизной как начальный шаг в изучении журналистского наследия в шекинской литературной среде.


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