

ALI YUSIF RAI AT THE LEVEL OF NATIONAL INDEPENDENCE STRUGGLE

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The article explores the profound impact of socio-political changes on Azerbaijani literature during the early 20th century, highlighting how the struggle for independence and national identity shaped the works of intellectuals like Ali Yusifzadeh. Through poetry and journalism, these writers championed freedom, resilience, and the spirit of Azerbaijanism, even in the face of repression and exile, leaving a lasting legacy in the nation's literary and cultural history.

Key words: literature, independence, Azerbaijan, Ali Jalal Yusifzadeh.

The new life and environment reflected itself more in literature. The change of time directly caused a change in the topic, genre, and approach in literature. Young people who hope for a clear future and those who dedicate their pen to the struggle for freedom are clearly fighting against occupation and deprivation, and this process created the foundation for the formation of the intellectual class of the time. M.A. Rasulzadeh, A. Huseynzadeh, S. Huseyn, M. Hadi, A. Muznib, Umgulsum, A. Javad, A. Abid, J. Jabbarli, Aliyusif, A. Shaiq, A. Sahhat, etc. he was one of the active representatives of the new literary process that emerged according to the time. The Azerbaijan Democratic Republic was formed thanks to the strong faith and fighting literature of such ideologues. It can be said with certainty about this period that "In the Free People's Republic, independence began with independence in consciousness and ideology" [3, v.1, p.102].

The influence of the experienced victory can be felt in the poems of the young poets on the theme of independence, so chanting was the main place.

The joy of victory was recorded, independence was preached and applauded. Ali Jalal Yusifzadeh was born in the family of Jalal Yusifzadeh, a well-known educator, and as a poet, a clear intellectual, played a fundamental role in the formation of the environment in which he grew up from an early age. Ali Yusif, who showed interest in poetry and literature at an early age, wrote a number of poems under the pseudonym "Rai". "From the tongue of an orphan against the west", "Don't go", "Guests", etc. he wrote his poems under this pseudonym. Ali Yusif, who collaborated with "Isiq" magazine when he was still studying at Shusha Real's school, presented here the play "Fish and Cat", the story "Difference of Mothers", and at the same time translated Krylov's poem "Iki kotan" into Azerbaijani and published it in this magazine. Ali Yusifzade started his creativity with translation. In February 1913, another poem by Ali was published in the "School" magazine. This poem called "My Motherland" was a clear proof of his talent and love for the Motherland.

My country, my parent-honor,

I will not forget you for a moment.

If someone forgets my homeland,

They are great criminals in front of the truth [6, p.37].

Ali Yusif, who moved to Baku with his family after the establishment of the Republic of Azerbaijan, took an active part in the work of "Green Pen" and "Literary Society". The writer published articles and poems glorifying the ideas of independence and freedom in newspapers and magazines "Azerbaijan", "Independence", "Basirat", "Way of salvation". On December 7, 1918, on the occasion of the opening day of the Parliament of the Republic of Azerbaijan, the article "Prometheus" was presented in the special issue of "Azerbaijan" newspaper. During his stay in Baku, he came in contact with Muhammad Amin Rasulzadeh, Nasib Bey Yusifbeyli, Ahmad Javad, Jafar Jabbarli and other intellectuals of our country. In his poem "Azerbaijani-respectable Nasib Bey", written on the day of the opening of the parliament, the poet compares this day to the dark night and the moonrise. Expressing that "living independently" is a wonderful feeling, Ali Yusif claimed that the new days of the East began with Azerbaijan: [8, p.32].

Ali Yusif persistently emphasizes that the ideas of national independence will shine, grow and rise despite all the difficulties, and also that independence is the slogan and dream of all small nations. Adib writes in the article "Milli kayamiz" ("Azerbaijan" newspaper. 1918, December 10): "Caucasian nations also want to build their lines and movements on this building; "Georgia is proving that it wants to live independently by achieving some successes in this regard". ("Azerbaijan" newspaper, December 7, 1918).

When the Azerbaijan People's Republic was founded in 1918, he had just turned 20 years old, and on January 14, 1920, he was sent abroad to study with 99 young people. On this occasion, the poem "Farewell" of the young Turkic poet is published in "Istiqlal" newspaper on January 12. When going on a long journey, he asks for halal from his mother and elders, who grew up under the influence of any culture, from his motherland, which he considers halal as his mother, and which he accepts as his national identity. Also, it is possible to witness the pure emotions of the citizen poet of an independent country, who is ready to fulfill his duties for the sake of the future of the people, the nation, and his love for his native land [7, p.173]. During the years Ali Yusif was studying, Russian troops invaded Azerbaijan. Although he had to face great difficulties after the fall of the republic, he showed perseverance, endured hardships, and eventually returned to his homeland. "In his poem, Ali Yusif raises his voice of protest against the ghosts and traitors who took over the head of his country, his village, and calls them to withdraw from this land, to put an end to these robberies and bloodshed" [7].

Azerbaijanism, national spirit, feelings of attachment to the motherland and land form the basis of the writer's journalistic articles and poems. After the occupation of Azerbaijan by the Bolsheviks on April 27, 1920, the citizen poet who returned to his homeland in 1923 worked for a while in the editorial office of the "Communist" newspaper, as well as being an active member of the Azerbaijan Literary Society. The subsequent fate of the poet was very sad, and the wave of repression did not escape Ali Yusif. N. Kahramanli's research shows that on February 28, 1927, Ali Yusif was exiled to Solovki (Far North, where the Onega Bay of the White Sea enters). It is known from history that in those years, Solovki was the place where political prisoners were subjected to the most severe torture and brutality. Ali Yusif, who was subjected to suffering and torture in a distant land, does not turn away from his actions and beliefs here. He was sent to Tashkent in 1937 and shot on August 18, 1938. Justifiably, M.A. Rasulzae paid special attention to Ali Yusif in his work "Contemporary Azerbaijani Literature" and called him "the poet Ali Yusif, who did not continue the brutal torture of the Soviet executioners and died for the happiness of the homeland fighters in the distant tundras of Siberia." He is an independence poet whose perseverance and poetry fervor do not diminish despite his young age:

Turkish son! God sent you to the East,

Shake the sleeping country brother, raise it, wake it up!

Invite each individual to a new happy life,

Burn a natural fire in your heart that will not go out [10, p. 170].

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