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PATRIOTISM IN CHILDREN'S POETRY

(Based on the work of Zahid Khalil)

Abstract:

Poetry has a significant impact on the spiritual and intellectual development of children, instills cultural and moral values, attracts their interest, and makes learning enjoyable. For this reason, poetry is considered an important means of communication and education with children. Zahid Khalil has made great contributions to the development of Azerbaijani children's poetry. The poet's poems such as "Azerbaijan", "Eagle-winged country", "Oh great Turk", "Mother of books", "Alley of Martyrs", "My flag", "My language", "Salatyn", "Do not call me your son, homeland" are important examples of poetry based on the expression of national pride. In these poems, Zahid Khalil conveys his deep attachment to the homeland, his sense of responsibility for the future of Azerbaijan and the entire Turkish world, as well as his love for the common people, to his young readers. The elements he incorporates into his poetry serve as symbols of heroism and love for the nation. They depict not only the memory, past, and history of an individual but also that of an entire people, emphasizing the importance of instilling national values in future generations. Although the heroes in each of the poet's works have their own unique nature and character, what unites them is their deep love for their homeland. Each literary hero can serve as a guiding light in the future lives of children. Children's literature is a field with its own unique characteristics, and poems written in this genre must meet certain criteria. Poets should create works that reflect a child's world, considering their worldview, cognitive development, and language skills. Simplicity, clarity, and a suitable rhythm are essential elements, all of which characterize Zahid Khalil's poetry. Each piece aims to nurture children's thinking and imagination.

Key words: *Zahid Khalil, poetry, children, patriotism*

Poetry plays a crucial role in children's development by instilling cultural and moral values, engaging them, and making learning enjoyable. For this reason, it is considered an essential means of communication and education for children. Zahid Khalil has made significant contributions to the development of Azerbaijani children's poetry. His works for children consistently reflect values such as patriotism, humanity, friendship, and citizenship. Khalil began his literary career at the age of 16 with his poem "My Homeland", published in the "New Yevlakh" newspaper. In this

poem, he expresses his deep love for his homeland in a simple and sincere way. “My Homeland” was not only a significant first step in his literary journey but also laid the foundation for patriotism to become a central theme throughout his work. Until now, Zahid Khalil's books, including “Flying Lamps” (1969), “Ants” (1971), “I Know Colors” (1972), “Three Apples Fell from the Sky” (1974), “Birds, Birds” (1977), “The Toragays Are Singing” (1979), “Tales of Grandma Chirag” (1983), “New Adventures of the Dwarf and Azman” (1986), “On the Blue Sea” (1986), “Hello Dwarf” (1986) (in Russian), “The Capital of the Land of Fire” (1992), “The World’s Smallest Fairy Tales” (2004), “Orkhan and His Friends” (2004), “Selected Works” (in 8 volumes) (2008), “White Storks” (2016), “Iron Fist” (2021), etc. have been published. The poems collected in these books demonstrate that Zahid Khalil, who possessed a deep sense of observation, brought unique and vivid depictions of nature to life in a style perfectly suited to the world of children, introducing a fresh spirit to Azerbaijani children's poetry. The poet remarked in one of his interviews: ‘My poems “Flying Lanterns” and “Gusheppeyi” connected me to the world of children with unbreakable threads” [6, p.340]. By embedding his love for Azerbaijan’s culture, history, and nature into his poetry, Zahid Khalil enriched children's literature and ushered in a new era in this field. Volume I of the poet’s “Selected Works” features numerous captivating examples under the section titled “Children’s Poems”. The simple language, vivid imagery, and heartfelt messages in Zahid Khalil's works aim to nurture children's imagination while imparting important life lessons. In this regard, the poem “Plane trees' Dream” stands out, as it evokes a deep sense of attachment to the Motherland and love for the land leaving a profound impact on young readers. “Zahid Khalil's poetic thoughts are consistently refined and enriched with artistic techniques, further enhancing their appeal and resonance with children. This distinctive quality constitutes the primary goal of the poet's works, both great and small” [4].

The poem “Children of Shusha”, written in 1970, reflects the natural beauty of Shusha as well as the purity and boundless energy of the children who live there.

Nowhere else are mountains so strong, / They stand so high, so tall, so long. / They raised Shusha to the sky, / So the world, from far and wide, / May see the children, bright inside [9. p.200].

In the final paragraph, the poet personifies the strength and grandeur of Shusha's mountains. These mountains are depicted as so mighty that they seem to elevate Shusha, making it visible to the entire world. The intention is to showcase the beauty of Shusha and the vitality of its children to a global audience. The poem’s language is simple yet impactful, enriched with vivid descriptions that bring the landscape and its spirited children to life, captivating the reader's imagination. The poem allows the reader to experience both the breathtaking beauty of Shusha and the boundless energy of its children. In this work, Shusha and its children are portrayed as the pu-

rest and most beautiful embodiment of nature and life. “Accurate observation of children's life and its celebration in poetry, rich means of expression, and artistry are among the best qualities of Z. Khalil's poems” [4].

Zahid Khalil's poem “Oh Homeland” [7, p.164] passionately conveys a profound love for the homeland and a deep sense of national pride. The poet portrays the homeland as an inseparable part of the human soul, emphasizing that love for the homeland is invaluable and immeasurable. The language used by Zahid Khalil is rich and effective. The fluidity and rhythm of the poem also attract the reader's attention. The homeland is not only a geographical location, but also a symbol of national identity, history and culture. Zahid Khalil describes the homeland as a mother and states that he is ready to make any sacrifice for it. Fuzuli Askerli, who gave a worthy value to Zahid Khalil's artistic heritage, wrote: “The secret of Z. Khalil's creativity as a writer is quite simple. He simply deeply feels the scientific sphere of the era, realistically understands the ideological direction of the modern literary process, its moral and aesthetic value, and the moral needs of his readers. He prefers to write works that instill feelings of love for the homeland and shape consciousness, brings themes that seem interesting to children and arise from life observations to literature and tries to create a series of original images. He knows well that the future development of Azerbaijani children's literature can be guaranteed by a literary path that cannot be traveled alone” [2, p.67].

Zahid Khalil's poems “Eagle-winged Country”, “Mother of books”, and “Azerbaijan” are also important examples of poetry expressing patriotism, love of the nation, and respect for the historical and cultural heritage of Azerbaijan. In these poems, Zahid Khalil presents to his readers his love and commitment to both nature and the homeland, his responsibility for the future of Azerbaijan, and his love for his people. “Eagle-winged country” is a work that embodies the pride of the Azerbaijani people, their desire for independence and freedom. Here, the eagle is used as a symbolic image, representing freedom, power and height. Zahid Khalil emphasizes that Azerbaijan is an independent and strong country, and also recalls the people's determination to fight, the battles they fought for freedom and sovereignty. “Eagle-winged country” on the one hand represents the physical beauty of Azerbaijan, its mountains, rivers and nature, and on the other hand, the spirit of the people, their strength and will on the path to independence. The poem “Mother of books”, is a poem expressing Zahid Khalil's personal feelings, as well as his commitment to his nation's past, history and culture. Here, “My Father's Voice” is used as a symbol of heroism and love for the nation, depicting the memory, past, and history of not just one person, but an entire nation, emphasizing the importance of instilling the right values in future generations. This is a sign of respect for their 'fathers' who died for the independence of their homeland. The poem also expresses the connection between generations, a transition from the past to the future. The poem “Azerbaijan” is one of the most magnificent

examples of Zahid Khalil's deep love and devotion to his homeland. Describing Azerbaijan as a family, a homeland, and a mother, the poet emphasizes the sacredness of this land and reminds readers of the importance of protecting it and uniting as a nation. "In Azerbaijani children's poetry, works written on the theme of the homeland are more complete and colorful in both content and form. In these poems, Azerbaijan's fascinating nature, magnificent history, unique ethnographic and social world, and bright future come to life before our eyes" [3, p.24].

The poems "Salatyn" and "Do not call me your son, homeland", which are included in the 5th volume of Zahid Khalil's "Selected Works", attract particular attention due to their subject matter and purpose. In the poem "Salatyn", Azerbaijani national hero Salatyn Asgarova embodies the courage and patriotism of Azerbaijani women, and calls on readers to fight for the homeland. The poem "Do not call me your son, homeland" emphasizes the importance of love for the homeland in a person's life and the duty of every individual to contribute to its development.

The main message of Zahid Khalil's poem "Iron Fist" is the importance of national unity and strength. Through the phrase "iron fist", the poet emphasizes the nation's determination in its fight for justice: *Iron fist - this beautiful word / In the language of the people, / An iron fist is like iron / In the hand of a man. / An iron fist is five fingers, / But it is a great country, / It is courage, it is bravery. / Neither hesitation, nor "maybe". / He explained who is a pit, / Who is a mountain. Who is wrong, Who is right* [9, p.10].

Bahman Aliyev writes in his article "A writer who flourishes the love of country": "This work is about the young generation of Azerbaijan growing up and becoming "me," becoming an "Iron Fist". To be me! It is a people entering into bloody battles for their homeland, liberating their lands after 30 years of occupation. It is affirming their existence on the battlefield! The examples of children's literature created by our prominent writer Zahid Khalil also contributed to the creation of this 'me'. Years passed, and the child who grew up with longing for Karabakh became a warrior who liberated his lands from occupation" [1, p.85].

Although some researchers do not consider the literature created about the war to be sufficient, the victory achieved suggests that the artistic word has strived to fulfill its spiritual mission over the years. The magical power of the word also played a significant role in uniting everyone, including the Azerbaijani soldier—the fighting hero of the homeland—around the Supreme Commander for the sake of victory and liberating Karabakh, a part of the Holy Motherland, from enemy occupation. In the literature created from now on, the topic of Karabakh will undoubtedly be presented not as a dark tragedy etched into our history, but with moments of pride, even if it is about pain and sadness. The whole world witnessed the proud re-waving of our flag in the ancient homeland and the restoration of our territorial integrity. Zahid Khalil's

poems “Alley of Martyrs”, “My Flag”, “My Language”, and “Oh great Turk” exemplify these themes with great enthusiasm.

Although the heroes in Zahid Khalil's works each possess their own unique nature and character, they are united by one fundamental trait—their deep love for their homeland. These poems depict the unwavering devotion and strong faith of patriotic sons toward their country. Such literary heroes can serve as guiding lights in the future lives of children. One such remarkable example is the poem “On the Path of Steel”:

You have unjustly stirred / The blood of this nation. / Now it will show you / Noah's great flood. / On the path of Steel, / A hundred more steels will rise. / In the land of Koroglu, / Horses take flight. / I have always spoken of peace, / I do not seek war. / But if it roars, / I will stand in the square [9, p. 200].

The poem recalls our ancient history, while fluently conveying the exploits of modern heroes.

Zahid Khalil's poem “Mothers' Wish for Peace” is a work that touches on both lyrical and social themes.

Mothers' wish for peace, / The dawn that breaks, the morning that shines. / From a mother's wish, / Doves take flight. / A mother's smile / Can silence roaring cannons. / If war begins, / Her tears turn to arrows for the enemy. / From a mother's smile, / A million flowers bloom. / From a mother's tear, / The whole world fades away [8, p.215]

In the poem, the mother stands out as the most important and purest image in the protection of peace, love and society. In this poem, Zahid Khalil describes the pain caused by war, violence and murder through the eyes and hearts of mothers. The poet highlights a mother's longing for a peaceful future, as well as the sorrow that war, chaos, and conflict bring to people's lives. Mothers do not only wish for the happiness of their own children but also for a peaceful and harmonious life for all children and the world's nations as a whole. In this sense, the poet's ‘desire for peace’ is both personal and universal. “Mothers' Wish for Peace” is written in a rhythmic and musical style, making it easy for children to remember and sparking their imagination. At one time, Hokuma Najafova composed beautiful music for the poem. Through simple yet deeply meaningful words, the poet guides the reader toward peace, moral values, and the essence of humanity. Tabriz holds an important place in the history and culture of Azerbaijan, and the poet conveys the significance of this city in poetic language in the poem “Roads stretch from Tabriz to the world”:

Roads stretch from Tabriz to the world / The roads have been through many storms. / Beyond the Araz, stars burn, / In memory of the sons who have faded. / Where are the sons who sleep beneath the hat? / Tabriz is imprisoned, like a precious gem! / The roads stretching from Tabriz to Baku, / Are severed, like unfinished lives [8, p.41].

As can be seen, the poem is a perfect example of highlighting feelings of patriotism and nationalism and conveying the importance of preserving national identity and culture to children and youth. It emphasizes the history, culture of Tabriz, and the city's connections with the world, as a source of pride for the Azerbaijani people. The poem's poetic language, vivid imagery, and rhythmic flow leave a deep impression on readers. Researchers attribute the widespread use of the theme of nature in poetry to the diversity and geographical features of our homeland's landscape. Zahid Khalil's poems "Kura River", "Waves", "Wind and Angel", "Sun and Pomegranate", "May", "The Waves Screamed", "Summer", "Evening Falls on the Sea", "Children's Mistake", "Snow", "Sun", "Night", "Rainbow", "Star", "Path", "Autumn", "Cherry", "Lily", "Poppy", "Mushroom", "Pumpkin" and others are a reflection of feelings about nature with subtle and deep descriptions. His work reflects the different moments of life and the uniqueness of the seasons. Each poem depicts a specific moment, feeling, or impression of nature and life, inviting the reader to think, feel, and appreciate the beauty of nature. In his recent poem "Plane Tree", the poet employs interesting and effective similes to depict the characteristics of trees. The plane tree is portrayed as a symbol of strength, longevity, and deep roots, drawing parallels to human life—particularly to a mother's love for her son.

The plane tree is like a human, / Its five-fingered leaves, / Its roots run deep, / Holding the earth firmly.... / Mothers tell their sons:

"Grow tall like a plane tree." / They take pride in the plane tree, / And boast of their son.

Tell me, where else but in my homeland / Can you find sons like plane trees, / And plane trees like sons? [7, p.180]

The plane tree, which holds a special place in Azerbaijani culture and folklore, symbolizes the significance of family values and intergenerational bonds. It also serves as a powerful expression of love for the nation and a symbol of national pride.

Zahid Khalil's poems hold great significance, particularly in children's poetry. He skillfully develops children's worldview while presenting nature and society in a unique way. Each poem is rich in meaningful messages. His works encourage children to be more attentive and not only protect nature but also take responsibility for their own lives. As can be seen, children's literature is a unique field with its own distinctive characteristics, and poems written in this genre must meet certain criteria. Children's poetry should be written with careful consideration of a child's worldview, mental development, and language skills. Poets should understand the psychology and emotions of children and write poems that express their world. Simplicity, clarity, and a well-balanced rhythm are important factors in children's poems. As is known, Azerbaijani children's poetry has always been marked by continuous development and qualitative innovations. The energy source of Zahid Khalil's creativity is the national-spiritual culture of the people, the system of values, and the folklore memory. The rich folklore heritage of the people serves as both a source of inspiration

and an artistic ideal for the poet. Using the richness of the Azerbaijani language, its idioms, speech expressions, and figurative elements, he created invaluable examples and revealed the endless possibilities of the national language.

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UŞAQ ŞEİRLƏRİNDƏ VƏTƏNPƏRVƏRLİK

(Zahid Xəlilin yaradıcılığı əsasında)

Xülasə: Şeir uşaqların mənəvi və idrak inkişafında mühüm rol oynayır, onlara mədəni və əxlaqi dəyərlər aşılrayır, maraq oyadır və əylənərək öyrənmələrinə kömək edir. Bu baxımdan şeir uşaqlarla ünsiyyət və tərbiyə prosesində mühüm vasitə kimi qəbul olunur. Şair, nasir, dramaturq, jurnalist, redaktor, tərcüməçi, tədqiqatçı və pedaqoq kimi çoxşaxəli fəaliyyəti ilə seçilən Zahid Xəlil Azərbaycan uşaq poeziyasının inkişafına mühüm töhfələr vermişdir. Şairin “Azərbaycan”, “Qartal qanadlı Vətən”, “Ey böyük türk”, “Kitabların anası”, “Şəhidlər küçəsi”, “Bayrağım”, “Dilim”, “Salatın”, “Vətən mənə oğul demə” kimi şeirləri milli qürur və vətənpərvərlik ideyalarının ifadə olunduğu mühüm nümunələrdəndir. Zahid Xəlil bu əsərlərində vətənə bağlılıq hissini, Azərbaycanın və ümumilikdə bütün türk dünyasının gələcəyinə görə məsuliyyət duyğusunu, eləcə də sadə insanlara olan sevgisini gənc oxuculara təqdim edir. Onun poeziyasında istifadə olunan bədii elementlər qəhrəmanlıq və millət sevgisinin simvolu kimi çıxış edir. Bu əsərlərdə təkcə bir fərdin deyil, bütöv bir xalqın yaddaşı, keçmişi və tarixi təsvir olunur, milli dəyərlərin gələcək nəsillərə ötürülməsinin vacibliyi vurğulanır. Şairin əsərlərində təsvir olunan hər bir obraz özünəməxsus təbiətə və xarakterə malikdir. Lakin onları birləşdirən əsas cəhət vətənə duyulan dərin sevgi hissidir. Hər bir ədəbi qəhrəman uşaqların gələcək həyatında mənəvi bələdçi rolunu oynaya bilər. Uşaq ədəbiyyatı

özünəməxsus xüsusiyyətləri ilə seçilən xüsusi bir sahədir və bu sahədə yaradılan poeziya müəyyən tələblərə cavab verməlidir. Şairlər uşağın dünyagörüşünü, zehni inkişafını və dil bacarıqlarını nəzərə alaraq onun dünyasını ifadə edən şeirlər yazmalıdırlar. Bu baxımdan sadəlik, aydınlıq və uyğun ritm Zahid Xəlil poeziyasının əsas səciyyəvi xüsusiyyətlərindən hesab olunur.

Açar sözlər: *Zahid Xəlil, şeir, uşaq, vətənpərvərlik*

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ПАТРИОТИЗМ В ДЕТСКОЙ ПОЭЗИИ

(на основе творчества Захида Халиля)

Аннотация: Поэзия играет важную роль в духовном и познавательном развитии детей, формирует у них культурные и нравственные ценности, пробуждает интерес и способствует обучению через увлекательное восприятие художественного слова. В этом смысле поэзия рассматривается как важное средство общения с детьми и их воспитания. Захид Халиль, объединивший в своей многогранной деятельности качества поэта, прозаика, драматурга, журналиста, редактора, переводчика, исследователя и педагога, внес значительный вклад в развитие азербайджанской детской поэзии. Такие стихотворения поэта, как «Азербайджан», «Родина с орлиными крыльями», «О великий тюрк», «Мать книг», «Улица шехидов», «Мой флаг», «Мой язык», «Салатын», «Родина, не называй меня сыном», являются яркими примерами выражения национальной гордости и патриотических чувств. В этих произведениях Захид Халиль раскрывает любовь к Родине, чувство ответственности за будущее Азербайджана и всего тюркского мира, а также уважение и любовь к простым людям. Используемые в поэзии художественные элементы выступают символами героизма и любви к народу. В произведениях поэта отражается не только судьба отдельной личности, но и историческая память, прошлое и история целого народа, подчеркивается важность передачи национальных ценностей будущим поколениям. Каждый из художественных персонажей в произведениях поэта обладает собственной природой и характером. Однако главным объединяющим их фактором является глубокая любовь к Родине. Каждый литературный герой может стать нравственным ориентиром для детей в их будущей жизни. Детская литература представляет собой особую область со своими специфическими особенностями, и поэзия, создаваемая в этой сфере, должна соответствовать определённым требованиям.

Поэты должны учитывать мировоззрение ребёнка, уровень его интеллектуального развития и языковые способности, создавая произведения, отражающие детский мир. В этом контексте простота, ясность и гармоничный

ритм являются важнейшими характерными особенностями поэзии Захида Халиля.

Ключевые слова: *Захид Халиль, поэзия, ребёнок, патриотизм*
Rəyçi: *filologiya üzrə elmlər doktoru Elnarə Akimova*