



Section 6. Philology

DOI:10.29013/EJHSS-25-1-46-49



THE LITERARY ENVIRONMENT OF KARABAKH IN THE 19th CENTURY: FEATURES, DEVELOPMENT AND INFLUENCE

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Cite: Valiyeva I. Kh. (2025). *The Literary Environment of Karabakh in the 19th Century: Features, Development and Influence*. *European Journal of Humanities and Social Sciences* 2025, No 1. <https://doi.org/10.29013/EJHSS-25-1-46-49>

Abstract

The literary life of Karabakh in the 19th century is an important aspect of the cultural heritage of the region, which found itself at the crossroads of many civilizations. This period was a time of turbulent changes in socio-political and cultural life, which also affected the literary environment. Both local writers and poets and external factors, including the influence of Persian, Turkish and Russian cultures, played a major role in the development of Karabakh literature. Karabakh, like many other regions of the Caucasus, was subject to political and cultural influences, which led to the emergence of a unique literary tradition that combined elements of Persian and Ottoman cultures, as well as the Russian literary tradition at the end of the century. This article will examine how the literary environment of Karabakh developed in the 19th century, what themes and genres were predominant, as well as the influence of external factors on the literature of the region.

Keywords: *literature, literary language, poetry, philology, linguistic phenomena*

Introduction

Karabakh literature, like the literature of many peoples of the Caucasus, has deep roots dating back to ancient times. The main literary traditions of the region were formed in the Middle Ages, when Karabakh was part of various cultural worlds such as Iran, the Ottoman Empire and later the Russian Empire. An important stage in the formation of Karabakh literature was the spread of Islamic culture and the Persian language, which became the main language

of literature and science in the region (Zotova, 2005).

However, the 19th century was a time when important changes in cultural life took place in Karabakh. The development of Karabakh literature during this period is directly related to the political transformations and the annexation of the region to the Russian Empire at the beginning of the 19th century. This opened up new opportunities for the influence of Russian culture, literature and science (Jabbarli, 1982).

1. Social and political changes in Karabakh in the 19th century

The political changes that took place in Karabakh in the 19th century also had an impact on the development of literary life. In 1805, the Karabakh Khanate was annexed to the Russian Empire, which significantly changed the socio-political atmosphere of the region. Russia, which became the new political power, introduced Western elements into cultural life, including the education system and literary values. This also contributed to the spread of Russian literature and language (Aliyev, 1997).

Despite this, the region continued to maintain strong ties with Persian and Turkish cultures, which was reflected in Persian literature and genre features of works. Thus, bilingual and multilingual literary life continued in Karabakh, uniting various cultural traditions.

2. Literary genres and themes in Karabakh literature of the 19th century

The literature of Karabakh in the 19th century developed in various genres that combined elements of Eastern and Western literary traditions. Genres such as poetry, prose, and literary forms closely related to religious and philosophical thought prevailed (Suleymanova, 2003).

3. Poetry; Prose and folk art

One of the brightest representatives of the poetry of Karabakh in the 19th century was Molla Panah Vagif, a poet and philosopher whose work left a noticeable mark on the culture of not only Karabakh, but also the entire Caucasus. Vagif is the central figure of Karabakh poetry and the continuer of the traditions of Persian and Turkish poetry. His poems touch on a wide range of topics: love, nature, philosophy and politics (Taghiyeva, 2000).

Prose in Karabakh developed later than poetry, but the 19th century also saw the emergence of works that reflected social and cultural changes. These included short stories that depicted the lives of ordinary people and social issues such as poverty, inequality, and the struggle for justice. Epic genres such as battle songs and tales also continued to develop in folklore, and were passed down orally and influenced the literary traditions of the region.

4. Influence of external cultures and literature

One of the most significant factors that influenced the development of Karabakh literature in the 19th century was the influence of Russian culture. This was expressed both in the translation of works by Russian writers and in the adaptation of Russian literary form and style to local conditions. Many Karabakh writers, such as Ismailbey Guliyev, translated Russian classics and sought to integrate elements of Russian literature into their works (Guliyev, 1995).

At the same time, the strong influence of Persian and Ottoman literature remained. Persian remained an important language of culture, and many authors continued to write in it, creating works in classical genres such as ghazals and rubai.

5. The importance of the Karabakh literature of the 19th century for subsequent generations

Karabakh literature of the 19th century had a significant impact on the cultural development of the region in the 20th century. It became the basis for the formation of national identity and cultural traditions that are preserved and developed to this day. The literary achievements of this period also played an important role in creating ties between the various ethnic and cultural groups of the Caucasus.

6. Mirmohsun Navvab: A Poet with a Philosophical View of Life

Mirmohsun Navvab (1833–1918) was born in Shusha, the cultural capital of Karabakh at that time. His native language was Azerbaijani, and he wrote most of his works in this language. His name has become synonymous with the intellectual poetry of Karabakh. In his early youth, Navvab showed himself to be a talented poet, studying Arabic and Persian literature classes, as well as philosophy and law. He was familiar with the cultural and philosophical trends of his time, which was reflected in his works.

Navvab was not only a poet, but also an outstanding public figure, lawyer, diplomat and activist. Despite his high cultural background, he remained very close to the people, which gave his poetry a special strength

and spontaneity. He was a supporter of the spread of education among the people and was actively involved in literary activities, collaborating with a number of famous writers of that time.

His work is characterized by deep philosophical reflections, as well as attention to issues of social justice, national identity and cultural revival. In his poems, Navvab often addressed the theme of the liberation of the people from oppression, expressed hope for a bright future and the ideal of justice. His poems are full of images and metaphors, which makes them extremely expressive and meaningful.

One of Navvab's most famous works is the poem «Gulsheni-Sheyda» (translated as «Flowerbed-Mad»), in which he touches upon the issues of love, beauty and eternal values. He is also known for his philosophical poems devoted to the issues of religion, life and death, in which he embodies the idea of searching for inner harmony.

7. Natavan: The Legendary Poetess of Karabakh

Natavan (1832–1897) was an outstanding Azerbaijani poetess and writer, born in Shusha, who was known not only for her talent, but also for her strong social feeling. She belonged to a noble Karabakh family, was the daughter of the last khan of Karabakh, and in her life she became a symbol of nobility and humanity. Her literary heritage is significant for the history of not only Azerbaijani, but also Caucasian literature.

Natavan was deeply passionate about poetry from an early age. Her poetry was distinguished by its sophistication and beauty, as well as a bold approach to important topics such as love, social values, the fate of women in traditional society and national identity, which was rare for women of that time. Unlike many of her contemporaries, Natavan wrote not only for a narrow circle of the elite, but also addressed a wider audience, which brought her the love and respect of the people. One of her most famous works is a cycle of poems dedicated to love and the grief of lost love. Her poetry is permeated with drama and sincere experiences. Natavan used el-

ements of Persian and Arabic classics in her poetry, but at the same time brought unique features to it, reflecting her personal philosophy and attitude to life. In her works, Natavan also addressed social issues, touching on issues of oppression of women, poverty and injustice in society. She was the voice of those whose rights often went unnoticed, and through her poetry she protested against social injustice (Taghiyev, 2011).

Despite the differences in their lives and characters, the works of Navvab and Natavan have much in common. Both poets were deeply connected with their native land and folk culture, their poems reflect love for their native land, culture and language. At the same time, their works touch upon universal themes – from love and philosophy to social structure and the struggle for human rights. The works of both authors reflect the desire for an ideal, as well as the desire to inspire the people to fight for justice and human dignity.

Particular attention should be paid to their role in preserving the Karabakh and Azerbaijani cultural traditions in conditions when the region was subjected to various external and internal trials. Mirmohsun Navvab and Natavan played a key role in preserving the identity of their people and maintaining the spiritual and cultural heritage of Karabakh with their poetry. Their works had a profound impact on the development of Azerbaijani literature in general and continue to serve as a source of inspiration for many generations.

Conclusion

The literary environment of Karabakh in the 19th century is a vivid example of the synthesis of various cultural and literary traditions, which led to the emergence of a unique literary tradition of the region. The influence of Persian, Turkish and Russian cultures, as well as the political changes that occurred at that time, created conditions for the flourishing of the literary life of Karabakh. The work of such outstanding personalities as Molla Panah Vagif became an important legacy that continues to influence the literature and culture of the Caucasus.

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submitted 13.01.2025;
accepted for publication 27.01.2025;
published 18.02.2025
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