

## ТЕОРІЯ ТА ІСТОРІЯ ЖУРНАЛІСТИКИ

---

UDC 070

DOI <https://doi.org/10.32838/2710-4656/2022.2-2/38>

**Gulieva G. D.**

Baku State University

### THE FORMATION AND DEVELOPMENT OF PRESS STUDIES IN AZERBAIJAN

*The purpose of this article is to consider some aspects of the development of journalism in Azerbaijan, its achievements in the field of press study. It is noted that from time to time attention was paid to research questions on this topic and interesting research papers were written. However, it should be noted that this process is not carried out consistently and systematically. However, journalism, including the press, plays an invaluable role in the formation and strengthening of socio-political values in the development of society.*

**Research methods.** *In the course of the study, methods of comparative analysis of textual documents, methods of analyzing historical facts, general scientific methods of literary criticism, historiography and press studies were used.*

**Novelty.** *In the article, along with textual criticism, literary criticism, historiography, press studies, an issue that plays an important role in the study of events in society, the history of the literary process, the ways of its development, characterizing their socio-political conditions, political and historical events is also considered. that cause these conditions.*

**Conclusions.** *Summing up, the author comes to the conclusion that important work has been done and continues to this day to study the history of the press. True, the vast majority of them were written in accordance with the ideological "rules" of the Soviet era, so the events and facts were not interpreted with the same accuracy and were far from being objective. However, this does not give us reason to deny all these steps in the study of the history of the press. On the contrary, precise and thorough investigations should be carried out and benefited from them.*

*It is noted that the subject of research is at the intersection of the press, history, literature, political sciences, theoretical and methodological concepts characteristic of these sciences are widely used. In order to clarify the scientific and theoretical picture in the field of Azerbaijani journalism, to clarify the position of critics, journalists, publicists and publishers with different worldviews in the literary and historical struggle, theoretical provisions reflecting advanced research principles are widely covered.*

**Key words:** *formation, press, Azerbaijan, journalism, ideology*

**Introduction.** The development of science is possible only through the logical results of consistent and in-depth research and generalizations. In fact, this process is necessary for all fields of science. The development of journalism in Azerbaijan, the achievements in the field of press studies have been involved in research from time to time and interesting research works have been written. However, it should be noted that this process is not carried out consistently and systematically. However, journalism, including the press, plays an invaluable role in the formation and strengthening of socio-political values in the development of society. As one of our scholars said, "it is a documented, formalized

form of national-historical life, ethno-psychological thinking, socio-political events. By studying the press, we also shape our identity, clarify the realities of history, and draw conclusions from the experience of public life in the past.

The press is a historical source that presents the historical reality as a whole system in chronological order. Therefore, the materials of this source, its creators, writers, their political worldview, goals, etc. allows you to collect objective information. At the same time, the periodical press also reveals the atmosphere, socio-political, economic and cultural scenery of the period in which it functions. In this sense, the correct and honest study of our history

of journalism is also relevant. In other words, the press is the key, the mirror of history because studying the press, which covers all the socio-political, literary, cultural, historical and economic events that take place in life, is to study history itself.

It is especially important to study the Azerbaijani press. It is true that the press in Azerbaijan emerged much later than in developed countries. However, "his interference in social processes began from the very beginning. Thus, in the West, the press has long played the role of disseminating information. Over time, the privileged forces began to use the press as a means of publication, to gain influence in society and derive benefit from being in power. In Azerbaijan, the national press has tried to fulfill its enlightenment mission from the first day" [1, p. 20–21].

Suleyman Sani Akhundov noted: "There are two ways to open people's eyes: the press and the theater." [2, p. 1]. Although the creative intellectuals of the time skillfully used both methods, they benefited more from the press. Therefore, Tsarist Russia did not allow the Azerbaijani people to create national media for years in order to prevent them from realizing their national identity.

The attitude to history, past, cultural and spiritual heritage has always been relevant for the social sciences, especially after the re-independence of our people (1991), it is important to reconsider the history of development of Azerbaijani science. Under the influence of ideological dogmas for many years, it was necessary to reconsider and evaluate the achievements studied and explained. Today, in the most responsible period of building an independent state, the correct, accurate study, assessment and publicity of our national and moral values, our historical past is of great importance.

Therefore, in this dissertation, we aim to purify the achievements of the Azerbaijani press for a century (1900–2000) and to clarify the shortcomings.

The level of problem study As noted, important work has been done to study the history of the press and continues today. It is true that the vast majority of them were written in accordance with the ideological "rules" of the Soviet era, so the events and facts were not interpreted with the same accuracy, at a high scientific and objective level, and no accurate generalizations were made. However, this does not give us a reason to deny all these steps in the study of press history. On the contrary, accurate and thorough research should be conducted by benefiting from them.

Since the beginning of the 20<sup>th</sup> century, the content, language, ideas, and activities of newspapers and magazines have been involved

in research. After 1920 research has clearly shown a bias arising from the demands of the Soviet regime and ideology. In this bias, the activity of the «Bolshevik and revolutionary-democratic press» was exaggerated, all the achievements of the country were connected with their name: «The Bolshevik and democratic press wrote glorious pages in the history of Azerbaijan» [3, p. 319]. Our national-spirited press was presented as «spreading reactionary ideas that were hostile to the freedom movement, rich cultural wealth, native language of the Azerbaijani people, and enslaved to tsarism and the bourgeoisie « by branding "bourgeois, reactionary".

In many articles and scientific books written after 1991, most of the above-mentioned shortcomings have been eliminated, and a new approach to the re-exploration of the history of Azerbaijan's press has been felt. Numerous valuable works have been published in the field of emigration and research in the Southern press.

Among these studies, it is possible to come across research works that directly are related with our topic and, to one degree or another or touch upon the subject of the topic. Our prominent scholars paid attention to the achievements of press history in their articles, books and pamphlets devoted to the development of historiography, literary criticism and generally science in Azerbaijan, and expressed their views on their scientific and practical significance. For example, A. Sharif, Z. Ibragimov, H. Almirzayev, A. Mirahmadov, N. Akhundov, A. Sumbatzade, E. Tokarjevcki, I. Strigunov and others did not do thorough research on scientific works on the history of the press, but they expressed a certain attitude. However, it is safe to say that a consistent, comprehensive study of this problem has not yet been conducted.

Due to the fact that the subject of research is located at the junction of the press, history, literature, political sciences, the theoretical and methodological concepts specific to these sciences are widely used. In order to clarify the scientific and theoretical picture in the field of Azerbaijani journalism, to clarify the position of critics, journalists, publicists and publishers with different worldviews in the literary and historical struggles, the theoretical provisions reflecting the advanced research principles are widely covered.

**Main findings.** Along with textual studies, literary criticism, historiography, press studies also play an important role in the study of events in society, the history of the literary process, ways of development, the socio-political conditions that characterize them and the political and historical events that

give rise to these conditions. Our press, which has a rich history, was also involved in research during the Soviet era, mainly in accordance with the methodology of literary criticism and historiography. Due to the lack of a special methodology in the field of Azerbaijani journalism, the study of our press has been studied mainly by the history of literature and literary criticism, which is a branch of literary criticism.

In fact, the press, which constantly brings literary processes, historical and political events to the public's attention, is closely connected with many areas. Therefore, when studying the history of Azerbaijani journalism, it is necessary to study a number of subjects, in particular, the history of Azerbaijan, the history of Azerbaijani literature, the history of the development of public opinion in Azerbaijan. In terms of studying the theoretical problems of journalism, as well as determining the prospects for its future development, the study of problems such as the elimination of distortions in the classical heritage and their causes, and so on is of great importance in view of studying this scientific field.

As the history of our press begins with "Akinchi", the history of our press studies begins with "Akinchi" and the works written about H. Zardabi such as monographs and scientific books. One of the first such research articles belongs to H. Zardabi, who laid the foundation of our press. He talks about the attitude of the people to him and, finally, the reasons for the closure of the newspaper in the article "The first Turkish newspaper in Russia" published in the newspaper "Hayat" (See: "Hayat" newspaper; December 28, 1905 and January 3, 1906)".

Since all the cultural, literary and social events that took place in the renaissance and rise of our people in the late 19th and early 20th centuries are related to the name, life and work of H. Zardabi. Zardabi studies is in the center of special attention in our republic before and after the Soviet era. The study of this heritage (far from the ideological aspect today) is important for tracing the history of the development of Azerbaijani socio-philosophical thought.

The Azerbaijani journalists who pursued and developed the creative traditions of the founder of our national press H. Zardabi, also "adapted and improved his ideas, scientific and theoretical views on journalism to a new era, and achieved the establishment of national journalism. This experience of scientific and theoretical thinking, the arsenal of historical truths and the clarity of national memory are important as sources of modern Azerbaijani methodology and serve as a reference point to determine its methodological basis" [4, p. 4–5].

First of all, in order to study the history of the formation and development of national journalism, it is necessary to look at the history of the establishment of the press system in Azerbaijan, to clarify the issues of formation of journalism. To do this, the complex socio-political events of the period and the historical conditions that affect it must be disclosed, the impact of different currents of ideas on the process must be studied.

The first articles written in the field of Zardabi studies mainly cover the years 1900-1920. In the articles F. Kocharli's "Hasan bey Malikov", J. Hajibeyli's "Memory of Hasan bey Malikov", H. Vazirov's "Hasan bey Malikov", "Hasan bey Malikov's creativity", N. Vazirov's "My dear, dear teacher Hasan bey", where Zardabi is presented not only as the founder of our national press, but also as a public figure who played a major role in the development of our education, culture, theater, history of public opinion, and our philanthropic mission.

In the second decade of the 20th century, "the press, which regulates the national public consciousness, had a strong influence on the more successful pursuit of literary and artistic thought in Azerbaijan, challenging the interference of the literary process in public life" [5, p. 46]. At the same time, the transformation of the press into an institution of public opinion, an invaluable tool in the struggle for free speech, truth and justice, increased its prestige and value in society, and began the process of creating a perfect press system in Azerbaijan. In order to comprehensively study the history of the press and press of this period, to analyze it down to the smallest detail, first of all, the activities of individual journalists and media bodies of this period must be independently studied. Because most of them were also engaged in research of the press, and journalistic, literary-critical articles, scientific-theoretical opinions are still important today. In the research works written during this period, "the history of the period was approached from the point of view of national interests and the correct concept was defined". These articles belong mainly to MA Rasulzade, MB Mammadzade, J. Hajibeyli, F. Agazade. Although there are some small flaws and inaccuracies in these studies, they do not diminish their historical, literary and political significance in the slightest. On the contrary, these researches, which cover an important stage in the history of the Azerbaijani press, reflect valuable ideas and approaches, which bring to life the conditions under which the press of that period was formed and developed.

Acting within the ideological framework of the USSR, the press, which was informed and man-

aged from a single information center, “the product” of the time, “did not come naturally to the literary process, public opinion, it was brought administratively.”

However, during the years of Soviet rule, “the theoretical concept and mechanism of action of Azerbaijani journalism differed significantly from the previous stage” [6, p. 190–196], but during these years, much has been done in the development and research of the Azerbaijani press.

We must not forget that the development of science also requires an organized, systematic approach. Therefore, organizational work began to be done for the development of science, including journalism. The Soviet state paid as much attention to this area as it did to everything. He was very interested in the direction and content of the research. From the 1920s until the fall of the regime, the state focused on the establishment of certain institutions to maintain control over this area. In the early 1920’s, the Institute of Party History, in 1923, the “Society for the Study and Study of Azerbaijan”, in 1934, the Azerbaijan branch of the USSR Academy of Sciences, in 1945, the Academy of Sciences of the Azerbaijan SSR, in 1963, the Press Committee under the USSR Council of Ministers was created. In 1970–1980, the “Press Department” functioned at the Academy of Sciences of the Azerbaijan SSR. These organizations, like other fields of science, have done some work in the study of the history of the press.

During the years of Soviet rule, they defined the methodology of studying the literary process in our country with the Marxist methodology, and the research, like the activity of the press, was carried out in accordance with the ideology. Literary criticism was far from objective, and only created examples in accordance with Marxist-Leninist theory, so the ideological, sociological and aesthetic qualities of the time manifested themselves in those examples. During the Soviet period, the study of the Azerbaijani press began mainly in the mid-20s, and on April 12, 1925, a commission was established to celebrate the 50th anniversary of the Azerbaijani press. According to the decision of the commission, works, articles, scientific books and memoirs on the history of the Azerbaijani press are written.

Most of the research conducted during the Soviet period after the occupation of April 1920 (mainly until the late 1980’s) was adapted to the demands and nature of the regime. In these works, events and facts have not been interpreted and researched at a high scientific, objective level, and accurate and precise generalizations have not been made. From time to time,

the attitude to historical facts, problems and their authors in these sources was different. Therefore, in these studies, not only the scientific-methodological approach is different, but also the logical sequence and many facts are wrong.

As mentioned above, the study of the Soviet-era press, as well as the press, is undoubtedly a special stage in the history of the Azerbaijani press. The frameworks and principles set by the Soviet regime and communist ideology forced the press, newspapers and magazines, as well as researchers of the history of the press, to comply with the requirements of the time. Journalist Shirmammad Huseynov writes: “The Azerbaijani press as a historical science began to develop and form only in the post-war period, and a number of works on the history of the press began to be published.” However, before the war, in the first decades of the 20<sup>th</sup> century and in the 1930’s and 1940’s, opinions and opinions were expressed about the Azerbaijani press and its history, and a large number of articles and works were written and published. This is described in detail in the first half of the first chapter, “Formation and development of national journalism” and in the second half of the second chapter, “Basic principles of approach to the press in Soviet research.” Even after 1950, “the progress of the social sciences in the republic, the beginning of the creation of generalized works and monographs on the history of Azerbaijani literature and press” countless articles and works about many of our national media, including “Fuyuzat” and “Molla Nasreddin”, led to the recording of memories.

Although these research works are written on the basis of Marxist-socialist theory, they can partially play the role of a reliable source in the formation of our press as they have interesting and valuable facts that reflect the history of our journalism, the study of our press heritage, and it would not be right to deny them.

It is a fact that in the seventy years of our existence in the Soviet reality, along with our literature, our press has played a great role in the formation, survival and promotion of national thought. In particular, the last “30 years (1960–1980), although unequivocally confirmed in this sense, it is not right to go beyond the previous 40 years.”

Despite the fact that the Azerbaijani press operated under the strong influence of communist ideology during the Soviet era, it endeavoured to preserve its national identity since the early 1960s. This was also reflected in the study of the press, and the late 1960s and early 1970s marked the beginning of a new stage in the development of Azerbaijani journalism. The southern theme, the integrity of Azerbaijan,

the widespread promotion of the native language, etc. Topics were reflected in the press before literature, and published articles and works are proof of this.

It is true that some of these research works “do not fully meet the latest scientific and social needs. However, this idea is not a renunciation of the existing scientific heritage, nor a claim against it. “It is the fundamental research on the history of our press heritage that has been written since 1960 that today plays a partly positive role in the study of the history of our press. Although they have ideological and methodological errors, they have rich archival facts, documents and so on. var. It was in those years that some researchers dealing with the history of the study of our press heritage expressed their solidarity with our views in the 1990’s. In their articles, speeches and scientific works, they repeatedly stressed the need to re-examine the history of research of our national press, which has undergone a rich development, in an ideologically distant way.

It is clear from the researches that both in the beginning of the 20th century and in the following decades a lot of attention was paid to the study of Zardabi’s multifaceted activity, study of his historical services and delivery to our people.

Since the early 60s, H. Zardabi’s views on various scientific fields, public activities have become the object of research of our scientists, including dissertation research. Starting from this period, a number of practical steps have been taken to collect and publish the rich literary and scientific heritage of H. Zardabi. First of all, it is necessary to mention prof. Ziyaddin Goyushov, the prominent Azerbaijani philosopher, among the scientists with special services in this field,

Z. Goyushov collected and systematized the works, letters, articles written by H. Zardabi, critically assessed the heritage of rich, comprehensive ideas, highlighted various aspects of his worldview and tried to determine the role of Azerbaijan in the history of socio-philosophical thought.

Different books, monographs, articles and dissertations of great importance in the study of Zardabi’s legacy were written during the Soviet period. As mentioned above, the main drawback of these works, as well as research written in the 1930s and 1940s, was that they were in line with the principles of Soviet-

communist ideology. Therefore, there was a need for a comprehensive study of Zardabi in modern times because it is relevant for each period. H.Zardabi’s life, heritage, “Akinchi”, cooperation with other media outlets (especially “Hayat”, “Kaspi”, “Debi-stan”, etc.) enlightenment meetings, his activity in the Duma should be studied more deeply and carefully and made available to the scientific community. The problems raised in these speeches indicate the solution of very important and topical issues today (especially the national issue). So, those who say from “Akinchi”, Zardabi’s legacy, “the more written and spoken, the more useful and useful” are right. “Zardabi’s work experience on the press, Akinchi’s lessons, creative traditions, ideas were systematically continued in Azerbaijan and today form the scientific-theoretical and methodological basis of our national press.”

Although the press became the “wheel and propeller” of the Soviet propaganda machine, this does not mean that Azerbaijani journalism did not gain anything during the Soviet era; for example, the popularity of the press, the further improvement of its language and style, the increase of professionalism, and so on. This period also had its own peculiarities, and at that time some of our research works on the history of our press were able to overcome the “rules” of the period, at least in part. Among the authors of such works we can name Aziz Sharif, Aziz Mirahmadov, Kamal Talibzade, Nazim Akhundov, Abbas Zamanov, Kheyrolla Mammadov, Agarafi Zeynalzade, Gulam Mammadli, Islam Agayev and others. They have written numerous articles and works on the study of the history of the Azerbaijani press and its theoretical problems. In these works, they overcame the “rules” of the time and expressed valuable opinions and objective opinions.

**Conclusions.** For the purpose of proper studying the history of Azerbaijan journalism, it is prudent to involve the publications of South Azerbaijan, emigration period and Azerbaijan community publications based on which veridical and comprehensive view on Azerbaijan press formation and development can be worked out. This research presents the essence and content of journalism and provides substantial and theoretical view on formation and development of Azerbaijan press as an independent and important science in Azerbaijan Republic.

#### References:

1. Mehdiyev M. Azərbaycan jurnalistika tarixi (1832-1920). Tədris-metodik vəsait. Bakı : BDU-nəşr, 2013. 70 s.
2. Azərbaycan EA M.Füzuli adına Ədəbiyyat İnstitutu. S.S.Axundovun arxivi, II. Q-4 (132). I (6360), s. 1.
3. Mirəhmədov Ə. Azərbaycan ədəbiyyatına dair tədqiqatlar. Bakı: Elm, 1983. 364 s.
4. Azərbaycan mətbuat tarixi antologiyası: [3 cildə]. Bakı: Elm və təhsil, c. 1, 2010. 439 s.

5. Vəliyev, Ş. Azərbaycan ədəbiyyatı və mətbuatından araşdırmalar (2000–2010): 2 cilddə] / Ş.Vəliyev. – Bakı: Elm və təhsil, c. 1. 2011. 544 s.

6. Quliyeva Q. Sovet dövrü tədqiqatlarında mətbuatşünaslığın metodoloji prinsipləri. BDU-Xəbərlər. Humanitar elmlər seriyası. 2016, N-2, s. 190–196.

### Гулієва Г. Д. СТАНОВЛЕННЯ І РОЗВИТОК ПРЕС-ДОСЛІДЖЕНЬ В АЗЕРБАЙДЖАНІ

**Мета цієї статті** розглянути деякі аспекти розвитку журналістики в Азербайджані, її досягнення у галузі вивчення преси. Зазначається, що до питань дослідження з цієї тематики іноді зверталася увага і були написані цікаві дослідження. Проте слід зазначити, що цей процес не здійснюється послідовно та системно. Проте журналістика, зокрема преса, грає неоціненну роль у формуванні та зміцненні суспільно-політичних цінностей у розвитку суспільства.

**Методи дослідження.** У процесі дослідження було використано методи порівняльного аналізу текстологічних документів, методи аналізу історичних фактів, загальнонаукові методи літературознавства, історіографії та пресознавства.

**Новизна.** У статті, поряд з текстологією, літературознавством, історіографією, пресознавством також розглянуто питання, що грає важливу роль у вивченні подій у суспільстві, історії літературного процесу, шляхів його розвитку, що характеризують їх суспільно-політичні умови, політичні та історичні обставини, які викликають ці стани.

**Висновки.** Підбивши підсумки автор приходить до такого висновку, що була зроблена і триває досі важлива робота з вивчення історії преси. Щоправда, переважна більшість робіт було написано відповідно до ідеологічних «правил» радянської епохи, тому події та факти не були інтерпретовані з тією ж точністю і були далекі від об'єктивності. Однак це не дає нам підстав заперечувати всі ці кроки у вивченні історії друку. Навпаки, слід проводити точні та ретельні дослідження, окреслюючи нові факти та відомості.

Наголошується, що предмет дослідження знаходиться на стику преси, історії, літератури, політичних наук, широко використовуються теоретичні та методологічні концепції, характерні для цих наук. З метою прояснення науково-теоретичної картини в галузі азербайджанської журналістики, з'ясування позицій критиків, журналістів, публіцистів та видавців з різним світоглядом у літературно-історичній боротьбі широко висвітлюються теоретичні положення, що відбивають передові дослідні принципи.

**Ключові слова:** освіта, преса, Азербайджан, журналістика, ідеологія