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## THE HUMAN FACTOR IN MODERN AZERBAIJANI PROSE

**Abstract.** The article examines the human problem in modern Azerbaijani prose. The primary goal of the article is to conduct a comparative analysis of prose works on modern human problems. The main purpose of examining human problems in prose is to strengthen students' analyzing, critical thinking, and intellectual development of moral qualities. It is known that prose is a popular genre in Azerbaijani literature; it is a style of writing that follows the conventions of speech and language. In addition, modern Azerbaijani prose discusses the causes of qualitative changes and how they affect human affairs. Nevertheless, modern literature has some difficulty promoting the latest basic concepts. Another goal of the article is to help students develop the versatility of artistic images as well as the ability to express natural feelings and thoughts. From this point of view, modern Azerbaijani prose should enrich students' ideas about new human thinking and diversity. In addition, studies show that the evolution of literature can affect the quality of human elements in prose works and lead to various changes, innovations, and conflicts in fiction works. Comparative analysis of prose works plays an excellent role in solving human problems and gives characteristics of modern man. Events in society shape human character in literature. Therefore, the comparative analysis of various prose works revealed the qualities of a new intellectual person in modern Azerbaijani literature. To carry out this analysis, it is necessary to set up an experiment. 18 third-year students (12 girls, 6 boys), 3 teachers, and an associate professor were involved in the research methods of the experiment. The experiment lasted two months to identify and compare the human problem in the prose genre. Data were collected using both qualitative and descriptive statistics. According to the findings, the texts reveal that some historical heroes have evolved from harsh and cruel to benevolent leaders who are beloved by their people for their honesty and heroic image.

**Keywords:** modern Azerbaijani prose; human problem; fiction; critical thinking; digital era.

## INTRODUCTION / ВСТУП

**Formulation of the problem / Постановка проблеми.** According to recent studies, the human condition is usually depicted in literature as love, violence, oppression, joy, and courage, and is represented by themes with morals or lessons that anyone can understand when reading the text [17]. Some arguments in the texts make it difficult for us to engage cognitively and emotionally with new ideas, imaginations, and human experiences. The main problem is that the discontinuity in the transformation of the new characters put forward to support modern prose works into a living image is not ensured. In addition, such readings of written texts in modern Azerbaijani literature do little to help us understand the different ways people live and interact in the world [1], [4], [6], [15], [19].

**Analysis of major research and publications / Аналіз (основних) останніх досліджень і публікацій.** During examining the problem, various research papers were analyzed, and several scientific research papers were introduced on this issue. Russian scientists such as J. Conovalova [17], A. Adamovich [18], and S. Sharifova [20] identified the main character of the heroes in several processes, but they described very few points on the modern evolution of human changes. Moreover, there have been several works on developing human problems in prose, including their critical and creative thinking, imagination, and making changes in society. Their works highlight that the use of non-artistic expression in literature and journalism to address social issues is becoming less common. Instead, authors and journalists are opting for more colorful and realistic characters to effectively convey their message. This shift should gradually eliminate the use of simplistic language and journalistic tone. The placement of the plot and structure is crucial to the shift in artistic standards in literature.

## AIM AND TASKS / МЕТА ТА ЗАВДАННЯ

Introducing this issue allowed to improve the purpose of this study – to enhance young readers' understanding of modern Azerbaijani prose, we aim to highlight the evolving human character.

The *aim and tasks* of the experiment of the study were as follows:

- to explore the methods of depicting the growth of a new individual in modern Azerbaijani literature;

- to identify the key features that offer solutions to human problems in literary works;
- to introduce significant changes that impact the development of characters portrayed in the prose genre;
- to explain how the prose genre is evolving in the digital era;
- to assess the features of new human growth in a multicultural world.

## **THEORETICAL BACKGROUNDS / ТЕОРЕТИЧНІ ОСНОВИ**

Since the beginning of the twenty-first century, the actualization of artistic-documentary prose has sparked debate, and the new human characterization is a key concept in many recent studies as a problem. The fundamental components of prose are character, setting, plot, point of view, and mood. Character encompasses biographical information, personality traits, social roles, and psychological factors like aspirations, fears, and personal values. The fact that the human problem is a universal theme in literary prose is studied to better understand the stages of human social life, as well as the sense of self and purpose that distinguishes us from other social beings.

G. Maslow highlighted the term "*human problem*" refers to the issues that various people face throughout their lives [8]. Prose works written from this perspective explore the human condition through themes such as identity, relationships, and loss. J. Conovalova's [17] investigation of the human problem in the prose genre manifests itself as a special artistic quality, the form of direct expression of mental processes; literature revives in a wide and detailed way the inner evolution or world of thoughts, which cannot be compared to "external" and "general sign."

The human factor in prose is defined by its role in society, psychological makeup, reaction to events and conflicts, and advancement in social life [13], [20]. There are seven different types of conflict: character vs. character, character vs. self, character vs. society, character vs. fate, character vs. nature, and character vs. technology. Conflict is important because it is what keeps a story interesting. Today technology can affect more on human development than others [11], [18].

R. Ohmann [11] introduced the elements of prose include *character, plot, setting, theme, point of view, conflict, and tone*. All seven elements work together to form a cohesive narrative. When writing a story, these are the basic building blocks you should use. Written prose has shown that it is possible to create complex human characters by describing their external actions and behaviors. These characters can have multiple layers of meaning, both positive and negative. While some portrayals may be one-sided and schematic, with a focus

on thoughts and emotions, it is important to allow for a wider range of insight into a character's world to truly understand their innermost thoughts and feelings. L. Tolstoy [19] believed that humans are multifaceted beings, capable of intelligence and foolishness, mercy and cruelty, as well as strength and weakness. We must recognize and embrace this complexity to truly understand the human experience. In his work, the great writer recognized that man is a changeable being and attempted to create a balance of stable and unstable aspects in the characters.

N. Samedova [15] indicates that the unity of stable and unstable aspects, demonstrating stupidity in a wise person, cruelty in a compassionate person, and weakness in a powerful person, were not unintentional but the result of initiatives to reconnect human psychology with its reality. The complex, ambiguous, and even paradoxical heroes of L. Tolstoy [19], as well as other psychologists and writers, are based on the important scientific fact that human psychology is adaptable and changeable; depending on specific situations and environmental factors, it can be different and contradictory for the same individual. Emotions may arise, leading to unpredictable behavior that contradicts the personality's stable character. Of course, the writer makes sure to connect the hero's complex nature to the surrounding reality.

#### *Changing Human Quality in the Genre of Prose*

Modern Azerbaijani literature is regarded as one of the most effective ways to learn about the life of a society during a specific period [4]. When it comes to modern prose, or literature from the late twentieth and early twenty-first centuries, we present entirely new topics and problems of modern society: the degradation of humanity and its psychological state, the shift in human values, and the dominance of material significance [1], [2], [3], [4], [5].

P. Guliyeva [13] and M. Sharifova [20] state that literary criticism correctly identified the main essence of the change in quality that occurred in Azerbaijani prose between the end of the 1950s and the beginning of the 1960s. Making comparisons between the recent past and the present day of prose, revealing the characteristic defects of the backward stage, aided in a better understanding of change and development. "In certain years, in certain prose works of ours, there was an extreme tendency to show labor processes and production first, followed by people. This tendency resulted in unnecessary details and storytelling. People's spirituality has become invisible in the shadow of machines" [3], [5], [8], [17].

Many of the writers who wrote lengthy works celebrating the Soviet way of life and the power of the "new" man to achieve great things often ignored the reality of life. This is particularly painful because many of these writers were talented individuals. In a society ruled by a totalitarian political regime,

literature was limited to the dimensions set by the authorities. Beautiful and truthful literature was powerless against the ideology machine, leaving authors with no choice but to conform to it and convince themselves of its "beauty". However, in the late 1950s, a partially democratic atmosphere emerged, which allowed for more creative freedom in literature. The writers took the initiative to move away from idealism and in this new stage of prose, the hero is not used as a mouthpiece for the author's ideas intended for the reader [17], [18], [20].

The modern literature is popular in increasing popularity of online literature reflects society's contemporary views, as digital tools aid in the reading of prose works [7], [8]. The latest findings indicate that most young individuals are exposed to Turkish literature as a means to gain insight into diverse cultures and the development of human conditions. Reshat Nuri Guntekin [14] was a Turkish novelist, story writer, and playwright who wrote the novel "Çalığışu" in 1937. The story follows a young Turkish female teacher in Anadolu who is highly regarded in modern Azerbaijani audiences. "Çalığışu" is a prime example of true love, being true to oneself, and the love between a daughter and her father. The novel is dedicated to inspiring young teachers to live and work in rural areas, despite facing many challenges from those who lack education. The story takes place in an old village, where modern young teachers strive to make a difference and overcome unkind events.

O. Pamuk [12], the Nobel Prize winner, has produced many acclaimed works, including "My Name is Red" (1998), "The White Castle" (1985), and "Istanbul: Memories and the City" (2003), which are considered exemplary of the development of humans in modern society.

K. Yashar, Turkish writer, who is known as was a renowned human rights activist dedicated numerous prose works to the readers to describe honesty, kindness and devoted human beings in society. His best works, such as "Ant Drinking Water" (2002), "Little Nobody I" (1980), "The Sea-crossed Fisherman" emphasized crime, murder, blaming people, as well as good vision for human development [21]. K. Abdulla [1], a scientist, national writer, public figure, and professor, delivered a series of prose works on contemporary human development. He wrote extensively on folk style, human recognition, and the use of words in speech. His novels, "An unfinished manuscript," "Valley of Sorcerers," and "There is no one to forget..." are the most popular in the modern Azerbaijani prose work series.

Analyzing her prose works, P. Guliyeva [13] commented on the facts of the Azerbaijani writer and provided an example from E. Elatli's works ("*Blackmail*" 2008, "*Silent Woman*"-2009). She described modern characters and social life lacks in her prose.



*“A young girl, who came to the city from a remote rural district with the desire to get a higher education after successfully passing the university entrance exams, faces blackmail and threats that hinder her from achieving her dreams. As a result, she experiences serious changes in her behavior, outlook, and spirituality, which are highlighted in the novel. The story shows how the feeling of fear can affect human life, with interesting scenes that depict the negative consequences of fear. The girl is unable to share her problems with her relatives, and this creates a deep gap between her and them. She becomes naturally cold to those around her, including family, relatives, and fellow students. The negative trend in her character and outlook on the world accelerates, and as a result, she is drawn into the vortex of crime. The situation worsens, and the consequences are not encouraging at all.”*

This example shows that this evident in modern society produces individuals who meet its demands. In the digital era, social media has both positive and negative impacts on human development.

The second example is Ch. Abdullayev [2], an Azerbaijani writer known for his detective stories, prose, and publicist work. He is also a member of the People's Writer of the Republic of Azerbaijan since 2005. His best novels, such as *“Blue Angels”*; Ch. Abdullayev's prose works explore the theme of significant changes in the social structure that occur due to the necessity of historical progress. The ideas of a new person are transformed in social relations, resulting in people being forcibly torn from one way of life and thrown into another, leading to deep tragedies [2], [3], [4], [5], [6].

Modern Azerbaijani prose about daily life with emphasis on social and political issues, focusing on a character's mental state and interactions [15].

An author aiming to create well-rounded characters endeavors to link the storyline with the protagonist, and construct the composition of the work based on the inner psychological tendencies of the characters.

## **RESEARCH METHODS / МЕТОДИ ДОСЛІДЖЕННЯ**

This study analyzes various prose works by writers from Turkey and Azerbaijan to gain insight into the modern human condition. Qualitative and descriptive research methods were used, and the prose works from both countries were examined to identify and evaluate common human problems.

First, the novels are compared to identify human's moral qualities and mental characters. Each writer has his own style to affect human development.

Students were advised to read more online books that highlights multicultural diversity. Their interest area was checked by giving some tests to guess the prose name and main characters. The following criteria were used to assess the students' speed:

- interest to social problems;
- having fun reading prose;
- Frequency of online reading;
- Identifying psychological factors;
- frequency of reading novels.

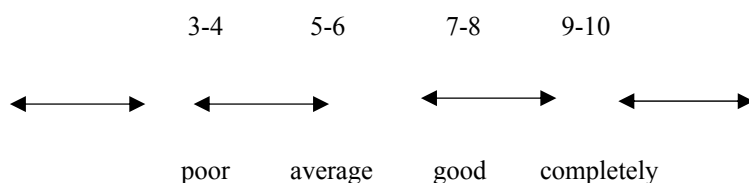
As research methods, the following methods were applied:

- Interviews;
- questionnaires;
- qualitative and quantitative research.

## RESULTS OF THE RESEARCH / РЕЗУЛЬТАТИ ДОСЛІДЖЕННЯ

According to the research experiment, students displayed enthusiasm towards reading more prose novels. They have been provided with a list of modern online book titles to compare their main ideas and their impact on human development. During the round table activity, the plot summary and main characters of each book were discussed, along with their roles in the fiction proses. Students were exposed to a variety of genres including *detective, crime, tragedy, love stories, historical novels, and patriotic works*. Additionally, their preferences were investigated.

The questionnaires given to the students focused on the types of prose genres they are interested in and prefer. Students were given examples of *fiction prose, novels, novellas, short stories, nonfiction prose, autobiographies, biographies, and essays* that allowed them to easily compare the characters. The aim was to improve students' comparison skills on the given examples. The indicators were as below:



### Question 1 How often do you read the following types of proses?

Looking at table, it is clear that girls have more interests reading Azerbaijani novels. The result was good (75 %) and got 8 points. In the other hand, boys demonstrated less percentage 65 % in good level and got 7 points. They emphasized that the main characters in the novel motivate them to read the novels. It is known that they have low skills to understand novellas and mentioned that these types of prose they read very less time.

Therefore, girls result was 45 % – average level with 6 points; boys 25 % – average level with 5 points. Majority of them prefer reading short stories, essentially in the textbook. Reading short stories is achieved completely with the 80 % – with 9 points by the girls and 55 % with 7 points by the boys in average level.

*Table 1*

**Students reading frequency on genres of prose**

N <sup>o</sup>	Types of proses	Girls	Boys
1	Novel	75 % – 8	65 % – 7
2	Novella	45 % – 6	25 % – 5
3	Short story	80 % – 9	55 % – 7
4	Autobiography	22 % – 7	20 % – 6
5	Newspaper	35 % – 5	18 % – 5

According to the results of reading autobiography the girls have good level, 22 % with 7 points, boys have average level, 20 % with 6 points results. Regarding to the reading newspaper the girls have the approximately half percentage 45 % with 5 points and the boys have average level – 18 % with 5 points. Finally, reading essay is highlighted with high score, 70 % girls’ result with the 9 point; boys demonstrated 40 % with the 5 points.

Concluding interpreting this table, it should be mentioned that university students have good level interests to read novels. They could identify the best qualities of characters in the novels, such as described the human qualities bravery, patriotism, courage, charity, kindness, cruelty, rudeness, injustice and broken human rights in the society. Several girls stated that reading historical stories or novels give the self-dependence, being self esteem and good human feelings.

Furthermore, teachers responded the question using fiction and non-fiction proses in the auditory. They responded more using fiction proses. Nevertheless, students are eager to read short stories because of patience teachers try to motivate them to read modern Azerbaijani novels by K. Abdulla and Ch. Abdullayev.

*Table 2*

**Respondents survey results on using fiction and non-fiction prose**

N <sup>o</sup>	Respondents	Fiction	Non-fiction
1	Teachers	2	1
2	Students	15	3



Looking at the table it is clear that teachers are eager to use fictions, such novels as home reading to get effective ideas on developing human factor in proses. Later, the students' comparing skills on discussing novels were observed.

The grade and level of evaluation given to respondents were determined based on specific factors in the prose works, the writer's attitude toward human existence, the theme and idea of the work, the problem, and the type of hero. The human factor was regarded as the "beating heart" of the text. Although the hero is described as cruel, vengeful, and oppressive in some works (J. Abdullayev's "The Oligarch's Mistake"), his bravery is praised in others.

In other situations, participants discussed the importance of Azerbaijani folk art, the value of the word, the magnificence of folk art, gaining the people's love, protecting our historical heritage, and expressing its influence on the formation of human thought (K. Abdulla).

Some prose works use human's psycho-logism as a single element, partially reflecting the hero's emotions and thoughts. In some prose examples, the hero's emotional and intellectual world is brought to the forefront, and it becomes an important means of reviving reality. Of course, several modern epic works, whose primary purpose is to illuminate a specific social environment, are inextricably linked to the writing of individual spiritual worlds.

A demonstration of students' discussing and comparing skills became the focal point for developing critical thinking abilities. Nonetheless, the hero of the novel or short story is described as a cruel, rude person; they respond to this issue and discuss how to improve these heroes in real life. The students demonstrate their problem-solving skills while discussing the novel. Analytical results of students' motor abilities in research study.

The most important orientation for describing human factors in the process is to the real-life situation or societal demands. A questionnaire survey was conducted to investigate the findings and conclude respondents' progress in reading modern literature.

*Table 3*

**Impact of comparing prose works**

No	Effect of qualities of character and the main idea	Mean	Median
1	Reading novels I learned how to be honest and trustworthy	2	16
2	Short stories are a lot of fun to communicate	1	17
3	Essay reading allows me to be creative and imaginative	4	14
4	Autobiography makes me think of achieving success in life	3	15
5	Modern prose works inspire me to be stronger in life	2	16

The comparative analysis of the participants' modern prose works, as shown in the table, reveals the methods of reading novels, short stories, translated cases, and essays, as well as the impact of the obtained quality factors on the human factor. It turned out that reading modern novels encourages people to be honest and straightforward. 18 participants responded to this idea, demonstrating that the intended result was achieved.

Reading short stories in groups or pairs (e.g., D. Defoe's "Treasure Island") teaches people how to live as people and communicate. This idea demonstrated that 17 of 18 people achieved good results on average. The essay discusses how reading the research presented in the essay promotes human growth and creativity. In autobiographical reading, participants describe their step-by-step journey to success while elevating the human factor. The participants successfully adopted this result.

## **CONCLUSIONS / ВИСНОВКИ**

The results of the experiment allow us to draw the following conclusions:

1. Reading modern prose works helps learners improve their brain and memory functions, as well as strengthen the activity of the elements that make the human factor a reality. Turning to modern literature brings us closer to the realities of our everyday lives; it is an examination of the image of a true hero. Modern literary prose examples stimulate a person's entertainment, thinking, and imagination while also providing an opportunity to strengthen creative and new mental activity.

2. Modern literature reveals the reality of the psychologism of the human factor, necessitating the methods and principles of character description in literary and artistic contexts. These methods and principles are based on the character's ability to express their inner world, feelings, emotions, and thoughts. The comparative analysis of the characters results in different ways of expressing a person's inner world and emotions.

3. Investigating how prose works affect people reveals their significance in the evolution of modern man. To increase the impact of one's work, integrative teaching methods in linguistics and philology must be used. Video visualization of modern works boosts visual confidence in human development. From this perspective, he discovers the beating heart of modern art.

4. Reading prose works of both fiction and nonfiction is a modern-day requirement. An effective reading of both types of conflict in a person provides an overview of the conflict, a variety of approaches to problem-solving, respect, and compassion for others. Although modern literature is rarely read, its impact on the evolution of the essay factor is undeniable.

**Prospects for further research in this direction / Перспективи подальших досліджень.** As a result, it is worth noting that Azerbaijani literature has the potential to attract more readers due to its rich content and descriptions of contemporary issues. From this perspective, modern literature plays a significant role in human life. Comparative discussion and analysis of prose works shape a person's critical and creative thinking, determine its place in real life, generate new human ideas, and play an important role in solving many problems in life.

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## ЛЮДСЬКИЙ ФАКТОР У СУЧАСНІЙ АЗЕРБАЙДЖАНСЬКІЙ ПРОЗІ

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**Анотація.** У статті розглядається проблема людини в сучасній азербайджанській прозі. Проводиться порівняльний аналіз прозових творів щодо проблем сучасної людини. Основною метою розгляду проблем людини у прозі є формування в учнів аналізу, критичного мислення, інтелектуального розвитку моральних якостей. Відомо, що

проза є популярним жанром в азербайджанській літературі; це стиль письма, який дотримується умовностей мови. Крім того, сучасна азербайджанська проза розповідає про причини якісних змін і про те, як вони впливають на людські якості. Тим не менш, сучасна література відчуває деякі труднощі з просуванням новітніх базових концепцій. Також дослідження дає можливість сприяти формуванню в учнів багатогранності художніх образів, а також уміння виражати особисті почуття та думки. З цього погляду сучасна азербайджанська проза має збагатити уявлення учнів про нове людське мислення та різноманітність. Крім того, дослідження показують, що еволюція літератури може впливати на якість людських елементів у прозових творах і призводити до різноманітних змін, інновацій і конфліктів у художніх творах. Порівняльний аналіз прозових творів відіграє чудову роль у вирішенні людських проблем і дає характеристику сучасної людини. Події у суспільстві формують характер людини в літературі. Таким чином, порівняльний аналіз різних прозових творів виявив якості нової інтелектуальної людини в сучасній азербайджанській літературі. Щоб провести цей аналіз, необхідно поставити експеримент. До дослідницької методики експерименту було залучено 18 студентів третього курсу (12 дівчат, 6 хлопців), 3 викладачі, доцент. Експеримент тривав два місяці, щоб виявити та порівняти проблему людини у прозовому жанрі. Дані було зібрано за допомогою як якісної, так і описової статистики. Відповідно до висновків, тексти показують, що деякі історичні герої еволюціонували від суворих і жорстоких до доброзичливих лідерів, яких народ любить за чесність і героїчний образ.

**Ключові слова:** сучасна азербайджанська проза; проблема людини; художня література, критичне мислення; цифрова ера.

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