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THE ROLE OF FIKRET SADIG'S POEM *THIRTEEN CANDLES* IN THE DEVELOPMENT OF HUNGARIAN-AZERBAIJANI LITERARY RELATIONS

Fikret Sadig's poem Thirteen Candles stands as one of the most significant works in the historical development of Azerbaijani-Hungarian literary relations. Composed during the Second World War, this poem articulates the profound sense of solidarity and fraternal affinity towards the Hungarian people during the Soviet era. The work foregrounds the devastation of war, the irreparable loss of human life, and the Hungarian people's reverence for the graves of Soviet soldiers. Despite the destruction wrought by the war, the poem underscores the preservation of peace and humanitarian values between nations. The poet masterfully conveys the humanistic ethos of the Hungarian people and their unwavering belief in peace, even in the face of war's harrowing consequences. In the poem, the Hungarians' compassion and sense of fraternity appear to alleviate the weight of wartime atrocities. The symbolic representation of "thirteen candles," commemorating the fallen soldiers, serves as a poignant testament to the enduring bonds of friendship between nations. The Hungarian people's humanistic perspective, as depicted in the poem, reflects their deep commitment to the universal values of peace and solidarity. Moreover, the poem's parallel depiction of natural landscapes and human emotions enhances the poet's interpretation of war, rendering it even more compelling. This study also draws a comparative analysis between Fikret Sadig's work and the literary contributions of the Hungarian national poet Sándor Petőfi, examining their respective approaches to themes of war, nationalism, and humanity. The comparative analysis demonstrates that both poets' perspectives were shaped by the socio-political imperatives of their time as well as their individual worldviews. Written during the Soviet period, Thirteen Candles encapsulates the humanitarian attitude towards the Hungarian people against the backdrop of wartime devastation. The poem's central theme revolves around the profound transformations in human life amid the brutal realities of war and how these changes influence interethnic relations. The author, with deep lyricism and sincerity, illustrates how, in the post-war era, sentiments of humanity ultimately transcend enmity between opposing sides.

Key words: Azerbaijan, Hungary, literary relations, war, Sándor Petőfi, peace, fraternity, homeland, humanity.

Statement of the problem. The theme of warfare and its deleterious effects on human existence has consistently remained a focal point in literary discourse. Literature functions as a pivotal medium for critically assessing and articulating the profound ramifications of such catastrophes on society and individuals, as well as the consequent transformations in interethnic relations. Azerbaijani literature has extensively engaged with this subject, with numerous eminent writers and poets addressing its complexities. Among literary works depicting the Second World War, Fikret Sadig's poem *Thirteen Candles* occupies a distinctive position. This composition transcends a mere poetic depiction of wartime atrocities; rather, it constitutes a significant literary contribution that accentuates the principles of humanity, camaraderie, and pacifism among nations.

This study undertakes an analytical examination of *Thirteen Candles*, focusing on its representation of warfare, human destiny, and humanitarian values, as well as the manner in which Azerbaijani-Hungarian literary and cultural relations are reflected within the poetic narrative. Furthermore, the research establishes a comparative analysis between this poem and the works of the Hungarian national poet Sándor Petőfi, particularly concerning their respective portrayals of nationalism and warfare. This comparative framework elucidates both the convergences and divergences in the ideological perspectives of the two poets.

Analysis of recent research and publications. The presence of Hungary as a thematic concern in Azerbaijani literature became more pronounced during the Soviet era, giving rise to a corpus of influential literary works that explored themes of warfare, libera-

tion, and humanism. The engagement of Azerbaijani literary figures with Hungary and the broader Eastern European context, particularly in Soviet-era literary production, has been examined within various academic sources. Notably, the Azerbaijani poet Samad Vurgun articulated a compelling perspective regarding post-war international solidarity, stating: "*The friendship of nations constitutes a fundamental prerequisite for the free existence of peoples. The bond between the Azerbaijani and Hungarian peoples was not only preserved during the war but also sustained in its aftermath*" [17, 56].

Hungarian Turkologists and literary scholars, including László Rásonyi and György Hazai, have conducted substantial research in the domains of Turkology and Azerbaijani literary studies, offering critical insights into the historical and cultural interactions between Azerbaijan and Hungary. Although Azerbaijani scholars have intermittently published studies on these literary and cultural exchanges, current academic inquiry in this domain remains insufficient.

A systematic and comprehensive examination of *Thirteen Candles* – specifically concerning its portrayal of warfare and its perspective on the Hungarian people – has not yet been undertaken within Azerbaijani literary scholarship. This study represents the first dedicated analysis of this poem, situating it within the broader discourse on Azerbaijani-Hungarian literary relations.

Task statement. The principal objective of this study is to undertake a rigorous analysis of the literary depiction of warfare's impact on human destiny, the affective dimensions of human experience, and the representation of humanitarian relations among nations. Additionally, the research seeks to delineate the role and significance of *Thirteen Candles* within the framework of Azerbaijani-Hungarian literary interrelations, thereby contributing to a more nuanced understanding of its thematic and artistic dimensions.

The objectives of the proposed study may be outlined as follows:

1. Analyzing the depiction of war and humanity in Fikret Sadig's poem *Thirteen Candles*.
2. Examining the ideological and philosophical context of the poem in relation to the impact of war on human existence.
3. Determining the role of the poem within the framework of literary relations between Azerbaijan and Hungary.
4. Conducting a comparative analysis of Fikret Sadig's and Sándor Petőfi's works, with a focus on the differences in their approach to the theme of war.

Methodology. The research employs the following methodological approaches:

1. **Literary-historical method:** The poem's historical context, the author's literary career, and the literary atmosphere during the wartime period are all considered within the broader context of the work.

2. **Comparative analysis:** The poem by Fikret Sadig is compared with the works of Sándor Petőfi, highlighting the similarities and distinctions in their treatment of the theme of war.

3. **Semantic analysis:** The central content of the poem is examined in detail, focusing on the ideological messages conveyed, as well as the portrayal of war and humanism within the work.

Outline of the main material of the study. Fikret Sadig, one of the prominent figures of twentieth-century Azerbaijani literature, is widely recognized for his distinctive poetic style. His works are primarily concerned with themes such as humanism, love for one's homeland, the preservation of universal values, and the emotional spectrum of human experience. Within Sadig's poetry, the tragic consequences of war, the struggles of individuals against these calamities, endurance, heroism, and the values of humanism consistently emerge as central themes.

Fikret Sadig's literary legacy occupies a distinctive position not only in Azerbaijani literature but also on the international stage, where it advocates for humanistic values through a variety of literary examples. By engaging with the realities of contemporary life and historical events, he has made invaluable contributions to Azerbaijani poetry, particularly in his explorations of humanity, justice, and the concept of nationhood.

Among Sadig's important works about war, *Thirteen Candles* stands out as a poem of considerable significance, both in terms of its thematic exploration and its representation of the literary connections between Azerbaijan and Hungary. The poem emphasizes a profound respect for the Hungarian people, marking an important moment in the literary exchange between the two nations.

On Literary Relations

The literary ties between Azerbaijan and Hungary are deeply entrenched in the shared historical and cultural heritage of both nations. These connections are not solely rooted in historical events; as highlighted by the distinguished Azerbaijani playwright Shikhali Gurbanov, "The friendship between Azerbaijan and Hungary transcends mere historical occurrences; it is also deeply anchored in common cultural values. The relationship between the Turkic world and Hungary has evolved and strengthened over various epochs in history" [7, 67].

The historical link between the Hungarian and Turkish peoples traces back to ancient times, with a profound development over the centuries across culture, language, and literature. The literary relationship between Azerbaijan and Hungary is deeply informed by the intertwined historical experiences of both peoples. Both nations are celebrated for their resistance against imperial forces and their unyielding fight for freedom. These shared historical experiences have significantly shaped their respective literatures, wherein literature has played a central role in the formation of national identities and in their artistic articulation.

These literary connections have also been enriched by the shared experiences of warfare and the literary representations of these experiences. The literary ties between Azerbaijan and Hungary originate from the national identities of the two peoples and their collective struggles for freedom. In the literary works of both nations, themes of invasion, liberation, and sacrifice hold paramount importance. Particularly noteworthy is the expansion of themes related to Hungary within Azerbaijani literature during the Soviet era. In Azerbaijani literary works, themes of admiration for the Hungarian people, their struggle for national sovereignty, and the deep respect for their cultural identity have emerged as central motifs.

Fikret Sadig's "Thirteen Candles" and Literary Connections

These literary relations are unmistakably reflected in Fikret Sadig's 1980 poem "*On Üç Şam*" ("Thirteen Candles"). Dedicated to the Belarusian writer Ivan Ivanov, this poem reflects profound contemplations regarding the events that transpired in Hungary during World War II. The work was written in remembrance of Ivanov's brother, who lost his life near Berhida, Hungary, during the war. The poem portrays Hungary not only as a battlefield but also as a fraternal nation, which forms the core ideological framework of the text.

Despite Hungary's wartime opposition to the Soviet Union, in Sadig's work, the Hungarian people are depicted as "brothers." This poem transcends a mere depiction of war and emphasizes a profound respect for the Hungarian people, highlighting the themes of fraternity and reflecting on the positive aspects of the historical relations between the two nations. The thirteen candles lit on the graves of soldiers who perished during World War II in Hungary serve as symbolic markers of the poet's admiration for the Hungarian people and their shared humanistic values. Through this work, the painful legacy of war is elevated to a literary form, emphasizing the lasting significance of memory and mutual respect.

In Fikret Sadig's poem "Thirteen Candles", alongside the profound sentiments of admiration and sincerity directed toward the Hungarian people, the devastations wrought by war and the ensuing human losses are underscored. The work serves as a reflection of the humanitarian stance adopted by the Hungarian people both during and after the conflict. Despite the Hungarians being aligned with the enemy forces, the poet symbolically conveys their respect for the Soviet soldiers by depicting the candles they lit upon their graves. The losses endured during the war left indelible and painful marks on both sides; however, Fikret Sadig emphasizes the preservation of humanistic values over the perpetuation of enmity.

The central thematic concerns of "*Thirteen Candles*" include war, human loss, and the notion of humanity. The poet composed the piece not only to offer solace to Ivan Ivanov, but also to draw attention to the senselessness of war. In the poem's opening, the poet portrays the destruction of Europe during the war, utilizing the image of a "deluge" to symbolize the abrupt and devastating consequences of war:

Avropada tufan qopdu,
Ölkələr çıxdı məcrasından.
Yolumuzun üstündə
O vaxtkı Macarıstan
A storm broke out in Europe,
Countries went out of control.
On our way, Hungary at that time [14, 207].

These lines depict the devastation brought about by war. They clearly illustrate how the war wreaked havoc across Europe and forced nations into hostile relations with one another. While Fikret Sadig portrays Hungary as a battlefield in this context, on a deeper level, he alludes to the cultural and historical significance of the region. The line "On our way, the Hungary of that time" refers not only to passing through a geographical location but also to describing the mutual relationship between the two peoples. The use of "that time" points to the altered state of Hungary during the war.

Although Hungary is depicted as a battlefield, it is also presented as a cultural and friendly nation. For example, another line of the poem emphasizes the Hungarian people's attitude toward Soviet soldiers. The city of Debrecen is mentioned, illustrating how this city welcomed the Soviet soldiers as "brothers":

Yenə bizi qardaş kimi
Qarşıladı Debrecen
Debrecen welcomed us
again as brothers [14, 208].

These lines demonstrate the humanitarian attitude of the Hungarian people even in the midst of war.

The city's reception of Soviet soldiers as "brothers" reflects the preservation of human values even during the harshest times of war. The poet, by opposing the propaganda of enmity between nations, emphasizes the importance of friendship and humanistic values. The word "received" here signifies not just a physical greeting but the manifestation of cultural and human connections. The poet underscores that, even in wartime, feelings of friendship and brotherhood remain alive.

Throughout the poem, Fikret Sadig highlights the Hungarian people's admiration and respect for fallen soldiers. The candles lit on the graves serve as the primary symbol of this respect. Moreover, the poet's affection and reverence for the Hungarian people carry a deeper, more profound meaning in his eyes:

"Gözümdən gör nələr keçdi;
Duru-duru çaylar keçdi,
Dolu-dolu göllər keçdi
"Look what has passed through my eyes;
Rivers have passed,
Lakes have passed [14, 209].

In these lines, the depiction of nature serves as a symbolic representation of the individual's memories and emotions related to the past. The expressions "Duru-duru çaylar" ("Clear rivers") and "dolu-dolu göllər" ("full lakes") evoke natural landscapes that resurface in the poet's recollections. Through these nature images, the poet encapsulates both the weight of the past and the sorrow and grief inflicted by the war. This portrayal of nature alludes to the enduring memories of war that remain within the collective consciousness of individuals.

The poet establishes a connection between the pain of the past and the beauty of the present, preserving the memory of those who perished during the conflict through the symbolic act of ever-burning candles. The poem reaches its culmination in the scene where the Hungarian people light candles upon the graves of fallen Soviet soldiers. These candles not only function as symbols of remembrance but also represent the respect between nations and the manifestation of universal human values:

Amma on üçlərin
Sinə daşında
On üç şam yandıran
Əllər daha gözəldir
But on the chest of thirteen
The hands that light thirteen candles
are more beautiful [14, 210].

In these verses, the poet utilizes the image of "thirteen candles" to emphasize the Hungarian people's respect and compassion for the victims

of war. The candles lit on the tombstones of the fallen soldiers symbolize the unextinguished values of humanity and friendship. For the poet, these "hands" are not merely hands that light a flame, but also hands that stand against the destructive effects of war, representing humanism. This symbolism reinforces the poet's humanist stance against war. The expression "hands are more beautiful" is employed to highlight humanity's capacity to create peace and the supremacy of compassion.

Fikret Sadig expresses his deep admiration for the Hungarian people, referring to them as "brothers" and holding them in high regard. The compassion and human values demonstrated by this nation during the war have left a profound mark on the poet's heart:

O şamları yandıran
Uşaqdımı, böyükdümü bilmirəm,
Onlara əsl bacı deyirəm,
Əsl qardaş deyirəm
Those who light the candles
I don't know if I'm a child or an adult,
I call them real sisters,
I call them real brothers [14, 210].

In these verses, Fikret Sadig designates the Hungarian people as "true sisters" and "true brothers," thereby conveying profound respect for their acts of compassion. The poet interprets this humanitarian gesture as the highest embodiment of human values, independent of age or identity. The depiction of the Hungarian people's humanitarian approach serves as a form of resistance against the devastating losses incurred during the war. Despite the catastrophes resulting from the conflict, what prevails in the poet's narrative are these acts of compassion and humanity.

Drawing a comparison between Fikret Sadig's work and that of the Hungarian national poet Sándor Petőfi facilitates a more nuanced understanding of the literary connections between the two nations. Petőfi, a familiar figure to Azerbaijani readers, played a pivotal role in the national liberation movement. Both Fikret Sadig and Sándor Petőfi are renowned poets who engage with themes of war and nationalism. However, their treatments of these themes are framed through distinct perspectives. Petőfi presents Hungary's struggle for freedom in a patriotic and militant light, emphasizing the necessity of the conflict and foregrounding the notion of sacrifice for national liberation. Conversely, Fikret Sadig offers a critical examination of war through the lens of human loss, humanism, and inter-national relations. For Sadig, the primary focus lies in the moral repercussions of war—specifically, respect for human life and the promotion of peace between nations.

Sándor Petőfi's "Nemzeti dal" (National Song) and Literary Connections

Sándor Petőfi's "Nemzeti dal" (National Song) was composed during Hungary's 1848 revolution. This work has since emerged as a significant symbol of Hungary's struggle for independence. In it, Petőfi calls upon the nation to rise in defense of liberty, urging the populace to be prepared to make any sacrifice for the cause of national sovereignty:

Talpra magyar, hí a haza!
Itt az idő, most vagy soha!
Rabok legyünk vagy szabadok?
Ez a kérdés, válasszatok!
Get back on your feet, Hungarians, home is calling!
The time is here, now or never!
Shall we be prisoners or free?
This is the question, choose! [11, 378].

In these verses, Petőfi calls upon the Hungarian people to rise in the struggle for revolution and freedom. The expression "Talpra magyar!" ("Arise, Hungarian!") serves as a direct call to action. Petőfi invites the nation to make a choice between liberty and bondage. The poet views freedom as the sole path to national salvation and emphasizes the inevitability of this struggle. The concept of sacrifice is explicitly articulated here, as the nation must be prepared to embrace any form of self-sacrifice in the pursuit of liberty.

In contrast, Fikret Sadig's "On Üç Şam" presents a different approach. The poet focuses on the human losses brought about by war and the manner in which these losses are met with a humanitarian response between nations. For Sadig, war is not only about enmity and victories won on the battlefield, but also about the compassion shown by a society that values human life. Sadig illustrates the respect shown by the Hungarian people toward Soviet soldiers through the symbol of "thirteen candles":

Amma on üçlərin
Sinə daşında
On üç şam yandıran
Əllər daha gözəldir
But on the chest of thirteen
The hands that light thirteen candles
are more beautiful [14, 210].

Through the symbol of "thirteen candles," the poet highlights the respect and compassion shown by the Hungarian people toward those who perished in the war. In Sadig's work, the harm, destruction, and the humanitarian response to these devastations brought by war are presented as central themes. For the poet, war is not solely about physical losses, but also an opportunity for the deepening of human connections between nations.

Sándor Petőfi adopts a more radical stance on the themes of nationalism and freedom. For him, war and struggle are necessary steps in the pursuit of national salvation and independence. In Petőfi's "Nemzeti dal," the mobilization of the nation for the fight for freedom is clearly depicted:

Kölə olaq yoxsa azad?
Budur sual, özün seç.
Shall we be slaves or free?
That is the question, choose for yourself.

In this context, the nation is called to choose between bondage and freedom. Petőfi unequivocally urges the nation to choose freedom, emphasizing the readiness to make any sacrifice for it. For the poet, national identity, independence, and freedom are the most essential values.

On the other hand, Fikrət Sadıq approaches war from a more humanistic perspective. In his work, mutual respect between nations and the value placed on human life are at the forefront. The devastations of war and human loss are criticized in Sadıq's work, and the compassion shown by the Hungarian people strengthens the poet's understanding of humanism:

Nə biləydin
Səndən azca o yanda
Berhida varmış?
How would you know
that there was a Berhida
just across from you? [14, 209].

In these verses, the poet depicts the sudden and unforeseen losses of war; however, the respect and compassion demonstrated by the Hungarian people toward these losses reflect, in the poet's perspective, the triumph of human values. Despite the distance during the battle, those who perished in Berhida are interred on friendly soil. Fikret Sadig symbolically represents peace created in response to defeat rather than enmity. The poet's work centers on the notions of peace, friendship, and the preservation of human values between nations, relegating nationalism and struggle to the background. Thus, while Petőfi portrays war as an indispensable element of national struggle, Sadig accords greater significance to humanism and inter-national respect. The shared theme of both poets' works – war and sacrifice – has been illuminated through distinct perspectives.

While Fikret Sadig expresses profound respect and affection toward the Hungarian people, Petőfi appeals to the nation to sacrifice their lives in pursuit of freedom, drawing upon nationalist fervor. The works of both poets provide divergent yet universally relevant representations of the nations' experiences with war and freedom. Although the themes of nationalism and

war permeate their works, their approaches diverge. Petőfi emphasizes the struggle for national liberation and independence, underscoring its inevitability, while Fikret Sadig emphasizes the effects of war on human life, the humanistic relationships between nations, and the respect accorded to human loss. For Petőfi, victory is embodied in the nation's independence and freedom, while for Sadig, victory lies in the preservation of peace and the safeguarding of friendships between nations, despite the painful aftermath of war.

Conclusions. Fikret Sadig's poem *"Thirteen Candles"* occupies a pivotal role in the development of Azerbaijan-Hungarian literary relations and the reinforcement of the mutual friendship between the two

peoples. Through this work, the poet demonstrates his deep admiration for the Hungarian people during wartime and illustrates the preservation of human values in the face of conflict, shedding light on the shared historical experiences of the two nations. In contrast to the works of Sándor Petőfi, Fikret Sadig foregrounds the motifs of peace and brotherhood. This poem is instrumental in establishing literary bridges between Azerbaijan and Hungary, thereby deepening the interconnections between the two cultures. As the renowned academic Ziya Bunyadov aptly noted during the Soviet era, "In the literatures of Azerbaijan and Hungary, this friendship is manifested through a sense of mutual respect and cooperation between the peoples" [3, 112].

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Джахангірлі Р. РОЛЬ ПОЕМИ ФІКРЕТА САДІГА «ТРИНАДЦЯТЬ СВИЧОК» У РОЗВИТКУ УГОРСЬКО-АЗЕРБАЙДЖАНСЬКИХ ЛІТЕРАТУРНИХ ЗВ'ЯЗКІВ

Поєма Фікрета Садіґа «Тринадцять свічок» є одним із найважливіших творів в історичному розвитку азербайджано-угорських літературних відносин. Цей вірш, написаний під час Другої світової війни, виражає глибоке почуття солідарності та братської прихильності до угорського народу радянської епохи. На перший план у творі висвітлюються лихоліття війни, неоправна втрата людських життів, шанобливе ставлення угорського народу до могил радянських воїнів. Незважаючи на руйнування, спричинені війною, вірш підкреслює збереження миру та гуманітарних цінностей між народами. Поет майстерно передає гуманістичний дух угорського народу та його непохитну віру в мир, навіть незважаючи на жахливі наслідки війни. У поемі співчуття та почуття братерства угорців, здається, полегшують тяжкість жорстокості війни. Символічне зображення «тринадцяти свічок», які вшановують пам'ять про загиблих воїнів, є щемливим свідченням міцних уз дружби між народами. Гуманістична перспектива угорського народу, як це зображено в поемі, відображає його глибоку відданість універсальним цінностям миру та солідарності. Крім того, паралельне зображення

у вірші природних ландшафтів і людських емоцій посилює інтерпретацію війни поетом, роблячи її ще більш переконливою. Це дослідження також проводить порівняльний аналіз між творчістю Фікрета Садіга та літературним внеском угорського національного поета Шандора Петефі, досліджуючи їхні відповідні підходи до тем війни, націоналізму та людства. Порівняльний аналіз показує, що погляди обох поетів були сформовані як суспільно-політичними імперативами їхнього часу, так і їхніми індивідуальними світоглядами. Написана в радянський період, «Тринадцять свічок» втілює в собі гуманне ставлення до угорського народу на тлі воєнних розрух. Центральна тема поеми обертається навколо глибоких змін у житті людини серед жорстоких реалій війни та того, як ці зміни впливають на міжнаціональні відносини. Автор із глибоким ліризмом і щирістю показує, як у післявоєнну добу почуття людства зрештою перевершують ворожнечу між протиборчими сторонами.

Ключові слова: Азербайджан, Угорщина, літературні зв'язки, війна, Шандор Петефі, мир, братерство, батьківщина, людство.