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Characteristics of the Library-Information Service in the Republic of Azerbaijan in A Poly-Ethnic Condition (based on the example of Sheki-Zagatala economic region)

Abstract

The population of Sheki-Zagatala economic region differs from other regions of the country due to its polyethnic characteristics. Here, along with Azerbaijanis; Lezgis, Turks, Kurds, Avars, Tatars, Ukrainians, Georgians, Russians, Englishmen, Budugs, Nijs, Udins and representatives of other peoples and ethnicities live in a friendly neighborhood. There are steps taken to protect the ethnic and cultural heritage, the polyethnic evolution of Azerbaijan and its traditions of tolerance. It is no coincidence that at the beginning of the 20th century, well-known ethnographic scientists valued Azerbaijan as an 'ethnographic museum' where all nations live in friendly neighborliness. Currently, more than eighty minority peoples are living in the territories of the Republic of Azerbaijan. They belong to Caucasian-

speaking, Iranian-speaking, and Turkic-speaking groups and are part of the ethno-confessional composition of the country's population. Among them, the Udis, Ingiloyls, Grizs, Budugs, Tats, Talyshs, Russians, Lezgis, Jews and other peoples can be mentioned.

Keywords: *Library, information service, Sheki-Zagatala economic region, polyethnic conditions, ethnic persecution*

Çok Etnikli Bir Durumda Azerbaycan Cumhuriyeti'nde Kütüphane-Bilgi Hizmetinin Özellikleri (Şeki-Zagatala ekonomik bölgesi örneğine göre)

Öz

Şeki-Zagatala ekonomik bölgesinin nüfusu, polietnik özelliklerinden dolayı ülkenin diğer bölgelerinden farklıdır. Burada Azerbaycanlılarla birlikte; Lezgiler, Türkler, Kürtler, Avarlar, Tatarlar, Ukraynalılar, Gürcüler, Ruslar, İngilizler, Buduglar, Nijler, Udinler ve diğer halkların ve etnik kökenlerin temsilcileri dostça bir mahallede yaşıyorlar. Azerbaycan'ın etnik ve kültürel mirasının, çok ırklı evriminin ve hoşgörü geleneklerinin korunması için atılan adımlar var. 20. yüzyılın başında tanınmış etnografya bilim adamlarının Azerbaycan'ı tüm ulusların dostça komşuluk içinde yaşadığı bir 'etnografya müzesi' olarak değerlendirmeleri tesadüf değildir. Şu anda Azerbaycan Cumhuriyeti topraklarında seksenden fazla azınlık yaşıyor. Kafkas dili konuşan, İran dili konuşan ve Türkçe konuşan gruplara aittirler ve ülke nüfusunun etno-itiraf bileşiminin bir parçasıdır. Bunlar arasında Udiler, İngilizler, Grizler, Buduglar, Tatlar, Talişlar, Ruslar, Lezgiler, Yahudiler ve diğer halklar sayılabilir.

Anahtar kelimeler. *Kütüphane, bilgi servisi, Şeki-Zagatala ekonomik bölgesi, Çok ırklı koşullar, Etnik zulüm*

Introduction

In the modern world, the development of library work and the process of organizing information services in the Republic of Azerbaijan, which is known as the cradle of multiculturalism, solidarity, peace and tolerance where cultures meet, is characterized by the provisions of constant expectation and appreciation of multicultural values as one of the main cultural fields.

In the Republic of Azerbaijan, the development of science, education, culture, art is given special importance at the state level. It is no coincidence that in the second part of the 16th article of the Constitution of the Republic of Azerbaijan, adopted in 1995, it is stated that the state of Azerbaijan should help the development of culture, education, healthcare, science, art, the nature of the country, the history of the people. It has been shown to protect its material and spiritual heritage. Article 25 of the Constitution of the State states that Regardless of race, ethnicity, religion, language, gender, origin, property status, service position, belief, affiliation to political parties, trade unions and other public associations, everyone has the right and guarantees equality of freedom. It is forbidden to restrict human and civil rights and freedoms based on race, ethnicity, religion, language, gender, origin, belief, political and social affiliation (Khalafov, 2006).

Currently, more than 80 minority peoples are living in the territories of the Republic of Azerbaijan. These minority peoples belong to the Caucasian, Iranian, and Turkic groups and are included in the ethno-confessional composition of the country's population. A part of these few peoples were the established population of Azerbaijan, and another part settled in the lands of the country as a result of socio-political processes that took place at different stages of history. Since it is directly related to our topic, it would be appropriate to mention a few facts in this aspect.

Our multi-cultural, multi-ethnic homeland has been a place where the values of tolerance and multiculturalism have been emphasized at all stages of the

historical process. The Land of Fire (Odlar Yurdu), where different confessions and cultures meet, is a place that the spirit of Azerbaijaniism reigns. Azerbaijanism is a policy, ideology, lifestyle that embraces different cultures. Our ethnically and culturally diverse republic is a native mother's lap for all peoples (Mahammadli, 2022).

1-Literature Review

Among other representatives of the Azerbaijan National School of Library Science, prof. B. Allahverdiyev, Assoc. R. Kazimov, Assoc. S. Razayev, Assoc. N. Ismayilov, Assoc. A. Najafov, Assoc. A. Aliyev, Doctor of Philosophy I. Bayramova and others.

2-Materials

Among the main priorities of the state policy in the Republic of Azerbaijan, the issues of development of library work, establishment of library-bibliography and information service based on progressive methods and methods occupy a significant place. In this aspect, a substantial legal base has been formed in the country, and major nationwide measures have been implemented for the comprehensive development of the field. The territory of Azerbaijan is the homeland of the ancient Turks. Here, at the same time, historically, other nations have lived. They came to Azerbaijan for various reasons at different times, or were relocated and later did not want to return.

In general, the regulation of inter-ethnic relations in Azerbaijan is based on democratic principles, the goals and tasks, principles and main directions of the inter-ethnic relations policy of the Republic of Azerbaijan in the modern era, the legal basis, the national policy of independent Azerbaijan - the steps taken to protect the legal and cultural heritage of minority peoples, a view of the poly-ethnic evolution of Azerbaijan and its traditions of tolerance exist. It is no coincidence that at the beginning of the 20th century, the prominent ethnographer scientist Valiyev (Baharli) described Azerbaijan as an ethnographic museum.

The ancient Greek author Herodotus, who lived in the 5th century, gave information in his work 'History'. B.C. Strabo, who lived in the 1st century, in his

work 'Geography' mentioned the name of the Udis among the 26 local Albanian clans that lived in Caucasian Albania. The Udis lived mainly in Uti and Arsakh provinces of Caucasian Albania.

Ingiloyts (Albanian nobles), one of the few peoples living in the Sheki-Zagatala economic region of the Republic of Azerbaijan, are also noteworthy because they lived in the Kambisena region of Caucasian Albania, and when Christianity spread in Caucasian Albania in the early Middle Ages, they accepted Christianity like the Udis (Mahammadli, 2022).

In the pre-Islamic period, the confessional situation in Azerbaijan was chosen by its diversity, although the population in the southern lands of the country mainly worshiped Zoroastrianism and the Nestorian sect of Christianity. While a small part of the population in Caucasian Albania accepted polytheistic religions, the majority accepted the Diophysite and Monophysite sects of Christianity.

During the Arab caliphate, the spread of Islam took place in all regions of Azerbaijan almost at the same time. In the area where Zoroastrianism and idolatry were widespread, in the southern lands of Azerbaijan, and then on the shores of the Mil, Mughan, Caspian, and the Kur and Araz rivers, Islam spread rapidly. However the people living in Arsakh, Uti, and Kambisena provinces are Christians, the Arabs tolerated their religion.

In this regard, on the basis of the analysis of the characteristic features of the library-information service in the complex polyethnic situation in the Sheki-Zagatala Economic region of the modern Republic of Azerbaijan, it is precisely the settlement of the few peoples living in the region in the territory of the former Kambisena and Uti provinces.

At the same time, in order to distance Caucasian Albania from Byzantium, the Albanian Church was hierarchically subordinated to the Monophysite Armenian Church from the beginning of the 8th century (704 B.C.). Thus, the Arab caliphate continues the policy pursued by the Sassanids in relation to Christians, and as a result, after the events of 704, the Albanian church became

dependent on the Armenian church, causing the population to distance themselves from their language and historical memory, and the population of Arsakh, Uti region of Caucasian Albania was subjected to confessional-cultural assimilation.

The problem is brought forward, and on this basis, since ancient times, the generalization of contributions to the process of adapting ideological issues to the interests of nations, ethnic groups, and minority peoples in the library service is presented as a fundamentally relevant problem.

It is noted in our national historiography that the people of Cambisena province, while the Ingiloi border with Iberia, turned to the Georgian Orthodox Church and became Georgian. The tragic turn of history directed the ethno-confessional development of different regions of the country's population in different directions, and the population with the same surname, origin, and history became alienated from each other based on the confessional factor, and the aphorism 'religion separates brother' entered into our vocabulary. Based on this important historical fact, the historical-specific features noted in the process of library-information service to the English population living in the Sheki-Zagatala economic region of the Republic of Azerbaijan should be taken into account.

Historically, the confessional evolution of the Azerbaijani people brought it to shades of polyconfessional culture. Zoroastrian, Christian and Islamic monuments are preserved in the territory of the country. Albanian and Christian monuments preserved in the north-west and south-west regions of the Republic of Azerbaijan are a proof for the historical memory of our people that the lands of Azerbaijan belong only to the history of Azerbaijan. The historical path of the great ancestors of the people was the basis for the creation of multicultural traditions and historically formed the culture of tolerance of confessions in the people of Azerbaijan.

The ethno-national diversity in our country has been preserved until now. In our republic, all peoples and nations live in peace, security and prosperity for the sake of sincere friendship, brotherhood, common philosophical-ideological

concept-the ideology of Azerbaijanism. Sheki-Zagatala economic region is particularly characterized in this aspect.

The Sheki-Zagatala Economic Region of the Republic of Azerbaijan differs among other economic regions in terms of its ethnic-national composition. Many Turkic-speaking and Caucasian-speaking peoples, ethnic groups (Turks, Avars, Ingiloy, Lezgis, Dagestanis, Georgians, Niks, Udins, etc.) live here. Together, they serve the development of a single ideology of Azerbaijaniism in a multicultural cultural environment, and show solidarity to strengthen the foundations of the philosophical concept of Azerbaijaniism. It is known that the socio-economic development of the region and the level of cultural infrastructure depend on the level of library-information service to the population, the current state of organization of library work, optimal distribution of document-information resources, and the level of providing access to library funds and document-information resources of information users. The traditions of the location of the library-information infrastructure in the Sheki-Zagatala Economic Region differ in their specificity. This specificity is due to the polyethnic composition of the region's population, language characteristics of readers, problems of national-historical outlook, national-ethnic cultural characteristics, etc. (Khalafov, 2006).

General information about centralized library systems under the Sheki Regional Culture Department

| City | General fund | In Azerbaijani | | | | | Higher education | Secondary education |
|----------|--------------|----------------|--------|------------|------------|--------------------|------------------|---------------------|
| | | Latin | Kiril | In Russian | In English | In other languages | | |
| Balakan | 165453 | 83845 | 63975 | 16722 | 90 | 821 | 4 | 21 |
| Zagatala | 344987 | 111849 | 184954 | 47711 | 473 | | 6 | 31 |
| Gakh | 283176 | 83841 | 146776 | 36331 | 547 | 15160 | 11 | 38 |

| | | | | | | | | |
|-------|--------|--------|--------|-------|------|-----|----|----|
| Sheki | 546093 | 136593 | 341932 | 65780 | 1788 | | 12 | 44 |
| Oguzh | 172867 | 56328 | 95655 | 20222 | 396 | 266 | 7 | 8 |

In the process of involving the best of the library-information work in the regions in the study, we note that the following main features should be guided by the priority analysis principles:

- to determine the traditional place and role of the economic-geographical position of the region in general historical-cultural life of the people;

-to determine the national-ethnic composition, national-cultural characteristics, main mental characteristic elements of the population of the region;

- analyzing the current, retrospective and prospective situation of the reading process in cultural infrastructure of the region and finding out.

Thus, economic regions of the Republic of Azerbaijan differ from each other according to their potential, the scale of their natural resources, and the level of employment. The factors that distinguish the Sheki-Zagatala economic region of the Republic of Azerbaijan from an economic-geographical and historical point of view are mainly the following:

- economic and geographical position of the region;
- natural conditions, natural and intellectual resources of the region;
- the ethnic composition of the population and the level of settlement;
- areal-territorial and territorial structure of the region;
- historical development features of the region

3-Discussion and Results

In general, placement of the library-information infrastructure in the regions in the Republic of Azerbaijan is based on the similar and different characteristics of the administrative regions, the development of various fields of agriculture, future perspectives, as well as the demographics of the population-, education, cultural level, etc. taking into account the purpose of its creation. In

this aspect, the Sheki-Zagatala economic region, which is one of the 10 economic regions of the Republic of Azerbaijan, which differs in terms of its natural-geographical features and national-ethnic composition of its population, is a library-info.

According to the conducted researches, it can be said that consideration of the ethnic composition of the population and multicultural values is one of the important issues in the placement of library and information resources (Ismayilov, 2010).

Balaken and Zagatala administrative districts, which are part of the Sheki-Zagatala economic region of the Republic of Azerbaijan, are characterized by the ethnic composition of the population being more multicultural than other regions. Placement of library-information infrastructure, distribution of information resources, efficiency elements of library service in these regions are analyzed on the basis of certain multicultural criteria. Among those criteria, the language factor has a special place. Therefore, in addition to the existence of a number of technical, economic and personnel problems in the library-information infrastructure in the mentioned administrative regions, for the effective modeling of the balanced development of the field, in the new 'poly-ethnic local multicultural environment' which will be important for the theory of library studies the concept of 'differentiated library-information service' can be developed.

Ethnic Composition of the Population Gakh District

Table-1

| Ethnic Group | 1999 | | 2022 | |
|---------------------|-------|--------|--------|--------|
| | | % | Number | % |
| Number | 65644 | 100.00 | 73229 | 100.00 |
| Azerbaijanis | 40355 | 76.51 | 63946 | 82.51 |
| Sakhurs | 2612 | 5.11 | 1008 | 1.89 |
| Lezgs | 609 | 1.19 | 253 | 0.48 |
| Russians | 91 | 0.18 | 67 | 0.13 |
| Turks | 96 | 0.19 | 64 | 0.12 |
| Oars | 11 | 0.12 | 9 | 0.12 |

| | | | | |
|-------------------|-----|------|-----|------|
| Tatars | 0 | 0.00 | 0 | 0.00 |
| Ukrainians | 26 | 0.05 | 5 | 0.01 |
| Others | 899 | 1.76 | 446 | 0.84 |

It is of particular importance that prof. A.A. Khalafov summarizes the results of his long-term scientific-theoretical research in such a relevant aspect and presents them to librarian researchers (especially those engaged in the study of regional librarianship). In this sense, during the study of the library-information infrastructure in the Shaki-Zagatala Economic region, we can justify that this region has specific characteristics in terms of all three mentioned scientific provisions, guided by the above-mentioned consistent theoretical propositions of the eminent scientist.

Conclusion

The theoretical provisions mentioned by X. Ismayilov in his monograph entitled 'Fundamentals of Library Management' are also of great importance. He notes: "If we look at librarianship as a whole at the level of the whole country, the entire republic, we can clearly see that regional librarianship is in the central part of this whole. Therefore, the development of regional librarianship, the study of library-information infrastructure in the regions, involvement in fundamental research, and the writing of scientific-research works and dissertations in this direction are of great relevance today. Also, the study of regional librarianship, the generalization of the basics of library and information activity in the regions is considered as one of the main tasks of library management in modern librarianship (Ismayilov, 2000). The characteristic features of the library-information service in the Sheki-Zagatala Economic region of the Republic of Azerbaijan in the complex polyethnic background are considered as important differentiated features in the process of library-information service in our Republic, where a modern non-information society is being established, as an actual problem that should condition the optimal organization of library-reader, librarian-reader relations in the region.

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