Unveiling the inner world: representation of creative personality by Gulrukh Alibayli in «Our Thinking World»

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Abstract.
The focus of the article is on the way Gulrukh Alibayli articulates her sense of creative self in her 1998 book "Our Thinking World". This work comprises publicist writings, portrait essays about renowned figures, two stories, and commemorative photos, all enriched with profound social-philosophical and spiritual-moral themes. The author argues that creative individuals are autonomous, possess self-awareness, and cannot be coerced against their will. G.Alibayli posits that self-identification is a product of an individual's consciousness, which reflects their distinctive cultural identity without exceeding the confines of their culturology, philosophy, and psychology. The writer's self-identification as a creative personality, who expresses concern about societal and humanitarian issues in every piece of writing and seeks various solutions, is realized in the book.

Keywords:
representation of creative personality
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creative person
writer's identity
Gulrukh Alibayli (12 January, 1928–15 February, 2016) is an outstanding Azerbaijani writer and literary critic. She made significant contributions to the literary and cultural scene in Azerbaijan. G. Alibayli is known for her works of fiction, essays, and publicist writings, which often explore themes of identity, self-discovery, and the human condition. Her writing is characterized by its deep philosophical and moral content, as well as its engagement with the reader. Throughout her career, she was an advocate for freedom of speech and expression, and she was involved in various initiatives to promote literature and culture in Azerbaijan.

The significance of this research work stems from the imperative need for a comprehensive analysis of Gulrukh Alibayli's self-identification as a creative personality and central element in her works, both horizontally and vertically. The research focuses on the author's inner thoughts and self-analysis, determines her idea-aesthetic stance, and differentiates her attitudes towards art and life. The study commenced with an introduction to the book "Our Thinking World", followed by an examination of existing research articles in this field.

Unveiling the inner world by a writer has been a notable feature of social and cultural life throughout history (Reggy, 1973) which demands a specific writing finesse from the writer. This involves representing oneself as felt internally and defining oneself through thoughts and ideas.

In one of my earlier articles, I drew comparisons between two brilliant writers: the English writer William Shakespeare, the greatest representative of the Western Renaissance, and Azerbaijani writer Nizami Ganjavi, the greatest representative of the Eastern Renaissance. Both writers overcame a cultural milieu that was primarily characterized by the mysticism and prejudices of patriarchal feudalism by leveraging the powerful humanistic influence of art (Huseynova, 2022). In "Our Thinking World", the reader encounters G. Alibayli's skillful self-identification. When I became acquainted with the creativity of G. Alibayli, I realized that her work and life path were very similar to those of the modernist English writer Virginia Woolf. It is possible to say that both writers explored similar themes in
their works, such as the role of women in society, the complexities of human relationships, and the nature of identity. Just as it is important to first review the period and become familiar with the conditions of the time to deeply understand the works of Virginia Woolf (Huseynova, 2021), the characteristics of the period in which G. Alibayli lived are also felt in her works.

The book's introductory section, "Living with a Longing," commences with a quote from Napoleon: "In the world, there are only two powers: the Sword and the Spirit. Eventually, the Spirit always prevails" (Alibayli, 1998, p.3). The meaning of these words becomes clearer after reading this section. At the International Pen club congress in Croatia, where G. Alibayli was invited to speak on "Irony in World Literature," she faced a choice: conform to a principle she didn't believe in or stay true to her principles and beliefs. G. Alibayli took a bold step and made a responsible statement in a "lonely manner against the tide and the general atmosphere," which created a stir (Alibayli, 1998, p.5).

The writer's creative spirit triumphed. She wrote about her feelings and the victory of her creative spirit at that moment: "I was happy at that moment! When I muster my will and rise above my capabilities, I am happy. When I can express a spontaneously conceived thought or idea with precise and clear sentences and expressions, I am happy. When I maintain my inner freedom and stay true to myself, I am happy!" (Alibayli, 1998, p.6).

The first section of the book, "Publicism," introduces the reader to socially relevant, self-reflective writings, the author's philosophical thoughts, inner musings, and memories. The writer rejoices in the emergence of modern humans, influenced by the time and era. In this new relational environment, they are free from economic, socio-psychological conventions, and myths, displaying a modern way of thinking (Rotenberg, Kushmerick, 2010). One day, the writer reads an article in the "Gunay" newspaper titled "Why are We like this?" The answer to the posed question was: "because we are greedy!" (Alibayli, 1998, p.11). This polemic doesn't satisfy the writer and even disheartens her. She doesn't accept the way the question is posed or its answer. The writer, who
continuously revitalizes the issues of form-content, idea-aesthetic principles, and beauty in her writings, believes that understanding the uniqueness of human psychology and emotions is essential to answer such a question. Stinginess is a sign of weakness, not ordinary physical frailty, but internal, spiritual emptiness and void. In contrast, the modern person is free from the internal stinginess that gnaws at them. As the writer believes, a strong, capable, industrious, creative person engaged in productive work has no business with unreal fantasies (Dan, 2022).

The second section of the book, titled "Aesthetics, Fine Arts", consists of essays. In the essay "Who Needs Aesthetics Today?" the writer extensively analyzes aesthetics, citing quotes from the ideas of F.M. Dostoyevsky, Niels Bohr, A. Einstein, F. Asman, and F.Hegel. She describes aesthetics as a means that elevates people to the highest level of moral relations, harmony, the origin of fine arts, and the most conscious and perfect form of human existence. The writer, who always emphasizes issues such as form-content, idea-aesthetic principles, and beauty, considers national literature's peculiarities in every theoretical postulate she presents (Akimova, 2016).

The writer engages in a dialogue with her readers, addressing them with "Dear reader!" and using the "I think" modality while sharing her thoughts. She allocates space for her readers' opinions on the issues and problems she touches upon, assisting them in forming a correct opinion.

The third section of the book, "Portraits", includes portrait essays about prominent personalities who have played a crucial role in shaping intellectual and creative environments in our country, contributing to national cultural development, increasing creative talents, and fostering youth development. These personalities include Gara Garayev, Rasul Rza, Mirza Ibrahimov, Jafar Jafarov, Mammad Arif Dadashzada, Nigar Rafibayli, Tofiq Guliyev, Ismayil Shikhli, Hasan Seyidbayli, Mehdi Mammadov, Mukhtar Dadashov, Isa Huseynov, Anar, Yashar Garayev, Dilaruba Jafarova, Afaq, Araz Dadashzada, Bekir Nabiyev, and Jahangir Zeynalli. G. Alibayli's literary portraits are of particular interest.
for shedding light on contemporary literary environments, theoretical problems, and analyzing examples from medieval Azerbaijani literature (Sharifo, 2018).

As a researcher, I must emphasize that "Our Thinking World" is a valuable and irreplaceable source that provides both theoretical and practical information, real-life examples, and lived experiences for researching creative personality images in the works of G. Alibayli.

Individuals who contribute to the progress of human life through their services and activities, people who occupy a certain position in the development of society, who accelerate this development with their intellectual and spiritual advantages, have always been the special targets of literature (Huseynova, 2021). Hence, this research provides explanations for the unity of personality and creativity with concrete facts, unveils the secrets of life and art of G. Alibayli, and clarifies the impact of the writer's personality and her inner world successfully presenting the problem and its scientific explanation.

References:

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