National Leader Heydar Aliyev’s Language Policy

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Abstract
Main purpose of the article is to explore the policy of great politician, National Leader of Azerbaijan Heydar Aliyev. The language of every nations is very valuable for them. A lot of materials about Heydar Aliyev personality, his political, economic thoughts, and cultural views exist in the scientific community of Azerbaijan, as well as in the global information space. Many works have been written regarding his attitude to his native language, his country and culture.

This article is based on Heydar Aliyev’s activities, orders, decrees concerning Azerbaijan language. Heydar Aliyev’s irreplaceable historical services to statehood and Azerbaijan are reflected in the study “The Great Leader and Our Mother Language.” Language, which is the “prerequisite for the existence” of every people, nation and state, was forever inscribed in the history of the Azerbaijani people and national state for the first time in 1978, the second time in 1995. The article emphasizes the love of the national language for its native language and its people, which created the ideology of Azerbaijanism with its many wise words and turned the Azerbaijani language into the state language.

In this article we attempt to determine Heydar Aliyev’s attitude to this issue using the words expressed in his personal speeches and writings, as well as to create a broad cultural portrait of the great political figure.

As in all spheres of socio-political, economic and cultural life of Azerbaijan, Heydar Aliyev is a rare personality in the field of “mother tongue”, its study, propaganda and development, and these problems are reflected in the article.

Keywords: great leader, National leader, president, Azerbaijan language, constitution, politics, state, people nation

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Introduction.

In connection with the 100th anniversary of the birth of Heydar Ali Alizadeh, the founder of the independent Azerbaijani state, a brilliant politician, an outstanding statesman, the study by the young generation of the rich political heritage of the great leader, his worthy life and work is one of the important tasks, of the most pressing problems of our time (Qizi, 2022).

Heydar Alizadeh was born on May 10, 1923. The great leader was elected first secretary of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of Azerbaijan on June 14, 1969 and held this position until 1982.

On October 3, 1993, as a result of popular vote, Heydar Aliyev was elected President of the Republic of Azerbaijan. On October 11, 1998, he was re-elected President of the Republic of Azerbaijan.

On December 12, 2003, the national leader of the Azerbaijani people, Heydar Aliyev, died at the Cleveland Clinic in the United States of America and was buried on December 15 on the Walk of Honor in Baku.

Main purpose of research.

Studying the policy of great politician, National Leader of Azerbaijan Heydar Aliyev is the main purpose in the article.

Methods: comparative analyze method was used while conducting research.

Formulation of the problem.

Every nation has geniuses who played the role of saviors in the history of national freedom and independence. These geniuses led their people with their determination and played the role of winners in the most fateful moments. The national leader of the Azerbaijani people, Heydar Aliyev, left a bright and indelible mark on the history of the modern world as a great personality, innate talent and wise statesman.

The meaningful life path, multifaceted and rich legacy of the national leader Heydar Aliyev, who won eternity with his exceptional merits, is an inexhaustible “school of example”. The revival and awakening of national consciousness began with the coming to power of Heydar Aliyev, and thanks to him, our independence became eternal and irreplaceable (Aliyev, 2011).

The great leader’s services to his Motherland and people are unparalleled. Among them, our language and the ideology of Azerbaijanism are the irreplaceable historical merit of Heydar Aliyev.

It is the language of every nation, which preserves and develops national moral values. Language is the most important, necessary source of existence for every nation. The native language of the Azerbaijani people is one of the main factors determining its national existence. Our native language was with him at all historical stages of the development of our people and lived with his destiny. Our native language is as sacred as the anthem, coat of arms and flag – our state symbols.

One of the conditions for the existence of every people and nation is its language. Heydar Aliyev, the national leader of our people, made a great contribution to the proclamation of the Azerbaijani language as the state language.

As is known, Heydar Aliyev began working in the field of the state language from the first days of his coming to power in 1969.

Heydar Aliyev, who has a deep understanding of the eternal and popular language of Azerbaijan, has gained great respect and love by delivering brilliant speeches in his native language at high-level meetings, such as the 50th anniversary meeting "Azerbaijan State University", at meetings with high government officials. He knew very well that this great respect and love that he acquired was the result of great respect and love for the language that he used and spoke – the Azerbaijani language.

Starting from the mid-1970s, the issue of language began to arise in the socio-political life of the republics.

After the adoption of the USSR Constitution, the process of suppression of national languages intensified even more. In connection with the expansion of the rights of the Russian language, the “single language” policy was more widely promoted. In such conditions, promoting the issue of the native language was very risky and scary.

Even the leaders of the national republics were powerless to raise the issue of their native language. Because for them it may be a matter of fate.

Despite all this, Heydar Aliyev, who was the head of the Republic of Azerbaijan at that time, very boldly and decisively expressed his position on the language issue. Speaking about the Constitution of the USSR, the great historical figure in his speech especially emphasized that the Constitution gives citizens the right to education. This right is guaranteed by the opportunity to read in one's native language. In fact, this was aimed at preserving the status of the native language as the state language.

In 1977, a new Constitution of the USSR was adopted. This Constitution served as the basis for the new constitution prepared in all the republics. This Constitution did not have an article on the state language. This article was not reflected in any of the constitutions adopted in individual republics.

In Azerbaijan the situation was different. Heydar Aliyev continued to fight for his native language to become the state language. The head of the republic, who consistently fought for the de facto state language, could not allow this language not to be mentioned in the Constitution. The head of the republic fought with all his might, involving the intelligentsia and the entire people in the struggle for the right to live their native language as the state language, overcoming all difficulties and obstacles with great skill.

Finally, on April 21, 1978, at the VII session of the Supreme Council, dedicated to the draft Constitution (Basic Law) of the Azerbaijan SSR and the results of its national discussion, it was proposed to publish Article 73 in the following version: “The state language of the
Azerbaijan Soviet Socialist Republic is the Azerbaijani language. The 1978 Constitution of Azerbaijan was Heydar Aliyev's service to his people and his homeland. As a result, the Constitution of Azerbaijan was adopted at the proposal of the great historical figure Heydar Aliyev, and the Azerbaijani language received the status of the state language. Giving the Azerbaijani language the status of a state language is one of the greatest historical services of national leader Heydar Aliyev to the people. The great leader skillfully defended one of the attributes of a future independent statehood.

After that, he managed to implement important measures in the field of development and protection of our native language. National leader Heydar Aliyev used various means to develop and enrich the Azerbaijani language. High attention and care for linguists in Azerbaijan, increasing the circulation of books published in the native language, and other measures were aimed at further developing the native language.

After the restoration of Azerbaijan's independence, the people who came to power took an unusual position in relation to their native language. In 1992-93, without any logical basis, it was proposed to change the name of the state language and call it “Turkish”.

After long debates, the authorities in December 1992, without taking into account the opinion of the people and without holding a referendum, “discussed” the Law “On the State Language” and decided that the state language of Azerbaijan should be “Turkish”. They even urgently replaced textbooks in their native language with textbooks called “Turkish” and printed them.

The great leader, the savior of the people, who returned to power, commenting on this issue, sharply condemned this decision of the Milli Majlis and stated that this historic decision was made by 26 people without taking into account the will of the people of Azerbaijan. A big mistake has been made here.

Heydar Aliyev, who returned to political power in 1993, paid special attention to the issue of “work and “development” of the Azerbaijani language and returned to us the name of our native language - “Azerbaijani language”.

In 1995, when the Constitution of the Republic of Azerbaijan (The Constitution, 1996) was being prepared, various proposals were put forward regarding the name of the state language. The overwhelming majority of these proposals supported the name of our native language as Azerbaijani. Article 21 of the Constitution, adopted in 1995 by popular vote (referendum) after extensive discussions, states that the state language of the Republic of Azerbaijan is the Azerbaijani language. After this, the development and protection of our mother tongue increased even more.

The great leader Heydar Aliyev, who always pays special attention to his native language and is a deep connoisseur of our language, signed the Decree “On improving the implementation of the state language” on June 18, 2001, “taking into account the current situation.” in a new period of development of the state language.

Results.

The decree, in addition to the successes achieved by our language throughout its historical development, analyzes in detail the problems that have arisen in the field of the state language in our time, and shows ways to solve these problems. This historically important document played an important role in solving problems arising in the development and use of our language. This decree created the State Language Commission under the President of Azerbaijan. The creation of such an institution, which has no analogues in any country in the world, was aimed at more effective control over the improvement of the use of our native language and regulation of this process in the context of national interests.

Today, the comprehensive development of the Azerbaijani language, its transformation into the state language, its opening to the world of diplomacy, its prominence at the most prestigious platforms in the world are associated with the language policy laid down by national leader Heydar Aliyev (Kazimi, 2014; 2017; 2019; 2021; 2022).

The great leader said: “Our language is very rich and harmonious, it has deep historical roots. Personally, I really love my mother tongue and am proud to speak it.” Wise words are love for the native language and an example for every Azerbaijani. The great leader Heydar Aliyev will live forever in all historical periods of the existence of the Azerbaijani people and their language.

Conclusions.

The Great Leader's efforts to protect and develop the Azerbaijani language from the negative effects of the globalization period are irreplaceable contributions for our people. The decrees signed by the national leader on July 18, 2001 "On the improvement of the implementation of the state language" and "On the establishment of the Azerbaijani Alphabet and Azerbaijani Language Day" signed on August 9 of the same year are among the unparalleled services rendered in terms of the protection and development of our mother tongue. On January 2, 2003, with the Decree of the great leader Heydar Aliyev, the Law of the Republic of Azerbaijan "On the State Language in the Republic of Azerbaijan" came into force. The law clearly specifies the main duties of the state in the direction of caring for the mother tongue.

Despite all obstacles and difficulties, the political line of the National Leader, who took great steps to protect our mother tongue, is confidently continued by President Ilham Aliyev. According to the Decree "On the implementation of mass publications in the Azerbaijani language with Latin script" signed by the head of our state on January 12, 2004, a list of works to be printed in the Azerbaijani alphabet with Latin script is prepared every year. In addition, on January 14 of the same year, "On the publication of the Azerbaijani National Encyclopedia",...
as well as on December 30, 2007, "On the approval of the list of works of prominent representatives of world literature to be published in the Azerbaijani language" application has been implemented. Taking into account the requirements and realities of the modern era, the President of Azerbaijan approved the "State Program on the use of the Azerbaijani language in accordance with the requirements of the time and the development of linguistics in the country" with the Decree dated April 9, 2013, the protection of the purity and richness of our mother tongue, which is the mirror of our national and spiritual existence, is an important historical event. The purpose of the State Program is to increase the state's concern for the use and study of the Azerbaijani language, the use of our language in accordance with the requirements of the time in the conditions of globalization, and the improvement of linguistic research in the country.

At the same time, the document envisages the unification of creative efforts aimed at the development of fundamental and applied research in the leading directions of linguistics and the connection of linguistics with the current problems of modern society. The Decree of President Ilham Aliyev dated July 17, 2018 "On a number of measures to ensure wider use of the Azerbaijani language in the electronic space" is of particular importance in terms of further expanding the scope of the development and application of the Azerbaijani language. The Decree "On measures related to the protection of the purity of the Azerbaijani language and further improvement of the use of the state language" signed by the head of state on November 1, 2018 confirms once again that the state language is always in the center of attention in our country. This document related to language construction is one of the important steps taken in the direction of strengthening the national-moral, political-legal status of the Azerbaijani language.

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