



CLASSICAL GERMAN LITERATURE IN THE EDUCATIONAL STANDARD OF AZERBAIJAN

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Abstract: German literature in Azerbaijan's educational program is primarily integrated within foreign language studies, especially for students selecting German as a second or third language. In secondary schools and universities, it is included in language courses rather than as a separate discipline. At the school level, exposure is limited to selected works aimed at enhancing German language skills and cultural understanding, featuring classics like Goethe, Schiller, and Heine, as well as some contemporary authors. University-level programs, particularly in foreign language and philology departments, offer a more in-depth study, covering literature from various eras and including authors from Germany, Austria, and Switzerland. The curriculum emphasizes literary, cultural, and historical aspects.

Keywords: literature, works, cultural aspect, in-depth study

Introduction: Classical German literature is a period in German literature covering the end of the XVIII and the beginning of the XIX century, known as "German Classicism" or "Weimar Classicism" after the name of the city of Weimar, where the leading representatives of this trend lived and worked. The period of classical German literature coincides with the age of Enlightenment and the subsequent Romanticism movement. At that time, the ideals of reason, freedom, harmony, humanism and the desire for moral improvement of the individual took a central place in the culture and literature of Europe. The classical German period in literature turned out to be a unique combination of the rational ideals of the Enlightenment and the lofty aspirations of Romanticism. The literature of this period aspired not only to aesthetic and artistic perfection, but also to a deep understanding of issues of morality, philosophy and human existence. It is this approach to literature that makes the classical German period special: it focuses on internal contradictions and the search for an ideal, on the pursuit of harmony between reason and feelings, between individual aspiration and duty to society.

The main part: Classical German literature is a majestic epoch marked in history not only by outstanding authors, but also by philosophers and poets who elevated the literary work to a philosophical and spiritual revelation. This epoch, which unfolded at the turn of the XVIII and XIX centuries, became a real treasure trove for the human spirit, a source of ideals of freedom, harmony and eternal beauty. Called "German Classicism" or "Weimar Classicism", this period embodied the pursuit of the highest, the pursuit of truth, which for German writers was inseparable from the service of man and humanity. Johann Wolfgang von Goethe is the central figure of German classicism. Goethe, possessing a multifaceted talent, wrote in a wide variety of genres: poetry, drama, prose and philosophy. One of his most famous early works was the novel "The



"Sufferings of young Werther" (1774), which immediately caused a wave of popularity in Germany and abroad, laying the foundations of the genre "the novel of education". This novel about the sufferings of a young man disappointed in love and peace embodies a new perspective on feelings and personal experiences as the basis of creative inspiration. The hero of the novel, Werther, has become a symbol of a generation striving for freedom of feeling, self-determination and inner truth.

The main work of Goethe is the tragedy "Faust", which became the culmination not only of the work of the author himself, but also of all classical German literature. "Faust" is a philosophical tragedy in which the questions of human nature, the pursuit of knowledge, the struggle between good and evil acquire a symbolic and universal meaning. The story of the scientist who signed a contract with Mephistopheles embodies the endless search for truth, the human desire to surpass himself and answer eternal questions about the meaning of life. Friedrich Schiller (1759-1805), a contemporary and friend of Goethe, is the second founding author of German classicism. In his early plays such as *The Robbers*, *Treachery and Love* and *Don Carlos*, Schiller raised the themes of the struggle for freedom and justice, the conflict between personal morality and social responsibilities, showing complex human relationships and the depth of the inner world of his characters. These works not only touch on important social and moral issues, but also show the emotional experiences of the characters, their personal contradictions and the pursuit of an ideal. Later, in such plays as *William Tell* and *Mary Stuart*, Schiller turns to historical subjects, viewing them through the prism of freedom and morality, art and duty. In the play "William Tell", he describes the struggle of the Swiss for independence from Austrian rule, symbolizing the struggle for freedom and dignity of the individual. This drama has become a symbol not only in literature, but also in the culture of Germany and other countries, inspiring people to fight for their rights and ideals. German classicism is based on the ideas of harmony, perfection and humanism, inspired by antiquity. Goethe and Schiller sought in their works a balance between the sensual and the rational, the personal and the social. They sought to educate an "ideal person" who is able to overcome his weaknesses, gain spiritual freedom and a sense of responsibility to others.

The literature of German classicism also often considers the ideas of Enlightenment and the transition to romantic aspirations, which is manifested in the depiction of human suffering, internal contradictions and aspirations. Goethe and Schiller turn to philosophical topics discussed by prominent minds of the time, including Johann Gottfried Herder and Immanuel Kant. German classicism finds a balance between philosophical and artistic ideas, seeks to combine the aesthetic principles of antiquity with the moral values of modernity. German classicism had a huge impact on the development of European and world literature. The works of Goethe and Schiller have become an important part of the world's literary heritage and have had a significant impact on the development of philosophy, drama and poetry. The ideas and images of German classicism were adopted by many writers and thinkers of subsequent eras, from Russian classics to English romantics. This period also opened the way to the development of romanticism, which adopted the desire for a deep study of human nature and feelings. Classical German literature has left a deep mark on the cultural and literary heritage not only of Germany, but also of the whole world, giving



rise to new philosophical and artistic trends and making a significant contribution to the development of humanistic values.

Conclusion: The inclusion of classical German literature in the educational programs of Azerbaijan reflects the desire of the national education system to expand the cultural and linguistic horizons of students. Despite the limited amount of study of German literature in schools and universities, the works of such outstanding authors as Goethe and Schiller allow Azerbaijani students to come into contact with the ideals of German classicism. Familiarity with German classical literature gives students the opportunity not only to develop language skills, but also to immerse themselves in the ideas of humanism, freedom, inner harmony and the eternal search for truth, which remain universal and close to every culture.

The education system of Azerbaijan, through the inclusion of German literature in the educational standard, contributes to the formation of cultural awareness and respect for world heritage, stimulating young people to a deep understanding of moral and philosophical issues. In-depth study of German literature at the levels of philological and language faculties of universities also contributes to the expansion of students' analytical skills, teaching them to perceive and critically comprehend the ideas reflected in the works of classics. Thus, the study of German classical literature in Azerbaijan not only enriches the curricula, but also helps to create strong cultural and educational ties, contributing to the development of students as open and enlightened citizens of the world.

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