

The Reflection of Anti-American Sentiments in the Novel "Kill The Sultan" by Ahmet Ümit

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Հակամերիկյան տրամադրությունների արտացոլումը Ահմեթ Ումիթի «Սպանել սուլթանին» վեպում

Մկրտչյան Վոլոդյա Ա.

*արևելագիտության ֆակուլտետի թյուրքագիտության ամբիոնի ուսանող
Երևանի պետական համալսարան (Երևան, ՀՀ)*

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Ամփոփագիր. Թուրքիայում Ռեջեփ Թայիփ Էրդոհանի իշխանության հաստատումից հետո թուրք-ամերիկյան հարաբերություններում Թուրքիան սկսում է իրեն ընկալել որպես հավասարազոր դաշնակից-գործընկեր: Այս շրջանում երկկողմ հարաբերությունները ընթացել են ոչ այնքան հարթ ուղով, որոնք իրենց արտացոլումն են գտել նաև Ժամանակակից թուրք գրականության մեջ:

Ահմեթ Ումիթը 21-րդ դարի թուրքական գրականության նշանավոր դեմքերից է: Լինելով ձախ հայացքների կրող՝ նա իր ստեղծագործություններում անդրադարձել է թուրքական հասարակության որոշ շրջանակում առկա հակամերիկյան տրամադրություններին: Իր նշանավոր «Սպանել սուլթանին» վեպում դրանք պատկերվում են սիրո և փնտրտուքի շուրջ ընթացող զարգացումների նկարագրություններում:

Հանգուցաբառեր՝ թուրք-ամերիկյան հարաբերություններ, հակամերիկյանություն, ձախ հայացքներ, բացասական հատկանիշ-վերաբերմունք, սպանություն

Выражение антиамериканских настроений в романе Ахмета Умита «Убить султана»

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Аннотация: После установления власти Реджепа Тайипа Эрдогана в Турции, Турция начинает воспринимать себя как равноправного союзника-партнера в турецко-американских отношениях. В этот период двусторонние отношения шли по не столь гладкому пути, что нашло отражение и в современной турецкой литературе.

Ахмет Умит – один из видных деятелей турецкой литературы 21 века. Будучи носителем левых взглядов, он отразил в своих произведениях антиамериканские настроения, присутствующие в некоторых кругах турецкого общества. В его знаменитом романе «Убить султана» они изображены посредством описания событий вокруг любви и сыщика.

Ключевые слова: турецко-американские отношения, антиамериканизм, левые взгляды, негативная черта-отношение, убийство

Introduction

The relations between the Republic of Turkey and the United States date back to the 1920s, the development of which was facilitated by the existence of a common interest in confronting the Soviet threat and cooperation against the "red danger". During the Cold War, they deepened even more, as a result of which Turkey became a member of the North Atlantic Alliance (NATO) on February 18, 1952, which is considered the highest allied relationship in the military sphere. Already in

Erdogan's Turkey we see a new stage of relations, when Turkey perceives itself as an equal ally-partner. This period is characterized by numerous scandalous incidents, including the demand for the extradition of FETÖ leader Fethullah Gülen [1], the arrest of an American missionary in Turkey Andrew Brunson [5], the adoption of a resolution on the recognition of the Armenian Genocide by the US Congress on October 29, 2019 [3], before the 2023 presidential elections the meeting of the US Ambassador to Turkey Jeff Flake and the joint

candidate of the opposition Kemal Kılıçdaroğlu [2] and the open support for him by the United States, etc.

Anti-American sentiments have also found a place in Turkish literature, where we find the above-mentioned theme in some works of early writers Refik Halit Kara (1888-1965), Fakir Baykurt (1929-1999).

The reflection of anti-american sentiments in the novel

Ahmet Ümit (born in 1960) is one of the representatives of Turkish mass literature of the 21st century. Until the end of the 1980s, he was engaged in active politics, being a left-wing activist and a member of the Communist Party of Turkey. Along with addressing sentimental, domestic topics (love, family, etc.) in his works, Ümit also used historical and documentary detective genres. Being a leftist, communist writer and at the same time being a participant in active political processes, it is natural that in his works he should also address the anti-American atmosphere existing in some circles of Turkish society.

In 2012, the detective novel "Kill the Sultan" was published, which talks about murder, love and history. The events take place over four days in Istanbul, unfolding in the life of historian Müştak Serhazi. For more than twenty years, she has been waiting for her former lover, who left her and went to the USA. And one day the lover returns to Istanbul and wants to meet him. Müştak goes to her house to see the girl and finds her killed: here is the node of the novel, around which the development of events takes place. The protagonist was very fond of history professor Nüzhet Özgen, calling him "the sultan of my heart, mind and soul". Here, the main character says that the girl was "*attracted to the things beyond the ocean, the new world, the new university, the new lover*" [4, p. 25]. Moreover, already in the first pages of the book, we notice the presentation of "across the ocean" with a negative connotation of America as a temptation that forces Nüzhet to leave his homeland and leave his beloved. In the book, the anti-American atmosphere is so intensified that in one of the chapters it is presented that in Iraq America "*caused the death of a million people instead of bringing democracy*" [4, p. 326].

The author-protagonist separation in the novel is not visible at first glance. Each chapter is opened by the main character and the reader notices after a few sentences that it is not the author, but the main character who is narrating, and this compositional form is also used in the case of other characters. We think that through the applied author's mask, the writer with leftist views tried to intervene more in the plot and present his own views in the book with the thinking and language of other actors who are

historians. Nüzhet, going to the USA, marries the American Jerry, who was such a rude person that he even beat Nüzhet [4, p. 422], but the girl did not leave him [4, p. 323]. In the novel, Jerry is described with negative characteristics, and in order to present all that more clearly, the author quotes the family quarrels between Jerry and Nüzhet. In the descriptions, we see expressions of a negative attitude towards Jerry, his attitude towards Nuzhet is presented under a negative guise. Then, one of Nüzhet's assistants, Çetin, blames Nüzhet for leaving Turkey for America for "*betraying the nation and being a child of the West*" [4, p. 361], calling him an American agent [4, p. 362]. There is a certain contradiction here, because the leftist ideology preaches respect for other nations, and Ümit presents the American hero with negative motives.

It is also noteworthy that the novel's chaotic situations, which are also accompanied by the depiction of anti-American sentiments, develop and build around the search for the person who killed the beloved Nüzhet. Along with the whole confusion, the author does not miss the opportunity to present Nüzhet's American husband and America in a negative light.

The portrayal of anti-American sentiment reaches its peak when it is revealed that the murder tool, the letter opener, was not the letter opener kept in Müştak's office, but the one Nüzhet had brought with him from the United States [4, p. 577]. Thus, at the end of the novel, Ümit tries to show the connection between the hero's misfortune, that is, the death of a loved one, and America.

Conclusion

Today, the main accusation against the USA is the pursuit of global hegemony, reckless interference in the internal affairs of other countries, which threatens the independence or even the existence of other nations. There are many facts (see also in the introduction of the article) that an attempt was also made to interfere in Turkey's internal affairs, which naturally found its response at different levels. Studying the anti-American sentiments in Turkish writer Ahmet Ümit's novel "Kill the Sultan", we came to the following conclusions, which once again shows that in the mass consciousness of a part of Turkish society, especially those with leftist views, there is a rooted negative attitude towards Americans. We think that it is renewed, and sometimes becomes more and more hardened and entrenched when there are shocks in Turkish-American relations.

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