I. Gasprinsky’s “Terjiman”: genre prospect

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Abstract. The article is devoted to the study of journalism of the first Crimean Tatar periodical the “Terjiman”, which became a powerful factor in overcoming cultural nihilism among Muslims. The content and genre structure of the “Terjiman” newspaper is analyzed the variety of manifestations of journalism is explored, features of materials submission in the publication. Study of features of informational, analytical, and artistic and journalistic genres of the “Terjiman” allowed us to present its compositional model and find out genre-stylistic features of materials and, therefore, follow the path of the origin and development of the Crimean Tatar journalism.

Keywords: Crimean Tatar publicism, genre, culture, architectonic, national journalism.

Introduction. Journalism as a specific branch of social and political creativity, combining artistic reflection of life and its scientific and sociological study presented in various literary forms and genres. Journalism in the history of the Crimean Tatar literature of its time became the engine of social processes and cultural development not only of the Crimea, but the entire Muslim community of the Russian Empire. In particular it was the primary mean of intercultural communication establishment of the Islamic world and the Christian West.

The first periodical of the Crimean Tatars was the newspaper “Terjiman” founded by Ismail Gasprinsky. This edition had a decisive influence on the development of the Crimean Tatar culture, literature and journalism, it educated future scientists, writers, educators and politicians. Speaking about the importance of the newspaper “Terjiman”, a famous Tatar educator Dzhamaletdin Walide [1] noted that the “Terjiman” for the Turkic people was more important than the “Times” for Europe.

The “Terjiman” pulled together the creative forces of the nation, its pages had new artistic and journalistic genres, not typical for the Crimean Tatar literature of those days. However, the potential genre creative edition has not been the subject of the detailed study yet. Some investigation in this regard can be found, for example, in [2, 3]. Therefore journalism of the “Terjiman” requires further study as the original phenomenon of the Crimean Tatar culture on the mark of the nineteenth and twentieth centuries. It reflects in one form or another I. Gasprinsky’s views on further development of society based on the intercultural communication.

The purpose of this article is to determine its genre and style features of the publication “Terjiman” based on the analysis of substantive content, consider the main themes and issues that I. Gasprinsky raised in this edition, and, therefore, follow the path of development of the Crimean Tatar journalism.

Scientific understanding of the creative heritage of I. Gasprinsky was based on the use of historiographic, comparable methods and contextual analysis in the study of substantive content of the publication “Terjiman” and its evolution.

Information genres in the “Terjiman”. I. Gasprinsky was a master of word, and developed his own style, which was characterized by its simplicity, conciseness and clarity. It was just such a language with which the educator wanted to unite the entire Muslim world.

The most common information genre in the pages of the “Terjiman” is notes. I. Gasprinsky provides information about the various events and phenomena both in the life of Muslims and the world in general with regard to their social significance in small-scale materials. Subject of the information articles in the newspaper covered a diversity of people’s life, the development of science, culture, art. Some of the articles concerned the facts of everyday life, and were the result of direct observations of I. Gasprinsky, other articles provided information about public events, research.

The event-related note is the main flow of information publications on the pages of the “Terjiman” – in sections of “Local news”, “Inner news”, “News”, “Different news” information about the actual phenomena, processes, situations, facts and events is reflected. The newspaper prints details of a different nature ranging from reports on meetings, conventions, activities of organizations as well as messages of agricultural content about the weather conditions, the non-standard events in the life of ordinary citizens. Herewith, these notes are usually not purely factual, but also contain the assessment of the situation by I. Gasprinsky himself, moral and instructive component and gain analytical nature. So, on the first page issue 2 (January 17) in 1884 is a message about the death from starvation of the homeless. The note begins with a message about the death of the man then I. Gasprinsky expresses his thoughts about humanism and the relation to one’s neighbor, and finally a factual material about the identity of the deceased, his family. And the author concludes everything with refer to the son of the deceased man and his conscience.

In section “Sumish”, that often appeared in the newspaper, mostly were published notes-tips, basic content of which is the program information. I. Gasprinsky gave advices mainly in the household, housekeeping, etc. (e.g. “Silk Painting”, “Improving the pears through apple instilling”, “Miraculous mixture against joint ache at a cold or rheumatism”, etc.).

I. Gasprinsky also didn’t leave out in the cold various cultural events: notes-news on the pages of “Terjiman” contain reports of exhibitions, new books, charity events and the like. Thus, in the issue 16 for 1885 the editor writes that the city school teacher Bakir Efendi composed “A guide to the spelling”, and in collaboration with the teacher Aji Khalil – “Geography of Russia” and “Elementary arithmetic”. It is also reported that some advocate of education is publishing “Alphabet using the new system” and “Grammar”, and, moreover, literary texts are getting ready for translation. Summing up, I. Gasprinsky said
“We are looking at these facts like on the bloom of mental awakening of our Muslims”.

Educator closely followed domestic and foreign figures of science and culture. Accordingly, on the pages of the “Terjiman” the anniversary congratulations or obituaries flashed out from time to time.

Using correspondence genre, I. Gasprinsky covered social issues, political and economic situation in one or another region that was inhabited by Turkic-speaking people. In particular, an educator on the pages of his newspaper always talked about his travels across the country, abroad. I. Gasprinsky’s correspondence is notable for its unique clarity – the author entered in details of everyday life and explicitation that is a sign of his style, and sometimes fell back on exquisite oriental style (especially when it came to official events and meetings with officials). Correspondence made from the travels of the publisher brings his works “to the literary epistolary genre of the traveler” [2, p. 182]. Such correspondences, in particular, are “Several days in Istanbul” (no. 16, 1885), “The Great Ball at the Winter Palace” (no. 4, 1893).

I. Gasprinsky often publishes correspondences in whole series under the joint title for a few issues (for example, “From Bakhchisarai to Tashkent” (no. 29–43, 1893). His correspondences educator builds on the facts of reality and tries to reflect life in all its manifestations, author position in which is dominant.

Analytical genres in the “Terjiman”. The newspaper “Terjiman” develops such analytical genre as article. The newspaper regularly placed advanced leading articles that opened the running issue. The subjects of these articles dealt mainly with topical events in the life of the Russian Empire, the Crimean Tatar population and the Muslim world in general. The tenor of the articles is the words of I. Gasprinsky referred to in the first issue of “Terjiman”: “Beginning a business in the name of Allah, let’s take up the pen for ministration to the truth and the light”. Main-feature-articles of I. Gasprinsky are notable for clear authorial setup on perception. Author convinces with opinion, influence on the minds and feelings. The editorials of the publisher were deeply analytical. Revealing the essence of social processes and phenomena, I. Gasprinsky almost always offers his own decisions or recommendations which are mostly very original. He carefully selects the facts, puts them in touch with events which they are generated, and deploys the argumentation system.

In issue 11 for 1885 posted on the front page the article “Regarding the unrest in the Suleyeva village” in which I. Gasprinsky expresses his opinion on charges of rebellion against the statutory government, which was considered by the Kazan Trial Chamber. The author notes that it is affronting for him that he did not know before about this case (in the Samara zemstvo compulsory insurance of cattle plague was imposed, but some villages have refused to execute the order, as a result of which caused the conflict), because he could explain to people who did not fully understood the requirements of the zemstvos, what exactly are these requirements and where does sharia come into the matter. After in the case context I. Gasprinsky approaches a problem of religion, behavior of Muslims and instructs how the government had to act so that there was no conflict, and stands on the protection of the convicted to prove that their acts were unintentional.

Herein the advices of the editor are not situational. They are applicable in many cases and will provide an opportunity to avoid many misunderstandings in the future: “This demonstrates once again how carefully and cautiously need to act different leaders if they want to achieve practical results from their activities”.

Another editorial of I. Gasprinsky “The issue of education of Russian Muslims” (no. 23, 1983) takes more than a column. The author considers the question of education of Muslims, the spread of the Russian language among them, opening of schools for them. This article encloses general research. It deals with the global problem points of the Muslim society of those days.

Articles of I. Gasprinsky possessed the enormity of the author's view, the depth of generalizations and conclusions. They are mostly the “core” of the issue. The articles covered almost all the subject areas of life of the Crimean Tatar population in Russia and abroad, in particular in the context of the problems of coexistence of people of different nationalities and confession in one state. I. Gasprinsky is trying to convince the reader of the correctness of his position by deploying logic-event-driven chain of evidence. He not only uses the consistency of the evidence, but also widely uses the means of emotional impact. It was in his articles where educator made a set of his proposals (in particular the need to study in the traditional national schools, some kind of profession, as well as the Russian language, where a sound method of teaching was introduced).

Artistic and literary genres in the “Terjiman”. The first journalistic works of I. Gasprinsky appeared in printing form in 1871-1875 during his travels in Europe, Africa and Asia [2, p. 180]. By the time he posted his messages about eastern life on the pages of newspapers of St. Petersburg, Moscow and Odessa. However, the majority of journalistic works was published it in the newspaper “Terjiman”.

Artistic and journalistic materials on the pages of the “Terjiman”, representing a response to the current and topical events of the Muslim world, not only provided readers with information, but also performed the function of aesthetic education. Journalism of I. Gasprinsky is notable for high artistic form of and reflects the views of the educator in expressive way, his attitude to the serious socio-cultural problems. It always contains a public-interest component. It is emotionally rich and carries a large amount of author’s emotions. Almost every issue published essays, satires, pamphlets that reflected various aspects of life of Crimean Tatars, the state of women, national life, etc. Stated in the journalistic texts questions (e.g., “Appeal to the Egyptian fellah”, “About something”, “Letters of Baba Rahim”, etc.) were intended to lead to ideological and philosophical speculations and conclusions. I. Gasprinsky addressed his texts to a wide readership, and made the emphasis on the formation of views on the lives of people, their attraction for participation directly in his implementation.

Also I. Gasprinsky publishes educational texts (for example, “Essay on the history of shipbuilding”, no. 11, 1883) are designed to expand the cultural horizons of the Crimean Tatars, to attract them to science, technology, art, and literature.

Very often in the pages of the “Terjiman” I. Gasprinsky publishes problem essays, in which he first
Analyzes the important issues in their specific manifestations, the actions of individuals and groups. Understanding of a large issue of facts, the synthesis of diverse materials allows the educator to talk widely about current issues. Such problem essays, in particular, are “Couple words about adultery” no. 53, 1886, the cycle of “Life and printing in Turkey” no. 41 (1884) – no. 9 (1885), and others.

The feuilleton genre revealed a satiric side of I. Gasprinsky as his another fabulous talent. Using the invincible power of laughter and derision, the educator exposes negative facts, processes and phenomena of reality. At the heart of his feuilletons are not only loud and obvious facts but also facts that are ordinary and normal. And even here the skill and a deep understanding of reality of I. Gasprinsky, who was able to notice such seemingly irrelevant facts, see their internal content, the moral underpinnings. Generalizing negative facts I. Gasprinsky condemns them, denies evil, and explains its roots and consequences. The issue 6 of 1883 under the name Baba Rahim published the feuilleton “Letters of Baba Rahim” in which the author quasi refers to the “Terjiman” like to his son. Baba Rahim said that in his city Uzun-Top (with a note given that the city is missed on all maps and there is no need to know its location) people are divided into four categories: people of knowledge; people who do not know anything, but who can learn and be moved to the first category; people who do not know anything and do not want to know (they do not worth attention, because they are not harmful); and finally, people who do not know anything, but they are sure that they know everything (“This is the punishment of Allah!”). Then Baba Rahim said that public opinion “is something that turns clever into fools, and makes clever of fools . . .”, and tells the appropriate instructive ironic story.

The essay of I. Gasprinsky is the pinnacle of his journalistic creativity [2, p. 182]. Small in size and free in the composition, these texts consider individuality texts and questions. They hand over personal, subjective considerations, impressions, observations, thoughts of the publisher associated with both editorial and educational activity. Essay of I. Gasprinsky are notable for presentation logic, conclusiveness, clarity, presentation skills. For example, the essay “Russian Islam. Thoughts, notes and observations” refers the issues of internal national policy of the Russian Empire in comparison with other, western in the first place, multiethnic states. The essay “It is better to be safe than sorry” is an argument of the educator of a man and nature, lifestyle and health. On the pages of the “Terjiman” publisher regularly publishes letters to the editorial office from readers. These letters are of different topics, which are often given editorial comment (who is actually I. Gasprinsky himself).

Issue 26 of 1883 published a letter of A. Abibulla Efendi, in which he says that he agrees with the article in one of the previous editions of the “Terjiman” that teachers are not paid well for their enhanced performance. At the same time, he notes that it is also necessary to pay attention to the position of the mullahs and khatibs, who also have low wages. I. Gasprinsky on behalf of the editorial board responses that “we need to think of a decent maintenance of the clergy”. Or, in the issue 2 of 1884 I. Gacprinsky publishes an excerpt from the letter of Anvareva Ulla, who expresses his opinion on the possibility of combining Islam and civilization. The editor said that he published this letter, because of its interesting content and language.

Feedback from readers not only allowed editor to quickly obtain information about the daily problems of the population, but also monitor the reaction of readers to the publication in the “Terjiman”, which was especially important in the context of his educational activities. After all, although I. Gasprinsky acted slowly and as tolerant as he could, but still had to overcome many obstacles associated in particular with the conservative outlook of the population. Therefore, reader’s feedback on his articles gave him the opportunity to see what is worth more attention, or where there is a need to change approach in order to achieve his goal.

Conclusions. The “Terjiman” played a significant role in the organization and promotion of national education and training, the spread of the idea of arrangement of multicultural state on the principles of national equality. More than a quarter of a century the edition performed various functions, from the source of information for the Turkic people of Russia to the methodical assistance for teachers, from a speaker of the new political Islamic forces to the repel all the latest stuff, which appeared in the literature and culture. On its pages of the publication new artistic and journalistic genres appeared, not typical for Crimean Tatar literature of those days. The “Terjiman” had a decisive influence on the development of the Crimean Tatar culture, literature and journalism.

Materials of “Terjiman” require further study as a source for research in ethnology, pedagogy, history, folklore, sociology, economics, literature and journalism of Turkic-speaking people of the Russian Empire and particularly the Crimean Tatars at the turn of the nineteenth and twentieth centuries.

Литература

REFERENCES

“Терджиман” І. Гаспринського: панорама жанрів
Дыникова Л. Ш.
Анотація. Стаття присвячена вивченню публіцистики на сторінках першого кримськотатарського періодичного видання “Терджиман”, що стало могу́тнім чинником подолання культурного нігілізму в мусульманському середовищі. Аналізуються контент і жанрова структура газети “Терджиман”, досліджується розмаїття проявів публіцистики, особливості подання матеріалів у виданні. Вивчення особливостей інформаційних, аналітичних та художньо-публіцистичних жанрів “Терджимана” дало змогу представити його композиційну модель, з’ясувати жанрово-стилістичні особливості матеріалів і, отже, прослідкувати шлях зародження і розвитку кримськотатарської публіцистики.

Ключові слова: кримськотатарська публіцистика, жанр, культура, архітектоніка, національна журналістика.

“Терджиман” И. Гаспринского: панорама жанров
Дыникова Л. Ш.
Аннотация. Статья посвящена изучению публицистики на страницах первого крымскотатарского периодического издания “Терджиман”, которое стало могучим фактором преодоления культурного нигилизма в мусульманской среде. Анализируются контент и жанровая структура газеты “Терджиман”, исследуется разнообразие проявлений публицистики, особенности представления материалов в издании. Изучение особенностей информационных, аналитических и художественно-публицистических жанров “Терджимана” позволило представить его композиционную модель, определить жанрово-стилистические особенности материалов и, следовательно, проследить путь зарождения и развития крымскотатарской публицистики.

Ключевые слова: крымскотатарская публицистика, жанр, культура, архитектоника, национальная журналистика.