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	RESEARCH ARTICLE 
	Turkological Congress: Scientific Institutionalization, Cultural Integration and the History of Intellectual Unity in the Turkic World – Analytical Analysis in a 100-Year Perspective
Humeyir Ahmadov	Doctor of Pedagogical Sciences, Professor Head of the Department of Training Scientific-Pedagogical Personnel, Institute of Education of the Republic of Azerbaijan Azerbaijan E-mail: a.humeyir@arti.edu.az ORCID: https://orcid.org/0000-0003-0019-4266
Parvin Alizade	Leading Specialist Department of Training Scientific-Pedagogical Personnel, Institute of Education of the Republic of Azerbaijan Azerbaijan Email: alizadapari.16@gmail.com ORCID: https://orcid.org/0009-0009-5896-2177
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Abstract The process of national-cultural awakening among the Turkic peoples at the beginning of the 20th century was accompanied not only by political and ideological transformations, but also by the strengthening of scientific-intellectual integration. In this context, the First Turkological Congress held in Baku in 1926 is considered a turning point in the intellectual history of the Turkic world. The Congress was not only a scientific event, but also the first systematic initiative towards the formation of a common conceptual platform in the field of language, culture and history. Its main goal was the comparative study of the linguistic and cultural heritage of the Turkic peoples, the standardization of scientific terminology and the creation of a common writing system. The Turkological Congress was organized, in particular, with the initiative of the Azerbaijani scientific environment and turned this country into an international center of Turkological research. Even before the congress, the institutionalization of the Azerbaijani school of oriental studies, the establishment of the Oriental Faculty, and the introduction of scientific teaching in Turkic languages had created an important foundation for this process. This scientific tradition, in turn, was based on a centuries-old intellectual heritage formed in the direction of studying Eastern culture and systematic research of Turkic languages. The aim of the article is to analyze the historical development of the Turkological Congress, its ideological and scientific goals, its role in the modern Turkic world, and especially the geopolitical and cultural significance of the 100th anniversary of the congress. The study takes into account both classical Turkological literature and the scientific heritage of the Azerbaijani school of oriental studies. This approach allows us to evaluate the Congress not only in the context of the Soviet era, but also in a broader context of civilizational and cultural integration.	
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1. Introduction

The beginning of the 20th century is characterized as a period of profound transformation in the intellectual history of the Turkic world. During this period, processes such as national awakening, cultural modernization, and revision of language policy were developing in parallel. The need to study the common language and cultural heritage among the Turkic peoples on a scientific basis became especially urgent at this historical stage. This need arose not only from philological interests, but also from issues of national identity and cultural self-awareness.

In this context, the First Turkological Congress held in Baku in 1926 acted as the first large-scale initiative towards the institutionalization of scientific cooperation in the Turkic world. The Congress aimed at the systematic study of Turkic languages, the creation of terminological uniformity, and the formation of a common scientific methodology. This event gave a significant impetus to the development of Turkology as an independent scientific field and laid the foundation for intellectual integration among the Turkic peoples.

The role of Azerbaijan in this process is particularly noteworthy. The school of oriental studies formed here in the late 19th and early 20th centuries created an important scientific base for the development of Turkological research. The Oriental Faculty of Baku State University played a leading role in the training of specialists in Turkic languages and provided various scientific and cultural institutions with personnel in this field. This institutional base made the holding of the Turkological Congress in Baku a historical necessity.

The importance of the Turkological Congress is not limited only to the decisions it made. It played the role of a strategic platform towards the formation of a common scientific space in the Turkic world. In this regard, the re-analysis of the historical and ideological essence of the congress is of particular relevance in the modern era.

The relevance of the Turkological Congress in the modern era has reached a new level with the order dated October 22, 2025, signed by the President of the Republic of Azerbaijan (Presidential Order, 22 October 2025). In that order, the necessity of celebrating the 100th anniversary of the Turkological Congress was specially emphasized, noting that this event was not only of historical jubilee character, but also had strategic importance in terms of strengthening scientific and cultural integration in the Turkic world. The decree identified the reassessment of the role of the Congress in world scientific and cultural history, the promotion of joint scientific and cultural cooperation between the Turkic peoples, the increase in state support for the study of Turkic languages and the pan-Turkic cultural heritage, as well as the importance of celebrating the 100th anniversary of the Turkological Congress on an international scale as the main directions. In addition, the document gave specific instructions to relevant state agencies to organize anniversary events, hold scientific conferences, support research projects and widely promote the scientific and cultural heritage of the Turkological Congress. This approach demonstrates that the Turkological Congress is evaluated not only as a historical event, but also as an important strategic platform serving the development of scientific and cultural cooperation in the Turkic world in the modern era.

2. Literature Review

Although the existing scientific literature on the historical and ideological essence of the Turkological Congress is quite extensive, its complex and multifaceted nature has not yet been fully and systematically studied. Existing research has developed mainly in three methodological directions: first, studies focused on the linguistic aspect of Turkology; second, studies analyzing the political essence of the congress in the context of Soviet national policy; third, studies conducted in terms of the formation of cultural integration among the Turkic peoples. However, each of these directions covers only certain aspects of the congress and remains limited in explaining its broader role as a civilizational, scientific and cultural platform as a whole.

The formation of the scientific foundations of Turkology is closely related to the development of orientalist schools that took place in the late 19th and early 20th centuries. In this regard, the Azerbaijani scientific environment is of particular importance (Ahmadov, 2014). The study of oriental languages, source studies and textological studies were formed here not only as an academic activity, but also as a tool for national and cultural self-awareness. As a result of this process, Azerbaijani oriental studies emerged as a multidisciplinary scientific direction consisting of a synthesis of the fields of linguistics, historiography and ethnography. It was this multidisciplinary approach that later formed the basis of the methodological basis of Turkology.

At the beginning of the 20th century, the activities of the Oriental Faculty of Baku State University played an important role in the institutionalization of Turkological research. The faculty was not only a scientific center, but also the main base for training specialists in Turkic languages. It should be noted that at that time, Azerbaijani higher education institutions played a leading role in training specialists who knew the Turkish language, and these specialists worked not only in the academic field, but also in cultural-educational and scientific institutions. This fact indicates that Turkological research has not only theoretical, but also practical and institutional foundations.

Representatives of international oriental schools also played a role in the formation of the scientific foundations of the Turkological Congress. In particular, the activities of such scientists as V.V. Bartold, A.N. Samoilovich and N.Y. Marr had a significant impact on the development of comparative methodology of Turkology. Their scientific ties with Baku and the fact that they lectured here show that Turkology has become part of the international scientific discourse. The activities of these scholars have put forward the need to study Turkic languages not only in a philological, but also in a historical and socio-cultural context (Central State Archive, Fund 389, Inventory 1, File 17, Sheet 2).

At the same time, the development of the Azerbaijani school of oriental studies shows that Turkology was not an ideological project that emerged in the Soviet era, but a continuation of more ancient scientific traditions. Since the Middle Ages, the Azerbaijani intellectual environment has played an important role in the development of Oriental sciences, forming a multilingual and multicultural scientific model. This model is characterized by the parallel use of Arabic, Persian and Turkic languages, and later created the basis for the Turkic languages to become an independent object of scientific research.

An analysis of the existing literature shows that the Turkological Congress was not only a technical measure related to language reform, but also the beginning of the scientific and cultural integration of the Turkic peoples. In this regard, the assessment of the congress should not be limited only to the political and ideological framework, but its broader essence as a scientific civilization project should be taken into account. This approach allows us to evaluate the issue of holding the 100th anniversary of the congress not only as an anniversary event, but also as the beginning of a new stage of scientific cooperation in the Turkic world.

3. Historical Background

It is necessary to evaluate the formation of the Turkological Congress not as a random event, but as a logical result of long-term intellectual, scientific and cultural processes. The historical roots of this congress should be sought not only in the political changes that took place at the beginning of the 20th century, but deeper - in the centuries-old line of scientific development, in which Eastern and Turkic intellectual traditions were formed. In particular, the multilingual and multicultural scientific environment that has been formed since the Middle Ages in the territory of Azerbaijan created the initial foundations of Turkological thought. This environment was characterized by the parallel use of Arabic, Persian and gradually strengthening Turkic languages, and as a result, it created the basis for the transformation of the Turkish language not only as a means of everyday communication, but also as a means of scientific and literary expression (Imanov, 1927).

The political and social changes taking place in the region in the 19th century led to an increase in interest in Turkic languages. During this period, the study of Eastern languages was no longer aimed only at understanding religious or classical literature. Language studies were increasingly associated with issues of historical, ethnographic and cultural identity. Azerbaijan played an important role in this process. Here, oriental studies were formed not only as a sphere of academic interest, but also as a mechanism of national self-awareness. This approach created conditions for the emergence of the first scientific initiatives aimed at the systematic study of Turkic languages.

The establishment of the Oriental Faculty at Baku State University at the beginning of the 20th century served as the beginning of the institutionalization of Turkological science. This faculty became not only a scientific research center, but also the main platform for training specialists in Turkic languages. Even at a certain period, the majority of personnel in the Turkish language were trained precisely from this faculty, and they worked in various scientific, cultural and educational institutions (Kononov, 1968). This fact indicates that Turkology was developing not only as a theoretical field, but as a practical science arising from real social needs.

At the same time, during this period, leading representatives of the international oriental studies environment began to establish scientific relations with Baku. The activities of such scientists as V.V. Bartold, N.Y. Marr and A.N. Samoilovich strengthened the idea of comparative study of Turkic languages. Lectures and research conducted with the participation of these scientists showed the importance of studying Turkic languages not only from a philological perspective, but also in a historical-civilizational context.

The culmination of these processes was the First Turkological Congress held in Baku in 1926. The Congress served as the first large-scale institutional platform for scientific cooperation between the Turkic peoples. Here, issues of language, history, ethnography and terminology were discussed and a common scientific approach was formed (Central State Archive, Fund 1318, Inventory 1, File 1700, Sheet 1). The holding of the Congress actually turned Azerbaijan into an international center of Turkological science.

Thus, the Turkological Congress was not a sudden initiative, but a logical result of the intellectual tradition formed since the Middle Ages, the school of oriental studies strengthened in the 19th century and the scientific structures institutionalized at the beginning of the 20th century. This historical sequence justifies the assessment of the Congress as not only a regional, but also a pan-Turkic and global scientific event.

4. Findings

Analysis of the scientific and ideological results of the Turkological Congress shows that this event was not only a discussion platform focused on the language policy of a certain period, but also a fundamental event that formed the initial stage of scientific integration among the Turkic peoples. The Congress acted as the first large-scale initiative to bring research conducted in the fields of linguistics, history, ethnography and culture into a single methodological framework in the Turkic world. In this regard, its results were both theoretical and practical in nature.

First of all, the Congress promoted the application of comparative methodology for the systematic study of Turkic languages. This methodological approach made it possible to study not only the lexical and grammatical features of Turkic languages, but also their historical development trajectory. This, in addition to showing the interconnected development of Turkic languages, created conditions for determining their common roots on scientific grounds. Thus, Turkology began to take shape not only as a philological field, but also as a historical and civilizational research direction.

The second important result was the achievements in the field of terminological standardization. The Congress discussed the issue of integrating the terms used among various Turkic peoples into a single system and determined the initial principles in this direction. Terminological uniformity was of great importance not only in terms of facilitating scientific communication, but also in terms of creating a common intellectual space. This process created conditions for the institutionalization of scientific cooperation among Turkic peoples.

The third result was related to the issue of the alphabet. The Congress stimulated the process of modernization of the writing system of Turkic languages by substantiating the scientific and practical advantages of the transition to Latin script (State Archive of the Republic of Azerbaijan. Fund 389, Inventory 1, File 37, Sheets 4–5). This decision can be assessed not only as a technical change, but also as an important step towards cultural modernization. The standardization of the writing system facilitated the exchange of information between Turkic peoples and enabled the integration of their scientific discourse at the international level.

The fourth important result was the impetus for the institutional development of Turkology. After the Congress, research on Turkic languages took on a more systematic character and personnel training in this field expanded. Azerbaijan played a leading role in this process. The Oriental Faculty of Baku State University became the main center for training specialists in Turkic language and literature and provided various scientific and cultural institutions with personnel in this field. This fact shows that the congress had not only theoretical, but also practical consequences (The First All-Union Turkological Congress, “Bakinskiy Rabochiy”, 1926).

The fifth result was the strengthening of cultural rapprochement between the Turkic peoples. The discussions held at the congress contributed to the formation of an understanding of common history and cultural heritage. This led to the strengthening of intellectual solidarity in the Turkic world and the acceleration of the process of national self-awareness.

Finally, one of the most important results of the congress is its long-term impact. This impact was not limited to the linguistic and scientific fields, but also opened up new opportunities for cultural diplomacy and scientific cooperation in the Turkic world. In this regard, the Turkological Congress remains relevant in the modern era, and the celebration of its 100th anniversary can be considered the beginning of a new stage of scientific integration.

5. Discussion

The essence of the Turkological Congress is not limited to the decisions it made; on the contrary, the transformative impact that this event had on the scientific and cultural discourse determines its true significance. The Congress acted as a platform where, for the first time, research conducted in the field of language and culture among the Turkic peoples was systematically coordinated. In this regard, its discussion provides not only an analysis of a historical event, but also an important theoretical framework for understanding the mechanisms of formation of scientific integration in the Turkic world.

The Congress led to the introduction of a new methodological approach to the study of Turkic languages. This approach required taking into account not only the structural features of the language, but also its historical and cultural context. Thus, Turkology moved away from the field of purely philological research and turned into a broader direction of civilizational research. This transformation allowed for the formation of a common understanding of the history and cultural heritage of the Turkic peoples on a scientific basis.

At the same time, the Congress gave impetus to the institutionalization of scientific cooperation among the Turkic peoples. This cooperation manifested itself not only in the field of research, but also in the education system. Azerbaijan played a central role in this process. As a result of the activities of the Oriental Faculty, the training of specialists in the Turkish language and literature became widespread, and these specialists contributed to the development of Turkology by working in various scientific and cultural institutions (The First Turkological Congress

in Soviet Socialist Azerbaijan, 1926). This fact shows that the congress had not only ideological, but also practical results.

The congress also influenced the process of cultural modernization. In particular, the discussions around the alphabet issue were aimed at standardizing the writing system of the Turkic languages. This was not only a technical change, but also a cultural transformation. The modernization of the writing system expanded the possibilities of communication between the Turkic peoples and created conditions for the international recognition of their scientific discourse. The ideological aspect of the congress is also noteworthy. This event served to strengthen the idea of a common identity among the Turkic peoples. However, this identity was based not only on ethnic or political, but also on scientific and cultural grounds. The systematic study of Turkic languages and their cultural heritage led to the formation of a common intellectual space. The re-actualization of the congress in modern times further increases its historical significance. The initiative to hold the 100th anniversary of the Turkological Congress can be assessed not only as an anniversary event, but also as the beginning of a new stage of scientific cooperation in the Turkic world. This initiative is of great importance in terms of the formation of a common cultural strategy and the strengthening of scientific diplomacy.

Thus, the discussion of the Turkological Congress shows that this event is a strategic platform that forms the basis not only of past, but also of modern and future scientific cooperation. Its impact is not limited to the fields of linguistics, history and culture; on the contrary, it serves the continuous development of intellectual integration in the Turkic world.

6. Scientific and Cultural Impact

The scientific and cultural impact of the Turkological Congress was manifested on a wider scale than the decisions it made. This impact played an important role not only in the field of linguistics, but also in historiography, cultural studies and in the intellectual development of the Turkic peoples in general. The Congress acted as a platform that ensured the transition of scientific thought to a new stage in the Turkic world. In this regard, it is necessary to evaluate its impact comprehensively in both scientific and cultural aspects.

From a scientific point of view, the Congress gave impetus to the formation of Turkology as an institutional scientific field. Before the Congress, the study of Turkic languages was mainly carried out within the framework of separate regional and individual initiatives. However, after this event, research took on a more systematic character and the application of comparative methodology became widespread. The historical development, structural features and mutual relations of Turkic languages now began to be studied within a single scientific framework (Isaev, 1979). This process led to the recognition of Turkology as an independent academic field.

Azerbaijan played an important role in this development process. As a result of the activities of the Oriental Faculty, the training of specialists in Turkic languages was expanded, and these specialists contributed to the spread of Turkology, working not only in the academic field, but also in cultural-educational and scientific institutions. This fact shows that the impact of the congress was manifested not only at the theoretical, but also at the practical level.

From a cultural point of view, the congress served to form a common understanding of heritage among the Turkic peoples. The study of the language with a unified scientific approach led to the strengthening of the idea of a common cultural identity. This process was not limited only to the study of the past, but also influenced the formation of modern cultural policy. The increase in literary and scientific exchange between the Turkic peoples led to the strengthening of cultural integration.

In addition, the congress also influenced the process of cultural modernization. The discussion of the alphabet issue led to the renewal of the writing system of the Turkic languages, which led to significant changes in the education system. The standardization of the writing system facilitated the exchange of information among the Turkic peoples and allowed their scientific discourse to be recognized at the international level.

The long-term impact of the Turkological Congress is confirmed by its continued relevance in the modern era. The initiative to hold the 100th anniversary of the Congress can be assessed as the beginning of a new stage of scientific and cultural cooperation in the Turkic world. This initiative is of great importance in terms of the formation of a common cultural strategy and the strengthening of scientific diplomacy.

Thus, the scientific and cultural impact of the Turkological Congress shows that it is not only a historical event, but also a strategic platform serving the sustainable development of intellectual integration in the Turkic world. This impact has created conditions for the emergence of new research directions in the fields of linguistics, history and culture and the strengthening of scientific cooperation among the Turkic peoples.

Conclusion

The Turkological Congress should be considered a fundamental turning point in the scientific and cultural history of the Turkic world. Its importance is not limited to the adoption of specific decisions; on the contrary, this event was a

systematic platform that formed the beginning of intellectual integration between the Turkic peoples. The Congress created conditions for the application of a new methodological approach in the study of Turkic languages, history and cultural heritage and gave impetus to the formation of Turkology as an independent scientific field.

From a historical point of view, the Congress acted as a logical continuation of the traditions of oriental studies formed since the Middle Ages, especially the scientific schools that developed in the intellectual environment of Azerbaijan. This scientific tradition made it possible to study Turkic languages not only from a philological perspective, but also in a historical and cultural context. The training of specialists in the Turkish language as a result of the activities of the Oriental Faculty of Baku State University further strengthened the practical impact of the Congress.

From a scientific point of view, the Congress determined the methodological foundations of Turkology. The application of the comparative linguistics approach allowed for a systematic study of the development trajectory of Turkic languages. This led to the emergence of new directions not only in the field of linguistics, but also in historical and cultural studies.

From a cultural point of view, the congress served to form the idea of a common identity among the Turkic peoples. The systematic study of language and cultural heritage led to the creation of a common intellectual space. This led to the strengthening of scientific and cultural cooperation in the Turkic world.

In modern times, the issue of holding the 100th anniversary of the Turkological Congress necessitates a reassessment of its historical significance. This anniversary can be considered not only a commemoration of the past, but also the beginning of a new stage of scientific integration in the Turkic world. The re-actualization of the ideas of the Congress in modern conditions is of great importance in terms of the formation of a common cultural strategy and the development of scientific diplomacy.

Thus, the Turkological Congress is not only a historical event, but also a strategic platform that forms the basis of the scientific and cultural development of the Turkic world. Its influence served to form sustainable development processes in the fields of linguistics, history and culture and laid the foundation for the strengthening of intellectual integration among the Turkic peoples.

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Conflict of Interests

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