

## ABSTRACTS

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### FRENCH EDUCATIONAL LITERATURE IN M.F. AKHUNDOV'S CREATIVITY

Enlightenment as a literary trend appeared in the late 17<sup>th</sup> – early 18<sup>th</sup> centuries in England. In France it gained its momentum in the 18<sup>th</sup> century. The middle of the 19<sup>th</sup> century saw the formation of the Enlightenment in Azerbaijan. Mirza Fatali Akhundov, a great thinker and founder of Azerbaijani drama, is considered to be at the top of the Azerbaijani education formed under the influence of the European Enlightenment, as the country is situated on the edge between the West and the East. So what is the extent of influence exerted on a famous scholar and publicist?

As M.F. Akhundov stated in the second letter of his philosophical treatise *Letters to Kyamaluddovle*, Montesquieu and Voltaire were his teachers. In fact, he tried to read French books in original. Due to the translations made by A. Radishchev from French and German he was able to encounter the works of Gabriel Bonnot de Mably (1709–1785), in particular, his famous *Observations sur l'histoire de la Grece* (*Reflections about Greek History*, published in 1773) and *Exercices d'officier* (*Officer exercises*, published in 1777).

Mably, a follower of Montesquieu, made frequent references to his predecessor. He distinguished the monarchy and despotism as well as Montesquieu did. A. Radishchev, in his turn, referred to the works of Montesquieu and Mably. So, this type of idea creative connections of M.F. Akhundov and the French writers has not been studied properly by the Azerbaijani scholars. Although the names of Montesquieu and Mably have been mentioned in connection with the studies of Akhundov's works, this material was mostly ignored.