

THE IMPORTANCE OF STUDYING A FOREIGN LANGUAGE, AZERBAIJANI IN PARTICULAR, AS A COMPONENT OF ENSURING THE NATIONAL SECURITY OF THE REPUBLIC OF ARMENIA

Abstract

It is evident that in the 21st century- the era of Information Age, conflicts between the states often deviate from the traditional military nature, gaining an entirely new form and content: informational, psychological, economic and various other wars.

Concerning wars on the information platform, the knowledge of a foreign language is mostly used in the modern era. The mastery of a language other than one's mother tongue is beneficial. The link between languages and national security is not new, but it has attracted increasing attention in the 21st century when hostilities are already visible in the media. To better understand the connection between mastering a foreign language and, in particular, ensuring national security in the Republic of Armenia, we have conducted several studies, referred to the Azerbaijani media, as well as the promotion of Azerbaijani language teaching in the Republic of Armenia.

Introduction

The term "National Security" (hereinafter referred to as the NS) was first officially used by the 26th President of the United States, Theodore Roosevelt. In 1901 he equated NS with national interests in Congress and declared that NS was a national interest promoted by statesmen and politicians and enshrined in the relevant instruments. When we analyze the concept of NS, we should start with the links that are between the internal and international dynamics of the State, how the latter relates to the two functions performed and depends on the security of the country in question.

Speaking about NS, we can not overlook the importance of foreign languages as an essential element in ensuring safety. The relationship between languages and NS is not new, but it has received increased attention in the security-conscious early years of the twenty-first century. The need for language (communication) in NS is crucial, but also nuanced.

In order to understand the role of a foreign language in the context of ensuring NS, we consider it necessary to review the work carried out in Armenia from the point of view of teaching and learning languages of strategic importance, in particular Azerbaijani. The purpose of the article is to explore the NS concept and consider the knowledge of foreign languages as a key element of ensuring NS. In this context, to assume the Nagorny Karabakh conflict and also study the activities of Armenian-language websites operating in the Republic of Azerbaijan. Given the above, we have set the following objectives:

- To examine the concept of national security and its problems;
- To consider the psychological security of Nagorno-Karabakh conflict and expression of a new stage in the media sector,
- To emphasize the importance of a foreign-language knowledge in the context of ensuring national security,
- To identify the activities of Armenian language websites in Azerbaijan,
- To discuss the importance of teaching Azerbaijani, in terms of security.

Scientific Novelty

The multi-layered nature of the chosen topic implies systematic study. Accordingly, we have recorded the following results containing scientific novelty. The article attempts to study the activities of Armenian-language sites operating in Azerbaijan and to identify misinformation disseminated through them.

- For the first time in Armenia, the role of knowing the Azerbaijani language in the context of ensuring NS was studied.

- We referred to the anti-Armenian misinformation disseminated by Armenian-language websites operating in the Security System,
- We have examined the work done in Armenia, Azerbaijani study and training perspectives.

The concept of national security and its problems

Before World War II, security was synonymous with defence or protection. In 1947 the United States passed the "National Security Act"¹ and established the National Security Council, which began to coordinate the activities of all security agencies.

The process of ensuring NS is quite complicated and intertwined with the modernization of several systemic problems. Although different countries have defined different formulations for NS, the definition of the Law of the Republic of Armenia "On National Security Bodies" can be considered acceptable and general. The National Security of the Republic of Armenia is such a state of State and public where the security of persons, public and the State, territorial integrity, sovereignty, constitutional order, normal economic development of the country, protection of material and spiritual values of the public, rights and freedoms of citizens, as well as protection of the environment from internal and external threats, is ensured². Threats to NS are defined as events, actions, or the absence thereof, that may threaten the existence of the Armenian State, society, family or individual. Such threats may emanate from domestic (internal threats) or foreign (external threats) sources³.

When talking about the NS issue, it is worth emphasizing several levels, the most important of which are regional, national and individual levels. Regional security includes the absence of threats to the nations, peoples and States of the region. It is due to the balanced establishment of peace in the States of the region. State security, perhaps the most important, encompasses several areas, including the economic, political, cultural and social fields. State security means, first of all, the absence of a threat to the territory, the population, the system of government. The State is a priority in the NS system. Not only does the State express national interests but also guarantees their implementation through the legislative, executive and judicial authorities.

Along with the development of global processes, the issue of NS has become increasingly urgent. In the era of globalization, new threats are rising; new challenges are emerging, that require not only the protection of individuals, the society, State from traditional threats and dangers, but also the identification, prevention, mitigation, elimination and removal of threats towards the new generation capable of depriving them of their basic material and spiritual values and to harm, limiting the possibilities of development.

The process of globalization itself and the establishment of the new global world order is a challenge to NS. The situation arises when the former tools and methods of ensuring NS lose their relevance and effectiveness or are seen as rudimentary (residual) forms of totalitarian or authoritarian systems and as a threat to democracy, civil society or national society. As the well-known Russian political scientist, Doctor of Political Science D. Tsybakov mentions; "Even the governments of developed countries openly acknowledge their power over the most dangerous problems and threats posed by the globalization process"⁴.

Psychological security in the context of the Karabakh conflict

Psychological security is one of the components of the country's security system. The goal of ensuring psychological safety of the country is to neutralize the psychological sabotage of the enemy, providing stability and a healthy moral -psychological atmosphere in the country.⁵ It should be noted that countries are in a constant

¹ Ref book, 1947 National Security Act, <https://dni.gov/index.php/ic-legal-reference-book/national-security-act-of-1947>.

² Law of the Republic of Armenia on National Security Bodies (with amendments to March 23, 2018), Article 1 https://www.sns.am/file_manager/OrensdrutyunRUEN/HH%20orenq%20AATs%20marminneri%20masin_ENG.pdf.

³ National Security Strategy of RA, https://www.files.ethz.ch/isn/155589/Armenia%20National%20Security%20Strategy%202007_eng.pdf.

⁴ D. Tsybakov, *The militarization of politics and national security of Russia*, Oryol 2008, p. 53.

⁵ RA Security in the context of regional military-political processes, YSU Institute of Armenian Studies, Yerevan, 2013, p.64.

psychological struggle to preserve their interests. The psychological battle aims to change the attitudes of the enemy country population in the desired direction, to make people as manageable as possible, to disturb people's mental balance. The main aim of ensuring the psychological security of the country is to prevent the realities mentioned above, provide a stable environment for fighting against the enemy and prepare a healthy society. In the context of the Nagorno-Karabakh conflict, referring to the term 'Psychological Security', it should be noted that in recent years psychological attacks by Azerbaijan testify that Azerbaijan is preparing to unleash a new war. It should be noted that even today, the nationalist statements of the Aliyev clan psychologically prepare Azerbaijani society for a victorious battle. In order to ensure the psychological security of the RA and the Republic of Artsakh, it is first necessary to identify and neutralize the psychological actions of the enemy.

The methodological basis for ensuring psychological security of Armenia should be the inevitability of war, as well as the undeniable fact that the Republic of Armenia, as the guarantor of the safety of Nagorno-Karabakh⁶, was the object of a psychological war in Azerbaijan after the ceasefire in 1994. The ceasefire presupposes an unresolved conflict. The main task facing a country enjoying a truce is to prevent a new war and to impose peace on the enemy. The external threat to Armenia and Artsakh will be permanent. A clear awareness of the inevitability of this reality must be at the core of Armenian statehood and the organization of all public life.

On May 12 1994, an indefinite agreement on the cessation of hostilities between the Republic of Azerbaijan, the Republic of Armenia and the Republic of Nagorno Karabakh, signed by the Russian Federation, entered into force⁷. This agreement has practically become the basis for the establishment of a ceasefire in the conflict zone. Even after the established ceasefire, the Republic of Azerbaijan is continuously violating the ceasefire regime. Speaking about the tension in the border situation in 2015, the spokesman of the Ministry of Defence of the Republic of Armenia, Artsrun Hovhannisyanyan, noted that there was no other ceasefire between Armenia and Azerbaijan⁸. Until 2016, Azerbaijan was actively pursuing aggressive actions, which resulted in military actions unleashed on the night of April 1, 2016.

The amount and intensity of the attacks, the number of used military equipment and manpower, as well as the statements of the Azerbaijani authorities, show that the April events were nothing but pre-planned military aggression. At a meeting of the Security Council on April 2, Ilham Aliyev accused the Armenian side of violating the ceasefire and provocations on the front line. He noted that the right of peoples to self-determination must not violate the territorial integrity of the countries mentioned in the Final Act of Helsinki⁹. This again was to prove that Azerbaijan adheres to the military way of solving the problem.

Azerbaijan sought to seize the whole territory of Artsakh, in an attempt to resolve the conflict by use of force in Nagorno-Karabakh. Still, it failed thanks to the decisive actions of the Artsakh Republic Defense Army¹⁰. Unable to fulfil the tactical tasks set before it, the Azerbaijani Armed Forces were pushed back at the cost of numerous human and military losses. This course of action led to the achievement of a ceasefire on April 5 through the mediation of the Russian Federation an oral agreement was reached between Armenia and the "Chiefs of the General Staff of the Armed Forces of Azerbaijan"¹¹.

The Azerbaijani side has not provided precise information on the dead. According to the Azeri source, the Azerbaijani side suffered only 86 victims¹², which is not true. This was evidenced by a press conference held by the

⁶ The so-called artificial State of Azerbaijan, created in 1918, expressed territorial claims to the historical Artsakh province of Artsakh (Nagorno-Karabakh is a mountainous part of Artsakh), massacres and ethnic cleansing of the Armenian population, such as the 1991-1994 (ceasefire was signed in 1994) and 2016 wars. Currently, the war continues in the field of subversive-intelligence, informative-technological, propaganda, information-technical (cyberspace), and there is a danger of renewed of hostilities

⁷ Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Republic of Artsakh, <http://www.nkr.am/hy/news/2019-05-29/Article-by-Masis-Mayilian>.

⁸ **A. Hovhannisyanyan**, *There was no other ceasefire between Armenia and Azerbaijan*, <https://razm.info/78535>.

⁹ *Ilham Aliyev's speech at the Security Council of the Republic of Azerbaijan*, <https://mod.gov.az/az/news/azerbaycan-prezidentinin-yaninda-tehlukesizlik-surasinin-iclasi-12742.html>.

¹⁰ Commentary of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Artsakh on the occasion of the April war, <http://www.nkr.am/why/news/2019-04-02/Comment-April-War..>

¹¹ Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Republic of Artsakh, <http://www.nkr.am/hy/four-day-war>.

¹² *April 4 is the anniversary of the glorious April war for Azerbaijan*, <https://www.trt.net.tr/azerbaycan/turk-dunyasi/2020/04/03/4-aprel-azerbaycan-ucun-dord-gunluk-s-r-fli-muharib-nin-ildonumudur-1176710?fbclid=IwAR3dMi4SajPwID2yWWklc5U8zSrijBntBmMP8MjFNKO03axda9i-e-IzlxU>

United States State Department on May 16 2016, at which it was noted that a total of 350 people died, but that there were more victims in Azerbaijan than in Armenia¹³.

During the April war, Azerbaijan repeatedly violated several international conventions and human rights obligations. In particular, Valery Khalapian, Marusya Khalapian and Razmela Khalapian, residents of the Talysh village, were brutally killed by Azerbaijani soldiers. 12-year-old Vagarshak Grigoryan, his brother, 11-year-old Gevorg Grigoryan and 12-year-old schoolboy Vardan Andreasyan were injured in an enemy attack in a schoolyard as a result of the shelling¹⁴. Also, according to a report published by the Artsakh Human Rights Defender in 2016, 90 per cent of the 28 servicemen in Artsakh who were in the Azerbaijani Armed Forces control zone were sentenced to death and insulted, cases of amputation and 3 cases of beheading were registered¹⁵. In particular, videos appeared on the Internet showing Azerbaijani soldiers showing the severed head of a Yezidi named Kyaram Sloyan¹⁶. A video appeared on the Internet where Azerbaijani President Aliyev was awarding the title of National Hero to the soldier who beheaded Kyaram Sloyan¹⁷. All of this is proof that the present authorities of Azerbaijan ignore international obligations and preach anti-Armenianism before the international community.

The April War took place not only on the battlefield but also in the media. The military actions that began on April 2 were accompanied by cyberattacks, as well as the creation of fake Armenian pages in an attempt to disseminate the most disturbing information on Facebook. The information policy of Azerbaijan was aimed at domestic as well as foreign and Armenian audiences. The Azeri society became the addressee of the inner audience. The public had been distracted from political problems by disinformation. The materials spread mainly referred to the occupation of Armenian territories, the desertion of Armenian officers. The official website of the Ministry of Defense of Azerbaijan reported misinformation about the seizure of several heights near the village of Talysh in the Tartar region, and the capture of some villages in the Jabrayil and Goranboy districts¹⁸.

The international community was the target of foreign audiences. The Azerbaijani media made every effort to present themselves as "victims of the Armenian aggression" in the eyes of the international community. From the very first days of April war, the Azeri media did not react, while the Armenian media field was wholly flooded with information. It had a positive effect, several world media covered the situation, referring to the Armenian press.

The study of the Armenian language and Armenian-language website activities in Azerbaijan

The stereotype that the Armenian language can never be learned for reconciliation "with the enemy" is rooted in the Azerbaijani intelligentsia. Instead, the knowledge of the Armenian language is necessary to prevent a possible counterattack against any potential future obstacle and use it for propagating misinformation.

In this context, great importance should be attached to the study of Armenian-speaking media in Azerbaijan, as well as the knowledge development of the Azerbaijani language in Armenia, especially in the intelligence and counter-intelligence linkages. With the advent of electronic media, the role of print media in the field of propaganda has significantly reduced. Today's media wars are mainly conducted via the Internet, thus benefiting both internal and external audiences, dissemination of misinformation and other desired information in the territory of the enemy, creation of social positions in neutral countries, etc. It is no longer necessary to print a newspaper for information purposes in an enemy or rival country.

¹³ Background briefing on Nagorno-Karabakh conflict, <https://2009-2017.state.gov/r/pa/prs/ps/2016/05/257263.htm>.

¹⁴ Monument erected in memory of 12-year-old Vagarshak Harutyunyan killed during April war, <https://www.panorama.am/am/news/2017/01/19/%D5%A1%D5%BA%D6%80%D5%A1%D5%A6%D5%B4-%D5%8E%D5%A1%D5%B2%D5%A1%D6%80%D5%B7%D5%A1%D5%AF-%D5%B0%D5%B8%D6%82%D5%B7%D5%A1%D5%AF%D5%B8%D5%A9%D5%B8%D5%B2/1711604>.

¹⁵ Artsakh Human Rights Defender's 2016 report, <https://www.artsakhombuds.am/sites/default/files/2019-12/%D4%B1%D6%80%D6%81%D5%A1%D5%AD%D5%AB%20%D5%84%D5%A1%D6%80%D5%A4%D5%B8%D6%82%20%D5%AB%D6%80%D5%A1%D5%BE%D5%B8%D6%82%D5%B6%D6%84%D5%B6%D5%A5%D6%80%D5%AB%20%D5%BA%D5%A1%D5%B7%D5%BF%D5%BA%D5%A1%D5%B6%D5%AB%20%D5%BF%D5%A1%D6%80%D5%A5%D5%AF%D5%A1%D5%B6%20%D5%A6%D5%A5%D5%AF%D5%B8%D6%82%D5%B5%D6%81%20-%202016%D5%A9..pdf>.

¹⁶ Karabakh conflict: Azerbaijani soldiers behead Yezidi from Armenia, <http://www.ezidipress.com/en/karabakh-conflict-azerbaijani-soldiers-behead-yezidi-soldier-from-armenia/>.

¹⁷ Aliyev awards officer who decapitated Artsakh soldier, <http://asbarez.com/149796/aliyev-awards-officer-who-decapitated-artsakh-soldier/>.

¹⁸ April war, "the beginning of a great victory", <https://mod.gov.az/az/pre/21662.html>.

The current Azerbaijani authorities attach great importance to the media in the Karabakh conflict and are actively using it in their anti-Armenian activities. The Azerbaijani authorities, aware of the invaluable impact of information on the consciousness of various societies, were trying in every possible way to influence their culture and the international community, as well as the ordinary consciousness of the Armenian society. For this purpose, in the year of 2000, from the very beginning, Armenian-language websites were created in Azerbaijan¹⁹.

For many years, the Azerbaijani propaganda machine has sought to sow destructive sentiments in Armenia, continually propagating the Armenian side's view of establishing peace at the cost of ceding territories. The primary means of influencing the Armenian audience are social networks and Azerbaijani websites which either had separate Armenian sections or had Armenian names such as "Armenia. az"²⁰, "Hayatsk.info"²¹, "Yerevan. az"²².

Some Azeri news agencies opened Armenian-language sections. One of the first was the Azerbaijani APA agency, whose director, Vyusale Mahirgeze (Vüsalə Mahirqızı), said that the agency's goal was to create an Armenian-language "accurate" coverage of events in Azerbaijan and the South Caucasus. The latter also noted that the local Armenian media does not provide reliable information about the events taking place on the front lines, and the objective of "APA" agency is to provide the Armenian society with 'accurate' information²³. The next Azerbaijani site is "Hayatsk.info". The latter started its activities on June 7, 2016. The Armenian name of the site already indicates that its purpose is to mislead the Armenian society and spread disinformation. During the four-day war, information about the Armenian side was constantly distributed in the Armenian-language sections of the site, which reinforced the border situation and shelled the Azerbaijani positions²⁴.

Information security specialist S. Martirosyan notes that in order to cause panic, false Azerbaijani users, citing alleged acquaintances on the front, spread rumours that they had personally witnessed the losses suffered by the Armenians, and that 'everything is lost'²⁵. According to some reports, an entire army of users and real people with fake pages from the Azerbaijani side took part in information operations on social networks. According to military news coordinator Razm.info Karen Vrtanesyan, about 2,000 Azerbaijani users have been blocked on Facebook²⁶.

At the professional level, there are several Internet resources in Azerbaijan that have Armenian versions. Sohbet Mamedov, director of the "Yerevan" Center, said that the "Yerevan" information-analytical center had become a leader in this field, which was followed by "Armenia" News website, Armenian versions of CBC TV channel and "AzVision" news website. The Armenian services of "Voice of Azerbaijan" radio and "AzTV" channel also operate. "Each of these resources, by offering a special task, was able to attract a wide range of readers' attention. But most importantly, what unites them is to provide the Armenian audience with 'objective' information in their native language about the history and cultural heritage of the Azerbaijani people, the achievements of Azerbaijan over the past 25 years, as well as about Armenian-Azerbaijani relations, problems and their causes",- Sohbet Mammadov told "1news.az"²⁷.

The younger generation of Azerbaijan is also interested in the Armenian language. A young girl who didn't want to be named, said she always wanted to be useful to the public and do something to make her country proud of her, so she decided to become an Armenian language specialist. While studying in the fourth year of the History Faculty of Baku State University, the girl spent her free time working on the Armenian publication of the "AZvision news" site. According to her, the platform offered ample opportunities for young people who wanted to become Armenian language experts.

¹⁹ L. Movsisyan, *Armenian media in Azerbaijan*, http://www.armin.am/armenianreligion/images/menus/1201/Movsisyan_Lilit.pdf.

²⁰ <https://armenia.az/>.

²¹ <http://hayatsk.info/>.

²² <http://yerevan.az/>.

²³ *Establishment of Armenian-language sections of Azerbaijani websites*, <https://sherg.az/x%C9%99b%C9%99r/16991/>.

²⁴ "The sabotage of the enemy continues", <http://hayatsk.info/news/26898>.

²⁵ S. Martirosyan, *The Armenian-Azerbaijani conflict in the media field*, http://www.noravank.am/rus/articles/detail.php?ELEMENT_ID=14593.

²⁶ K. Vrtanesyan, *During the military operations on social networks, an entire army of Azerbaijani fakes operated*, <http://yerkramas.org/article/102545/ekspert-v-xode-boevyx-dejstvij-socsetyax-dejstvovala-celava-armiya-azerbajdzhanskix-fejkov>.

²⁷ *Armenian language in Azerbaijan . who is studying and for what*, <https://1news.az/mobile/news/armyanskiy-vazyk-v-azerbaydzhane-kto-izachem-ego-izuchaet?fbclid=IwAR0k1IXMvjx6hREeKQ8wchEkvCFp-REC5uzQ-B2UqEJA4cK8GEP1efV3JFE>.

There are two universities in Azerbaijan where Armenian-speaking specialists are trained-at the History Faculty of Baku State University²⁸ and at the Regional Studies Faculty of the Azerbaijan Language University. The Armenian language has been taught at Baku State University since 2008, and teaching of Armenian at the University of Languages of Azerbaijan began in 2010. About ten students a year are admitted to the faculty. The language is usually taught by an older generation of professionals born in Western Azerbaijan or Nagorno-Karabakh.

In 2014, Minister Fezail Ibrahimli noted that in order to fight against Armenians, it is essential to know their language and history. "I even suggest that the Armenian language be taught in secondary school". The problem here is not the love towards the Armenian language and history, but that we have encountered the historically hostile State that has dealt a great blow to our history", the deputy said²⁹. In September 2015, at the request of the Center for Strategic Research under the President of the Republic of Azerbaijan, Dr Hatem Jabbarly published the textbook "Armenian language"³⁰.

The Ministry of Defence of Azerbaijan supports the scientific efforts of the universities to train specialists in the field of Armenology. In military schools, the Armenian language is taught along with other foreign languages.

"Among other languages, Armenian is also intensively taught at the Center for Foreign Languages of the Military Academy of the Armed Forces and the Department of Foreign Languages of the Heydar Aliyev Secondary School", - reported "Inews.az" in the press service of the Ministry³¹.

In 2018, information was spread on an Azerbaijani website that all those interested could learn Armenian free of charge. The report specifically mentioned that the study of the Armenian language had recently been interesting, but at the same time highly demanded. It is also noted that, in the context of the war with the Armenians, the need for Armenian-speaking specialists becomes even more necessary. According to the Azerbaijani website Hayatskinfo.com, which has a separate Armenian section to disseminate disinformation among Armenians, it is in great need of Armenian language specialists³². Farid Shafiev, board chairman of the Center for Analysis of International Relations, stated in 2019 that there was a need for young professionals fluent in Armenian. The latter said that the center would focus primarily on a comprehensive study of the Karabakh conflict and all its aspects - legal, economic, political.

"We want to create a chair of Armenology at our Center. There is also a need for young professionals who are fluent in the Armenian language. It is difficult to find 10-15 such specialists in Azerbaijan, and even if we do, they are quite old. We have only one young specialist who knows Armenian".³³ In addition to the above-mentioned in 2019, the Center for International Relations Analysis in Baku (Beynəlxalq Münasibətlərin Təhlili Mərkəzi) has announced that it is organizing courses in Armenian language³⁴.

A press release from the Center says that the courses are for young scientists and researchers, who want to learn the language at an elementary level. People with Master's or PhD degrees may participate in the training. Civil servants and government employees can also participate. The language courses will start on December 1, 2019. Classes will take place twice a week³⁵. Recently, Azerbaijani MP Nasib Mahamaliyev also referred to the teaching of Armenian. The latter noted that the teaching of the Armenian language should also take place in State schools since language proficiency would allow future young professionals to strike at the enemy in a language they understood³⁶.

²⁸ Baku State University, Faculty of History, a schedule where the teaching of the Armenian language is mentioned, <http://static.bsu.az/w16/2020%20c%C9%99dv%C9%99l%20II%20yarim%20il-1-2.pdf>.

²⁹ The Armenian language should be taught in Azerbaijan, <https://modern.az/az/news/67671>.

³⁰ H. Jabbarly, Mastering the Armenian language has advantages, <https://sherg.az/x%C9%99b%C9%99r/10963/>.

³¹ Armenian language in Azerbaijan . who is studying and for what, <https://1news.az/mobile/news/armyanskiy-yazyk-v-azerbaydzhane-kto-i-zachem-ego-izuchaet?fbclid=IwAR0k1IXMvjx6hREeKQ8wchEkvCFp-REC5uzO-B2UqEJA4cK8GEP1efV3JFE>.

³² Free opportunity for those who want to learn Armenian, <https://edumap.az/ermeni-dili-oyrenmek-isteyenler-ucun-furset/>.

³³ Sh. Farid, There is a need for young professionals who speak Armenian, <https://1news.az/news/farid-shafiev-est-neobhodimost-v-molodyh-specialistah-znayuschih-armyanskiy-yazyk>.

³⁴ AIR centre launched Armenian language courses, https://aircenter.az/posts/articles/klpDvwAwNa.html?fbclid=IwAR1EV614i8ZM2GKVOswHjkQglrWoIWYbeEYv80TEJ8CW_RK-2dL1KCTkJ5E.

³⁵ Armenian language courses are organized in Azerbaijan, <http://www.turan.az/ext/news/2019/11/free/politics%20news/ru/85360.htm>.

³⁶ Is it possible to teach the Armenian language in secondary schools of Azerbaijan: Comments of deputies, <https://aztehsil.com/news/13739-azerbaycanin-orta-mekteblerinde-ermeni-dili-tedris-oluna-bilermi-deputatlardan-aciqlama.html>.

It is undeniable that Azerbaijani anti-Armenian information activities are expanding and developing and have recently become more prosperous thanks to the Armenian-language media. It is indisputable that the Azerbaijani information system, in particular the anti-Armenian propaganda, is controlled and directed by the President's Office of the country.

Study of Azerbaijani as a strategic language in the RA

Armenia, which is continuously in a state of war, is constantly confronted with Azerbaijan aggression, which manifests itself both in the front-line and in the mass media. Speaking about the activities carried out in the RA, it is noteworthy that in 2010 Azerbaijani was already taught at the Department of Turkic Studies at Yerevan State University³⁷ in 2012 the Department of Caucasus Studies was established at YSU Faculty of History, which allowed the Armenian students to master the Azerbaijani language³⁸. It is possible to study the language at the scientific level, which is of great importance in the security context of Armenia. Since 2017, the Chair of Foreign Languages of the International Scientific-Educational Center of the National Academy of Sciences of the Republic of Armenia has been continuously organizing foreign language courses (in Turkish, Azerbaijani etc.) at the Foreign languages and Intercultural Communication Club, which is unique. Everyone can take part in the course without age limits and knowledge. Language training continues till today, which is of strategic importance³⁹. The use of Azerbaijani language expanded when the Public Radio of Armenia started broadcasting news in Azerbaijani language as well. Public Radio is the only internationally recognized radio station with an international web page, including in Azerbaijani⁴⁰. Broadcasts in Azerbaijani are mainly intended for the Azerbaijani-speaking community. It is also an excellent opportunity for the younger generation to learn the language and use it in the future.

As mentioned above, Armenology is developing rapidly in Azerbaijan, and the number of those who speak Armenian is increasing day by day, which can pose a significant threat to Armenia's security, particularly in the military sphere. In many cases, Armenian-speaking members of the intelligence services of Azerbaijan tried to extort information from the citizens of the Republic of Armenia, mainly of a military nature. Still, their actions were prevented due to the work of the RA special services.

The Azerbaijani intelligence officers, using the opportunities of various social networks, through the names of Armenian users and social media websites, designed with the photos of Armenian heroes, entered into the webpages of different Armenian and Artsakh military units or private pages of people. Thus, using colloquial Armenian, they attempted to obtain information on the place of service, defensive positions, arming various military units, armaments and command headquarters.

The intelligence services usually employ people with the knowledge of foreign languages, especially those who speak the language of the enemy or the rival State, to disseminate false information through them. Also, they can quickly establish contacts with the citizens of an enemy country and conduct destructive intelligence activities by obtaining information about people, facts, various events and interests to them. Studies show that Azerbaijani intelligence services prefer people who speak Armenian.

All the above mentioned should be a signal for the Armenians to be more vigilant in communicating with the enemy. At the same time, in Armenia, it is necessary to develop programs of in-depth teaching of the Azerbaijani language consistently. Undoubtedly, the enemy must be subjected to severe moral and psychological damage, which can be facilitated by his knowledge of the language and its use for propaganda purposes. Emphasis should be placed on military education, which should serve the security interests of Armenia.

³⁷ YSU, Department of Turkic Studies, <http://www.y-su.am/faculties/hy/Oriental-Studies/section/structure>.

³⁸ Since 2012 more than 50 students have been doing BA at the Department of History, Caucasian Studies. <http://eph.am/news/hy/V2SI8zhIcPGOd9UM8jgDec7TsG>.

³⁹ NAS RA, International Scientific-Educational Center, <https://isec.am/english-club/english-club-about-us>.

⁴⁰ The Azerbaijani website of the Public Radio of Armenia, <https://az.armradio.am/>.

Conclusion

The research once again proves the necessity of teaching Azerbaijani in Armenia. Azerbaijan, which has adopted a military tactic, continues to ignore its international obligations by promoting racism and anti-Armenianism, as evidenced by the April war. The April war proved once again that threatening the population of Artsakh with the force of arms is at least meaningless. As we have seen, the Azerbaijani side has spared no resources for improving the level of knowledge of the Armenian language in the country. All opportunities are used, mostly, it is essential to note that Armenian language courses are organized free of charge, which aims to attract more applicants. It is of strategic importance for the Republic of Armenia to know the language of the enemy, to give a worthy counterattack to the enemy in the media sphere as well. Security considerations should, therefore, be given priority, as strengthening the country's defence capability and ensuring a secure and dignified peace are critical to the dynamic and sustainable development of Armenia and Artsakh. The prospect of war is not the choice of the Armenian people, but its task is to prevent it.

Գրիգորյան Գոհար, Մովսիսյան Լուսինե- Օտար լեզվի՝ մասնավորապես ադրբեջաներենի ուսումնասիրության կարևորությունը որպես ՀՀ ազգային անվտանգության ապահովման բաղադրիչ- Ակնհայտ է, որ 21-րդ տեղեկատվական դարաշրջանում պետությունների միջև տեղի ունեցող հակամարտությունները հաճախ շեղվում են ավանդական ռազմական բնույթից և ստանում են բոլորովին նոր ձև ու բովանդակություն՝ տեղեկատվական, հոգեբանական, տնտեսական և տարատեսակ այլ պատերազմների տեսքով: Անդրադառնալով մասնավորապես տեղեկատվական հարթակում տեղի ունեցող պատերազմներին՝ արդի դարաշրջանում առավելապես կարևորվում է օտար լեզվի իմացությունը: Մայրենի լեզվից բացի այլ օտար լեզվին տիրապետելը դարձել է ծայրաստիճան անհրաժեշտ: Լեզուների և ազգային անվտանգության կապը նոր չէ, սակայն սրա վրա ավելի մեծ ուշադրություն է դարձվում 21-րդ դարում, երբ պատերազմական գործողությունները նկատելի են արդեն մեղիա հարթակում: Օտար լեզվի տիրապետման և մասնավորապես ՀՀ ազգային անվտանգության ապահովման կապն ավելի լավ հասկանալու համար աշխատանքում կատարել ենք մի շարք ուսումնասիրություններ, անդրադարձել ադրբեջանական լրատվական դաշտին, ինչպես նաև կարևորել ենք ՀՀ-ում ադրբեջաներենի ուսուցման խթանումը: