

Children's press in Albanian language in SR Macedonia (1974-1991)

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INTRODUCTION

After World War II, the new Yugoslav state, based on socialist social order, was constituted as a federal community in which the peoples and nationalities within its borders enjoyed constitutionally guaranteed equality.¹ This equality was achieved through federal units, republics, and autonomous provinces, where the Yugoslav peoples governed socio-political and cultural developments. However, it should be emphasized that under a strictly administrative-centralized state, all decisions, solutions and directions in all aspects of administration were given by the central government and were in line with state policies. Thus, among other things, within the framework of the policy of national equality was the inducting education in the mother tongue language for all Yugoslav nationalities as a part of compulsory primary education, i.e. in the overall educational policy. In addition to textbooks as a basic educational tool, more children's magazines started to be published for the purposes of education, as an additional teaching material but at the same time as an educational tool whose purpose was to raise the youngest generation in the new socialist spirit. This educational program also encompassed the Albanian population in Yugoslavia, and in areas where it lived in greater concentration, including PR / SR Macedonia; more primary schools on Albanian Language were opened.²

¹ Устав Федеративне Народне Републике Југославије, Београд, 1946, члан 21, 9.

²After the Second World War in Macedonia the situation with the Albanian schools was as follows: 231 primary schools, 33 primary schools, 1 teacher school and 3 gymnasiums., ДАРМ, фонд ГО на ССРМ, *Бројки што сами зборуваат*, Скопје,

For the purpose of teaching, children's magazines in Albanian language, "Gëzimi" (Joy) and Fatosi (Pupil), started to be published as part of the publishing activity of the most widely circulated Albanian daily newspaper "Flaka e Vllaznimit" (Flame of Brotherhood), who dates from 1945.

The political changes in Yugoslavia after 1974, when, the new Constitution of this country was adopted, gave greater competencies to the national minorities in Yugoslavia including Albanians in Macedonia such as bigger rights in the educational and cultural terms. Starting from this year and until division of Yugoslavia in 1991, the Albanian nationality in Macedonia, represent a great achievement in cultural, educational and scientific terms. This success was promoted by the Albanian press over the years, with the special achievements of the children magazines "Gëzimi" and "Fatosi" in the sphere of education of the younger generations.³

Key words: Children's press, SR Macedonia, "Gëzimi", "Fatosi", etc.

MAGAZINE "GËZIMI"

a) Background

The children's magazine "Gëzimi" (Joy) has certainly played an extraordinary role in educating younger generations. This magazine has its origins since January 1950, when it was published with the name "Gazeta e pionierëve" (Pioneer newspaper). Starting from September 1951, it came out with the name "Gëzimi", which will keep with much respect for more than five decades. This magazine, like the "Flaka e Vëllazërimit" newspaper, made constant efforts to cover all spheres of life and all reader's levels. It was the first and the only one of its kind in Macedonia, which found its place in every classroom of the primary school, from the third grade to the eighth grade of elementary education, namely from the fifth to the eighth, when another pioneer magazine "Fatosi" joined it.

Not far from the end of Second World War, the "Gazeta e pionierëve", namely "Gëzimi", mainly articulated topics from Yugoslav National Liberation War, such as partisan poems, stories and fables,

1953 год. (cituar sipas Sevdail Demirit, Shtypi shqiptar në Maqedoni (1945-1991), Aspekti kulturo-arsimor, Shkup, 2015, 39.).

³ Sevdail Demiri, Shtypi shqiptar në Maqedoni (1945-1991), Aspekti kulturo-arsimor, Shkup, 2015, 50-75.

which were in the function of the political ideology of the time. This magazine was achievements of special importance when the first primary schools in the mother tongue were opened and when there were no books or ABC-books in Albanian language. In the first year of its publishing, it informed the readers about functioning and activities of first schools, the efforts of pioneers and youth to rebuild the war-torn country, the heroism of people during the war etc. Through beautiful artistic word, equipped and decorated with drawings and paintings, the magazine offered its readers (earlier once a month, and since 1978 twice a month), hundreds of tales, poems, reportage, stories, fairy tales⁴.

On the pages of "Gëzimi" educational materials and literary-artistic creations with an admirable level were published, therefore, it can be said that this magazine could be called anthology of literary and artistic creations for children. Given its availability in primary schools, it was often used as a reading book, and as an open tribune where talented students regularly published their works. Most of those students, zealous readers of "Gëzimi", later became known writers, distinguished teachers or prominent cultural and social workers.⁵

As "the organ of the Albanian pioneers of Macedonia" it was initially published by the publishing company "Detska radost" from Skopje, while in the '70ies it was subordinated to the publishing unit "Flaka e Vëllazërimit".⁶ During all period of its existence such as all other newspapers and magazines that were published in Macedonia, it was printed at the "Nova Makedonija" Publishing House in Skopje. The main editor of the newspaper was Vancho Apostolski,⁷ the editor responsible Fejzi Bojku⁸ and was published with the help of the Fund for the promotion of publishing activity of the Socialist Republic of Macedonia. It is worth mentioning that besides "Gëzimi" magazine, there was also the "Gëzimi" library, which was publishing dozens of books for children every year, which had an extraordinary circulation,

⁴ Gëzimi, 01.09.1974, Viti XXV, nr. 9, 2-4.

⁵ Ibid.

⁶ Sevdail Demiri, Shtypi shqiptar..., 175-177.

⁷ Vanco Apostolski (1925 - 2008), journalist, participant in the National Liberation Fight and Social-Political worker of SFR Yugoslavia and SR Macedonia. From April 26, 1985 to June 1986, he served as the President of the Presidency of the Federal Republic of Macedonia.

⁸ Fejzi Bojku is a children's writer from Macedonia. He was born on March 24, 1937 in Veleshta, Struga. For several years he worked as editor of the daily newspaper "Flaka". He is a member of the Macedonian Writers' Association since 1974.

and were distributed throughout all libraries and schools all over the country. The standard cover page and structure of the content, the continuously high artistic and educational level, the continuous improvement of the technical-illustrative solutions, have significantly influenced for increasing of circulation and interest of new readers and collaborators. While in the first years, the magazine had 5000 readers, in the early '70ies there were 12,000, in 1978 it had reached a readership of 22,000 readers, while in 1980 it had 20,000 readers, with a publication twice a month. During the existence the great success of the "Gëzimi" magazine was related to many well-known names of journalism and of Albanian literature in Macedonia.⁹

b) Content analysis

The magazine Gëzimi in number 4 of 1974 brings us a reportage entitled "Poetry evenings in Struga".¹⁰ This celebration of the world poetry was attended by about 200 poets from the country as well as from all continents of the world, poets of 25 countries: from the Soviet Union, the United States, Canada, Peru (South America), India, Egypt, Australia, and almost all European countries. Within the framework of the Poetry Festival, a series of manifestations such as "The song between two summers" were held, followed by the poems of the Macedonian, Albanian and Turkish poets, selected by the literary critics Aleksandar Spasov, Ali Aliu and Fahri Kaja. The evenings of the XX century poetry of Montenegro and the poetry of Chile were held, by selection of the writer, publicist and literary critic Luan Starova.¹¹ The biggest and most famous manifestation of poetry called "Bridges" held in the last evening of this manifestation, took place in the arranged scene on the bridge of the river Black Drim, where over 40 poets of Macedonia and the World read their verses. On the third day of the festival, the Matinee of creations for children in Macedonian, Albanian and Turkish languages was held. The selection of texts in the Macedonian language was made by the well-known

⁹ Sevdail Demiri, Shtypi shqiptar..., 177-185.

¹⁰ The festival began in 1961 in Struga, with poets living in Macedonia alone, while in 1963 it expanded its list of participants from all over Yugoslavia. The Miladinov Brothers Prize was founded for the best poetry book published between two successive festivals. By 1966 the event became an international cultural festival.

¹¹ Luan Starova is an Albanian writer of Macedonian origin who lives in Macedonia. He has published his works both in Albanian and in Macedonian language. Luan Starova worked as a professor of French literature at University « St. Cyril and Methody » in Skopje.

poet Cane Andreevski, for Albanian language by Adem Gajtani and for the Turkish language by Nexhati Zekerija.¹² In the content published in 1975 among other articles we find an interview with Lutfi Rusi,¹³ one of the contributors of *Gëzimi* magazine since 1952. Lutfi Rusi is the author of the "The Brigade of the Rabbits" collection of poems. In interview, among other things, he speaks about his approach to the magazine "Gëzimi" and the collaboration with the writer Vasil Kunovski as the author of children's books. The interview emphasizes some periods of the life of this poet who recounts his life by saying that from an early age he acted illegally on Communist Party of Macedonia and that the fascists arrested him in 1939 because he wanted to distribute ABC-books in Albania.¹⁴

As an interesting texts published in 1976 we can point out the article entitled "Let's get to know our writers" which represent a review of the life and the opus of writer Muharrem Shahiqi.¹⁵ According to what is presented in the article, this writer was born in 1928, in the mountain village Gjyrishec of Kamenica in Kosovo. Since there was no school in his place of birth, he was a shepherd for a long time. He finished primary and secondary school in Gjilan. As a young boy he participated in the national liberation movement where he was seriously injured in his chest and for that reason he became war invalid. He has been writing since the time he was in high school, and his literary production is as follows: 1. Bruises and crowns (poetry), 2. Flakes (poetry), 3. Between two times, (poetry), 4. Death on the train (poetry). This writer writes about the life of the a man in countries of SR Macedonia, especially the villagers and with these stories he points to the village – as an unknown place. As an interesting part of this text we can detach the story about uncle Rama, a poor man whose wife dies and he remains a widower. Some young people fool him by saying that if he shaves his beard, they will find him a bride but he when he really shaved it, he yet didn't get a bride.¹⁶

¹² *Gëzimi*, 01.10.1974, Viti XXV, nr.10, 8.

¹³ Lutfi Rusi (1923 - 1981) .He was a participant in World War II. His popular works are "Partisan Stories", "Ibe Palikuqja" etc.

¹⁴ *Gëzimi*, 01.01.1975, Viti XXV, n. 1, 10.

¹⁵ Muharrem Shahiqi was born in 1927 in the village of Gjyrishec in the municipality of Dardana (formerly Kamenica) in Kosovo; He died in Gjilan in 1997. For 28 years he was an actor at the National Theater in Skopje, and in 1976 he returned to Gjilan. In Gjilan she worked as a director, then at the City Theater. He has directed many plays, comedies and has also starred in television series and feature films.

¹⁶ *Gëzimi*, 01.09.1976, Viti XVI, nr. 9, 10.

In the article dedicated to Milosh Gjergj Nikolla - Migjeni¹⁷ the famous Albanian poet presented as his extensive biography, students and readers could get wider picture of the life and writers' works. The poet of misery, as he was called by many critics of literature, Migjeni was born on 13 October 1911, in one-story house, with two rooms and a corridor, in the city of Shkodra. In his early childhood and during education, the life of the poet was accompanied by great family misfortunes. After finishing high school he started to work as a teacher when he became aware and started to feel deep pain for children that live in poverty. From this period of his literary production dates his collections of sketches and novels known as "Small Luli", "The beauty that kills", "Zeneli". Other collection of his poems entitled "Free verses", was published in 1936 but was immediately withdrawn by Ahmed Zogu's monarchic censorship.¹⁸ Migjeni died in 1938 but has remained unforgettable for the Albanian people because he put his talent to the service of people.¹⁹

Besides texts dedicated to cultural manifestations and prominent Albanian writers and poets, "Gezimi" magazine also included articles with historical content. Thus, in the number 7 from 1978, the title "In memory of the Albanian League of Prizren"²⁰ about

¹⁷ Millosh Gjergj Nikolla (13 October 1911 – 26 August 1938) was an Albanian poet and writer, known under his pen name Migjeni. His texts swarm with spelling mistakes, even elementary ones, and his syntax is far from being typically Albanian. In May 1934 his first short prose piece, Sokrat i vuetun apo derr i kënaqun (Suffering Socrates or the satisfied pig), was published in the periodical Illyria, under his new pen name Migjeni, an acronym of Millosh Gjergj Nikolla. Soon, in the summer of 1935, the twenty-three-year-old Migjeni fell seriously ill with tuberculosis, which he had contracted earlier.

¹⁸ Zog I, King of the Albanians (Albanian: Naltmadhnija e tij Zogu I, Mbreti i Shqiptarëve, IPA 8 October 1895 – 9 April 1961), born as Ahmet Muhtar Zogolli, taking the surname Zogu in 1922, was the leader of Albania from 1922 to 1939. He first served as Prime Minister of Albania (1922–1924), then as President (1925–1928), and finally as the first and only King (1928–1939). On 1 September 1928, Albania was transformed into a kingdom, and President Zogu became Zog I, King of the Albanians (Mbreti i Shqiptarëve in Albanian). On the same day as he was declared as king (he was never crowned), he was declared a sField Marshal of the Royal Albanian Army. He proclaimed a constitutional monarchy similar to the contemporary regime in Italy, created a strong police force, and instituted the Zogist salute (flat hand over the heart with palm facing downwards). Zog hoarded gold coins and precious stones, which were used to back Albania's first paper currency. Although nominally a constitutional monarch, in practice Zog retained the dictatorial powers he had enjoyed as president. Thus, in effect, Albania remained a military dictatorship.

¹⁹ Gëzimi, 01.06.1977, Viti XVII, nr. 6, 6.

²⁰ The League of Prizren (Albanian: Besëlidhja e Prizrenit), officially the League for the Defense of the Rights of the Albanian Nation (Albanian: Lidhja për mbrojtjen e të drejtave të kombit Shqiptar), was an Albanian political organization officially founded on June 10, 1878 in the old town of Prizren, in the Kosovo Vilayet of the Ottoman

the 100th anniversary of the founding of this important political-military organization for the Albanian people appeared. According to this article one hundred years ago, on 10 June 1878, a Prizren League was established in a two-story house in Prizren. The celebration of this anniversary was followed by a series of cultural manifestations. In addition to the solemn Academy²¹ dedicated to the 100th anniversary of the League, gallery of figurative works, rich historical library, Albanian national dress exhibition, exhibition of weapons from the period of the League were opened. The statues of tribunes, the leaders of the League of Prizren, Abdyl Frashëri and Ymer Prizreni were revealed with hailings and applause of attendees at the celebration. The bronze statues were carved by the prominent kosovo sculptor Prof. Agim Çavdarbasha.²²

In the number 1 from 1979 we come across an article written by Akil Koci²³ entitled "How have I become a composer". Here he points out that the music amateur association "Agimi" from Prizren played a decisive role for his success as a musician. As a high school student he was dedicated to compose with other young people like singers: Severin Kajtazi, Vera Mjeda, Elza Shiroka, Karolina Vuqaj. He finished his music studies in Sarajevo and immediately after the studies he started to work in Radio Prishtina where he dealt with music criticism. His musical creation, as he says, began with the work "Three sketches for oboe solo", a composition that was executed in the Yugoslav music festival in Opatija in 1970. He also participated in many festivals such as festivals in Zagreb, Ohrid, Paris and others.²⁴

Empire. The League of Prizren was created by a group of Albanian intellectuals to resist partition among neighbouring Balkan states and to assert an Albanian national consciousness by uniting Albanians into a unitary linguistic and cultural nation. On 10 June 1878, about eighty delegates, mostly Muslim religious leaders, clan chiefs, and other influential people from the Ottoman vilayets of Kosovo, Monastir and Yanina, meet in the city of Prizren. Around 300 Muslims participated on the assembly, including delegates from Bosnia and the mutasarrif (administrator of sanjak) of Prizren as representative of the central authorities, and no delegates from Scutari Vilayet.

²¹ The conference was organized in Prizren on June 10, 1978 by the Kosovo Academy of Sciences and Arts. This scholarly activity was attended by many scholars from Yugoslavia who with their contributions highlighted important aspects of the League of Prizren and various national personalities of Albanians during the late 19th century.

²² Gëzimi, 01.07.1978, Viti XVIII, nr. 7, 6.

²³ Akil Koci was born in 1936 in Prizren, Kingdom of Yugoslavia (in today's Kosovo). There he graduated on the Josip Slavenski music school. He went on to study at the Sarajevo Music Academy, graduating in 1962 and specialising in music theory. He furthered his studies at one of the oldest conservatories in Germany, the Staatliche Hochschule für Musik und Darstellende Kunst Stuttgart, specialising in composition under the noted professor and composer, Milko Kelemen.

²⁴ Gëzimi, 01.01.1979, Viti XXIX, nr.1, 5.

The biography of Volce Naumcevski,²⁵ as one of the founders of Macedonian literature for children, was also presented in this magazine. His first collection, written in Serbian language, was written in Prilep in 1935, and a year later he wrote the first poem in Macedonian language. He is also the author of the first poetry book in Macedonian language, published in 1939, in 700 copies entitled "The spring comes". Only one copy of this book survived from the police prosecution in Kingdom of Yugoslavia. This poet died in March 1980 by leaving a series of books for children. With his work he struggled for the rights of the working class and was often prosecuted by the bourgeois regime of Kingdom of Yugoslavia. His work was characterized by love for homeland and the love for the beauties of nature. The poet is presented in magazine "Gezimi" with his poems "I love you", "Song scene", "Apple"²⁶.

From the content published in 1981 we are pointing out a text about a dialogue where children writers was introduced to the readers. Thus, data about life and work of Kosovo's best poet for children Agim Deva²⁷ was a part of this article and the readers could learn that he was born in 1948 in Belgrade and that completed primary and secondary school in Prishtina. He graduated on the Faculty of Philosophy also in Prishtina, on the department of Albanian Language and Literature. For some time he worked as a editor of children's magazine "Zëri i rinisë" (Voice of youth), who was publishing in Kosovo but in his main professional career was Professor of children's literature at the University of Prishtina. His literary opus includes several collections of poems for children such as: "Golden trumpet", "Lady of meadows", "Gift", "Among the stars", "Our spoiled horse", "The cloud that sells ice cream", "My friend without pockets", "Purple finger" etc.. In this conversation with the children he evokes memories from his early childhood spent in

²⁵ Volche Naumceski (Prilep, 18 January 1916 - Skopje, 20 March 1980) - Macedonian writer. He is the author of the first collection of poems printed in Macedonian language in pre-war Yugoslavia. He has published numerous poetry collections for children and adults, including "Poem for Evil", "Spring Wishes", "Flagstaff" and "Seventy Flowers".

²⁶ Gezimi, 01.09.1980, Viti XXX, nr.9, 4.

²⁷ Agim Deva was born in Belgrade in 1948 and died on February 1, 2009 at the age of 61 and was an Albanian writer and lecturer at the University of Prishtina. He was awarded by number of awards for his literary work in Kosovo and beyond. His poems have been translated into several foreign languages such as English, German, Arabic, Italian, Russian, Slovak, Romanian, Croatian, Turkish, Slovenian, Macedonian, etc. The books he wrote for children are: Nature [1] - March 2003 textbook USA and Musa "Renaissance", Prishtina, 1987, Lady of the Meadows, 1968 Panushi: children's novel, 1974, The Lions Parade, 1977, etc.

Belgrade, and afterward in Gjakova and answers the children's questions about the phenomena of nature in general. This dialogue clearly shows the poet's love for children and his educational commitment to the children.²⁸

The Macedonian writer Vidoe Podgorec²⁹ was also introduced to the readers in the frame of school lecture rubric. In contemporary children's literature, not only in Macedonia, but also in Yugoslavia, as well as abroad, the name of this writer has already been present for some time. It was pointed out that he was part of the writers who have written more books for children, and above this, he was also the most translated author whose works have been translated in all languages of the nations and nationalities of Yugoslavia, but also in Russian, Polish, Arabic, etc. Some of his books have also been translated into Albanian language. This writer was born in 1934 in Strumica. For a long time he worked in the field of journalism. He began with writing poetry, and later wrote novels and stories. Through his poetry he reflected the landscapes of his childhood which he was in love with. In this issue number of the magazine his poems "What is heaven", and poem "Four colors" were presented.³⁰

In issue numbers from 1983, a lot of textbooks for children were published, and we are highlighting the selected stories entitled "Shirt with buttons", a story about the national liberation movement entitled "Decoration for the boy's bravery", compilation from school lectures where author Vehbi Kikaj writes a story about "White Castles", selected tales for children "King Mark and Zana", and finally a text with original speech of Yugoslav president entitled as "Josip Broz Tito", where the children could read his speech from 1979³¹ given in honor of the international children's year.³²

Besides the texts about different cultural manifestations and prominent writers from the country, "Gezimi" magazines have also published articles about classics of world literature such as Rabindranath Tagore. Namely, in issue number from 1984, in a

²⁸ Gëzimi, 01.02.1981, Viti XXI, nr.2, 4.

²⁹ Vidoe Podgorec (8 June 1934 – 14 April 1997) was a Macedonian writer and poet. He was born in Kolešino near Strumica and lived in Skopje. He wrote works for children and adults and published a great number of poems, stories and novels. One of his most famous novels is "The White Gypsy".

³⁰ Gëzimi, 01.01.1982, Viti XXXII, nr.1, 3.

³¹ Tito's speech was held in March 1979 in Belgrade on the occasion of an activity dedicated to children.

³² Gëzimi, 01.06.1983, Viti XXXIII, nr.6, 3-10 ; nr.7, 4-10.

magazine section entitled "World writers", wide insight into the biography of Rabindranath Tagore (1869-1941) was presented. This Indian writer has made a quite rich creative life by writing philosophy, politics, drama, poetry. His creativity left deep traces on the Indian culture and raised some literary genres in the Indian literature on the highest literary of world.³³

An interesting article was dedicated to Gligor Popovski,³⁴ a known Macedonian writer. In this interview dedicated for the young generations he said his childhood was followed by a series of disasters, so that he cannot say much about his family. "My father and uncle died young, and I left my parents' house early; I grew up in dormitories, abroad," he said.³⁵ He also spoke about his education which was difficult and with lots of interruptions but he did not finish the first grade of elementary school, because the teacher, who was a close friend of his grandfather, enrolled him in the second grade. During the Second World War, he attended the Bulgarian school for three years, and in 1945, when the Macedonian schools started working he was enrolled in the Strumica high school. After one year in this school, he enrolled in the Pedagogical School in Skopje, where, in 1948, he received the diploma for teacher.³⁶

From "Gëzimi" magazine we can also learn that kosovo poet Avdi Shala³⁷, who graduated on the department of Albanian Language and Literature on Univeristy in Prishtina, writes various literary works, among which stand out the novels "Flower", "Little boy with the beam", "Picnic of the letters", "You adults", "The man with a white hat" etc. As we learn from this text, children from different

³³ Gëzimi, 01.10.1984, Viti XXXIV, nr.10, 13.

³⁴ Gligor Popovski was born in the village of Budinarci in 1928. After finishing his primary education in his village, he finished teaching school in Skopje. With his poems and short stories he was always a part of the children's magazines. He writes on themes from National Liberation Movement in World War II), as well as themes from the everyday life of the children and the adults. Some of Popovski's most famous books are: "So trotinet po cel svet" ("They are the thirteenth worldwide", "Parada na cvekinjata" ("Beetroot parade"), "Skazni za najjunakot" ("Punish for the youngest") (poetry), "Skazni za deteto Vilen" ("Say goodbye to the child Vilen"), "Dalecen svet" ("The distant world"), "He is a winner of a number of literary prizes.

³⁵ Gëzimi, 05.10.1985, Viti XXXV, nr.10, 12.

³⁶ Gëzimi, 01.10.1986, Viti XXXVI, nr.10, 6.

³⁷ Avdi Shala was born in 1942 in Kishnareka, Drenas municipality. He graduated in Faculty of Philosophy Department of Language and Literature at the University of Prishtina. Initially he worked as a teacher in the villages of Drenica, in Mitrovica, and as a journalist in the newspaper "Kosova". He started writing as a student.

schools in Macedonia, liked his childhood because he described the best memories of his difficult life in his books.³⁸

The main point of interest in number 9 published in 1988, was the death of writer Nexhat Zekerija who made a great contribution in the achievements of the Yugoslav literature for children. In the column "in memoriam" dedicated to him, it is underlined that for this author all children laugh alike, all children love games, the light, the sun but also that "He left behind a rich legacy appreciated by the children, his stories and poems published in the magazine "Gëzimi" present an unforgettable treasure for children in general".³⁹

In 1989 appear the story about the kosovo poet Rexhep Hoxha⁴⁰ and his novel for children "Yellow flowers", published in 1959 in Prishtina. This children's novel was written by composing a series of realistic stories about the world of children. Years later in 1983 the writer published the novel entitled "Verorja". He received various awards in Kosovo for his work. This author also writes several poetry books like the publications "New Leaves", "Eyes to Parnassus", "Toddler", "Flourish my country" etc.⁴¹

In 1990, in the column called "Guests", an interview with Macedonian writer Aleksandar Popovski⁴² the author of the novels "The city of the pigeons", "The horse in the well", "The window on the seventh floor" was published. In the interview, this writer speaks about the literature in general as well as the topics he deals with in his works. He says that he knows a little about Albanian literature and that he wants these two literatures to come closer because we do not know much of each other. In the end, he talked about the rewards

³⁸ Gëzimi, 01.01.1987, Viti XXXVII, nr.1, 5.

³⁹ Gëzimi, 01.09.1988, Viti XXXVIII, nr. 9, 11.

⁴⁰ Rexhep Hoxha (1929) was born in Gjakova. He finished primary and secondary school in his hometown, while he was studying Albanology in Belgrade University. For a time he worked as an editor of "Renaissance for Children" Radio Pristina's children's show, and for many years as a lector on the subject of Children's Literature at the Pristina Pedagogical High School. His popular works for children are "New Leaves", "Picimulus", "Yellow Spoons", "Voice of the Forest", "Summer", "Ermali" etc.

⁴¹ Gëzimi, 01.01.1989, Viti XXXIX, nr.1, 4.

⁴² Aleksandar Popovski was born in Skopje, Macedonia in 1969. He graduated on the University of "Ss. Cyril and Methodius", Skopje in department of Film and Drama .His first professional debut was in the National Theatre of Skopje in 1992. He has also directed works by M. Ivaskevicius , W. Shakespeare, G. Stefanovski, M. Servantes, B. Stocker, B. Srbljanovic, G. Boehner, J. B. Moliere, A. Lasic, E. Pega, M. McDonough, S. Grum. M. Servantes, A. Chekhov, A. M. Koltcs, D. Harms, and F. G. Lorca. Many of the plays he directed have been staged in national theatres in Macedonia as well as international theatres in several countries including Denmark, Serbia, Slovenia, Croatia, Austria, United Kingdom, Italy, Sweden, Greece.

he received over the past few years on the manifestation "Struga poetry Evenings" for the category best books for children.⁴³

In the last year of its existing, the magazine "Gëzimi" had already been liberated from the ideological dogmas of the communist system and sails along with the rest of the press in Macedonia in new terms of democracy. At this time, the editor of "Gëzimi" was poet Resul Shabani⁴⁴, while Fejzi Bojku became editor-in-chief of the "Flaka e Vëllazërimit" newspaper. In issue numbers from 1991, we underline Jakup Ceraja's⁴⁵ poem "Telephone conversation from exile", the historical text of Dr. Reshat Nexhipi⁴⁶ about Leka the Great,⁴⁷ a page from the diary of the writer Kim Mehmeti ("Diana did not come"), biographical and bibliographical presentations of Albanian writers Kolë Jakova, Fejzi Bojku and Ali Huruglica. On the pages of the magazine we can also read texts about the history of Albanian art (in continuations), articles about the anniversaries of Naim Frashëri⁴⁸ ("Great Naim for young readers"), illustrations from students, as well as their literary works.⁴⁹

MAGAZINE "FATOSI"

a) Background

In 1955, the magazine for the youngest, the little ones who were making the first steps in school, began to be published, the magazine called as a booklet for children. Initially, the publisher of "Fatosi" magazine was the publishing house "Detska radost" from Skopje,

⁴³ Gëzimi, 01.09.1990, Viti XXXX, nr.9, 15-16.

⁴⁴ Resul Shabani was born in Struga on 14.10.1944. He completed primary and secondary education in his hometown. He studied Albanian language and literature at the University of Skopje and Pristina. Initially he worked as a teacher of Albanian language and literature. From 1977 he was employed in the editorial office of the newspaper "Flame of Brotherhood" in Skopje, where he worked as a freelance reporter and editor of the culture section. He lives and works in Skopje.

⁴⁵ Jakup Ceraja (1942-1992). Kosovo poet.

⁴⁶ Reshat Nexhipi (1939-). Historian of SR Macedonia who works in Bitola. He writes many publications in magazines in Kosovo.

⁴⁷ Alexander the Great or Leka the Great, also known as Alexander III of Macedonia..

⁴⁸ Naim Frashëri (25 May 1846 – 20 October 1900) was an Albanian poet, writer and one of the most prominent patriots of the Albanian national movement for independence from the Ottoman Empire. He is widely regarded as the national poet of Albania. Through his writings, Frashëri exerted a strong influence on later Albanian literature and society. In particular Albanian Bektashis order. He published influential works of Albanian literature. In 1889, poem Skenderbeg long in verse celebrated his love for Albania by referring to the medieval battles of Albanians and Ottomans where Skenderbeg's fight for liberation of Albanians.

⁴⁹ Gëzimi, 01.10.1991, Viti XXXXI, nr.10, 10-16.

where all magazines and books for children in Macedonia were published, specifically in Macedonian, Albanian and Turkish languages. It was printed at the "Goce Dellcev" Printing House in Skopje.

The Editor-in-Chief (initially called "responsible director") of "Fatosi" since the magazine's foundation until the his retirement, was the writer Mehmedali Hoxha, same as the case with "Gëzimi". An extraordinary contribution in editing this magazine from 1964 until the end of the 1980s was also made by its responsible editor, the children writer Fejzi Bojku. Whereas, from the first issue of the magazine in question, journalist Slavko Temkov and Nexhati Zekirija were also part of the editorial office, which means that in "Fatosi" many materials translated from Macedonian and Turkish languages were published. The director was Vancho Apostolski, while Shefqet Qorolli⁵⁰ and Qefsere Shehu⁵¹ were part of the editorial board and the illustrators were Aleksander Kuzmanovski and Smajo Muso. With rich content, especially since 1974, when it began to be published twice a month with 32 pages. "Fatosi" was affirmed as daily teaching material for the Albanian young children. With its literary, pedagogical and social concept, this magazine became a leaflet that not only entertains but also teaches. It became an open window not only for small readers who love to read literature but also for those who like to write it, to create it. Thus, "Fatosi" became one of the most widely read magazines, not only in Macedonia, but also in Kosovo, Montenegro, etc.⁵²

The content includes several rubrics such as "Nga ditari", (From diary), "Pak argëtim" (Little fun) "Rubrika për poetët e vegjël" (Rubric for small poets), "Këndi për tregime për fëmijë" (Corner of children stories).

"Fatosi" soon found its own place among the readers, overcoming even the popularity of "Gëzimi", which has already circulated for five years. In an interview, the editor of children's magazines, Fejzi Bojku, states that: "Out of 65,000 Albanian students in Macedonian primary schools we have 41,000 readers of our magazines. Fatosi had 25,000 regular readers".⁵³

⁵⁰ Literary Critic.

⁵¹ Literary Critic.

⁵² Fatosi, 01.06.1975, Viti XX, nr.6, 2-5.

⁵³ Fatosi, 01.09.1975, Viti XX, nr.9, 2-4.

It provided materials which, besides the literary values, also had social and scientific values. At the same time, it was also a gallery of the applicative art, filled with works of art, paintings, other different creations of its collaborators and articles of the world's most famous authors of literary. Thus, gathering the best literary, artistic and figurative achievements, "Fatosi" presented one kind of encyclopedia of literature and art for children⁵⁴.

b) Content analysis

The content of "Fatosi" magazine was different from "Gëzimi" magazine. This magazine did not have many reportages about prominent personalities or certain cultural events, and was mainly related to poetry and stories of pupils.

In issue numbers from 1974 the poetry selected by the poets Nehas Sopaj (the poem "Bilbili" (Nightingale)), Fejzi Bojku (the poem "Dy pulëbardha" (Two seagulls)), and Abdylaziz Islami (the poem "Loti i përmallimit" (Tear of longing) were published.⁵⁵

In the same year, we also find an interesting article "Në orën e gjuhës shqipe" (In the class of the Albanian Language) by author Remzi Nesimi, the professor of Albanian language in University of Skopje. In this view, the students have the opportunity to learn about the historical development of the Albanian language from the XV century, and the contribution of the renaissance writers such as Marin Marleci, Mikel Maruli, Leonik Tomeo to this process.⁵⁶

In the story "Djaloshi me kënetë në dorë" (The boy with marsh in his hands) from the writer Fatmir Gjata.⁵⁷ an overview of his famous books for children: "Përmbysja" (Overthrow) , "Kënetë" (Marsh), "Breza" (Generations), "Armiqtë" (Enemies) and the novels "Tana" (Tana), "Uji fle hasmi s'fle" (Water sleeps, the enemy does not) and some others, is given.⁵⁸ We can also find article by Remzi Nesimi⁵⁹ "Drejtshkrimi dhe drejtshqiptimi i disa foljeve" (Spelling and

⁵⁴ Ibid.

⁵⁵ Fatosi, 01.04.1975, Viti XX, nr.4, 2-3.

⁵⁶ Fatosi, 01.06.1974, Viti XIX, nr.6, 2-3..

⁵⁷ Fatmir Gjata (1922–1989) was a prominent Albanian writer of Socialist Realism. He is considered as one of the top two Albanian novelists.

⁵⁸ Fatosi, 01.03.1975, Viti XX, nr.3, 4-7.

⁵⁹ Remzi Nesimi (1933-2018) was a university professor, Albanian language scholar, and textbook author from Macedonia. Born in Tetovo, where he finished primary and secondary education completed his undergraduate and postgraduate studies at the Department of Albanology on Belgrade University, and PhD at the University of Prishtina. He worked as lecturer of Albanian language at the Chair of Albanology at

correct pronunciation of some verbs). Memories also appear on the pages of the magazine which presents a summary of life of the writer Sabaudin Ajdini and his work as a journalist in the newspaper "Flame of Brotherhood", as well the memories of the long-time journalists of the "Flame of Brotherhood" newspaper - Xhevat Gega.⁶⁰

In the content of Fatosi published in 1976 issue year we can find lot of interesting writings such as the story entitled "Ai që dashuronte fëmijët e detin" (The one who loved the children and the sea) by the writer Anastas Kondo⁶¹, a poetry cycle by Afërdita Skenderi⁶² with the poems "Te dera e bardhë", (On the white door) and "Fustanet e luleve" (Flower dresses), and quite interesting story by the Macedonian writer Rajko Jovcevski⁶³ entitled "Opinga për bariun" (Leather shoes for the shepherd).⁶⁴ In the same year, in number 3, Fejzi Bojku is presented with the poem "Vjersha në rreshta" (Poem in lines) Mehmedali Hoxha with the poem "Kohë luftë" (Wartime), but we can also find stories, as it is the example with the story "Ylberi" (The rainbow) by writer Jorgji Kodra.⁶⁵

In the next issue year, we can read the story with the title "Treni me zemrën e fuqishme dhe udhëtari i vogël" (The train with powerful heart and little traveler) written by the albanian writer Tashko Lako, two poems of the kosovo poet Jonuz Fetahaj, "Zogmetali" (Metal bird) and "Një pikë loti" (A tear drop).⁶⁶ The novels "Figura në pëlhurë" (Figure on the fabric) by writer Mustafa Xhemajli, "Shpendi dhe e bukura e dheut" (Shpendi and beauty of the earth) by Bajram Ibrahim, "Faji i Aliut" (The fault of Ali) from writer

the University of Belgrade, professor of Albanian language at the Skopje Pedagogical Academy and at the Department of Albanian Language and Literature at the Faculty of Philology in Skopje.

⁶⁰ Fatosi, 01.09.1975, Viti XX, nr.9, 2-16.

⁶¹Anastas Kondo (1937–2006) an Albanian writer, screenwriter, and micropaleontologist.

⁶² Afërdita Skenderi, Albanian poet.

⁶³ Rajko Jovcevski (1937-2001), writer and translator. Graduated on the Faculty of Philology in Skopje. Member of the Macedonian Writers' Association since 1969. Works: A Little World (Poetry, 1967), Behind the Hill Spring (Short Stories, 1972), The Golden Lantern of Summer (Poetry, 1973), Silent Woods Birch (Poetry, 1983), Ugly Spring in the Deaf Hills (short stories, 1985), Gorancho's Tale (Picture Book, 1986), The Three Golden Dreams (Tales, 1986), Artists Forward (Dramatic Texts, 1988), When Girls Blossom (poetry, 1989), Deaf Grain and The Great Mind (Tale, 1990), Amor by Katino (novel, 1991), Memoir (short stories, 1992), Tower of Desire (novel, 1993), Another Love (novel, 1994), Stories (1996), Clap, Clap, Clap, (1997), The Three Lonely Mice (Picture Book, 1997), Dancing Dolls (Drama Texts, 1999).

⁶⁴ Fatosi, 01.06.1975, Viti XX, nr.6, 2-5.

⁶⁵ Fatosi, 01.03.1976, Viti XXI, nr.3, 2-14.

⁶⁶ Fatosi, 01.05.1976, Viti XXI, nr.5, 2-7.

Lutfi Rusi and the poem of Afërdita Skënderi entitled “Buzëqeshje në muajin Maj”(Smile In May) could be also read.⁶⁷

In the numbers of “Fatosi” published in 1979 different articles are noticeable and the main one is entitled “25 vjetori i Fatosi” (25th Anniversary of Fatosi). Among other things, the editorial board sent the following message for school children “ number 25 is full of luck, full of joy, hope and promise. If we multiply all of these by number 25 years, months, weeks, days, hours and minutes, how much they make? For you small readers, brothers, friends, parents and teachers. Therefore, read in this jubilee year with more joy and wish new successes. Read and grow full of health and knowledge with new successes and white days. “FATOSI” will follow you step by step both in school and at home. In the city and in the village. Since “FATOSI” is your magazine with a big, white heart”⁶⁸. Content from this year, also reveals the popular Russian story “Lëkura e ariut” (Bear's skin), the popular Albanian story “Maturija në bisedë” (Maturity in conversation) presented by Myesere Hoxha, the story “Mëngjezi” (The morning) by author Petar Skok, as well as poems of Ymer Elshani “Ç'u bë” (What happened) and “Partizani” (Partisans).⁶⁹

In number 10 of year 1981 we find various writing “Po të udhëtoni nëpër vendin tonë” (If you travel through our country) by author Misko Kranjec, the story “Me shportë nën sqetull” (With basket under the armpit) by Mali Ho, the story "Arithi and abetarja" (Small bear and primer) with author Aleksander Iljin, the story “Librat” (Books) by Elin Pelin, the poem dedicated to Tito entitled “Emri i tij” (His name) etc.⁷⁰

During the 80 – ies, content of “Fatosi” didn't change in wider aspect. The magazine continues to enrich with various articles dedicated to children.⁷¹ Thus, on its pages in number 4 of year 1989 we can find really big number of articles, texts, poems, novels, reportages etc., from the Yugoslav writers such as Blanka Matkovic, Vladimir Nazor, Pero Zubac published in 1982,⁷² Nada Ivelic, Darinka Januseva, Miho Atanasovski, or Jakov Jurishic which story “Detyra e re e Gërgës” (Gërگا's new duty) published in 1989.⁷³

⁶⁷ Fatosi, 01.06.1977, Viti XXII, nr.1, 2-10.

⁶⁸ Fatosi, 01.09.1979, Viti XXIV, nr.9, 2-18.

⁶⁹ Ibid.

⁷⁰ Fatosi, 01.10.1981, Viti XXVI, nr.10, 2-13.

⁷¹ Fatosi, 01.05.1984, Viti XXIX, nr.4, 4-11.

⁷² Fatosi, 01.03.1986, Viti XXXI, nr.3, 2-14.

⁷³ Fatosi, 01.04.1989, Viti XXXIV, nr.4, 2-13

Same space was also dedicated to the Albanian writers among which we are underlining distinguish poem of Mark Krasniqi "Dimri" (Winter), works from Mehmedali Hoxha, Ali Berisha, Rifat Kukaj, Ilir Isai, Jusuf Ademi, the story "Shalli i kuq"(Red scarf) by Lutfi Rusi, Ragip Ramaj,⁷⁴ the story "Në orën e parë" (At first class) by Rahmi Tuda, or the story "Unë bëjë të qeshë Mona Liza" (I make Mona Liza smile) by Nexhati Zekerija, published in 1989.⁷⁵ Magazine continued to publish folk stories from different countries in the world such was folk tale from Algeria with title "Sa lloj njerëzish ka në Botë" (How many kinds of people are in the World?) published in the number 11 of year 1989.⁷⁶

The process of transition that started in former Yugoslav countries in the beginning of 1990 – ies, and as a consequence of division of Yugoslavia and transition followed by political and economic crises, undoubtedly reflected in the work of "Fatosi" magazine. In this period a "shrinkage" of the magazine with material means and professional staff, reflected on the quality of content, although it continues to be published with the same number of pages. The ideological approach from the time of socialistic past gradually begin to leave the magazine's publishing policy. Thus, In 1990 – 1991 it published articles "Problemi i fatkos" (The Problem of Fatko) by Agim Metbala (poet) , the poem "Viti i gëzuar" (Happy year) and "Dimri" (Winter) by Vasil Kunovsk (writer) , the stories "Banka" (Bank) by Ibrahim Islami (writer), "Tetë marsi" (Eighth March) by Atixhe Limani (poet),⁷⁷ etc.

CONCLUSION

The Albanian press for children in the SR of Macedonia in a frame of SFRY achieved notable results during the period 1974-1991. On the pages of this press dating back to 1950 with the beginnings of the publication of "Gëzimi" magazine and afterwards in 1955 with "Fatosi" magazine, the Albanian press for children was enriched with various articles dedicated to children in various cultural, educational and scientific aspects. The major contribution of this press was given first of all by the liberal policy of Macedonian authorities but also

⁷⁴ Fatosi, 01.11.1989, Viti XXXIV, nr.11, 4-6.

⁷⁵ Fatosi, 01.08.1989, Viti XXXIV, nr.8, 3-10.

⁷⁶ Fatosi, 01.10.1989, Viti XXXIX, nr.10, 2-5.

⁷⁷ Fatosi, 01.01.1990, Viti XXXV, nr.1, 3-8.

from Yugoslavian, which supported the Albanian nationality by allowing, the development of culture, education and science in general. Big contribution was also given by professional journalists coming from the known newspaper "Flaka e Vllaznimit" who became involved in editing policy of these magazines since the beginning of their publication until 1991. It should be underlined that in their pages reflected various Albanian and Macedonian authors as well as authors of other Yugoslav and worldwide nations who gave a contribution in the educational aspect of children. Besides various stories, interviews, world history, various interviews, as well as aspects of literature, ethics and pedagogy content were also presented. In general, the Albanian press for children during 1974-1991, with the publication of the abovementioned two magazines, fulfilled a major gap in the cultural and educational achievements of Albanian nationality in Macedonia, making two windows for Albanian children, windows that enriched the Albanian pupils with knowledge from educational field, social sciences as well as other aspects of life in general.