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ОСВІТА І НАУКА У МІНЛИВОМУ СВІТІ: проблеми та перспективи розвитку

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ARCHAEOLOGICAL INVESTIGATIONS AT DAMJILI CAVE (2015-2018)

Researches on Neolithic period in Azerbaijan has provided a great deal of information about the emergence of early agricultural societies and has shaped some scientific views on these societies and events in South Caucasus. In this regard, it is necessary to emphasize the researches carried out in two settlements of the Neolithic period (Tovuz region), especially in Goytapa and Haji Alamkhanli hills which are located in the basin of the Middle Kur [4].

Despite of remarkable results of the Neolithic era, relations between the Neolithic communities and local Mesolithic communities were still remaining dark. This is due to the fact that reliable camps on the Mesolithic, in particular the last phase of the Mesolithic, the Neolithic transitional period (in the 7th millennium), were not enough. Although there are information about Neolithic or uncultivated Neolithic camps in the region as they are not a valid age (absolute age), they can not be taken as their basis. Others are more ancient than this age - they belong to the 8 th millennium. In order to clarify this issue (from Mesolithic to Neolithic transplant), it was necessary to find a monument of this age (absolute age) and investigate [3].

Orderly to learn more about socioeconomic life of hunter-gatherers in Mesolithic and Paleolithic in Middle Kur before Neolithic investigation of Mesolithic monuments, Gazakh district which is located in western part of Azerbaijanis very convenient and partly covering this basin. The only Mesolithic camp known to dates in the area of Damjili cave located in Gazakh region, and therefore, in 2016, research into the Damjili cave began by the joined Azerbaijan-Japan mission.

Damjili cave, discovered by S.Z.Zamyatnin and M.M. Huseynov in 1953, is the first ancient Stone Age camp in Azerbaijan. The cave is located approximately 20 km northwest of Gazakh city and about 3 km west of Dash Salahli village on the east slope of Avey Mountain. The mountain of Avey mainly consists of upper chalk rocks [1].

During the archaeological excavations carried out by Paleolithic archeological expedition under the leadership of M.M. Huseynov in 1956-1957, the cave collapse was determined and it was not possible to discover the stratigraphy of the collapse. During the archeological excavations carried in the Damcili cave, about 7,000 stone products and more than 2,000 hunting animals bones were found. According to the technical and typological features of stone products found in caves, M. Huseynov referred them to middle and upper Paleolithic, Mesolithic and Neolithic periods.

In 2016, space for archaeological excavations was selected from the areas surveyed in the 50s of the last century and 9 exploration drums were drilled. In the following years, the research continued in the ninth niche, which gave the most important outcome. By 2018, the depth of the field was 4.4 meters, but not brought to the floor of the rock. There were identified six layers in the excavation area. The absolute age of the layers, except the VI layer, was determined by the radiocarbon method [4].

As a result of the excavations carried out in 2016-2018in Damjili cave have revealed important cultural sediments dating from the Middle Paleolithic and approximately to the Holocene period.

It was understood that during the transition period, the time of the Mesolithic and Neolithic periods of the area had the potential to be understood by the study of the regional food production economy. Neolithic layers (IV layer) can be divided into at least two stages. The ceramic collection of the late phase of this layer was generally determined to be the period of Goytepe. Interestingly, the non-ceramic phase of the early stage is actually Neolithic, with stone products (including numerous canopy folios),

originally made of mesolite.

Damcili sediments are the first settlements to allow a broader understanding of the Mesolithic - Neolithic crossing in Azerbaijan. Stones found in VI layer were largely from the levuallua gloves and demented instruments and little part was waste. This shows that the tools were brought to the cave after being prepared. There is also a wide variety of raw materials used to confirm these ideas - including chamomiles, sparklers and chalcedony. It should be noted that the dark - gray volcanic rock materials carried out from M. Huseynov 's excavation in the 1950s were used as raw materials. During the last research, extremely rare difference was discovered. This difference reflects the functional or chronological diversity of the Middle Paleolithic from two different areas of excavation. This variety brightly illuminates the possibilities of this cave to study the diversity of the Neanderthals of the Middle Paleolithic. On the other hand, the careful study of the Middle Paleolithic collection from the Damjili cave is a clear contributor to a better understanding of the cultural development of the time before the settlement of modern people in the South Caucasus.

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SHORTEPE PIT GRAVES

The necropolis of Shortepe settlement in Shatyrly village of Barda district (Azerbaijan Republic) consists of many graves. During the archeological excavations in 2014-2015, four graves were explored there. In 2015, the first N 1 tomb was opened in the first excavation site and was buried in the northwest direction. As soon as the right part was opened, parts of the human bones - articular and heel bones and finger parts - appeared inside the grave pit. When they reached the bottom of the pit grave, they found beads, two rings, and a fragrance pot. The beads are made of paste and glass. In most beads, the bead element is noticeable. As it is known, Tengrism used eye beads [1; 2]. Note that this type of hanging was also found in the Eastern Mediterranean monuments (Phoenician monuments). Some of the glass beads are flat and round. The materials obtained indicate that the grave of N 1 belonged to the woman (Figure 1). Also, in the southwest part of the pit grave, 1-meter-long black bottles were found [3; 4].

A 2x2-pound burial ground with a size of 130x90 cm, located near the north-western wall of the excavation site, has been cleared. At that time, a plate was discovered near the mouth of the pit. There were also bones inside the yellowish pot. A bowl-shaped bowl was found at the bottom of the pit at a depth of 1 meter. The inside of the container was yellowish-greenish. It is a color formed by the collapse of the food residue inside it. Recall that the same food color was also found inside the barrel-type container that was laid during the burial site near the mouth of the No. 1 cemetery in 2014 year [3; 4].

The grave of N 2 was opened to the upper left. The mouthpiece of this pit is patterned. Inside the pit, the skeleton extended over the left thigh was cleared. After the

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