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ABOUT THE MAKING TECHNOLOGY OF CERAMIC IN ANCIENT AND MEDIEVAL TIMES IN DJALILABAD

The purpose of the research is the study of the technological characteristics of the antique and early medieval ceramic samples in the territory of Djalilabad based on archeological methods. From this point of view, it is important to identify the organization of the work ceramic art process, technological methods and technical ways. Because there are no written sources of information in this area, we will try to describe the technological process by the comparing of the mostly founded ceramic samples and their balances related to its production with ethnographic materials. In this way, it can be determined the causes of the dynamic and the degradation of the development in the period mentioned to the ceramic art.

Key words: *Djalilabad, ancient, archeological, pottery, potter's bench, ethnographic*

Djalilabad is the city, which is reflected the rich cultural and ancient history of Azerbaijan. From 1930 till 1967, it was called Astarkhanbazar and laid in the shore of Misarchain [8, 71, 127], on Mugan steppe.

The ceramic artifacts are the samples of material culture, founded during the archeological research in 70-80 years of XX and continuing in the beginning of XXI century. Also the accidental researches are the ceramic artifacts too. Pottery is the main art in the region. It was founded and



picture 1

developed very fast. The Alikomektepe (Eneolithic) and Polutepe (picture1) (eneolithic too, its investigation has begun in 2008) are reflected the developing level of Pottery in the region [2, p. 22-23].

The Pottery was very developed and widespread in Ancient and early Middle Ages too. Since the beginning of XXI century, during the archeological researches in exploration periods in the noted region



picture 2

were registered a large number of monuments and were founded a lot of samples of material cultures [2, p. 120-123]. More of these samples are the ceramic artifacts. The list of monuments: in 3 km to northeast "Tamerlan tepe" and Kup cemetry (II-IV century), in the territory of Sedebazar village and in the east of Meshedivelili village kup cemetry (II-IV century), in the place called "Narlig" in the territory of Garayar village, in Tekle village, in the territory called "Gush tepe" in the west of Great Bedjiravan village, in the place called "Nokhudlu" on the west shore of Komanli river, and in the north of Haziabad (picture 2,3) village Kup cemtries (III-VII centuries), in the territory of komanli, graves of Ancient time and settlements (II c. BC-II c. AD), the settlement of the Southwest of Uzuntepe village in the early Middle Ages (III-IX c.), the Hemeshara city and etc.



picture 3

The researching of technology process plays an important role in the studying of pottery production. The main features and dynamics depend on the condition of technical resources and technological methods existed at different times. We should determine how and with which tools made ancient and medieval pottery of different shapes in the territory of Azerbaijan. It must help to learn the level of pottery art development here. It is an important issue.

Research sources:

It is none written sources about the creating of pottery and the tools not only in Djalilabad, but also in whole Azerbaijan. There didn't find any tools of ancient



picture 4

time and medieval during the archeological researches. And they won't find anything, because wood dies in the ground. Because of this, the ceramic products, industrial wastes and potter's wheel are very important for learning the history of pottery production. [6, p. 40].

The archeological materials below are not the enough for the investigation and imagination about the technology of the pottery production. Therefore, the ethnographic information and observations are very important in this area. There are no radical changes in preparation of raw material, using tools, technique in spite of the regular changing of pottery forms, decorations, and the quality of used colors. Because, the archaism in the production method of pottery was preserved a long time ago [7, 19]. As a result, if we will compare the samples of pottery and the residue connected of its production with the ethnographic materials, it will be possible to learn this process consistently. That's why we will use the ethnographic data's, which we collected by visiting the potter Djesaret Nuriyev living in the Erkivan village located in Masalli, which is in neighboring of Djalilabad (picture 4, 5, 6).



picture 5



picture 6

Choosing the raw materials:

The technology of pottery production begins with needed raw, primarily clay supplies and its preparation. Analysis of material samples and ethnographic observations show that local potters used by light yellow clay and prepared by plant mixture, it turned into yellowish, reddish and pink colors. Note that they also used oil (fine pore) and "hard" (clay content of the porous clay mixture) clay. For example, the dope discovered in Shatirli village and the pot founded in Lallar village was made by porous clay mixture of coursed sand (picture 7). But the pitcher discovered in Bedjirevan village (III-V century) and the plate (II c. BC-III c. AD) (picture 8), founded in Gurudere were made by fine clay. We can show a lot of examples based



picture 7



picture 8

on the discovered pottery samples. Master Djesaret says that nowadays for preparing household, utensils, water battles, table wares he is using clay.

The cooking of the pottery wheel:

The manufacture of pottery begins with the choice and procurement of raw materials, but the establishment of finished product begins with the appropriate formation of ready clay. The lighting of production process of pottery of Ancient and medieval time in archeological literature is still associated with this phase.

The formation of pottery is happening by two ways: handmade and potter's bench. It became clear by the archeological materials that the using of pottery's wheel in the region began from Neolithic [4. p. 142]. It proves some discovered ceramic samples in the first half of IV m. BC in Elikomektepe monument (1.98-99). It is defined that they were prepared in routing counter. There are not discovered the pottery workshops in Djalilabad yet, but we can get some thoughts about it by the founded materials due to the production process. We can understand by the available materials, that majority of pottery samples are by foot or handmade, even in the Ancient times people didn't use the wheel [9, p. 38]. Just the ceramic samples founded in Elikomektepe were made by pottery wheels [5, p. 48]. Material evidences show the development of pottery art in the region in the Ancient times and Medieval time.

The one exhibit is paid attention in the historical-local museum of Djalilabad (picture 9). It was found in the old city Hemeshara. It is pottery wheel. (The old city Hemeshara is the hill and the area surround of the center of Djalilabad. The development of the city is registered in V century BC - VII century AD [8, p. 9-10]. The height is 14 sm, the diameter of safe place is 57. The edges were broken. It is good cooked and the reddish color. There is small ring hole in the middle and the sloping ledge (8 sm) to the right side in the upper part of this property. Most likely, this is for providing of the strength and stability of the axle.



picture 9



picture 10

It is known that there are two wheels in feet potter's bench - bottom and the top. The pottery wheels are usually made by strong wooden material [3, p. 26-27]. The Erkivan masters use the wheels made by walnut, sometimes oak materials (picture 10). Maybe, it used to by these materials too in the old times. The tools were died under the ground. The archeological finds prove that for making the wheel people used the stone or clay in ancient and medieval times. The pottery wheel founded in the West Azerbaijan is from XI-XIII centuries and made by ceramic [9, p. 39]. However, it looks like as modern primitive wheel trailer. But the museum's wheel differ from modern wheels. bt its lack of flat surface and protrusion of the both sides in the central part. It can be assumed that this is the bottom of the potter's bench. It shows that in Hemeshera people used by wheel too.

In Djelilabad region the pottery samples of Ancient and Medieval times are thin and good cooking. It is shown not only in small, but also in big pitchers. Also the samples founded in Hemeshera (picture 11), Uchtepe village and exhibit in the historical-local Museum can prove it. For example, the pitcher of III-IX centuries was cooked very good, thick-walled and red color (picture 12). The height is 150 sm, diameter is 95 sm. Its throat is relatively long, the funnel-shaped mouth is designed in blotting method and both faces were shouted the good smoothing. The pitcher is relatively hard work and requires high level skill than ceramic. The big pitchers in the museum show the development of this art in Ancient and Medieval times and high-skilled craftsmen in the region. A lot of pitchers' graves, founded during the "Djalilabad" archeological group, also prove it (picture 13).

Samples of ceramic cooking:

Potter's wheel for ceramic cooking were found in the monuments Alikomektepe [1, p. 98], Polutepe, Alkhantepe (picture 14) by neolithic and Bronze ages. Their oblong shape of burner was arches covered built on the clay surface. As a continuation of



picture 11



picture 12



picture 13



picture 14

burner cover, on the bottom of the cooking chamber, constructed thick clay plaster mud-brick and a wall-covering, made by clay. The ruins of the destroyed Potter's wheel were founded in the Polutepe monument. Their structure looks like as the above-mentioned wheels (2, p. 23). These wheels were discovered in Hemeshara too [8, p. 23].

Result

The production of pottery, especially its technology beginning from ancient times, and taking its peak in Medieval, you can see in the ceramic samples of Djalilabad. In the samples of Djengan you can see it very clearly. For example, the ceramic samples of Bronze Age are thin and quality, but the majority of plates of antics and Middle Ages are rough, bad cooking and be smoothed (picture 15). But this backwardness you can't see in whole region. In Hemesherdan, Shatirli and Khalilli villages they are thin and good cooking (picture 16, 17).



picture 15



picture 16

picture 17

There are no precise information about the Pottery art and its technology features. But there is no doubt that in the future we can get it based on new archeological finds and new founded materials.

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