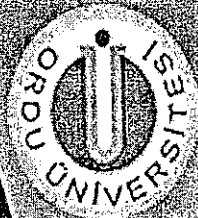


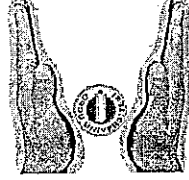
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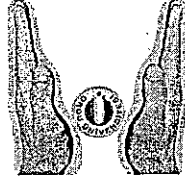


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REVIEW OF THE MALUMAT (NEWSPAPER) IN THE RESPECT OF SHAPE, CONTENT AND THE AUTHORS (THE COPIES 1-100)

Salih OKUMUŞ*

Alev BAL**

Özet

Malûmat gazetesi, 1895-1903 yılları arasında yayımlanan önemli gazetelerdendir. Saraya yakın olan gazete, devrin sosyal, siyasi ve edebi yapısı hakkında ipuçları verir. Bu çalışmada, Malûmat Gazetesi'nin ilk 100 sayısı esas alınarak; şekil, muhteva ve yazar kadrosu bakımından incelenecektir.

Anahtar Kelimeler: II. Abdulhamit, İstibdat Yönetimi, Gazete, Baskı Teknikleri, Yazar Kadrosu, Edebiyat, Siyaset.

Abstract

The Malûmat is one of the important newspapers published between the years 1895–1903. It is a newspaper in a good relationship with the Palace. It gives clues about the social, political and literary structure of the period. In this study, the format, content and writers of the newspaper will be examined in light of the first 100 issues of the newspaper.

Key Words: Abdulhamit II, Tyranny Government, Journal, Printing Techniques, Editorial Staff, Literature, Politics.

I. Introduction:

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The newspaper *Malumat* is one of the newspapers published during the period of Abdülhamid II. The newspaper provides clues about the political and literary structure of the period. Being in a good relationship with the Palace, the newspaper managed to survive for 8 years in a period when the government passed laws for censorship and prohibitions. The historical, political and literary background of the period should be taken into consideration so that the format, writers and content of the newspaper could be better understood.¹ In particular, despotism period of Abdülhamid II and the practices imposed on the media had a deep impact on the media and the political life alike.²

The *Malumat* started being published in between 1895–1903. It is necessary to know about the media and political life of the period in order to rightly assess the practices and publication policies during the years of its publication. Mehmet Tahir who had a close contact with the Palace and close relationship with Abdülhamid II was the head of the newspaper. The newspaper was also known as "*Musavver Malumat*" (*Pictorial Malumat*). It was mainly interested in literature and acclaimed by a wider public and even able to reach the people not only in İstanbul but also in different regions of the Anatolia and Balkans.

¹ During the period of Abdulhamit II, The Otoman Empire experienced difficult times. In addition to the fact that rebellion of Bosnia Herzegovania and Bulgaria appeared at the era of The Sultan Abdülaziz, the battle between Serbia and Karadağ broke out. During these years, both economic destruction and the intervention of Russia caused difficulties for the Empire. The Otoman troops were often beaten. Meanwhile, because of the problems in the National Assembly, Abdulhamit II who felt unfavoured due to the attitudes of non-muslim parliaments closed the Assembly 13th, February, 1878 for an indefinite period. So, Abdulhamit II who ended the first Constitutional Government got the power to rule the Empire. (Armaoğlu, 1984: 1/58)

² During the period of Abdulhamit II, the press was in a difficult time. It should be stated that almost none of the newspapers survived. The reason was that the newspapers were either closed or disappeared for some time due to the effect of the despotism era. On the other hand, some other newspapers joined the press world. Some of them were published for Abdulhamit II and were never closed. And the newspapers published during that period were more powerful technically than those published during the period of political reforms. During the period of sovereignty which lasted for thirty-three years, a huge number of newspapers and magazines were published in various parts of the Otoman Empire and out of the Empire. The important ones of them were Hakikat, Hizmet, Abdülhamid, Nilüfer, İntikam, İrtika, Ahenk, Mektep, Mecmua-i Ebüzziya, Tercüman-ı Hakikat, Sabah, Osmanlı Gazetesi, Mizan, Meşveret, İkdam and Servet-i Fünûn. During the period 84 newspapers and 69 journals were published. These were published in İstanbul, Theoselonike, Kairo, İzmir. The newspapers and journals most of which were published in İstanbul kept political and humorous features. When the constitutional government made its power stronger in İstanbul completely, the writers who weren't able to write in the country preferred to publish newspapers and journals out of the Empire. Meşveret (Ali Rıza), Mizan (Mizancı Murat), Osmanlı (Abdullah Cevdet and İshak Sükutî), İntika (Ali Fahri) were among them. Apart from these newspapers, a lot of newspapers published essays against Abdülhamid II. Abdülhamid tried to prevent them from being published cutting the financial support.

The *Malumat* which was highly influential during its years of publication was an address for some writers who were against the journal, *Servet-i Fünun*, and its ideas. So, there were always some arguments between the writers on both sides. The *Malumat*, the subject of many contraversies³ during its years of publication, was one of the few newspapers which was able to keep its popularity.

It was first published by Mehmet Tahir⁴ between the years 1895–1903 in İstanbul. Mehmet Tahir, known as Baba (father) Tahir, was the owner and the editor of the newspaper. But In some issues Artin Asedoryan was shown as the head of the newspaper.⁵ The *Malumat* printed in Mehmet Tahir printing house consisted of 423 issues and 19 volumes. The newspaper having an incessant eight years of publication life was never subjected to censorship.⁶

³ The discussions starting around the story of '*Şemsa*' of Rezaizade Mahmut Ekrem and the discussions of new and old lasting long years in our literature are so important since they reflect the literary atmosphere of the era. The words used "*abes-muktebes*" in a poem published in the *Malumat* of a young poet, Hasan Asaf "*Is rhyme for the eyes ? , " Is rhyme fo the ears ?* began. The discussion that began between Rezaizade Mahmut Ekrem and Muallim Naci goes back to the discussion of the old and the new. Besides, publishing of "*Şemsa*" written by Rezaizade Mahmut Ekrem in the *Malumat* led to a hot dispute between *Servet-i Fünun* and the *Malumat*. Rezaizade Mahmut Ekrem criticised the situation in the *Servet-i Fünun* and the dispute between the two publishers lasted a long time.

⁴ He was the owner and editor of the *Malumat* and was known by Baba (Father) Tahir. He lived in İstanbul between the years 1864-1909. There is no more information about him. As well as the *Malumat*, he also published the newspapers named *Mürtivvet*, *Mırsad*, *Mınber*, *İrtika*, *Musavver*, and *Science and Literature and Fortune*. (TDE Encyclopedia, 1986, C.IV, s 222).

He was claimed to publish bad-intended newspapers and told people it belonged to Jonturks in Egypt and also informed Abdülhamid II and printed false token and patents by inviting etchers from Italy and sold them the Europeans. (Çapanoğlu, 1962:11) He was jailed because of the so-called crimes he committed and exiled to Trabulus. (1907) But he returned to İstanbul by the 1908 constitutional act of grace (Turkish Language and Literature Encyclopedia, 1986:222).

In the work of H. Ziya Uşaklıgil "*Forty Years*", the information about M. Tahir is as follows ; " Real action card was really in Baba Tahir". Who is that man? Where is he from? How has he appeared? Where did he get his power? Although nobody knew about this man and his past experiences who trembled İstanbul, everybody was sure who he was. He was quite handsome; tall with wide-body, lightening eyes, goldenmade-eye-glasses; he was told to be ignorant. But he was brave, his voice was quite noisy, he earned a lot and spent a lot, he was well-worn and lived in a car. All these were enough to be influential. He made the Palace believe that the *Malumat* had to exist and operate against *Servet-i Fünun*. Power was a necessity to stand against the writers of *Servet-i Fünun*, the leader of which was Rezaizade. It was Baba Tahir. (Uşaklıgil, 1969:423)

⁵ The owner of the newspaper was Mehmet Tahir . But it occasionally was changeable. Between the dates 22nd, February 1894-3rd, May 1895, the owner of the newspaper was Artin Asedoryan. This period lasted through 48 issues and the newspaper was published weekly. The essays of İsmail Safa and Tevfik Fikret were also published. (Değirmenci, 1994:31-32). Licence holder of the *Malumat* for the rest of the time was Mehmet Tahir. And from the 30th issue placed in the 2nd volume, the *Malumat* was again managed by Artin Asedoryan. But the writer and owner of the newspaper was Mehmet Tahir.

⁶ Though the reignof Abdülhamit II was full of pressure and censorship, the *malumat* continued to be published without any effects of censor for 8 years. It was because of Mehmet Tahir's close relationship with the Sultan. The essays for the Sultan were published in the *Malumat*. The *Malumat* was even