Abstract

The book titled Müyessiretü'l-Ulûm (the ease of sciences) written by Bergamali Kadri and presented to the Sadrazam of Suleiman the Magnificent, Ibrahim Pasha, is the first grammar book of Turkish written in Turkish language. Turkish grammar science was established by Kaşgarlı Mahmut in Turkistan in the middle ages. His main grammar book titled Kitâbu Cevâhirü’n-Nahf fî Lugatî’t-Türk (The Jewel and Directions of Turkish in Thesaurus) is missing; however, Kitâbu Divânî Lugâtî’t-Türk (The Large Thesaurus Book of Turkish) which he wrote in order to teach Turkish grammar to Arabs gives rules of the Turkish language of that period. However, due to its basic purpose which is teaching Turkish to Arabs, it was written with a somewhat different system based on the rules of Arabic language. Müyessiretü’l-Ulûm is the first grammar of western Turkish. Ahmet Cevdet Pasha, on the other hand, is as important for Turkish history as for Turkish grammar. He was a pioneer for all grammar books in a period when western elements started to enter Turkish language. At the same time it dealt with several topics such as learning of our language, finding counterparts for new concepts, eliminating the difference between spoken and written language, and making innovations in Arabic language. It played a leading role for all grammar books in a period when western elements started to enter Turkish language. The book titled Mikyâsü’l-Lisân Kistâsu’l- Beyân (Criteria of language, comparison of expression) written by Kitâhayâli Abdurrahman Fevzi Efendi was completed in 1847 before Ahmed Cevdet Pasha’s book, accepted by the Ministry of Education, but was printed in 1882 after the decease of the author. The preface of the book contains the opinions of Abdurrahman Fevzi Efendi on Turkish language. According to Abdurrahman Fevzi Efendi, linguistic is a supreme art which comprises of several benefits; however, none of the scientists who are superior in creating nice books did not use their pens in this topic and reveal their opinions. Taking this into consideration he imagined writing a principal Turkish grammar book. In this paper comparison evaluations and examinations will be provided on the books of these three important figures who are essential for Turkish language history.

Keywords: Ahmet Cevdet Pasha, Bergamali Kadri, Abdurrahman Fevzi Efendi, historical grammar books, first grammar book
INTRODUCTION

Turkish grammar studies were initiated in Turkistan by Kaşgarlı Mahmud. Although the grammar book of Kaşgarlı Mahmud titled *Kitâbu Cevâhirü’n-Nahv fî Lugâti’t-Türk* is lost, in his book titled *Kitâbu Divâni Lugâti’t-Türk* (Atalay 1985-1986) which was written with the purpose of teaching Turkish language to Arabs, rules about Karahanlı Turkish grammar are provided. The book titled *Müyessiretü’l-Ulûm*, which was presented by Bergamalı Kadri to Ibrahim Pasha (1493-1536) the Grand Vizier of Suleiman the Magnificent in 1530, is the first Turkish grammar book (Atalay 1946). The Tanzimat leaders who believed that Turkish should be studied in the schools which were opened later took action believing that there was a huge gap in Turkish teaching. However, due to the lack of an essential source and their madrasah roots, they tried to see an example in the Arabic grammar, the classical language they were familiar with, for Turkish grammar. In the meantime several grammar books were being written. The first grammar books were *Medhal -i Kavâid* by Ahmed Cevdet Pasha and *Kavâid -i Osmâniye* by Keçecizade Mehmed Fuat and Ahmed Cevdet Pasha, who were members of the Council of General Education (Ahmet Cevdet Paşa 1851). The book titled *Mikyâsü’l-Lisân Kistâsu’l- Beyân* by Kütahyalı Abdurrahman Fevzi Efendi was completed and approved by Ministry of Education in 1847 before the book of Ahmed Cevdet Pasha; however, it was published after the death of the author in 1882 (Kütahyalı Abdurrahman Fevzi Efendi 1847). The first study on this book was conducted by Ali Ulvi Elöve (1942). The study is essential as it is the first time when this book is introduced to the world of scholars. In addition, İlhan Erdem prepared a master’s thesis on the book which was promoted with an article (Erdem 1998).

EXAMINATION

Historical grammar books are mostly based on Arabic grammars which usually begin with the topic “verb” and continue with the derived words as lexicalizing is done with verbs and nouns are derived from verbs. We can see this obviously in the *Müyessiretü’l-Ulûm* of Bergamalı Kadri.

Examples from *Müyessiretü’l-ulûm*:

-Mazi Malum, bildimüfred-i gayib, bildiler tesniye-i gayib ve cem’i gayib, bildün müfred-i muhatab; mazi mechul bilindi müfred-i gayib, bilindiler tesniye-i gayib ve cem’i gayib, bildün müfred-i muhatab, bilindünüz tesniye-i muhatab ve cem’i muhatab, bilindium, mütekellim vaheh, bilindük ma’a’l-gayr; mechul-ı ism-i mekan bilinecek mekan müfred, bilinecek makanlar tesniye ve cem; ma’lum-ı ism-i alet bilecek alet müfred, bilecek aletler tesniye ve cem; mechul-ı ism-i alet bilinecek alet müfred, bilinecek aletler tesniye ve cem, mechul-ı ism-i alet bilinecek alet müfred, bilinecek makanlar tesniye ve cem, mechul-ı ism-i alet bilinecek alet müfred, bilinecek makanlar tesniye ve cem, mechul-ı ism-i alet bilinecek alet müfred, bilinecek makanlar tesniye ve cem, mechul-ı ism-i alet bilinecek alet müfred, bilinecek makanlar tesniye ve cem, mechul-ı ism-i alet bilinecek alet müfred, bilinecek makanlar tesniye ve cem, mechul-ı ism-i alet bilinecek alet müfred, bilinecek makanlar tesniye ve cem, mechul-ı ism-i alet bilinecek alet müfred, bilinecek makanlar tesniye ve cem, mechul-ı ism-i alet bilinecek alet müfred, bilinecek makanlar tesniye ve cem.

Turkish grammar books also follow this layout. Nevertheless, Turkish language is not suitable for this layout. Prof. Dr. Tahsin Banguoğlu handles this topic in his work titled *Grammar issue, Spelling issue* (Banguoğlu 1941: 9-10) as follows: "After the 18th century Turkish grammar books have been written in Europe in various languages. These are considerably successful. In Turkey, Tanzimat leaders believed that Turkish should be studied in newly opened schools but they lacked essential studies needed to create the Turkish grammar. They were not much familiar with the translations of Turkish grammar in western and eastern worlds. They saw an example in Arabic grammar, which was the classical language they were familiar with, for Turkish grammar and put Turkish in the patterns of that language. Cevdet Pasha was the first person to write Turkish grammar for schools." It is a reality that Cevdet Pasha was a historian and a thinker; in addition, he was a philologist representing the beginning of a new era in Turkish grammar history. In these and later years studies in the west continued, too. We still see the impact of Arabic in the grammars written thereafter. Abdurrahman Fevzi Efendi claimed that linguistic is a divine art which includes several benefits in itself. In the years when Arabic sciences were taught to the students of High School of Education, fifteen or sixteen year old teenagers who came to Islam
countries from European schools had already covered the grammars of their native languages; thus, after completing the grammars of a few foreign languages, they learned drawing, essay-writing, geography and several other sciences; as a result, they were able to learn Arabic and Persian much faster than their peers. Considering all the foregoing, he dreamed of writing a thorough Turkish grammar book. He decided to write a reference book covering the types and qualifications of Turkish letters, types, genres and qualifications of pure Turkish words used in writing with these letters, their changing patterns, types of compositions and sentences, and rules which show the way to accurately write and pronounce these words, which would also include explanatory examples. The son of Sultan Gazi Mahmud Han (1784-1839), Sultan Abdulaziz Han (1830-1876) believed and decided that this work could only be succeeded by a qualified person like him, whereupon he worked harder and completed the book in 1847. According to the author, Turkish language was a great language in that it had changing word types, especially the second singular person imperative transforming and changing into several patterns, that rules concerning all simple and compound forms had no exceptions, and that there were resources as regards all of the foregoing. However, he still thought that Arabic language had no match and equal, that Arabic was superior to all other languages in that it had rules and no exceptions. Turkish was about to vanish due to the combination of Arabic and Persian. For this reason, Turkish had to be saved from the patterns of Arabic and examined in accordance with its characteristics as far as possible. It should be known that there is a single branch of science which collects, orders and reports the several patterns of words in a language which is linguistic (grammar). In this manner, the grammar of each language is a kind of art consisting of several ordered topics explaining the methods of accurate pronunciation and writing. Scholars classified the issues related to Arabic language into four sections. They are called “sarf, etymology, syntax and script”. The issues which show the way to ease the pronunciation of some words which are difficult in some Arabic words are compiled and put in an order which is called “sarf”. New words are also obtained in different forms from some words, which is called “etymology”. The need to determine the place of some words in the sentence and determine the type of the sentence is called “syntax”. The attempt to determine the shape of letters and vowel points to protect spelling from mistakes is called “script”. Historical grammar books are also classified and examined according to this division.

According to Abdurrahman Fevzi Efendi, one has to know very well the rule concerning the letters and vowel points used in order to indicate Turkish words and there has to be a book in place which shows the way of accurate pronunciation and writing of these letters and vowel points. Unless we have such a book, the accurate writing of Turkish words cannot be known as the rules concerning changes in other languages cannot be measured and compared with the rules of our language; as a result, one cannot learn and complete in a relatively short time the changing rules of foreign languages and translate the expressions in the books in other languages. A book must be written which will compile the issues concerning the metamorphosis and change of Turkish words and configurations in their script. When we take a general look at the books of this important author, we can see that they are all related to the opinions presented in the introduction of "Mikyâsu'l-Lisan Kıstâsu'l-Beyân". In particular Müyessiretü'l-Ulum, despite being written much later, was founded on the same system. Those who tried to write about Turkish grammar after Abdurrahman Fevzi Efendi continued to adopt the same opinions and attempt to apply these opinions to their period.

Ahmet Cevdet Pasha pioneered the preparation of coursebooks and ensured that Turkish played an essential role in education and is given as weight as possible. Ahmet Cevdet Pasha’s book titled Kavaid-i Türkiyye on the education of Turkish was used as coursebook in primary schools; Medhal-i Kavaid was used as coursebook in secondary schools, and Kavaid-i Osmaniyye and Tertib- Cedid Kavaid-i Osmaniyye were used as coursebooks in Turkish language teaching. As the author of the earliest western-style grammar books, Ahmet Cevdet Pasha set an example to the people who followed him. Grammar books of Cevdet Pasha covers the learning of Turkish at schools, consideration of the difference between speaking language and writing language, the effort to clean it from Arabic and Persian, and the problems during the usage of Turkish with Arabic letters. With the exception of Medhal-i Kavaid, Ahmet Cevdet Pasha tried to give the rules of Turkish, Arabic and Persian together. He began with nouns to cover the types of words, and in
Tertib-i Cedid Kavaid-i Osmaniyye word endings began with third person with the impact of Arabic. In Medhal-i Kavaid, the order of he/she/it, you, I, they, we and you was followed in the ending of nouns and verbs just like the case in Arabic. Kavaid-i Türkiyye is the book where elements of Turkish are examined broadly. According to Ahmet Cevdet Pasha, Encümen-i Daniş will improve Turkish language in terms of enrichment, development and purification of Turkish as a government and education language. Encümen-i Daniş decided that a Turkish grammar book would be prepared and published, a Turkish glossary is prepared and a history is written in a language that could be understood by everyone. The first work of Encümen-i Daniş, Kavaid-i Osmaniyye, 12-volume Tarih-i Cevdet, the history written by Hayrullah Efendi, the second chairman of Endümen-i Daniş, and Lehçe-i Osmani (Ottoman Dialect) of Ahmet Vefik Pasha, were written as a result of these decisions.

Kavaid-i Osmaniyye was written by Ahmet Cevdet Pasha and Keçecizade Mehmet Fuad Pasha. It was written as the first book of Encümen-i Daniş in Hijri 1267 (Christian 1851) as lithograph and is the first grammar book of Turkish language written in Turkish. Abdurrahman Fevzi Efendi wrote a Turkish grammar in Hijri 1263-1278 (Christian 1867-1861) with the title Mikyasü’l-Lisan Kıstasü’l-Beyan but his book was published in Hijri 1299 (Christian 1882) after his death. This book is important in that it covers Turkish in a detailed manner and uses new grammar terms. The book was used as a coursebook for almost 50 years, reprinted at least 10 times in short intervals, translated to German and Arabic, and set an example to other grammar books of Ahmet Cevdet Pasha and other grammar books written in the same period.

In this book, special emphasis was put on private noun, common noun, singularity and plurality noun forms and gender in nouns in Arabic. Importance was also given to Turkish, Persian and Arabic nouns. The plurality form of nouns, their combination in the sentence, noun phrases, cases of nouns and changes of sound were covered. Turkish and Persian plurality forms of Persian nouns were given with their usage with Turkish annexes/prefixes and Persian noun phrases are examined. Arabic nouns, gender, singularity, plurality, Deuteronomy forms, rhythms and phrase forms are emphasised. In addition, adjectives are defined and Turkish, Persian and Arabic adjectives are examined along with their structure and usage.

Afterwards, under the title of “kinaiyat” (allusive and touching words used in drama) personal pronouns, demonstrative pronouns and indefinite pronouns are explained in three sections in their forms used in Turkish and Ottoman Turkish along with their forms in Persian and Arabic. Verbs are covered in three forms including infinitive, finite verb and words derived from verbs. In the first section, Turkish verbs, their infinitive form and the usage of infinitive like a noun, voices of verb according to object and subject, derivation of verb and compound forms were explained. In addition, emphasis was put on the simple and compound inflections of verbs in Turkish. Usage of present participle and the object as adjective verb and other affixes/prefixes which produce nouns form verbs are explained.

Medhal-i Kavaid was first printed as lithograph and with 55 pages in Hijri 1268/Christian 1852. In the book, the place of language in human life is explained with hadiths and verses, and prayer is made to the Prophet, his bloodline and friends. In the preamble section, the value given by the Sultan to science and the popularisation of education is mentioned and it is explained that the author wrote the book so that it could facilitate learning for new beginners and act as an introduction to the first book. In the introduction, the emergence of Ottoman language, its letters, vowel points and other script signs are explained. In the book, nouns, their singular and plural forms and the cases of nouns are explained with examples.

Kavaid-i Türkiyye is the grammar book written by Ahmet Cevdet Pasha for the language education of children studying at infant schools. It was first printed in Hijri 1288/Christian 1871, and was reprinted for 6 times thereafter. The book was written with a plain language mostly based on Turkish rules. In the introduction section of the Kavaid-i Türkiyye, emphasis was put on the sound features of Turkish, alphabet, spelling and the signs which make vowel sounds read. In the introduction it is explained that the foundation of our language is Turkish bit Arabic and Persian elements which was followed details on the letters and signs.
CONCLUSION
In conclusion, Bergamalı Kadri, Ahmet Cevdet Pasha and Abdurrahman Fevzi Efendi are important people who left their mark in Turkish grammar history. Above all, they adopted language with its grammar. For Turkish, it is needed to minimize Arabic and Persian to some extent and purify Turkish from these two languages. When necessary these two languages can also be learned which is most required especially in the period when this book was written. In these languages information can be obtained not only on religious matters but in all topics. This is a requirement to become a cultivated person. It is especially necessary to know a western language along with Arabic and Persian very well in order to study such areas as Turkish language and literature and history. There are several Arabic and Persian manuscripts and printed works in these fields. There are even many books translated from Greek to Arabic in the field of natural sciences. One has to reach these books if he/she wants to study and have in-depth knowledge in these areas.

REFERENCES
Ahmet Cevdet Paşa and Fuat Paşa (1858). Kavâid-İ Osmâniye, İstanbul.
Ahmet Cevdet Paşa (1851). Medhal-i Kavâid. İstanbul.
Elöve, A. U. (1942) Kütahyali Abdurrahman Hoca Mikyasüllisan Ve Kistasülbeyan. İstanbul: Turkish Language Institution Publications.
Atalay, B. (1946). Bergamalı Kadri, Müyessiretü’l-Ulûm (Facsimile, -Transcribed Text And Index). İstanbul: Turkish Language Institution.