

Kamus-ı teşrih: the possible first anatomy dictionary in Latin-Turkish

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Abstract

'Kamus-ı teşrih' (Anatomical Dictionary) was examined in order to introduce it as a rare, probably the first and important work for Turkish Medical History in its category. This is an exceptional book published in Germany in 1923. It can be accepted as the first Latin-Turkish dictionary of anatomy when considered separately from the medical dictionary called 'Lugat-ı tıb' (medical dictionary). 'Kamus-ı teşrih' was published in Latin-Ottoman Turkish. The heading of the dictionary in Latin is 'Vocabularium anatomiae'. The original copy of this book is found in the National Library in Ankara, Turkey. 'Kamus-ı teşrih' was written by Zeki Haşmat Kırım, MD. First six pages of the book are composed of the title, dedication, abbreviation, legends and preface. Anatomical terms are listed in Latin in alphabetical order between pages 7–84 and their meanings are written in Ottoman Turkish. Pages 85–86 include the last word of the author. Page 87 comprises the list of other books published by the author. Last pages include some medical advertisements. This manuscript aimed to bring the importance of introducing and providing access to such rare works for the history of anatomy and medicine.

Keywords: anatomy; dictionary; Latin; Ottoman language; Turkish

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Introduction

Medicine is one of the oldest professions in human history. The profession of medicine, which has been shaped by the interaction and accumulation of different practices in different geographies for thousands of years, has pioneered many issues besides healing the people. The word 'hekim' (physician) in Turkish comes from an Arabic word 'hakim', which means wise person, philosopher.^[1] In terms of medical training and practices, anatomy is one of the cornerstones of medicine dating back to ancient times, with a history as long as the profession itself. The first written texts containing anatomy practices date back to the drawings of Herophilus (born in Chalcedon) who lived in Alexandria between 335–280 BC. Galen (129–216) has quoted many of Herophilus' drawings. About 1600 years after the first dissection drawings, dissection became

important again with Vesalius (1514–1564), when dissection drawings and written texts formed the basis of anatomy education.^[2] 'Gray's Anatomy', which contains 363 drawings, written by the British anatomist and surgeon Henry Gray (1827–1861), the 'Sobotta, atlas of descriptive human anatomy' written by German anatomist Robert Heinrich Johannes Sobotta (1869–1945), and 'The Netter collection' written by Frank H. Netter (1906–1991), an American medical doctor and painter, are among the books that are still being published and used as reliable sources for medical students, today.

During the Renaissance, there were significant developments in Western medicine and especially in the field of anatomy as information and resources increased and Ottoman medicine was also influenced by these developments. Several Western sources were translated into Ottoman Turkish during this period and the first medical

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school was opened in the first half of the 19th century. 'Risale-i Teşrih-i Ebdan (Illustrated Human Anatomy)' by Şemsettin-i İtaki from Şirvan (1572–1632) is one of the first remarkable works written in this field.^[3] This work is a good example not only in terms of anatomical information and images, but also in language features and anatomical terminology. In addition to the Arabic equivalent of the medical terms mentioned in this work, Turkish, and sometimes Persian and Greek equivalents are included.

Learning new knowledge as well as teaching and transferring it to the new generation is important to ensure the continuity of knowledge. During this transition period, there were problems in understanding, teaching, and the use of medical terminology. The probably first Latin-Ottoman Turkish dictionary, 'Kamus-ı teşrih', is an example of efforts to overcome these problems.^[4] This work, which laid the basis of understanding anatomy as one of the fundamental fields in medical sciences, is the first anatomy dictionary prepared in accordance with the internationally accepted anatomical terminology. In our opinion, 'Kamus-ı teşrih' is the source of the first steps towards the translation of anatomical terms into Turkish, and therefore has been examined in order to introduce it as a rare, important and probably the first work for Turkish Medical History.

"Vocabularium Anatomiae"

'Kamus-ı teşrih' is a rare Latin-Turkish anatomical dictionary published in 1923 at the Kaviani Printing House (Leibnizstr. 43, Berlin) in Germany. The author of the dictionary is Dr. Zeki Haşmet Kiram (1886–1946), owner of the Morgen und Abendland-Verlag (Berlin, Karlstr. 10, Berlin) bookstore. The term 'Kamus-ı teşrih', written in Ottoman Turkish, can be translated into English as 'anatomical dictionary' (Figure 1). The Latin name of the book is 'Vocabularium anatomiae'. We have evaluated the original copy of this book that is found in the National Library, Ankara, Turkey (Code: 06 Mil EHT A 36083).

Content of 'Kamus-ı Teşrih'

'Kamus-ı teşrih' can be accepted as the first Latin-Turkish anatomical dictionary besides 'Lugat-ı tıp' (medical dictionary), the French-Ottoman dictionary of general medicine first published in 1873.^[5] It was prepared in three years and referred to the 'Nysten's medical dictionary' that was written in French and published in 1855. This dictionary was the only Ottoman-Turkish medical dictionary for nearly 25 years. In 1900, the sec-

ond edition was published by the 'Cemiyet-i Tıbbiye-i Osmaniye' (Ottoman Medical Society). This was the result of the first attempts to change the language of medical education from French to Ottoman Turkish.

The first six pages of the dictionary are reserved for the colophon, dedication, abbreviations and signs, and the author's foreword. The first page of the dictionary contains its name in Latin and Ottoman languages, information on the year of publication and the bookstore, and the author's name. In the dedication part, the author has dedicated this book to his father Mirza Ali Kiram Bey and to his relative Mirza Muhammed Zeman Khan, a medical doctor and vizier. This is followed by signs and abbreviations. In the foreword, the author states that the dictionary aims to provide support to overcome the difficulties in understanding medical terminology and his own medical experiences. On pages 7–84, anatomical terms are listed in alphabetical order according to the Latin alphabet and their equivalents are

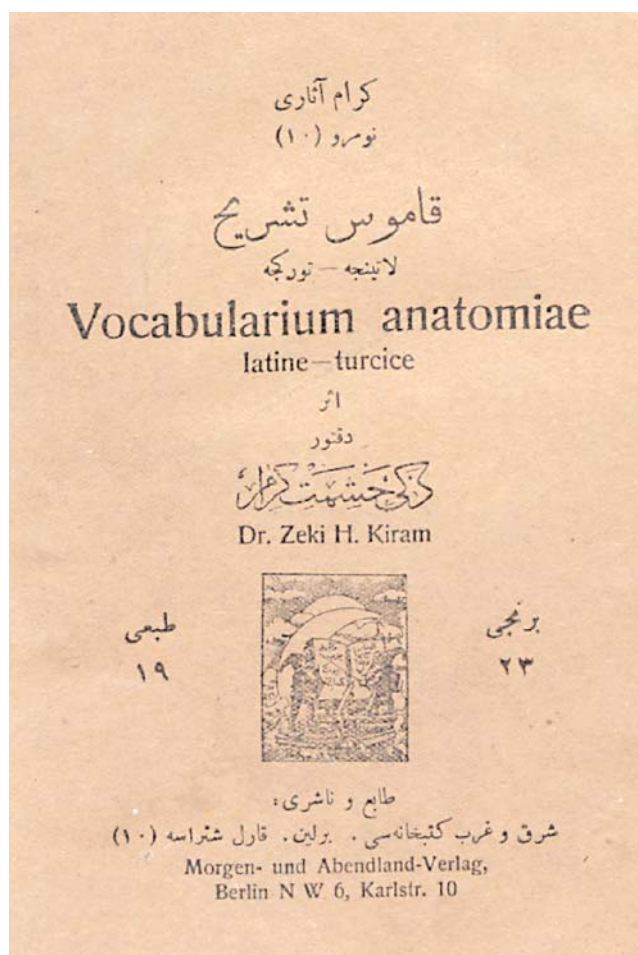


Figure 1. Title page of the dictionary.^[4]

given in Ottoman Turkish (Figure 2). Pages 85–86 contain the author’s afterword. On page 87, the list of other works published by the author is presented to the readers. The last pages of ‘Kamus-ı teşrih’ contain advertisements of medical equipment companies of the period. These advertisements are informative about the medical conditions and companies of the period.

An original copy of the dictionary can be found in the National Library in Ankara, Turkey, with number 06 Mil EHT A 36083. The terms are written in alphabetical order according to the first letters of the Latin terms. On the right side we see the term, then comes the origin as Latin (L) or Greek (Yu), followed by the meaning in Ottoman Turkish (Figure 2). We have found that most of the terms were actual anatomical terms, around 1500 in number. The original copy of this dictionary is found in nine libraries including eight college libraries in the United States and Canada, and one in the National Library of Israel. We could not reach the personal collections and number of the first printed items. The citations of this dictionary and knowledge about the delivery of the publisher also could not be reached. Another important point is that we could not get any information about the delivery of the dictionary to the Turkish Republic after 1923.

Dr. Zeki Haşmet Kiram

The most detailed study on the life of “Dr. Zeki Haşmet Kiram Bey” (25 May 1886, Damascus - 17 August 1946, Berlin) (Figure 3), the author of the dictionary, was published in the journal *Bibliotheca Orientalis* in 2006.^[6] The author of the article is Umar Ryad, an Egyptian scholar working in the Arab-Islamic Studies department at the University of Leuven (Belgium). Mr. Ryad conducts studies on Islam and Muslims in Europe between the two world wars. For this article, the author has benefited from 13 letters written by Zeki Haşmet Kiram Bey to an Egyptian journalist and studies on Muslims in Germany. The article describes the religious, political, cultural activities, trips, and contacts of Zeki Haşmet Kiram in Berlin from 1920 till 1940.

Dr. Zeki Haşmet Kiram started his education at the military school in Damascus, then went to military school in Istanbul and started to work as a lieutenant in the Ottoman army at the age of 18. At the end of 1916, he was injured while serving in World War I. His treatment started in Jerusalem, but then he was transferred to Berlin after the unsuccessful treatment. During this three-year-long treatment in Berlin, he continued his studies at Wilhelm Friedrich University and graduated



Figure 2. Examples of terms in Latin-Ottoman Turkish (arrows); “chorion (Greek)-outer cover of fetus”, “crystallinus (Greek)-clear”, “cuspis (Latin)-spearhead”, “cingulum (Latin)-belt”.^[4]

in 1925 as a dentist. After graduation and discharge from hospital, he settled in Berlin. In 1920, he married Gertrud Neuendorf (1886–1983), his nurse, and opened the bookstore called ‘Morgen und abendland buchhandlung und verlag’ (Karlstrasse 10, Berlin) with his wife



Figure 3. Dr. Zeki Haşmet Kiram.^[6]



Figure 4. Kiram in front of a bookstore.^[6]

(Figure 4). ‘Kamus-ı teşrih: Latin-Ottoman anatomy dictionary’ is the first work published in 1923 in the printing house of this bookstore.

Umar Ryad was stated Zeki Hışmet Kiram’s fields of work as military, journalism, armament representation and was focused on his life as a Muslim activist in Berlin.^[4] During this period, Kiram published many articles about the Arab and Muslim world. It is stated that he has works in Arabic, Ottoman, and German languages, but they were not allowed to be published in Germany at that time. In the article, almost no mention was made of his medical studies, except for a pedagogical article he wrote in 1927, reports of new research on the causes of cancer, and information about the printing of labels of drugs he produced in his private laboratory in the printing press. In his writings, he described himself as an Islamic missionary and, from 1928 onwards, began to

mediate German-Arab arms treaties as a military expert. He was arrested by the United States for his role in the arms trade, as a translator for the German Foreign Office, and for some of his visits to Spain, and died of cancer while being held at an American hospital.^[4,7]

Conclusion

Kiram was unable to pursue an academic career in medicine. His limited works in this field, like his other political works, were limited to translations. However, his work named ‘Kamus-ı teşrih: Latin-Ottoman anatomy dictionary’, which he prepared based on his own experiences during his medical education, is a rare work published in 1923. In Turkey, it is important to introduce and provide access to these rare works in terms of the history of anatomy and medicine which may have a contribution to determine appropriate Turkish equivalents of anatomical terms in Latin.

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