

Kıtap Tanıtma:

İSMAİL HİKMET ERTAYLAN, *Türk Edebiyatı Tarihi, I-IV* [*The History of Turkish Literature I-IV*] ed. Abdullah Uçman et al., Turkish Historical Society Publications, Ankara 2011, XXVIII+1210 p. [four volumes] New Series: IV/A-2-2.11-2. ISBN: 978-975-16-2364-5.

*Türk Edebiyatı Tarihi* [*The History of Turkish Literature*], the work that existed in name only for long times, of İsmail Hakkı Ertaylan took its place among the publications of Turkish Historical Society. The book had been written in Arabic alphabet and published as four separate volumes in Baku in 1925-26; yet, all of them were published in one great volume by Turkish Historical Society. Transliteration and editing of the book were carried out by a committee under the leadership of Abdullah Uçman. The committee consists of Mehmet Çelenk, Seda Işık, İpek Şahbenderoğlu, Özge Şahin, Bengü Vahapoğlu, Sibel Işık and Seval Şahin.

İsmail Hikmet Ertaylan is always mentioned as a significant writer of Turkish Literature historiography in higher schools in Turkey, however most of the readers could not get through to his work as it was written in old alphabet. Moreover, copies of the book were not available in Turkish libraries as it was published in Baku.

Ertaylan starts his work with Keçecizade İzzet Molla of 18<sup>th</sup> century and concludes with Faruk Nafiz Çamlıbel. Not surprisingly, most of the men of the letters that descended to Republican Era from the Ottoman period were familiar to Ertaylan. Yet, his admiration to Tevfik Fikret is obvious in his whole work; and while he evaluates the men of the letters who lived in Tanzimat Era and were alive in early Republican Era, Ertaylan grounded his evaluations according to the sense of art and worldview of Fikret. This is especially true for the chapter that he allocated for Mehmet Âkif.

According to Ertaylan's classification, the men of the letters who were introduced in the first volume, including Keçecizade İzzet Molla, Ârif Hikmet Bey, Âkif Paşa, Abdurrahman Sâmî Paşa, were the actors of pre-Renovation (*teceddiid*) period that prevailed between 1800-1838. Later on, the Renovation period began and lasted until 1878. For Ertaylan, the Renovation period starts with Şinasi, continues covering Fatin Davud, Kâzım Paşa, Leskofçalı Galib, İbrahim Hakkı, Edhem Pertev Paşa, Hersekli Ârif Hikmet, Ziya Paşa, Nâmık Kemal and eventually concludes with Ahmed Vefik Paşa.

The second volume of *Türk Edebiyatı Tarihi* begins with the trend of New Literature (*Edebiyat-ı Cedide*). The poets and writers whose biographies are presented in this second volume include Rezaizade Mahmud Ekrem, Abdülhak Hâmid, Sami Paşazade Sezai, Sadullah Rami Paşa, Ahmed Midhat Efendi, Hüseyin Nâzım Paşa, Yenişehirli Avni, Muallim Naci, Şeyh Vasfî, Muallim Feyzi, Ali Rûhî, İsmail Safâ, Nabizade Nâzım, Mahmud Sadık, Niğâr Hanım, Ahmed Rasim, Hüseyin Rasim, Hüseyin Rahmi and Abdullah Cevdet

The third volume is starts with an introduction about the 19<sup>th</sup> century Ottoman Literature and pre-Constitution (1895-1908) period. Tevfik Fikret is regarded as the first subject of this era. Subsequently, Rıza Tevfik, Halid Ziya, Cenab Şehabeddin, Süleyman Paşazade Sâmî, Hüseyin Câhid, Mehmed Rauf, Ahmed Hikmet, Hüseyin Suad, Hüseyin Siret, Süleyman Nazif, Fâik Âli, Kemalzade Ali Ekrem, H. Nâzım (Ahmed Reşid) and Celâl Sâhir are also discussed within this volume.

The last volume of the serial consists of post-Constitution era (after 1908) litterateurs. They are also well known figures of Republican Period; and some of them were close friends with İsmail Hikmet. This volume begins with Şehabeddin Süleyman and includes Köprülüzade Mehmed Fuad, Yakup Kadri, Refik Halid, Falih Rıfki, Ahmed Haşim, Emin Bülend, Tahsin Nahid, Yahya Kemal, Fazıl Ahmed, Ali Canib, Ömer Seyfeddin, İbrahim Alâeddin, Ercümen Ekrem, Halide Edib, İhsan Raif, Mehmed Emin, Ziya Gökalp, Mehmed Âkif, Midhat Cemal, Hamdullah Subhi, Reşat Nuri, Halit Fahri, Yaşar Nezihe, Orhan Seyfi, Yusuf Ziya and Faruk Nafiz respectively. The last chapter of the book is titled as “The Literature after the Armistice” (pp. 1165-1189)

Regarding the methodology of this research of Ertaylan; firstly, biographies of each poet and writer are provided; later, authoring language, style and art and skills of them are evaluated. Though these evaluations sometimes seemed far from being objective, they are still significant to reflect the spirit of the time. Moreover, charcoal portraits of each poet and authors, most of which had been drawn by Ertaylan himself, was used at the beginning of the chapters, which obviously makes the work more attractive.

As it was published in old (Arabic) alphabet, *Türk Edebiyatı Tarihi* [*The History of Turkish Literature*] could be counted as a lost work of today's Turkey; and was usually ignored in the researches on late Ottoman period literature. It is certain that this study of Ertaylan will reach to broader communities as it was published by Turkish Historical Society.

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