

THE IMPRESSION WRITINGS IN SERVET-I FINÛN ABOUT IRAQ AN OTTOMAN LAND

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Bir Osmanlı Toprağı Olan Irak Ülkesi Hakkında Servet-i Finûn 'da Yer Alan İzlenim Yazıları

ÖZ

Ortadoğu'nun en önemli merkezlerinden biri olan Irak, çok uzun süre Osmanlı egemenliği altında bulunmasına rağmen daima Anadolu'dan kopuk bir pozisyonda kalmıştır. Müslümanlar için oldukça önemli bir bölge olmakla birlikte, o günün şartlarına bağlı olarak Anadolu'dan çok fazla insan bu toprakları görme imkânı bulamamıştır. Her ne kadar bölgenin - özellikle manevi açıdan ziyaret edilmesi- büyük önem taşısa da bu ihtiyaç ancak dönemin basın yayın araçları tarafından (kısmen) karşılanmaya çalışılmıştır. On dokuzuncu yüzyılın sonlarında ve yirminci yüzyılın başlarında, bilhassa Türklerin ve Müslümanların yaşadığı uzak coğrafyalar hakkında yegâne bilgilendirme aracı gazete, dergi, bülten gibi basılı yayınlardı. Bu yayınlardan biri de Servet-i Finûn dergisidir. Türk basın tarihinin en uzun ömürlü dergisi olan Servet-i Finûn, bu bağlamda okuyucuları için hususi bir muhabir görevlendirmiş, Irak topraklarını ve bu topraklardaki izlenimleri okuyucularına aktarmıştır.

Bu çalışmanın amacı Servet-i Finûn dergisinin, Osmanlı toprağı olan Irak'ta meydana gelen önemli olaylar ile değerli şahsiyetler, mühim kentler ve bazı özel mekanlar hakkındaki bilgileri / izlenimleri okuyucularına ne şekilde aktardığını ortaya koymaya çalışmaktır. Çalışma kapsamında Servet-i Finûn dergisinin 1896-1901 yılları arasında yayınlanan sayıları incelenerek ilgili yazılar ve haberler tespit edilip değerlendirilmiştir. Çalışmadan elde edilen bulgulara göre, dergi söz konusu dönemde Irak'ta kent, mekân, bazı önemli gelişmeler, önemli şahsiyetler hakkında (32 adet) gezi-izlenim yazıları yayınlarak okuyucularını bölge hakkında bilgilendirmiştir.

Anahtar Kelimeler: Servet-i Finûn, Irak, Irak Cevelânı, Osmanlı, Edebiyat.

The Impression Writings in Servet-i Finûn About Iraq an Ottoman Land

Abstract

Iraq which one of the most important centers of the Middle East, although it was under Ottoman rule for a very long time, it always remained in a position disconnected from Anatolia. Although it is a very important region for Muslims, not many people from Anatolia have been able to see these lands depending on the conditions of that day. There were important spiritual centers in the region. However, it was difficult to visit them. Media outlets tried to partially meet this need. In the late nineteenth century and early twentieth century, the only means of information about remote geographies where Turks and Muslims lived were printed publications such as newspapers, magazines and newsletters. One of these publications is Servet-i Finun magazine. Servet-i Finun, which the longest-lived magazine in the history of the Turkish press, has assigned a special reporter for its readers in this context, and conveyed Iraq lands and impressions to its readers.

The aim of this study is to reveal how Servet-i Finun magazine transferred important cities and some private places in Iraq territory to its readers. Within the scope of the study, the issues of Servet-i Finun magazine published between the years 1896-1901 were examined and related writings were determined and evaluated. According to the findings obtained from the study, the journal informed its readers about the region by publishing travel-impression articles (32 pieces) about the city, place, some important developments and important personalities in Iraq during the said period.

Keywords: Servet-i Finûn, Iraq, Iraq Impression, Ottoman, Literature.

Introduction

The newspapers were the most important mass media for the societies until the end of the twentieth century. The masses were following political, economic, social, cultural, artistic, sportive, etc. the developments in the fields by way of newspapers. Especially, the contents of newspapers were extremely valuable on various subjects in periods when there was limited access to information and information. Especially, the contents of newspapers on various subjects were extremely valuable in periods when there was limited access to news and information. In this context, the contents about tour and travel were seen as valuable by newspapers and magazines, and also these contents were frequently encountered in the newspapers.

Trip and travel works which take part in mass media such as newspapers and magazines, aim to inform about the societies living in geographies close and far away from people and their cultures, the conditions of those societies, their beliefs, traditions, architecture and art, economy etc...

There is an objective expression is used in the travel writings included in the periodicals. The travel writer only tells what she/he saw and witnessed on the writings. Also, the writers widely used visual elements and photographs in travel writings. For this reason that travel writings are documents. The author expresses his/her observations in a literary language and sometimes his/her own interpretation with an objective approach. Travel writings are used as a source in sciences such as history, geography, law and sociology.

1. The Travel and Review writings in the Press

It would be appropriate to evaluate the meaning of the concept of travel before discussing the relationship between the press and trip and travel writings. Trip is defined as "long journey between countries or cities, travel", "journey made for the purpose of traveling, seeing, having fun" in the TDK dictionary, where the word travel is used as trip. "The concepts of trip or travel and the type of travelogue about the basic informations are also included in many different dictionaries. The word of travel (to black) as was explained in the way of that 'to walk, to go; wandering around the world in order to disturb people, to devote oneself to worship and to live the life of the clergy. Also, it is stated that the person who travels like water flows on the earth is called *sâih* or traveller because he travels on the earth" (Çağrıci, 2009: 7). It has been said that travelogue means travel letter, travel work" (Özdemir 2017:502).

Trip and travel writings, which represent the combination of many different writing types, are among the important writing types that newspapers have included in their pages from the past to the present. Travel writings are considered so important because they are mostly based on observation and deal with personally seen and observed items. "The main material for travel writings is the geography created by history, society and civilization, as well as the issues that the writer can reveal. Travel writing is a reinterpretation of geography." (Ozdemir 2017: 503).

It is possible that to come across many travel writings about the last period of the Ottoman Empire in the magazine *Servet-i Fünun*. One of the reasons for this may be Ahmet İhsan, the concessionaire of the magazine. "Ahmet İhsan draws attention with the importance that he attaches to the genre of travel, both as a publisher who is the manager of *Servet-i Fünun* magazine and as a writer who shares his travels" (Özdemir 2017: 503). There are lots of travel writings covering the Ottoman geography as well as Europe, America, Africa, Asia and the Polar region in the magazine *Servet-i Fünun*. The photographs, texts and various information were included from the geography of Iraq in the "*Hitta-i Irakiye Cevelandan*" sections (under the title) of the magazine within this framework.

2. Servet-i Finun Magazine

Servet-i Fünûn which the longest-lived magazine in the history of the Turkish press, began to be published by Ahmed İhsan Tokgöz on March 27, 1891, as an addition to the newspaper Servet in Istanbul. It continued its publication activities until 25 May 1944 as the publication organ of New Literature, Fecr-i Âtî and National Literature groups and “Seven Torch” (Yedi Meşaleciler) in the later dates. (Parlatır 2009: 573). The name of the journal was changed to "Awakening" (since 1681. Issue) with the Alphabet Revolution realized on December 6, 1928 years. When it came to the fore with its literary aspect, its publication range was generally composed of scientific issues, technological developments, medicine, education and economics”, except for the periods (1896-1901; 1910-1914; 1928-1944) (Göçer, 2016: 157).



Picture 1: Title of Servet-i Fünun magazine

SERVET-İ FUNUN

It Takes Out on Thursdays

“Menafi-i Mülk” and “Devlete Hadim Musavver Ottoman Newspaper”

SERVETIFUNOUN JOURNAL ILLUSTRE TURC PARAISSANT LE JEUDI CONSTANTINOPLE

The Owner and Manager: Ahmet İhsan [TOKGÖZ]

Price: A copy of Dersaadette is 100 money.

Release Time: Weekly (Thursdays)

Subscription Terms:

Copy of Dersaadet: “Şerait-i işra is 130 piastre per year, 75 piastre for six months and 40 piastre for three months in Dersaadet. If it is sent by mail, the cost of the province will be taken.”

Copy of the Province: “Şerait-i istra is 150 piastre per year, 80 piastre for six months, and does not have a three-month salary. To be sent with a cardboard tube without breaking, an additional twenty cents per year is taken.”

Published City: Istanbul

Published Press: Alem Printing House, Ahmet İhsan and His Company (Yılmaz, 2019:23)

Iraq Travel in Servet-i Finun

The magazine is being covered mostly scientific issues, technological developments, medicine, education and economics in addition to literary content as a requirement of its editorial policy. At the same time, it was conveying the developments both in Anatolia and the regions of the Ottoman Empire outside of Anatolia to its readers. The magazine was conveying the developments in regions that are close but not very strongly connected to the center, especially in Iraq and Syria, with pictures, news and writings. The magazine also conveyed the developments in Iraq to its readers by sending a reporter named Mehmet Tevfik. Mehmet Tevfik preferred to publish the developments by photographing more, because it was perhaps the most important document for that period. Totally, 32 visuals and news-information were published in the magazine most of which were photographs between the years 1896-1901. It was evaluated how the newspaper presented the events (news and visuals) by giving some of these images and articles in this study.

3. The images, news and information in Servet-i Finun

“With the publication of our newspaper, we said in our travel book titled a traveler in Syria, where our mobile officer Mehmet Tevfik Efendi, who even took beautiful photographs of the places he visited and enlivened the part in our minds, met with the history. He is also that persevered in Baghdad with the tariq of Aleppo.” This information is in the newspaper's issue number 316.

Baghdad, 15 Kanunusani (January)

“From Aleppo, on Friday, which was 9 of my departure and the thirteenth of the Law, I made my way to the town of Deyr, the center of Zor Sanjak.” (...) information is included.

In an article in the newspaper's 325th issue, "With a continental letter from Tevfik Efendi, who was a traveling officer of our newspaper and was sent to Baghdad to serve in the expansion of the Servet-i Fünûn and to take photographs of the places he visited and send them to us, he was sent from Aleppo to Baghdad . The pictures he made until ' were included in our copy number 316. We received a very long letter from Tevfik Efendi, which is almost like a travel book in this instance. The story of determination from Baghdad to Basra with the order of Karbala and from there to Baghdad from the river is a story in this letter. It also contains about thirty pictures. We will present the pictures to kariin-i kiram respectively. We started to record the travelogue as of this week.” It has been conveyed to the readers that travel visuals and texts will be included. (Servet-i Finun, Year: 1897, Issue: 325, Page:206 / 207/

The following information is included on pages 315 and 316 of the 332nd issue of the newspaper. “Since there were three days for the ferry to go to Basra, we couldn't bear to wait and we competed against the boat. When the weather was also good, we reached Basra within five hours, by giving our head to the current of the river.” This information is given under the title of "A Traveler in Hitta-i Irakiye".

On the coast of Tigris, there are customs police, Oman-i Osmani administrations and other ferry agency administrations, as well as the administration offices of privates engaged in trade. There is a small stream, called Aşar, to go to Basra from this place, which is convenient to the Tigris coast and is Basra's commercial branch. After half an hour with this, the town of Basra is reached”. (Servet-i Finun, Year: 1897, Issue: 332, Page: 315-316)

There are two photographs, "Military Barracks in Hille (Above)" and "Amare Town" (Below), in the section "Hitta-i Irakiye Cevelan In the 334th issue of the newspaper." (Servet-i Finun, Year: 1897, Issue: 334, Page: 341)



Picture 2: Military barracks in Hille and Amare town (Servet-i Finun, Year: 1897, Number: 334, Page: 341)

In the "Hitta-i Irakiye TRAVEL" section, there is a photograph in the section "Beards on the Tigris Coast in Baghdad" in the 335th issue of the newspaper (Servet-i Finun, Year: 1897, Issue: 335, Page: 361)



Picture 3: Sakas on the Tigris Coast in Baghdad... (Servet-i Finun, Year: 1897, Number: 335, Page: 361)

In the writing that is signed by M. Tefvik, which is given in the 335th issue of Servet-i Finun as a continuation of the 325th issue: " There are also lots of tobacco smuggling here. Although the revenue (income) of the Baghdad Reji administration was very small until the next five or six years from now, since five or six years

the revenue of the administration has increased one-fold compared to the criminal record with the efforts and patronage of Reji Minister İzzetlü Vehbi Bey. (Servet-i Finun, Year: 1897, Issue: 335, Page: 362/363)

The photograph of the tomb of Imam Hussein is given as "The Outer Gate of Imam Huseyin Radiyallahu Anh Mausoleum in Karbala" in the 336th issue of Servet-i Finûn, in the "From the journey to the Hitta-i Irakiye" section. (Servet-i Finun, Year: 1897, Issue: 336, Page: 377)



Picture 4: Saint Imam Hussein Tomb (Servet-i Finun, Year: 1897, Number: 336, Page: 377)

In the 337th issue of Servet-i Finûn, in the "From the journey to the Hitta-i Irakiye" section, this time the photograph of the tomb of Imam Abbas is given as "The Tombs of Imam Abbas (Radiyallahu Anh) in Karbala. (Servet-i Finun, Year: 1897, Issue: 337, Page: 392)



Picture 5: Saint Imam Abbas. Tomb (Servet-i Finun, Year: 1897, Number: 337, Page: 392)

In the article signed by Mehmet Tefvik on pages 43/44/45 of the 341th issue of Servet-i Finun, “April 19, the year is 313. We came to a village called Semile/Semil tonight. Our animals have changed in the range household. We set off again, while we were on horseback it was morning.

A river coming from Siirt had made the town of Zaho an island (a piece of land surrounded by water on all four sides). There is only one ancient bridge to enter and exit the town. There are many Jews here. They also mostly monopolize with the Kurdish language and wear stationery clothes. They only extend a zuluf from the bottom of their ears. It is understood that they are Jewish. Arabic has disappeared around here, since Kurdish is monopolized everywhere, I couldn't explain everything I wanted, I was applying to an interpreter.” he strikingly revealed the change in the socio-demographic characteristics of the region by using expressions.”

“ We crossed a river with keleks, which was flowing violently on the way to Musall. We came to Museybi Town after driving seven hours from here. They offered us rice and yogurt.” statements are included in the same issue. (Servet-i Finun, Year: 1897, Issue: 341, Page: 43/44/45)

In the 343rd issue of Servet-i Finûn, a photograph of the Golden Bridge, an important structure in the region, was published under the title "Other View of the Golden Bridge" in the "From the trip to Hitta-i Irakiye" section. (Servet-i Finûn, Year: 1897, Issue: 343, Page: 73)



Picture 6: Golden Bridge (Servet-i Finun, Year: 1897, Issue: 343, Page: 73)

There is a photograph named "A Dervish from Baghdad" in the section "From a trip to the Hitta-i Irakiye" in the 347th issue of Servet-i Finun. (Servet-i Finun, Year: 1897, Issue: 347, Page: 137)



Picture 7: A Dervish from Baghdad (Servet-i Finun, Year: 1897, Number: 347, Page: 137)

There is a photograph which is called "An Enduring Discovery and Exported Sculpture in the Near Baghdad" in the section "From a trip to the Hitta-i Irakiye" in the 441th issue of Servet-i Finûn. (Servet-i Finun, Year: 1899, Issue: 441, Page: 388)



Picture 8: A Statue of Art that was Discovered and Exported in the End Times Around Baghdad (Servet-i Finun, Year: 1897, Number: 441, Page: 388)

A photograph is included with the caption, "His Excellency Atullah Pasha, the Governor of Baghdad, Who Was Appointed to the Member of the Council of State-i Civil Service" in the section of "From the journey to the Hitta-i Irakiye". This was included in the 449th issue of Servet-i Finun. (Servet-i Finun, Year: 1899, Issue: 449, Page: 101)



Picture 9: Saint Ataullah Pasha, the Governor of Baghdad, who was appointed as a member of the Council of State-i Civil Service in the End Times (Servet-i Finun, Year: 1899, Issue: 449 Page:101)

Conclusion

Servet-i Finun magazine has an important place in Turkish press life. The magazine has an important place in the history of the Turkish press with its longevity, its printing with a European printing technique and content and layout. Servet-i Finun, which means "treasury of sciences", is a weekly "musavver", or illustrated magazine, which was published with 2461 issues between 1891 and 1944 years and is especially famous for its role in the modernization of Turkish literature. The magazine, which was published as a supplement to the Servet newspaper, continued to be published independently after the closure of the Servet newspaper in 1892 years. The magazine, which was initially published under the name of Nikolaidis as a concessionaire, changed hands a year later and started to be published under the name of Ahmet İhsan Tokgöz.

The magazine Servet-i Finun which informing its readers on many subjects such as history, geography, law, and sociology, appointed a special reporter named Mehmet Tefvik to convey some situations and impressions in Iraq to the public and tried to inform the public. It has been understood that more visuals are used to convey the impression of Iraq of Servet-i Finun magazine. During the five-year period (actually, the active publication period is 3 years), 32 visuals and 18 writings (or letters) were included in the newspaper. It has been understood that the newspaper mostly included news and visuals about venues during this period. As it is known that photographs are historical documents. When the conditions of the period are evaluated, it is understood that the magazine Servet-i Finun includes many visuals that are historical documents. It is seen that Servet-i Finun magazine sheds light on history with the photographs they publish together with news and writings as with all newspapers. The magazine conveyed the places in different cities of Iraq, the geographical features of the cities, the architecture, the lifestyles and traditions of the people, especially in the sections called "Hitta-i Irakiye travel".

The most important feature of the Servet-i Fünun magazine in terms of fashion, clothing, and ornamentation is that it is based on visuality. In other words, it is an illustrated magazine. The visuality and seeing are the basic parameters of modern culture. Firstly, modernization is a way of seeing and reading

nature, people and society as rational. The magazine which published with this understanding, has gained a quality that appeals to a large number of readers at home and abroad.

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