



FATHER MODELS IN CHILDREN'S BOOKS

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Abstract

In traditional family form, a father model who works outside, earns money, sets up rules and put them into practice, loves his child from far away could be often seen. Generally, mother didn't used to work outside and used to undertake child care. Because of the rise in the number of working mothers, the role of father in family has changed. Today, fathers are as important as mothers in child's education and they must be. A good father role make the child gain the characteristics of having social interaction, self-reliance, self-discipline. Child's success at school can also be related to the place of father model in child's life. Father's sparing time to his child, talking with the child, reading book to him or her, asking the child's ideas about events, accompanying him or her in plays and let the child feel his love are important in child's intelligence development.

It is hard for a child who cannot have a good relationship with his or her father and who isn't exposed to love and care from his father to be at peace with himself or herself, to be successful at school, to be in accordance with friends and to show social behaviors. A deficient father model may cause sexual identity disorder especially in boys.

Examining children's books in terms of father model, a father model is not majorly seen. Especially preschool books in which child education is intensely emphasized, mother is nearly the only person who takes care of the child.

In books which present father as a hero, though not hardly emphasized, the father role has a major effect on children. Father has final word for the decisions about the child. Father's not involving in child's life for any reason affects children negatively.

In the study, children's books written for various ages are chosen and the father models in these books are examined.

Keywords: Children's books, father, child, education, child education

ÇOCUK KİTAPLARINDA BABA MODELLERİ

Özet

Geleneksel aile yapısında dışarıda çalışan, ailenin geçimini üstlenen, kural koyan ve uygulayan, çocuğunu uzaktan seven baba modeline sık rastlanmaktaydı. Anne ise genellikle dışarıda çalışmıyordu ve evde çocuğunun bakımını üstlenmişti. Toplumumuzda çalışan annelerin sayısının artması sebebiyle babanın aile içindeki rolü değişime uğramıştır. Günümüzde çocuk eğitiminde anneler kadar babaların da önemi vardır ve olmalıdır. İyi bir baba modeli çocuğa sosyal etkileşim, özgüven, kendi kendini disipline etme gibi kişilik özellikleri kazandırır. Okul başarısının yüksek ya da düşük olması da baba modelinin çocuğun hayatındaki yeri ile bağlantılı olabilir. Babanın çocuğuna zaman ayırması, onunla konuşması, kitap okuması, olaylar hakkında fikrini sorması, oyunlarında ona eşlik etmesi ve çocuğa sevgisini hissettirmesi, çocuğun zeka gelişiminde çok önemlidir.

Baba ile sağlıklı ilişki kuramayan, babasından sevgi ve ilgi görmeyen çocuğun kendisiyle barışık, okulda başarılı olması, arkadaşlarıyla ilişkilerinde uyumlu ve sosyal davranışlar sergilemesi de çok zordur. Eksik bir baba modeli özellikle erkek çocuklar için cinsel kimlik karmaşasına yol açabilmektedir.

Çocuk kitaplarına baba modeli açısından bakıldığında, baba modelinin çok fazla yer almadığı görülmektedir. Özellikle çocuk eğitiminin yoğun olarak vurgulandığı okul öncesi dönem kitaplarında anne çocukla ilgilenen tek kişidir neredeyse.

Babanın kahraman olarak yer aldığı kitaplarda baba çok fazla yer tutmasa da çocuklar üzerinde etkisi çok fazladır. Çocukla ilgili kararlarda son sözü söyleyen babadır. Babanın herhangi bir nedenle çocuğun hayatında yer almaması çocukları olumsuz etkilemektedir.

Araştırmada, çeşitli yaş düzeyleri için yazılmış çocuk kitapları seçilmiş, bunlarda yer alan baba modelleri incelenmiştir.

Anahtar Sözcükler: Çocuk kitapları, baba, çocuk, eğitim, çocuk eğitimi

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1. INTRODUCTION

The effect of parents on children's education and care are important. Parents having the right guidance when bringing up child will effect child's development in a positive way. In a family, the effect of father and mother are different. Especially after birth, the effect of mother on a child is very much and mother is the most essential social environment for the child until it is two years old. The impact of father on child will be seen I the following years. Especially in primary school, children compare their fathers and their occupation and they boast about it. In the development of a child, father is an example and a role model for a child. From child's view, father is a guide who protects them from harsh life conditions, supports and guides them (Özgüven, 2001: 194). Today, in parallel to the increase in the number of especially working mothers, the responsibility and duty of mother and father for children have changed. In addition to working outside, father has started to have strong role on children's education and care. Parents have essential factor on children's having a gender role. In terms of gender identity only identification is not enough for boys and it is not permanent. In addition to mother's features, after a time boys head for their father's features and adopt them. Father's being close to child and being interested in them will make identification process easier. In this way, children lead to the suitable identity for their sexes and gain their characteristics (Özgüven, 2001: 200). Parents being close to their children while they grow up will prevent children from searching for right examples in others. Otherwise, child will be interested in other people. In a family, mother represents love and father represents authority. In the absence of father, these values are represented by mother. Indeed, the first authority in the family is mother. However, the resource of ideas and the resource of system of values slowly constructed by child are widely father (Dönmezer, 2001: 35). In the researched books in the field of study, headings below are seen.

2. FATHER MODELS

2.1. Protective Father

In some books, fathers from children's eye are the people who go to work every morning, make them happy with their presence, don't show their problems and who give advices to them. Davut Baykan, in this poem "Akrabalık İlişkileri":

"Mother who gives birth to us

Father who protects us" (Elçin, 1980: 34) expresses his point of view for father.

Rakım Çalapala, in his "Ailemiz" poem describes father as someone who goes to work and mother as someone who serves at home:

"My father goes to every day

My mother serves at home" (Elçin, 1980: 48) Poet's poem of "Babacığım" is written for fathers. In this poem the adjectives of "bread winner", "Cherry of one's cheek", "cute" "fine" are used for father. Father's coming home in the evening cheers up the whole family. For the children who become so happy with father's arriving, nights are seen just like days.



Children's happiness depends on their fathers and their hunger increases with their fathers too. The children given in the poem follow father's advice (Elçin, 1980: 49). In the given works, fathers reflect Turkish society's traditional family concepts and the views for father. Especially in the periods when mothers were not as active in working life as today, mother was thought to be someone who looked after child and the housework.

In the book *Ökkeş Otoparkta*, *Ökkeş* is anorexic as his father is abroad. In spite of his grandmother's prays, he doesn't want to eat. When he is with his father, his hunger comes back to normal. "Father, a person must have lots of money, and eat all those meals" (İzgül, 2007b: 32). In the book, for *Ökkeş* whose mother dies and who is brought up by his grandmother, his father is very essential.

Fakir Baykurt, in the book of "Babamın İşi" (Seyda, 2003:26), the story of a Turkish father who lives in Germany is given. The father here is strict and who restricts his daughter in some situations, however; mother is close to her child and calms down father. Father Mr. Kamil says to his family that he is working in a iron and steel factory and he is pleased with his job, however; his daughter sees him while he is sweeping train station. When machines are ought for the factory, father becomes unemployed and says nothing to his family and starts to work as a sweeper in a train station. Although father lies to his family, his being hardworking and hiding that he leaves the job for not upsetting them are important.

In the short story of Tarık K.'s "Eski Babam" (Seyda, 2003: 32) there is a model who tells the importance of reading to his child. This father advises his child to be clever and to have good relationship with his friends.

In the tale of *Beyoğlu* (Özdemir, 2005: 76) there is father who worries about his child and tries to solve his problem. This father promises a price for the one who solves his quiet child's problem. Father gives a lot of money to the man who solves it. Father understands that hid child's problem is to come together with his lover and he solves the problem by marrying them.

In the book *Fırfır Ev İşlerine Yardım Ediyor* (Koza Yayın: 2007), an untidy child *Fırfır*, is warned by her parents. Father warns her about taking responsibilities. Parent's being decided leads to a solution. *Fırfır* listens to their advices and becomes a responsible child. She tidies her room and prepares breakfast for her father.

2.2.Negative Father

In traditional societies, elders have a strict authority on young and men has a strict authority on women. Because of this reason, the relationship among individuals is organized according to the rule of one-sided. Instead of a interaction in the family, parents' attitude and behaviors has a formative and guiding effect on child (Dönmezer, 2001: 53). This authority of mother and father on child is generally seen as fathers' autarchy on child. The father in *Ömer Seyfeddin's "Kaşağı"* is a father like this. *Kaşağı* is an effective story which tells the strong pressure of conscience of writer who calumniates to his younger brother Hasan. With his brother's death, writer feels a great pressure of conscience. Here, the conscience of a boy



who blames his younger brother for his mistake, the punishment of a boy, a strict father who goes on his great punishment to his child for one year is given (Alangu, 1968: 24). Writer explains the influence of his father in the story with these words: “My father was quite strict, we were scared by his one look” (Ömer Seyfeddin, 2006: 16). This strict father causes his child to hide the truth from him.

In the book *Erken Açan Çiçek*, father is not told actively. It is introduced by mother’s words. In the book, it is the father who gives the last decision about child. “His mother was going to ask his father for him. What father said was going happen” (Çakmakçioğlu, ? : 6). Mother wants her child to go sightseeing with his friends but the last decision will be given by father. The other child character also gets permission from his father. His mother’s expression is like this: “I don’t interfere. Father comes and you ask him. If he lets, you will go” (Çakmakçioğlu, ? : 4). It is interesting that in the book the mother is told to be so passive and mother who is so involved in every matter with her child and spends so much time with him leaves the last decision to be given by father. Father who has no relation with the events, is seen in the last scene and decide about the child. Instead of showing such an approach in children’s book, it will be appropriate that the decisions are taken by mother and father.

The main character of the book called “*Bacaksız Kamyon Sürücüsü*” Bacaksız is afraid of his aggressive father. His father hits him. His father wants weird things from him like taking a huge melon to home without showing it to anyone and he doesn’t understand his father. Bacaksız lies as he is too afraid of his father. This father who doesn’t forgive a mistake, says insulting things to his child: “You sleepy, clumsy! I’m going to make you eat this melon just like foals!” (İlgaz, 1977: 37) In the book father doesn’t show love for his child and he is intolerant to his wife.

Gülten Dayıoğlu, in her work called *Fadış* shows negative, uninterested and strict model of father. Mr. Kamil is a father who hits his wife and doesn’t care about her and also has an affair with another woman and he uses his daughter Fadış to threaten his wife to leave them apart. Cemile Hanım who loves her daughter very much accepts whatever Mr. Kamil says so that he never separates them. Mr. Kamil hits Fadış. She doesn’t love her father and she is very afraid of him. While she is observing other fathers, she realizes that she has a great miss of father: “She thought of the other fathers in the neighborhood. Fathers coming back home from work, hug their children and kiss them. She thought of them deeply. Her father has never kissed her.” (Dayıoğlu, 2005: 67)

In the book of *Dörtgöz* written by Sevim Ak, the effort of a father who wants to persuade his child to wear glasses is given. This father is not a good example for his child and it seems that the instances that the father gives to persuade his child are not suitable for children’s book. The idioms used by the father are far away from child’s world. “It is true I didn’t know the rice would handle such water.” (Ak, 2003: 6) The characters of the story even don’t understand this idiom. Father’s saying to his child “don’t be ridiculous, idiot” and his giving examples of boys having five earrings on their ears to persuade him, his showing others who have piercing on their noses and saying that this is an act of following new things are quite interesting. Father represents this boy’s tattoo on his shoulder as an example and he says that this boy loves innovations and he may like glasses too.



In the story of “Babamın Nasihati” a rich father gives advices to his son when he is about to die: “After my death, you my boy get married once a week, don’t ride anything other than horse, don’t eat anything other than honey.” he says (Öztürk, ?: 101). At the end of the story, young man who does what his father says becomes unhappy because he doesn’t understand what exactly his father says. He gets married once a week, rides horse and eats honey but he never works. At the end he spends the whole heritage of his father and becomes broke. His father wants to mean to work by saying get married once a week and he wants to mean that if you see your wife once a week she will be seen to like a young girl. The advice of riding horse means that if you work hard and get very tired even if you ride a donkey it will be like a horse to you as you are very tired. The advice of honey means that if you earn something with a great effort, it will taste as delicious as honey. However, the young man is not able to understand him. An old man comments on his father’s words like those above. It will be more appropriate that father speaks in a clearer way that his child can understand him. In the story of “Çiğdem Çiçeği ile Padişahın Oğlu” (Öztürk, ?: 123) there is the act of not listening what father says. Father who is about to die advises his child to choose the way on the left if he goes hunting and has to choose one of the three ways. But the son of sultan doesn’t listen to his advices and follows the ways that his father says not to go and becomes unhappy at the end. At the end of the story of “Keloğlan’ın Köseye Masalı” (Tezel, 2001: 289), his father says to Keloğlan not to work with the person without beard. Keloğlan who doesn’t listen his advices, becomes unhappy. Father, despite being negative, is great and children who don’t do what he says will be unhappy.

2.3.The Careless Father

In some of children books fathers do not care about their children's problems baselessly and they keep away from their problems.

Keloğlan Tales' leading character Keloğlan usually lives only with his mother, sometimes in the tales his father is mentioned, in some tales is said he has a sibling. Ziya Gökalp creates a character who has 2 siblings in his tale which he named “Keloğlan” (Gökalp,1989: 131). Keloğlan's poor father wants his elder son to be educated and make him a scientist. The father who is going to give his shop to his little son has nothing to give his median son Keloğlan. In the tale it is not questioned that why the father gives his shop to his youngest son and give nothing to Keloğlan. Father is making decisions about his sons but he is not effective about their growing up. Keloğlan worked as a street salesman, as a coffee operator, as a portage, as a scullion etc. Which furnishes him a little money since he was 7.

In “The Giant And Keloğlan” (Tezel, 2001: 308) Tale Keloğlan is born as his 70-year-old father's fortieth son and he has thirty nine siblings. Father tells his children that he is so old that he gives the charge of earning their bread to their siblings. And throughout the tale it is never mentioned about the effect of the father on his children.

In the series of Muzaffer İzgü's Ökkeş; children's storybook, it is told a children named Ökkeş' adventures. However Ökkeş loves the school so much he couldn't manage to go up the spout though he is twelve. Ökkeş is illiterate and his father supposes that it is because he fell down from the roof when he was five. When Ökkeş' teacher heard that problem he advises



him to be taken to town and treated in a hospital. His father didn't take him to treatment saying he has no money and ökkeş has no harm to anybody. (İzgü, 2007a)

In the “İki Çalışkan Öğrenci” book the father comes up in the last scene who has no effect on his child and never directed his sibling ever. The father who is satisfied with nothing becomes proud of his child's diligence.

In the story of “Primo Türk Çocuğu Nasıl Doğdu?”, it is told that Mr. Kenan who is an engineer who hates Turkish, educated in Paris and married with an Italian woman. Mr. Kenan is a member of Italian Masonic Lodge and is proud of marrying a woman who is Italian. Mr. Kenan who lives for years unaware of his nationality changes after the Italian attack and become aware of his nationality. Because of the war Thessaloniki is not safe Grazia wants to go İstanbul or Italy. But Kenan doesn't want to. Mr. Kenan's son Primo who is unacquainted about Turkish meets a student who is named Orhan in the school. Orhan, Pascha's son, tells the stories and the glories of Turkish History. Primo is affected of him and realizes his Turkishness. Mr.Kenan orders his wife to become Turkish otherwise they have to break up and never see each other. When Grazia doesn't accept being Turkish it is asked to Primo with whom he wants to stay. Primo tells he is Turkish and he will never become an Italian and he will stay with his father. (Ömer Seyfeddin, 2005: 20)

The following story of “Primo Türk Çocuğu Nasıl Doğdu”, “Primo Türk Çocuğu Nasıl Öldü” is a story which describes the change in Primo. Grazia doesn't accept being Turkish or Islamic and divorces his husband and goes back to the Italy. Primo becomes alone but he is okay with that. He never gets sad about his mother's leaving and leaves his French school and keeps on his education in Türk Ocağı. He learns Turkish in one month and starts to read newspapers. His father gives the name of “Oğuz” to him. Primo learns that this name belongs to a great Turkish man and loves his name. And his purpose is to lead great successes and put his name in the streets too. He reads the books which develops the Turkish emotion which his father injected to him. His nationalism gets stronger and he gets disturbed about the foreigner servants in the house. Mr.Kenan who is very glad about the change in his son becomes very happy about that and dismisses the servants and then finds Turkish ones. (Ömer Seyfeddin, 2005: 22)

3. THE ABSENCE OF FATHER MODEL

In some children's book there is no father model. In those books mother is the only person who takes care of the child. Especially, in the works of pre-school period in which children education is emphasized there is hardly place given to father model.

Kemalettin Kami Kamu in his poem of “Father” expresses the emotions of a child whose father martyrizes:

They said: “you have no father!

Land has taken him.

But I see that it is you.



Who sleeps here. (Tekelioğlu, 1960: 38)

In most of Keloğlan's stories it is remarkable that main character has no father. There is not any information given about the outgrowth of father. The questions whether father is death or at war or does military service are not answered. However, a family model without a father disturbs the child. Child wants to find the answers of their questions (Kocaduru, 2000: 488).

In the story of "Keloğlan'ın Köseye masalı" (Tezel, 2001: 289) the mother of Keloğlan want to show her late husband's hardworking to Keloğlan as an example. "My son, my bald son, from whom has this laziness been stick to you? Your father used to struggle to make a living" (Güney, 1948: 50). Thanks to the words of mother about father, it is understood that father is hard-working. In the story, father is not given as a model that supports these words.

4. CONCLUSION and DISCUSSIONS

In children's book, there is no place given to father model. Especially, in the works of pre-school period in which children education is emphasized, mother is nearly the only person who takes care of the child.

In the books where father is given as a protagonist, although father is not much given, the effect of him on children is very much. It is the father who decides on children lastly. This can be seen as the reflection of patriarchal family pattern in Turkey to the children's books. The duty of calming down fathers who are aggressive and who set their face against their children is mothers'.

Some of the children feel defenseless without their fathers, they don't get hungry if their father is absent.

In children's books fathers give advices to their children. While children who listen to advices become happy and successful, children who forget about it become unhappy. In some works fathers use expressions that children can not understand and they cause children to be unhappy.

It will be really beneficial for children to represent father models who are real examples for children in all terms.

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