



ÖZGÜN ARAŞTIRMA / ORIGINAL ARTICLE



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The Discursive Construction of National Sovereignty and Children's Day: An Analysis of Cumhuriyet Newspaper's April 23rd Covers

Ulusal Egemenlik ve Çocuk Bayramı'nın Söylemsel İnşası: Cumhuriyet Gazetesi'nin 23 Nisan Kapaklarının Analizi

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Abstract

Aim: This study aims to examine the political discourse surrounding April 23, National Sovereignty and Children's Day in Turkey, focusing on how the celebration has been represented in media. The research explores the festival's role in national independence, children's societal position, and social memory, highlighting the ideological frameworks constructed over time. The study seeks to understand how media shapes national identity, social values, and collective memory.

Method: The research analyzed articles and covers related to April 23 published in Cumhuriyet newspaper from 1930 to 2023. Critical discourse analysis, framing analysis, and ideological discourse analysis were employed. Content analysis identified thematic structures, while historical and contextual interpretations traced changes and continuities in media representations.

Results: Findings reveal that the celebration has been ideologically structured, emphasizing children's central role in society and national sovereignty. Media consistently highlighted themes of national identity, democracy, social values, and children's rights. The framing of the celebration evolved over time, reflecting shifts in political discourse and ideological emphasis across different periods.

Conclusion: The study demonstrates that national festivals play a critical role in shaping social memory, identity, and norms through media representation. April 23 illustrates the ideological emphasis on children's role and national sovereignty, highlighting the media's capacity to influence public perception and reinforce national values over time.

Keywords

Discourse Analysis, Newspaper, April 23, Child, Media

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Öz

Amaç: Bu çalışma, 23 Nisan Ulusal Egemenlik ve Çocuk Bayramı'nın Türkiye'deki kutlamalarına dair politik söylemleri ve medyada nasıl temsil edildiğini incelemeyi amaçlamaktadır. Bayramın ulusal bağımsızlık, çocukların toplumsal rolü ve toplumsal hafıza üzerindeki etkisi, tarihsel süreç içerisinde ortaya çıkan ideolojik çerçeveler bağlamında değerlendirilmiştir. Çalışma, medyanın ulusal kimlik ve sosyal değerleri şekillendirmedeki rolünü anlamaya yöneliktir.

Yöntem: Araştırma kapsamında 1930–2023 yılları arasında Cumhuriyet gazetesinde yayımlanan 23 Nisan haber ve kapakları ele alınmıştır. Eleştirel söylem analizi, çerçeveleme analizi ve ideolojik söylem analizi yöntemleri kullanılmıştır. İçerik analizi ile metinlerin tematik yapısı incelenmiş, tarihsel ve bağlamsal yorumlamalarla medya temsillerindeki değişim ve süreklilikler belirlenmiştir.

Bulgular: Analizler, bayram kutlamalarının ideolojik olarak yapılandırıldığını ve çocukların hem toplumsal hem ulusal düzeyde merkezi rollerinin vurgulandığını göstermektedir. Medyada öne çıkan temalar arasında ulusal kimlik, demokrasi, toplumsal değerler ve çocuk hakları yer almaktadır. Zaman içerisinde kutlamaların çerçeveleme biçimleri değişiklik göstermiş, politik söylemler ve ideolojik vurgu dönemlere göre çeşitlenmiştir.

Sonuç: Araştırma, ulusal festivallerin medya aracılığıyla toplumsal hafızayı, kimlik algısını ve normları şekillendirmedeki etkisini ortaya koymaktadır. 23 Nisan, çocukların toplumsal rolü ve ulusal egemenlik bağlamında ideolojik olarak vurgulanmakta ve medyanın halkı yönlendirme ve ulusal değerleri pekiştirme rolünü göstermektedir.

Anahtar Kelimeler

Söylem analizi, Gazete, 23 Nisan, Çocuk, Medya

Introduction

Within the period covered by this study, Turkey has been an independent republic for 100 years, and during this period, it also observes a children's festival, the 23 April National Sovereignty and Children's Day. This festival not only celebrates children but also symbolizes the state's struggle for independence and serves as a tool for reinforcing national identity. Additionally, it plays a significant role in the construction of socio-political memory and the dissemination of ideological discourses.

In the context of children's political participation, the designation of a day symbolizing national independence and carrying political significance as a national festival is a noteworthy detail. The primary focus of this research is to explore the relationship between April 23 as a children's festival and the political discourse embedded in its celebration. In order to analyze this relationship, the study examines how the media, particularly the *Cumhuriyet* newspaper, has framed April 23 over time. The goal is to analyze how the newspaper has ideologically represented April 23 from 1930 to 2023 and to trace the evolution of this framing within the newspaper's editorial content. This approach allows for a nuanced understanding of how children—expected to be active agents in society through their political rights—are socially internalized through the discursive constructions presented in the media.

In the framework of this research, media is viewed as one of the most influential instruments for reflecting and shaping societal values. *Cumhuriyet* newspaper, being one of Turkey's most long-established and influential media outlets, offers a significant archive for examining how the representation of April 23 has evolved. By analyzing the linguistic and image elements used by the newspaper, we gain insights into how it has contributed to constructing social memory and disseminating ideological discourses over the years. Of particular importance is how *Cumhuriyet* has utilized April 23 as a tool for constructing "social memory," transforming the day into an event that reflects public memory and reinforcing societal values through the media. The newspaper's portrayal of April 23 goes beyond the celebration of a children's festival; it also serves as a constant reminder of Turkey's national sovereignty struggle and the core principles of the Republic. The evolving representation of April 23 within the *Cumhuriyet* newspaper reflects broader political and societal

transformations in Turkey, and the way these celebrations have undergone ideological and social shifts will be examined in this study. This transformation has been shaped not only by the language and imagery used by the newspaper but also by the political climate of the time.

What does the literature on April 23rd tell us?

The early years of the Republic of Turkey were marked by significant transformations regarding childhood and the social roles of children. Following the declaration of the Republic in 1923, Cumhuriyet newspaper placed great importance on issues concerning children and childhood, dedicating substantial attention to these topics in its publications. The newspaper aimed to raise awareness particularly on issues such as children's rights, education, social roles, psychosocial development, and the establishment of modern educational practices. It highlighted concerns such as equal access to education, poverty, child labor, and violence, while also emphasizing the importance of play and toys in child development. During this period, it was argued that children should be viewed as a biological category, and Cumhuriyet newspaper sought to increase the societal visibility of children by raising public consciousness on these issues (Gürkan, 2021).

The childhood ideology that began with the Republic period was concretely manifested through the celebration of April 23rd, National Sovereignty and Children's Day. Initially celebrated in the 1920s as National Sovereignty this day gradually became a symbol for the education and healthy development of children and was officially associated with children starting in 1927 (Özçelik, 2011). The organization of the festivities by state-supported institutions such as the Society for the Protection of Children, which later became the Child Protection Agency, has been interpreted as a reflection of the era's welfare politics and population-enhancing policies. These celebrations, as part of the Republic's ideology, positioned children as "citizens to be seen" (Aslan, 2018; Temizgüney, 2019). This ideological framework in the early years of the Republic aimed at raising children with nationalist values, positioning April 23rd as an important tool in the construction of social memory and identity. Children were seen as the future of the Turkish nation, and a modern, nationalist identity was instilled in them, creating the ideal profile of the "Turkish child" (Mezkit Saban, 2024). The value placed on children by the Republic in this period extended beyond mere celebratory events, encompassing a broad spectrum that included societal awareness and the strengthening of education (Arslan, 2021; Çelepi, 2020).

On the other hand, research conducted in the 2010s on the education of refugee students in Turkey once again highlighted the crucial role of education in the cultural and social integration process. Refugee students face challenges such as language barriers, cultural differences, and shortcomings in social integration. In this context, the need for improvements in educational policies and additional training for teachers has been emphasized (Kaçar Özkan & Toprakçı, 2024). This situation also serves as a reminder that the current issues and proposed solutions regarding children's educational processes remain relevant today.

In conclusion, the issue of childhood in Turkey has undergone continuous evolution from the early years of the Republic to the present. The concept of childhood, shaped by the ideological foundations of the Republic, has positioned children as carriers of social values, as seen in the celebration of April 23rd. It has also laid the foundation for educational and social policies. This process has played a significant role in the construction of children's social identities and the integration of the Republic's ideological project with the public. In this context, the most fundamental research question is: How does the media's stance in constructing discourse take shape in terms of the general representation of April 23 in the printed media, its relationship with other issues accompanying this representation, and the reflection of all these on children?

Methodology

This study aims to analyze how media texts shape social perception. To understand how the media constructs social realities and how these constructions impact individuals' economic and political perceptions, various discourse analysis methods have been employed. Specifically, the study examines the ideological implications, and framing processes present in the language and

image representations in newspapers and their impact on the production of social meaning. Critical Discourse Analysis, Framing Analysis, and Ideological Discourse Analysis have been combined to understand media discourses in this study.

The methodological framework used in this study is based on the discourse analysis approach of Bonyadi and Samuel (2013) regarding media headlines, aiming to examine the ideological and rhetorical structures of newspaper headlines. Drawing on Aversa et al.'s (2023) framing analysis of news related to marijuana legalization, the study also considers the evolving tones and frames of news stories over time. Additionally, media content analyses such as those by Illia et al. (2024) have been referenced, focusing on the social visibility of news and how media messages are shaped.

This study focuses on how Cumhuriyet Newspaper has represented national celebrations—particularly April 23rd, National Sovereignty and Children's Day—across different historical periods. Rather than analyzing media representations in general, the research specifically examines Cumhuriyet's framing of this national day, tracing discursive and visual shifts over time. Cumhuriyet was selected due to its historical significance as a newspaper that has accompanied and reflected Turkey's modernization process. Its longstanding publication history and editorial stance—characterized by a critical, secular, and rights-based approach—make it a valuable case for examining how national identity and state ideology have been represented in the press. A total of 89 front pages from the years 1930 to 2024 were collected and analyzed, accessed through the newspaper's online archive via subscription. Although the analysis in this study was conducted on Turkish-language newspaper content, the article itself is written in English. Therefore, to maintain textual clarity for an international readership, visual materials were not embedded directly within the main text. Additionally, given the broad historical range of the data—spanning from early to contemporary publications—there are noticeable differences in the visual quality of the scanned newspaper covers due to variations in digitization standards over time. Nevertheless, to support the reader's understanding of the dataset and to provide a visual overview of the sources analyzed, a collage composed of selected newspaper front pages has been included as an appendix at the end of the article.

The selection of this data was informed by Tuchman's (1978) theory of media's role in constructing social reality, with particular attention paid to how Cumhuriyet frames social and political events to attribute meaning and reinforce ideological narratives. It should be emphasized that this study does not aim to generalize findings to the Turkish media landscape as a whole. Instead, it presents a focused case study of Cumhuriyet Newspaper's editorial and visual strategies across time. Future research could benefit from including newspapers with differing ideological positions to offer a comparative perspective on how various media outlets in Turkey represent national celebrations and political events.

The analysis of the data was conducted in two stages: first, by examining linguistic features within the text (e.g., word choices such as “guardians of the Republic,” or metaphors like “the voice of the nation”) and then by analyzing image elements (e.g., symbolic photographs of Atatürk with children, visual motifs such as national flags, or the positioning of political figures in celebratory scenes). These linguistic and visual elements were interpreted using Foucault's (2022) archaeology of discourse and the Foucauldian discourse analysis framework developed by Khan and MacEachen (2021), which reveal how media discourses not only reflect but also reproduce power relations and dominant social norms.

In addition, the perspectives of Tuchman (1978) and Kellner (2010) on the media's role in constructing social reality were integrated to better understand how newspapers like Cumhuriyet frame national celebrations and shape public consciousness over time.

To systematically interpret the data, three complementary methods were employed:

Critical Discourse Analysis (CDA): This method, informed by Fairclough (2013) and Van Dijk (2019), examines how language both reflects and constructs social hierarchies and ideologies. In this study, CDA was used to explore how specific headlines (e.g., “The Republic Entrusts Itself to Its Children”) and lexical choices reflect underlying ideological constructs such as state authority and civic duty. Similarly, the placement of symbolic imagery (e.g., children saluting a flag) was analyzed to understand how visuals contribute to the reproduction of state-centric power structures.

Framing Analysis: Grounded in Goffman’s (1974) theory of framing, this method investigates how certain aspects of events are foregrounded while others are marginalized. In the case of Cumhuriyet, April 23rd celebrations were often framed through narratives emphasizing national sovereignty and the symbolic role of children as “future citizens.” For example, headlines like “Hope Rises from the Children” and imagery portraying children in military uniforms or state ceremonies illustrate how framing constructs a vision of patriotic youth. This analysis identifies not only the dominant frames used across different years but also shifts in how April 23rd is linked to changing political discourses (e.g., the use of more oppositional tones in certain years).

Ideological Discourse Analysis (IDA): Drawing from Van Dijk’s (2019) theory of ideology, IDA focuses on uncovering how ideological meanings are embedded in both textual and visual elements. In this research, IDA reveals how narratives of nationalism, secularism, and civic responsibility are discursively produced through repetitive patterns such as metaphors (“torch of sovereignty”) and visual representations (e.g., the consistent centrality of Atatürk’s image). These elements serve to normalize specific ideological positions, reinforcing the legitimacy of the state and its founding values.

While CDA and IDA are methodologically distinct, this study treats them as complementary. CDA focuses more on the interaction between discourse and power in specific communicative events, whereas IDA delves deeper into the systemic, often implicit, reproduction of ideological worldviews. By combining these approaches, the study captures both the surface-level discursive practices and the deeper ideological structures embedded within media narratives.

All analyses were conducted using the MaxQDA Analysis Program (2022 version), which enabled systematic coding of linguistic and visual features, facilitating the identification of recurring themes, discursive patterns, and visual motifs.

Findings and evaluation

The evaluation of the findings was carried out in two stages. First, the co-occurrence frequency and code matrices of the main themes were analyzed. The general analysis of these is presented under the main headings. Then, the findings were explored in more detail in the detailed analysis section, where specific topics of interest in the study were addressed through code-subcode segment analysis and co-occurrence frequency analysis.

The general analysis

The Triangulation Analysis: Co-occurrence of the three main themes

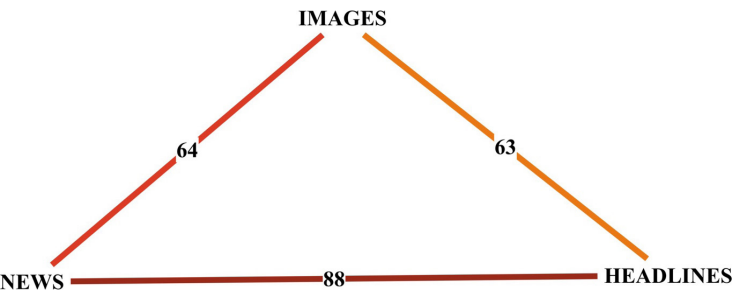


Figure 1: Co-occurrence of the three main themes

In Figure 1, the triangulation analysis, which shows the frequency of co-occurrence of the three main themes within the study, has revealed significant patterns in terms of connectivity and relational networks. The “triangle” structure in this context indicates that these three elements (images, headlines, and news) strongly support each other, and that they are not independent in the newspaper’s narrative but are instead tightly interconnected. To delve further into this structure, the following conclusions can be drawn: images, news, and headlines work together to provide a multi-layered communication. For example, while the headline summarizes the essence of the news, the image reinforces this essence within an emotional or aesthetic context. This allows the reader to absorb the news not just on a textual level, but also on an image and emotional level. The headlines and images on the front page of newspapers serve the primary purpose of attracting the reader’s

attention. image elements, combined with headlines, make the news more appealing and accessible. Regardless of the news content, an eye-catching image and a striking headline directly capture the reader’s interest.

Especially in news stories placed in limited spaces like the front page, quick and concise information delivery is crucial. In this context, the use of images and headlines together facilitates information transfer. While the headline allows the reader to grasp the essence of the news quickly, the image reinforces and deepens the meaning. The frequency with which these three elements (images, headlines, and news) follow one another reflects the newspaper’s strategy in delivering and drawing attention to the news. The newspaper aims for the reader to receive the news not only visually but also textually and semantically. The integration of images and headlines with the news text can be interpreted as the creation of a visually structured narrative. When examining the connections between the main themes individually, the following insights emerge:

Use of images and News Together (64 occurrences): This suggests that images and news serve as complementary elements in the newspaper’s transmission of information, indicating that images play a significant role in reinforcing the content of the news. images are likely used to strengthen the content, increase the news’ appeal, and capture the reader’s attention. This relationship indicates that images are not just decorative but are employed to give meaning to the texts or to establish an emotional connection with the content.

Use of images and Headlines Together (63 occurrences): The high frequency of images accompanying headlines suggests that images are frequently used as the most important element at the beginning of a news story, working in harmony with headlines to attract the reader’s attention. Headlines typically summarize or highlight the news, while images reinforce their impact visually. It can be stated that images serve to enhance or emphasize the meaning conveyed by the headlines. This relationship reflects the newspaper’s strategy of presenting its content in a more visually oriented manner.

Strongest Relationship-Headlines and News (88 occurrences): This code indicates that headlines and news are often used together. This demonstrates that the newspaper adopts a multi-layered narrative style, where these elements support each other to make the news both more meaningful and more engaging. The frequent combination of news and headlines allows for more effective communication of the news and provides the reader with a reinforced and clarified message.

Coding Matrix: Analysis of Headlines, Images, and News Articles

The coding matrix was examined across three main themes: headlines, images, and news.

Analysis of Headlines

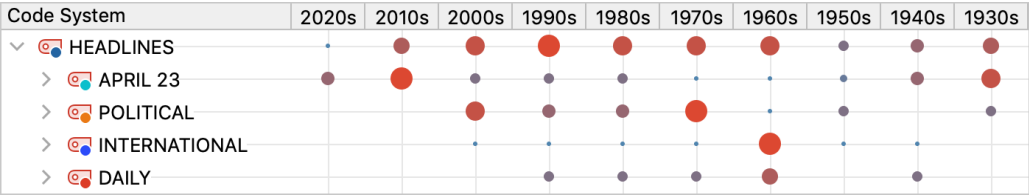


Figure 2. Code Matrix of Headlines

In Figure 2, The theme of headlines reveals which topics gained prominence in the newspaper over time and identifies the periods when certain sub-themes were more concentrated.

April 23rd Headlines: The distribution of headlines related to April 23rd over time illustrates how the agenda around this date, which holds significant importance in Turkey’s collective memory, has been shaped. According to the data, the frequency of April 23rd-related headlines increased notably in the 2020s. This could be attributed to the centenary of the Republic, which likely led to a rise in celebrations and remembrances surrounding this day. The 2010s also saw a significant concentration of headlines about April 23rd. During this decade, Turkey experienced various domestic political events, and the commemoration of national festivals was frequently on the agenda. A notable period is also the 1930s, the early years of the Republic, when Turkey underwent significant social

transformations under Atatürk’s leadership. The high number of April 23rd-related headlines during this period reflects the efforts to consolidate the establishment of the Republic. In other years, the prominence of April 23rd in headlines seems to decrease, suggesting that the public perception of this day has evolved over time.

Politically Charged Headlines: The absence of politically focused headlines during certain periods, especially in the 2020s and 2010s, reflects the newspaper’s approach to political events during those times. The lack of political content in the headlines could suggest a tendency for the newspaper to avoid political agendas or possibly to comply with restrictions related to concepts like press freedom. In the 2020s, the prominence of non-political news, possibly due to the impact of the pandemic, might also have shifted the focus away from politics. In contrast, the 2000s saw a rise in politically charged headlines, possibly reflecting the changing political climate in Turkey during that period. Key events in this decade included Turkey’s EU membership negotiations, power struggles between political parties, and several economic crises. Likewise, the 1970s were a politically turbulent period for Turkey, with high levels of social unrest, left-right conflicts, and military coups, which were reflected in the political content of the headlines.

Internationally Focused Headlines: The representation of international events in the newspaper’s headlines is also noteworthy. Internationally focused headlines were especially prominent in the 1960s, likely reflecting the Cold War period and Turkey’s role in international relations. Major foreign policy developments during the 1960s likely contributed to the international emphasis in the headlines. However, the prominence of international

topics declined in the 1990s and 2000s, possibly due to the increased focus on local and domestic political issues during these periods.

Daily Content: The frequency of headlines addressing daily events and everyday news shows significant variation across different periods. This could indicate that the newspaper focused more on specific societal, political, or national events during certain periods. In the 1960s, when societal and political events were rapidly changing, daily content gained prominence. This suggests that the public may have been more engaged with everyday news during this time, or the newspaper itself may have developed a tendency to cover current events in a more immediate manner.

The analysis of the headlines theme reveals three key points: First one is the *social and political trends*. The prominence of headlines about April 23rd and political content reflects Turkey’s evolving social memory, political events, and the media’s approach to these events. National celebrations and political happenings clearly shape the content of the newspaper’s headlines. The way these events are highlighted in the headlines shows how the media frames social and political occurrences. The second one is *international vs. domestic politics*. The increased focus on international issues in the 1960s, tied to the Cold War and Turkey’s foreign policy, contrasts with the later decades when domestic political events dominated the headlines. This shift illustrates the changing priorities in the media’s coverage of both international and national affairs. The third one is *changing media dynamics*. In the more recent decades of the 2010s and 2020s, the narrowing focus of the themes and content in the headlines is evident. This could indicate that social events are increasingly shaped by the media, and perhaps the flow of daily news has become more closely aligned with immediate and accessible reporting, rather than in-depth coverage of long-term political or international issues.

Analysis of Images

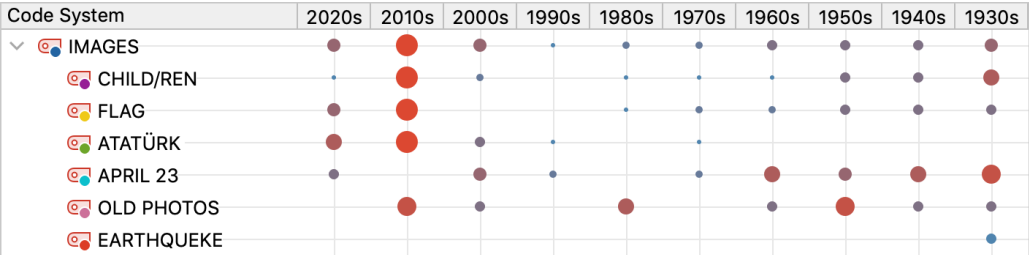


Figure 3. Code Matrix of Images

In Figure 3 the sub-themes of the images category were examined for their distribution over time, focusing on the historical and cultural significance of images and how their presence in media content relates to broader societal and political dynamics. This analysis not only sheds light on the reasons behind certain image themes being more prominent in specific years, but also explores their impact on media representation.

Atatürk Images: Atatürk's images have been notably prevalent in the 2000s, 2010s, and 2020s. The increase in the frequency of Atatürk images, particularly in the 2020s, is significant. Interestingly, Atatürk's images are almost absent or minimal in periods like the 1930s, 1940s, 1950s, 1960s, and 1980s. This suggests that Atatürk's image was most strongly associated with the modernization and secularism of the Republic, particularly during the early years following the establishment of the Republic. In later years, especially after the 2000s, Atatürk's imagery became more prominent, likely due to the rise of national festivals, official celebrations, and the symbolism of the nation-state, which frequently utilized his image to reinforce national identity. This pattern also reflects the growing political and ideological emphasis on the continuity of the Republic's founding principles.

Old Photographs: Old photographs—referring to images from before the 1930s—were most frequently seen in the 2010s and 1950s. The absence of old photographs in the 2020s, 1990s, and 1970s indicates that historical images became less common during these years. The 2010s and 1950s, in particular, witnessed a greater use of old photographs, which could reflect a nostalgic longing for the past, an aesthetic representation of historical transformation, or an effort to raise historical awareness. This trend may indicate a societal or political desire to reconnect with the past and to reframe historical events or periods in a modern context. The use of old photographs, especially in periods of social or political upheaval, might also reflect an attempt to strengthen ties with the national identity or create a image narrative of continuity.

Flag Images: Flag imagery saw a noticeable increase in the 2020s and 2010s. In contrast, it was less prominent in the 1990s and 2000s. This surge in flag imagery, especially in recent decades, may point to a heightened emphasis on national identity, the legitimacy of the state, and the importance of national unity. The increased use of flag images likely correlates with national festivals, political movements, or specific events where state symbols were central to public expression. In recent years, flag imagery has often been used to assert national pride, particularly in moments of political significance, reflecting the growing prominence of nationalism in the media. This could also be indicative of a more visually-driven political climate, where national symbols take on new meanings in times of crisis or celebration.

Child/ren Images: Images of child/ren were notably frequent in the 2010s and 2020s. In the 21st century, the child has emerged as a significant figure in media, often depicted as the future citizen of the state, symbolizing both hope and the continuation of national identity. It is striking that there were no child images in the 1990s, a period marked by the prominence of more politically and socially oriented content. Even though the 1990s witnessed the introduction of the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child (to which Turkey was a signatory), there was a surprising absence of child-focused imagery. The lack of child imagery during this period suggests a hesitation or reluctance to engage with children's rights and representation in the media, perhaps due to political or ideological factors. In later decades, children increasingly came to symbolize rights and social visibility, marking an era in which the media began to recognize and represent children as individuals with social agency.

April 23rd Images: Images related to April 23rd (National Sovereignty and Children's Day) were prominently featured in the 2020s, 2000s, 1990s, and 1930s. In contrast, there was a noticeable absence of such images in the 2010s and 1980s. The significant use of April 23rd images in earlier years, especially during the 1930s, points to the importance of this day in shaping national identity and collective memory. The absence of such images in the 2010s and 1980s could suggest that the media paid less attention to commemorating national festivals or children's rights during those times. The resurgence of April 23rd imagery in the 2000s and especially in the 2020s suggests a rekindling of interest in the symbolism of national festivals and the celebration of youth, a potential response to the growing importance of national pride and the celebration of the Republic's history in more recent decades.

Overall, these image trends reflect the shifting cultural and political landscape in Turkey, with certain symbols and images gaining or losing prominence based on the changing dynamics of national identity, political climate, and media practices.

Analysis of News

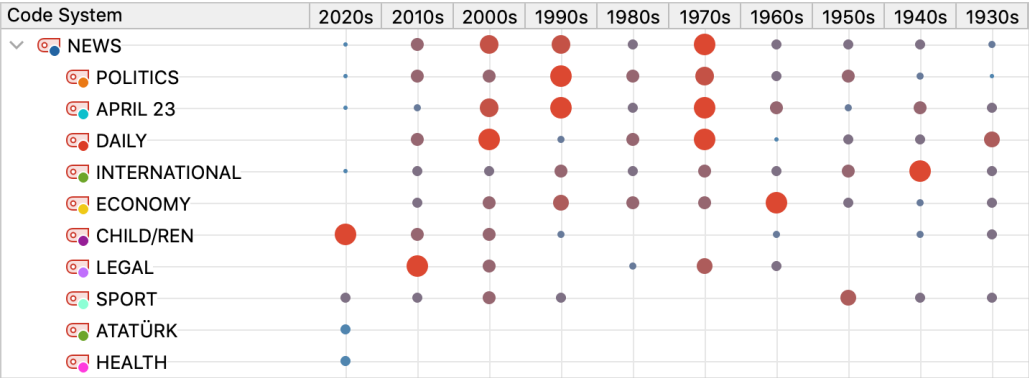


Figure 4. Code Matrix of News

In Figure 4, the distribution of various news themes over different decades highlights significant shifts in media focus, reflecting broader social, political, and cultural changes in Turkey. Each theme’s prominence in the news during specific periods provides insight into societal concerns and the media’s role in shaping public discourse.

Atatürk: Atatürk has received minimal coverage in the 2020s, with only 6 mentions, a noticeable decrease compared to previous decades. This decline suggests that while Atatürk’s image remains central in national celebrations, his presence in general news content has waned. The reduced focus on Atatürk could indicate a shift away from the emphasis on republican values, secularism, and national identity in daily media, possibly due to the changing political climate and a move towards other national or global issues. His figure may still dominate in commemorations and national festivals, but in terms of news content, it seems less prominent.

April 23rd (National Sovereignty and Children’s Day): The significance of April 23rd in the news was most pronounced during the 2000s and 1990s, with fewer mentions in the 2010s and 2020s. The 2000s and 1990s marked periods of heightened national celebrations and an emphasis on national identity, which explains the frequency of news coverage about the national festival. However, in recent years, especially in the 2010s and 2020s, the day’s media coverage has diminished. This may reflect a broader trend in the reduction of traditional national celebrations in media, potentially due to the rise of political and economic concerns overshadowing cultural events.

Children: Coverage of children in the news was particularly prominent in the 2010s and 2020s, a period when issues related to children’s rights and welfare began to gain more visibility in the media. Interestingly, the 1990s and 1960s, periods marked by significant developments in children’s rights and individual freedom struggles, saw little coverage of children in the media. This may indicate that while global shifts like the ratification of the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child in the 1990s should have led to more child-related news, media attention at the time was likely focused on other socio-political issues. The increased coverage of children in recent years could be a sign of a growing awareness of children’s issues, possibly reflecting the inclusion of children’s rights in broader societal conversations, as well as specific issues like child labor, education, and welfare.

Daily Life: Daily life news was most prevalent in the 2000s and 2010s, with a noticeable absence of such content in the 2020s. In the earlier decades, especially the 2000s, media outlets paid more attention to day-to-day events and the lived experiences of ordinary citizens. However, in the 2020s, there was a clear shift away from daily life coverage towards more politically and economically oriented news. This change likely reflects a broader shift in the media landscape, where more pressing political or global crises (such as the COVID-19 pandemic, economic instability, and rising geopolitical

tensions) have overshadowed reporting on everyday life.

Health: The 2020s saw a marked increase in health-related news, a trend directly linked to the COVID-19 pandemic. The global health crisis brought unprecedented attention to healthcare systems, health policies, and public health measures, which became central to news coverage. This trend was reflected in the media's increased focus on health issues, including the pandemic's impact on society, government responses, and health policy reforms. The growing importance of health in the news also highlights the increasing intersection of public health and politics.

Economy: In contrast, the 2020s showed no notable economic news, which might suggest that economic discussions were largely overshadowed by other crises or political issues. In earlier decades, particularly the 1990s and 2000s, economic issues were frequently covered in the media, with stories related to economic growth, inflation, market changes, and Turkey's relations with the European Union. The absence of economic news in the 2020s may reflect a shift toward other forms of political discourse, possibly tied to economic instability, currency crises, or a decline in the traditional economic narratives that dominated prior decades.

Politics: Political coverage saw significant spikes in the 1990s, 1970s, and 2000s, periods marked by intense political turmoil, elections, and shifting political ideologies. The 1990s and 1970s, in particular, were periods of political tension, including military coups, the rise of political movements, and contested elections. In contrast, political coverage was less prominent in the 2020s and 1930s. The decline in political news in the 2020s could be attributed to a focus on societal polarization or political crises, with a shift towards narratives of internal instability, civil unrest, or social movements, rather than political discourse through conventional media channels.

Sports: Sports news was selectively covered in certain years, notably in the 2020s, 2010s, 1990s, 1940s, and 1930s. The rise of sports coverage in certain decades likely corresponds to international sporting events such as the Olympics, World Cup qualifiers, and major national sports achievements, which garnered attention both domestically and globally. Sporadic coverage in the 1940s and 1930s can be attributed to the socio-political atmosphere of the time, when wartime events or the formation of the Republic overshadowed sporting achievements. In recent years, sports coverage often serves as a means of national pride and unity, particularly when the national team performs well in international competitions.

International: International news saw a peak in the 1970s and 1940s, particularly because of global conflicts and events, such as World War II and the Cold War, which demanded extensive media attention. During these periods, global tensions, political alignments, and major international agreements likely shaped Turkey's media coverage. In contrast, the 2020s and 1930s featured significantly less international news coverage. This shift might indicate a more insular focus on domestic affairs, likely influenced by national crises or political developments that relegated foreign affairs to a secondary position.

Legal: Legal themes, particularly in the 2010s and 2000s, were more frequently covered, especially regarding legal reforms, issues of justice, and the functioning of the judicial system. In these decades, significant legal developments, such as judicial reforms, debates over the rule of law, and human rights issues, gained prominence. The media's focus on legal matters could reflect broader societal concerns with the justice system, constitutional changes, and the rise of civil rights issues. However, there was a noticeable absence of legal news in other periods, such as the 1970s and 1980s, perhaps reflecting the political instability and authoritarian measures that limited discourse on such topics.

Overall, the temporal shifts in news coverage reflect changing societal priorities, political climates, and media strategies. As the nation and the world continue to evolve, the media's role in shaping public discourse remains integral to understanding these dynamic transformations.

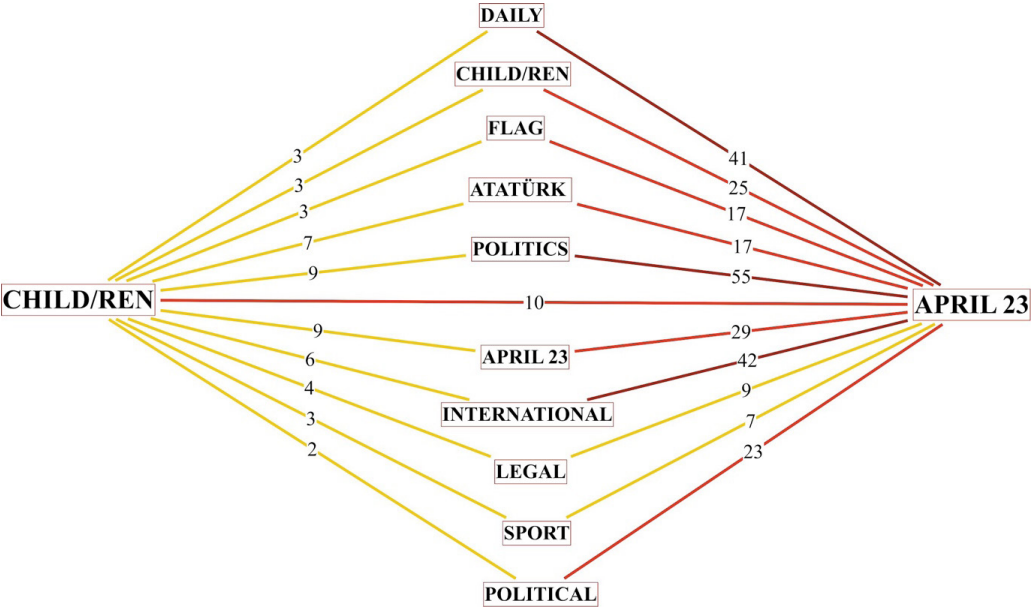


Figure 5. Co-occurrence model of Child/ren and April 23 News

The fact that children and 23 April news intersect in 10 different codes indicates a strong relationship between these two themes (Figure 5). Specifically, due to the celebration of 23 April as Children’s Day, it can be said that numerous news stories directly associate children with this festival. A detailed evaluation of the 10 different codes reveals the following:

Daily News: The presence of news related to children in 3 codes suggests that the connection between children and 23 April appears within a more limited scope. Generally, news about children tends to emerge around special days, events, or celebrations. On the other hand, the fact that news related to 23 April appears in 41 codes indicates that the topic is addressed within a much broader thematic range. This shows that 23 April is covered not only in terms of children but also in social, political, and historical contexts, linking it to wider national agendas.

Children’s Images: The convergence of children’s images and children’s news in 3 codes highlights that the connection between these two themes is most prominent in specific and specialized contexts. The fact that children’s images and 23 April news intersect in 25 codes indicates a high frequency of news stories where these two themes converge, underlining the importance of these image representations in covering 23 April.

Flag Images: The strong association of the flag code with 23 April news suggests a focus on nationalism and national symbols. The flag is often used as a symbol of the nation and the people on 23 April, especially in social celebrations and military parades. On the other hand, the lower association between the flag code and children’s news indicates that 23 April is celebrated as a national identity and sovereignty day through broad national symbols that appeal to society, rather than focusing on children specifically.

Atatürk News: The strong connection between Atatürk-related news and 23 April reinforces the link between this day and Atatürk’s legacy, as well as the foundations of the Republic. The low connection between Atatürk news and children’s news suggests that Atatürk’s legacy is celebrated not through children but in a broader, societal, and historical context as the founder of the state.

Political News: The significant difference in political news coverage indicates that 23 April is often brought up in a political context. This shows that 23 April is not only a national festival but also an occasion for political statements and expressions. The relatively low association with children

highlights that the political significance of 23 April is not framed through the lens of children but is aimed more broadly at society as a whole.

23 April Images: Both codes related to 23 April images appear prominently, reflecting the intensity of celebrations, events, and commemorations of this day. The strong overlap between 23 April news and related images is a predictable outcome. However, the relatively lower intersection between 23 April images and children’s news suggests that the visibility of children in 23 April images is somewhat limited.

International News: The frequent intersection of the 23 April news code with the international news code signals that the day is recognized and respected on the international stage. It has been used to highlight diplomatic relations and ties between Turkey and other countries, often as part of international celebrations. The lower association with children’s news indicates that the emphasis on 23 April as International Children’s Day is more prominent in the international news context.

Legal: The low intersection of the law news code with 23 April suggests that this day is less often discussed within a legal framework. However, the slightly higher overlap with children’s news indicates that legal discussions related to children may be more prominent during this time. Similar to sports news, which also shows limited connection, 23 April and children’s news have less association with organized processes such as legal or sports events.

Political Headlines: The strong connection between political headlines and 23 April news reflects the day’s significance as a celebration of sovereignty and popular will. 23 April is an important day, especially in terms of political discourse, the foundations of the state, and national sovereignty. In contrast, the low connection with children’s news suggests that the political content of 23 April is not framed through children but delivers a message aimed directly at all segments of society.

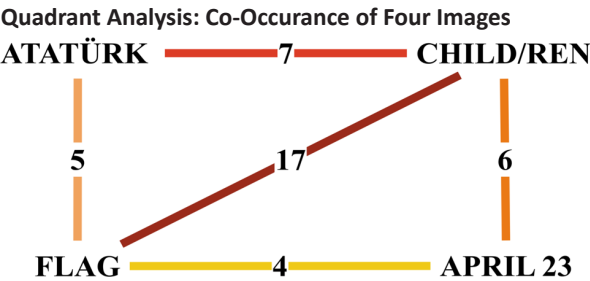


Figure 6. Co-occurrence of Four Images

In the images, it is possible to observe the frequency with which the images of Atatürk, children, 23 April, and the flag are used together (Figure 6). The combination of Atatürk and children’s images (7 times) aims to highlight Atatürk’s influence in the declaration of 23 April as Children’s Day. The image representation of Atatürk’s love for children is made possible through the combination of Atatürk-child images. The use of Atatürk and flag images together (5 times) refers to images where national symbols like the flag are associated with Atatürk’s leadership in the national struggle and the foundations of the Republic. The flag symbolizes national sovereignty and societal unity, while Atatürk’s figure represents the leadership of this independence struggle. Atatürk and the flag are commonly seen together in national celebrations and major ceremonies that emphasize the foundations of the Republic. This combination carries a meaning that strengthens the themes of nationalism and patriotism.

The combination of 23 April and flag images (4 times) is related to the celebration of 23 April as a national festival. Since the flag is a symbol of the nation’s struggle for independence and societal unity, it is natural for the flag to be prominent on significant national days like 23 April. The combination of 23 April and children images (6 times) is a natural result of 23 April being recognized as Children’s Day. Children’s participation in the celebrations on 23 April is typically very prominent, often in ceremonies and events, and the presence of children in images underscores the focus of these celebrations.

The combination of flag and children images (17 times) indicates a high emphasis on associating children with national values and festivals. This combination highlights the connection between

children and national values, reinforcing the symbolic association of children with patriotism and national identity.

The Code-Subcode Segment Model

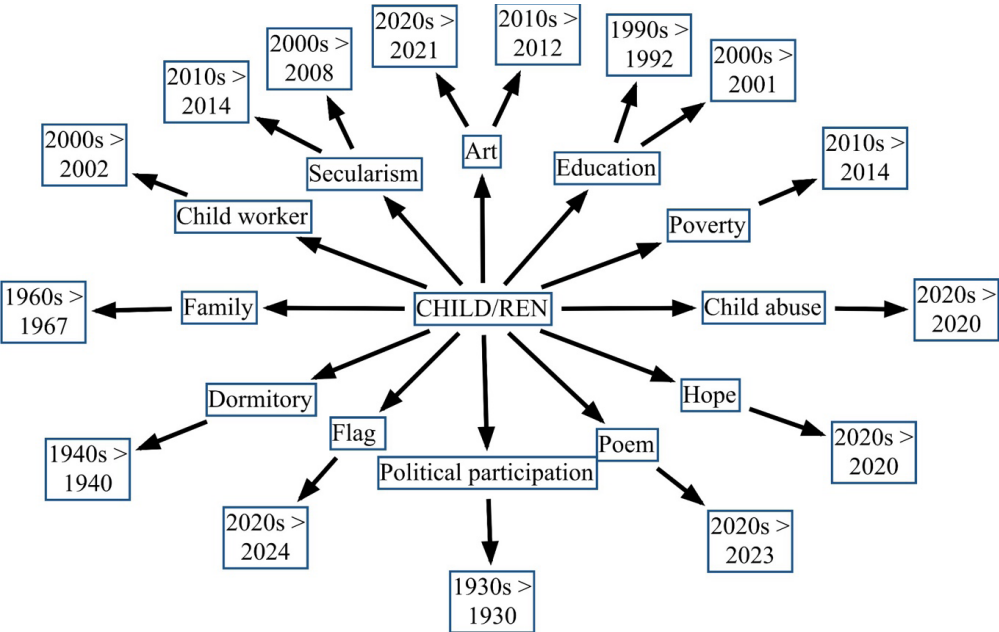


Figure 7. The Code-Subcode Segment Model

In Figure 7, the Code-Subcode Segment Model illustrates how different years and topics relate to news about children. This model offers a meaningful framework both in terms of changes over time and the association of societal or political themes with children. Such an analysis is valuable for understanding how children are situated within social, cultural, and political contexts, and which themes have emerged during specific years.

The theme of *Neglect* stands out specifically in 2020. This may be related to issues such as the neglect of children’s health, education, and social rights, as well as the increased neglect of children due to economic difficulties, particularly during the COVID-19 pandemic. The pandemic year could indicate that neglect became a prominent issue in relation to both the mental and physical health of children. On the other hand, the theme of *Hope* also appears as a subcode for 2020. Despite the challenges brought by the pandemic, hope for children’s recovery after the pandemic became a central theme during this time.

The *Flag* theme emerges in 2024, signaling a period in which nationalism and national values dominate the agenda. National festivals like April 23 emphasize themes of national identity, with children being linked to the symbolism of independence through the national flag. The *Art* theme is prominent in 2021 and 2012, while the *Poetry* theme stands out in 2023. In these years, the relationship between children and art, including topics such as children’s artistic expressions, art education, art therapy, or children’s participation in cultural events, was foregrounded.

The *Education* theme became more prominent in 1992 and 2001, periods in which there was a concentrated effort to improve education. The *Poverty* theme held significant importance in 2014. This period saw issues related to economic crises and social inequalities, with children being disproportionately affected by poverty. The *Political Participation* theme, a code from 1930, refers to a time when the role of children in social and political life was being shaped during the early Republican period.

The *Dormitory* code, which deals with housing and education (such as the establishment of school dormitories for girls), appears in 1940, which marks the early years of the Republic. The *Family* code, addressing changing family structures and children’s relationships with their families, is found in

1967. The *Child Labor* code, which deals with children's participation in the workforce, appears in 2002. The *Secularism* code, addressing the relationship between religious and secular education, is mentioned in news concerning children both in 2008 and 2014.

Limitations of the Study

Discourse analysis, in terms of its approach, can present both qualitative and quantitative data either separately or simultaneously. This study focused on numerical data and frequencies, without incorporating qualitative content. In other words, news articles were examined not as texts, but as representations for analysis. While integrating data collection techniques that could enrich the content for qualitative data production is certainly possible (Alejandro & Zhao, 2024), this research specifically centers on frequencies. The driving force behind this approach is the critical stance toward the capacity of discourse analysis to explain social phenomena as mere causal relationships (Matta, 2024). Consequently, this study excluded the social media presence of the newspaper, even though it was accessible through online subscriptions and archival searches. Social media representations may differ in scope and, while they can accelerate information dissemination, they can also contribute to the rapid spread of inaccurate information (Zafer & Vardarli, 2019).

Discourse analysis can be conducted from multiple perspectives, and expanding the study in some of these directions might have been beneficial. However, this could have led to a risk of deviating from the core context. Therefore, methods such as reflexive discourse analysis, where researchers critically include their own discourses and socio-political positions (Alejandro, 2021), and relational critical discourse analysis, which aims to foster awareness and transform societal inequalities (Vaandering & Reimer, 2021), were excluded from this study as they might have strayed from the research focus.

Conclusion and Implications

This study analyzes the thematic structures of April 23 in media and societal perceptions, revealing how themes like children, national identity, festivals, and sovereignty are interwoven. The findings underscore April 23 not only as a significant public celebration but also as a symbol that has evolved and shaped collective memory over time. Compared to existing literature, the study confirms that April 23 holds strong symbolic meaning in Turkey, both in terms of national sovereignty and children's rights.

Thematic Structures and the Theme of Children: The analysis shows that April 23 is often linked to the concepts of children and festival. The high frequency of the terms April 23 and festival in headlines highlights that the day is not just a celebration of national sovereignty, but also one that emphasizes children's central role in society, as envisioned by Atatürk in his declaration of April 23 as "Children's Day." This reinforces the narrative that April 23 is both a part of national identity and a day that ascribes special value to children, positioning them at the core of social and national frameworks. The frequent association of children with festival and national values, especially through the conjunction of flags and national themes, underscores the identification of children with national identity during social celebrations. This suggests that children are being shaped not only as future individuals but also as integral members of the nation. The frequent association of children with national festivals and celebrations suggests a cultural practice in Turkey where education and social norms aim to instill national identity and sovereignty ideologies in children.

Sovereignty and National Identity Themes: The connection between April 23 and themes of sovereignty and national identity reflects the early Republic's strong focus on national sovereignty. The use of the term sovereignty in headlines reinforces that April 23 is not just a festival, but a historical moment marking the Turkish nation's struggle for independence, popular will, and sovereignty. The frequent pairing of festival and sovereignty reveals that April 23 serves not just as a celebration, but as a day with political and social significance, rooted in the foundation of national sovereignty. The prevalence of these themes in media suggests that in Turkey, April 23 is not merely a celebration but an expression of national responsibility and identity-building, especially through the lens of children. This highlights April 23 as both a political stance and a societal message.

Emphasis on the Grand National Assembly and Democracy: The frequent mention of the Grand National Assembly in headlines indicates that April 23 is also tied to the commemoration of the opening of the Grand National Assembly of Turkey. This underscores the day's dual significance as a celebration of sovereignty and democracy. The integration of sovereignty and democracy discourses

has led to April 23 being associated with democratic governance and popular will in public memory. This theme is also present in literature, which frames April 23 as a celebration of the democratic and parliamentary foundations of the Republic.

Children and Flag Imagery: image analysis further reveals the frequent pairing of children and flag imagery, signaling that children are not only associated with education and social life but also with national identity and sovereignty themes. The prominence of flag and Atatürk imagery in images further reinforces the framing of April 23 within discourses of nationalism and social unity. This image language positions children as not only future individuals but also as active participants in a broader societal and national context.

This study explores the thematic structures of April 23 in media and societal perceptions, demonstrating how Turkey's national identity, sovereignty, children's rights, and festival culture are deeply interconnected. The findings reveal that April 23 is more than just a children's festival; it is a celebration that intertwines national values with collective memory. This research confirms that April 23 is a day that honors children while reflecting Turkey's historical, social, and political ideologies.

Future Research Directions

While this study provides an in-depth analysis of Cumhuriyet Newspaper's representations of April 23, it also opens several avenues for future research. One limitation of the current study is its focus on a single media outlet, which may restrict the broader understanding of how April 23 is framed across different ideological contexts. Future studies could expand this scope by incorporating newspapers with diverse political and ideological orientations—such as pro-government, nationalist-conservative, liberal, or populist outlets. A comparative discourse analysis would allow for a more comprehensive understanding of how national holidays like April 23 are constructed, contested, or instrumentalized across the media landscape in Turkey.

In addition to textual and visual analysis, future research could integrate qualitative methods such as in-depth interviews or focus groups with journalists, educators, parents, and students. These perspectives would provide valuable insights into how media representations of April 23 are interpreted, internalized, or resisted by different social actors. This would not only enrich the ideological analysis but also help reveal how national narratives operate in everyday life and contribute to the construction of civic consciousness.

Furthermore, future studies could benefit from incorporating critical perspectives related to gender, ageism, class, and social inclusion/exclusion. For instance, how are gender roles reproduced within the representations of children in April 23 coverage? Are boys and girls represented equally, or do traditional roles persist? How is childhood constructed—as a symbol of innocence, the future, or responsible citizenship? Similarly, attention could be given to how elderly citizens, youth, or marginalized social groups are included or excluded in media portrayals of national holidays. Such investigations would offer deeper insight into how collective identity is constructed through inclusionary and exclusionary practices.

Moreover, examining how April 23 is linked to political and social participation would also be a valuable direction. Do media narratives frame April 23 as a means of fostering democratic engagement and active citizenship, or is it merely represented as a ritualized commemorative event? Longitudinal studies tracing discursive shifts across different historical periods could further illuminate the continuities and ruptures in how national values and ideological themes are articulated in the media over time.

In sum, broadening the methodological and conceptual scope of future studies would significantly enrich our understanding of how national celebrations like April 23 function within the intersections of media, ideology, and society.

Declarations

Ethics Statement: No data were collected from human participants; therefore, ethical approval was not required.

Conflict of Interest Statement: The authors declare no conflict of interest related to this article.

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Geniřletilmiş Özet

Bu araştırma, Türkiye Cumhuriyeti'nin kuruluşundan itibaren 23 Nisan Ulusal Egemenlik ve Çocuk Bayramı'nın medya aracılığıyla nasıl temsil edildiğini ve bu temsillerin ideolojik açıdan nasıl şekillendiğini Cumhuriyet gazetesi örneğiyle incelemektedir. Yaklaşık 100 yıllık Cumhuriyet tarihi boyunca, çocuklara ithaf edilen bugün yalnızca bir kutlama olmaktan öteye geçmiş, ulusal kimlik inşasında önemli bir araç haline gelmiştir. Çocukların, siyasi katılımın tokenist öznesi olarak konumlandırılması ve bugünün bağımsızlıkla ilişkilendirilmesi, bayramın politik anlamını güçlendirmiştir. Bu bağlamda çalışmanın temel amacı, Cumhuriyet gazetesinin 1930'dan 2023'e kadar 23 Nisan'ı nasıl çerçevelediğini ve bu çerçevenin zaman içinde nasıl evrildiğini incelemektir. Gazetenin dili ve görselleri üzerinden, toplumsal belleğin nasıl üretildiği ve çocukların bu bellekte nasıl temsil edildiği araştırılmaktadır.

Çocukların temsili, medya çocuk ilişkisi ve ideolojik bağlamları ele alan daha önceki çalışmalarda, erken Cumhuriyet döneminde çocukluk kavramının nasıl şekillendiğine yer verildiği görülmüştür. Bu dönemde çocuklar, yeni kurulan ulusun geleceği olarak görülmüş ve devlet politikalarıyla desteklenen eğitim, sağlık ve sosyal haklar gibi alanlarda görünürlükleri artırılmıştır. 23 Nisan, bu ideolojik çerçevenin somutlaştığı bir gün olarak çocuklara adanmış ve milli değerlerin aktarım aracı olmuştur. Zamanla çocuklar, "geleceğin yurttaşları" olarak kurgulanmış ve bugünün kutlamaları üzerinden Cumhuriyet ideolojisinin taşıyıcıları hâline getirilmiştir. Son dönem literatürde ise, özellikle göçmen çocukların eğitimi bağlamında, eğitim politikalarının güncel zorluklara nasıl yanıt verdiği ele alınmıştır. Böylece çocukluk algısının geçmişten günümüze değişimi ve medyanın bu algının inşasındaki rolü daha bütüncül bir şekilde değerlendirilebilmektedir.

Bu çalışmada, medyanın toplumsal algıyı nasıl inşa ettiğini anlamak amacıyla söylem çözümlemesine dayalı yöntemler kullanılmıştır. Gazetelerde yer alan görsel ve metinsel öğelerin ideolojik anlamlarını, olayları nasıl çerçevelediklerini ve bunların toplumsal gerçeklik üretimine etkilerini analiz etmek hedeflenmiştir. Eleştirel Söylem Analizi, Çerçeveleme Analizi ve İdeolojik Söylem Analizi birlikte uygulanarak daha bütüncül bir yaklaşım geliştirilmiştir. Araştırma, Cumhuriyet Gazetesi'nin 23 Nisan Ulusal Egemenlik ve Çocuk Bayramı'na dair tarihsel süreçteki temsillerini incelemektedir. 1923–1930 yılları arasındaki 89 gazete manşeti, gazetenin dijital arşivinden toplanarak analiz edilmiştir. Cumhuriyet'in modern Türkiye'nin kuruluş süreciyle olan bağı ve laik, eleştirel yayın politikası nedeniyle örnek olarak seçilmiştir. Analiz sürecinde hem metinlerdeki kelime ve söylemler hem de görsellerdeki semboller ve temsiller incelenmiştir. Bu unsurların, devlet ideolojisinin ve milli kimliğin medya aracılığıyla nasıl üretildiğini gösterdiği tespit edilmiştir. Kodlama ve tema analizi için MaxQDA programı kullanılmış, tekrarlayan yapılar ve ideolojik anlatılar sistematik biçimde belirlenmiştir.

Çalışmanın bulguları iki aşamada değerlendirilmiştir. İlk olarak, görseller, başlıklar ve haber metinleri arasındaki eşzamanlılık analizleri yapılmış, ardından kod-matrix yapıları incelenerek temalar arasındaki bağlar ortaya konmuştur. Üç temel unsur olan haber, görsel ve başlıkların birlikte kullanımının yüksek olduğu görülmüş; bu, haber anlatımının çok katmanlı ve bütünlük bir yapıda kurgulandığını göstermektedir. Başlıklar, haberin özünü kısa şekilde sunarken; görseller bu içeriği duygusal ya da estetik boyutta pekiştirmekte, bu da haberin etkisini artırmaktadır. Kod analizinde özellikle başlıklarda 23 Nisan temasının 2000'li ve 2010'lu yıllarda belirgin biçimde arttığı, bunun cumhuriyetin 100. yılı gibi dönüm noktalarıyla ilişkili olduğu tespit edilmiştir. Siyasal içerikli başlıkların 2000'lerde yoğunlaşması, Türkiye'nin siyasi gündeminin haberlere yansımaları göstermektedir. Uluslararası başlıkların 1960'larda yoğunlaşması ise Türkiye'nin dış politika süreçleriyle ilgilidir. Görsellerde Atatürk'ün ve çocukların görsel temsilleri, özellikle 2020'li yıllarda daha sık kullanılmış, bu da çocukların ulusal kimliğin taşıyıcısı olarak simgeleştirildiğini göstermiştir. Bayrak ve Atatürk imgeleri çoğunlukla birlikte yer alarak ulusal birlik ve kurucu lider vurgusu yapılmıştır. 23 Nisan'a dair görsellerin çocuk imgeleriyle tam olarak örtüşmediği; bayrak, Atatürk ve ulusal temaların öne çıktığı görülmüştür. Haber içeriklerinde 2020'lerde sağlık ve çocuk temalarının belirginleştiği, bunun pandeminin etkisiyle ortaya çıktığı vurgulanmaktadır. Çocuk haberlerinin, zaman zaman ihmal (neglect) veya umut (hope) gibi alt temalarla birlikte sunulması dikkat çekicidir. Ayrıca eğitim, sanat, yoksulluk, laiklik gibi konuların farklı dönemlerde çocuk temasıyla birlikte ele alındığı görülmektedir.

Araştırma, sınırlı bir veri kümesine dayanmakta olup, diğer medya kuruluşlarının içeriklerini kapsamamaktadır. Ayrıca, nitel görüşmeler ya da sosyal medya analizleri gibi veri kaynakları

kullanılmamış, araştırma frekanslara ve medya diline odaklanmıştır. Bu, çalışmanın kapsamını daraltırsa da derinlemesine söylem çözümlemesi ile tarihsel bir medya okuması sunmaktadır. Bu çalışma, 23 Nisan Ulusal Egemenlik ve Çocuk Bayramı'nın medya temsilleri aracılığıyla nasıl anlamlandırıldığını ve toplumsal algıda nasıl konumlandığını incelemektedir. Analizler, bugünün yalnızca çocuklara adanmış bir bayram değil, aynı zamanda ulusal kimlik, egemenlik ve demokrasi gibi ideolojik temaların da taşıyıcısı olduğunu ortaya koymaktadır. Özellikle çocuk, bayrak ve Atatürk görsellerinin sıklıkla bir arada kullanılması, çocukların geleceğin bireyleri olmanın ötesinde ulusun aktif bir parçası olarak konumlandırıldığını göstermektedir. Türkiye Büyük Millet Meclisi vurgusu ise 23 Nisan'ı sadece bir kutlama değil, aynı zamanda demokratik bir hafızanın sembolü haline getirmektedir. Medya içeriklerinde yer alan söylemler, 23 Nisan'ı ulusal değerlerin pekiştirildiği bir gün olarak sunmakta; çocukları hem toplumsal aidiyetin hem de ideolojik inşanın merkezine yerleştirmektedir. Son olarak bu çalışmanın ilerleyen dönemlerinde, çeşitli toplumsal aktörlerle yapılacak görüşmelerle de 23 Nisan'ın ulusal kimlik inşası ve sosyal-siyasal katılımı ilişkisi çok daha kapsamlı bir şekilde incelenebilecektir.

APPENDIX



