



EDUCATIONAL MESSAGES IN TEVFİK FİKRET'S POEMS

TEVFİK FİKRET'İN ŞİİRLERİNDE EĞİTSEL MESAJLAR

Kelime ERDAL*

ABSTRACT: Being in the education community for long years, Tevfik Fikret aims to educate children and teenagers with the works he has written while he is carrying out his profession. Knowing child's world very well, the poet gives messages which can be counted valid in today's education perception. Emphasizing the basic humanistic and moral values such as sharing, cooperation, obedience in his poems, the poets stresses the importance of education starting at earlier ages. When the teenagers are discussed, Tevfik Fikret, changing his messages, lays huge responsibilities on teenagers. Teenagers, to whom the country is entrusted, will firstly love their country, and if necessary they will lay down their life. In order to accomplish this, trusting in yourself, working hard and being determined are essential. No matter what is the subject either a child or a teenager, the poet always looks to future, dreams the future that he misses in teenagers and children. In this study, Tevfik Fikret's poems are examined in terms of the values wanted to be transmitted to child and teenagers, this educational messages are tried to be analysed under various headings.

Keywords: Child, teenager, education, educational message.

ÖZET: Uzun yıllar eğitim camiasının içinde yer alan Tevfik Fikret, bir yandan mesleğini icra ederken bir yandan da yazdığı eserlerle çocukları ve gençleri eğitmeyi hedeflemiştir. Çocuğun dünyasını çok iyi bilen şair, çocuklar için yazdığı şiirlerde günümüz eğitim anlayışında da geçerli sayılabilecek eğitsel mesajlar verir. Paylaşma, yardımlaşma, söz dinleme, yardımlaşma... gibi temel insani ve ahlaki değerleri şiirlerinde vurgulayan şair, eğitimin küçük yaşlarda başlamasının önemine vurgu yapmaktadır. Gençler söz konusu olduğunda mesajları farklılaşan Tevfik Fikret, gençlere büyük sorumluluklar yüklemektedir. Vatanın emanet edileceği gençler, önce vatanlarını sevecek, gerekirse onun uğrunda canlarını vereceklerdir. Bunu başarabilmek için önce kendine güvenmek, çok çalışmak ve azimli olmak şarttır. Söz konusu olan ister çocuk, ister genç olsun, şair hep geleceğe bakmakta, çocuklarda ve gençlerde özlediği geleceği hayal etmektedir. Bu çalışmada, Tevfik Fikret'in şiirlerine çocuk ve gençlere iletmek istediği değerler açısından bakılmış, bu eğitsel mesajlar çeşitli başlıklar altında incelenmeye çalışılmıştır.

Anahtar Sözcükler: Çocuk, genç, eğitim, eğitsel mesaj

1. INTRODUCTION

After graduating from Galatasaray High School in 1888, except from a period of working as an officer, Tevfik Fikret has always been in the service of education and worked as a teacher. Starting with the Ticaret Mekteb-i Âlisi Türkçe ve hüsni hat teacher, poet's education life, till the end of his life, has been extended to nearly 26 years (Kavcar, 1988: 58). Tevfik Fikret performing his profession with great pleasure since the early days, by succeeding in the exam applied in Galatasaray High School, works for a year in this school. Not accepting the shortages in the officers' salaries, in order to protest this, he resigns from his occupation. Having the characteristic of being loved, respected, Tevfik Fikret won't stay as unemployed for a long time. Starting as a Turkish teacher in Robert College at the beginning of 1897, Tevfik Fikret works as a teacher here until the Second Constitutionalist Period.

Tevfik Fikret introduces the values of being Turkish beside the education Turkish Philology in Robert College. He provides the opening of a Turkish branch. On the other hand, he comes across the method of teaching Anglo Saxon for the first time in this college. During his nearly five years of teaching here, by observing the American methods of teaching which raises life and business man being practical more than theoretical, Tevfik Fikret wants to apply this observations in Yeni Mektep which he desires to establish. The announcement of Second Constitutionalist strengthens his hopes about this new school. The poet explains the reason of establishing Yeni Mektep in this way: "*Clearly, in order to make Constitutionalism firm and productive, there is a need for clever, strong-willed, patriot, and self-sacrificing young. Only schools that are suitable today's needs can raise these teenagers.*" Tevfik Fikret thinks the school integrated with family and social life, he bases on practice

* Yrd. Doç. Dr., Uludağ Üniversitesi Eğitim Fakültesi Türkçe Eğitimi Bölümü.

and ability. In his ideal school, as the young will be raised suitable for both school and the life outside, when they are out of the school, neither them nor the life will find each other odd. As Fikret is not able to open out Yeni Mektep, he tries to apply his educational designs and ideas as much as possible in Galatasaray High School when he becomes the manager of the school.

Tevfik Fikret, having been a teacher and a manager in Galatasaray High School, serves for really beneficial duties. In order to provide school's progress, the management should be given to someone who is qualified and strong. Tevfik Fikret, who is raised in this school and one of the teacher of this school, is favoured. Tevfik Fikret, whose teaching and managing are approved, is on the forefront as he takes into consideration even the detailed parts during his management. During his more than one year management period, he succeeds in many applications. Fikret, forming a administrative constitution based on love and respect in school, becomes a teacher really loved by students. He aims that students be raised as self-confident and courageous. However, students show shy and reserved behaviours in society. Fikret, who controls any kind of work in the school, get files that is given to parents prepared which includes students' progress or regress. The poet, carrying on the service of education including him too, educates school's cleaner, cook and caretaker. Fikret, having them realize their mistakes, goes on his controls in the school during the night (Engin, 2003: 175).

According to Tevfik Fikret, who gives a great importance to education, education is a precious jewellery decorating humanity. "*Maarif öyle bir elmas-pare-i zî-kıymettir ki insaniyet onunla tezeyyün, kemâl onunla tekemmül eder*" (Parlatır, 1993: 259). (Education is such a precious diamond that humanity is decorated with it, maturity is completed with it.)

There is an expression at the beginning of the poem called "Bir Kız Okulu İçin" : "*Kızlarını okutmayan millet, oğullarını manevî öksüzlüğe mahkûm etmiş demektir; hüsrana ağlasın!*" (Tevfik Fikret, 1985: 59) (A nation not educating girls means that it condemns its boys to spiritual orphan hood; cry for your defeat!) The poet connects the base of advance to the culture and in order to reach civilization and keep the nation's ability alive, he emphasizes the importance of mother's education." Mother's blessed breast is a holly paradise of civilization." by drawing this analogy, the poet considers the education of woman as the basis of the nation's advance. The most undeveloped and helpless nation is the one which leaves the woman uneducated. Tevfik Fikret expresses his wish of educating people with these lines:

*Kalbin, semahatin, hele ilmin yarattığı
Her şeyde kızların, bu muazzez çiçeklerin*

Bir hakkı var... Verin! (Tevfik Fikret, 1985: 62) (In everything created by heart, kindness and especially by science girls have a right. Give this right to them.)

Giving a special importance to children and teenagers, Tevfik Fikret considers them as the most qualified values of the future. Fikret, loading great responsibilities to this dynamic audience in the development of nation, points the need of a modern education system in his works mentioning teenagers and children. He draws attention to the positive effect that an understanding of education, which is far away from regress and superstitions, contemporary, can have on children and teenagers, and he has wanted to place these principles in educational institutions during his teaching (Eronat, 2007: 790).

At the head of the subjects discoursed in Tevfik Fikret's poems, the ones belonging to the young are placed. He has pity for dynamic youth group's not having enough conscious to discuss social problems, which he wants to leave the old mindset. Young means "having young ideas". "Having young ideas" is someone who is opened to new ideas, ethical, walking fearlessly in the way he thinks it's right, never giving in, only having wisdom and knowledge as a guide in his life. This is the youth he wishes for and ideal for him. He always keeps in mind the idea that this youth will one day build up the world again (Tanfer, 1995).

After his son's birth, Haluk, Fikret is now in peace and looks through life from a different window. There is always Haluk in shaping the structure of his mind, life philosophy, and world of poems. Haluk, who goes to Swiss in order to get engineering education in 1909 September, both upsets and pleases his father. Haluk will come back with West's knowledge and wisdom and will enlighten the youth and the future of his nation. Because of this reason, the poet is happy and adapts

these feelings to his poems. On the other hand, with his son's leaving home, the poet feels emptiness in the house and realizes the problems of the outside world. With these feelings, he arranges the book called *Haluk'un Defteri* and publishes with his own writing (Parlatır, 2004: 23).

After the Second Constitution, the worry of raising the future of the youth to whom the regime will be entrusted increases the importance given to the education of children. Under the leadership of Satı Bey, who is one of the most important educators, it is seen that many authors write for children. The work called *Şermin* published by Tevfik Fikret in 1914 is one of this (Enginün, 1991: 395).

As he knows very well that everything good or bad takes root during young ages, he is especially interested in children. According to him, a child is not different from an adult. Because of this reason, the poet behaves children in the way he behaves adults, he reads the works written on education of child, he thinks about what he reads (Kavcar, 1988: 71).

According to Tevfik Fikret, the time we live in has no value, the important one is the future. What the next generations will bring to people is enlightenment. Fikret's poems, writings, letters expressing that Tevfik Fikret is hopeless and pessimistic, never clears away his hopes for future (Akbal, 1999).

Tevfik Fikret plans to gather his thoughts, hopes, and advice for the youth in *Haluk'un Defteri*. In those days, he has quitted his position as a manager in Galatasaray High School and broken off the group of İttihatçı. From now on his only hope is the youth of nation that he tries to embody in Haluk. He defends the movement of enlightenment, not the movement of politic. With the attempts of youth, awakening nation is in question. What he expects from the youth is not seizing power with a military coup, it is enlightening by enduring difficulties, offering fire to humanity like Promete. In *Haluk'un Defteri*, the poet leans to the whole people who are suffering, oppressed by getting through the problems of his country. He regards the whole children as brothers, the earth as his country and the humanity as his nation. He attaches himself to these thoughts on purpose (Fuat, 1995: 62).

The poems that Tevfik Fikret has written for his son reflects a view that is full of hope and looking through the future with confidence. The poet, drawing his son out in "Haluk'un Sesi", he expresses his own positive feelings indeed. Haluk'un Sesi explains to poet that night will be day, winter will be summer and the earth will be full of flowers. In this ambiance, the youth will wander, run, laugh, and fly. As the youth laughs, the whole living things will laugh. The poet is so hopeful that even it is winter or snowing, he won't get cold. Even, the poet leans towards life in such a way that he becomes happy and hopeful as the snow will make the soil alive after it melts. The snow will melt and the earth will be full of flowers with this abundance. In this happy ambiance drawn in the poem, Tevfik Fikret becomes happy with the voice of his son. The fevered discourse in Tevfik Fikret's social themed poems leaves its place to love, mercy, a conscious educator's point of view when youth and especially children are in question. Tevfik Fikret, who really wants his nation's progress and who is really worried about this issue, prioritises the youth. The poet, calling out to youth before children, cannot endure waiting or any waste of time in the way of democratization and modernization. Therefore, Fikret, addressing firstly to youth in his poems, gives them serious and heavy duties and wishes them to fulfil this mission (Eronat, 2007: 789).

When Tevfik Fikret's poems are examined in terms of didactic messages it includes, it is seen that the headings above come to the forefront.

1.1. Patriotism and Historical Consciousness

Loving history, protecting it, and learning from it are usually seen in poets who discourses the sense of nation. In Fikret's poems, past history is considered in a negative way, a strong patriotism is discourses. The poet, who follows future closely, thinks that being connected to the past will prevent progressing. Tevfik Fikret doesn't want to be tied to the past in the poem "Eski Tarih". (Tevfik Fikret, 1985: 16) For him, it is unnecessary to repeat what humanity has lived like a "tale". According to the poet, the past of our ancestor resembles "a dark and a long night" and "lullaby" about this makes youth sleep. The poet is uncomfortable with presenting the past as "the best example". According to Tevfik Fikret, the past is different from future and the history shouldn't be thought as a way of learning lesson. Past is also valuable in terms of enlightening now and there are many lessons that can be learned from it. Fikret disagrees with it.

In poem “Ferda” published with a dedication to “today’s youth”, Tevfik Fikret presents tomorrows and all the news to the youth. According to the poet, a sky, and innocent and without clouds, waits for the youth. The youth carries the joy of life and everybody’s eyes are on it. The youth, called as the hope of life, will rise in the horizon as a new star and “suffering past” will be erased forever. The poet, associating the past with “hell”, describes the nation as “a girl with emerald eyes and thin-faced”. He expects teenagers to own the values of their country. The youth won’t let their country to be looked with an evil eye. In his poems, the poet dignifies the nation as “the place of the graves of their ancestors “. Those graves are the symbols of the country and it progress with the help of hardworking people:

Gençler, bütün ümid-i vatan şimdi sizdedir.

Her şey sizin, vatan da sizin, her şeref sizin. (Tevfik Fikret, 1985: 54) (Country and the honour are youth’s and the hope of country’s salvation is in the hands of youth.) Looking through the events of the past negatively, Fikret lays claim on ancestors, he even sees the country valuable as it is the land where our ancestors rest.

“Kenan”(Tevfik Fikret, 1985: 112) is a poem in which patriotism and the feelings of devotion for nation are discoursed. Kenan has got nothing except for his mother and his ass. Exposing to the teasing of people around him because of his thin body, Kenan is superior to the peers teasing with him in terms of moral and his effort of study. Even he gets older and grows s up, everybody appraise him as they did in the past. What most upsets him is even the girls’ teasing him. When the war comes out, he joins the army with patriot teenagers. The enemy ambushes the soldiers. Kenan returns to his village in a injured situation but the fame he brings from the war is enough for him. Loving his country means to die for his country especially during war.

There are praises for the soldiers fighting in war in the poem “Hasan’ın Gazası”.(Tevfik Fikret, 1985: 113) The poet emphasizes that people fighting for their country will survive even they die. Hasan is a voluntary teenage who joins up army. Hasan, whose ancestors die for their nation, states that it is needed to be ill or one-armed in order not to join army and he is quite healthy. In war, Hasan is also injured, who takes the flag from his martyr friend. Hasan doesn’t feel any pain, what upsets him is that he won’t be able to go on fighting. Hasan is proud as he is injured while fighting and he goes back to his village with this proud. According to him, who loves his nation most is the most hard-working person. Fikret presents Hasan and Kenan’s sacrifice as examples.

In the poem “Haluk’un Defteri”, (Tevfik Fikret, 1985: 120) Tevfik Fikret remembers the sentence “dying and keeping you alive” written by his son, Haluk. The poet, who is very affected with this sentence written under the flag, always remembers this sentence when he is bored, alone, or hopeless. Tevfik Fikret wonders in what feelings this sentence, called “excited and short speech”, can be written. Tevfik Fikret wants youth to dominate time. Time follows human with strong and controlled steps. It is necessary not to be a capture of this “straight follower”, which examines every move although it acts before. Stating that youth doesn’t own everything, the poet emphasizes that especially tomorrows are resigned to them. Future will bring to book youth. Future generations will be suspicious of them like how teenagers question past carefully. The poet advises youth not forget what their ancestors lived before. Teenagers should follow scientific developments and always aim advancing:

Yükselmeli, dokunmalı alnın semalara;

Doymaz beşer dedikleri kuş itilalara

Uğraş, didin, düşün, ara, bul, koş, atıl, bağır;

Durmak zamanı geçti, çalışmak zamanıdır. (Tevfik Fikret, 1985: 56) (A person should rise so much that his forehead should touch to the sky. The bird called human won’t be satisfied with rises. Do something, think, search, find, and move. It s not time to stopping, it is time to work.)

In this poem, the poet advises youth to learn lessons from the past. It is necessary to look back past and learn lessons from it, teenagers should look future without abiding by past.

In the poem “Darümuallimin Marşı”, which emphasizes that the students of Darümuallim are “the idea army armed with knowledge”, the students are the enemy of hopeless. Hope is the guide of their behaviours. This army, which destroys ignorance and serves for knowledge, aims to advance. The students of this school love their country and works hard for it:

Fikr ordusu, cehd ordusu, azm ordusuyuz biz;

Cehlin, gecenin hâdimiyiz; hâdim-i ilmiz. (Tevfik Fikret, 1985: 66) (We are the army of idea, work and determination. We are the destroyer of ignorance and night, server of the science and knowledge.) In Tevfik Fikret's poems which mention future and country, and addresses youth, hope is intensely emphasized.

Although in the poem "Sabah Olursa" the poet addresses directly his son Haluk, he indirectly guides youth. Tevfik Fikret follows a negative point of view in the poem. The poet, who is hopeless about the issue of nation's getting rid of the problems, emphasizes that this will take a long time to take place and even it will, he will be too old. As poet thinks that he will drive his son into a hopeless situation when he gets older, he wants her son to go on his way and abandon his hopes about him. The poet is afraid of attracting him with past from a negative point of view. However Haluk is the symbol of the future with all his identity. Tevfik Fikret wants youth to wake up, whom he calls "the tiny suns of tomorrows space." The youth will enlighten the future and the nation. Such a youth will be source of hope of the old people who are at the end of their life:

Ümidimiz bu: Ölürssek de biz, yaşar mutlak

Vatan sizinle, şu zindan karanlığından uzak! (Tevfik Fikret, 1985: 76) (Even if we die, we hope that our country will be far from the darkness with you.)

Tanpınar makes this comment about the works of Tevfik Fikret: "*In his most hopeless moments, by remembering his son, the poet changes his words and becomes optimistic in order not to make her son feel hopeless.*" (Tanpınar, 1977: 269)

1.2. Diligence and Determination for Promotion

Tevfik Fikret, who pins all his hopes on next generations in order to eliminate the evils, wants the young people to work very hard (Nayır, 1954: 16). He instills diligence and promotion due to his work into his poems; in addition, according to the poet being diligent is a vital characteristic of people. In his poem "Zelzele" (Tevfik Fikret, 1985: 78), he narrates the destructive effects of the earthquake that happened after the birth of his son Haluk. The poet talks to his son about the difficulties he will face on these devastating days. Tevfik Fikret thinks that an easy and a happy life in this gloomy world can be just dreamed. He believes that following an impossible dream is futile exhaustion and the people who are successful in life struggle against "the giant that is called reality".

The poet advises promotion at any moment in his poem "Promete" (Tevfik Fikret, 1985: 81), which encompasses advice for young people in. People must look around, evaluate the situation, and struggle to move forward. This will make people's way towards the happiness. Young people should follow Promete, which brings down the fire from the sky, and retrace the footsteps. Perhaps the bravery will not be known but it is not important for the poet.

Tevfik Fikret emphasizes his beliefs and the values he adopts in his poem "Haluk'un Amentüsü" (Tevfik Fikret, 1985: 86). The poet, who believes in a blessed power that creates all the living beings, believed that the earth has a motherland and the human race has a nation, and also he decided that if people think like that they can be human. Tevfik Fikret believes the existence of neither the evils nor the angels. In addition, he emphasizes that the world will be a heaven just with the people. Although the idea that humanity will become brothers is a dream according to Tevfik Fikret, he believed in this dream. Moreover, the poet thinks that the state that the society is in "a life in the grave" and he believes in the bright and happy future at the end and also eliminating all the nonsense with the mind. "Divine light will explode suddenly and the darkness will go off." The justice will have been done, the captivity of downtrodden will finish, and the cruel people will be slaves. In addition, Tevfik Fikret believes that the science can make the earth golden. The poet associates the idea of future with science, work, and struggle. The values that new human type believe became a principle: People believe in themselves, their mind and knowledge, the idea of improvement, the belief of superiority of the god over power, the ideal of unity among people, believing the universal and absolute power of the God. Even though secular belief pervades this poem, the reason why Tevfik Fikret gave this poem the name "Amentü" is that he wants the ideas he claims to become blessed (Kaplan, 1986: 29).

There is advice in his poem “Millet Şarkısı”. The young whose fathers do not come to heel should shake themselves and remove the dust that is on them. The poet emphasizes that both the individuals and the nations can live with honors and he wants this heritage, which is from their ancestors, to be brought to life. If people live, they must be honest and proud:

İnsanlığı pâmâl eden alçaklığı yık, ez;

Billâh yaşamak yerde sürüklenmeye değmez. (Tevfik Fikret, 1985: 97) (Demolish and run over the abjectness that disregards the humanity. It is not worth living if you are dragging.) The poet, who experienced injustices, unlawful interferences, and anguish grieves, wants these bad days pass and give up the illiteracy. The only ways to be taken are nation and virtue. Both the nation and virtue should be forever.

The writer tells us in his poem “Rücû” that all the bad events that were experienced have finished and now it is a new period which provides social welfare as Turkish nation. Clear consensus of opinion of the young, who will form the future, is welfare of the community life. The advice is for the young people in the society:

Güzel düşün, iyi hisset, yanılma, aldanma,

Ne varsa doğrudur, doğruluk şaşar sanma. (Tevfik Fikret, 1985: 100) (Think carefully, feel fine, do not deviate, and do not get deceived. Everything is in the sincerity and it never deviates and do not go astray.)

We must go for unity, ascent, and work. Young people should take a big step forward because the steps taken today are a preparation for tomorrow. The poet dedicates all his good emotions to the soldiers and finishes his poem with the compliments for the soldiers in the army. In his poem “Hayat” Tevfik Fikret wants to instill hopes into his son Haluk. The society is so hopeless that even the new born children lament. The poet tells his son that the future will be better. Humanity will go forward towards liberation. Tevfik Fikret, who believes that deception is an eternal cure, wants to believe that his expectations will fulfill even though they will not realize:

İnan Halûk, ezeli bir şifadır aldanmak!” (Tevfik Fikret, 1985: 392) (Being deceived solves a number of problems.) The poet who wants to leave aside his problems with a broken boat in a black night and sit aside in a safe place in his poem “Yine Haluk” (Tevfik Fikret, 1985: 144) attributes this wish to his son. This wish is not due to the poet’s inability or sadness. In fact, he wants everything for his son.

“Yaşamak Aşkı”, (Tevfik Fikret, 1985: 192) is a poem that tells about dedicating yourself to the life despite everything. There is a desire to live in this poem like the Cahit Sıtkı’s lines “I accept all the suffering as long as the sun shines from my window”. The poet wants to live even if he is skinny, paralyzed, and fatal. Tevfik Fikret believes that all this desire to live is the only refuge for his love to live and expectations.

Haluk, who was born in 1895, plays an important role in Fikret’s life and his outlook on life. Haluk is one of the reasons for Fikret, who is pessimistic as a character and his pessimism grows up because of the suffocated atmosphere of the autocracy era, to cling him to life. Fikret collected his feelings and ideas about his son in the book *Haluk’un Defteri*, which was published in 1911 (Kaplan, 1987: 130).

The poet remembers his son while he was in his early years in his poem “Terennüm”. (Tevfik Fikret, 1985: 431) His son is vital to his life. Fikret tastes both love and loyalty in his son and also he sees paradise on his face.

The poet, who complains about working and wasting his youth while working in the first part of his poem “Yarın” (Tevfik Fikret, 1985: 143), he interrogates working in order to be better in the future. Sacrificing today for the future means the end for the future and the days that have passed will not come again. The poet, who becomes lazy and is about to fall with tiredness due to the heat, becomes conscious with the lively voice of Haluk. He promises his son to sacrifice all his joys and comfort for his future. The poet loves his son so much that he can sacrifice his life just for his an instant cheer.

The courage and diligence of a poor child, who is going to go fishing instead of his father, is told in the poem “Balıkçılar”. (Tevfik Fikret, 1985: 145) The child’s father cannot go fishing because the sea is too wavy and they are hungry. The child wants to go fishing however wavy the sea is. The

father becomes happy thanks to his son's courage. The poet says to his son that they themselves are very old and they have to die. He wants his son to work very hard and gives him advice about his job. On the following day the child goes fishing. The old fishing boat cannot resist the huge waves and the child dies. That the poet shows he lost his son while dealing with such a struggle can be explained with the theme of pity to the miserable, which is often mentioned in his poems. The attitude that the poet have in 1895 towards the life is pessimistic. Such an outlook on life led him to an absolute powerless (Kaplan, 1987: 112).

The poem "Marangoz" that the poet wrote in his book *Şermin* is written from a child's perspective. The carpenter who likes his job a lot prepares his tools and starts working every day. The importance of work is emphasized in the poem:

Çalışan her işi görür;

İnsan için sanat çoktur,

Yapılmayacak iş yoktur. (Tevfik Fikret, 1946: 26) (There are a lot of arts for people who work and there is no work not to be done.)

The poem "Kırık At" is concerning a child, who has a horse as a bairam present from his grandfather. The horse becomes ill and the child brings it to the ironworker to repair the horse. The child does not idle during the repair which takes an hour. He watches the craftsman's work carefully and admires him. The horse becomes firmer after the repair. The poem finishes with the lines that give lesson:

Demek biraz iyi işler

Birçok alın teri ister. (Tevfik Fikret, 1946: 29) (This small work cost hard work and effort.

The pity man worked for an hour in front of the fire. Good jobs require work and effort.)

The poem "Ağustos Böceği ile Karınca", which is adapted by Tevfik Fikret from La Fontaine's poem, tells us the importance of work and the people who do not work will be hungry.

1.3. Cooperation

Tevfik Fikret gives didactic messages such as cooperation, love for schools, friendship, cleanliness, obedience, superstitions etc. in the poem that he wrote for the small children. Tevfik Fikret shows his son's joy for the bairam in the poem which starts with lines "Only children have the right to be joyful" and remembers the children who do not have a father or the children who are hopeless. He wants his son to give the clothes that he is wearing on to the destitute children and make them happy. The poet, who believes that joy is the right of the children, wants to see all children happy. Tevfik Fikret calls his son to listen to the children who are crying and advise sharing. (Tevfik Fikret, 1985: 147) One front of the poem, which is a comparison of the poet's son Haluk and the poor child, is pedagogical. The words that the poet uses evoke eternal pity on the reader for the poor child. Fikret has a humanistic outlook on life with the theme that he chose and in terms of the discourse (Kerman, 1998: 164).

The importance of cooperation and help is emphasized in the poem "Verin Zavallılara", in which the people who are in a difficult situation after the earthquake. However, the people who will help are not children but the adult. (Tevfik Fikret, 1985: 148)

The message of overcoming a bad situation by helping each other is given in the poem "Kör ile Kötürüm". The problems that cannot be sorted out alone can be solved with the help of someone. The blind and the paralyzed person, who are not content with their lives, decide to give support for each other in the poem. The paralyzed will be eyes for the blind and the blind will bring the paralyzed wherever he wants to go. (Tevfik Fikret, 1946: 35)

The feeling of a child that listens to the teacher, who gives advice the students to help the poor girl, at school is told in the poem "Öksüz". The poor girl's mother is very ill, so she will be an orphan soon. The child does not know the meaning of orphan that she has heard for the first time and asks her mother. In fact, the child also learns that she is orphan at that time. The woman that she thinks her mother is in fact her aunt. Her mother died when she was born. The girl's aunt and father were orphans. Her aunt emphasizes that everybody in this world are orphan and the mother of the orphans are their motherlands:

Vatan, öksüzler anası

Yaşatırsak, bir o yaşar...

Yaşasın ta haşre kadar! (Tevfik Fikret, 1946: 13) (The motherland, the mother of the orphans, live until the doomsday if we keep it alive.)

Helping the needy and the people in a difficult situation is told in his poem “Yaz Nine”. (Tevfik Fikret, 1946: 19) The poet who wants the plane branch to shade the summer grandmother, who was bored of the sun and exhausted due to the sun, gives messages to the children. A man who does favours to everyone is told in the poem “Veli Baba”. The man started living in the forest after his death like a legendary hero. Veli Baba, who protects animals in the forest, extinguishes the fires, dresses the wounds, and protects the poor. He is the man who gives out wood and coal to the poor, fruit to the children; preserve the countryman from the disasters. Although Veli Baba’s appearance is rough, his heart is full of delicacy and affection. In the end of the poem it is understood that Veli Baba is a thoughtful owl. (Tevfik Fikret, 1946: 39)

1.4. School Love and Friendship

The descriptive qualification of the education is defined basic information as learning, talking and working together. The children learn working in groups and solving the problems together at schools. The shared environment gives the students the opportunity to have friends. The students who love schools in the beginning of their educational life and make friends will not be bored of school life.

The poem “İthaf” addresses to the children who will be preschool students in the Satı Bey’s “Yeni Mektep”. Here is an ingenuity house and this house, which was created with knowledge and culture, has an important value. The poet wants his son to love his house, play with his siblings, and learn by playing. “Şermin’s idea will arouse, have wings, and will fly high places” in this house. (Tevfik Fikret, 1946: 2) Learning by playing that Tevfik Fikret told is really significant. The preschool children have a tendency especially to plays and the learning ambience that is combined with plays will be more useful for them. The love for school is emphasized in the poem “Mahallebim ve Mektebim”. Şermin who says what she learnt one by one, perceive the school as a place that gives information and loves the school for the new things it teaches. That Şermin prefers school instead of the candies and sweets that children love is closely connected with the message that the poet wants to give:

Sizin olsun mahallebim...

Bana yetişir mektebim! (Tevfik Fikret, 1946: 7) (You can have the blancmange; my school is enough for me.)

There is advice in each line in the poem “Hasbıhal” that has been written for the students. The poet, who watches the students that go to school, remembers the hardships that they themselves suffered. New generation is very lucky. The students who are not short of blackboard, tables, and books have the chance to learn a lot from their teachers. Tevfik Fikret complaints about the low level of the education that they were lack of many things. The poet states that the new generation can be considered as small scholars when compared to his own generation and the children who read will know a lot and the poet believes that they will satisfy their desires and they will even go to the paradise. If people are idle and lazy, their future will be dark. The people who do not have a work will be hungry, whereas the people who work will satisfy his hunger. Tevfik Fikret, who gives importance to working, finishes his poems with these striking lines:

“Alet işler el övünür.”

Derler, her söze kanmayın.

İşitin de inanmayın!

El tutarsa yürür saban,

Eldir sabanı da yapan. (Tevfik Fikret, 1946: 25) (Do not be cheated the saying devices operate, strangers boast about this. If there were not hands, the ploughs are not made, the things that move the plough is the hands, too.) Tevfik Fikret, who presents the diligence as a principle in the poems that he wrote especially for the young, emphasizes the importance of diligence when the children are the matter. The poet reminds us the importance of education in the early age once more with this approach.

1.5. Other Messages

Tevfik Fikret broached different subjects in his book for the children *Şermin* and he aimed at educating children in his all poems whatever the subject was. The education and messages in the poems written for the children is of a vital importance in the period when the children's personality shapes. The poet tries to prepare the children for the world in which they will live by covering a subject in his all poems. The importance of strong family ties, loving the family members, superstitions, being clean, obedience, sharing, the vice of obstinacy etc are the subjects that Tevfik Fikret emphasizes in his poems.

Şermin was crossed with her sister in a bairam day and her feelings are told in the poem "Hediye". The poet gives us important messages for the all humanity with the character of *Şermin*. *Şermin*, who was crossed with her sister because she thought that her sister did not buy a present for her, becomes happy when she sees the present box that she prepared for *Şermin*. *Şermin*, who thinks that the present comes from another person at first, becomes happier when she learns that it is from her sister. The poem includes important messages in terms of strengthening the family ties:

*Beni ablam sever ancak
Böyle başka kim anacak?
Melek ablacığım benim;*

Sen benimsin, ben seninim! (Tevfik Fikret, 1946: 4) (Who loves and remembers me apart from my sister? My angel sister, you belong to me and I belong to you.) Tevfik Fikret, who gives science and wisdom prominence, wants the children to get education on superstitions. The education that *Şermin*'s brother gives her is told in the poem "Umacı", which is about the fears of the children. *Şermin*, who was frightened by the elders with the sentence "ogre is coming", learns that the giant, witch, and Satan are all lies. It is striking that her brother tries to make *Şermin* overcome the fears by living. When his brother, who gives *Şermin* a box with a latch, wants her to move the latch, the box bounces from her hand. His brother, who realizes that *Şermin* is frightened, tells her that the thing that made her afraid is just a handful of wool, a piece of paper, and wire. He advises not to be afraid of such small things. *Şermin* swears not to be afraid of such small things.

The poet emphasizes the real thing that we must frighten in the last two lines:

Aklı başında insanlar

Yalnız fenalıktan korkar!.. (Tevfik Fikret, 1946: 5) (Clever people are afraid of just the mischief.)

Keeping clean the areas that we live in or we use is a habit that must be given to the children when they are at their tender age. His poem "İş Salonunda" advises both the habit of cleanness and making use of the wastes. The children who get used to the handiwork with their teachers, they collect the clippings and collect them in a box. The things such as wood, paper, cardboard are collected in a safe with the will of the teacher. (Tevfik Fikret, 1946: 25)

Listening to advice is one of the messages that must be given to the students particularly before preschool education. The events that a naughty children face with are told in his poem "Arı Sokar". (Tevfik Fikret, 1946: 31)

Telling the truths and sharing are significant values to be gained for the children. In the poem "İki Yolcu", while two passengers are going to the town, one of the passengers sees a chestnut on the road and slows down. When his friend asks him why he slows down, he does not tell the truth. He tells him to walk and promise to catch him. On the other hand, the other countryman has seen the chestnut, too and understands his friend's intention. He runs and grasps the chestnut from the ground. A dispute starts between them. Meanwhile, a religious leader takes the chestnut and divides into two pieces. He gives one of the crusts to one passenger and the other crust to the other passenger. The religious leader eats the core of the chestnut and gives good advice: "A small greediness brings a lot of loss." (Tevfik Fikret, 1946: 38)

Games have a crucial role in children's world. While playing a game getting along with friends is a necessity for being compatible. In the poem that Tevfik Fikret tells about incompatible two friends, he punishes them by making them out of the game. In the poem "Oldu, Bitti", he tells us about two friends who cannot get along while playing because of their obstinacy, they cannot play anything.

These two friends cannot come to an agreement about what to play and then they cannot agree on the matter of priority. They spend time discussing, so they cannot play. (Tevfik Fikret, 1946: 38) As it is seen in every subject, being stubborn while playing can do harm people. On the other hand, people who are social and live in the society should learn to be compatible with his social and cultural milieu.

2. CONCLUSION

Tevfik Fikret is a successful pedagogue and poet, who knows children's world very well, can reach the level of the children. In addition, he is constructive, active and has positive effects on the students. The poems in his book *Şermin*, which includes the poems for children, compasses the emotions and behaviors that must be gained by the children who are in preschool education. The poet, who has a large spectrum of thematic poems in this book, aims at educating children about almost all subjects. While accomplishing his aim, he puts himself into the children's shoes. According to him the children are important, so he reminds them the requirements to be human being above all things. School love, the importance of working, the significance of love and listening to the advice from the old people, sharing and cooperation, the unnecessary fears arising from the superstitions are some of the themes that the poet emphasizes in his poems.

The poet gives importance to the universal values in the poems addressing to the young people. Patriotism, historical consciousness, the importance of education, the determination for struggle and promotion; moreover, being hardworking and deviating from the right way are the most common themes in Fikret's poems. That he has an optimistic outlook even on the worst events in most of his poems addressing to the young is remarkable. The reason is that Tevfik Fikret pins his hope on young people.

Tevfik Fikret, who wants the children and young people grow up as educated individuals, carried on his struggle in this path even though he was alone. He strengthened his struggle in the poems he wrote and spread to the society. The poet says "You will be alone in the way that you think is right" and it is clear that he himself adopted and carried out what he said in this sentence. In addition, He did not make concessions to anybody for his position and courageous saying.

The fulfillment of the expectations that Tevfik Fikret depicts in his poems is bound to the messages that will reach the children and young people. There are vital lessons for the children and young people in the Fikret's poems which address from past to future.

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Genişletilmiş Özet

Uzun yıllar eğitim camiasının içinde yer alan Tevfik Fikret, bir yandan mesleğini icra ederken bir yandan da yazdığı eserlerle çocukları ve gençleri eğitmeyi hedeflemiştir. Çocuğun dünyasını çok iyi bilen şair, çocuklar için yazdığı şiirlerde günümüz eğitim anlayışında da geçerli sayılabilecek eğitsel mesajlar verir. Çocuklara ve gençlere ayrıcalıklı bir önem veren Tevfik Fikret, onları geleceğin en nitelikli değerleri olarak görmüştür. Ülke kalkınmasında bu dinamik kitleye önemli görevler yükleyen Fikret, çocuklardan ve gençlerden bahseden eserlerinde modern bir eğitim sistemine ihtiyaç duyulduğuna işaret etmiştir. Şiirlerinde çağdaş, gerilikten uzak, hurafelerden arındırılmış bir eğitim anlayışının çocuk ve gençler üzerinde yaratacağı olumlu etkiye dikkat çekmiş ve öğretmenliği boyunca görev yaptığı eğitim kurumlarında bu ilkeleri yerleştirmek istemiştir.

Tevfik Fikret'in şiirlerinde işlediği konuların başında, gençliğe ait olanlar gelir. O, eskimiş zihniyetleri bütünüyle terk etmesini istediği dinamik gençlik grubunun, toplum sorunlarına yeterince eğilecek bilince erişememiş olmasının acısını duyar. Genç demek, “genç fikirli” demektir. “Genç fikirli” ise, yenilik rüzgârlarını içine sindiren, ahlâklı, yılmadan, usanmadan doğru bildiği yolda yürüyen, asla boyun eğmeyen, yaşamında yalnızca akli ve bilimi rehber edinen kişidir. Böylesine yüce vasıflarla donanmış “fikri hür, irfanı hür, vicdanı hür” gençlik, Tevfik Fikret'in umut bağladığı tek güçtür. O, kafasında hep, bir gün bu gençliğin dünyayı yeniden kuracağı düşüncesini muhafaza eder.

Oğlu Haluk'un doğumundan sonra Fikret artık huzurludur ve hayata başka bir gözle bakmaktadır. Şiir dünyasında, hayat felsefesinde, fikrî yapısının şekillenmesinde hep Haluk vardır.

Fikret'in şiirlerinde geçmiş tarihe olumsuz bakılmakta, kuvvetli bir vatan sevgisi işlenmektedir. Gözü ve kulağı gelecekte olan şair, geçmişe bağlanıp kalmanın ilerlemeye engel olacağını düşünmektedir. Gençlik, vatanına kötü gözle bakılmasına izin vermeyecektir. Şair vatani “dedelerin mezarlarının bulunduğu yer” olarak yüceltir. O mezar vatanın sembolüdür ve vatan, çalışkan insanların omuzları üzerinde yükselir. Tarihte yaşanan olaylara olumsuz bakan Fikret, bu olayları gerçekleştiren atalarımızı sahiplenmekte, hatta vatani dedelerimizin yattığı toprak olduğu için değerli görmektedir. Vatani sevmek, özellikle savaş zamanlarında vatan için ölmek anlamını taşır.

Nasıl ki gençler geçmişi dikkatle sorguluyorsa, gelecek nesiller de onlardan şüphelenecektir. Şair gençliğin atalarının yaşadıklarını unutmamasını öğütler. Gençler, yaşadıkları asrın bilimsel gelişmelerini takip etmeli, sürekli yükselmeyi hedeflemelidir. Tevfik Fikret, “yarının uzayının küçük güneşleri” olarak nitelendirdiği gençlerin birer birer uyanmasını ister. Gençlik, geleceği aydınlatacak, ülkeyi aydınlığa çıkaracaktır. Böylesine çalışkan bir gençlik, artık hayatının sonuna gelmiş yaşlıların da ümit kaynağı olacaktır. İnsan etrafına bakmalı, durumunu değerlendirmeli, içinde bulunduğu durumdan daha ileriye gidebilmek için çabalamalıdır. Bu, insana mutluluğun yolunu açacaktır.

Tevfik Fikret, yeryüzünün vatani, insanlığın da milleti olduğuna inanmış ve ancak böyle düşünülürse insan olunabileceğine karar vermiştir. Ne şeytan, ne de meleğin varlığına inanan şair, dünyanın ancak insanla cennete döneceğini vurgular. İnsanlığın kardeş olması fikrini hayal olarak gören Tevfik Fikret, hayal olduğunu bilse de bu hayale inanmıştır. Toplumun içinde bulunduğu durumu “mezar hayatı” olarak gören şair, sonunda parlak ve mutlu bir geleceğin olduğuna, akılla her saçmalığın yok edileceğine inanır. Tevfik Fikret, fennin toprağı altın yapabileceğine inanmıştır. Gelecek fikri şaire bilimi, çalışmayı, mücadele etmeyi çağrıştırılmaktadır. Babaları kimseye boyun eğmeyen gençler silkinmeli, üzerlerindeki tozu atmalıdır. Dünyada hem ferdin hem de milletin şerefle yaşayabileceğini vurgulayan şair, gençliğin atalarından devraldığı mirası canlandırmasını bekler. İnsan yaşayacaksa alni açık, başı dik yaşamalıdır. Gidilecek tek yol millet ve doğruluk yoludur. Doğruluk ve millet sonsuza dek yaşamalıdır. Gençlerin adımlarını doğru atmaları gerekir çünkü bugün atılan adımlar yarını hazırlamaktadır.

Tevfik Fikret, küçük yaşta çocuklara hitaben yazdığı şiirlerde yardımlaşma, okul sevgisi, arkadaşlık, temiz olma, söz dinleme, batıl inançlar... gibi eğitici mesajlara yer vermektedir. Tek başına çözülemeyen sorunlar, bir başkasının yardımıyla kolayca çözülebilir. Kendi nesline kıyasla yeni neslin küçük birer alim sayılabileceğini belirten şair, okuyanların çok şey bilip muratlarına ereceklerine, hatta cennete de onların gireceğine inanmaktadır. Boş duranın, tembel tembel oturanın geleceği karanlıktır böyle kişiler aç kalır.

Yaşanılan ya da kullanılan alanları temiz tutma, küçük yaşlardan itibaren çocuklara verilmesi gereken bir davranış tarzıdır. Söz dinleme, özellikle okul öncesi dönemde çocuklara verilmesi gereken mesajlardandır. Yalan söylememe ve paylaşmayı bilme çocuklara kazandırılması gereken değerlerdir.

Gençlere yazdığı şiirlerde bilimi ve akli ön plana çıkaran Tevfik Fikret, çocukların batıl inançlar konusunda eğitilmesini ister. Yetişkinlerin çocuklara batıl inançlar aşılmasını, onları korkutarak eğitmeye çalışmaları yanlışır.

Şair, yükselişin temelini kültüre bağlar ve medeniyete ulaşmak, milletteki kabiliyeti yaşatabilmek için annelerin eğitiminin önemini vurgular. “Annelerin mübarek bağı, medeniyetin en mukaddes cennetidir” benzetmesini yapan şair, kadınların eğitimini milletin ilerlemesinin temeli sayar. En geri ve en aciz millet, kadınlarını cahil bırakan millettir.

Ülkenin kalkınması ve ilerlemesini çok isteyen ve bu konularda endişeli olan Tevfik Fikret, şiirlerinde gençlere öncelik vermiştir. Çocuklardan önce gençlere seslenen şairin çağdaşlaşma ve demokratikleşme yolunda zaman kaybına ve beklemeye tahammülü yoktur. Bu açıdan şiirlerinde öncelikle gençlere hitap eden Fikret, onlara ciddi ve ağır görevler yüklemiş ve bir an önce bu misyonlarını yerine getirmelerini dilemiştir.