

“TREASURY” OF A FRENCH TURCOLOGIST: JEAN DENY’S UNPUBLISHED TURKISH DICTIONARY**

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Abstract: *Jean Deny, one of the founders of the Modern Turkish Studies, beside his numerous articles, is mostly known for his voluminous Grammaire de la langue turque (dialecteosmanli), for his chief-editorship during the preparation the Philologiae Turcicae Fundamenta as well as for his students as Louis Bazin and Jean-Paul Roux. A brief mention in the Memoirs of his life-long friend Zeki Velidi Togan about Deny’s endeavours to prepare a Turkish dictionary finally made us relocate the work in the BULAC Library in Paris which is kept in four drawers in the form of cards. In this article, we not only briefly present the author but also the physical proprieties, scope and the organisation of his dictionary according to a random sample.*

Keywords: *Lexicology, Turkish Dictionaries, Turcology, Jean Deny*

Bir Fransız Türkoloğun Dil Hazinesi: Jean Deny’nin Yayımlanmamış Türkçe Sözlüğü

Öz: *Fransa’da Türkoloji sahasının kurucu isimlerinden biri olarak sayılan ve çalışmalarıyla da Türkiye’de Türkolojiye yön veren Jean Deny (1879-1963), ilk baskısı 1921 yılında yayımlanan [Türk Dili Grameri (Osmanlı Lehçesi)] isimli eseriyile tanınır. Jean-Paul Roux, Louis Bazin gibi Türkologların yetişmesinde rol oynayan Deny’nin Türkoloji el kitabı Philologiae Turcicae Fundamenta’nın hazırlanışında öncülük etmesi ve eserin ilk iki cildinin baş editörlüğünü üstlenmesi Türkoloji sahasında yerini sağlamlaştıran bir katkı olarak görülebilir. Çalışmaları arasında kelimelerin kökenleri üzerine de yazıları olan Türkoloğun, Zeki Velidi Togan’ın anılarındaki bir ayrıntıya dayanarak yaşadığı dönemde bir Türkçe sözlük hazırlığı içerisinde olduğu öğrenilmiştir. Kütüphane taramalarımızda kendisinin yayımlanmamış, dört çekmece içinde fişler halinde duran sözlüğüne ulaşılmıştır. Bu çalışmada, sözlüğün bulunuşu ve fişlerin mahiyeti hakkındaki bilgiler üzerinde durulacaktır.*

Anahtar Kelimeler: *Sözlük bilimi, Türkçe Sözlükler, Türkoloji, Jean Deny.*

Introduction

French specialist of Turkish studies Jean Deny is a seminal figure both in Turkish and in French Turcology. His quasi-centennial Turkish grammar manual is still widely used. His concept of morphology and phonetics that he owes mostly to famous French linguist Antoine Meillet as well as his affinity with several languages enabled him to offer a comparative approach with a renewed methodology in Turcology. In this article, our aim is to highlight his endeavors in this field by studying his unpublished lexicological work, a Turkish dictionary which is both diachronic and synchronic in

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scope. To do so, we will first revise his intellectual trajectory and then analyze a modest sample of the dictionary.

1. Jean Deny's Short Biography

Jean Deny was born in 1879 as the second son of Polish H el ene Grudzinska and French exile Louis Deny in Kiev which was at that time one of the provincial cultural centers of Imperial Russia. Beside his father who was a teacher of French, he made his initial studies in Kiev and Odessa where he had learned apart from Russian, Polish and French, classical languages and German. In 1896, he left for France to attend the Louis-le-Grand High School in Paris so as to obtain a bachelors degree in Philosophy. At the turn of the century, he was attending both to the Faculty of Law and School of Oriental Languages (ENLOV) in Paris. In the latter institution, for classical Arabic, he had HartwigDerenbourg (1844-1908) as master, OctaveHoudas (1840-1916) for dialectical Arabic, Cl ement Huart (1854-1926) for Persian, Casimir Barbier de Meynard (1826-1908) for Turkish and Paul Boyer (1864-1949) for Russian. In 1903, he followed Antoine Meillet's (1866-1936) courses in  cole Pratique des Hautes  tudes. He was recruited as a translator of Oriental Languages by the French Ministry of Foreign Affairs in 1904. The same year, he went to Beirut as the translator of the French consulate where he stayed for three years. He was then transferred to Jerusalem, Tripoli of Syria and then to Anatolian provincial town of Maraş (Ak un 1994: 159-161; Hitzel 2008: 287; Szurek 2010).

After the death of Barbier de Meynard in 1908, he was invited to Paris by Paul Boyer, the administrator of ENLOV, to replace his former professor of Turkish. With this brusque change in his career, he devoted himself to Turcology and new linguistics. He became a member of Paris Linguistic Society (Soci t e de linguistique de Paris) and in 1911, he was appointed as professor of Turkish at ENLOV. He stayed in this institution until his retirement in 1949 –by the way, he became its administrator in 1938. He had two d tachements in his long career. During the Great War, he served as a translator for the French Army. And in 1926, he was invited by King Fuad of Egypt (1917-1936) to Cairo so as to prepare an inventory of Turkish manuscripts of the Royal Library where he stayed until 1930 (Deny 1930). In 1948, he was invited by Dean Acheson (1893-1971), during the heydays of the Truman doctrine, to establish the Turkish chair in the Department of Linguistics of the Georgetown University. After his return to France in 1952, he continued his career of eminent linguist to his death in 1963.

During his professorship, he initiated to the Turkish Studies among others Edmond Saussey (1899-1937), Claude Cahen (1909-1991), Maxime Rodinson (1915-2004), Bernard Lewis (1916-2018), Ir ne M elikoff (1917-2009), Robert Mantran (1917-1999), Louis Bazin (1920-2011), Jean-Paul Roux (1925-2009). His *Grammaire de la langue turque (dialecte osmanli)* (Deny 1921; 1941; 2012) which was ready for publication before the start of the Great War but published only in 1921 made him an authority in the field. The book was highly acclaimed in the newly established Turkish Republic where he was invited several times as an expert in linguistic matters. He prepared as well a long report in French about the 3rd Turkish Linguistic Assembly (Szurek 2010). He was also very active as the principal editor of the first two volumes of the first handbook of Turkish Studies, *Philologiae Turcicae Fundamenta* (Işıksele, 2014).

2. Unpublished Turkish Dictionary of Jean Deny

2.1. About the Dictionary: Physical Information and Location

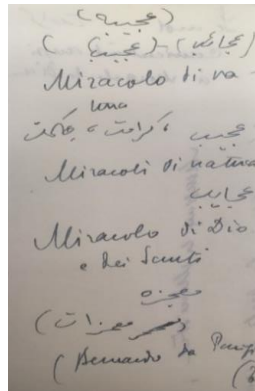
Deny’s keen interest in the nature and development of Turkish language not only as a professional translator but especially as a linguist makes somewhat expectable the preparation of a dictionary as a compendium to his grammar handbook. However, until its recent inventorisation, the dictionary was almost unknown. Neither his colleagues nor his biographers do mention it except Zeki Velidî Togan (1890-1970), a lifelong friend of Deny who in his *Mémoires* makes quite certain that the dictionary was in progress as early as 1924. When Togan was in Paris at that year, he had seen Deny preparing lexicological cards from Kaşgarlı Mahmud’s recently published *opus magnum* (Togan 1999: 465). What is more, the correspondence that Deny held with his colleagues –kept in the Deny-Basset fonds of Paris-BULAC –shows that he was preparing a dictionary as early as 1920s.

A rough calculation of cards makes us think that the dictionary covers *grosso modo* some hundred thousand notices. The cards are kept in four drawers of 60x80 centimeters each containing six columns (see Appendix 1). The drawers were transported in 1964 from Gerardmer to Institut des Études Turques (IET/Paris III University) by Louis Bazin, a former student of Deny and the director of IET along with the library of Jean Deny where they were conserved until 2012. Yhen for a while, they were kept in the Library of Ottoman and Turkish Studies of the College de France until their final deposition to the BULAC Library (Paris).¹

2.2. The Dictionary

2.2.1. Samples²

[Image 1]

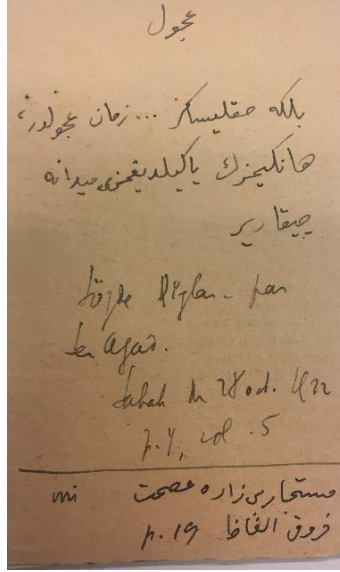


¹ Les fonds Basset-Deny, BULAC (Paris) [BULAC Library, fonds Basset-Deny], Jean Deny files pertaining to 1948. For a brief overview of this fonds. Benjamin Guichard, “Looking for Basset-Deny Collections. A research Project on French orientalist scientific archives”. Leiden, Maythe 30th 2015: https://www.melcominternational.org/wp-content/content/past_conf/2016/2016_papers/GUICHARD_MI2016.pdf (accessed 10 January 2019).

² While preparing the sample, so as to see the methodology of the author as well as the scope of the references used we had opted for a random selection of sequential cards.

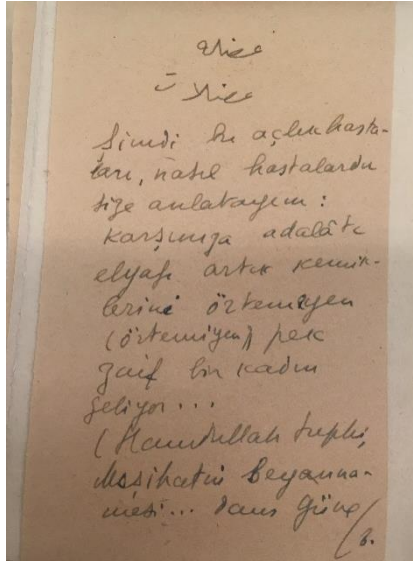
عجيبه: 'acibe: Miracolo di natura: 'acibe, kerāmet, hikmet; Miracoli di natura: 'acāyib; miracolo di dio e dei santi mu'cize (mu'ciz mu'cizāt) (Bernardo de Parigi).

[Image 2]



عجول: 'acul: Belki haklısınız... Zaman aculdür, hangimizin yarıldığını seyrana çıkarır. (Sözde Kızlar, perserāzād³ Sabah 28 Kasım 1922, p. 2, col. 5).

[Image 3]

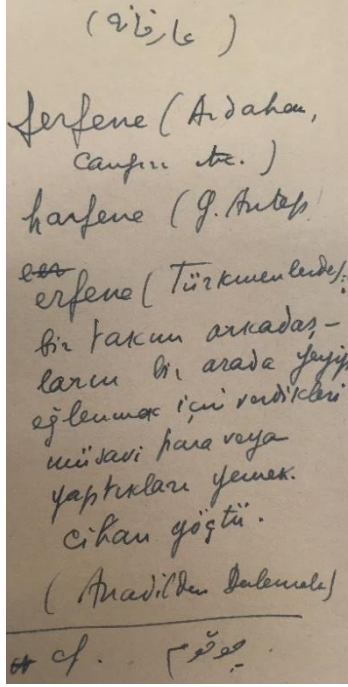


³ Peyami Safa's pseudonyme.

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عضله ; عضلات : ‘ađale, ‘ađalāte: Şimdi bu açlık hastaları nasıl hastalardır size anlatayım: Karşınıza adalāte elyafı artık kemiklerini örtemeyen (örtemiyen) pek zaif bir kadın geliyor... (Hamdullah Suphi, Meşihatın Beyannamesi... içinde güne B.).

[Image 4]



عارفانه : ‘arīfāne: ferfene (Ardahan, Çankırı, etc.) harfene (g. Antep), erfene (Türkmen lehçesi). Birtakım arkadaşların birarada yeyip eğlenmek için verdikleri müsavi para veya yaptıkları yemek cihan göçtü (Anadilden Derlemeler, Hâmit Zübeyr Koşay, (cf. çokum).

[Image 5]

عطار
من بعدن بوصولہ ساعتی
جام ، بلور ، ساعتی رمل
فروخت اید ، نقره عطار
وارد
(Evliya Çelebi:
I. 434, l. 12)

عطار: 'aṭṭār:Sanâyi'den pusula sâ'atçileri ve câm, billûr ve sâ'at-ı remil fürûht ider keferê attârları vardır (Evliya Çelebi, I. 434, l. 12).

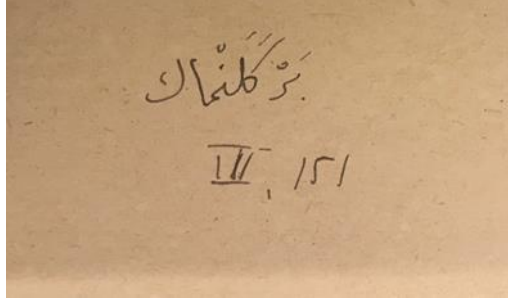
[Image 6]

(عطار)
aktar
gecen asırda kendi
kendini yetiştirip
Mısırda
aktar şarklı
dan Babîli cadde-
sine senelerce hâkim
olan ... ahîmet
Miṭhat ...
(Abdîbbek Adnan
Adnan, Bilgi &
Cumhuriyeti haber-
leri, 16/1945/8)

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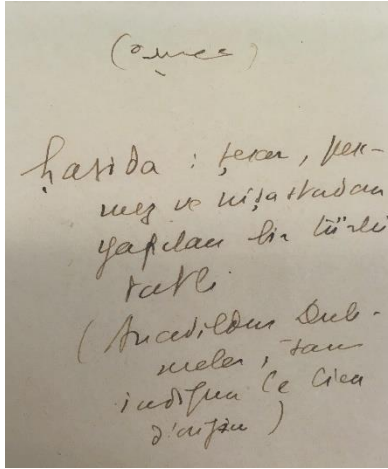
عطار: *atṭār*: Aktar, geçen asırda kendi kendine yetişip Mısır çarşısında aktar çıraklığından Babıâli caddesine senelerce hâkim olan... Ahmet Mithat...(Abdülhak Adnan Adıvar, *Bilgi Cumhuriyetinden Haberler*, 1945).

[Image7]



بركَلَنَمَاك :berkelenmek ~ bergelenmek⁴ (III⁵, 151).

[Image8]

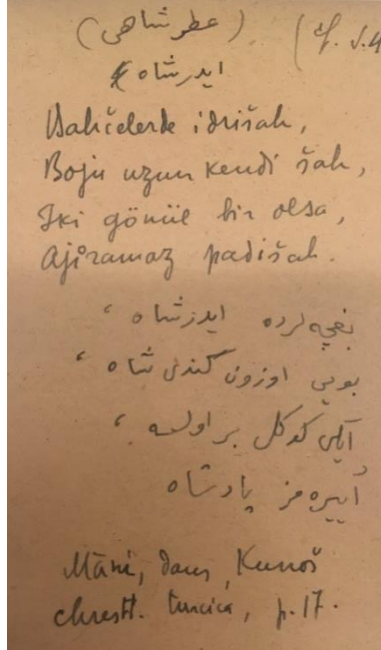


حصيده : *hasida* :*hasida*: Şeker, pekmez ve nişastadan yapılan bir türlü tatlı.

⁴ Since Deny had not transliterated the terms we have used both DLT editions: DLT¹=berkelen-: kanla dolmak; kamçı sahibi olmak (III, 202-3 Atalay IV 2006: 84); DLT²=bergelen-: kamçı sahibi olmak, kamçılanmak 533/433, bergelen-: damarlar kan ile dolmak 533/433 (Ercilasun & Akkoyunlu 2014: 583).

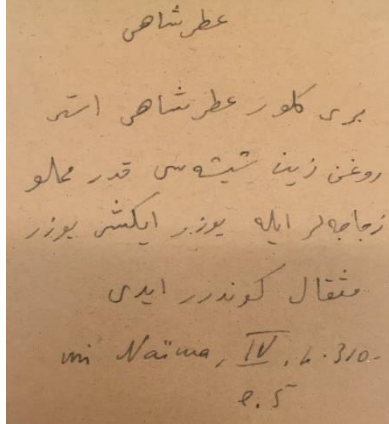
⁵ Here the references are to the first edition of the DLT.

[Image 9]



عطرشاهی: ایدر شاه; *ıtr-i şāhî, idrişāh*: Bahçelerde idrişah / Boyu uzun kendi şah / İki gönül bir olsa / Ajiramaz padişah (Māni, dans (*in*), Kunoš, Chresth [omatic] Turcica, p. 17).

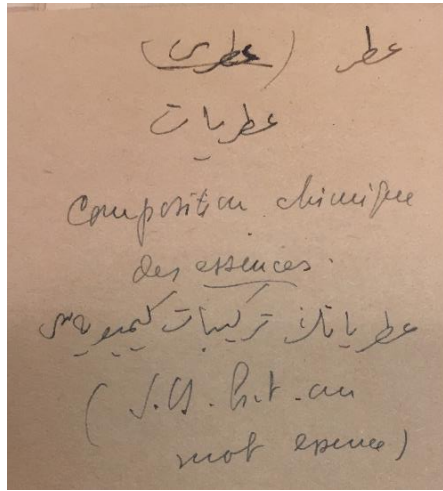
[Image10]



عطرشاهی: *ıtr-i şāhî*: Biri gelür 'ıtr-i şāhî ister revğan-ı zeytin şişesi kadar memlüzücäceler ile yüzer ikişer yüzer mişkāl gönderir idi. (Naima IV. p.310, l. 5).

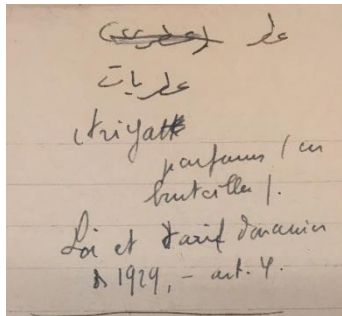
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[Image 11]



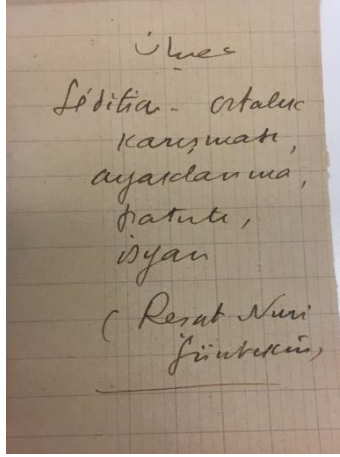
عطريات: *ʿṭrīyāt*: composition chimique des essences *ʿṭrīyātın ṭarḳībāt-ı kīmīyevīyyesi* (S[ans] C[onfondre] lit.[teralement] au mot essence [Do not mix up with the word *essence*]).

[Image 12]



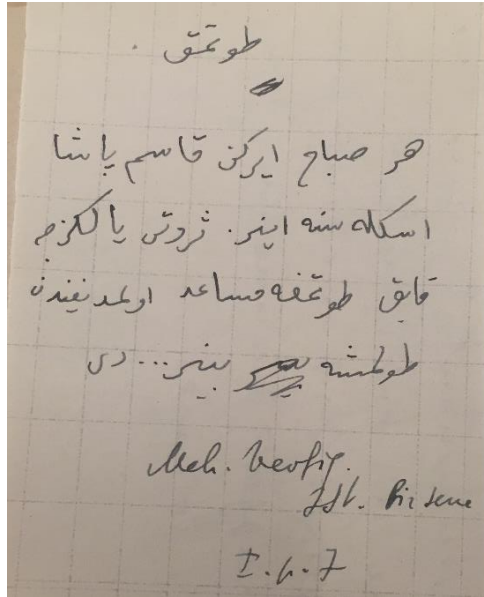
عطريات: *ʿṭrīyāt*: *ṭrīyat parfumes / en bouteille* [bottled] / (Loi et tarif douanier de 1929, art. y [Customs Act and Customs tariff of 1929, article y]).

[Image13]



عصيان : 'işyān : sédition [sedition]. Ortalık karışması, ayardanma patırtı, isyan (Reşat Nuri Güntekin).

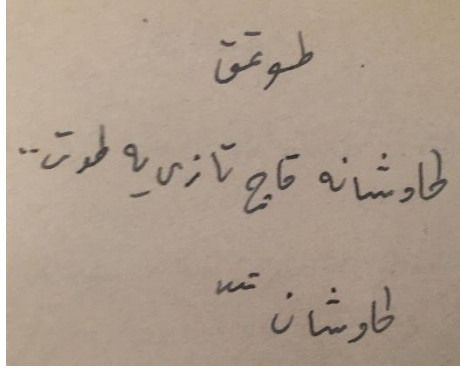
[Image 14]



طومتق : *tutmak*: Her sabah Kasımpaşa iskelesine iner. Serveti yalnızca kayık tutmağa müsa'îd olmadığından dolmuşa biner... di. (Meh. Tevfik İst. [anbulda] bir sene, [vol.] I, p. 7).

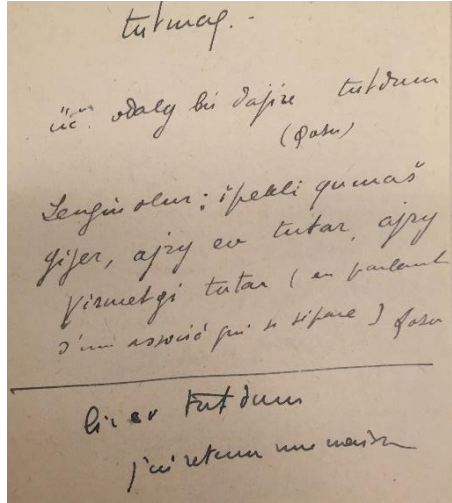
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[Image 15]



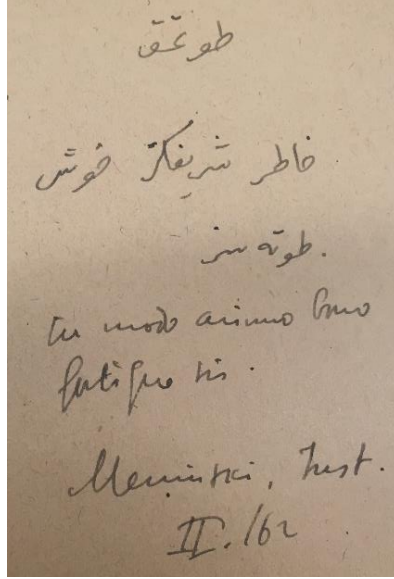
طومتق: *tutmaq*: Tavşana kaç tazıya tut.

[Image 16]



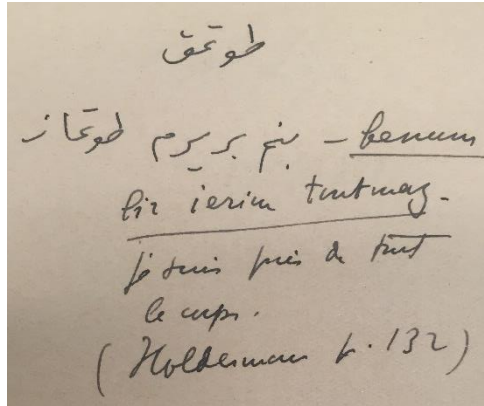
tutmaq: *tutmak*: Üç odaly bir dajiré tutdum. Zengin olur: ipekli qumaş gijer, ajry ev tutar, ajry hizmetgi tutar (en parlant d'un associé qui se separe [while talking a about an associate who quits]).

[Image 17]



طوتماق: *tutmak*: Hatr-ı şerifün hoş tutasız. In modo animo buono (Meninski II, 162).

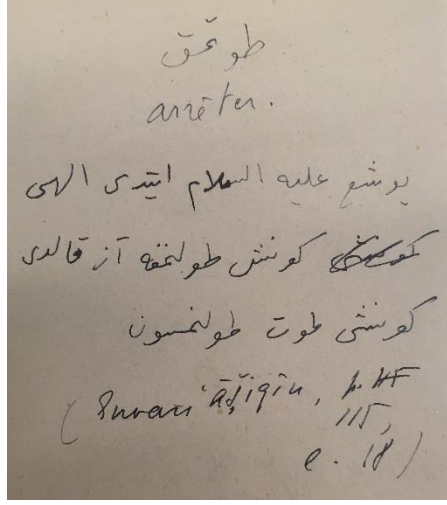
[Image 18]



طوتماق: *tutmak*: بنم بر یرم طوتماق Benim bir ierim tutmaz. Je suis pris de tout le corps (Holderman, p. 132).

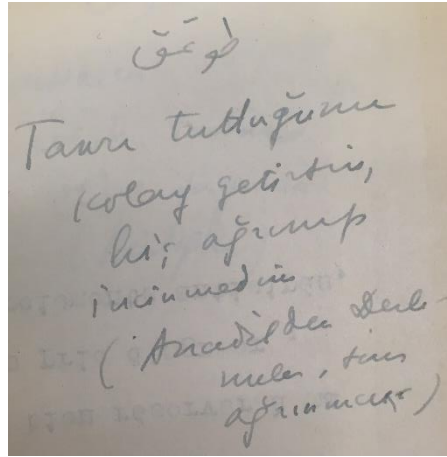
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[Image 19]



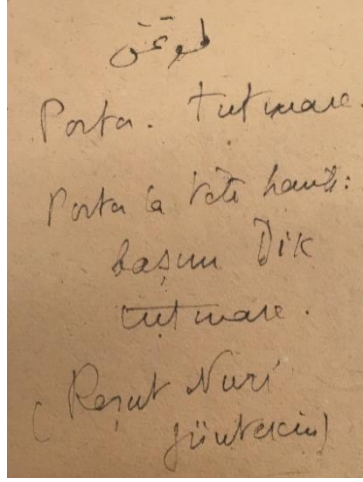
طوق: *tutmaq*: arrêter (to stop) Yuşa 'aleyhisselam eyitdi. İlahi güneş tolnmaga az kaldı; güneşi tut tolnmasun (Envâr-ı âşiqin, p. 115, l. 18).

[Image 20]



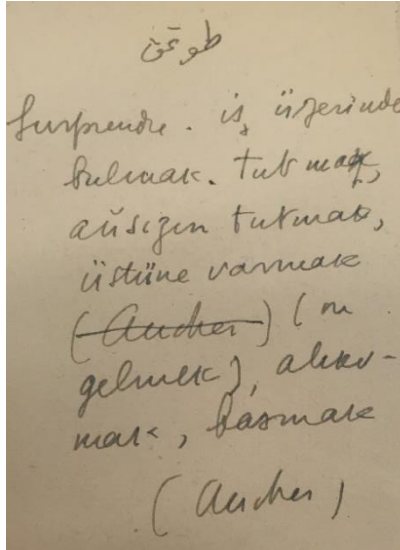
طوق: *tutmaq*: Tanrı tuttuğunu kolay getirsin, hiç ağrınıp incinmedim (Anadilden derlemeler dans (in) ağrınmaq Hâmit Zübeyr Koşay).

[Image 21]



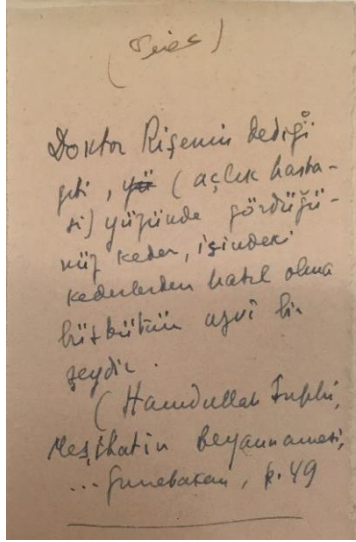
طوتَمَقْ: *tutmak*: porter porter la tête haute: Başın dik tutmak (Reşat Nuri Güntekin).

[Image 22]



طوتَمَقْ: *tutmak*: surprendre [surprise]: İş üzerinde bulmak, tutmak, ansızın tutmak, üstüne varmak, (-ne gelmek) alıkomak, basmak.

[Image 23]



عضوی: 'uzvî: Doktor Rişenin dediği gibi, (açlık hastası) yüzünde gördüğünüz keder, içindeki kederlerden batıl olma büsbütün uzvî bir şeydir (Hamdullah Suphi Meşihatî'nin Beyannamesi Güne Bakan, p. 49).

2.2.2. Analyse

The methodology of the author can only be fully given once all the cards will be informatised. However, judging from our sample, we can classify its properties (external data and form as well as content) as follows⁶:

External Data and Form:

1. Datation of the Dictionary: Judging from an entry from 1922 (Image 2) referring to a daily journal, Deny must have started to prepare it from the early 1920's on to the end of his life.

2. Language and Coverage of the Dictionary: It's a unilingual unidirectional dictionary, thus in Turkish. However, it covers lexemes at the latest from the 11th century AD and covers the evolution of the Turkish to the modern times, including the Language Reform of 1930's.

3. Size and Medium. Since it was in progress until Deny's death and thus was unpublished. No information can be provided for its intended size and medium.

4. Organisation of the Dictionary: Word to meaning.

5. The User's Language: Learners worldwide of the dictionary's language.

6. The Dictionary's Use: Encoding which is on the one hand using a word correctly and on the other, language teaching.

⁶ For this classification we had made use of Atkins & Rundell 2008.

Content:

1. Headwords:

1.1. Organization of the Headwords:

A brief survey of the cards and the drawers makes apparent that the dictionary is planned to be in alphabetical order, *i. e.* the Ottoman-Turkish alphabet. Still some remarks of Deny in the preface of his *Principes de grammaireturque* (“*Turk*” *de Turquie*) where he states that he endorses the Kemalist Reforms and that he envisages to review his earlier works accordingly makes also think that the final outcome would have been presented and published in Modern Turkish alphabet.

1.1.1. Inner Order of the Headwords:

The dictionary comprehends nouns (both singular and plural), adjectives, verbs as well as determinative groups. Judging from our sample of cards, Deny had the intention to offer truncated meanings of lexemes. However, we cannot foresee how he would have organised, hierarchised and presented homonyms and truncated meanings.

1.2. Selection of the Headwords:

Deny had opted to include the lexemes both in diachronic and synchronic manner (see. Images 7 and 12). He had eclectically chosen the scope of his dictionary and had not made limitations of period and type of reference.

1.3. Orthography and Pronunciation of the Headwords:

The headwords are given both in Arabic and Latin script. In order to render as accurately as possible, the pronunciation of a headword, Deny follows either of these methods: 1) If the lexeme is not from Modern Turkish or attested in that dialect, for instance from the *DLT*, he writes it down with its diacritical marks. But this indication concerns only neutral or infinitive form and not its conjugated forms. In some cases, where the pronunciation and orthography of a lexeme are not in uniformity, Deny writes it in characters moderns (see images 6, 9 and 12)

1.4. Grammatical Information about the Headwords

Judging from our sample, Deny had not distinguished the headword’s grammatical propriety – if it is noun, adverb, verb, singular or plural. He would have of course added up this information later but most probably he had not the intention to include this aspect.

2. Definiton

2.1. Contents of the definition:

Examination of our sample shows that Deny did not have, in the initial period, a well-defined system. In some cases, he offered a definition (Image 18), in some other cases he just made a quotation in order to highlight the headword. Thus, in this latter type situation, he made separate notices in order to give the homonyms or truncated meanings. In some cases, he gave also a short definition in French (Image 21). We may say that in the cases where he does not refer to another source, it’s Deny himself who made the translation to French (Image 22).

2.2. Sources used:

As précised above, Deny’s dictionary is both diachronic and synchronic. For this reason, he used several types of sources from the *DLT* to contemporaneous newspaper articles, law codes, literary sources *etc.* Although they are referencing is not strictly

methodical, the references are given as follows: if it exists the author, source’s identity, publication date, (when necessary) volume, page and line of the page. For references from the periodicals, Deny indicates as well the columns. However, in some examples, a part of these may be missing. Sometimes only the volume and page number are given (see Image 7). In some examples, there is no reference at all (see Image 15).

2.3. Script

Since the author uses illustrative quotations, the definitions are written according to the nature of the quotation: if the example is from the Ottoman times (or even before), they are given in Arabic script and in cases when the example is from the Republican period –and more precisely, after the Alphabet Reform– the definition is written in Latin alphabet. Occasionally, when Deny gives a definition in French as well, naturally these are written in Latin script.

Deny gives the headwords, definitions or quotations in Latin alphabet in three manners. He (1) transliterates according to the French system (Image 9), (2) cites directly from the texts published after 1928 and lastly (Image 20) and (3) quotes directly from the transliterated critical editions of Ottoman texts (Image 18). However, in some examples he confuses different forms of rendering (Image 3).

2.4. Further Information:

As in othersimilar type of works, Deny’s dictionary cover notes as in the case where they are used in order to implicate the secondary meanings of lexemes (*see* Image 11) or the references (*see* image 4).

Conclusion

A brief mention that we’ve found in Togan’s *Memoirs* made us search the otherwise unknown dictionary of Jean Deny. After having located the files in the BULAC Library, by using a small sample we tried to figure out Deny’s method while preparing his work. The primary finding is that Deny hadprojectedto prepare a practical dictionary with illustrative quotations. A headword is followed by the definition, then, more often than not, the illustrative quotation and finally the source of the quotation. In some cases, the signification is only given through the illustrative quotation. The fact that the lexemesare accompanied by illustrative quotations reminds us not only of *TaramaSözlüğü* but also more generally French dictionaries of erudition. One may safely propose that per its coverage of both synchronic and diachronic lexemes and its scope from *DLT* to the actual 20th century Turkish, Deny’s ambitious work is one of the most if not the most comprehensive Turkish dictionary to its date, albeit unpublished. These initial remarks will be furthermore substantiated with the gradual publication of Deny’s dictionary which with its huge scope will help the specialists to follow the intricate trajectories of words in Turkish and offer great help to the ongoing lexical projects.

Abbreviations

cf. :	Confere.	
DLT ¹ :	<i>Dıvanü Lûgat-it-Türk</i>	<i>cf.</i> Atalay, 2006.
DLT ² :	<i>Dıvânu Lugâti ‘t-Türk</i>	<i>cf.</i> Ercilasun-Akkoyunlu, 2014.

Signs

~:	Shows the truncated forms.
[x]:	Rendering in English of French terms

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Appendices

Appendice 1. Photography of one of the drawers



Appendice 2. Sources referred to by Jean Deny for the Dictionary

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