

An Overview of the 19th Century Armeno-Turkish¹ Periodicals in the Ottoman Empire: Genres, Themes, Approaches

Arif Tapan (Boğaziçi University, Andreas Tietze Memorial Fellow)

Abstract

Armeno-Turkish production, as far as we know, has been used since the 14th century and has been used in printed production since the 18th century, diversified considerably in the 19th century, similar to the production in other languages and alphabets of the Ottoman Empire, and became one of the main founders of the Ottoman press. By focusing on the Armeno-Turkish periodicals (newspapers, magazines, booklets [*risale, cüz, mecmua*] etc.) produced in the Ottoman Empire in the 19th century (1840-1900) and by reviewing the current Ottoman-Turkish press histories, this talk aims to reconsider the boundaries of the printing and publishing culture of the Ottoman Empire. Conceptual, genre-based and thematic pluralities of Armeno-Turkish periodicals produced in the 19th century and how to make sense of these publications in the continuity of cultural history today; where, how and why it will be positioned will form the main frame of this talk. The fact that many firsts related to both the 19th century Ottoman cultural production and Ottoman/Turkish literature, printing and publishing activities emerged in this century within the imperial lands, making focusing on the 19th century in detail a necessity rather than a choice especially when the both Armenian and Armeno-Turkish press was one of the main actors of the 19th century imperial press. Considering all these, it will be possible both to create an impression of the general appearance of the Armeno-Turkish press in the Ottoman Empire during the 19th century and to pave the way for some basic discussions about the various forms of relations that it can establish with the miscellaneous Ottoman-Turkish press histories.

Biography

Arif Tapan is a doctoral candidate at Boğaziçi University, Istanbul. He is working as a research assistant at the Social Sciences University of Ankara (SSUA). He obtained his MA degree in Cultural Studies at Istanbul Şehir University. For his doctoral project, Tapan inquires into the modern literary and cultural production of the Ottoman Empire by focusing on 19th century Armeno-Turkish periodicals. His research interests are modern Ottoman literatures, Armeno-Turkish literary production, the history of modern literary culture in the Ottoman Empire, 19th century Ottoman periodicals and modern Ottoman-Turkish novel. During his research, he received support from institutions such as the Turkish Language Association (*TDK*), Calouste Gulbenkian Foundation, and Padus-Araxes Cultural Association. Tapan, whose works have been published in both national and international journals, is at present 2022 Andreas Tietze Fellow in the Department of Near Eastern Studies at the University of Vienna.

¹ Turkish texts written in the Armenian script.