

**CHILDREN'S DOCUMENTS IN TURKEY UNTIL LETTER REFORM
(1869-1928)**

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Abstract: According to certain sources, the first children's magazine published in the world was Leipziger Wochenblatt für Kinder Magazine that published in Leipzig in 1722 and according to certain sources, Juvenile Magazine that published in England in 1788 was the first children's magazine published in the world. The first children's magazine published in the Ottoman Empire was Mümeyyiz Magazine published in 1869 by educator and journalist Sıtkı Efendi. With the renovation and change in Tanzimat Period, intellectuals of the period like the other European intellectuals thought that the people who will continue to the change and renovation are children and conducted a series of studies to contribute to their education. For this purpose they have started publishing children's magazines

In this study, the history of children's magazines, which have an important place in education, will be examined. Information about the first child magazines published in the world and especially in Turkey will be given. This study includes children's magazines that published between 1869, the date of publication of the first child magazine in Turkey, and 1928 when the letter reform was made. In this study, the magazines published in this period will be given in chronological order, information will be given on the topics covered in these journals, and examples will be given of the pictures used in these journals.

Key words: Children's Magazine, Ottoman, Turkey

Introduction

Child education is as old as history of humanity. However, today's child education has become a subject by transformation of information about human social and individual aspects into independent branches of science (Kıbrıs, 2011). All the oral and written products that enter and can give a shout to the children's world of thought and can affect their development positively are called Children's literature. The most basic aim of children's literature is to gain the love of reading to the children (Sever, 2010). The children's literature; while it was written for the adults at first, it has come to the fore by these letters have also begun to be read to

children (Kıbrıs, 2011). There is no any literary product written for children neither in Turkey nor in Europe until the 16th century. Up to this century that it is understood which the writing of the works aimed at children is required, in the Ottoman State as well as in Europe the children works are religious publications. Therefore, the works written for children in this period were aimed at giving children religious and moral education. The emergence of children's literature in Turkey comes to the Tanzimat reform era when the studies about the education are begun.

The most important area of the Children's Literature is undoubtedly Children's Periodicals. The first example of children's periodicals that meets the needs of children to learn current events and contribute to the promotion of their knowledge and culture levels is Leipziger Wochenblatt für Kinder Periodicals, published in Leipzig in 1722 according to some sources and is Juvenile Periodicals, published in England in 1788 according to some sources.

Children's periodicals published in Turkey between 1869 and 1928 which constitute the subjects of our study are; Children's periodicals published in Turkey between 1869 and 1928 which constitute the subject of our study are;

- 1 – Mümeyyiz (1869)
- 2 – Sadakat / Eftal (1875)
- 3 – Bahçe (1880)
- 4 – Çocuklara Arkadaş (1881)
- 5 – Çocuklara Kırat (1882)
- 6 – Vâsıta-yi Terakki (1882)
- 7 – Çocuklara Talim (1887)
- 8 – Çocuklara Mahsus Gazete (1896)
- 9 – Çocuklara Rehber (1897)
- 10 – Çocuk Bahçesi (1905)
- 11 – Musavver Küçük Osmanlı (1909)
- 12 – Çocuk Dünyası (1913- 1926)
- 13 – Çocuk Yurdu (1913)
- 14 – Çocuklar Âlemi (1913)
- 15 – Türk Yavrusu (1913)
- 16 – Çocuk Dostu (1914)
- 17 – Çocuk Duygusu (1914)
- 18 – Hür Çocuk (1918)
- 19 – Lâne (1918)
- 20 - Bizim Mecmua (1922)
- 21 – Musavver Çocuk Postası (1923)
- 22 – Yeni Yol (1924)

- 23 – Haftalık Resimli Gazetemiz (1924)
- 24 – Resimli Dünya (1924)
- 25 – Çanta (1924)
- 26 – Sevimli Mecmua (1925)
- 27 – Bizim Bahçe (1925)
- 28 – Gürbüz Türk Çocuğu (1926)
- 29- Annelere ve Çocuklara Salname (1927)

Mümeyyiz which has an important place in the development of children's periodicals in Turkey and has characteristic of the first children's periodical, has begun to be published by Sıtkı Efendi who is educator and journalist on October 15, 1869 (Mümeyyiz, 1869). Until the last issue of October 15, 1870, the issues of periodical which was begun to publish once a week on Fridays, was published in different colors. The one-year subscription fee for the periodical was 40 cents, the six-month subscription fee was 25 cents, the three-month subscription fee was 15 cents, and one copy of it was sold to 20money. There is also no picture in the newspaper which has no fixed number of pages. The topics covered in the periodical are the education and nurture of children. Although the language used in the periodical is serious, it is important in terms of that it is the first example of the children periodical publishing in Turkey.

Sadakat periodical which began one's broadcasting life on April 16, 1875, was became the second children periodical published after Mümeyyiz periodical (Sadakat, 1875). Sadakat periodical was published once a week on Sunday like Mümeyyiz periodical. The one-year subscription fee for the periodical was 20 cents, the six-month subscription fee was 12 cents, and one copy of it was sold to 10money. The periodical that language used in which is simple than the Mümeyyiz periodical does not have a fixed number of pages. The periodical are included the writings, stories and proverbs translated from foreign languages.

The Bahçe' Periodical which started to be published on October 22, 1880, started to be published in Istanbul once a week. Kemal Efendi name was given as owner of the periodical. When the periodical, which consists of eight pages, was first published, the one-year subscription fee was 35 cents, the six-month subscription fee was 20 cents, and one copy of it was sold to 40money. Then the annual subscription fee was reduced to 20 cents to increase sales. (Bahçe, 1883). Nowadays, there are twenty copies of the Bahçe Periodical. The Bahçe Periodical aimed to train children while they were entertaining, and for this purpose it gave translations from European countries.

Çocuklara Arkadaş Periodical, which was started to be published by Mehmet Şemsettin

on April 1, 1881, was published in Istanbul every fifteen days. The one copy of the periodical was sold to 50money (Çocuklara Arkadaş, 1881). There is no definite information about how many issues the periodical published, but Hakkı Tarık Us collection also has twelve issues. The target market of the periodical is school-age children as the name suggests. The language used in the periodical is simpler than the previous children's periodical published. Another feature of the periodical is that an animal is introduced at each issue and an animal picture is featured on each page.

Çocuklara Kıraat Periodical, which was started to be published by Mehmet Ziya in October 28, 1882, was published once in every fifteen days as total 18 issues. The one copy of the periodical was 40money. It is said in the marking tag "It is published once in fifteen days for the primary schools and young students" as the purpose of publishing the periodical. (Çocuklara Kıraat, 1882). The target market of the periodical is primary school students as is also understood from this sentence The whole issues of the periodical consists of eight pages. The main aim of the periodical is to gain children a habit of reading Turkish and to teach fun games that they can play on their holiday days. The writings written in Periodical are generally nameless. In addition to the writings given in the magazine, pictures are also included.

Nowadays, there are two copies of the Vâsıta-yi Terakki Periodical, which was published in Istanbul on April 13, 1882. As the author of the periodical, the names of Fahri, İhsan and İsmail names were given. The periodical consist of ten pages is published every fifteen days. The one-year subscription fee for the periodical was 25 cents; the six-month subscription fee was 13 cents, (Vâsıta-yi Terakki, 1881). The periodical's language is heavy and it have not been unobserved orthographic rules that children of target audience. There are also landscape picture in the periodical.

Çocuklara Talim Periodical which was published in Istanbul on December 30, 1887, now has seven issues. The owner of the periodical is Mehmet Şemseddin, who published the Çocuklara Arkadaş Peirodical before. The periodical, which was published every fifteen days, consists of eight pages. The one-year subscription fee for the periodical was 20 cents, the six-month subscription fee was 10 cents, and one copy of it was sold to 1money. Each issue of the periodical is published in different colors. Also pictures of different animals and plants were included on the cover page and on the other pages of the periodical (Çocuklara Talim, 1881). The purpose of publication of the periodical is to teach Turkish better to the school-age children. So that, the language used in the periodical is quite simple.

Çocuklara Mahsus Gazete which was published in Istanbul on Thursday, May 21, 1896, now has seventy-four issues. Tahir Bey named was given as owner of the periodical. The periodical, which was published once a week, consists of eight pages. The one-year subscription fee for the periodical was 12, 5 cents; the one copy of it was 10money (Çocuklara Mahsus Gazete, 1896).

The periodical has been published continuously for eleven years. The periodical also was included pictures that were now a tradition in children's periodicals. The periodical was the first periodical to use the name of girl by using the expression “Zükur ve inas etfâl-i vatan” (boys and girls children of homeland) in its marking tag, unlike the previous children's periodicals. The periodical has the feature of the longest periodical published in the Ottoman period.

The Çocuklara Rehber Periodical, which was started to be published in 1897 in Thessaloniki, has the feature of the first children periodical published outside of Istanbul. Ahmet Mithat name was given as owner of the periodical. The periodical, which was published once a week, consists of eight pages. The one-year subscription fee for the periodical was 20 cents, the six-month subscription fee was 12 cents, and one copy of it was 10money (Çocuklara Rehber, 1898). In the Çocuklara Rehber Periodical, which has an important place at the children's periodicals publishing in the period of constitutionalism, poems, stories, stories and news from the world were given. The periodical was separated from the children's periodicals with the aim of educating children and parents at the same time. There are sixty-one issues of the periodical in our archives.

Necati name was given as the owner of the Çocuk Bahçesi Periodical published in Istanbul on January 26, 1905. Twenty-two copies of the periodical, which consists of sixteen pages, have reached the present day. The one-year subscription fee for the periodical was 25 cents, the six-month subscription fee was 13 cents, and one copy of it was 20money (Çocuk Bahçesi, 1905). The aim of the periodical was to teach the children the information outside the information taught in the lessons.

The owner of the Musavver Küçük Osmanlı periodical which published in Istanbul on December 19, 1909, was Ahmet Şerif. The one-year subscription fee for the periodical was 33 cents, the six-month subscription fee was 17 cents, and one copy of it was 20money. The periodical, which was published in eight pages once a week, was published for the children who went to the school. In the magazine, various writings as well as student and teacher pictures are included.

The owner of the *Çocuk Dünyası* periodical which published in Istanbul on March 27, 1913, was Tefik Nurettin. The *Çocuk Dünyası* Periodical has been sold in the Turkish territories outside of the Ottoman borders, especially in Russia due to Tefik Nurettin was one of the from Azeri Turks. The one-year subscription fee for the periodical was 15 cents in the border of the Ottoman, 2 ruble in Russia and 5 frank in the other places. The *Çocuk Dünyası* Periodical was published as eight pages once a week. The periodical has adopted the slogan of "Helping the opening of the children's ideas" as its own purpose. Nowadays, there are 85 issues of the periodical and in the periodical; there were a lot of matters as well as pictures. (*Çocuk Dünyası*, 1913).

The owner of the *Çocuk Yurdu* periodical which published in Istanbul on May 29, 1909, was Mahmut Sami. The one-year subscription fee for the periodical was 12 cents, the six-month subscription fee was 6 cents, the three-month subscription fee was 3 cents, and one copy of it was 10money. Nowadays, there are two issues of the periodical. In the current fourth issue, the page count were seven while in the seventh issue, the page count were nine pages. (*Çocuk Yurdu*, 1909).

The owner of the *Türk Yavrusu* periodical which published in Istanbul October 09, 1909, was Gürbüz Alp. Nowadays, there are two issues of the periodical. The one-year subscription fee for the periodical was 10 cents, the six-month subscription fee was 5 cents, and one copy of it was 10money (*Türk Yavrusu*, 1913). One of the present copies of the periodical is seven, the other nine pages.

Mehmet Emin Yurdakul, who is one of the founders of the National Literary Movement, and defends nationalist, popularize views and one of the founders of the *Türk Yurdu Cemiyeti* and *Türk Ocağı*, wrote poems in the periodical.

Nowadays, there is a copy of the *Çocuklar Âlemi* Periodical, which was published in 1913. The one-year subscription fee for the periodical was 25 cents; the six-month subscription fee was 15 cents. The tenth issue of the periodical which only one copy in nowadays, has six pages. More stories were given in the periodical. (*Çocuk Âlemi*, 1913).

Çocuk Duygusu Periodical was begun to be published in Istanbul on June 19, 1913. The one-year subscription fee for the periodical, there are 32 issues in nowadays, was 15 cents, the six-month subscription fee was 8 cents, and one copy of it was 10money. *Çocuk Duygusu* Periodical, which was published once a week on Wednesdays, consists of 12 pages, all of which are colored (*Çocuk Duygusu*, 1913). In the periodical, riddles, games, stories and pictures were included.

Çocuk Dostu Periodical was begun to be published on April 23, 1914. The periodical was published once a week on Wednesdays. The one-year subscription fee for the periodical was 15 cents; the one copy of it was 10money (Çocuk Dostu, 1914). Since the periodical was published for the pre-school children, it used the slogan "Friend of the teeny-weeny children". Each issue of the periodical was published in different colors. There were pictures of children in the cover of the periodical. In the periodical, the stories, riddles, pictures, and point combinations studies in accordance with the pre-school children were included. In addition, a simple language was used in the periodical.

Lane Periodical was begun to be published in Istanbul on December 16, 1917. The one-year subscription fee for the periodical was 125 cents, the six-month subscription fee was 60 cents, and the three-month subscription fee was 35 cents (Lane, 1917). Lane Periodical, which has two copies in nowadays, consists of 12 pages. In the periodical, mainly the stories were included. The most important feature of Lane Periodical in terms of our children's periodical history is that it is the first children's periodical known to have been published after the 1. World War.

The names of M. Asaf, Hüseyin and Kasım were given as the owner of the Hür Çocuk Periodical, which was started to be published on 16 May 1918. The periodical was published once a week on Wednesdays. The one-year subscription fee for the periodical was 24 cents, the six-month subscription fee was 15 cents, and one copy of it was 5money (Hür Çocuk, 1918). Each page of the periodical which consist of twelve-page was colored and illustrated. Despite the language used in the periodical was simple, the subjects were serious for children.

Bizim Mecmua Periodical was started to be published by the Turkish Education Board of the Ministry of the Education on April 5, 1922. The price of a copy of the periodical published once a week on Thursdays was 5 cents (Bizim Mecmua, 1922). The Bizim Mecmua Periodical which published as 16 pages, was contained the stories, caricatures and a lot of information from history to physics.

Musavver Çocuk Postası Periodical was started to be published in Istanbul, in the year of 1923 when the New Turkish Republic was founded. The one-year subscription fee for the periodical was 150 cents; the one copy of it was 100money (Musavver Çocuk Postası, 1923). Musavver Çocuk Postası Periodical which consists of five pages was contained stories, poems and tales. The stories and tales given in the periodical were decorated with paintings and caricatures. The periodical, which is one copy in nowadays, consists of five pages.

Yeni Yol Periodical was begun to be published in Istanbul on April 05, 1923. Yeni Yol

Periodical was published once a week on Saturdays. The one-year subscription fee for the periodical was 120 cents, the six-month subscription fee was 60 cents, and one copy of it was 5money (Yeni Yol, 1923). The Yeni Yol periodicals which are 107 copies in nowadays consist of 12 pages. In the periodical, the news of many of places and the pictures of the school in the country were included. In addition, poems, stories, history, puzzles and travel notes were also included in the periodical.

Haftalık Resimli Gazetemiz began to be publish in Istanbul on November 13, 1924. The periodical was published once a week. The one-year subscription fee for the Haftalık Resimli Gazetemiz periodical was 500 cents, the six-month subscription fee was 250 cents, and one copy of it was 3money (Haftalık Resimli Gazetemiz, 1924). Unlike previous children's periodicals, the periodical determined three-month subscription fee as 40 cents for children, in order to children can buy the periodical. Today, there are five copies of the periodical which consisting of 3 pages. In the periodical, the stories, news from around the world, tales and pictures were included.

Resimli Dünya Periodical was begun to be published in Istanbul on December 04, 1924. The cover of and the pictures in the periodical which publish once a week, were publish in colored. The one-year subscription fee for the periodical was 250 cents, the six-month subscription fee was 125 cents, and one copy of it was 5money (Resimli Dünya, 1924). Nowadays, there are 21 issues of the periodical which consisting of 15 pages. In the periodical, the stories, caricatures, pictures and world news for the children were included.

Çanta Periodical was published in Istanbul, on July 31, 1924 in order to helping to orphan children. The one-year subscription fee for the periodical, which was published colorless, was 150 cents, the six-month subscription fee was 75 cents, and one copy of it was 3money (Çanta, 1924). Nowadays, there are three copy of the periodical which was published at once week as four pages. In the Çanta periodical, the poems and caricatures are mainly included.

Sevimli Mecmua was published by Süha Zekeriya on November 1, 1925. The one-year subscription fee for the periodical, which was published every fifteen days, on Thursday, was 250 cents, the six-month subscription fee was 130 cents, the three-month subscription fee was 75 cents, and one copy of it was 10money. Nowadays, there are seven copies of Sevimli Mecmua, which consists of 14 pages. The periodical was published with the slogan "Turkey's only children's periodical" (Sevimli Mecmua, 1925). In the periodical, which its cover was colored, the stories, caricatures, pictures, and news related to the children who living in

different places of the world were included.

Gürbüz Türk Çocuğu Periodical was started to be published in Ankara in October 1926, by Dr. Fuat Mehmet (Umay), who is the deputy of Kırklareli and the president of Himaye-i Etfal Society. The one-year subscription fee for the periodical was 200 cents; one copy of it was 10money. There was no a fixed number of periodical which published once a month (Gürbüz Türk Çocuğu, 1926). Gürbüz Türk Çocuğu Periodical was the publication body of the Himaye-i Etfal Society which was founded in 1908 in Kırklareli, and then continued its activities in Istanbul and later in Ankara with the establishment of the Republic. The periodical had worked on many topics such as health, education and training of children and has shaped their publications accordingly this. In line with this policy of the magazine, many doctors wrote about child health and explained in these writings to the families what should be done for the growth of children as physically and mentally healthy. There were also children's pictures in the periodical.

In well-known poets and authors Abdülhak Hamit Tarhan, Aka Gündüz, Yusuf Akçura, Falih Rıfkı Atay and Reşat Nuri Güntekin also wrote writings in the periodical.

Annelere ve Çocuklara Salname periodical was published in 1927 by the Istanbul branch of the Himaye-i Etfal Society. The periodical has been published once a year like other yearbooks in the Ottoman period. Like other publications of the society, the Annelere ve Çocuklara Salname Periodical had handle the subject such as the health, education and training of children. The periodical was 180 pages due to being published once a year.

Consequently; the first children's periodicals was published in Turkey a century after the first children's periodicals was published in Europe in the 18th century. The first children's periodicals in our country were far away from European contemporaries and today's children's periodicals. However, on the understanding that the people who will continue to innovate and change with the Tanzimat Period are children, a series of studies were carried out to contribute to their education, and for this purpose, the works was started in order to publish children's periodicals in European standards. These studies started to bring results with the Çocuklara Mahsus Gazete which was published on 21 May 1896, and Children's periodicals in European standards was started to be published in the country. Although western literature was influenced in the children's periodicals published in this period, a special importance was attached to the issue of having our traditions in these first published children's periodicals. When we look at the contents of the periodicals published in this period, it is emphasized that we should not take Europe as our example, but we also see

that the purpose of raising an ethical and hardworking generation is not overlooked. With the outbreak of the Balkan Wars, it is seen the contents of children's magazines have also changed. It is seen that in the matters of the periodicals published in this period, besides increasing the influence of nationalism ideas, illustrated stories and caricatures were more included in children's periodicals. With the outbreak of the First World War in 1914, experienced a shortage of paper in the country and children's periodicals were not published in that period. With the end of World War I, children's magazines was also started to be re-published. With the proclamation of the Republic, a publishing policy was followed in the published children's magazines in the direction of strengthening national love and national consciousness in general.

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