

## CAVIT ORHAN TÜTENGİL'S CONTRIBUTIONS TO THE FIELD OF COMMUNICATION STUDIES

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**Abstract:** The history of communications studies in Turkey does not date back to very old times. Just like in many countries, the field of communication studies in Turkey had contributions from the other fields of sociology and a literature has been constructed based on these studies. From this point of view, it is necessary not to ignore the fact that many intellectuals from different disciplines have carried out communication studies on a field, which had not yet been named, decades before producing studies specific to the field as of 1980s. Among the intellectuals mentioned within this context, Cavit Orhan Tütengil's contributions to the field of communication studies constitute the subject of this study. It is considered that this study will make significant contributions to the literature by revealing Tütengil's unrecognized contribution in the history of communication studies in Turkey by looking at his works.

### INTRODUCTION

Today, communication education in the faculty of communication of many universities in Turkey has been given in undergraduate, master and PhD levels. Communication education started with the foundation of Journalism Institute at the School of Economics in Istanbul University in 1950, and at the Media Academy, which was the first institution to have given a four-year education, in Ankara University in 1965. Accepting 1950 as a milestone, as of today the history of communication in Turkey dates back about 60 years and the literature of the field has reached a certain background throughout the elapsed time until today. However, while mentioning the history of the field, it is necessary to take into consideration the specific studies carried out within different fields of social sciences in terms of communication studies due to the fact that communication is an interdisciplinary field, and unearth these studies.

Works of many intellectuals have been studied until today within the context of their contribution to the field of communication studies and these contributions have been mentioned. In this study, Cavit Orhan Tütengil's communication studies and the subjects related to the field of communication in his other works will be analyzed.

### WHO IS CAVIT ORHAN TÜTENGİL?

He was born on 17 January 1921 in a town of Tarsus called Sebil as a son of a primary school teacher Ali Rauf. After graduating from Haydarpaşa High School in 1940, despite his right to enter the Faculty of Political Sciences with his ranking first, he chose the Department of Philosophy in the Faculty of Letters at Istanbul University and graduated from there in 1944. After a year from his appointment to Antalya High School, which is his first place of duty, he served as a soldier in Erzincan. After military service, he was appointed to Kepirtepe Village Institute first and then to Antalya Aksu Village Institute, and went to France for professional studies with the scholarship of Ministry of Education (1950-51) while continuing his service in Aksu Village Institute. He was appointed to Diyarbakır High School with his wife Şükriye Tütengil in 1952, after a year he became an assistant in the chair of Sociology in the School of Economics at Istanbul University. Having finished his doctoral studies with his dissertation called "Montesquieu's Ideas of Politics and Economy" in 1956, Tütengil became an associate professor in 1960 with his study called "Turkey's

Highways in respect to Society and Economy”. He went to England in 1962-63 academic year and worked in British Museum. He became professor in 1970 and he became a victim of an unsolved murder on 7 December 1979 when he was 58.

### **CAVIT ORHAN TÜTENGİL’S COMMUNICATION STUDIES**

Emre Kongar generally embodies the topics on which Tütengil studied on four focuses:

1. Problem of Method
2. the Concept of Being Underdeveloped
3. Turkish Thinkers
4. Atatürk and his Revolutions

As a scientist, Tütengil focused on the concept of being underdeveloped which he considered the most important problem of the society as well as his methodological studies for developing social sciences, and he believed that we could shape the future through making use of this treasure by studying about our social, historical and cultural roots especially in his researches about Turkish thinkers. Another study field which he touched upon is his understanding of Kemalism; this topic and his ‘theory of being underdeveloped’ has the quality of two complementary ideas; with the theory of being underdeveloped he diagnoses the topic and finds the solution with Kemalism (Ş. Tütengil, 1981: 5-6). Stating through a political economy point of view that the concept of being underdeveloped is a social and economic situation, he expresses that if the studies on underdeveloped societies were only economy-based it would create a deficit and cause misunderstandings, thus economical problems should be handled within the context of sociology and culture (Tütengil, 1970).

Tütengil touched not only upon theoretical approaches in his studies, but he also made research on applied field studies. He made biographical studies while studying on the thinkers, used various statistical data and questionnaires while analyzing the concept of being underdeveloped and problems of villages, he carried out archive reviews about the media. After analyzing every kind of local and foreign resources about every topic he studied, he combined theory and research as he supported his assumptions with field studies.

Within the context of the topic of this study, it is seen from the bibliography listed below, which includes his studies related to communication field, that Cavit Orhan Tütengil focused on journalism and media activities.

#### **Books**

- 1966-Diyarbakır Media and Our Regional Journalism (first edition 1954)
- 1969-Turkish Journalism in England

#### **Articles**

- 1961-Analysis Method of Newspapers and Journals (Istanbul University Institute of Journalism Questionnaire and Research Bureau Publication NO. 1)
- 1963-Regional Media in Turkey and Diyarbakır Journalism (Journal of Turkish Harsi and Social Research Volume 38)
- 1968-Sakarya Media (Sakarya Social Research Center Series A, No. 8)
- 1969-Turkish Journalism in England from Neo-Ottomans till Today (Publication of Istanbul University Institute of Journalism No. 11)

### **Reproductions**

1963-Turkish Journalism and Turkish Media in England

1965-Turki Journalism and Turkish Media Provincial Journalism in England

1966-Turkish Journalism and Turkish Media Provincial Journalism in England

### **Conference, Seminar, Symposium**

1968-Regional Journalism in Turkey (Anatolian Media Seminar)

### **His Writings in Periodicals**

1954-Art Pages in Newspapers (Varlık, 402, 1 January)

1958-Issues of our Journalism (Vatan, 28 March)

1959-Publications on regional media in various newspapers and journals in Turkey (School of Economics Periodical, XXI, October)

1960- Our Journalists on the 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Our Journalism of Thought (Kitap Belleten, I/2 December)

1960-Methods of Analysing Newspapers and Journals (Vatan, 28 November)

1961-Regional Media in Turkey: Diyarbakır (Yearly, 2, 28 November)

1963-Notes on Turkish Newspapers and Journals Published in England (Kitap Belleten, I (New Series) September)

1963- Turkish Journalism in England (Vatan, 19-20 August)

1965-Our Regional Media and its Problems (Cumhuriyet, 1 June)

1966-Journalism of Thought and Republic (Cumhuriyet, 20 May)

1968-Problems of our Media (Cumhuriyet, 28 April)

1968-Self-Assessment of the Media (Cumhuriyet, 4 June)

1969-Newspaper Prices and its Readers (Cumhuriyet, 9 April)

1970-Television Fly (Yeni Ufuklar, XIX/223, December)

1971-Institute of Journalism and its Problems (Cumhuriyet, 13 June)

1972-Problems of our Media (Cumhuriyet, 27 September)

1974-Our first Newspaper of Thought *Tercüman-ı Ahval* (Cumhuriyet, 10 May)

1977-Contemporary Radio- Principles of Television Broadcasting and its Importance for our Country (Milliyet Sanat Dergisi, 230, 6 May)

Among the above-mentioned list, it is necessary to mention those most comprehensive books related especially to the media. While one of the books which was published as a publication of School of Economics at Istanbul University where Tütengil was affiliated with is a study of local media touching upon the media of Diyarbakır, the second book is a study of Turkish journalism abroad which deals with a hundred years of Turkish Journalism activities in England between 1867 and 1967.

In his first book called **Diyarbakır Media and Our Regional Journalism** (1966), Tütengil explains why he chose Diyarbakır as:

*Diyarbakır is one of the important centres of our cultural history. Beside the significant figures it raised, that it has an 84 year-old newspaper made us analyse the city in terms of its media history.* (p. 5)

In this work, the writer presented the bibliography of Diyarbakır media by listing the places of publication, sizes, contents, mastheads, dates and periods of publication of the journals which was published in Diyarbakır such as Diyarbekir, Peyman, Dicle, Mücahid, Diyarbekirde Dicle, Yeni Dicle, Halk Sesi, Yeni Yurt, Halkın Dili, İç-Oğuz, Yeni Şark, Şark Postası, Demokrasiye Güven, Ümmid, Kelek, Sesleniş gazetelerini ve Kevkeb Medinho, Şifuro, Küçük Mecmua, Yeni Hilal, Talebe Mecmuası, Gençler

Evi, Dicle Kaynağı, Diyarbakir Kliniği, Kara Amid, Dicle, Tıp Gecesi, Karacadağ, and included another bibliography related to national media studies.

In this work in which his evaluations related to national and local journalism activities are included, Tütengil states that a classification could be made among newspapers whether they are newspapers of cities or villages according to the place they are published; partisan, biased or independent newspapers in terms of their dependence on politics; as of their world views newspapers dependent on the past and facing towards the future, and he also mentions that it is early to put the developing newspapers into a categorization. In terms of the contents of national newspapers, that the number of foreign news is more due to the fact that it is easy to get news from the agencies, on the contrary few news on culture appear, preferring those who would like to reflect the events rather than the issues through resource dependence in the news and tendency towards tabloidization of newspaper contents (including many serials of novels and naked women pictures in the newspapers) are mentioned by the writer as his criticisms (pp. 33-35). On the other hand, basing on the approach that newspaper which is “a section of social life” is “a public school” (p. 34), he states that publishing a newspaper should be an appropriate combination of “doing business” and “carrying out public service” (p. 37). In addition, Tütengil says that young people who are raised in Journalism Institutes and Schools should be given opportunities of service with reference to the statement that “no good income comes without necessary investments” (p. 38).

About the supervision of media activities, the writer who says that it would be more efficient to carry out self-assessment with job organizations and necessary to expect everything in accordance with the laws instead of foreign intervention (p. 38), by touching upon the impropriety of the defence that “the public wants that way” within the relationality between monopolization of property structure and the state of tabloidization in newspaper contents, expresses that newspapers should boost the public as the 4<sup>th</sup> power and make the best of every line of the newspapers (pp. 40-41).

Stating the fact that a complete and comprehensive history of media and archive studies is necessary for making evaluations about the journalism activities in Turkey, Tütengil made evaluations towards the fact that it is possible for local media to develop as a newspaper of thought in response to the tabloidization in national newspapers, despite the characteristics such as national newspapers have convenience of distribution and they can be published outside of Istanbul.

Cavit Orhan Tütengil starts his other journalism study called **Turkish Journalism in England from Neo-Ottomans till Today** (1969) with an introduction as follows:

*Turkish journalism outside of Turkey is a field upon which sufficient emphasis has not been put. In the second half of the 19<sup>th</sup> century, it has been seen that when the dialogues started by the intellectuals in Tercüman-I Ahval and efforts of creating a public opinion were tried to be prevented, the struggle was transferred to the overseas.*

and in this respect he defines foreign journalism activities as ‘a political action which was tried to have intellectual content’ (p. 1).

The writer states that he meant the countries which have never been under the rule of Turkey before and remained outside the political borders of 1867 Turkey when he said “outside of Turkey”, and *Muhbir*, which was the first newspaper published outside of Turkey and has the signature of Neo-Ottoman Fraternity, was published in England as carrying out press activities was easier there. Despite the close relationship between the opposing movement of the period called Young Turks and

French Language and Literature, the fact that French laws posed an obstacle and caused risks about publishing paved the way for this newspaper to be published in England.

In this work, Tütengil mentions the newspapers published between 1867 and 1967 such as Muhbir, Hürriyet, Girit, İstikbal, Hayal, Hamidiye, Hilafet, Osmanlı, Dolab, Kürdistan, Selamet, Abdülhamid, Sadakat, Türk Sesi, Kıbrıs Türk Sesi, El-Hakikat and Turkish newspapers published in England. Tütengil states that these publications were published by the journalists who ran away from Turkey, members of Turkish colony around big cities, institutions affiliated with Turkish government and members of private enterprises as they were against the regime of the day, and they had common characteristics such as financial difficulties, legal and political pressures towards the publishing houses, prohibition of releasing the papers in Turkey, publication of the same newspaper in different languages, change of discourse in the journalists because of the change in property structures and problems of technical team and equipment (p.109-115). Tütengil also says that, when compared to the examples in the world, the only way for those newspapers, which constructed a very rich cultural heritage, to make themselves accepted is possible through addressing those who look for the truth, touching upon social reality and enduring sacrifices in accordance with the aforementioned elements (pp. 116-117).

In many other works of Cavit Orhan Tütengil which do not have the quality of communication studies, the writer mentioned researches towards the field of communication and made evaluations towards those elements:

In his work called *Turkish Highways in terms of Society and Economy* (1961), he states that developments in highways opened up new horizons for the media industry thanks to the convenience in distribution and increase in circulation (p. 81), in addition, in his field studies related to the places where road conditions are good or bad, in accordance with the social and economic development criteria, he considers the number of publishing houses, local newspapers, newspaper sales rates and cinema as a variable (pp. 148-153).

In his book titled *Sociology of Being Underdeveloped* (1970), he touches upon one of the characteristics of underdeveloped countries that is ‘very fast social changes’ and presents ‘development of communication and transportation’ (and increase in the number of literacy rate, developments in education, gaining awareness and consciousness of the public through intellectuals) among the reasons of those changes (p. 130). Again in this book, in his evaluation of the primary subjects in the election campaigns of developed and underdeveloped countries in terms of political communication, he states the difference towards the fact that theological topics and personal accusations are touched upon in the underdeveloped countries while economic and social topics are discussed in the developed countries (p. 132).

The 90<sup>th</sup> question in Tütengil’s *Structure and Problems of Rural Turkey in 100 Questions* (1975) that is “What kind of changes happened in 1962-1968 about making use of the mass media?” and writer’s answer to that question shows that frequency of reading a newspaper, those who go to the cinema and basing on the numeric data showing the increase in radio audience from 1962 to 1968 are important indicators about making use of radio and cinema and his findings related to the fact that the rate of people who make use of the mass media increases as the level of socio-economic development of the regions improve are all evaluations of communication studies (pp. 158-159).

In “The Problems of Our Media” chapter of *Underlying Fracture* which is another book of Tütengil published in 1975, the writers state that with the

developments in press techniques, newspapers spread extensively, newspapers with visual elements inside took the place of newspapers with written elements and these newspapers want to be like those with visual elements, regional media had a difficult position against national media, and expressed his criticisms by saying “*in company with technical developments, the biggest danger of this type of newspaper which maximizes the place of photos by dismissing ‘writing’, directing towards pretentious exaggerations with the help of lottery and coupons, excluding the ‘writer’ day by day is that it is free of problems and irresponsible*”. In addition, he finds pathetic that this type of media is supported by the readers who are described by Tütengil as having a mental laziness and business worlds (pp. 188-193).

### CONCLUSION

Cavit Orhan Tütengil made significant contributions to the literatures towards communication studies intensifying in 1960s. Especially his journalism activities and his studies related to media history light the ways and keep lighting for many researchers. In addition, besides Tütengil’s contributions as a researcher, he himself sometimes carried out these media activities. He published with his friends a journal called *Değirmen* in 1942 when he was a student in university and a journal called *Çizgi* in 1953 when he was a teacher in Diyarbakır.

His evaluations carried out within the conditions of the period presents the well-directed visions of today’s current media problems. Topics such as supporting journalism education, local media’s adopting alternative publishing and the necessity of discussing the problematic that demand should determine the supply in the national media constructs the focus of the discussions in the field even today. Besides Tütengil’s direct contribution to the field of communication, his point of view in his studies with different titles which do not ignore the effects of the mass media upon society’s improvement presents the importance he gives to the communication studies which have become the major point of interest of this age thanks to the new communication technologies of today.

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