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REVIEW OF THE MALUMAT (NEWSPAPER) IN THE RESPECT OF SHAPE, CONTENT AND THE AUTHORS (THE COPIES 1-100)

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Özet

Malûmat gazetesi, 1895-1903 yılları arasında yayımlanan önemli gazetelerdendir. Saraya yakın olan gazete, devrin sosyal, siyasi ve edebi yapısı hakkında ipuçları verir. Bu çalışmada, Malûmat Gazetesi'nin ilk 100 sayısı esas alınarak; şekil, muhteva ve yazar kadrosu bakımından incelenecektir.

Anahtar Kelimeler: II. Abdulhamit, İstibdat Yönetimi, Gazete, Baskı Teknikleri, Yazar Kadrosu, Edebiyat, Siyaset.

Abstract

The Malûmat is one of the important newspapers published between the years 1895–1903. It is a newspaper in a good relationship with the Palace. It gives clues about the social, political and literary structure of the period. In this study, the format, content and writers of the newspaper will be examined in light of the first 100 issues of the newspaper.

Key Words: Abdulhamit II, Tyranny Government, Journal, Printing Techniques, Editorial Staff, Literature, Politics.

I. Introduction:

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The newspaper *Malumat* is one of the newspapers published during the period of Abdülhamid II. The newspaper provides clues about the political and literary structure of the period. Being in a good relationship with the Palace, the newspaper managed to survive for 8 years in a period when the government passed laws for censorship and prohibitions. The historical, political and literary background of the period should be taken into consideration so that the format, writers and content of the newspaper could be better understood.¹ In particular, despotism period of Abdülhamid II and the practices imposed on the media had a deep impact on the media and the political life alike.²

The *Malumat* started being published in between 1895–1903. It is necessary to know about the media and political life of the period in order to rightly assess the practices and publication policies during the years of its publication. Mehmet Tahir who had a close contact with the Palace and close relationship with Abdülhamid II was the head of the newspaper. The newspaper was also known as “*Musavver Malumat*” (*Pictorial Malumat*). It was mainly interested in literature and acclaimed by a wider public and even able to reach the people not only in İstanbul but also in different regions of the Anatolia and Balkans.

¹ During the period of Abdulhamit II, The Otoman Empire experienced difficult times. In addition to the fact that rebellion of Bosnia Herzegovania and Bulgaria appeared at the era of The Sultan Abdülaziz, the battle between Serbia and Karadağ broke out. During these years, both economic destruction and the intervention of Russia caused difficulties for the Empire. The Otoman troops were often beaten. Meanwhile, because of the problems in the National Assembly, Abdulhamit II who felt unfavoured due to the attitudes of non-muslim parliments closed the Assembly 13th, February, 1878 for an indefinite period. So, Abdulhamit II who ended the first Constitutional Government got the power to rule the Empire. (Armaoğlu, 1984: 1/58)

² During the period of Abdulhamit II, the press was in a difficult time. It should be stated that almost none of the newspapers survived. The reason was that the newspapers were either closed or disappeared for some time due to the effect of the despotism era. On the other hand, some other newspapers joined the press world. Some of them were published for Abdulhamit II and were never closed. And the newspapers published during that period were more powerful technically than those published during the period of political reforms. During the period of sovereignty which lasted for thirty-three years, a huge number of newspapers and magazines were published in various parts of the Otoman Empire and out of the Empire. The important ones of them were Hakikat, Hizmet, Abdülhamid, Nilüfer, İntikam, İrtika, Ahenk, Mektep, Mecmua-i Ebüzziya, Tercüman-ı Hakikat, Sabah, Osmanlı Gazetesi, Mizan, Meşveret, İkdam and Servet-i Fünün. During the period 84 newspapers and 69 journals were published. These were published in İstanbul, Theoselonike, Kairo, İzmir. The newspapers and journals most of which were published in İstanbul kept political and humorous features. When the constitutional government made its power stronger in İstanbul completely, the writers who weren't able to write in the country preferred to publish newspapers and journals out of the Empire. Meşveret (Ali Rıza), Mizan (Mizancı Murat), Osmanlı (Abdullah Cevdet and İshak Sükuti), İntika (Ali Fahri) were among them. Apart from these newspapers, a lot of newspapers published essays against Abdülhamid II. Abdülhamid tried to prevent them from being published cutting the financial support.

The Malumat which was highly influential during its years of publication was an address for some writers who were against the journal, *Servet-i Fünün*, and its ideas. So, there were always some arguments between the writers on both sides. The Malumat, the subject of many controversies³ during its years of publication, was one of the few newspapers which was able to keep its popularity.

It was first published by Mehmet Tahir⁴ between the years 1895–1903 in İstanbul. Mehmet Tahir, known as Baba (father) Tahir, was the owner and the editor of the newspaper. But in some issues Artin Asedoryan was shown as the head of the newspaper.⁵ The Malumat printed in Mehmet Tahir printing house consisted of 423 issues and 19 volumes. The newspaper having an incessant eight years of publication life was never subjected to censorship.⁶

³ The discussions starting around the story of '*Şemsa*' of Rezaizade Mahmut Ekrem and the discussions of new and old lasting long years in our literature are so important since they reflect the literary atmosphere of the era. The words used "*abes-muktebes*" in a poem published in the Malumat of a young poet, Hasan Asaf "*Is rhyme for the eyes ? , " Is rhyme fo the ears ?*" began. The discussion that began between Rezaizade Mahmut Ekrem and Muallim Naci goes back to the discussion of the old and the new. Besides, publishing of "*Şemsa*" written by Rezaizade Mahmut Ekrem in the Malumat led to a hot dispute between *Servet-i Fünun* and the *Malumat*. Rezaizade Mahmut Ekrem criticised the situation in the *Servet-i Fünün* and the dispute between the two publishers lasted a long time.

⁴ He was the owner and editor of the Malumat and was known by Baba (Father) Tahir. He lived in İstanbul between the years 1864-1909. There is no more information about him. As well as the Malumat, he also published the newspapers named *Mürüvvet*, *Mirsad*, *Minber*, *İrtika*, *Musavver*, and *Science and Literature and Fortune*. (TDE Encyclopedia, 1986, C.IV, s 222).

He was claimed to publish bad-intended newspapers and told people it belonged to Jonturks in Egypt and also informed Abdülhamid II and printed false token and patents by inviting etchers from Italy and sold them the Europeans. (Çapanoğlu, 1962:11) He was jailed because of the so-called crimes he committed and exiled to Trabulus. (1907) But he returned to İstanbul by the 1908 constitutional act of grace (Turkish Language and Literature Encyclopedia, 1986:222).

In the work of H. Ziya Uşaklıgil "*Forty Years*", the information about M. Tahir is as follows ; "*Real action card was really in Baba Tahir*". Who is that man? Where is he from? How has he appeared? Where did he get his power? Although nobody knew about this man and his past experiences who trembled İstanbul, everybody was sure who he was. He was quite handsome; tall with wide-body, lightening eyes, goldenmade-eye-glasses; he was told to be ignorant. But he was brave, his voice was quite noisy, he earned a lot and spent a lot, he was well-worn and lived in a car. All these were enough to be influential. He made the Palace believe that the Malumat had to exist and operate against *Servet-i Fünun*. Power was a necessity to stand against the writers of *Servet-i Fünün*, the leader of which was Rezaizade. It was Baba Tahir. (Uşaklıgil, 1969:423)

⁵ The owner of the newspaper was Mehmet Tahir . But it occasionally was changeable. Between the dates 22nd, February 1894-3rd, May 1895, the owner of the newspaper was Artin Asedoryan. This period lasted through 48 issues and the newspaper was published weekly. The essays of İsmail Safa and Tevfik Fikret were also published. (Değirmenci, 1994:31-32). Licence holder of the Malumat for the rest of the time was Mehmet Tahir. And from the 30th issue placed in the 2nd volume, the Malumat was again managed by Artin Asedoryan. But the writer and owner of the newspaper was Mehmet Tahir.

⁶ Though the reign of Abdulhamit II was full of pressure and censorship, the malumat continued to be published without any effects of censor for 8 years. It was because of Mehmet Tahir's close relationship with the Sultan. The essays for the Sultan were published in the Malumat. The Malumat was even

The Malumat also known as “*Musavver Malûmat*” had room for a lot of photographs of the eminent people and places in its years of publication. The illustration technique distinguished it from the other newspapers of the period.

The Malumat, a weekly-printed newspaper, was published in Turkish. Nevertheless, the newspaper most often included explanatory parts in Arabic, Persian and French. Although the Malumat was published in İstanbul, it had a large number of subscriptions at home and abroad. Yet, after Abdülhamid II was disenthroned, the number of the printing was recognized to have been reduced.

The essays of the most prominent writers of the period were published in the Malumat. Among these were Tefvik Fikret, Cenap Şahabettin, Ahmet Rasim, Yusuf Akçura, Hüseyin Cahit Yalçın, Ahmet Muhtar Paşa, Ahmet Mithat and Nazif Sururi.

The newspaper which best reflected the conditions of the period published news from home and abroad and enhanced the awareness of its readers on many issues. It was so rich in content. In addition, th Malumat, the source of many contraversies in its publication years, was one of the few newspapers making tremendous impact during the period.

A number of researches have been carried out on the Malumat in recent years. Among them are the essay titled “*Malûmat Mecmuası (the Periodical Malumat) and Muallim Naci Efendi*”⁷ written by Mustafa Keskin and a doctorate study titled “*Musavver Malûmat Mecmuası'nın 8-11 Ciltlerine Ait Edebi Makaleler ve Tahlili Fihrist*”⁸ (*Literary Essays in the Volumes 8-11 of the Periodical Pictorial Mulumat and Investigation of Catalogue*) by Sıdık Bıyık in 1979 and also postgraduate studies carried out at a couple of universities.⁹

among the newspapers which were supported by the sultan. Mehmet Tahir who was appointed as a clerk received salary, too. For some time Mahmet Thir could not get the salary and wrote the situation in the newspaper. Nevertheless, he was never censored.

⁷ The magazine of Turkish World Researches, The publications of the Turkish World Association, Nu : (6631/69), İstanbul.

⁸ Sıdık Bıyık , “ *Literary Essays and Index belonging to the Periodical Pictorial Musavver Volumes 8-11*”, Atatürk University, Pre-Doctorate study, Erzurum 1979.

⁹ Mustafa Sarı, “ *The bibliographies in the Malumat* ” Advisor: Himmet Uç, Dicle University, Social Sciences Institute, Diyarbakır 1992; Ali Değirmenci, “ *The Newspaper Malumat*” (1-24. issues) *Review and Selected essays*”, Advisor: N. Hikmet Polat Cumhuriyet University, The Social Sciences Institute , Sivas 1994. Mustafa Başpınar. “ *the Newspaper Malumat (25-48 issues) Review-Analyzing Index-Notional Essays related to Literature*”, Advisor: Turan Karataş Gaziosmanpaşa University, the Social Sciences Institute, Tokat 2006; Alev Bal, “*The Malumat (49-72. Issues) Analyzing Index-Review and Selected essays*”, Advisor: Zekeriya Başkal, Gaziosmanpaşa University, the Social Sciences Institute, Tokat 2007. The last three

In the study we will try to bring to the light the main features of the Malumat beginning from the first three volumes. Therefore, we will deal with the content, format and the writers of the newspaper.

II. The format features of the Malumat:

The Malumat was published between the years 1895-1903 in İstanbul. It lasted for 8 years and was published weekly. As the newspaper was printed in the printing house of Mehmet Tahir, possible defects were respectively reduced.

1. *Discussion on newspaper –Journal:* It would be better to start with the discussion whether the Malumat was a newspaper or a journal considering its format features. There are two conflicting ideas about the issue. Ali Değirmenci, in his master thesis, named the Malumat a magazine whereas Mr Değirmenci explained the reasons why he named it a journal as follows;

“The Malumat published between the years 1895-1903 described itself as a weekly pictorial newspaper. But the statement needed a bit revision in some respects. First, the first ten issues were published every ten days. However, taking into the consideration its readers’ demand, it was published weekly from the 12th issue. Second, the Malumat had the characteristics of a journal rather than a newspaper. Because it exceeded the limits in respect of size and content. Although a newspaper is accepted to be published daily, the Malumat was published weekly or once every ten days. So, it is better to name it a ‘magazine’” (Değirmenci, 1994:31).

In the Big Turkish Classics and Turkish Language and Literature Encyclopaedia, The Malumat was named a magazine as well. On the contrary, Hüseyin Cahit, in his *Memories*, and Mustafa Başpınar, in his master thesis on the Malumat, claimed the Malumat was a newspaper. Başpınar, in his study, explained the issue as follows:

“In our study, we observed that the Malumat was named either a newspaper or a magazine. Nevertheless, it had been introduced as a weekly pictorial Turkish newspaper servicing the national benefits of the state from the beginning.

According to us, the reason why the Malumat was called a magazine was due to its some features. The main one of these features was that it was later published weekly in spite of the fact that it was published daily at the beginning. Besides this, when examined in respect of content, the Malumat looked like a magazine. As the Malumat didn’t include some topical news and political columns but had scientific essays, it might be called a magazine. Despite all these reasons, we think the way the Malumat

studies were intended for the examination and formation of the Malumat and Index have been prepared by taking into consideration the volumes.

described itself is important. So, in the study, we preferred to name it a newspaper instead of a magazine" (Başpınar, 2006:37).

According to us, it would be better to name the Malumat a newspaper. Even if we take into consideration what Ali Değirmenci said for it to some extent, we should also take into consideration the conditions of the period when it was published. Nearly none of the newspapers which were published at the time when the the Malumat was printed was printed daily as the the Malumat was. It was also impossible to publish them daily due to the censorship imposed by Abdülhamid II. The essays in the newspapers could be published after they were checked and corrected. For instance; *Meşveret*, one of the newspapers published during that period, was published every ten days, *Mizan*, once a week, *Osmanlı Gazetesi*, every 15 days, *Ahenk*, twice a week, *İntikam*, every 15 days, *Hakikat* and *Hizmet* every 15 days. Besides these, the Malumat was known to be published weekly. "*Menafi-i mülk-i devlete hadim haftalık musavver Türk gazetesidir.*"¹⁰(*The Weekly Pictorial Turkish Newspaper Serving the Benefits of the State*). In some issues, this expression was titled as "*Menâfi-i mülk ü devlete hâdim haftalık musavver Malûmattır*".¹¹ (*The Weekly Pictorial Malumat Serving the Benefits of the State*)

Değirmenci claimed that the the Malumat also exceeded the limits of a newspaper in terms of content and size. At this point we should pay attention to the conditions of the period. Because intense pressure, censorship and the writers' moving abroad and dictatorship of Abdülhamid II had also a negative effect on the newspapers.

The newspapers of the period were not able to publish the essays about political issues. The newspapers which published those essays were either closed or censored. For this reason, the pages in the newspapers were full of scientific, military and literary essays instead of the ones on politics or ideas. Besides, the the Malumat was printed as 22-24 pages in each publication. In the same way, we could see the present newspapers with more than 24 pages.

Thinking of the newspaper as a new kind in Turkish literature, it would be best to call the Malumat a newspaper, not a magazine. Taking into consideration of all the conditions of the period, we also think of the the Malumat as a newspaper.

¹⁰The weekly pictorial Turkish newspaper serving the benefits of the state..

¹¹ The weekly pictorial Malumat serving the benefits of the state. Besides, The signs were placed on the cover-sheet of each issue.

2. *Composition of the cover-sheet:* The front composition of the newspaper was generally arranged the same. From right to left, the number of the issue, Mohammedan era, name of the day, the solar date, the number of the volume in Arabic letters and lastly the issue number in Latin letters were written on top of the newspaper. Below these was a figure formed with dark and thick shapes. On the figure the letters of the *MALUMAT* were nested. Just below the figure was the French expression *ILLUSTRATION TURQUE* and below the expression was the *MALUMAT* in capital and bold letters. But the situation was not the same in each issue. After the 59th issue, above the expression *ILLUSTRATION TURQUE* was “*Ümmet-i celile-i İslamiye ve millet-i necibe-i Osmaniye’nin her vechile menafi’ne hadim asar-ı kalemiyeye sahaif Malûmat her zaman küşadedir*”¹² (*The doors of the Malumat are wide open to every kind of work and their owners that serve the glorious Muslim people and the noble Ottoman nation*). On the right side of the expression were those statements in a circled and decorated form: “*Matbaa ve idarehanesi: Bab-ı Ali Caddesi’nde 52 numaralı dairedir (Printing House and Editorial Room: Bab-ı Ali Str No: 52) Umur-ı idare ve tahririyeye müteallik her nevi hususat için müdür ve muharrir Mehmet Tahir Bey’e müracaat olunur.*”¹³ (*For any thing regarding the editorial and administrative affairs apply to the head and writer Mehmet Tahir*).

On the left side of the figure, *Şerait-i İştira (conditions of purchase)* of the *Malumat* was explained within a framework decorated with forms. The newspaper described the conditions of purchase as follows:

*“Şerait-i İştira (conditions of purchase)
130 kr annually and 75 kr for 6 months for Der-Saadet on condition that it was bought in the printing house; 150 kr annually and 80 kr for six months for delivering it to the neighbourhood in İstanbul; 162 kr annually and 85 kr for six months for Vilayat-ı Şahane; 26 frank annually and 18 frank for six months for Memalik-i Ecnebiye; 12 rouble annually for Iran and Russia.”*¹⁴

Below the shaped-frame on the right was the expression “*Directeur et Redacteur Tahir Bey*”¹⁵ in French and below the shaped-frame on the left was “*Direction et Administration 52-Avenue Ia S. Porte-52.*” The number 52 in the end was not available in each issue. Just below these expressions between two thick columns was “*Devlet ve memleketin menafi’ne hizmet eder*”

¹² The doors of the *Malumat* are wide-open to the works and their owners that serve the glorious Muslim people and the noble Ottoman nation in all aspects.

¹³ Printing House and Editorial Room: address: Bab-ı Ali Str No: 52; For any thing regarding the editorial and administrative affairs apply to the head and writer Mehmet Tahir

¹⁴ The conditions of purchase stated above are from the cover sheet of the 56th issue of the third volume of the *Malumat*.

¹⁵ The head and editor, Tahir Bey.

ve haftada bir defa Perşembe günleri musavver olarak neşr olunur." (It serves the benefits of the state and the nation and is published weekly as a pictorial newspaper on Thursdays). The expression was not always similar in each issue.¹⁶ In the middle of the cover sheet was a photo and just below it were the explanatory statements about the photos. These statements were written in Turkish, Arabic and French respectively. But explanatory statements in Arabic were not available in each issue.¹⁷

Nearly each cover sheet of the *Malumat* was printed in colour. The photos of the pashas were generally on the front page. Besides, the pictures of the ships or the important places were also available. Nevertheless, there were no photos on the front pages of some issues. There were no photos in 5 issues, including 29th and 34th issues. So, the first pages were left just for essays.

Besides, the address and the price¹⁸ of the newspaper were available on the cover-sheet in Otoman and French.

3. *Page Set-up and supplements:* The newspaper was generally printed of 22-24 pages except the supplements. But there were some differences in page set-ups and in some issues. But the issues printed together had more pages. For example, 49-50th issues were printed of 40 pages. The *Malumat* would give the number of the pages under the title of notification placed at the end of each issue. However, there was no explanation why these issues were published together. The number of pages was less in the issues leaving more space for photographs. 54th issue was printed of 16 pages.

¹⁶ The *Malumat* was mainly published on Thursdays but rarely on a different day. The information was stated on the next page behind the front cover sheet as follows : "*It serves the benefits of the state and the nation and is published weekly as a pictorial newspaper on Thursdays.*" However, the other issues published on the other days were also available. For instance; the issues 2-4-6-8 and; 49-50 on Mondays and the issues; 10-11 on Saturdays were published. The 30th issue placed in the 2nd volume was published on Fridays. But some other issues were published together. These issues were published on a variety of days out of Thursdays. In those issues, there was some information saying: "It serves the benefits of the state and nation and is published weekly as a pictorial newspaper."

¹⁷ There was no any Arabic explanation under the pictures of some issues. The 54th issue is an example of this.

¹⁸ The *Malumat* was a newspaper which was read at home and abroad. The price of the newspaper changed a little. The first three volumes were sold for 100 Tr. The price was valid not only for the joint-issues. For instance, the joint-issues 10-11 in the first volume for 5 kr, and the issues 49-50 in the 3rd volume for 50 kr. Occasionally warning letters from the readers came due to the increase in the prices. The *Malumat* answered these letters in a polite and informing way. The price of the newspaper was usually printed on the front cover sheet. But in some issues, the price under the section of "*The Conditions of Purchase*" was not mentioned. The issues 51-56 are an example. The price of the newspaper was almost as much as the prices of those in Iran, Russia and in foreign countries. That the price occasionally varied in *Dersaadet* and *Vilayat-ı Şahane* came a surprise. As far as the conditions of the period are concerned, it is not possible to evaluate whether the price of the *Malumat* was high or not. Nevertheless, the increase in the prices of the joint-issues sometimes disturbed the readers.

This was explained in the notification section as follows: *"This issue consists of 16 pages and the note of a song from Matilda's novel "Laroş" is reported to have been added."*¹⁹

Each issue of the *Malumat* was not published individually. The issues 10-11, 31-32, 33-34, 35-36 and 49-50 were published together. And the page numbers of these issues outnumbered those of the issues published individually.

The *Malumat* had also a supplement section as well as the main section of 22-24 pages. The section generally known as *"İlave-i Malûmat"* (*Supplement of the Malumat*) was often given in some issues as *"İlave-i Mahsusa"* (*Special Supplement*), *"Hanımlara Mahsus Malûmat"* (*The Malumat for Women*). The page composition of the supplement section was just like on the front page. In the supplements were the same photographs taken from the front page of the newspaper.

Many announcements and advertisements were placed especially at the supplement sections. There were the advertisement pages in many issues of the 3rd volume and in the supplements of the issues. A three-page advertisement section was available at the end of some supplements. There were not any advertisements or announcements in the first issues.

The *Malumat* which was bigger in size in comparison to many newspapers of the period had the half size of the present newspapers. The newspaper had room for the essays of the well-known or unknown people and for the letters coming from readers. It was technically in good condition.

4. *Stripe and printing technics (printing lacks, printing characters, points and columns)*: The *Malumat* was no worse than its contemporary newspapers or magazines in terms of printing technique. In the *Malumat*, there were nearly no misprints; the essays were readable; it included handwriting texts as well as those written in Ottoman and Latin letters; annotations were carefully shown; the paper used and the print were of high quality. All these indicate how regardfully the newspaper did its work in terms of technique and format.

While some essays were printed in normal points, some were printed in quite small points. Small points were most apparent especially in the supplement section of the newspaper. Capital letters were generally

¹⁹ This issue consists of 16 pages and the note of a song from Matilda's novel "Laroş" is reported to have been added.

used in the headlines. Headings of the essays were most often ornate and apparent. Different styles were also tried out in some subheadings. The word “*Malumat*” was given in brackets and ornate in all the essays. The name “*Abdülhamid*” was written in bold and dark letters in a way to draw attention at first glance in a different style.

Essays were usually printed in three columns. However, there were differences in the number of the columns in some issues. The reason was the photographs placed on the pages. Page numbers followed each other. But there were misprints on the pages. On these pages, numbers were either not given or given incorrectly. For example, the page 46 was printed as 49 in the 51th issue. When the whole page was left for photographs, the page was given no number. So numbering resumed on the following page. There was virtually no printer’s error. Misprints and other flaws were corrected under the notification title of the issues.

5. *Pictures and photos*: being highly rich and versatile pictorial newspaper, the pages of the *Malumat* gave space to pictures, figures, signs and photographs. Therefore, it deserved the reputation “*Musavver*” (*pictorial*). The magazine, *Servet-i Fünun* of the period was also a pictorial magazine. However, the magazine had western style whereas the *Malumat* was oriental with its attention and point of view. The newspaper had room for the pictures and photographs of the oriental Islamic world, the photographs of the statesmen and the pictures showing the activities of the government. When examined closely, the western style of the *Malumat* can be better understood.

In the “*Sanayi-i Nefise*”²⁰ (*Fine Arts*) section of the newspaper were generally the pictures of the city, town, ceremony, pasha, animals, ship, canon and military uniforms. Apart from these were the pictures of dock, pier, school, mosque, and the photos of the women of the period famous with their beauties and sometimes of a tribal chief. Besides, we sometimes encounter the photographs of the wife of Tahir Efendi. The pictures and photographs were placed on the pages according to certain rules. The explanations about the pictures and photographs were given just under them. The explanations were Arabic, Turkish and French. But, Arabic explanations were not available in each issue.

The introductory essays about nearly all the photos in the newspaper were given under the heading “*Our Pictures*”²¹ at the end of the

²⁰ Fine arts

²¹ Our pictures.

newspaper. In this section was the information about all the photographs of that issue. These essays were published unsigned. The *Malumat* would receive letters of congratulation and admiration from the readers and other magazines and newspapers because of the photographs it published and published them, too.

However, some explanations about the photographs were given in French, which irritated especially the readers in rural areas. Therefore, they would send complaint letters to the newspaper. Hindizade Habib from the province of Diyarbakır reacted: "If *Malumat* was a Turkish newspaper, why was it then in French."²² But Mehmet Tahir established "*Reviyyet and Teshil-i Mesalih İdarehanesi*" (*The Editorial Room for Information and Support*) to serve the readers in rural areas.²³

Some of the photographs were related to an essay on the same page. But this was not the case with other photographs. Further, there existed no information as to why such photographs were printed. This arises the censorship in the minds. Some newspapers which were subjected to censorship and pressure of Abulhamit II filled the empty places with various photographs not censored. The *Malumat* was one of the few newspapers not censored. Therefore, the case was not most likely associated with the censorship. That is why the owner of the newspaper Mehmet Tahir was known to be in good relationship with the Palace. On the pages of the *Malumat* were too often the essays praising the Palace and the Sultan, photographs of many of the pre-eminent statesmen and pashas and the photographs of the canons and the guns belonging to the Ottomans. Similarly, the *Malumat* published the photographs of the newly-opened schools and even those of the activities held in these schools. Abdülhamid II attached much importance to education and established a lot of new schools. The *Malumat* published the photographs of the schools and the activities held there for the purpose of being in good relation with the Palace. In our opinion, psychological factors might high probably play a role in publishing those photographs. It was most likely for taking the attention and the interest of the readers. It was possibly for showing that the Ottoman state was in good condition in terms of military strength.

III. Content Features of the *Malumat*:

Publishing of the *Malumat* corresponded to the period of Abdülhamid II (1855-1903). During the period, the Ottoman state was in

²² *Malumat*, nr. 26, s. 583-584

²³ Başpınar, (2006: 49)

trouble with some internal and external events. Beginning with the Second Constitutionalist Period, the period of Abdülhamid II was replete with certain social problems and civil-external rebellions including the Crimean War in the lead. There emerged adverse conditions coupled with the Sultan's oppressive manner and the regime based on the concept of sleuthing. Censorship was imposed on the press like on other fields. Moreover, the period of Abdülhamid II was the one giving way to many innovations. Giving importance especially to ecclesiastics associations and Califate's office, Abdülhamid II also valued the education above everything. He opened new schools in Western standards, turning the Madrasahs into modern educational institutions. He turned the attention and the interest of the young to art and thought of the West. The situation having a deep impact on our social and cultural life led to the search for a new identity. All the reflections of this search could be seen in every walk of our social, cultural and artistic life.

Despite everything, Abdülhamid II overlooked the publishing of many newspapers and magazines in a controlled manner. The *Malumat* was one of the newspapers which created a tremendous impression. During the period, Mehmet Tahir's relation with the Palace, the owner and lead writer of the newspaper, also determined the publishing policy of the *Malumat*. The essays published by the newspaper did not disturb neither the government nor the Sultan. The name Abdülhamid in the essays was given in different ways. Thus, the *Malumat* introduced itself as: "*Menafi-i Mülk-i devlete hadim haftalık musavver Türk gazetesidir.*" (*The weekly pictorial Turkish newspaper serving the benefits of the State*). Beginning with the first issue, the *Malumat* laid much space for the essays about Abdülhamid II. The essay titled "*İfade-i Mahsusa*" (*Special Statement*) on the first page was remarkable in this respect. Even the newspaper criticized the persons and the media organs satirizing Abdülhamid II. The essay titled "*Envar-ı Hakikat*" (*The Glories of the Truth*) at the 31-32th issues in the second volume was therefore important. The essay published unsigned criticized the leading intellectuals of the period making a fuss for trivial events. It was emphasized that the Sultan did many important things during the period but the literati overlooked them.²⁴ The newspaper's close relation with the Palace also prevented it from being censored.

a. *The sections of the Malumat*: That the newspaper had room for informative essays for the readers matched up with the meaning of the name *Malumat*. It did not publish political essays depending on the

²⁴ Başpınar, (2006:51)

conditions of the period like every newspaper not to be affected by the censorship. It was its greatest difference from today's newspapers. The Malumat not dealing with political essays turned its attention to different subjects. It chose to inform its readers on literature, army, law, agriculture and medicine. Examples of poetry, theatre and story could also be seen.

The essays were gathered under different titles. The newspaper, not too often, began with opening and thank-you notes titled "*Mukaddime*" ya da "*Arz-I Şükran and Mahmidet*" (*Preface and Thanks*). It was announced in the introduction part that photographs, pictures and signs would also be mentioned as well as the essays to be published.

In the early issues of the Malumat the preface mainly placed on the second page is as follows:

"Bismillahirrahmanirrahim

Çok Yaşa Ey Saye-i Rabb-ı Kerim

Evvelinde besmele-i şerife zikrolunarak ma'ruz-ı bar-gah-ı Hudakılınan dua-yı vasıl-ı icabet-seray-ı Cenab-ı Kibriya olacağı (La-yürid-i dua-yı fi-evvele...) ilh. Hadis-i şerifi mail-i müinifinden müştebşir olmasıyla cümlemizin üzerine farz olan da'vat-ı hayriyye-i Hazret-i Hilafetpenahiye ber vech-i ma'ruz-ı tertil ve ifa ve buna terdifin şükran-ı ni'met ve ihsan-ı ilahi ve evsaf-ı kudiyet-i ittisaf-ı Cenab-ı hilafetpenahi zımnında neşide-i atiyyenin nakş ve imlası suretleriyle tezyin-i sername-i the Malumat ve tartib-zeban-ı musadakat-ı ayat ederek eda-yı ma-vücut-ı ubudiyet eylerim ki hayat-ı müstearı niam ve ihsan-ı Hazret-i veli-ni'met-i bi-minnetle hasıl ve kaim olup vücud-ı acz-nümudu hizmet-i mefruz-ı Cenab-ı Emir-l-Mü'minine mevkuf ve münhasır bulunan bu abd-i aciz için ne büyük feyz, ne ali fahr ve şereftir!"²⁵ (Mukaddime, Malumat, nr 1, s 2)

There was no introduction part in some issues. Some titles were also in disorder. Essays were not always given under the same titles. Some titles were not available in other volumes, either. Titles used in the newspaper were generally as follows: "*Asar-ı Seniyye (İradet ve Muvaaffakiyat-ı Celile-i Hazret-i Hilafetpenahi)*" (*Great Works –Great Success and Will*), "*Alem-i İslamiyet*" (*The Islamic World*), "*Ulum ve Fünun*", (*Science and Scholarship*) "*Fünun-ı Askeriyye*" (*Military Science*) "*Cavid-i Adliye*" (*Infinite Justice*), "*Edebiyat*" (*Literature*), "*Fenn-i Musiki*" (*Science of Music*), "*Kısm-ı Nisa*" (*Supplement for Women*), "*Teracim-i Ahval*" (*Translations of Conditions*), "*Resimlerimiz*" (*Our Pictures*).

²⁵ Bismillahirrahmanirrahim. God bless you! the shadow of the God. First, From the good news stating that praying will be accepted by the god by saying "Bismillahirrahmanirrahim" and intending beneficial prayings to caliph and blessing for the food and godness from the god and also writing of poems and decorating of the coversheet of the Malumat with verses and so performing of being a servant is a means of praising and an honourable service for this crock surviving his life with the goodness and blessing of the Caliph.

Apart from this, subjects such as biography, war, child rehabilitation, history, geography, medicine and agriculture were also published. At the end of the newspaper, letters of the readers and the explanations for the subscribers of the newspaper were given under the title of notification.²⁶ In this section were also puzzles, translations of some important French essays and translations of romances and theatres for the women.

The *Malumat* had a circulation not only in İstanbul but also in rural parts and abroad. Thus, its essays were chosen carefully. The content was decided considering its readers. It had also room for technical entertainments and puzzles as well as the informative essays. It mentioned about the events going on across the world. In this sense, the essays of the native and foreign writers could be seen. These essays sometimes ended only in one issue or sometimes went on in the following issues. A wide variety of essays on different subjects were also published. Essays, especially in the second and third volumes such as “*İslamların Tarih-i Harbe Ettikleri Hizmet*”, (The Contribution of the Muslims to the Great War), “*Osmanlıların Tarih-i Harbe Ettikleri Hizmet*” (The Contribution of the Ottomans to the Great War), “*Zaman-ı Hazır Kale ve İstihkâmâtı*” (Today’s Castles and Fortifications), “*İlm-i Ahlâk*” (Ethics), “*Fünun-ı Askeriye*” (Military Sciences), “*Fenn-i Mûsikî*” (Science of Music), “*Osmanlılarda Gemicilik*” (Maritime in the Ottomans), “*Arapların Medeniyeti*” (Arabic Civilisation), “*Âsâr-ı Memuriye ve Sanayi-i Nefisesi*” (Works of Architecture and Fine Arts), “*Osmanlı Silahları yâhûd Osmanlıların Fenn-i Eslaha ve Topçuluğa Ettikleri Hizmet*” (Ottoman Guns or the Service that the Ottomans Rendered to the Hoptology and the Gunnary) were published in series. Another important article series was about “Subject of Spelling”. However, this article series was written by various writers. There were also the letters of the readers about the spelling.

In the newspaper, supplements came in the end. In the supplement, called “*İlave-I Malumat*” (Supplement of the *Malumat*) were the conditions of subscription, letters of the readers, puzzles, crosswords, riddles and various advertisements. The answers of the puzzles and crosswords were usually given in the following issue. Even sometimes awards were offered for them. List of the names of the winners was also published.

Beginning with the first volume, a supplement for women began to be published. This supplement dealt with women’s problems, fashion and make-up. This supplement individually published in the first volume was

²⁶ Warning, announcement, reminding, remembrance, informing.

later published under the title of “Kısm-i Nisa” (Supplement for the Women) in the main sections of the following volumes. The section of “Kısm-i Nisa” was not available in each issue.

The advertisements were given under the heading of “*Muhaberat-ı Aleni*” (*Open Telecommunication*). In the advertisements was generally the information about the daily life.

b. Language and Literary essays: The *Malumat* had a literary character since it published literary essays rather than political and cultural news. Because the section of literature was given more space in the newspaper, almost each genre of literature such as essay, story, article, memory, poetry and translated works was dealt with in the section. Arrangement and order of the essays were often casual in the section. While in some issues poems outnumbered, in others literary essays did so.

Ghazels occupied a larger space compared with the other types of poems. Apart from this, in the first issues, verses, songs, folk songs, parallels, rhymless couplets, cantos, ballads and gasidas were also published. Prosody and couplet verse were usually used in these poems. However, stanzas and crotchets were rarely given place. While some poems were named in accordance with its theme, some were named according to their redifs (*The same words or appendixes consisting of the same letters repeated after the rhyme in the poem*). There were also some poems with no specific titles. These were given under the titles like ghazel, rhymless couplet and verse. There were also some comments about some poems published in the newspaper. Such comments were given just under the poem:

“İstemez
Subh-ı umman-ı sevda geşte-i Nuh istemez
Aşık-ı hak-aşına tasvir-i bî-ruh istemez
Köhne bir meyhanede bir hasır-ı câ eyliyor
Rind-i âli-yi dil olanlar bezm-i matrûh istemez
Mavera-yı perdeden seyreyliyor cânânı rind
Vâkıf-ı sırr-ı Hûdadır sırr-ı mevzûh istemez
Nuş-ı sahbadañ garaz mest u harab olmasa ger
Yâr elinden bir iki cam-ab-ı memdûh istemez”

Çatalcalı Memduh

Malûmat

İkinci beytin birinci mısraındaki “hasır” ne oluyor ? O hasır değil hasırdır. Yâr elinden bir iki cam-ab-ı memdûh istemez mısraı mevzun olabilmek için “câm-ı âb”

*"camab" okunmak lazım geliyor. Gayret ederseniz iyi şiir yazacaksınız.*²⁷ (*Malûmat*, nr. 26; s. 578)

Among the poets whose poems were often published were Andelib, Muhyiddin, Kıtazzade Nazım, Müstecabizade İsmet, Feraizcizade Osman Faiz, Mithat Bahari, and Abbas Haveri. Besides, poems of the young poets were often published.

The mostly published literary genre was the essay only second to poetry. These essays commonly dealt with Turkish literature, world literature and subjects of spelling. In the *Malumat* essays of many prominent figures such as, İsmet Celal, Mehmet Emin, Necip Asım, Nazif Sururi and Ahmet Mithat in the lead were published.

The essays, poems, plays, stories, theatre and translations of essays belonging to the world and Turkish literature were also published. Translations of the poems by the famous poets Victor Hugo, Lamartine and Foster and works of translation and poems by the prominent figures like Saffet-i Ziya, Ahmet Refik, Ahmet Rasim, Ali Kemal, Celal İns were published in the newspaper, too. Especially, translations by Saffet-i Ziya abounding in the third volume were also remarkable. In addition, the translation of the letter written to Guy de Maupassant by Gustave Flaubert was praised by the literary circles. Stories and theatres were mainly in the form of series. It was also possible to encounter Recaizade Mahmut Ekrem's "*Şemsa*" and Ahmet Rasim's stories. Correction and simplification of the spelling were dealt with in the section "Subject of Spelling."

The *Malumat* also carried the discussions on literature to its pages. Discussions beginning with Recaizade Mahmut Ekrem's "*Şemsa*" and the constant discussions going on around new-old in Turkish literature were of great importance as they reflected the literary atmosphere of the period. The words *abes-muktebes* in one of the poems of one of the young poets Hasan Asaf published in the newspaper started the discussion: "Is the rhyme for eyes?" or "Is it for ears?" This discussion beginning between Recaizade Mahmut Ekrem and Muallim Naci went back as far as the old-new discussion. The *Malumat* supported the view: "The rhyme is for eyes", taking side of Muallim Naci. Besides, it published the story "*Şemsa*" by Recaizade Mahmut Ekrem without his permission, which started a hot dispute between *Servet-i Fünun* and *the Malumat*. Recaizade Mahmut Ekrem

²⁷ "What is "hasir" in the first verse of the second couplet? It is not "hasir" but "hasır", which means "mat". In the line "Yâr elinden bir iki cam-ab-ı memdûh istemez" the word "cam-ab-ı" should be pronounced as "camab" to be metrically correct. You will be able to write good poems if you try hard."

criticised the situation in *Servet-i Fünun* and the dispute between the publishers lasted long.

Another section of the *Malumat* was "*Kamus'ul-Bedayi*" (*Dictionary, dictionary of beauty*). It began with the second volume (31-32nd issues) and continued to the following issues alphabetically. "*Kamus'ul-Bedayi*" was a dictionary of general character. The dictionary study was done by Kaymakam Rifat. The *Malumat* which mainly put emphasis on the language distinguished itself from the others with the dictionary study.

c. *Introductory essays*: The pictures on the photographs in the newspaper were published under the title of "*Teracim-i Ahval*" (*Translations of Conditions*). These essays generally carried biographic features. These essays gave an account of western writers, poets and their works. State translations of the Ottomans and foreign statesmen were made. They were published unsigned. Following this section, objects and architectural works on the photographs were introduced in the section of "*Our Photographs*" They were also unsigned.

The newspaper had also a section named "*Takdir-i Asar*" (*Introduction to the Works*). This section was not available in each issue. This section gave information about the newly-printed works and, in a way, promoted the books. These issues were usually unsigned and quite short.

d. *Political and Military Essays*: The newspaper published many essays about the military fields under the title of "*Fünun-i Askeriye*" (*Military Sciences*). The essays being in the form of series generally mentioned the art of shipping, military weapons, war and defence. Most of these essays were unsigned. Some were written by Miralay Ahmet Muhtar Pasha and Kaymakam Cabir Mustafa Bin Musa. Moreover, the newspaper spared place for the promotions of the works of Ahmet Muhtar Pasha about the military field. Mehmet Tahir's essay on "*Şimendifer Askerisi*" (*Military Train, Railway*) was published in the third volume and drew much attention. Most of the essays on this field were unsigned.

e. *Scientific Essays*: Another main title of the *Malumat* was "*Ulum u Fünun*." (*Science and Scholarship*). In this section many essays were published on the field of geography, philosophy, history and religion. Especially the series regarding Arabic Civilisation commonly written by M. Ekrem and F. İskender continued in a succession of volumes. The section giving place to a wide and different variety of thoughts about science, philosophy, history and geography occupied an important space in the newspaper. The essays about geography and history were mostly related to Arabs.

f. News essays and Advertisements: Much news about the period was available in the newspaper. It published many essays especially about the events taking place during the period and about the days of Festivals and Ramadan. It had also room for many notices and advertisements in many issues and in the supplements of these issues of the third volume. A three-page advertisement section was available at the end of some supplements. In the first issues were not any notices or advertisements.

g. Entertainmentt essays: These kinds of essays mainly consisted of puzzles, crosswords, and some drawings placed in the supplement section of the *Malumat*.²⁸ Most were, too often, unsigned. Further, puzzles by Ahmet Talat and Galip, Mehmet Emin, Muri Hirucu, Rifat Daniş and Rıza Tevfik were published in the third volume. Essays of Mehmet Süleyman about technical entertainments took place in the first volume.

h. The letters from the readers and contests: One of the most important features of the *Malumat* was its publishing the letters coming from its readers. It published many letters from the general public and abroad. These letters were usually about literature, criticism, will, price of the newspaper and spelling in particular. It proved that it had a significant number of readers from home and abroad. Moreover, it took a lot of appreciation and thank-you notes. It published them with a great care, too.

Another important feature of the newspaper was its holding contests. These contests were generally related to the literary fields. Announcement of the contests were given in the previous issue and the list of winners were released in the following issue. There was no explanation about the jury of the contests and how the works were evaluated.

IV. Editorial Staff of the *Malumat*:

The *Malumat* was one of the important newspapers of the period. Leader writer Mehmet Tahir's contribution was most for the newspaper to take an important role during the period. It had a large number of editorial staff as well as Mehmet Tahir. It published the essays of unknown people and readers as well as those of its own writers.

²⁸ In the entertainment section of the newspaper, there were many games and puzzles. Besides, technical entertainments were often added. "Roll a little newspaper into a stick then, pull the newspaper out of the stick without damaging the shape. Drill the newspaper in the centre. Light the two points of the newspaper. And approach the match to the smog and see the fire. Around the newspaper hydrogen mixing the fire." (Rifat Daniş nr. 49-50, s24).

One of the most important reasons why we encountered many different names in the newspaper was its publishing a wide range of subjects ranging from literature to military service, from agriculture to medicine and from history to geography. There were also the photographs as well as the essays. The people on these photographs including soldiers, lawmen, doctors, readers in the countryside and politicians found place in the newspaper for the publication of their essays. Thus it managed to have a great number of writers.

This allowed it to publish distinct and interesting essays. Nonetheless, it was not easy to collect information about all the writers whose essays were published in the newspaper. Surname law was not practised yet during its years of publication, which made the situation even worse. The people with the same name could be distinguished with their homelands like (Rifat from Halep etc.). So it was difficult to collect information about the writers whose only one poem or essay was published in all the issues. While some essays were published by coding only the first letters of the names, others were published unsigned. This made it difficult to collect information about the writers of the *Malumat*. Moreover, it was published between 1895 and 1903 and took its place among the press world one hundred years ago, which limited the information to be collected.

In his assessment of the 1st and 24th issues of the newspaper, Ali Değirmenci told that the first volume owed much to Mehmet Tahir and Ahmet Rasim. Although there was no publication in the first volume with the signature of Mehmet Tahir, in Değirmenci's opinion, most of the unsigned essays titled *Malumat* belonged to Mehmet Tahir²⁹. These essays outnumbered those whose writers were known.

The newspaper gave chance to the young writers, publishing their essays and poems. As we put it previously, it published the essays to resume the features of the Divan Literature. Critics about any poem were given just under the poem, but not in each issue. Essays of Andelip, Kıtazzade Nazım, Muhyiddin, Feraizcizade Osman Faiz, Müstecabizade İsmet, Necib Asım, Saffet-i Ziya, and Miralay Ahmet Paşa occupied a larger space in the newspaper. Some writers continued to write in the *Malumat* in a succession of volumes whereas others constrained themselves to only one essay.

²⁹ (Değirmenci, 1994:58)

The names of some writers whose essays were published in the *Malumat* are as follows: Kaymakam Cabir, Hüseyin Nazmi, Abbas Haveri, Muhyiddin, Yahya Hayati, Nazif Sururi, Ahmet Muhtar Paşa, Ahmet Rasim, Ahmed Kemal (Akünal), Mehmed Şeref (Akyurt), Cenap Şehabettin, Ali Rıfat, Mehmet Tahir, Midhat Bahari, Müstecabizade İsmet, Hüseyin Suat (Yalçın), Ahmet Mithat, Ali Kemal, Feraizcizade Osman Faiz, Tevfik Fikret, Yusuf Akçura, Rıza Tevfik, Mahmud Esad, İsmail Safa, Ebuzziya Tevfik, Andelib, Ali Tevfik, Saffet-i Ziya and Recaizade Mahmut Ekrem.

There were few woman writers in the newspaper. And the most well-known of them were Fatma Zehra and Leyla Feride whose essays were published in the 2nd volume. Fatma Zehra's essay '*Tahsis*' was published on page 767 in the issue numbered 33-34 and Leyla Feride's essay "*Mehtap*" on page 950-951 in the issue numbered 43. These essays were important in that they showed the women had also started writing during the period.

We can count the writers and poets taking place in the first three volumes of the *Malumat* as follows:

1. *Those whose essays on the military field were published:* Mehmet Tahir, Miralay Ahmet Muhtar, Mustafa Ebu Musa, S. Latifi, Kaymakam Cabir, Süleyman Nutki.³⁰

2. *Those whose essays on biography were published.* Asımzade Halil Rıfat, Kafkasyalı Celal Ali, Raşit, Saffeti Ziya, Yusuf Akçura.³¹

3. *Those whose essays on science, scholarship and policy were published*¹⁵: Abbas Cavit, Ali Sedat Bin Cevdet, Cabir, Cemaleddin, C. Hakkı, Ebu'l Enis Fehim, Ebuzziya Tevfik, Macit, Mahir, Mahmut Esat, Mihri, Mehmet Huşyar, Nazif Serveri, Rıza Tevfik, Mehmet Rıfat, Nurettin Ferruh, Şakir, Hüseyin Nazmi, Mehmet Nuri.

4. *Those whose essays on İslam and islamic societies were published:* Abdülnafi, Asımzade Halil Rıfat, Halit Eyüp, Halil Rafet, Hindistan muhabiri, M. Ekrem, F. İskender, Rıfat, Selanik muhabiri, Seydi Ahmet, seyyar muhabir, Zeynel Abidin Reşit, Ali Kemal, Emin Şükrü, İbrahim Rıfat, Mehmet Tahir, M. Vasıf, Zeki.

³⁰ Almost all the essays from different fields in the newspaper are published unsigned.

³¹ Most of the biographies are published unsigned. Especially the biographies in the 2nd volume were published unsigned.

5. *Those whose essays on geography were published:* Cemaleddin, Gustaf Asbirinhe, Hüseyin Hüsnu, Mahmut Esat, Halit Eyüp, Ahmet, Mehmet Arif.

6. *Those whose essays on law were published:* Yorga ki Efendi, Talat Beyefendi, T. S. Talat.

7. *That whose essays on medicine –health was published.* Şükrü Kamil.

8. *Those whose essays on music were published.* Zeki, Necip Asım, Ali Rıfat.

9. *Those whose essays on publishing policy of the the Malumat were published.* Mehmet Tahir, Nazif Serveri, Rodoslu Ali Bahar, Hasbi, Asım Şakir, B. A. Raciye, Celal İns, Emirzade Mehmet Bahaeddin, Ganimet Binti Rıfat, Hindizade Habib, İbrahim Ali, M. A., Sadi, Seyyar Muharrir, Ahmet Muhtar.³²

10. *Those whose essays on agriculture were published.* Ahmet Refik, İzmir Muhabiri.

11. *Essays of introduction:* They were generally unsigned. But in the 3rd volume, an essay describing the *Firavun House* was added.

12. *Puzzles –crosswords:* Most of the puzzles and crosswords in this section were also unsigned. But we see the essays written by Ahmet Talat and Galip, Mehmet Emin, Muri Hirucu, Rıfat Daniş, Rıza Tefvik and Mehmet Süleyman in 1st and 3rd volumes.

13. *Those whose essays on translation were published:* Hüseyin Şekip, Ahmet Refik, Andelib, Ahmet Rasim, Cemaleddin, Mustafa Ebu Musa, Nazmi, Osman Nuri, Rıza, Ali Kemal, Celal İns, Hatem Süleyman, İhsan Efendi, Tefvik Amir.

14. *Those whose review essays on criticism and literature were published:* Abbas Haveri, Abdülnefi, Ahmet Vazi', Ahmet Rıza, Ali Rafet, Ali Sedat Bin Cevdet, Ali Tefvik, Asımzade Halil Rıfat, Cemaleddin, Ebu'l Faruk G., Ebu'l Enis Fehim, Ebuzziya Tefvik, Hafız Şem'i, Halit Eyüp, Hüseyin, Hüseyin Daniş, Hüsnu, İhsan İlmi, İsmet Celal, Maciddin, M. Bahaeddin, Mehmet Emin, Mehmet Fahri, Mehmet Tarık, M. L., Mustafa Ebu Musa, Mirisli Kamil, M. Ziver, Nazif Serveri, Necip Asım, Osman Adil, Sadreddin Şükrü, Rıfat, Saffeti Ziya, Seferi, Seyyar Muharrir, Süleyman Şükrü, Tayyar, Tercüman Refikası, Ahmet Mithat, Ali Kemal, the Newspaper of İzmir, Mehmet Asım, Mehmet Rıfat, Mehmet Tahir, Müstecabizade İsmet,

³² The essays in this section were published unsigned as well as with the signature of the Malumat.

Recaizade M.Ekrem, Sadrettin Şükrü, S. Hayretî, Zaimzade Hasan Fehmi, Mehmet Şeref,

15. *Those whose poems were published:* Abdülvahab Gecrevani, Abdülrahim Ulvi, Ali Bahar, Ali Refet, Derviş Niyazi, D. L., Kıtazzade Nazım, Mehmet Emin, Mithat Bahari, M. Rıfat, Mustafa Cemal, Mustafa Ebu Musa, Nezih paşa, Raif Sezai, Şekip, Necip, Ali Rıza, Anber, F. T., Harabi, Mahrukizade Cafer, Ragıp Rıza, Abdülnafı Sami, Muhiddin, Rasim, Zihniye, Ahmet Kemal, Ahmet Reşat, Celal İns, Feraizcizade Osman Faiz, F. Bidar, Galip, İsmail Safa, Kazım Hanlı, K. Hayret, M. Mir Ali, M. Rıfat, Maciddin, Müstecabizade İsmet, Nüzhet Bahari, N. Vecdi, Rıfat, Seferi, Siret, Tepedelenizade Kemal, Ahmet Ali, Ali Sadi, Ali Rıfat, Rahim İleri, Hüseyin Şekip, İhsan Efendi, A. Galip, A.Fuat, A. Nadir, A.Necati, A. Remzi, Aziz, Bahaîzade Mehmet Suphi, A.C, Celal Paşa from Bursa, Cemal, Çatalcalı Memduh, Muzafferredin Kemal, and Sadi from Edirne, Faiz, Neşet, Emirzade M. Bahaeddin, Hafız Hasan, Hafız Şem'î, Hafid, Hersekli Arif Hikmet, Hocasade Hafız Müctebi, İşkodralızade Hasan Hakkı Paşa, K. Y., Mehmet Derviş, M. Rıfat, M. Selahattin, Muallim Fevzi, Niyazi, Recep Vahyi, Selanikli İhsan, Fikret from Servet-i Fünûn, Şakir, T.Fikret, Vakanüvis Lütfü, Veli Talip, Yusuf Serveri, Zaimzade Hüseyin Fehim, Selim Hemadanî, Mezkûra Müferredin, İsmetzade Doktor Mehmet Arif, Suphi, S.Sırrı, S. S., Somalı Kasım Şükrü, Ragıp Rıza, Nazmi, Mehmet Ali, K. Y., Kulaksızlı Süleyman, Edip, Tarık, Paçacızade Necip, Mukabbel, Mekki, Kıbrıs'tan Feyyazzade, Erzurumî Osman Feyzi, Bedri Ziya, A.Cemil, A. Galip, Nurettin Sami, Memduh, Kerküklü Kabil, Abdalrab, Yersi, Trablusgarp Mektûbi Hakkı, Sultan Selimiyeli Hamdi, Sırça, Sa'd Bin Necip, Rami, Ragıp Rıza, Nezih Paşa, Münif Paşa, Mustafa Cemal, M. Selahattin, M. Rağıp, Mehmet Kazım, Mehmet İhsan, M. C., M. Ali, Mahmut Celalettin Paşa, İrani, İbn-ül Hazer Rüştü, Hersekli Arif Hikmet, Ahmet Hamdi from Harput, Hafız Eyyubi, F. Y., Hamdi Rasih from Eskişehir, Çatalcalı Memdûh, Edremitli İhsan Nemci, Bir Müteşair, A.Safvet, Ahmet Mahir, Ahmet Envar, Hoca Mahir, Ahmet Kemal (Akünal), Mehmet Şeref, Cenap Şehabettin, Feyzi Efendi, Sadık Vicdani, Mehmet Celal, Hüseyin Cahit (Yalçın), Yümni.

16. *Those whose essays on the genre of memory were published:* İsmet Celal, Kazım Hanlı, Mustafa Ebu Musa.

17. *Those whose essays on literary essays were published:* Hisar, İbn Necip, Osman Nuri, seyyar muhabir, seyyar muharrir, Ahmet Rasim, Bedri Ziya, Celal, Fatma Zehra, Gazi Abdurrahman Halil Safi, Leyla Feride, M.

A., Mehmet Rifat, M. H. (one of the writers of the İzmir Hizmet Gazetesi), O. Galip, Sadi, V.V.

18. *Those whose essays on journeys were published:* Göksu muhabiri, Harabi, Hüदै, Seyyar Muharrir, Yenişehirizade Halid Eyyup.

19. *Those whose essays on letters were published:* Ahmet Enveri, Ali Rıza, Ebu'l Enis Fehim, Ebuzziya Tefvik, Bir Kar'i, F. İbrahim, Gustaf Abrinhe, Gustave Flaubert, Hacı İbrahim, H. Nazmi, Kazım Hazeni, Maciddin, M. Bahaeddin, Mithat Bahari, Namık, Nüzhet Bahari, Osman Nuri, Recihî, Selanik muhabiri, Von Der Goltz Paşa.

20. *Those whose essays on stories were published:* Ahmet Refik, Ali Remzi, Asımzade Halil Rifat, Cemalettin, Ebu'l Faruk G., F. İskender, Hüseyin Daniş, İbn Mahmut Asım, Maksutzade Mehmet Cemal, M. Bahaeddin, Mehmet İzzet, M. Nuri, Mustafa Ebu Musa, Osman Nuri, Osman Senayi, Paris muhabiri, Saffeti Ziya, Sait Bin Necip, travelling interviewer, Tayyar, Feraizcizade Osman Faiz, Abdülkadir from Gemerek, İbnil Hafız Rüştü, M. Ziya.

21. *Dictionary study:* Kaymakam Rifat.

22. *Those whose essays on history were published:* Kaymakam Cabir, Rusçuklu Cevdet, Yümni.

Conclusion:

Supporter of Abdülhamid II and Old Literature, the Malumat was a popular newspaper in its years of publication. But the number of issues was reduced after the dethronement of Abdülhamid II.

The Malumat was one of the few newspapers which managed to publish without a break in a period full of political struggles and domestic and international turmoils. Published between the years 1895–1903 and with a long-running publication, the Malumat owed its success to Abdülhamid II. It kept itself away from the policy at the request of Abdülhamid II. There were not nearly any political essays on its pages. It generally published many article series on medicine, agriculture, military service, history, geography, literature, philosophy and religion. Publishing news from many parts of the world, the newspaper was rich in content and editorial staff. Its giving place to a wide variety of subjects demanded the attention of the readers. Further, it published regularly the letters from the readers and soap operas and laid place for the women and held writing

competitions. All these allowed it to have a larger number of readers. Even, it could reach the readers in rural areas.

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