

# AN OVERVIEW OF MAPS IN TURKISH NEWSPAPERS

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## **Abstract**

*Over the years maps of various purposes have reached people in different ways. Written and visual media have very easily reached almost all people all over the world. At times, when written media technology was not so advanced newspapers and magazines had the main access to the people. So, the newspapers were one of the easiest ways to convey the maps to people. Therefore, the maps are very powerful visual tool in the newspapers. They make the contents more comprehensible for the readers.*

*The aim of this study is collecting, classifying and archiving maps' contents of 12 newspapers, which were published since the Alphabet Revolution of Turkish Republic to today. These newspapers were chosen according to their prevalence in the period. The study is being carried out using newspaper archives. One of the biggest and most important library which is named 'Atatürk Kitaplığı' in Istanbul. The newspapers have been examined one by one according to a program. The maps in the newspapers have been recorded by taking their photos. The maps and like maps have been examined and classified by the cartographic rules and their theme. The primary purpose of study is to archive the maps of the newspapers and to analyze their cartographic levels and to determine their roles in the news. Meteorology, natural disasters, elections, traffic, propaganda, vital statistics, divorce rates, violence to women etc. are good examples for the subjects of the maps in the newspapers. The basic purpose of the study is to prove the importance of Cartography to spread knowledge with maps in the news. This is study is unique so this factor make the study has an important role in the literature.*

**Keywords:** Cartography, History, Documentation, Archiving, Classification

## **INTRODUCTION**

Maps which can be considered as graphical representations of geographic information are one of the best communication tools used for the transfer of information. Maps act as graphical models of the real world with the information such as spatial relationships, location, direction, distance, height, neighborhood, continuity, structure, shape, hierarchy, density and size [1]. The newspapers have an important place in life by the conveniences they provide for the transport of current information for decades. A newspaper assigned missions to publish accurate, understandable and effective news, appeal to all segments, be neutral and reach the greatest number of readers from the day of publication. Accordingly, use of graphic elements is frequent in the newspapers in order to strengthen the expression and embody. Therefore, maps that have a good way to transfer spatial information and graphics are widely used in the newspapers to strengthen and improve the efficacy of the news.

Maps have found a place in the newspapers not only as a way to spread the news, but also as advertisement, art, comics and cartoons in which are complementary elements of newspapers. So, areas of the usage for maps vary according to the purpose of the newspaper.

In this study, a specific historical period, map and contents of 10 newspapers selected based on their circulation and political orientations are investigated from the date of publication till today for those which are still published; to the termination date of publication for that publication is ended. In this study, a specific historical period, map and contents of 10 newspapers selected based on their circulation and political orientations are investigated from the date of publication till today for those which are still published; to the termination date of publication for that publication is ended. The selected newspapers are: Cumhuriyet (1928-), Hakimiyet-i Milliye (1928-1934), Milliyet (1950-), Sabah (1980-), Star (1999-2012), Tercüman (1955-1994), Ulus (1945-1975), Zafer (1949-1960), Zafer (1952-1960), Zaman (1994-).

Mentioned historical periods include the time period between the Alphabet Revolution of Turkish Republic and today. The main objective of the study is cartographic analysis of the maps reaching the readers through newspapers constitutes in this period. Our primary aim was to investigate the usage of map in the most powerful communication tool for geographic information transfer, newspaper and to analyze of the design and cartographic elements.

In this context, analysis of what should be or not be the design of newspaper map, whether the spatial information conveyed depending on the cartographic theories, the existence of usage map tools or the accuracy of the usage of map tools were performed.

The final date of the study has been fixed in January 1, 2000 is web newspaper had been published. This is because, the web newspapers had started to published in 2000. This means, the format and style of the press technic had changed in this time. This improvement also affected the press style of the newspapers. So, this improvement describes a period to change the technic of the maps.

Especially the designs and types of the most commonly used maps are analyzed. Evaluation and classification of the archived maps, storage of the classified data in a database are also aimed in the study, which will provide important data for scientists from the other disciplines and for future studies. This study, which is estimated to be an important investigation for Turkey and world literature, is also thought to be useful for developing a different perspective on the present historical period.

## **EXAMINATION OF THE NEWSPAPERS**

The design a database for saving all maps and their related news of the newspaper is the main purpose of the study. Due to this reason, the examination part is an important part of the study. The examination is mainly being carried out in some newspaper archives. One of the most comprehensive and important newspaper's archive is in the Atatürk Kitaplığı in Istanbul.

Also, there are several places in Ankara and Istanbul and in the following day of the study, these archive centers will be visited to look for the destroyed and lost copies. The 10 newspapers have been examined mainly in Atatürk Kitaplığı because this center is one of the comprehensive archive center in Istanbul. In the library, the newspapers copies are kept as one or three months volumes and they can only be received from a library staff with petition. The petition is an ordinary procedure that must be applied for every researcher. These form must be filled to get every volumes. Every researcher can have 3 volumes at once and the volumes are needed to bring the staff after the examination to have another one. This rule many times makes researchers slower during the examination because the researcher needs to wait other volumes after finishing them.

In this library, the 10 newspapers' pages have been examined one by one according to a schedule of the research. The program includes 6 months historic interval because in the beginning, the study separated six months periods to present final reports. So, every newspaper's 10 or 20 years time period have been examined in these six months periods. In this direction, the examinations of six months periods of each 10 newspapers have been already finished. Currently, The archive examination of 4 newspapers which is named Zaman, Tercuman, Sabah, Star newspapers have been finished.

Taking photos saves these maps, which have been detected on newspaper. The photos carefully have been taken orthogonally to minimize photo distortion. The archiving process is needed to carry out in libraries that are saved unique and historic valuable pieces. Because of that the researcher cannot find easily the lost and destroyed copies. So, in this situation, there is another comprehensible alternative archive center in Istanbul called Istanbul University-Beyazit Kitaplığı instead of Atatürk Kitaplığı.

Beside some works in these libraries, some newspapers can be reached by Internet. However, the numbers of newspapers that can be reached in the libraries are more than online resources. So, there are just 2 Turkish newspapers called Milliyet and Cumhuriyet that can be reached all copies since their first day until today in this way in other words as online.

After all collecting data process, there is another important work stage to organize all map contents that taking their photos from the newspaper copies. In office stage, these images have been entitled by the format 'Year\_Month\_Day\_NewspapersName' and collected for the classification process and planned database in an external hard disk. This part of research is time-consuming as well because, every image has been searched one by one and entitled by the format. So, the entitled images are needed to arrange with this format to take place in the user-friendly database system.

## THE CLASSIFICATION OF THE PUBLISHED MAPS

Simultaneously with archival works, cartographic and the other classifications, which are the main purposes of the study, have been already started. The cartographic classifications have been made with 2 titles: 'Map Types' and 'Cartographic Elements in Published Maps'. The other classification is about that the map is in which part of the newspaper. For instance, a map could be in a sport page, a comic or a commercial, etc. Consequently, the classifications in the study have been planned in 3 main titles.

'Map Types' are the first main title of the classifications. Purpose of the titles is classifying 'the maps' to determine each published map belong which map types. The first subheadings of the 'Map Types' are General Purpose Maps (Reference Maps) and Image Maps. According to this classification, General Purpose Maps consist of three headings: Street Maps, Atlas Maps, and Thematic Maps. The Image Maps involve 2 different types: 'Aerial Photographs' and 'Satellite Images'.

The thematic maps heading contain 8 subheadings: 'Picture Symbol Maps', 'Choropleth Maps', 'Dot Maps', 'Graduated Symbol Maps', 'Route Maps', 'Isoline Maps', 'Network Maps', 'Flow Maps'. In Figure 1, it shown an example for Choropleth Maps.



Figure 1: (An Example of a Choropleth map from 1956)

During the cartographic evaluations, existence and correct usage of cartographic elements in published maps have been examined. Title, Scale, Legend, Directional Indicator, Inset Map, Text, Resource Information, Projection and Datum Information are the subheadings of Cartographic Elements Title. It shown a Lejand Use on the old copy in Figure 2.



Figure 2: (An Example of Lejand Use on Map from 1940)

Some published maps don't have the scale information. So, the scale has been needed to be predicted and the scale factor has been approximately examined with 4 parameters: Global, Continental, Regional and Local. Global scale involves the entire world's map such as Atlas Maps and Globes. Continental Scale is for one continent demonstration. Regional scale is for a region like a country or showing two or more countries together. And local scale is like the street maps, large scale maps.

Third classification focus on the parts of the newspaper would be used the maps, such as Report, Sport, Strip Cartoon, Logo, Column, Caricature, Article Series, Commercial, Announcement, Weather Forecast. 'The map is in which part of the newspaper' has been examined. So, 'which part of the newspaper is mostly using the maps as a graphic presentation' have been interrogated. In Figure 3, there is an example for a Cartoon, which include a map.



Figure 3: (An Example of a Cartoon)

## RESULTS

All of these classifications will give some results about cartographic improvement of Turkish newspapers in determined periods. However, the study has just been started; it is too early to take for good results in all classifications. In the following process, the cartographic techniques of the published maps can be analyzed and their accuracies or deficiencies could be observed. The study propounds the situation of the published maps in a period and concurrently it emphasizes how the importance is the map usage in the printed media to spread the news.

After the collecting all data (maps) in a database, scientists who are working in the different areas, can take advantage of this collected data. Proceeding from here, the study will be base for the further investigations and the different studies.

## REFERENCES

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## BIOGRAPHICAL NOTES

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Prof. Dr. N. Necla ULUGTEKIN is a senior lecturer in the Geomatics Department of Civil Engineering Faculty in Istanbul Technical University – ITU. Her main interests recently are cartography, visualization, GIS and small display cartographic design.

She was involved in a number of individual and team studies and projects on Electronic Atlas, Mountain Maps, Map Design for Hand Held Devices and etc. She actively remains supporting chambers activities and taken position as a string head or a member in the technical commissions, like President of Cartography and Informatics Commission from Standing Scientific and Technique Commission of Chamber of Surveying, Geographic Information System Commission, Education and etc. She is working on cartography in national and international activities.

President of the Commission of Cartography and Spatial Informatics of Turkish Engineers and Architects, Chamber of Surveying Engineers.

ICA representative of Union of Chambers of Turkish Engineers and Architects, Chamber of Surveying Engineers till 2003.

President and Executive member of the Union of Chambers of Turkish Engineers and Architects, Chamber of Surveying Engineers, Istanbul Branch till 1983.

As founder of Spatial Informatics Initiative of Turkey in 2007 - .

Active member of International Cartographic Association (ICA) Standing Commission on Education and Training 1991 - .

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### Pinar SARIN, PhD Candidate



Pinar Sarin is a lecturer in Inonu University in Malatya/Turkey. At the same time, she is a PhD student in Istanbul Technical University- ITU. Main study fields is cartography, historic cartography, cartographic design and map use.