

# An Overview of the History of Comparative Literature and the Recent State of the Comparative Literature Studies in Turkey

Karşılaştırmalı Edebiyat Tarihine Genel Bir Bakış ve Türkiye’de Karşılaştırmalı Edebiyat Çalışmalarının Son Durumu

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## Abstract

This study mainly focuses on the current state of the Comparative Literature studies in Turkey, first giving an overall summary of the translation studies both in the Tanzimat Period of the Ottoman Empire and in the Republican Period which formed the basis for the birth of Comparative Literature. Tanzimat Period becomes the starting point in the interaction process between Turkish and especially French literature. Another important development occurs in 1940s, which is the systematic translation of well-known French classics into Turkish. During the 1950s and 1960s Comparative Literature is only given as a course in the departments of philology in İstanbul and Ankara Universities. Then, Comparative Literature departments start to be founded in universities in 1990s, followed by the opening of MA and PhD programs. Besides this, some publications starting from 1943 contribute to the institutionalisation of Comparative Literature, as well. Another significant development for the field is the Comparative Literature symposiums held in Çanakkale Onsekiz Mart University between 1995-1998, which are followed by international Comparative Literature congresses later. While dwelling on the promising improvements in the field of Comparative Literature in Turkey mostly, the study also points out to some problematic points which hinder and decelerate the development of the field. Thus, what is new about this study is that, although it rephrases what has already been said so far, to some extent, it updates the literature by adding the most recent developments in the field of Comparative Literature.

**Keywords:** Comparative Literature, Literary Translation, Institutionalisation, Publications, Congresses.

## Öz

İlk olarak Karşılaştırmalı Edebiyat’ın doğuşuna zemin hazırlayan Osmanlı İmparatorluğu’nun Tanzimat Dönemi’ndeki ve ayrıca Cumhuriyet Dönemi’ndeki çeviri çalışmalarının genel bir özeti veren bu çalışma, temel olarak Türkiye’deki Karşılaştırmalı Edebiyat çalışmalarının son durumuna yoğunlaşmaktadır. Tanzimat Dönemi’nde yapılan çeviri çalışmaları, Türk edebiyatı ile özellikle Fransız edebiyatı arasındaki etkileşim sürecinin başlangıç noktası olur. Bir başka önemli gelişme, 1940’lı yıllarda çok bilinen Fransız klasikleri sistematik olarak Türkçeye çevrilmesidir. 1950’li ve 1960’lı yıllarda Karşılaştırmalı Edebiyat İstanbul ve Ankara Üniversitelerinin filoloji bölümlerinde sadece bir ders olarak verilir. 1990’lı yıllarda üniversitelerde Karşılaştırmalı Edebiyat bölümlerinin kurulmaya başlamasını, alanda yüksek lisans ve doktora programlarının açılması izler. Bunun yanı sıra 1943’ten bu yana yapılan bazı yayınlar da Karşılaştırmalı Edebiyat’ın kurumsallaşmasına katkı sağlar. Alan için bir diğer önemli gelişme, 1995-1998 yılları arasında Çanakkale Onsekiz Mart Üniversitesi’nde gerçekleştirilen ve daha sonra uluslararası Karşılaştırmalı Edebiyat kongrelerinin takip ettiği, Karşılaştırmalı Edebiyat sempozyumlarıdır. Çoğunlukla Türkiye’de Karşılaştırmalı Edebiyat alanındaki ümit vaat eden gelişmeler üzerinde duran çalışma, ayrıca alanın gelişimine engel olan ve yavaşlatan bazı problemleri noktalara da işaret etmektedir. Buradan hareketle, bir dereceye kadar bugüne kadar söylenmiş olanları yeniden dile getiren bu çalışma ile ilgili yeni olan şey, Karşılaştırmalı Edebiyat alanındaki en son gelişmeleri ekleyerek literatürü güncellemesidir.

**Anahtar Kelimeler:** Karşılaştırmalı Edebiyat, Edebi Çeviri, Kurumsallaşma, Yayınlar, Kongreler.

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## Introduction

In the age of globalization, comparative studies in many fields seem to gain pace, which on the other hand, contributes to the interaction between nations, cultures and languages and thus to globalization itself. In other words, globalization and comparative studies have a mutual role in the existence of each other. As for the Comparative Literature studies, there are some significant factors that play a considerable role in the birth and development of the field, such as going abroad due to various reasons like the international symposiums, meetings; and compulsory situations like migrations and exiles; acquisition of a foreign language and finally translation studies when there is a lack of knowledge of a foreign language. Among these reasons or factors playing a vital role in the birth and development of Comparative Literature in many countries, is translation studies which can be regarded as the backbone of the field of Comparative Literature in Turkey.

### 1. An Overview of the Birth and the History of Comparative Literature in Turkey

As is mentioned above, translation studies holds a significant place in the birth of comparative literature in Turkey. Comparative Literature, although reaches even back to the 65-68 BC -when Horatius compares the Ancient Greek literature and culture with the Roman literature and culture (Yazıcı, 2010, p. 34) and then to 1828-1829 when Villemain gives comparative classes at Sorbonne University about the influences of the English on France and vice versa- in Europe (Aytaç, 2009, p. 49), is quite a new field of study in Turkey.

What stimulated the Comparative Literature studies were the translation studies which started during the Tanzimat Period (1839-1876) mostly due to the French influence on Turkish literature and culture. Despite the fact that there were comparative studies before the Tanzimat Period, during the Tulip Period (1718-1730), they were basically about history and science (Aytaç, 2009, p. 44). Therefore, Tanzimat Period is considered to be a turning point in terms of the birth of Comparative Literature in Turkey. During that period- actually starting from the Tulip Period- The Ottoman Empire turned its face towards the West and started to adopt the western literature, and notably the French literature which was very popular at that time and in time they naturally adopted western lifestyle and the western culture. Thus, there were interactions between French nation and Ottoman Empire both in terms of lifestyle, culture and literature. Actually, adopting the Western literature and then starting with the translation studies was a part of the Westernization process. The writers of the period translated the French works they liked into Turkish, as a result of which new forms and genres such as poetry, essay, theatre and novel were introduced into Turkish literature. Although they imitated some of those works in the beginning, the writers and the poets produced original works in time. The first writers, among whom we see Ahmet Mithat Efendi (1844-1912), Şemsettin Sami (1850-1904), Şinasi (1826-1871), Ahmet Vefik Paşa (1823-1891), Yusuf Kâmil Paşa (1808-1876), Rezaizade Ekrem (1847-1914) and Namık Kemal (1840-1888), were at the same time the first translators. For instance, Fenelon's *Aventures de Télémaque* was the first work translated into Turkish by Yusuf Kâmil Paşa in 1859, which afterwards was published in 1862 and thus was introduced to Turkish literature and the Turkish novel readers (Göktürk, 2013, p. 54).

During the Servet-i Fünun Period (1896-1901), literary translations from other literatures were observed to have continued. Especially Halide Edip Adivar's translations of Shakespeare kept a significant place among others. Following Adivar, Vahit Turan and Mina Urgan proceeded with the Shakespeare translations and published *The Collected Works of Shakespeare* in Turkish, which included plays such as *Hamlet*, *As You Like It*, *Criolanus*, *Antoniüs ve Cleopatra* (Enginün, 1991, p. 124 qtd. in Tekşan, 2011, p. 212). Throughout that period many works of French realists like Balzac and Goncourt Brothers and also French naturalist Emile Zola were translated into Turkish.

Compared with the works written in Tanzimat Period, the works of Servet-i Fünun Period were observed to have been more original pieces, quite far away from being imitations of the French or English works. To illustrate, Halid Ziya Uşaklıgil's *Mai ve Siyah (The Blue and the Black)*, in which he took the French realists as examples and also his novel called *Aşk-ı Memnu (Forbidden Love)* which later became a Turkish classic

were the landmarks of Turkish literature both in terms of their originality and the author's use of language and style. Another outstanding work in that period was Mehmet Rauf's novel, *Eylül (September)* which is also known to be the first psychological novel in Turkish literature.

If the translation studies carried out during the Tanzimat Period was the first turning point for the birth of Comparative Literature, then the Republican Period during which translation studies gained pace and became more systematic was the second turning point for Comparative Literature studies in Turkey. The 1940s may be said to have played even a more significant role for the birth of Comparative Literature as a scientific field of study since the translation studies in that period became a more conscious activity compared with the Tanzimat Period when the works to be translated were selected randomly. That time it was a part of the education policy of the government. Thanks to the praiseworthy endeavour of the Minister of Education of the time, Hasan Ali Yücel, who pioneered the foundation of the "Translation Bureau" and commissioned Sabahattin Eyüboğlu and Nurullah Ataç, two Turkish essayists, interpreters and critics, for the translation studies of the period, the outcome of the studies was a series of western classics, later published under the name of "Translations from World Literature". Those translation studies were the beginning of a kind of literary and intellectual Renaissance in Turkey, which later stimulated the Youth Movement in the country following the one that had already started in Europe and almost all around the World. According to the statistics given in Seza Yılcıoğlu's study, entitled "Türk Romanının Oluşumunda Çevirinin Etkileri", the result of the translation studies in the Republican Period can be summarized as the following (2005, p. 292):

Table 1.

*Number of translations according to the years*

<b>YEAR</b>	<b>Number of Translations</b>
1941	13
1942	27
1943	69
1944	104
1945	129
1946	154
Total	496
1950 (total)	750

Thus, all those translation activities starting from Tanzimat Period to the Republican Period formed the basis for the Comparative Literature studies between different nations, cultures and thus literatures (Turkish vs. French and English literatures in this case), which led way first to the Comparative Literature classes at universities and then to the institutionalisation of Comparative Literature in Turkey. Due to the influence of the translation activities mentioned above, first Comparative Literature classes were lectured by Assoc. Prof. Dr. Cevdet Perin at the Department of French Language and Literature at İstanbul University between the years 1943-1960 (Tekşan, 2011, p. 57). As the date suggests another reason for the start of the comparative classes in those years was without doubt, the inspiration of two important figures, Leo Spitzer and Erich Auerbach, who had to migrate to Turkey before the Second World War, between 1933 and 1936 (Belge, 2018, p. 40; Irzık and Parla, 2017, pp. 125-126, 129). Despite being a tragic event for the two Jewish Scientists, their migration, and studies after that, inspired the Turkish academics studying in the field of philology (especially German and French philologies), and thus contributed to the birth of Comparative Literature studies in Turkey to a great extent. However, what guided Turkish philologists, or the future comparatists, in their path was most particularly Erich Auerbach's notable work called "*Mimesis. Dargestellte Wirklichkeit in der Abendländischen*

*Literatur*” (Belge, 2018, p. 40; Irzık and Parla, 2017, pp. 125-126) which was published in 1946 and in which he compared fairy tales, myths and legends from several places around the World with each other (Arak, 1998, p. 105). Afterwards came Şerif Kılıçel’s translation of Paul Van Tieghem’s *Comparative Literature* in 1943 which again contributed to the introduction of Comparative Literature in Turkey (Tekşan, 2011, p. 61). Following all these developments, the first scientific Comparative Literature studies were carried out at the departments of Philology at Ankara University, Faculty of Language and History-Geography but notably at the department of German Language and Literature by Prof. Dr. Gürsel Aytaç from the mid-1970s onwards (Tekşan, 2011, p. 57).

## 2. The Institutionalisation of Comparative Literature in Turkey

In time Comparative Literature classes lectured by the philologists fostered the idea of foundation of Comparative Literature departments at universities. Hence, the first university to make progress among the others was İstanbul Bilgi University- a private one, where Murat Belge was commissioned by the founder of the university, Oğuz Özerden to found the first Department of Comparative Literature (Belge, 2018, p. 44).

### 2.1. The departments of comparative literature.

Hence, the history of Comparative Literature in Turkey came to a point where it started to institutionalise with the foundation of first Comparative Literature Department in 1996. Four years later, in 2000 a state university, Eskişehir Osmangazi University, most probably encouraged by the first example, founded the second department of Comparative Literature and enrolled students on condition that they would attend a one-year English preparatory class along with the acquisition of a second foreign language, either German or French. Then several other universities followed those two examples and started Comparative Literature BA programs as it is shown in Table 2. However, Yeditepe University closed its Comparative Literature BA program after some time. Yet a happy event followed that and they opened their Comparative Literature MA program in 2005. Another important progress for the development of the field in Turkey was the opening of an MA program at Eskişehir Osmangazi University in 2002 which was followed, although at a rather late time, by a PhD program in 2012 which started to educate the first comparatists/academics of the country in real terms and graduated its first three students in 2017.

Table 2.

*The foundation years of Comparative Literature programs at different universities<sup>1</sup>*

<i>Year of Foundation</i>	<i>The Name of the University</i>	<i>Program</i>
1996	İstanbul Bilgi University	BA
2000	Eskişehir Osmangazi University	BA
2005	Yeditepe University	BA
2006	Koç University	BA
2009	Selçuk University	BA
2014	Mersin University	BA
2015	Dokuz Eylül University	BA
2002	Eskişehir Osmangazi University	MA
2005	Yeditepe University	MA
2012	Eskişehir Osmangazi University	PhD
<b>2016</b>	<b>Dokuz Eylül University</b>	<b>MA</b>

Selçuk University and especially Dokuz Eylül University, which opened both BA and MA programs successively and only in two years, have a crucial role in the development of Comparative Literature in Turkey since both of them are state universities educating and graduating true/pure comparatists. This is a significant development in the field of Comparative Literature because different from the ones who have been educated in philology departments so far, they educate pure comparatists. On the other hand, although Mersin University as another state university, has had a Comparative Literature BA program since 2014, officially it has not accepted any students yet, which is most probably due to the inadequacy in the number of academic staff at the department. That is indeed one of the problematic points which hinders and decelerates the development of the field as is seen in this case.

Several among the aforementioned universities also hosted the International Comparative Literature Congresses which were started to be held regularly once in every two years, starting from 2012 as it will be mentioned in one of the following parts.

### 3. Publications on Comparative Literature

The translation studies and the lectures mentioned above resulted in a series of publications, both articles and books. In other words, those publications were the concrete outcome of all the studies done and all the effort that had been made so far. Since it is difficult to reach and gather all the articles about Comparative Literature which have been written so far, considering also the limits of this study, it will be suitable to be contended with giving a list composed of the most notable books which have been frequently mentioned in the earlier/former works.

#### 3.1. Books<sup>2</sup>.

Most of the works below include practical studies and it is observed that there is very little theory in many of them. Therefore, one of the most noteworthy works among them is Gürsel Aytaç's *Karşılaştırmalı Edebiyat Bilimi* (2009) (*The Science of Comparative Literature*), a big portion of which includes theoretical information with a few practical studies at the end of it.

- Cevdet Perin, *Tanzimat Edebiyatında Fransız Tesiri* (1946) (*French Influence on Tanzimat Literature*)
- Nedret Kuran-Burçoğlu, *1900-1983 Yılları Arasında Türkçede Goethe ve 'Faust' Çevirileri Üzerine Bir İnceleme* (1984) (*A Study on Goethe and the Translations of 'Faust' in Turkish between 1900-1983*)
- Selçuk Ünlü, *19. Yüzyıl Alman Edebiyatında Türkiye ve Türkler* (1988) (*Turkey and the Turkish in 19th Century German Literature*)
- Jale Parla, *Babalar ve Oğullar: Tanzimat Romanının Epistemolojik Kökenleri* (1990) (*Fathers and Sons: The Epistemological Roots of the Tanzimat Novel*)
- İnci Enginün, *Mukayeseli Edebiyat* (1992) (*Comparative Literature*)
- Onur Bilge Kula, *Alman Kültüründe Türk İmgesi I* (1992) (*Turkish Image in German Culture I*)
- Onur Bilge Kula, *Alman Kültüründe Türk İmgesi II* (1993) (*Turkish Image in German Culture II*)
- Nedret Kuran-Burçoğlu, *Kültürlerarası İletişim Aracı Olarak Çeviri: Ingeborg Bachmann'ın 'Das dreissigste Jahr' Adlı Yapıtının İngilizce ve Türkçe Çevirileri Üzerinde Bir Çeviri Eleştirisi Denemesi* (1993) (*A Translation Criticism Essay on the English and Turkish Translations of Ingeborg Bachmann's Work Called 'Das dreissigste Jahr'*)
- Nedret Kuran-Burçoğlu, *Karşılaştırmalı Yazınbilim'den İmgebilim'e Kuram* (1993) (*Theory From Comparative Literature to Imagology*)

- Gürsel Aytaç, *Karşılaştırmalı Edebiyat Bilimi* (1997) (*The Science of Comparative Literature*)
- Onur Bilge Kula, *Alman Kültüründe Türk İmgesi III* (1997) (*Turkish Image in German Culture III*)
- Ali Osman Öztürk (ed.), *Karşılaştırmalı Edebiyat Araştırmaları* (1998) (*Comparative Literature Researches*)
- Kâmil Aydın, *Karşılaştırmalı Edebiyat: Postmodern Bağlamda Algılanışı* (1999) (*Comparative Literature: Perception of It in the Postmodern Context*)
- Jale Parla, *Don Kişot'tan Bugüne Roman*, (2000) (*Novel From Don Quixote to the Present*)
- Ayşe Emel Kefeli, *Karşılaştırmalı Edebiyat İncelemeleri* (2000) (*Comparative Literature Studies*)
- Ali Osman Öztürk, *Alman Oryantalizmi. 19. Yüzyıl Alman Halk Kültüründe Türk Motifi* (2000) (*German Orientalizm. Turkish Motive in 19th Century German Folk Culture*)
- Onur Bilge Kula, *Batı Düşününde Türk İslam İmgesi* (2002) (*Turkish Islamic Image in Western Thought*)
- Mediha Göbenli, *Direnmenin Estetiği'ne Güven, Karşılaştırmalı Edebiyat Bağlamında Peter Weiss ve Vedat Türkali* (2005) (*Trust In The Aesthetics of Resistance, Peter Weiss ve Vedat Türkali in the Context of Comparative Literature*)
- Cemal Sakallı, *Karşılaştırmalı Yazınbilim ve Yazınlararasılık/ Sanatlararasılık Üzerine* (2006) (*Science of Comparative Literature and On Interliterariness/Interartistry*)
- Binnaz Baytekin, *Karşılaştırmalı Edebiyat Bilim* (2006) (*Science of Comparative Literature*)
- Onur Bilge Kula, *Avrupa Kimliği ve Türkiye* (2006) (*European Identity and Turkey*)
- Gürsel Aytaç, *Deneme Üzerine Bir Karşılaştırmalı Edebiyat Çalışması* (2007) (*A Comparative Literature Study on Essay*)
- R. Şeyda Ülsever, *Karşılaştırmalı Edebiyat ve Edebi Çeviri* (2007) (*Comparative Literature and Literary Translation*)
- İnci Enginün, *Türkçede Shakespeare* (2008) (*Shakespeare in Turkish*)
- Melik Bülbül, *Seçme Kısa Öyküler ve Karşılaştırmalı Öykü Çözümlemeleri* (2008) (*Selected Short Stories and Comparative Story Analyses*)
- Medine Sivri, *Paul Eluard ve Nâzım Hikmet'te Renklerin Dili Şiirde Renkler Açısından Karşılaştırmalı Bir Yaklaşım* (2008) (*The Language of the Colours in Paul Eluard ve Nâzım Hikmet, A Comparative Approach in Poetry in Terms of Colours*)
- Onur Bilge Kula, *Batı Felsefesinde Oryantalizm ve Türk İmgesi* (2010) (*Orientalizm in Western Philosophy and Turkish Image*)
- Murat Belge, *Step ve Bozkır: Rusça ve Türkçe Edebiyatta Doğu-Batı Sorunu ve Kültür* (2016) (*Steppe and Moor: The Problem of West-East and Culture in Russian and Turkish Literature*)
- Gül Mete Yuva, *Modern Türk Edebiyatının Fransız Kaynakları* (2017) (*The French Sources of Modern Turkish Literature*)

#### 4. Proceedings

The studies in Comparative Literature almost seem to go parallel with the institutionalisation of the field with the foundation of BA programs at universities. As it has been mentioned before the first Comparative Literature

BA program was founded in İstanbul Bilgi University in 1996 and the first symposium on Comparative Literature was held in Çanakkale Onsekiz Mart University in 1995 which hosted 30 participants. That was followed by 2<sup>nd</sup> Comparative Literature Researches Symposium in 1996 with 40 participants, then by 3<sup>rd</sup> Comparative Literature Researches Symposium in 1997 with 70 participants and in 1998 the symposium became “international” and hosted 125 participants from different places of Turkey and the World (Tekşan, 2011, pp. 57, 64-65). Although the contribution of these previous symposiums to the development of Comparative Literature in Turkey cannot be denied, such meetings become more meaningful after the foundation of first Comparative Literature BA program in a state university which is Eskişehir Osmangazi University as it has been mentioned above. Only one year after the foundation of the Comparative Literature Department, Eskişehir Osmangazi University hosts 1st International Comparative Literature Congress, which is followed by the other congresses as is seen in the table below.

Table 3.

*The years, places, numbers of participants and proceedings for International Comparative Literature Congresses<sup>3</sup>*

<i>The Name of the Congress</i>	<i>Year</i>	<i>Hosting University</i>	<i>Number of Participants</i>	<i>Number of Proceedings</i>
1st International Comparative Literature Congress	2003	Eskişehir Osmangazi University	54	52
2nd International Comparative Literature Congress	2006	Sakarya University	47	41
3rd International Comparative Literature Congress	2009	Eskişehir Osmangazi University	53	50
4th International Comparative Literature Congress	2012	Kırıkkale University	82	74
5th International Comparative Literature Congress	2014	Mersin University	102	89
6th International Comparative Literature Congress	2016	Selçuk University	111	102
7th International Comparative Literature Congress	2018	Sivas Cumhuriyet University	56	50
8th International Comparative Literature Congress	2021	Dokuz Eylül University	Planned to be held in 2021	--

According to the table above, there is a decrease in the number of participants and thus the number of papers in 2006. Although these two statistics increase gradually in the following years, there is again a dramatic decrease in the number of speakers and the papers in 2018. This might be either because of the availability of the academics/researchers, namely the participants in general or because of the location of the cities where the congresses were held, that is to say, the distance. But, there is one more reason that is more probable than the other two reasons: except for one university (Kırıkkale University), the low number of participants seems to go parallel with the fact that whether the hosting university has a Comparative Literature department or not, because in that case the congress is held by a philology department. Sakarya University, Kırıkkale University and Sivas Cumhuriyet University do not have any departments of Comparative Literature, which might have a role in attracting the attention of the comparatists. As is known, there has always been a tension and a problematic or somewhat biased relationship between the departments of Comparative Literature and the departments of philology although the founders of Comparative Literature departments are philologists themselves. It is believed to be one of the significant problems in the road of Comparative Literature which tries to find a place for itself among the departments of philology and other fields, to develop and to take root

in Turkey. And if the prejudices, which are completely against the nature and the soul of the Comparative Literature studies, are overcome, there will be an opportunity for the field to flourish more easily.

## **5. MA and PhD Dissertations on Comparative Literature**

The foundation of each MA or PhD program means an increase in the number of MA and PhD dissertations written in the field of Comparative Literature, which is justified after a search on National Thesis Centre. According to the result of the search made on 14th of February 2019 in the field of Social Sciences by entering the term “Comparative Literature”, 235 MA dissertations were written between 2004-2018, while 58 PhD dissertations were written between 1993-2018 including the dissertations written in the departments of Western Languages and Literatures and Turkish Language and Literature (National Thesis Centre, 2019). When the foundation date of the first MA program in Comparative Literature (2002) is considered, the time interval (2004-2018) becomes more meaningful since the Comparative Literature MA program in Eskişehir Osmangazi University started to graduate its students in 2004. As for the PhD dissertations, it seems that people at the departments of philology (English Language and Literature, French Language and Literature, German Language and Literature, Turkish Language and Literature, etc.) had started to study Comparative Literature long before it was institutionalized in Turkey.

Some previous data about the number of MA and PhD dissertations gives an opportunity to compare them with the current data that has been obtained. According to a research conducted in 2000, the researcher, as a result of a similar search with the term “Comparative Literature”, reaches 32 MA and 28 PhD dissertations (Tekşan, 2011, pp. 68-69). Although it has been 18 years, there is still a significant increase in the number of the studies on Comparative Literature, mostly owing to the BA, MA and PhD programs opened at the universities in Turkey. However, during those 18 years the number of PhD dissertations only doubles which can be related to the fact that we have only one PhD program in Comparative Literature which was opened quite recently.

## **Conclusion**

This study aims to give a summary of especially the recent Comparative Literature studies in Turkey, does not ignore to cover the birth of the Comparative Literature in Turkey with translation studies in the beginning, either. In other words, none of the current developments in the field have significance as long as they are not related to the past. Therefore, a considerable portion of this study was allocated for the beginning of the Comparative Literature studies in Turkey. The translation studies in different periods, which had a vital role in the birth and growth of the field, and the new works created by Ottoman and Turkishwriters as a result, were emphasized.

In the next part, the institutionalisation of Comparative Literature was focused on. Therefore significant events such as the foundation of the Comparative Literature departments in state and private universities, then the opening of the MA and PhD programs were related through some statistics and pros and cons about them were discussed.

The publications, although they were considered mostly practical, and only theoretical to some extent, were yet emphasized since they constituted a significant part of the field’s literature in Turkey. Afterwards International Comparative Literature Congresses which have been held in Turkey for a long time were referred and some statistics about the number of the participants and the presentations according to the years were given. In that point, an obstacle in the way of the development of Comparative Literature, that’s to say the prejudice from the departments of philology against the departments of Comparative Literature, was also adverted. Eventually the study was completed by giving statistics about MA and PhD dissertations written in the field of Comparative Literature and the rise in the number of the dissertations was interpreted as a positive and promising development for Comparative Literature, which is a rooted field in Europe and America already, but one still trying to find a secure place for itself especially among other fields of philology in Turkey.



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## Notes:

<sup>1</sup>All the information in the table was compiled from the websites of the universities.

<sup>2</sup>See NOTOS 73 (Literature Journal, December 2018-January 2019) p. 61. Also see Hüseyin Arak Karşılaştırmalı Edebiyat Bilimi. Ankara: Hacettepe Yayıncılık ve Kitapçılık, 1998, pp. 105-114. See Mesut Tekşan, Karşılaştırmalı Edebiyat Bilimi. İstanbul: Kriter Yayınevi, 2011, pp. 105, 107, 62-64.

<sup>3</sup>All the information in the table was compiled from the Comparative Literature Congress Books and also the organisers of the congresses by the author.