

The Map Used in Turkish Newspapers

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SUMMARY

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 one is Atatürk Kitaplığı in Istanbul. The newspapers have been examined one by one according to a programme. The maps in the newspapers have been recorded by taking their photos. The maps have been examined and classified by the cartographic rules and their theme. Also thematic maps have been classified by their subjects and purposes. 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 study is unique so this factor make the study has an important role in the literature.

SUMMARY

Haritalar yüzyıllardır insanlara farklı olanaklarla ulaşmışlardır. Yazılı ve görsel basın ise dünyanın her yerinden insana kolaylıkla ulaşan araçlardır. Özellikle yazılı medyanın günümüzdeki kadar farklı ve kolay yollarla insanlara ulaşamadığı dönemlerde gazete ve dergiler önemli rol oynamıştır. Bu nedenle, haritaların insanlara ulaşması anlamında gazeteler etkin ve kolay araçlardır. Haberin aktarılması anlamında ise haritalar, grafik iletişim aracı olarak gazetelerde önemli bir yer tutar.

Bu çalışmada, Türkiye Cumhuriyeti Harf Devrimi sonrası basılmış 12 gazetenin harita içerikleri araştırılmaktadır. 12 gazete, trajları göz önünde bulundurularak seçilmiştir. İstanbul Gümüşsuyu Atatürk Kitaplığında bulunan gazete arşivi başta olmak üzere, gazete arşivlerinin ciltler halinde saklandığı merkezlerde, araştırma ve inceleme çalışmaları yürütülmektedir. Tespit edilen haritaların arşivlenmesi ve bu haritaların kartografik anlamda incelenmesi çalışmanın başlıca amacını oluşturmaktadır. Zaman içinde haritaların teknik anlamda gösterdikleri gelişmeler ve gazete içinde kullanıldıkları bölüm ise araştırılan diğer parametrelerdir. Gazete haberlerinde haritaların yaygın olarak kullanıldığı konulara ise; Meteoroloji, Doğal afetler, Ulusal seçim haberleri, Trafik yoğunluğu örnek olarak verilebilir. Haberi yaymada, haritaların oynadığı role ilişkin yürütülen bu çalışma, Dünya’da ve Türkiye’de daha önce rastlanmamış bir çalışmadır.

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1. 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. 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 transfer news, but also as advertisement, art, comics and cartoons 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 12 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 those publication is ended.

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.

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.

2. EXAMINATION OF THE NEWSPAPERS

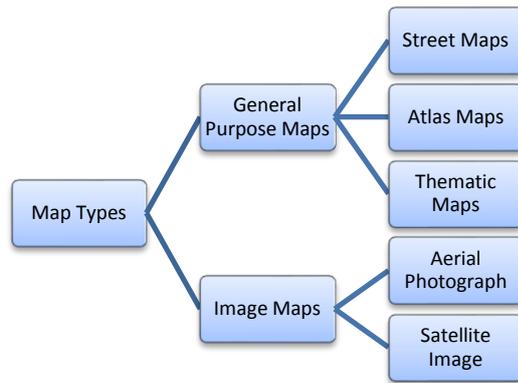
The study is being carried out in some newspaper archives. One of the most comprehensive and important one is Atatürk Kitaplığı in Istanbul. Expect of this, there is another one in Istanbul called Istanbul University- Beyazıt Library to use looking for lost and destroyed copies. However, the study mainly has been carried out in Atatürk Kitaplığı. The copies have been saved as one or three months volumes and they could be got from the library staffs with a petition.

The copies of newspapers have been examined one by one. Thereby, the process has been carried out in libraries takes time. The examinations of six months periods of each 12 newspapers have been already finished. Currently, other six months period of these copies have been examined and collected their copies with map contents. And the copies with the map contents were archived by taking photos. These are very old and timeworn copies of the newspapers. So, the researcher must be very careful during examination and collecting data. 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.

3. THE CLASSIFICATION OF THE PUBLISHED MAPS

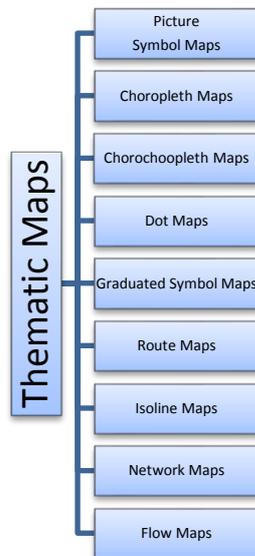
Simultaneously with archival works, cartographic and the other classifications, which are the main purposes of the study, have been already started. The cartographic classifications have been made with 2 titles: ‘Map Types’ and ‘Cartographic Elements in Published Maps’. The other classification is about 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’. (Image-1)



(Image -1)

The thematic maps heading contain 9 subheadings: ‘Picture Symbol Maps’, ‘Choropleth Maps’, ‘Chorochoopleth Maps’, ‘Dot Maps’, ‘Graduated Symbol Maps’, ‘Route Maps’, ‘Isoline Maps’, ‘Network Maps’, ‘Flow Maps’. (Image-2)



(Image-2)



(An Example of a Chorochoropleth map)

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.



(An Example of Inset Map Use)

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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.



(An Example of a Globe in a Cartoon)

4. 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.

BIOGRAPHICAL NOTES

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