

EDITORIAL

(34)

SCIENTIFIC ETHICS

Dear Scientists,

With this issue, our *Journal of Turkology Researches* (TÜBAR) has completed its 18th year. In this 18 years of time, before the publication of each issue, the preparers of the journal have had stomach cramps; but after the publication thereof, they have been relieved by a feeling of complacency that rejuvenated them and made them forget all the pain they went through. Each and every body in the kitchen of TÜBAR has worked with a such responsibility that they have thought, “If I delay my job, this journal can not be published”, and with such a modesty that they said, “The effort I have put in is not even a drop of water in an ocean”.

In Turkey, the role of the state organizations and universities to publish scientific journals has been atrophied. Those who knows this fact knows very well and those who make a research about it would learn that there have been cases where five articles of the same person were published in the same issue of a university journal, through which such article writers were brought into prominence. However, neither ask nor make me explain in what way these articles have contributed into scientific life... Where this type of behaviour should be positioned from “scientific ethics perspective” remains as a question mark.

Despite all, we need to admit that the journals which used to be published by state organizations in the past had some level of seriousness. In the later years, in order for the journals to be kept under monitoring, ULAKBİM has laid down a condition of publication of two issues per year for a period of min. two years. With an effort to prove that they comply with the rule, some have published their journals in few parts (1-2, 3-4) which had the volume of a single journal when combined

together. Moreover, the issues which were all published in the same year were shown as if they had been published in the previous years, the greediness in which was counted as an ingenuity by some. Those dominating such journals assumed a so-called title, regardless of the money poured down the drain... Can such behaviour be related to “scientific ethics”?

Today, this sort of misappropriation has been extravagated with the advantage of e-journals. You would know of some journals who publish hundreds of articles in each of its issue published quarterly. They can even do the trick of referring to sources which are two years ahead of the date of publication. They introduce themselves as an “international journal” with an English name they have adopted. Those who, just for the sake of using the ‘overseas publication passion of some people’, act like their journal is published in a European city, and those who believe in this story would have an inferiority complex. Such forgery can not be associated with “scientific ethics”!..

This shame does not only point out to the personality weakness of those people, but also brings harm to the credibility of the field we are engaged in. Foreigners studying Turkey in the scope of social sciences may think that the whole science life in Turkey is dominated by such weakness.

The guideline for TÜBAR is scientific ethics.

Regardless of others’ behaviours, TÜBAR’s standing supported with its principles will remain as its means of honour.

10 November 2013- Ankara

Nâzım H. POLAT