

DARK LITERARY TOURISM ROUTES DESIGN PROCESS WITH HALIDE EDİP ADIVAR'S BOOK TÜRKÜN ATEŞLE İMTİHANI

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Abstract: Dark literary tourism is a new niche tourism type born from the combination of literary tourism and dark tourism. In this study, it is aimed to share the systematics of designing dark literary tourism routes based on the work of an author who witnessed the period. In this context, Halide Edip Adivar's book *Türkün Ateşle İmtihanı* which was personally present in the battlefields, was analyzed. While examining the work, geography-centered reading technique was used. While using this technique, the work was analyzed in accordance with the themes and sub-themes of geography. Based on the fact that the author mentioned the names of the settlements one-to-one, the current names of these places were determined. Then, three dark literary tourism routes were developed by checking the suitability of the names of the settlements to the route. Thus, a new route planning that can be used in dark literary tourism has been made. This study, which aims to support regional and local development, will guide the formation of new tourism markets. The study, which will provide a perspective on dark literary tourism, a new niche tourism type, from the battlefields, will also contribute to the creation of routes that can be used in battlefield tourism.

Key words: Dark tourism, dark literary tourism , dark literary tourism routes guidance, route designing, geography-centered reading, geo-literary, literary geography.

INTRODUCTION

Dark tourism is defined as a type of tourism that involves visiting places associated with violence, death, and tragedy. This concept was defined and categorized by Lennon and Foley (1996). A sub-type of tourism, dark tourism, also referred to as thanatotourism, is linked to specific places such as crime scenes, prisons, and massacre sites (Seraphin and Korstanje, 2021). Examples of this type of tourism include concentration camps like Auschwitz and Chernobyl, Hiroshima, battlefields, and disaster zones (Mora Forero et al., 2023). Visitors choose such sites to empathize with the suffering endured by previous generations and to honor their spirits. Literary tourism, on the other hand, is a type of tourism that combines literature, travel, and

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cultural experiences. This form of tourism plays a significant role in regional economic development and shaping the image of cultural tourism, particularly through literary routes, author museums, and literary festivals (Romanova & Silkina, 2024). In recent years, dark literary tourism has emerged as a niche that combines dark tourism and literary tourism (Çevik, 2023).

Tourist guides always work to better themselves and focus on their areas of interest in order to stay up with the changes taking place in the world. They contribute to this by taking part in specific training courses offered in these domains. In this context, it is stated that specialisation in tourist guiding can basically be examined in two dimensions: destination-oriented and touristic product-oriented. A wide variety of fields can be given as examples for touristic product-oriented specialisation. These are; regional tourist guiding, international guiding, protocol guiding, cruise guiding, museum guiding, cultural tour guiding, faith tourism guiding, battlefield guiding, gastronomy tourism guiding, wine tour guiding, festival guiding, nature tour guiding, eco-tourism guiding, flora and fauna guiding, mountaineering and trekking guides, diving guides, safari guides, adventure tour guides, equestrian tour guides, birdwatching guides, photography tour guides, health tourism guides, disabled guides, sign language guides, and tourist guides for children/tutorial groups (Yenipinar & Yılmaz, 2019). In addition to these areas, dark literary tourism route guidance can be a new specialisation area focused on touristic product.

Many literary works have been written about the period of the National Struggle in Turkey. In addition to being written after the war, there are also literary works inspired by what happened during the war. Halide Edip Adıvar, one of these writers, also conveyed the experiences of the geography she saw and travelled in her works. Professional tourist guides can enrich their narratives by making use of these literary sources as well as conveying historical and geographical information to tourists in war zones. When Halide Edip Adıvar's *Türk'ün Ateşle İmtihanı*, which is the subject of the study, is read, it is seen that it follows a route. The aim of the study is to reveal how dark literary tourism routes are created through a literary work set in battlefields.

METHODOLOGY

Literary geography is considered a method of reading. It can be approached as a way of analyzing literary texts, focusing on fiction, poetry, or drama through a geographical perspective (Tally, 2019). A useful technique for the thorough assessment and interpretation of many elements, including human, physical, and military traits, cultural and economic systems, and all physical and emotional characteristics specific to the geographic area in which people are raised, is geography-centered reading, or geo-literary. (Garan, 2012). It is used as a deductive analysis. It is a study that frequently appears in the field of literary literature. however,

it has only recently started to be used in the field of tourism. Studies are quite limited (Çapa, 2022; Harmancı, 2022). In the study, Halide Edip Adıvar's book *Türk'ün Ateşle İmtihanı* (*Turkey's Ordeal*), which provides a firsthand account of the National Struggle period, was analyzed using geography-centered reading, an inductive analysis method employed in qualitative research.

FINDINGS

Route 1

The first route focuses on Halide Edip's journey from Istanbul to Ankara. It includes locations such as Üsküdar, Dudullu, and Adapazarı, which were significant in the early stages of the National Struggle. This route reflects the initial resistance and the challenges faced by those involved in the movement, offering tourists a historical journey from urban centers to rural strongholds.

The first route spans two days and begins in Istanbul, Turkey. It includes many locations that were considered rural areas at the time, such as Üsküdar, Dudullu, Ümraniye, and Samandıra, now neighborhoods of Istanbul. The route then proceeds toward Kocaeli, Sakarya, and Bilecik. The first overnight stay can be in Sakarya Province. On the second day, the route continues to Eskişehir, where visitors can visit the house where İsmet İnönü, commander of the Western Front during the National Struggle, stayed during his time in Eskişehir. Today, this house serves as the Independence Museum. Visitors can also see Eskişehir's historic train station, which is mentioned in the literary work, providing an opportunity to offer a narrative drawn from Halide Edip's writings and gain a perspective on Eskişehir during the National Struggle period.

The final overnight stay is in Ankara. For early departures the next morning or if a late return is anticipated, Eskişehir's Sivrihisar district, located on the way to Ankara, can be an alternative for accommodation. The district is extensively mentioned in the literary work *Türk'ün Ateşle İmtihanı*. In Ankara, places related to the National Struggle period that can be visited include the Independence War Museum and the Second Turkish Grand National Assembly, Abidin Pasha Mansion National Struggle Museum, and Anıtkabir.

Route 2

The second route focuses on the National Struggle areas of Türkiye, including key locations such as Polatlı, Alagöz, and Duatepe. This route offers visitors the opportunity to explore the military strategies, challenges, and outcomes of the battles, highlighting their significance in Turkish history.

The second route can start from Ankara and spans two days. It covers significant events of the National Struggle, such as the Battle of Sakarya and the Great Offensive. After departing from Ankara, key sites related to the Battle of Sakarya, including Duatepe, Beylikköprü, and the Alagöz Command Post Museum, can be visited. The first overnight stay can be in Uşak, marking the transition to the Great Offensive phase.

On the second day, the journey continues to İzmir, the final point of the National Struggle. In İzmir, visitors can explore the Atatürk House Museum, the statue immortalizing Mustafa Kemal Atatürk's command "Armies, your first goal is the Mediterranean. Forward!" created by renowned Italian sculptor Pietro Canonica, and the Republic Tree monument, symbolizing the National Struggle period. During the tour, details about İzmir mentioned in the literary work can be shared with visitors. İzmir can also be chosen as the accommodation site for the final night of the route.

Route 3

The third route follows Adivar's journey through Western Anatolia after the victory in the National Struggle. This route provides an in-depth understanding of the final stages of the struggle and the establishment of a new era.

According to the literary work, Halide Edip traveled to Bursa after İzmir. If transitioning from the second route to this third route, the journey can proceed from İzmir to Bursa. In Bursa, the Bursa City Museum can be visited, and details about the city's structure during that period, as mentioned in the literary work, can be shared. An overnight stay in Bursa can be preferred. This route represents the return home after the conclusion of the National Struggle period. It can be planned as a two-day route, concluding with a journey from Bursa to Istanbul.

CONCLUSION

This study, conducted through Halide Edip Adivar's book *Türk'ün Ateşle İmtihanı* (*Turkey's Ordeal*), is significant as it provides a method for designing dark literary tourism routes. The creation of dark literary tourism routes aims not only to increase the awareness of Turkey's battlefields but also to establish an educational and memorable tour route for visitors. Adivar's journey from Istanbul to Anatolia, culminating in the victory during the National Struggle and covering Western Anatolia, forms the basis for the development of three distinct routes, highlighting the integration of geography and history in the field.

The planning of dark literary tourism routes as spaces for reflection and education for participants is crucial for ensuring long-term value and coherence. Additionally, dark literary tourism, as an emerging niche tourism type, can support the development of

rural areas along these routes. The integration of geography-literature studies with tourism is seen as having great potential to foster historical awareness and cultural empathy. Positioned at the intersection of literature, geography, and tourism, this study will contribute to the continuous growth of this niche area and offer insights into how tourism can be integrated with diverse themes. It can also be incorporated into specialization training for tourist guides, combining literature with battlefields through literary works to provide a new perspective.

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