



Editor's Note

Reflections on Ahmet Hamdi Tanpınar's *Time Regulation Institute* and Little Truths as to A Comprehensive 'Table of Contents'

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Apa Citation:

Cirakli, M. Z. (2019). Reflections on Ahmet Hamdi Tanpınar's *Time Regulation Institute* and Little truths as to a comprehensive 'table of contents'. *Journal of Narrative and Language Studies*, 7(13), pp. i-iii.

The Turkish novel represents the historical depth, cultural diversity and individual sensitivity of Turkish society and Turkish people. It presents the elements of underlying transgenerational trauma between East and West even in the modernist and postmodernist texts. The individual talent of every Turkish novelist manifests itself upon such tradition punctuated with the traces of change through the transitional periods from the past to the present. Tanpınar's *Time Regulation Institute* (1954), in this context, is a remarkable narrative text exploring the conflict between the traditional and the modern as well as the historical and the fictional. However, it deals with these issues in a literarily modernist fashion, yet with somewhat postmodernist implications, and produces textual and meta-textual discourses. Tanpınar, as a historical and implied author, does not only represent the clocks and watches, as the signs of traditional and modern perceptions of time but also problematizes the issue of storytelling and representation.

The Time Regulation Institute can be regarded as a critical account of modernisation. The novel criticises empty westernisation, as was the case with the themes explored in Evelyn Waugh's *Black Mischief*, yet from a different perspective, and calls into question the Republican reforms regarding their internalisation. The established bureaucracy tracing back to the Ottoman era and cultural codes governing the solid or abstract institutions since then are explored in the novel along with the changing society all through the changing periods from the late 19th century to the early 20th century. The novel, therefore, covers a long time from the late Ottoman Era towards the early Republican period with considerations of the aspects of modernisation amalgamated with the political and historical inclinations towards the so-called change. More importantly, Tanpınar, I suppose, raises critical questions as to history-making and history-writing. Because of the richness

and profundity of the aspects in the narrative, a critical enquiry into the transformation of Turkish literary and historical experience deserves a greater recognition from the researchers of various disciplines.

I am now writing this Editor's Note to highlight a list of proper topics of a critical study and analysis of Tanpınar's *Time Regulation Institute*. My proposal of the possible topics of an envisaged book¹ project covers the following chapters:

1. Modernism and the Clothing Style in Tanpınar's Time Regulation Institute (TRI)
2. City and Space in Tanpınar's Fictional World
3. Fictional Characters in TRI
4. TRI as a Satire
5. Images of the West in TRI
6. Images of the East in TRI
7. Modernisation and Hypocrisy in TRI
8. Metaphor in TRI
9. Irony in TRI
10. History as a Tool in TRI
11. Narrators in TRI
12. TRI as an Allegory
13. Hypocrisy as a Social Strategy in TRI
14. Ideology and Modernisation in TRI
15. Clocks and Watches in TRI
16. Traces of the Past in TRI and Modern Turkey
17. Representations and Impressions of Music (Musîkî) in TRI
18. Index of Names and Places in TRI
19. History, History-making, Historiography and History Writing in TRI
20. History and Background of TRI as a Novel
21. Narrative Style in TRI

22. Glossary of Old Turkish Words and Their Symbolism in TRI
23. Obsessed Characters in TRI
24. Visibility and Invisibility in the TRI Translations
25. Comparison between Two Different Translations of the Novel: Time Regulation Institute and Clock Setting Institute
26. Fantastic or Grotesque Characters in TRI
27. Humour in TRI
28. From the Imperial era to the Modern Republic: Historical Background in TRI
29. Duality and Pragmatism in TRI
30. References to Modern Sciences and Psychology in TRI
31. Symbolism and Numerology in TRI
32. Sufi Implications in TRI
33. Traditional and Peculiar Concepts of Time in TRI
34. Alienation in TRI
35. Storytelling and Unreliable Narrator in TRI
36. Self-reflexivity and Writing as a Motif in TRI
37. Dichotomies and Binary Oppositions in TRI
38. Free Indirect Discourse in TRI vs Mind at Peace
39. TRI as a School or Educational Setting
40. Obliteration of Cultural Awareness in TRI
41. Psychoanalysis and Oedipus Complex in TRI
42. TRI as a Frame Tale
43. Mimicry, in-Betweenness and Hybridity in TRI
44. TRI as a Modernist Utopia
45. TRI as a Historical-Biographical Guide

Hence, Tanpınar's novel explores so many 'little truths' about 'history as such' and 'fiction as art'. In other words, it does not only deal with 'history' between the Tanzimat and Republican periods but also foregrounds significant issues of 'history', 'text' and 'storytelling'.

References

Tanpınar, A. H. (2015) *Saatleri Ayarlama Enstitüsü*, İstanbul: Dergâh.

Tanpınar, A. H. (2015) *The Time Regulation Institute*, Trans. M. Freely, London: Penguin.

¹ A book Project, designed and edited by the author, covers these topics. The manuscript titled “Little Truths: Reflections on Tanpınar’s Time Regulation Institute” has already been submitted to the international publisher(s). Çıraklı, M. Z. Ed. (proposal date: 2019). *Little truths: reflections on Tanpınar’s Time Regulation Institute*. (Unpublished book project, submitted to the publisher).