

Heinrich Friedrich Von Diez and Grimm Brothers

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Abstract

It is not a secret that Heinrich Friedrich von Diez released a special edition about Oghuz Tepegözü in 1815, and sent a sample of this special edition to Goethe shortly before the work with the name "Denkwürdigkeiten von Asien" was published. As a matter of fact, its existence was confirmed and examined in studies by many authors and writers. The above-mentioned special edition was examined by Grimm brothers. When the notes on this special edition are examined, it is seen that it forms an integrity with the work "Die Sage Von Polyphem" published in 1857. For this reason, Grimm brothers also examined Oghuz Tepegözü and came to a conclusion.

Keywords: Diez, Grimm Brothers, Cyclop, Tepegöz

The Epic "Dede Korkut" is a very important source for Turkish nation. It contains hundreds of traditions which are now about to be forgotten. In addition, it is very important in terms of history as it bears the traces of the period long before it was written. As it is known, this work was found in the libraries of foreign countries. It was Heinrich Friedrich von Diez who made the first work on the Dresden paper. With this work, Diez announced the work of Dede Korkut to the world, and translated the part "Basat killed Tepegöz" into German; and he claimed with serious arguments that Cyclop, who allegedly belonged to Homer, was originally inspired by the Oghuz Tepegözü, and that the foundations of it came from eastern origin, and that he had determined its first form. Diez did not confine his arguments with this study only, and made a special edition for the part about Tepegöz and delivered it to Goethe on November 28, 1815 before the actual edition. It was even claimed that one of the ballads of Goethe in early 1816 was traced to this special edition of Diez (Mommsen, 1961).

This is not a secret issue; namely, it is a well-known subject that this special edition ([WA] IV 26.178) was released and was sent to Goethe on November 28, 1815; and that Goethe mentioned this in more than one letter he wrote to Diez and many prominent writers of the period. For this reason, this special edition was not kept as a secret during the period. On the contrary, its existence was confirmed by many writers and authorities and were examined (Burdach, 1959; Babinger, 1913; Mommsen, 1961).

This special edition was also received by Grimm Brothers. In other words, they also examined this special edition. There are handwritten notes of Grimm Brothers that consists of 41 lines on this special edition, which was found in the library of Grimm Brothers and which entered to the inventory records in this way. When the notes on this special edition are examined, it is seen that it creates an integrity with the work "Die Sage Von Polyphem" published in 1857 (Grimm, 1857).

It is understood that Grimm Brothers wrote "Die Sage Von Polyphem" after they examined the special edition. Because there are expressions like "according to Diez's viewpoint", or "According to Diez" or "According to the idea of Diez" in many parts of the work (Grimm, 1857). This strengthens the view that it was a work that was written as a result of the examination of the special edition. These notes, which consist of 41 lines, have the quality of summarizing the special edition, and suggest important arguments. Among these arguments, there is the note "the Greek Cyclop was inspired by Oghuz Tepegöz". This and many similar ambitious arguments are listed below, respectively on the back-cover page.

Examples From The Notes On The Back-Cover Page

4. The author must have lived in a time period that was close to the time of Mohammad.
5. Diez mentions that (the author) cannot have lived before 9th Century.
6. No traces were found about the time period in which the book was written.
- According to Diez, the book was compiled by an unknown poet.
7. The events mentioned come from very different periods.

- Here, only the eighth narration has been shared.
The Greek Cyclop was inspired by Oghuz Tepegöz.
8. Grandfather = Granddad

...

- The language is the Tatar Turkish.
10. The Oghuz in the Uzia Country are the Turkmen in Caucasia II = rear Asia.
14. Tepegöz was born from a shepherd and a fairy.
21. Homer heard about the OghuzFable in his travels.

...

Tepegöz wants to throw a stone.
- Bissat makes Tepegöz to kneel like a camel ... and cuts his head.
Damsdorf ... 1850

All of the notes that were written by hand consisting of 41 lines are not (cannot) given here. Because if they were to be given here, they would exceed the format of the article; therefore, only examples are given. A more detailed study examining all notes will be conducted in the future.

N.B. The following statements of Grimm Brothers are not corrected. In addition, the (...) was used for each unreadable word.

Conclusion

This work, which was presented by Diez as a source after translating, has the quality of being a “great treasure” for research today. In the work that is also known as the Dresden edition, twelve stories of Dede Korkut are mentioned. Diez claimed serious arguments that Cyclop that was claimed to be Homer’s was originally inspired by Tepegöz by translating twelve stories of Dede Korkut into German, and also claimed that its foundations were of eastern origin and that he discovered the first edition. Diez did not confine his claims to this work only, and delivered it to Goethe on 28 November, 1815; and made a special edition of the cyclops before the work “Denkwürdigkeiten von Asien” was released. It was even claimed that a ballad of Goethe’s that appeared in early 1816 had traces of this special edition that Diez had given him.

This special edition was released in the name of “Der Neuendecte Oghuzische Cyklop Verglichen mit dem Homerischen”, and was sent not only to Goethe but also to the leading men of letter of the time, and was examined seriously. Apparently, this special edition, which influenced Goethe, was also received by Grimm Brothers. Grimm Brothers released the results of their examination with the work “Die Sage Von Polyphem”. Because, in many parts of this work, there are statements like “according to the opinion of Diez” or “according to Diez” or “according to the idea of Diez”. In actual fact, this shows that Grimm Brothers received this special edition, and they examined it.

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