

DOI Link: <https://doi.org/10.61586/SaxjH>
Vol.123, Issue.11, Part.1, Nov 2025, PP.2-16

Silent Injustice and Social Stereotypes in the Novel *Bookstore: Crime and its Aftermath*

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Received Feb 2025 Accepted Oct 2025 Published Nov 2025

Abstract

This article explores how the novel *Bookstore* critically addresses social prejudices within the context of criminal investigations. It examines how socioeconomic status and biased perceptions distort reality in the fictional narrative, revealing the insidious nature of prejudice and its influence on investigative outcomes. The characters -victims, witnesses, and perpetrators- illustrate the damaging effects of stereotypes, highlighting systemic flaws that perpetuate exclusion and discrimination. The analysis contends that *Bookstore* transcends entertainment, serving as a socio-critical commentary that challenges readers to recognize their implicit biases and reflect on the broader societal consequences. Furthermore, the study discusses the impact of criminal imagery on children's mental health, advocating for shielding children from direct exposure while suggesting that engagement with tragic events through fiction may foster reading habits, provide psychological resilience, and reduce violent behavior. Overall, the novel exemplifies the complex relationship between prejudice, social justice, and the transformative potential of literature.

Keywords: Social Prejudice, Crime and Society, Intensity and Reality

Introduction

The crime novel found their readers in the late 18th century, when people came from the countryside to the city. Peoples began to work due to the increase in labor costs, and the crime element became widespread. However, criminal cases began to be written, bringing reality to fiction. *Murders in the Rue Morgue*, (Edgar Allan Poe), *Paris Tragedy* (Christopher Marlowe), *The Story of a Mathematical Genius* (Sherlock Holmes), *Murder on the Orient Express* (Agata Christie), *Lost Girls* (Tess Gerritsen), *Leviathan* (Paul Auster), *Fog and Night* (Ahmet Ümit)... sheds light on the events that occur in the back streets and other worlds of societies. The stratification and interaction of society led to the systematic shaping in fictions, so that crime works and documents entered in sociology research. In this frame, the novelist Esmahan Aykol observed social life, cultural communications in Germany and Turkey. Intellectual thought that cultural developments accelerate cultural degeneration (Ungan, 2008) depending were mowed in criminal works with negativitive motifs and images. The desire to seek new information, which stems from the individual's own curiosity and personal motivations (Berberoglu, 2010), also provides the opportunity to carry most cases into criminal fiction. Although exclusionary, dramatic and tragic cases seem to be tolerated in social life, and every negative development breaks human dignity. The contents of words, discourses and behaviors changed with education, and perception constituted a serious obstacle. Now let's try to understand criminal fiction and its importance based on the genre and narrative of the novel specific to two countries.

The Place of Criminal Fiction in Reality

Due to globally developments, natural disasters, wars, economic and migration reasons, the 21st century have a negativ variable character. In many societies, problems of trust and harmony have become difficult. Among them the most difficult uncomprehensible is certainly perhaps prejudice which is used as motif in crime works. Because, crime novels with theirs internal mathematics made it easier the possibility to clear yesterday, today and tomorrow. It has reached with time a form that emphasizes social reality, above all trust and faith in logic (Moran, 2001). The exhausting aesthetic of literary texts, the reader's desire to compete with the narrator in analysis complex, and the novel's function of taking the reader away from the real environment (Simsek, 2002). While positive heroes reveal social negativities and try to prevent negativities (Tilbe, 2016) the truth is hidden allways somewhere. Criminal fiction as a radical form¹ (Luserke, 2017) was criticized mostly on the grounds of literary worthlessness. But the opinions against this are collected that it should be evaluated within mass literature (Akçit, 2019). Between these two approaches, criminal stories are a way of telling inhumane situations, opening up problems or issues for discussion, and telling about distorted physical and psychological structures. Increasing the awareness of criminal should be noticed and understood

¹ Citations are translated entirely by the author and quotations from the review book are given in quotation marks or block text.

by the readers who can notice the transformation of difference into otherness in order to secure one's own certainty (Dalbay, 2018). In this context the novel *Bookstore* begins with hurried steps and continues with the murder of a film director. The investigations are knotted with child abuses in many countries. Immigrant women Esmahan Aykol responded to their humiliation in Europe with feelings of insecurity and insensitivity. She benefits from opportunity that literature enables the interpretation of individuals, selves, behaviors and situations (Dieter, 2001). The fact that literature and sociology share similar subjects can facilitate a little analysis of behavior and motives in crime works. What the immigrant, who is mentioned on the margins of society, has to say is certainly part of the realities and waits understanding.

Methodology and Purpose

This study was conducted with a qualitative method and shaped by analyzing of fiction and comprehension in a criminal story. Document analysis was used as a design the thematic. Scott's words; It can be seen that the approaches were useful in making sense of written texts because they are documents and socially positioned products (Scott, 1990). Since the documents draw a framework for reality in terms of datas collection, analysis and inference process, the events were tried to be interpreted through holistic observation. In our study will be conducted and broken with the examination 'academic bias' and the perception through characterisation. In discussions will be conduct up to thematic and support by datas. Our aim here isn't to offend public officials and public institutions, but to reveal the fallacy of perceiving prejudice as correct over time, and to ensure that what is happening behind the scenes is understood through reactions.

On the Identity of Author and her Understanding to Literature

The novelist Esmahan Aykol is also an immigrant's daughter. Although the expected workers were especially welcomed among the immigrants, they have begun to be seen as responsible for increasing problems over the years. However as generations changed and increased, problems also increased, unwillingness and predictions became clearer. Germans began to communicate with those who were not from their own culture at a distance, alienation and exclusion became widespread. Although Turks initially found these behaviors strange, they overcame their fears over time. In the human-centered novel, by making use of analysis and datas, 'I' will overcome corrupted thought. The novelist combines the subject with era, event, plot, time and places in her perspective. The distorted social reality of today's modern society makes even its own people uneasy. The subject's perception is to try to explain and clarify how art sees inhuman disasters. With her observational and analytical work, she criticizes the established foresight and reveals the fallacy of academic discourse.

Aykol was born in Edirne in a Macedonian family (1970). As the daughter of a lawyer parents she studied law at Istanbul University, wrote articles in different newspapers and journals, and worked in some media channels. She completed her master and doctorate degrees in law at the Humboldt University in Berlin (1996). Her keen observations and sensitivity developed during her doctorate studies and led her to write crime novels. She summarizes in an interview her reason for writing criminal in a few sentences. She allows mixed race women (Kati) to draw attention

the reality among Turkish and German Women's comprehension. Kati will investigate, 'on being a foreigner, being an outsider to a society, being an immigrant and evaluating that society from an outsider's point of view' (Sayım'in Bavulu: Konuk Esmahan Aykol). Studying law was a good opportunity for that and for analytical thinking. The young woman summarizes the relationship between law and writing in a few sentences. In her words; 'Because crime fiction is a pleasant read. You can write with humor. You can make very heavy subjects, like murder, sympathetic. Nevertheless, you can tell something so heavy in a more sympathetic way. Not necessarily with drama and tears. Detective fiction has such freedom' (Bir Kadın (38): Esmahan Aykol). Aykol's experience in Berlin was helpful in creating the plot. When the German newspapers made headline the director's murder as 'Murder on the Bosphorus', crime journalist Kati would throw the boomerang back. The murder of filmdirector, the uncertainty murder time, the emotional relationship between director and Petra, the disappearance of her child, the suspicion that director might want to smuggle drug using the film, and the murder might have been referred to the mafia... are the compenets of uncertainty in theme. After all, art has always been a means of telling the truth in the midst of social contradictions, and words have always been its carrier.

On Character Construction, Cultural Bias, Thematic Layers and Intertextual References

The narrator is both a bookstore owner and a criminal journalist. A law student who is prejudiced, ignored, and whose country and identity are ridiculed, responds with a really reaction. She decides to write about the injustice she suffered after returning to her country in a criminal form. This genre is defined mostly as being concerned with uncovering how and by whom a crime, usually a murder, was committed (Kakınç, 1995). The wall has just fallen. The author encountered the humiliating words of an academic member when she was a student. She tells the starting point in an interview as follows:

They don't know Turks. Some of the professors are East Germans and have never seen a Turk. I am almost the only Turk in the law faculty. They don't recognize me as a Turk. Because the Turks they have seen in their lives are a Turkish greengrocer -in Germany there are a lots of Turks working as greengrocers- a cleaner who comes to their house. They constantly ask, 'Are you a Turk? Did you have to cover your head in Turkey? Do you know Mozart? At this point, we belong to something. I went there from an environment, from an university. How couldn't I know Mozart? It started to seem very offensive to me and I actually cooled down a bit. In the meantime, a German women Kati Hirshel, I was always trying to comfort myself. How would it have been? If I had been a German in Turkey instead of a Turk in Germany, would I have faced similar prejudices? Would they have called me Helga? Then this idea came to me. A German woman in Turkey, also struggling with being a foreigner, with prejudices. Gradually, Kati Hirshel began to form while she was writing her

doctoral thesis, and I began to write parallel to her (Bir Kadın (38). Esmahan Aykol).

It is known that prejudice varies according to gender, age, appearance, name, religion and origin. But, if an individual or another person is determined as a victim (Buetow, 2019) or if the other is evaluated negatively there is a negative behavior towards him (Goldstein, 1980). Woman character as German and Turk is gathered in Kati, in whole case. Even though she can adapt to traditional life and modern society, Lale sees her 'a typical German miser' and Pelin 'an immigrant oppressed by Turks in her familiarity and personality'. She was also from real life and mixed from her environment culture. That's why the writer created the character Kati with her intense perception. She take photographs of cities and typology like this: 'When I was creating Kati Hirshel, I was inspired by a German friend of mine who was living in Turkey at the time. My best friend has a bookshop, I mixed them with her. I mix very concrete things with each other' (Polisiye Söyleşiler 6: Esmahan Aykol). She had recognised, experienced the discrimination in Germany and the reality should be told in two-sided story. For example, the victim should be substantially a German and die in Istanbul. Mesut a film company owner and producer should be involved as mafia in the event. Here, a few questions were important for Kati: Why had Western people curiosity about the Ottoman harem? Why did the director want to make a film specifically about the Ottoman Harem? What was the basis reason? She wanted to attempt and counter prejudice by engaging with the curiosity of western people. The director came to Istanbul to make a film named *1001 Nights in the Harem* but he was found dead in his hotel room the night he came. The film would be based on an adaptation of Donetti's book.

...Handan Sultan's nationality is unknown according to many historians, but Donetti claims that she was Venetian like Safiye Sultan, the mother of Mehmed III. The work is largely about the conflicts between Handan and Safiye and the intrigues in the palace... A Turk would have been too natural for this role. However, since our Handan Sultan was originally Venetian, she shouldn't behave like a real oriental...(Aykol, 2001: 142,143).

Essentially Harem² was in Ottoman State a great palace where the sultan's family lived and services provided in a functional system. There was an order in accordance with Islamic principles. The purpose of this institution was defined, where even entrances and exits were controlled, was to protect private life and women (Goodwin, 1998). In this palace, there is something called 'palace manners'. People are

² Functionally, Ottoman Harem was divided into three parts. The first part, up to the main Harem door, was reserved for men. The second part is the section where the concubines are working as servants. The third part is the part where the sultan's family women, validesultans, and princes lived. (See Ahmet Akgündüz and Said Öztürk, *Bilinmeyen Osmanlı, İstanbul: Osmanlı Araştırmaları Vakfı*, 1999, pp.319-320). The network formed by women living in the Harem. They could involve in political life, because the people and the dynasty played an important role in the politics of Ottoman. Their charitable works, institutions for the poor, help to pover people. (See Özcan N. Demir, "Harem Institution in the Ottoman Empire", *Journal of Economy, Culture and Society*, 2003/28, p.86).

extremely polite, very careful with their speech, they don't use bad words. What the most important parts of palace life was courtesy, mutual respect and good manners. This Ottoman palace system disappeared by transferring its functions to new structures. As Montesquieu stated such powerful foundations, 'institutions disappear because of their triumphs' (Beck, 1999). During the discussion the new director and police chiefs reminded their stereotyped ideas, and Kati had to react. One of them blamed Turkey and Istanbul for human rights, violation and insecurity.

I don't understand how you can live in a country with human rights problems. Aren't you afraid that something might happen to you? Besides, theft and pickpocketing have increased dramatically since the economic crisis. Otto told us to be careful with our bags and money... (Aykol, 2001: 169).

Kati doesn't never accept the accusations. The real issue is the murder of director. Why were police chiefs mocking her country, where she found peace in there? She couldn't allow to ridicule and says; 'May be I'm an Istanbulite because Istanbul is the only place where it is okay to feel that I belong'...(Aykol, 2001: 201). According to her it was also unfair to call Kreuzberg 'as Little Istanbul', where German workers don't want to settle. In this way, the author gives to reader the opportunity to compare the created perception. Kati insisted that there were no fingerprints, no evidence and no witness about the murder. Against this, Chief Jean didn't give up to involve in the case. She met on the plane Selim who was unknown yet. He has the same opinion. His question, 'Will the German police find the evidence that the Turkish police can't find?.. The ability of the police to catch criminals is not proportional to the per capita income of that country...' (Aykol, 2001: 208,209) had cornered chiefs. When police chiefs insist that German police have the technological power and talent to solve murders and that 'murder is solved with intelligence' they are met with the reaction that Turkish doctors are 'better than German doctors' despite Türkiye's poverty. Kati realized that instead of a 'good cop-bad cop' debate, breaking down prejudices would be possible by letting Chief Jean's speak.

I have been trying to put Müller in the dock for two years. I don't know if you remember. There was a chain of child murders that shook Western Europe in the late eighties... The police failed to clarify the fate of the abducted children. Within seven months, 12 children were abducted one after the other, and their bodies were found some time after their abduction. Although a few clues were found, the cases were not clarified. The first child was abducted in West Germany, and his body was found in a forest between Brussels and Bruges. The next two children were from Belgium. They were abducted from the Netherlands and France, and their bodies were found two to three weeks later. (Aykol, 2001: 209, 210-211).

Kati was psychologically disturbed by what she heard and found surprised many files on her desk. She browses curiously the files and learns that dozens of innocent

children were abducted from Germany, Belgium, Netherland, France, Mallorca, Tailand and other countries. Among them was a five years old child whos mother's asylum application was rejected. This child was abducted from refugee camp in Krefeld-Germany. His mother Mitka wanted to get rid of your child. Sociologist Pütz explains such behaviors are commonplace and routine case in wealthy societies; 'among the negative norms of bourgeois society, pregnancy and childbirth are among the phenomena frequently used in bourgeois tragedy' (Pütz, 1970). Of course, a researcher should have revealed this tragic contradiction one way or another. Due to social problems, poverty, globally crisis and increasing migration, cases could increased, families and children could encounter tragic events. This phenomenon threatens humanity and are explained in news.

Last week, German authorities announced that 1579 unaccompanied, underage refugee children were missing in the country. According to figures from the Federal Criminal Police Office (BKA), there are 972 young people aged 14 to 17 and 607 children as young as 13. The BKA says the number has decreased significantly compared to previous years. When I discussed this issue with the Berlin headquarters of Amnesty International and the German headquarters of UNICEF, both authorities said that they did not have sufficient information on the issue, as their main field of work is not missing refugee children. When so many children are missing even in safe countries in the center of Europe, it is impossible to estimate the situation of refugee children and young people in countries where there is little control and registration is neglected... (Almanya'da 1500'den Fazla Mülteci Çocuk Kayıp).

Many of the news that have been confirmed by Chief Jean and forced him to explain more. He prepared a detailed report after his investigations in Europe 1990. His statements show that despite all its charm, Europe has internal contradictions. The words confirm both a confession and the fact of a secret investigation.

When it was discovered that the boy on the tape found in the porn shop in Clichy was Wim, who had been abducted from an orphanage in Rotherdam in 1990 and then murdered like the others, it was investigated how the porn seller had obtained the tape. It was discovered that Müller was also part of the gang and that he had even made the films. Müller's name was also mentioned in this man's statement before he was murdered... Five of the 12 children are children from orphanages, children without parents. The others are children of poor families, refugees. Families that neither their financial means nor their social position would allow them to pursue this matter... (Aykol, 2001: 212-213).

Although it isn't directly understood from here that director Müller provided the kidnapping connections, it is understood that there is a reference to illegal cases in

the shadow of art. The statements were confirmed in an interview and were discussed about what precautions could be taken. 'There are 1 million cases of missing children every year within the borders of the European Union. These include those who run away from home, are abducted, detained by their parents, injured, killed or lost traces during migration' (AB Ülkelerinde Kayıp Çocuk Vakalarına Karşı Nasıl Müsadele Edilebilir?) Could European people be so insensitive? Or were children, unable to find attention in the allure of modern life, being deceived by gangs in the hope of getting what they expected? The novel's themes of prejudice and exclusion evolved into another reality towards the end; thus, the author drew attention to a more humanly important issue. When she reached the name Mitka Marinova, learned that Yakut, Mesut's daughter and Yusuf's wife are in this case. Mitka was the mother of the child kidnapped in Sofia. She is now in Turkey by Yakut. Yakut protects Mitka and threatens Kati couldn't have been in vain. 'Petra was one size too big for you, but you found Mitka suitable for you, didn't you? There aren't only the two of them in this, you should know that I'm in it too, so watch your feet accordingly! I won't be blackmailed' (Aykol, 2001: 229-230). While Kati appears to be avoiding Yakut, she will have Mitka, whom she gained experience with in another country, to implement her plan. The threats were for the plausibility of criminal fiction. The main thing in fiction is the idea of making the outsider break the prejudice, not the one who is prejudiced.

Discussions and Evaluations

The Turkish detective genre begins with writers and journalists. They reflected social changes, economic difficulties, intrigues, the lifestyle in cultural values to novels. While social and political references influenced in the 1980s, the expectation of enrichment and social role changed in 1990s. Political and economic reasons have made the conditions difficult depending on modernisation. As Emile Durkheim said, 'the cause of a social event is another social event' (Durkheim, 2004). On the other hand is known, that 'many phenomenon of criminal events was as old as the history of humanity' (Karaarslan, 2006). The criminals are important for awareness in harmful and beneficial aspect. The possibility of likely cases has been tested with an application in France. During application; 'The French people didn't react to the kidnapping of a child in front of the eyes of passers-by. While the video shared on the social media attracted great reaction, users interpreted the French people's lack of reaction as the cruelty of capitalism and humanity, the collapse of social solidarity values' (Fransızlar Çocuk Kaçırma Sosyal Deneyine Tepkisiz Kaldı). However crime, cause, effect and psychology are phenomena that are considered together. Therefore, it is expected from a human perspective, sensitivity and reaction to negative behaviors in Europa.

The novel *Bookstore* with its narrative elements, criminal motifs and main character Kati, resembles the triangle of examining behind the comprehension of European. The main reason is attributed to rapidly changing of social culture. And, 'the norms are losing their structural function and affecting the lives of individuals, causing deficiencies in the acts of movement and continuity' (Tolan, 1981). While Kati exemplifies the coldness communication and discriminatory of European

people, she tells also the unseen face because the alienation and conflict are also the phenomena in modern life. Most importantly of major problems against Turks is prejudice which creates firstly unsafe communication. The *Bookstore* was written as a reflection and reaction to negative perception. Disregarding the Turks communication can't be defined. On the contrary, 'exclusion and discriminatory behavior' (Bilgin, 1996) means underestimate in multiculturalism. Because, as Thomas Pettigrew put forward that, 'prejudice is rooted in personality and culturally learned attitudes' (Crider, 1993) depending, 'religion's capacity create prejudice as well as its power to destroy it' (Allport, 1966). It can be here said that the author's Turkish identity caused her to encounter, which was the reason to write in social psychology. In one description, 'the psychological factors as well as sociological factors are important in the emergence of any crime and criminal behavior' (Özen, 2022). Kati's representing as a character, investigate the director's murder, but she doesn't allow to German police chiefs to investigate the case but she gives them bad social psychology. She expanded the subject with motif 'bias/prejudice' and tried to tell many things in this wise. With her statements and references, she recommends closing the doors to them because prejudice tarnishes image and brings hatred. The emotional relationship between director and Petra, the illegitimate position of child Peter, Mesut and his film crew, the German police chiefs sarcastic and meaningless insistences were to compare the plot. Their relationship among society and foreign had to be taken seriously. She explains her purpose of writing in this context; 'These will somehow be very beneficial to the genre, at least that type of person created by this social environment is a good crime fiction hero' (Polisiye Söyleşiler 6: Esmahan Aykol). The balance among the film director and police chiefs will be provide with your insistences on a film about Ottoman Harem and accusations. The author Aykol has collected this mentality that is unfair and humiliating. While thousands of children, mostly refugees under the age of 14, were being kidnapped in Europe between 1990 and 2000, it should have been much more important for artists to deal with the tragic events and for the police departments to conduct serious investigations and examinations. In addition, Europe was shaken in this period by child abductions maybe extending to 'Epstein case'³ which was a scandal that was closely shameful to humanity. The author refers to such tragic events in the novel with the kidnapping of Peter, who grew up as an orphan so that she expects answers to many question: Why is the Ottoman Harem more important than a tragic scandal for European? If the scandal is real, why hasn't it been investigated and solved? If it's not real, why are there so many confessions? The US may have covered up the tragic incident, but why did the German police participate in this indifference? Even if the media doesn't want to report the abuse

³ Jeffrey Epstein (1953-2019), an investment banker and financier, came to public attention due to financial allegations and sexual abuse allegations. His frequent visits to Ebstein Island (Little Saint James) were the subject of scandals and he was sentenced on charges of child trafficking and abuse. Although the list of crimes increases due to the luxury entertainment, sexual abuse, allegations of secrecy, the mention of world-renowned names in the social network, and the scandal being associated with rich and influential people, his death was explained with a suicide message in Manhattan Metropolitan Prison so that the criminal charges could be dropped. (See: Epstein Adası ve Jeffrey Epstein-<https://wannart.com/içerik/44142-epstein-adasi-19.01.2024>; Access. 01.02.2025).

of thousands of children, even teenagers, under the pressure of a superpower, can obscuring the truth be considered humanly right?.. From a global perspective, the gravity of the situation becomes even more apparently. For example, the United States is currently reeling from allegations that, in August 2019, numerous underage girls were lured into sexual abuse by politicians and wealthy businesspeople under the guise of ‘massage services’. Virginia Giuffre, who alleged abduction and sexual abuse by Jeffrey Epstein, were summarily addressed with reports stating that she took her own life at the age of 41 on her farm in Western Australia (Dünya, April 26, 2025). Even if the victims hide their identity, there are many documents, records, and witness in question. During the investigations of US Federal Bureau (FBI) and the US Department of Justice the files, he died by suicide in his cell. The scandal, which has attracted significant attention in international media, is being linked to political institutions⁴. While the author tries to eliminate prejudice with a counter-claim in her narrative, she expands the element of crime. The fact that the murdered film director was involved in child abduction cases represents a significant concern. The author rarely allows to German police chiefs in response to their sarcastic attitude. She felt the police chiefs’ reluctance to share their knowledge and can’t believe them that they are unaware of a serious case that transcends European borders. When Chief Jean notices her determination not to be implicated in case, he confesses that the director was unfortunately involved. However, this confession offers no progress toward resolving the issue. She reports the development of the case directly from the chief’s perspective, revealing a painful reality with child abduction cases spreading throughout Europe and Africa. If police chiefs are truly determined to solve the case, they should begin in Germany and Europe, and the problem of accusations and marginalization directed at Turks should be diminish. Because there has been no progress in this area, no one is willing to address the problem. The author is concerned about this reality. However a connection is mentioned between the work and it’s author. The relationship between author, work, thematic

⁴ The Epstein case, that shook the World: After Epstein’s arrest in 2019, the allegation that many politicians’ names were mentioned in the scandal, and the US Justice Department’s announcement that statements would not be allowed, led to what can be described as a rebellion among the President’s base... (07.18.2025). (See: <https://www.setav.org/magada-epstein-catlagi-Accsed:20.07.2025>); Epstein, whose official cause of death was declared suicide, was accused of the same crime (child sexual abuse) in Florida in 2005 following a complaint from the family of a 14-year-old girl. During the police investigation at the time, more than 50 people stated that they had experienced the same victimization; Epstein reached an agreement with the prosecutor’s office and was sentenced to 13 months in prison with 12 hours of release per day. (See: <https://www.dw.com/tr/trump-epstein-haberini-yay%C4%B1nlayan-wsjyiu%C3%A7a%C4%9Fa-alm%C4%B1yor/a-73364690-22-07-2025>); The news, titled ‘Deutsche Bank to Pay \$75 Million in Epstein Case’ accused the German banking giant of knowing about Epstein’s sex trafficking network and allowing it to operate. Germany-based Deutsche Bank has agreed to pay \$75 million in a lawsuit filed by a woman over its connections to billionaire Jeffrey Epstein. (See: <https://www.indyturk.com/node/632691/d%C3%BCnya/deutsche-bank-epstein-davas%C4%B1nda-75-milyon-dolar-tazminat-%C3%Böyeycek-18-May-2023>).

and life will be better understood with this literary definition: ‘There can’t be an absolute relationship between the work and its author; it can’t also be said that the work is a direct replica of life’ (Wellek and Warren, 1983). Every doubt, distrust and prejudice prevent communication and activate naturally negative thoughts. The *Bookstore* can be read as a crime comedy which containing some of the facts of life. privileged elements related to Turkey and its culture in the novel creates a decorative effect. According to one approach, ‘contrary to discourses that take a negative stance against cultural images, the routine presentation of novels as they enter the target literary system’ (Tarakçıoğlu and Kıran, 2021) shows that the author complies with narrative ethics. Moreover, judging someone by their appearance, making inferences specific to the society they belong to, is for Edward Button ‘physiognomic fallacy’. Judging someone to their face or accusing her/him can be based on knowing well, including the identity and character. However, this is possible with physiognomic recognition. Even in physiognomy, ‘it is necessary to intuit personality by looking at the face, where there is much more to reality than its essence, and to take into account many subtle clues that interact with each other’ (Button, 2022). The role of those who were subjected to unfair judgment, the writers, and the characters to whom they attributed special meanings can be understood through the clues of cultural identity.

Conclusion

As the world becomes increasingly globalized, people’s sensitivity and commitment to the new society also increases. Privileges and contradictions become evident as prejudices take root and perceptions shift; communication becomes difficult. Psychological devastation is channeled into stories and novels, and its causes are questioned. Though *The Bookstore* doesn’t directly resemble a romantic drama, it is one of those Works with its powerful, traumatic narrative. In this manner, it exemplifies to reader, even if implicitly, how images and references offend people. The murder of a film director, investigations, discussions, desensitization, love and mockery can be read in parallel with the remembrances. Aykol points out the need to be sensitive to the foreigner, and makes references to the Western comprehension. After all, modern Europe is today the country scandals mentioned. She had to make a strong defense against the prejudice with the help of her experiences to break German society’s insistence on seeing itself as competent in all areas. Narrator Kati draws attention to the privileges of human perception and culture in discussion with an academic person and in dialogues with two police chiefs. She didn’t accept the Germans’ sarcastic questions such as whether a Turk could only be a worker or a greengrocer, whether she knew Mozart, or Istanbul is safe or not. The consciousness created by these thoughts that provoke her is the feeling of being unwanted. It is necessary not to remain silent anymore and must make fair thinking felt. With this attitude, the third generation in Germany will speak out and publicize injustice through literature. Miscommunication and psychological pressure must be left behind, and the new educated generation must lift the curtain on Germany’s flamboyant yet mysterious nature. The new generation’s argument is that language, religion, race, and culture don’t give anyone the right to denigrate or exclude others. After all, the German police have a

reputation for being unfriendly towards Turks, and this insistence on abuse must be prevented. Sociologist Cemil Meriç defines the cold, habitual social comprehension as ‘norm imbalance’ and clarifies the problem as follows. ‘If social unity can’t provide harmony and individual interests disrupt the social balance, it means that the system of norms is broken’ (Meriç, 1978). In a society where norms aren’t functioning properly, constantly turning eyes towards strangers could of course be another mistake. The author’s reference to the complex network of connections surrounding the fictionally murdered film director in Istanbul points to the questioning of social norm structures. The problem that overturns social norms, which extends from poor countries to imperialist powers, encompasses child abductions, and has reached a deeply worrying and shameful level for humanity, has been overshadowed. It was easier to confine people to prejudice and problems. The police chiefs’ comparison of Berlin/Kreuzberg to ‘Little Istanbul’, their disparagement of the Turkish police’s ability to solve cases, and their questioning of Istanbul’s safety and livability causes to reaction from Kati. She can’t reconcile their mocking attitude and behavior with her mental health. Because there was no end of prejudices and what really mattered were the facts and telling them was a responsibility. Prejudice like tragic events, inflicts psychological traumatic.

Today’s people expect learning through uninhibited education and training, effective materials and methodologies, and adrenaline-pumping visuals. In this context, detective novels, like comics, can be said to stimulate reading curiosity and accelerate reading. Ultimately, social mentality is shaped by the influence of thinkers, educators, or policies; narratives strengthen the discourse. Leaving this important issue to the studies of the relationship between children’s literature and literature education, let’s talk about the importance of fiction. Author Aykol compares her perceptions with expectations through her experiences with what she saw and lived, and claims that the prejudice to her parents have not changed today. While modern life overshadowed this unchanging mentality and witnessed tragic events not only in Germany but throughout almost all of Europe, no society or individual would allow judgment on itself, as art would provide a basis for telling everything in its own language. Like Feridun Zaimoglu, who tells and writes the problems of immigrants from diverse cultures in his Works, especially in ‘Leinwand’ as criminal comedy, Aykol argues that there must be an interaction with two communities. As the world becomes increasingly globalized, the intertwining of cultures seems natural. Given that the pain of our age, the fragmentation of families, and the shared experiences of problems are common, living together and sharing without judgment must be achieved. Otherwise, the world will once again become polarized, and borders will likely be redrawn. As humanity navigates this reality, power and prejudice will categorize societies, leaving a more negative legacy for future generations. With the weight of the age already wearing down societies, it would be beneficial to prevent life from deteriorating further and maintain optimism. As revealed in this study, prejudice can cause a change in perception over time and subsequently a reaction; it leaves societies under suspicion. Because the wars, invasions, massacres, migrations, poverty, and hunger inherent to this era are overwhelming humanity, political powers and state officials are essentially expected to find solutions to these problems. Even if not taken

seriously, the persistence of prejudices leads to discrimination, illegal organizations, and polarization, and awareness isn't understood. Ultimately in the name of human dignity, children MUST be protected from potential traps, rescued, seen as first material for the extinction of nations, and protected from being massacred.

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