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ON THE STRUCTURE OF A HISTORICAL DICTIONARY OF OTTOMAN TURKISH VERBAL COLLOCATIONS

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Historical dictionaries and chronological lists of collocations are extremely rare, and this is also true for every other kind of idiomatic expression as well as for proverbs. The situation with Turkish is, in this respect, quite typical: historical lexicography mostly concentrates on words and ignores word syntagms.

This is probably connected with the fact that historical dictionaries of lexemes are generally more important for etymological research, and etymological dictionaries resulting from this research are usually perceived as more ambitious and prestigious than historical ones. In this context, however, two opinions should be cited:

It was a Dutch etymologist and lexicographer Félicien de Tollenaere whose dictum – both in its original Dutch formulation and in this English translation: “Etymologizing without dating the material is like navigating without a compass” – was used as a motto in a significant study on the importance of dating in etymology by Gold (2005). Indeed, we still have too few (lexicographical) compasses in Turkology.

The compilation of a historical dictionary is certainly very time-consuming and bears out to the letter what Samuel E. Martin once said (though in a quite different context): “The kind of work on details we need is less ego-enhancing than that of concocting grandiose theories [...]. These jobs call for drudgery with attention to precision, and the work must be its own reward” (Martin 1996: 63).

In order to make this drudgery a little more tolerable and our task somewhat more easily achievable I would suggest that to begin with we should concentrate on Ottoman Turkish transcription texts. An advantage of this approach is that everyday collocations will almost certainly be more readily found in colloquial transcription texts than in Ottoman poetry.

It should be also emphasized that short texts and vocabularies sometimes contain collocations missing from much bigger sources. Thus, *veresiye ver-* ‘to sell on credit’ could not be found in Meninski’s *Thesaurus*, which has instead *viresiye sat-* (with *vi-*) id. Similarly, *yardım ver-* ‘to come to the aid or rescue’ seems to be missing from Meninski’s work where we find, however, *yardım yetiştir-* attested with the same meaning.

It is important to settle the definition of *collocation*. If a verbal collocation is a traditional and conventional sequence of a verb and a noun then one has to formulate a rule excluding a simple combination of a verb with its object, and, in addition, to decide whether a sequence of a verb with another part of speech (e.g. *geri ver-* ‘to give back’) should be taken into consideration as well.

Not every attestation of a given collocation should be adduced in a dictionary. Some collocations are very frequent indeed (e.g. *selâm ver-* ‘to salute, greet’). It is enough to give one attestation for every half century except during periods of rapid change of form or meaning.

Since transcription texts are written in different languages a decision has to be made as to whether the original meanings should be adduced without change or translated instead into the actual language of the modern publication. The latter solution is certainly more convenient for the ordinary reader but it entails the risk of incorrect or ambiguous translation. The former one is better for researchers than for average readers (on the other hand, how many average readers are interested in reading a historical dictionary?).

Then the problem of the headword has to be discussed: Should it be a verb (e.g. *to present* → *information / challenges / compliments*) or a noun (e.g. *information* → *to present / collect / gather*). In the short presentation below, a verb is used as a headword. This choice enables a reader to identify various meanings of a verb, which is generally a task more complicated than establishing the meanings of nouns. In any event, indexes will be inevitable in such a dictionary.

Informing the reader of derivatives and synonyms of a given collocation may or may not find a ready welcome. Each solution has its merits.

In what follows a handful of collocations with *ver-* ‘to give’ is presented in the form of short entries. The aim of this presentation is to show one of the imaginable structures of such entries while the hope of this author is to start a discussion leading to the publication of a historical dictionary of Ottoman Turkish verbal collocations.

ad ver-

1680 Meninski: *ad virmek* <ad wirmekⁱ> ‘nomen imponere, nominare’ (Meninski 1680: 5111).

Cf. *nam ver-*.

adet ver-

1650 Carradori: *adet verirüm* <adet verirum> ‘costumare, dar costumi, creanze’ (Rocchi 2011: 50).

ağz ıkrârı(nı) ver- → *ikrar*

arza → *rıza*

aydınlık ver-

1641 Molino: *aydınlık vermek* <aidnlik [!] vermek> ‘illuminare, dare chiarezza’ (Siemieniec-Gołaś 2005: 273).

boyun ver-

1680 Meninski: *boyun virmek* <bojün wirmek¹> ‘se submittere, consentire || acconsentire, sottoporsi’ (Meninski 1680: 5422).

caba ver-

1650 Carradori: *caba vermek* <giaba vermech> ‘gratificatione’ (Rocchi 2011: 95).

can ver-

1680 Meninski: *cân virmek* <ġiān wirmek¹> ‘1. vitam dare, animam reddere, expirare, mori || dar la vita, render l’anima, spirare morire; 2. avidè desiderare, & libentissimè consentire, *vel* amplecti *aliquid* || bramar, e procurar con gran desiderio, & abbracciar, riceuer una cosa con tutta l’anima, volontieri’ (Meninski 1680: 1564).

1781 Pianzola: *can vermek* <ġian vermek> ‘animare; inanimare; incoraggiare; rendere l’anima’ (Rocchi 2009: 63).

değişlik ver-

1650 Carradori: *değişlik verirüm* <deghischlich verirum> ‘render cambio’ (Rocchi 2011: 118).

destur ver-

1533 Argenti: *testir verürüm* <testir uerurum> ‘licentio, do licentia ad uno’ (Rocchi 2007: 243).

1611 Ferraguto: *tester vererüm* <test uerérum> ‘licentiare’ (Rocchi 2012: 75).

1680 Meninski: *destûr virmek* <destûr wirmek¹> ‘facultatem, veniam dare’ (Meninski 1680: 2079).

1790 Viguier: *destur vermek* <dèstour vèrmèk> ‘permettre’ (Stachowski S. 2002: 78).

düzen ver-

1650 Carradori: *düzen verici* <duzen uerigi> ‘accordatore’ (Rocchi 2011: 135).

erkân ver-

1650 Carradori: *erkân verirüm* <erchian verirum> ‘dar costumi, creanze’ (Rocchi 2011: 145).

eyvazi (~ evazın) ver-

1650 Carradori: *eyvazi verirüm* <euasi verirum> ~ *evazın verirüm* <euasin verirum> ‘compensare, ricompensare’ (Rocchi 2011: 149).

gayrilere ver-

1650 Carradori: *gayrilere verirüm* <gairilereh uerirum> ‘alienare’ (Rocchi 2011: 339sq. reads *gayrilere*)

haber ver-

1650 Carradori: *haber (habar ?) verirüm* <hhchabar verirum> ‘annuntiare; auuertire, auuisare altri’ (Rocchi 2011: 168).

1790 Viguier: *haber vermek* <habèr vèrmèk> ‘annoncer, avertir, prédire, procalmer, publier’ (Stachowski S. 2002: 120) ~ ‘proclamer, publier’

(Stachowski S. 2002: 297); *kıyafetini haber vermek* <qeyafətini habèr vèrmèk> ‘signaler, donner le signalement’ (Stachowski S. 2002: 120).

hak ver-

- 1611 Ferraguto: *hak vererüm* <hác uerérum> ‘giustificarsi; pagare’ (Rocchi 2012: 92).
 1650 Carradori: *hak verirüm* <hach verirum> ‘ristorar la fatica; sodisfar la fatica’ (Rocchi 2011: 169).

ırza → *rıza*

ikrar ver-

- 1641 Molino: *tekrarden ikrar vermek* <tekrarden ikrar vermek> ‘ripromettere’ (Siemieniec-Gołaś 2005: 273).
 1680 Meninski: *agız ikrârın virmek* <aghyz ykrârin wirmek¹> ‘verbo se obligare, promittere || dar la parola’ (Meninski 1680: 5422).

iş ver-

- 1790 Viguier: *iş vermek* <ich vèrmèk> ‘occuper’ (Stachowski S. 2002: 149, 297).

karar ver-

- 1680 Meninski: *karar virmek* <kærār wirmek¹> ‘concludere, confirmare, determinare, statuere, ratificare || beschliessen / bestäätigen / bekräftigen / Schluß machen [...]’ (Meninski 1680: 3654).
 1790 Viguier: *karar vermek* <qarar vèrmèk> ‘ratifier’ (Stachowski S. 2002: 160).

koku ver-

- 1650 Carradori: *koku verirüm* <chochu verirum> ‘render odore’ (Rocchi 2011: 219).

kuvvet ver-

- 1790 Viguier: *kuvvet vermek* <qouvvet vèrmèk> ‘fortifier; vivifier’ (Stachowski S. 2002: 185, 297). – **Derivative:** *kuvvet verici* <qouvvet vèridji> ‘robotatif, corroboratif; substantiel; tonique’ (Stachowski S. 2002: 185).

mana ver-

- 1680 Meninski: *ma'nâ virmek* <mæ'nâ wirmek¹> ‘significationem dare, explicare || esplicare’ (Meninski 1680: 5423).

nam ver-

- 1790 Viguier: *nam vermek* <nam vèrmèk> ‘accréditer’ (Stachowski S. 2002: 211, 297).
 Cf. *ad ver-*.

nişan ver-

- 1650 Carradori: *nişan verirüm* <niscian verirum> ‘annotare, notare, segnare; didegnare’ (Rocchi 2011: 258). – **Synonyms:** *nişan etmek* ~ *komak*.

nizam ver-

- 1680 Meninski: *nizam virmek* ⟨nyzām wirmek¹⟩ ‘ordinare, bene disponere’ (Meninski 1680: 5204).
1790 Viguier: *nizam vermek* ⟨nizam vèrmèk⟩ ‘accomoder’ (Stachowski S. 2002: 215, 297).

ödünç ver-

- 1611 Ferraguto: *üdünç (ödünç ?) vererum* ⟨vdüncc uerérum⟩ ‘dare in prento [= prestito]; imprentare; prestare’ (Rocchi 2012: 127 reads *ödünç*).
1650 Carradori: *ödünç verirüm* ⟨odung verirum⟩ ‘commodare, prestare’ (Rocchi 2011: 264). – **Derivative:** *ödünç verici* ⟨odung verigi⟩ ‘commodante; imprestatore; prestatore’ (Rocchi 2011: 264).

öğüt ver-

- 1533 Argenti: *ügüt verürüm* ⟨ughutt uerurum⟩ ‘consiglio; dò consiglio’ (Rocchi 2007: 191).
1611 Ferraguto: *üyüt [!] vererum* ⟨vüt uerérum⟩ ‘consegiar altri; incitare al bene’ (Rocchi 2012: 127 adduces the wird sub *öğüt* but he also says: “La grafia del F. [= Ferraguto] riflette ovviamente la forma *üüt*”).
1680 Meninski: *ögüt vir-* ⟨ög¹üt wirmek¹⟩ ‘admonere, consilium, monitum dare || ermahnen / ein Rath / Warnung geben [...]’ (Meninski 1680: 530).
1790 Viguier: *öyüt vermek* ⟨euyut vèrmèk⟩ ‘avertir; conseiller; exhorter’ (Stachowski S. 2002: 221).

paha ver-

- 1650 Carradori: *paha verirüm* ⟨paha verirum⟩ ‘proferire, offerire’ (Rocchi 2011: 269).

rahatsızlık ver-

- 1790 Viguier: *rahatsızlık vermek* ⟨rahatsezleq vèrmèk⟩ ‘incommoder; embarasser’ (Stachowski S. 2002: 32) ~ ‘obséder’ (ibid. 297). – **Synonym:** *zahmet vermek*.

rahiye ver-

- 1650 Carradori: *rahiye verirüm* ⟨rahie verirum⟩ ‘odorare, dar odore’ (Rocchi 2011: 277).

rıza ver-

- 1650 Carradori: *arzayı verirüm* ⟨arszai verirum⟩ ‘consentire’ (Rocchi 2011: 182 reads *ırzayı*).
1781 Pianzola: *rıza vermek* ⟨riza vermek⟩ ‘condescendere’; *rıza vermemek* ⟨riza vermemek⟩ ‘dissentire’ (Rocchi 2009: 203).

rıza → *rıza*

sada ver-

- 1680 Meninski: *sada virmek* ⟨sädā wirmek¹⟩ ‘vocem, sonum emittere, resonare || sonare, risonare, dar voce farsi sentire, rimbombare’ (Meninski 1680: 2941).

- 1790 Viguier: *sada vermek* ‹sada vèrmèk› ‘résonner; rétentir’ (Stachowski S. 2002: 238, 297).

selâm ver-

- 1533 Argenti: *salam verürüm* ‹salam uerurum› ‘saluto’ (Rocchi 2007: 208).
 1611 Ferraguto: *selam vererüm* ‹selâm uerérum› ‘salutare’ (Rocchi 2012: 137).
 1680 Meninski: *selâm virmek* ‹selâm wirmek¹› ‘salutem impertiri, salutare’ (Meninski 1680: 2650).
 1790 Viguier: *selam vermek* ‹sèlam vèrmèk› ‘resaluer; saluer en passant’ (Stachowski S. 2002: 245, 297).

veresi(ye) ver-

- 1790 Viguier: *veresi(ye) vermek* ‹vèresi, vèresiyè vèrmèk› ‘avancer de l’argent; donner à crédit’ (Stachowski S. 2002: 296, 297). – **Synonym:** *veresiye satmak* (Meninski 1680: 5423).

yardım ver-

- 1650 Carradori: *yardum verirüm* ‹iardum verirum› ‘porger aiuto’ (Rocchi 2011: 348). – **Synonym:** *yardım yetiştürmek* (Meninski 1680: 5537).

yemiş(i) ver-

- 1650 Carradori: *yemişi verirüm* ‹iemisci verirum› ‘render frutto, fruttificare’ (Rocchi 2011: 352).

yerini ver-

- 1641 Molino: *yerini vermek* ‹ierini vermek› ‘cedere, dar loco; eccedere’ (Siemieniec-Gołaś 2005: 273).

zahmet ver-

- 1533 Argenti: *zahmat verürüm* ‹xachmatt uerurum› ‘affatico uno in qualche negotio’ (Rocchi 2007: 273).
 1641 Molino: *zahmet vermek* ‹szahmet vermek› ‘aggrauar dar briga’ (Siemieniec-Gołaś 2005: 273).
 1680 Meninski: *zahmet virmek* ‹zæhmet wirmek¹› ‘incommodare, incommodo esse, molesyiâ afficere, molestiam, dolorem, fastidium parere, affligere || Ungelegenheit machen / beschwären / verhindern / bemühen / Verdruß / Mühe machen / oder verursachen [...]’ (Meninski 1680: 2431). – **Synonyms:** *zahmet getirmek ~ çektirmek ~ komak* (ibid.).
 1790 Viguier: *zahmet vermek* ‹zahmèt vèrmèk› ‘incommoder, embarasser; obséder’ (Stachowski S. 2002: 297, 316). – **Synonym:** *rahatsızlık vermek*.

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