CAN SECURITIZATION PROVIDE A NEW PATTERN TO UNDERSTAND THE RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN THE PRESS AND GOVERNMENT IN TÜRKIYE: THE EXAMPLE OF MAY THE 3RD 1944 TURANISM INCIDENTS

Burak ERDOĞAN
Ankara University, Türkiye
brkerdogan@ankara.edu.tr

Abstract: *This study aims to conduct a debate around the security studies concept "Securitization" and the Turkish Press during May the 3rd, 1944 Turanism incidents. A descriptive analysis with a historical approach will be utilized at the study. A group of Turanists staged protests against the government in Ankara on May 3, 1944, just after the second session of a defamation case between left-wing author Sabahattin Ali and Turanist author Nihal Atsız. Due to both internal and external circumstances, the Turanist uprisings led to an array of political cases and the separation of mainstream nationalism and south-paw nationalism in Türkiye. The Turkish press played a key role around the incidents. With the help of the press, the government created a major security problem around an opposition group. Most of the Turanists which witnessed the era blamed the press for the governments responses to the incidents. Regarded as; the demise of Turkist fascism, a "crusade" against Turkism, the reemergence of Turkism or a state terror against Turkism, the events of May 3 were interpreted in a number of ways. In fact, despite that scholars from different backgrounds as well as authors from multiple political camps have examined the events of May 3, 1944 and the events that followed, there is still an absence on the state's situation and the state-press relationship at the time. To explain the entangled environment during the timescale, the Copenhagen School's "securitization" viewpoint will be utilized in order to understand the press and the government. According to the securitization concept, decision-makers are able to generate security "problems" and security as an understanding is developed through social processes. One way to generate security problems are speech-acts. The study aims to explore the potential and constraints of securitization in comprehending the dynamics between the government and the press in Türkiye by selecting an event which took place in a stage of turmoil, the Second World War. A descriptive analysis around two newspapers editorials which are close to the official state ideology, Ulus and Akşam will be examined during the study. By following an example, the concept of securitization will be evaluated rather if it can be used as a pattern to understand the relationship between the state and the press in early Turkish Republic studies and Turkish Press History studies.*