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ANKARA

**3rd INTERNATIONAL
CONGRESS OF HUMAN STUDIES
3. ULUSLARARASI İNSAN ÇALIŞMALARI KONGRESİ**

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Bildiri Özetler Kitabı**

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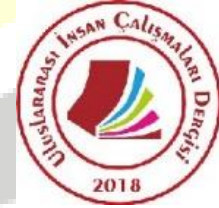
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Illness as a Metaphor: An Evaluation on Covid-19

Abstract

In her book, *Illness as Metaphor*, Susan Sontag focuses on metaphors and myths on diseases such as cancer and tuberculosis, which occur in different historical periods. Sontag argues that the metaphors produced related to illness overhaul illness and the things that define illness now have become metaphors produced related to them rather than their concrete and physical aspects. Illness becomes not just an illness, but a phenomenon defined by evil, mystery, fear, evil, madness, passions, wealth and poverty, temporal loginess or speed, and a set of metaphors or myths that are spatially identified with the space. Metaphors and myths turn into means of socially stigmatizing the illness itself rather than giving a meaning to illness. The disease literally turns into a situation that needs to be hidden in order to avoid social stigma. The explanation of mass diseases through metaphors and myths has been seen since ancient times and this understanding of mass diseases continues to exist today. As a matter of fact, the Covid-19 pandemic has also ceased to be the subject of only medical science since it first emerged, and it has turned into an issue that concerns many areas from politics to economics, from sociology to psychology. The metaphors generated on the Covid-19 disease, which we have witnessed its reflections in many areas from the discourses of daily life to the discourse of politicians, from art to literature, have a similar function with the metaphors attributed to diseases like cancer and tuberculosis that Sontag discussed. Covid-19 is not only seen as a disease, but as a disease defined by a series of metaphors such as mysterious, evil, invisible enemy, insidious danger, and democratic virus. The metaphors generated on the disease cause the struggle against the disease itself to be explained with various metaphors. The metaphors derived from Covid-19 such as "invisible enemy" and "biological war" cause the struggle against it to be turned into a military terminology, and the metaphor of "Chinese virus" is a means of social stigmatization / marginalization by racializing the virus directly. This study tackles the issue of how Covid-19, which is the subject of medical science, has become the subject of unscientific myths and metaphors attributed to the disease, and that the disease is perceived through metaphors rather than itself in the context of Susan Sontag's thought. In the study, answers for the questions of what kind of effects appeared due to the stigmatizing power of metaphors derived from the Covid-19 and whether the metaphors are the outcomes of the strategy for coping with the pandemic will be sought.

Keywords: the Covid-19, Illness, Metaphor, Myth, Susan Sonta



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Bir Metafor Olarak Hastalık: Covid-19 Üzerine Bir Değerlendirme

Özet

Susan Sontag Metafor Olarak Hastalık eserinde, tarihsel olarak farklı dönemlerde ortaya çıkan kanser ve tüberküloz gibi hastalıklar hakkında üretilen metaforlara ve mitlere odaklanmaktadır. Sontag hastalıklarla ilgili olarak üretilen metaforların hastalığın önüne geçtiğini ve artık hastalığı tanımlayan şeylerin somut ve fiziksel yönlerinden daha ziyade onlar hakkında üretilen metaforlar olduğunu iddia etmektedir. Hastalık sadece bir hastalık olarak değil kötülükle, gizemlilikle, korkuyla, şeytanilikle, delilikle, tutkularla, zenginlik ve yoksullukla, zamansal olarak yavaşlık ya da hızlilikle ve mekansal olarak yerle özdeşleştirilen bir dizi metafor ya da mitle tanımlanan bir olguya dönüşmektedir. Metaforlar ve mitler hastalığı anlamlandırmak yerine hasta olma durumunun kendisini toplumsal olarak damgalanmanın birer aracına dönüşmektedir. Hastalık tam da toplumsal damgalanmadan kaçmak için saklanması gereken bir duruma dönüşmektedir. Kitlese hastalıkların metafor ve mitlerle anlatılması eski çağlardan beri görülmekte ve günümüzde de kitlese hastalıklara yönelik bu kavrayış devam etmektedir. Nitekim Covid-19 salgını da ortaya çıktığı ilk günlerden itibaren sadece tıp biliminin konusu olmaktan çıkmış, siyasetten ekonomiye, sosyolojiden psikolojiye birçok alanı ilgilendiren bir meseleye dönüşmüştür. Gündelik hayattaki söylemlerden politikacıların söylemine, sanattan edebiyata birçok alanda yansımaya tanık olduğumuz Covid-19 hastalığı hakkına üretilen metaforlar, Sontag'ın ele aldığı kanser ve tüberküloz hastalıklarına yönelik atfedilen metaforlarla benzer bir işleve sahiptir. Covid-19 sadece bir hastalık olarak değil gizemli, şeytani, görünmeyen düşman, sinsi tehlike, demokratik virüs gibi bir dizi metaforla tanımlanan bir hastalık olarak görülmektedir. Hastalık hakkında üretilen metaforlar hastalığın kendisine karşı verilecek mücadelenin de çeşitli metaforlarla açıklanmasına neden olmaktadır. Covid-19'la ilgili türetilen “görünmeyen düşman”, “biyolojik savaş” gibi metaforlar ona karşı verilecek mücadelenin askeri bir terminolojiye dönüşmesine neden olduğu gibi “Çin virüsü” metaforu virüsü doğrudan ırksallaştırılarak toplumsal bir damgalananın/ötekileştirmenin bir aracı haline gelmektedir. Bu çalışma, tıp biliminin konusu olan Covid-19'un nasıl bilim dışı mitlerin, hastalığa atfedilen metaforların konusu haline geldiğini, hastalığın kendisinden daha ziyade metaforlar üzerinden anlaşıldığı meselesini Susan Sontag'ın düşüncesi bağlamında ele almaktadır. Çalışmada, Covid-19'la ilgili türetilen metaforların damgalayıcı gücünün ne tür sonuçlara yol açtığı, metaforların pandemiyle baş etme stratejinin bir sonucu olup olmadığı sorularına cevap aranmaktadır.

Anahtar Kelimeler: Covid-19, Hastalık, Metafor, Mit, Susan Sontag