

FOUR-FACED ANGEL - WELCOMED TO GERMANY? & ZAHİR

*Even if only few people can remember
how the world once had been,
we're not considered as we've broken
our links with the reality.
The memory and imagination of
even one single person can bring us together.¹ M. Gürle*

What is a dictionary – a defected a-priori question:

Words; Lists; Meanings; Definitions; Translations; Pronunciations (“how to say”s), Etymology (Sources, Genealogies)... All the images adhered to the term dictionary recall categories, names, hierarchies, a postulated power relation.

Dictionaries claim to be the 'legal codes' for languages and they constitute the codes *per se*. Constituting the codes as such necessitates a hierarchical structure; and reproduces the hierarchy through its continual power-holding existence. To maintain the existing structural habitus; the words need to be defined, described, transformed and experienced according to the ongoing corpus. The decided meanings become to be *the fixed ones* and they render a judgement. This judgement is now the corpus. More and more in each word... The words create reality. The words shape reality. One dictionary claims *one* reality. The ones who write the dictionaries are the ones who write the history. Or vice versa... The ones who write the history are the ones who write the dictionaries. Writing history makes the history, and the entire modern history is nothing more than a struggle of writing the history. But there is never one history and there shall never be one story-teller. Whoever writes a dictionary describes a meaning, *the* meaning; and thus writing a dictionary for today is writing the history *for* today and not merely writing the dictionary *of* today. If a dictionary is as well a 'partial report,' my own words and notes will *write* my self-reflexive report. Claiming my own words is claiming a collective

¹Yalnızca bir kaç kişi bile dünyanın bir zamanlar nasıl bir yer olduğunu hatırlıyorsa, gerçeklikle bağımızı koparmış sayılmayız. Tek kişinin hafızası ya da hayal gücü bile bizi bir araya getirebilir.” M. Gürle

dictionary. A dictionary of commons, a dictionary for commons. It is a claim to write histories through minor-stories: *mutato nomine de te fabula narratur*.

Writing our own dictionaries, our own histories is a resistance against the tyranny. But what if we are not eager to describe or define? We have to weave words, we have to be words-weavers. Dictionary is never merely one mode of resistance, but rather multiple interwoven modes of resistances. Writing our dictionaries has nothing to do with legitimizing our words: We do not necessitate any legitimization but only circulation and persistency. We persist on our own memories. We resist forgetting. We are writing our own histories. This is my story. A word exists if we use it, if we circulate it. Our narratives are not the alternatives to this or that. They are singularities. They are beyond categories, beyond hierarchies; They are continual attempts to find 'how's. Every dictionary is an attempt to touch other dictionaries.

A tyrant's dictionary cannot be my authority; I choose my own words; I tell my story woven with all stories, and, all touch mine.

Two co-working videos:

Video I - *Welcomed to Germany?* is a self-reflexive video-series based on the oral-histories of the people from different cultural sectors who migrated from Turkey fo Germany in the last five years. Self-reflexivity constitutes the video and is constituted through the structure of the video.

VIDEO II – *Zahir* is an impressionistic video emerging from *Welcomed to Germany?* series. I borrow the experiences to multiple them in my experiences and to render a 'four-faced' vision. The video uses the images shot by the Subjects with their cell-phones, found footage from a variety of sources like the news, activist-videos, newspapers, Turkish melodramas and the images I captured in a timespan of ten years: The images recalled by our stories told. The audio-regime of the video is be a sound-collage, constructed through the words uttered by the interviewees.