
University in the News

VI - STUDENT'S VOICE

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1.Introduction

One of the points that we frequently emphasize in the University in the News reports has been who the actors whose voices are heard in the news and how these voices are conveyed as the founding feature of the news discourse. In fact, news reporting is a selection and sorting process. What is newsworthy or not, which elements in a particular incident will be included in the news, which elements will not be included in the news, who will be selected as the news source, and how the choices will be made regarding the heading, wording and photograph determines what we call news discourse or frame. All these determine what we call news discourse or news frame. The preferences of the reporters, what they include or exclude are extremely important. One of the most important of these choices is whose voice will be reflected in the news and how it will be reflected. The subject has a voice; the subject speaks and expresses their demands, wishes, experiences, and objections. As the subject whose voice is not heard in the news -whoever they are- gets silent, they move away from being the subject of the news and turn into the object of the news. They become the “thing” that is spoken about rather than the one who speaks. And hence they lose their power, autonomy, and authenticity. As the “subject”, who loses its voice and is silenced, becomes objectified, it transforms into the field of action of various power projects and political/social imaginations and becomes reified. In fact, this is the very experience of the refugee, trans, woman, poor, activist, Kurd and Armenian, etc., on whom is spoken: Becoming the object of “speech” rather “speaking for themselves.”

When we assess the coverage of Boğaziçi protests in the pro-government media, it is possible to observe that this process of objectification and silencing is implemented systematically and deliberately. Student activism does not hesitate to speak up, but the pro-government media often does not hear or reflect this voice; and when it is reflected, the narrative is always accompanied by targeting and hate speech. Students as the subject of the protests and their democratic demands are engulfed in a partisan and biased publishing policy. However, students try to construct their own media to express their own statements and continue to find ways to make their words heard.

How much of the students’ voice is heard in the pro-government media? How do these words sound in these news items where their words are somehow reflected? From what kind of perspective do those who get the students’ words in these news articles perceive them?

To seek answers to these questions in our sixth report, we examined closely the news that somehow included the words of the students.

2.The Scope and the Methodology of the Research

We prepare “University in the News” reports by scanning all the news about student activism in A Haber, Akşam, Yeni Şafak, Takvim, Sabah, Akit Tv and Yeni Akit between January 4 and March 31.

In our first report on Boğaziçi protests, we stated that only 19 of 353 news stories we examined include the words of the students. This ratio presents a situation where the process of silencing and objectification that we underlined in the introduction is clearly visible.

Besides accommodating the words of the students such scantily, how their words are conveyed is also another subject of research.

The words and statements of the students participated in the protests are conveyed along with targeting, criminalization or hate speech in all the news items. The emphasis on “a hidden goal behind different than the visible” appears frequently in the news articles. In fact, the words of the student, who made a statement against those who participated in the protests, are reported with the highlight of “here are the facts”.

While the statements of the students are conveyed under the theme of “provocation”, hate speech is bred as the comments of LGBTI+ students are reported. The orientation of the students’ words revealed the difference in terms of conveyance. So, there is a divergence between the reporting of statements in favor and against the protests.

3. Analysis of the News

3.1. Emphasis on “provocation” framing statements

Six of 19 news reports include press releases or statements made by the students.

Especially in the news about the protests, the statements are conveyed by emphasizing “a hidden goal behind different than the visible” and by highlighting the themes of “provocation” and “terrorism.” The demands expressed by the students in the statements are criminalized. Discrimination against LGBTI+s manifest itself with the stress on “perversion.”

Boğaziçi provokatörleri AK Parti iktidarına kinini çirkin ifadelerle kustu!

Boğaziçi provokasyonuna imza atan grup bugün Çağlayan Adliyesi'nde bir araya geldi. Gruptakiler burada yaptığı açıklamasında AK Parti iktidarına olan düşmanlıklarını hakaret içerikli ifadelerle kustu.

- *“Boğaziçi provocateurs spit their venom towards the AK Party government by revealing ugly expressions! The group that put their seal on Boğaziçi provocation gathered at Çağlayan Courthouse today. In the statement they made there the members of the group spit their hostility towards the AK Party government with insulting expressions.”(Yeni Akit, 7.1.2021)*

In the news reporting a press statement in front of the courthouse with the heading of *Boğaziçi provocateurs spit their venom towards AK Party government by revealing ugly expressions!* (Yeni Akit, 7.1.2021) students are defined as “provocateurs”. The news starting with the sentence *“The provocateurs who came out of the university borders gathered at the Çağlayan Courthouse today after their meeting in Kadıköy yesterday”* does not include the information that a statement was made in front of the courthouse for the 24 students detained during the protests.

The statements of the students, *“We are calling out to those who watch us by trembling for fear of losing their power with the strength this union gives us: You cannot intimidate the youth with your pressures and arrests”* are conveyed by stating, *“The group that*

organized the press statement here spit their venom towards the AK Party government by revealing ugly expressions.”

Two paragraphs from the statement are reflected in the news with the following subheadings: “Look why they are protesting!” and “The allegation that the police are attacking!” Sentences against trustee appointments to municipalities are conveyed with the emphasis of “terrorism”. The use of a photograph of a student kicking against the police shields surrounding them on the subheading of the claim that the police are attacking is striking.

Rektör protestosu denildi, HDP'ye destek verildi

- “So called rector’s protest is actually support to HDP*”(Sabah, 22.1.2021)

In another news article titled “So called rector’s protest is actually support to HDP” (Sabah, 22.1.2021) regarding the protest in Kadıköy, the statements regarding the trustee appointment to HDP municipalities are conveyed in a manner of criminalizing HDP and students. While protesting Melih Bulu is called “allegation” in the article, the main reason for the gathering is stated as “raising voices of HDP and LGBTI+s.” Criminalizing some of the demands voiced in the protest and discrimination against LGBTI+ students appear in the sentences.

Boğaziçi Üniversitesi Dayanışma Grupları Rektör Melih Bulu’yu protesto etme iddiasıyla bir grup öğrenci ve sol örgüt üyeleri Kadıköy Rıhtım’da bir araya geldi
Protestoda ise rektör atamasına kısa bir bölüm ayrılırken terörle iltisaklı oldukları tespit edilerek görevden alınan ve yerine kayyum atanan HDP’nin ve LGBT üyelerinin duyulmasına geniş yer verildi.

- *“Boğaziçi University Solidarity Groups came together in Kadıköy pier with the claim of protesting Rector Melih Bulu, a group of students and leftist organization members. In the protest, a short part is devoted to the appointment of the rector, while the voices of HDP and LGBT members, who were found to be affiliated with terrorism and were dismissed and replaced by a trustee, were given ample place to be heard.”* (Sabah, 22.1.2021)

*HDP: Peoples’ Democratic Party

While the students are described as “*provocateurs*” in the two news stories, which also include the written statements of Boğaziçi Solidarity as visuals, the emphasis on the fact that Melih Bulu’s resignation is an “*excuse*” and the students’ “*hidden goal behind*” their protests are predominant in the texts.

Cumhurbaşkanlığı görüşme talep etti: Boğaziçi provokatörlerinin asıl amacı ortaya çıktı!

Cumhurbaşkanlığı, Boğaziçi Üniversitesinde protestolarına devam eden grupla bir görüşme talep etti. Boğaziçi Dayanışması adlı oluşum ise twitter hesabından yaptığı paylaşım ile asıl amaçlarının ne olduğunu gözler önüne serdi.

- *“The Presidency demanded a meeting: The real purpose of Boğaziçi provocateurs has been revealed! The Presidency requested a meeting with the group, which continues their protests at Boğaziçi University. Boğaziçi Solidarity organization, on the other hand, revealed their real purpose by sharing a post on their twitter account.” (Yeni Akit, 7.1.2021)*

In the news titled “*The Presidency demanded a meeting: The real purpose of Boğaziçi provocateurs has been revealed!* (Yeni Akit, 7.1.2021), the statement is conveyed with a subheading ‘*They proved that their aim is to ‘create chaos!’*” “*The whole picture*” emphasis is also present in the news article, in which the fact that the opposition parties supported the protests and other issues that the social opposition reacted to are reminded. The demands of the students are listed in the sentence “*Those who say that the 3rd Bridge, Istanbul Airport, Çanakkale Bridge and Canal Istanbul should not be built during the Gezi uprising hid today behind the excuse that the Rector should resign*”; however, due to the general theme of the news, the demands are also narrated as criminalized.

In another news titled “*Boğaziçi provocateurs confessed: Why the vice-rector’s seat was vacant*” (Yeni Akit, 23.1.2021), in which the written statement is conveyed with similar emphasis, “*foreign forces*”, “*causing chaos*”, and “*provocation*” themes are predominant with the subheading “*They also receive support from abroad.*”

Boğaziçi provokatörleri itiraf etti: Bakın rektör yardımcılığı koltuğu neden boş kaldı

Boğaziçi Üniversitesi'nde Rektör olarak görevlendirilen Prof. Dr. Melih Bulu'yu bahane ederek ortalığı karıştırmaya çabalayan grup, yayımladığı bültende rektör yardımcılığı koltuğunun neden boş kaldığını itiraf etti.

- *“Boğaziçi provocateurs confessed: Why the vice-rector’s seat was vacant. The group trying to create trouble using Prof. Dr. Melih Bulu, appointed as Rector at Boğaziçi University, as an excuse, confessed why the vice-rector’s seat was vacant in the bulletin they published.” (Yeni Akit, 23.1.2021)*

3.2. Breeding hate speech when conveying statements

While targeting is common in the news including the words of students, hate speech is also accommodated when the subject is LGBTI+ students. The news story of Yeni Akit, covering the interview given by LGBTI+ students to another newspaper with the headline “A perverted homosexual confessed that they are in opposition to Islam: ‘They are messing around with us because of this’” (Yeni Akit, 4.2.2021), set an example for the hate speech. Opposition media is also targeted in the news article, breeding hate speech by describing LGBTI+s by means of words such as “pervert” and “naughty”.

Eşcinsel sapkın İslam'la zıtlıklarını itiraf etti: 'Bundan dolayı bizimle uğraşıyorlar'

Kabe-i Muazzama'ya hadsiz bir hakarete bulunarak Müslümanların sinir uçları ile oynayan LGBTİ'li azgınlara, muhalif medya kucak açtı.

Google News



2021-02-04 17:41:00 - 2021-02-04 17:47:42



- *"A perverted homosexual confessed: 'They are messing around with us because of this' Opponent media welcomed LGBTist naughties who grate on Muslim people's nerve endings by making an incalculably disrespectful insult to the great Kaabe." (Yeni Akit, 4.2.2021)*

The statements of the students and the words of those who support them are reported by targeting them. The news article titled *"Both LGBTI and TTB members met in the same fosse: Boğaziçi provocation keeps going!"* (Yeni Akit, 26.1.2021) is one of the prominent examples of these news items.

► Gündem ► LGBTİ'lisi TTB'lisi aynı çukurda buluştu: Boğaziçi provokasyonu devam ediyor!

| Gündem

LGBTİ'lisi TTB'lisi aynı çukurda buluştu: Boğaziçi provokasyonu devam ediyor!

CHP, HDP ve yasa dışı örgütleri arkasına alarak Boğaziçi provokasyonuna soyunan gruba medet umdukları LGBTİ ile birlikte bir destek de Türk Tabipler Birliği'nden geldi.

- *“Both LGBTI and TTB members met in the same fosse: Boğaziçi provocation keeps going! The support for the group, which started Boğaziçi provocation backed by CHP, HDP and illegal organizations, came from the Turkish Medical Association along with the LGBTI, whom they hoped for help. (Yeni Akit, 26.1.2021)*

In the news story, the support of the Turkish Medical Association (TTB) is conveyed with the expressions as *“Perverted homosexuals and TTB administrators, who support the group intending to provoke Boğaziçi provocation by using Prof. Dr. Melih Bulu as an excuse, met in the same fosse.”* The public statement shared by Boğaziçi University LGBTI+ Studies Club, closed during the protests, on its social media account, is reflected in the news item with a subheading of *“Perverted homosexuals challenged!”* In addition to hate speech, threats encountered are also belittled as *“fuss.”*

Eşcinsel sapkınlar meydan okudu!

Öte yandan adlarını Boğaziçi LGBTİ grubu olarak duyuran eşcinsel sapkınlar da yaşam alanlarının tehdit altında olduğu yaygarasını kopararak, 'Alışın, buradayız, gitmiyoruz' ifadeleri ile meydan okudular.



- ***Perverted homosexuals challenged! On the other hand, perverted homosexuals, known as Boğaziçi LGBTI group, also made a fuss stating that their living spaces are under threat and challenged them with the statements “Get used to it, we are here, we are not leaving.” (Yeni Akit, 26.1.2021)***

3.3. “Respect” demanded in statements

The emphasis on “disrespect” in the news items is not limited to “disrespect for religion”. In the news that include the conversation between the students and Melih Bulu, the students are described as “having a spoiled narcissistic mass psychology” and their reaction to Bulu as “shameless.” In this news article titled “Bogazici University Rector Melih Bulu mingled in a group of students demanding his resignation, but...” (Takvim, 6.1.2021), Melih Bulu is positioned as “calm, modest” and students as “influenced by perception operation.” In the news where the speeches are reported in the form of dialogue, the applause and whistles of the students are conveyed as “shame” and the expressions that Bulu “tolerated the marginals” are used.

SÜREKLİ PROF. DR. BULU'NUN SÖZLERİNİ KESİP DALGA GEÇMEYE ÇALIŞTILAR!

Öğrencilerin sorularını yanıtlamak isteyen Bulu, “kurallar kapsamında atanmış bir kişiyim” dedi. Öğrenciler ise alkış almak uğruna tuhaf hareketler sergiledi.

“Benim iki tane makalem var” diyen Bulu'nun sözünü kesen öğrenciler, “ooooooooo” uğultusuyla manipüle etti.

Prof. Dr. Melih Bulu hakkında ortaya atılan makale iddialarıyla ilgili açıklama yaparken bir öğrenci, “Hocam 0 dille konuşmak nasıl bir şey” derken, arkadan alkış ve kahkaha sesleri geldi.

- “THEY PERMANENTLY INTERRUPTED PROF. DR. BULU AND TRIED TO MAKE FUN OF HIM! Bulu, who wanted to answer the students’ questions, said, “I am a person appointed within the rule.” The students, on the other hand, exhibited weird gestures for the sake of applause. Interrupting Bulu, who said, “I have two articles,” the students manipulated him with a “ooooooooo” hum. While making a statement about the article allegations made about Prof. Dr. Melih Bulu, a student said, “Sir, what is it like to speak in that language,” and applause and laughter arose.” (Takvim, 6.1.2021)

3.4. Orientation of the statements and their place in the news

Students' social media posts are often the subject of the news items. There are two extremes in terms of reporting the posts of students who participated in and those who reacted to the protest. The posts of the students who participated in the protest are conveyed in a criminalizing manner with the emphasis on "terrorism" and targeting the students. In the news stories about the statements of the students participating in the protest, the stress is often upon "lies, slander."

The post of a student who reacted to the protest is published on five different news sites with the headlines "*They told the truth, reaction from Boğaziçi students*", supporting the emphasis on provocation within a theme of "inner voice" and it is reported without fact-checking.



- ***Boğaziçi student told the entire truth! (Yeni Akit, 6.1.2021)***

The tweet thread, in which a student states, "*There are terrorists trying to appear as Boğaziçi student*" on social media, and that "*a group of terrorists trolled the protest and attacked the police, the police assumed a humble attitude,*" is reported with headlines including the emphasis "*told the truth*" and "*student revolt.*" In these news items, the examples of criminalization that we mentioned in our 5th report are often found. Allegations that the slogans chanted during the protests are related to "*terrorism*", the sentences that the detained students are "*associated with terrorism,*" and the targeting of politicians who supported the protest are prominent in these news articles.

In the news titled "*Who are those who attacked the police at Boğaziçi University and chanted PKK slogans? The student from Boğaziçi told everything.*" (A Haber, 5.1.2021) slogans are cited as criminal elements.

Rektör Melih Bulu'nun atanmasının ardından eyleme başlayan öğrenciler, PKK sloganları attı. Boğaziçi Üniversitesi'ndeki olaylarda polisler saldırılar, "Ellerinde sapanlar vuruyor bu çocuklar, kalkın ayağa kalkın biz şehirden siz köyden" ve "Katil polis üniversiteden defol" sloganları atmıştı.

- *“Students who started protesting after the appointment of rector Melih Bulu chanted PKK slogans. During the incidents at Boğaziçi University, those who attacked the police chanted “These youth are shooting with slingshots in their hands, rise up, rise up, we are from the city, you are from the village” and “The killer police get out of the university.” (A Haber, 5.1.2021)*

Boğaziçi Üniversitesi öğrencilerinden provokasyon isyanı: "Boğaziçili görünmeye çalışan teröristler var"

Boğaziçi Üniversitesi CHP ve HDP ittifakının ve bazı örgütlerin kışkırtmasıyla karıştı. Öğrenci bile olmayan örgüt üyeleri, öğrenciymiş gibi ortalığı karıştırdı, sokakları alevlendirme peşine düştü. Boğaziçi Üniversitesi öğrencileri duruma isyan ederek "Eylemi kışkırtmak için içeri girenler polise saldırdı. Polisimiz, hep alttan aldı. Halk TV, KRT ve Tele 1 canlı yayına geçti. Basın açıklamasında Boğaziçili olmayanlar konuştu." dedi.

- *Provocation complains by Boğaziçi University students: “There are terrorists trying to appear as Boğaziçi students” Boğaziçi University is in chaos through the provocation of CHP and HDP alliance and some organizations. Members of the organization, who are not even students, created chaos as if they are students, and sought to inflame the streets. Boğaziçi University students complained about the situation and said, “Those who entered into the university to provoke the protest attacked the police. Our police always assumed a humble attitude. Halk TV, KRT and Tele 1 started to broadcast a live feed. People who are not Boğaziçi students read the public statement.” (Takvim, 6.1.2021)*

In two of six news stories, a single student's explanation is defined as the words of "Boğaziçi University students." There is an emphasis in the news article that "Boğaziçi University students reacted to the protests performed by the outsiders."

Giriş Tarihi: 6.1.2021 07:14 Son Güncelleme: 6.1.2021 09:42

Son dakika: Öğrenciler isyan etti! Boğaziçili görünmeye çalışan teröristler var

- **Newsflash: Students complained! There are terrorists trying to appear as Boğaziçi students. (Sabah, 6.1.2021)**

