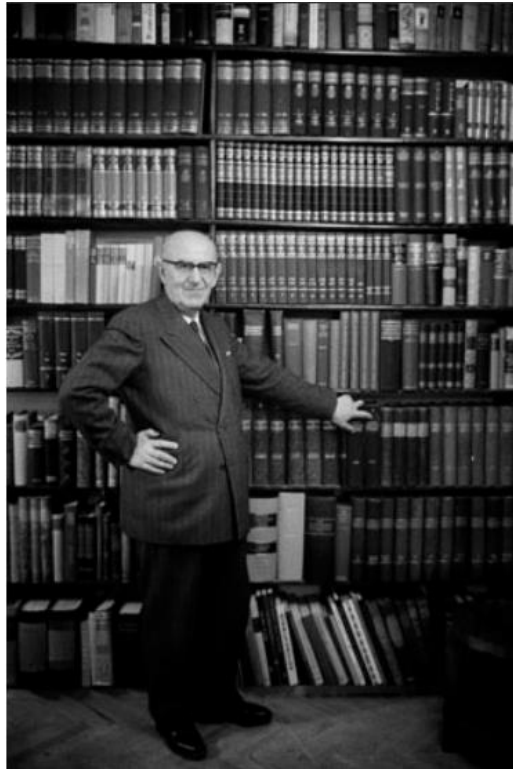


Dilaçar



Յաղըր Մարթայեան / Hagop Martayan, or Agop Dilaçar, was the **first Secretary General and head specialist of the state-funded Turkish Language Institution (Türk Dil Kurumu, TDK)**¹ founded in 1932 in Ankara. He worked as a professor of Turkish at **Ankara University** between 1936 and 1951. He also was the head adviser of the **Turkish Encyclopaedia** between 1942 and 1960. He wrote books and articles on the Turkish language. Beside his mother tongue, Armenian, he knew English, Ottoman, Azeri, Uighur, Latin, Greek, German, Russian, and Bulgarian. [...]

In an article about Martayan's life ("The Good Child of the Republic: Hagop Martayan or A. Dilaçar"), Levent Özata, a journalist with the newspaper **Agos**, writes that Martayan was sent to the Caucasian front to fight as an Ottoman soldier during WWI.² After the war, Martayan

¹ Ένας αναγνώστης διόρθωσε την πληροφορία – κοιτάζτε τον τόνο του: «This information is completely wrong. The first secretary general of the institution was Ruşen Eşref Ünaydın, and the first head specialist was Abdülkadir İnan. Please refer to the delegation list in the institute's first journal. Page 6,

<https://archive.org/details/turk-dili-tetkik-cemiyeti-bulteni/Tu%CC%88rk%20Dili%20Tetkik%20Cemiyeti%20Bu%CC%88lteni%2001/page/n7/mode/2up>

→ Το Αγκός συνήθως είναι σοβαρή εφημερίδα. Αναρωτιέμαι ποιός σφάλει σε αυτή την περίπτωση.

² <https://www.agos.com.tr/tr/haber/cumhuriyetin-iyi-cocugu-hagop-martayan-ya-da-a-dilacar-2527>

held various positions, including principal of an Armenian school in Beirut, Lebanon,³ and then a lecturer of Turkish and Uighur in Sofia, Bulgaria. But when the newly formed Turkish state decided to invent a new language in the 1930s, Martayan's life changed course.

With his articles on the Turkish language, Martayan had attracted the attention of the authorities. But he had been **denationalized**⁴, stripped of citizenship; he was wandering around with a certificate documenting his statelessness.⁵ He was allowed to enter Turkey as “a special guest of Mustafa Kemal, the first president of Turkey, to develop the Turkish language. [...] And it was Mustafa Kemal who suggested Martayan's surname, Dilaçar [literally, “one who opens up the tongue (or language)”]; perhaps better translated as “language-giver”]⁶ because of his contributions to Turkish after the promulgation of the Law of Family Names.

³ Τίποτα δεν λέγεται για τέτοια γεωγραφική αλλαγή. Πώς αυτό;

⁴ Τί νομίζετε για αυτό το ρήμα; Γενικά, βρίσκω ότι προ παντός οι μικρή σε ηλικία φοιτητές μας δεν προσέχουν αρκετά τη γλώσσα. Τί λέμε; Τί κρύβουμε λέγοντας/γράφοντας; Θα έπρεπε κατά εμέ να σας απασχολεί πολύ περισσότερο το ζήτημα.

⁵ Ένα διαβατήριο Νάνσεν της Κοινωνίας των Εθνών. Δεν το γράφει ο συγγραφέας, γιατί;

⁶ Βλ. την κοινή έκφραση στα τουρκικά και τα δυτικά αρμενικά: Dilim açılmalı. Dilaçarı açılmalı. → Πρέπει να σνηθίσω την (καινούργια / ξένη) μου γλώσσα.