

Chapter 9

Myths, Tales, and Symbols: Anatolian Legends and Cultural Memory in the Footsteps of the Past

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ABSTRACT

Since the emergence of humanity, symbolic communication has been considered a creative language that has attracted the attention of many different disciplines. Due to the indifference of culture, the phenomenon of folk tales and legends claims that there is more space in literature. The purpose of this study is to create a knowledge base for spatial and cultural memory and to define the cultural heritage of Anatolia, which has hosted many civilizations, through historical periods. This study, which will contribute to a better understanding of the causes of cultural memory in terms of transferring stories for generations, aims to explain the relationship between space and cultural memory through Anatolian legends. For this reason, the study will explain folk tales with a semantic approach in terms of symbols and values. Within the scope of Anatolian legends, the codes and secrets of myths, fairy tales, and legends will be explained using qualitative research method and document analysis technique, and the relationship between space and cultural memory will be examined.

INTRODUCTION

Legends, mythological narratives and historical places have always been places where society's interest is kept alive. nevertheless, they always maintain their importance as important centers of inter-generational communication. Accordingly, the first places that come to mind for cultural memory and cultural memory spaces have become history narratives due to history books. In this sense, what do the events in the history books mean for cultural memory? Historical spaces have always been important as cultural

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memory spaces. The legend and story of historical places, which have an important place in reviving the past, are also the focus of attention not only for the local people but also for tourists.

Legends, stories and places, which are considered as cultural memory and memory art, are not only shed light on the past, but are still very important in terms of their imaginability. Memory studies usually find their place in the literature by feeding on history. Living evidence of history has been historical sites. The mythological stories attributed to these places, such as the architectural features of historical places, and their recall and transfer between generations have been in the focus of many researchers, especially from different disciplines.

In the light of all this information, it is aimed to reveal the relations between the legends and their historical places in the memory art and cultural memory in this study, by acting from the point that Anatolian legends are not only geographically cultured and that they are important for all humanity. In this context, 4 important historical sites were selected in terms of Anatolian civilizations and in terms of causing fateful transformations in the narrative of history. These; Göbeklitepe, Cappadocia, Nemrut and Balıklıgöl. These places and the mythological stories attributed to those places have managed to maintain their vitality and continue to attract attention from all over the world. In this sense, the study has an important role in contributing to the literature in terms of the mythological stories and legends of Göbeklitepe and other historical places that have been discovered recently and which have been mentioned frequently, along with it, in the light of memory art.

The aim of this study is to create a knowledge base for spatial and cultural memory and to define the cultural heritage of Anatolia, which has hosted many civilizations, through cultural memory, and to discuss the effects of the culture of fear created through myths and legends from oral culture to the present. Spaces have symbolic value in terms of the creation of stories of myths, tales and legends, which are one of the basic elements of cultural memory and oral literature. This study, which will contribute to a better understanding of the reasons that create cultural memory in terms of the travel of stories through generations, aims to explain the effects of the culture of fear in Anatolian legends until today through the relationship between space and cultural memory.

Therefore, the study will explain the reasons for the culture of fear created by folk tales such as myths, tales and legends passed down from generation to generation, in terms of symbols and values, with a semantic approach. Within the scope of Anatolian legends, the secret elements of myths, tales and legends will be explained using qualitative research method and document review technique, and the place of the culture of fear created in people's memories will be examined in terms of the relationship between space and cultural memory.

MYTHS, TALES AND SYMBOLS AS A REFLECTION OF THE CULTURE OF FEAR

There is a close relationship between myth and fairy tale throughout the history. In other words, throughout the history, myths feed on fairy tales and legends, leading to the formation of social life on the basis of a mystical world. Moreover, the myths, which base social events on a mystical world law, are identified with nature by attributing tasks with divine and sacred events, although there is no physical connection in the interaction of communities (Tekin, 2019: p. 125). In addition to that, myths, which are attributed as divine and sacred, help reinforce communities' historical past and oriental loyalties, feeding on tales and folk tales (that is to say oral history). In oral culture, people saw threats such as thunder, lightning, fire, sickness, and death as a threat from supernatural forces, and they tried to attribute a meaning to

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