

CONFERENCE PAPER

The Turkish Redaction of 'Alā'ī Maghribī's *Taqwīm al-'Adwīyah*: A Comparative Study with the Arabic Original and Persian Redaction

Abstract

Manuscript 2021 of the Şehid Ali Paşa collection, Süleymaniye Library, contains a Turkish redaction of the 'Alā'ī Maghribī's tabular pharmacological work, *Taqwīm al-'Adwīyah* (12th century AD). The Arabic original also has a Persian redaction. In both translations, the tables are a transposed version of the original ones (rows as columns and vice versa). In the Turkish redaction, the entries are also arranged in full alphabetical order instead of the Abjad order of the original/Persian versions. However, the anonymous Turkish redactor, unlike the anonymous Persian one, did not add/eliminate any entries to/from the original. The Turkish translator has only included the secondary entries (Chapter 4 of the original), among the main entries, and has added the Turkish names in the row line in some cases, while the Persian translator has added some material to the content of the tables.

Key words: Gene Library, Names, Northern Africa, Tabular pharmacological works, 'Alā'ī Maghribī

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Introduction

From the 11th and 12th centuries AD, numerous significant pharmacological texts, modeled after astronomical calendars, displayed the properties of medications in a tabular format. Many of this type of pharmacological works were titled *Taqwīm al-'Adwīyah*. In the middle of the 12th century AD, Ibrahim Ibn Abī-Sa'īd 'Alā'ī Maghribī wrote an important *Taqwīm* at the court of Dānishmandid Dhu 'l-Qarnayn (reigned 546–57 AH/1151–61 AH) in Malatya. This work has a theoretical introductory part (Chapters 1 & 2), 550 main entries in tables (Chapter 3), and a large table in the fourth chapter containing cross-references from second/third names (secondary entries) of the medicaments to their first (more famous) names (main entries).

Around the end of the 16th century AD, an anonymous translator, most likely in the Indian subcontinent, prepared a Persian redaction (*Tahrīr*) of this work and, in addition to mentioning the Indian names of medicament, added some material from Persian and Arabic sources. The authors of the present article have examined this translation in detail. This redaction (Manuscript No. 2743, n.d.) contains only the Persian version of the main entries (Karamati, and Oyarhoseyn, 2022; Oyarhoseyn, and Karamati, 2022).

'Alā'ī Maghribī's *Taqwīm al-'Adwīyah* was translated into Turkish by an anonymous translator at an unknown time. A manuscript of this redaction/translation is kept in the Süleymaniye Library (No. 2021, Şehid Ali Paşa collection), from which it can only be assumed that it is unlikely that the scribe (Ḥusayn b. Muḥammad al-Muntasharī?) was the same as the translator.

Materials and Methods

Materials used in this research are the critical edition of the Arabic original along with the manuscripts of Turkish and Persian redactions.

This research is based on textual analysis and comparison of texts in three languages.

Results

The common formal difference between both redactions and the Arabic original is in the form of the tables. In the Arabic original, each table has 16 columns/fields, including the entry (medicament name), its sequence number, benefits for various body organs (Head, respiratory system, ...), side effects, substitute (*badal*), and so on. In both redactions, tables are transposed (fields are set in rows and records in columns). In the Turkish redaction, each table has 15 rows (no row for entry sequence number) and 6 columns. Field names appear only on odd/left pages (recto folios, see Figure 1); as a result, these pages have 5 columns, and the other pages have 6 columns for entries. The document contains 51 tables in 51 pages (folio 12r-62v) and comprises a total of 561 columns.

Among the 561 columns, 18 columns do not have a main entry and are filled with one or more sub-entries. Additionally, five main entries appear at the top of the tables, and one main entry appears in the middle of a column. As a result, out of the 550 main entries in the Arabic original, the Turkish transcription lacks only one entry (*Lawf*), and the remaining 549 entries (561-18+5+1) of the Arabic original appear in the Turkish redaction, usually in the same form or sometimes with minor differences. The omission of this one entry may also be the work of the scribe (like other original entries that were forgotten and added at the top of the pages).





Figure 1. Şehid Ali Paşa collection, Süleymaniye Library, folio 16v-17r. (Manuscript No. 2743, n.d.)

Regarding the content of the table cells: There are instances where the Turkish redaction differs from the Arabic original; the reason behind these discrepancies is worth dwelling on. For example, according to the Arabic original, “*Dibq*” has only one type, while according to the Turkish redaction (folio 31r, col 5), it has three types: “*black, gold, and white*”. Nevertheless, the frequency of such instances is not particularly significant.

Concerning the theoretical introduction (Chapters 1 and 2), the name *Dhu'l-Qarnayn*, *Dānīshmandīd* ruler of *Malatya*, does not appear in the Turkish version. However, this omission cannot necessarily be attributed to the Turkish translator, as similar confusions are also present in numerous Arabic manuscripts of this work.

Conclusion

Although the Turkish version differs slightly from the Arabic original in its macrostructure and has undergone a complete alteration in the sequence of its entries, the content remains largely unchanged, both in terms of the number of entries and the specifics of each. Therefore, considering the significant changes in the Persian redaction compared to the Arabic original, it can be concluded that the Turkish redaction aligns more closely with the Arabic original than the Persian redaction.

Authors' Contribution

The authors confirm their contribution to the paper as follows:

Hoda Oyarhoseyn: Data gathering (entries) from the Arabic original and Turkish and Persian translations, and their comparison; Younes Karamati and Hoda Oyarhoseyn:



Conceptualization; Younes Karamati: Data validation, data correction and analysis, writing and final editing of the article.

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Conflict of Interest

None.

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