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Galanti, Avram 070478

International Journal of Turcologia / Vol: XV No: 29 2020 Paris, s. 6-24,

THE PERSPECTIVE OF A JEWISH TURKISH NATIONALIST AVRAM GALANTE ON LANGUAGE AND NATIONALISM RELATION

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"Nationalism is the pathology of modern development history; it is inevitable just like neurosis in individuals."

B. Anderson

Abstract: Avram Galante (Abraham Galante) is a significant name to mention as he had intensive studies on Turkish nationalism. He is an exemplary Jewish Turkish nationalist of the Republic years with his service as a scientist, academician, writer, journalist and deputy, he legitimized the nationalist policies of Turkey in the early-Republican era by specifying the requirements of the Turkish Jewish and other minorities for their journey of Turkification and especially justifying why language and education are so important. This study reveals the relation between language and nationalism in the works of Galante who considered language as an inevitable role in building of a nation-state, and discusses its place in the axis of nationalism theories. He supported Turkish nationalism in a realistic and conscious way. Galante's objective of "the rise of Turkey and Turkishness" is a clear indicator. The perspective of Galante and his contemporaries mainly focus on education and language unity. The fact that Galante excludes ethnic features from the debate is an indication of his tendency towards cultural nationalism.

Key Words: Avram Galante, Jewish Community, Turkish Nationalism, Language, Early Republican Period

Within the Ottoman state structure, each one of the Ottoman nations was a closed community. In the Ottoman nation system, the management of each community—financial, judicial and administrative—was carried out by the rulers of these nations. The Jewish community, who managed to preserve its own identity in *Millet* system of the Ottoman Empire, existed in the structure of both Committee of Union and Progress in Second Constitutional Era and the founding years of Republic of Turkey. Although Tekin Alp (Moiz Kohen) has been frequently mentioned in the studies on Turkish nationalism and Jewish community, Avram Galante (Abraham Galante) is a significant name to mention as he had

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