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Report on PhD Thesis  
Institute of Archaeology and Ethnology of the Polish Academy of Sciences

“Public Awareness on Coastal and Underwater Archaeological Heritage Protection in  
Turkey”  
Ceyda Oztosun

Promotor: Prof. Pan Dr Hab. Błażej M. Stanisławski

The thesis titled “Public Awareness on Coastal and Underwater Archaeological Heritage Protection in Turkey” by Ceyda Oztosun, a doctoral student at the Institute of Archaeology and Ethnology of the Polish Academy of Sciences, was examined.

The thesis work of C. Oztosun focused on the contribution of raising public awareness of the protection of coastal and underwater cultural heritage. The scope of the study consists of the coastal and underwater archaeological cultural heritage in Türkiye. It is understood that this study can also be applicable on a global scale. The author assumes that coastal and underwater cultural heritage in Türkiye is at risk and this risk can be minimized by raising public awareness. Also predicts by the author that raising the awareness of the public in this area will also contribute to science from different perspectives.

The thesis study consists of a total of five chapters. In the first part, the roadmap of the study is shown and the methodology is explained. In the second part, Türkiye’s coastal and underwater cultural heritage is examined. In the third section, the risks that the cultural heritage is exposed to, which were explained in detail in the previous section, were searched. In the fourth chapter, international organizations and international agreements on the protection of underwater cultural heritage are included. In the same section, the legal regulations prepared by the Ottoman Empire, Türkiye, and Poland for underwater cultural heritage were examined in detail. In the fifth- last chapter- the author shares her studies with data, and a comprehensive conclusion is reached.

All chapters of the thesis were examined in detail and briefly summarized below. Accordingly, in the introduction part of the study, coastal and underwater archaeology in Türkiye and the world has been examined from a historical perspective, according to the chronological order, and described in plain language. Important steps regarding underwater archaeology in the world and Türkiye are also explained in the thesis. The actions taken for the protection of coastal and underwater cultural heritage have been explained from the Ottoman period to the present Turkish Republic. In addition, international organizations operating in this framework have been mentioned. Various arguments regarding the protection of cultural

heritage to transfer it to future generations have been discussed. When the study is viewed from this point of view, the author has seen that there is a gap in the world in this field. However, previous studies on the protection of cultural heritage are not mentioned in this section. Previous studies could have been mentioned, and it could have been more clearly emphasized how neglected the underwater cultural heritage was.

In the methodology part of the study, terms such as culture and heritage were explained and interpreted. The definition was given superficially by the author, avoiding too much detail. However, mentioning the concept of culture due to its connection with the archaeological heritage was reasonable for the flow of the thesis. The thesis author clearly shows the roadmap of the study with the scheme designed by her. As seen in the scheme, the author examines the functioning of public awareness activities in the protection of coastal and underwater archaeological heritage in Türkiye in five main dimensions. According to her, in the concepts of coastal and underwater cultural heritage and public awareness, science, law and protection have a fluid structure that is interconnected and constantly interacting with each other. The author tested her flowchart by applying it in the research part of the thesis. Three target groups were identified in the study; diving instructors registered with the Underwater Sports Federation of Türkiye, children (preschool, primary school and high school), and visitors to the touristic aquarium in Antalya. It would have been more effective if the education implemented in this section were given in more detail and the importance of pedagogical arguments on this subject was emphasized and explained. In addition, it is stated that the groups who had training in the process gave information to the authorities about cultural assets without clearly revealing the documented evidence. However, statistical data belonging to only one group were presented on this subject, and no evaluation was made of the other two target groups.

The second part includes the coastal and underwater cultural heritage of Türkiye. This chapter constitutes a comprehensive part of the study. The chapter has been analysed under six different subheadings. Each of the subtitles constitutes important components of coastal and underwater archaeology; ancient ports, submerged sites, ancient shipyards, shipwrecks, anchors and amphorae. The coastal and underwater archaeological values of Türkiye, which is one of the most important points in history, have been conveyed in a detailed study. In the part of harbours, the ancient ports and settlements known on the shores of the Black Sea, Istanbul and Bosphorus, Marmara Sea, Dardanelles and the Aegean Sea were examined. Each region is mapped by the author and the locations or possible locations of the ports are marked on the maps. Under the title of submerged sites, not only the coastal regions of Türkiye were evaluated, but also the ancient settlements in the Southeastern Anatolia Region of Türkiye that were submerged due to dams were included in the study. This gives the study a different and careful interpretation. In this section, the previous studies have been compiled in great detail from a panoramic perspective, the cultural heritage found on the coast and underwater has been dealt with regionally in detail, and the locations have been clearly shown on maps.

The doctoral student presents the main shipwrecks detected on the Turkish coasts in chronological order. Information is given about shipwrecks and their cargo, the earliest of which dates back to the 16<sup>th</sup> century BC and the latest 1700's-Ottoman period. It is also seen that the writer of the study took part in the excavation and research of some of the shipwrecks that are the subject of the thesis. Anchors, which are another important subject for archaeology, are also worked chronologically and their role in maritime trade is tried to be described. The

amphorae part of the study was analysed by separating them according to both their typologies and production centres. Pointing out the production centres on the map and the illustration of the amphoras in the light of the early studies strengthened the work. It is seen that the major part of this section is the amphora production centres on the Eastern Mediterranean coasts. The Eastern Mediterranean coasts of Türkiye have been studied in particular in Lycia, Pamphylia and Cilicia Trakheia and Cilicia Pedias. The amphora kilns detected in these regions and taking their place in the literature were brought together in the study. This part of the study is very valuable in terms of introducing the coastal and underwater archaeological heritage in Türkiye. In all sub-titles covering the chapter, the works of ancient authors were also used. This shows that the author has done an extensive literature review. The author has mapped all of the titles covering this chapter. In addition, the author has documented the present situation of important ancient ports, which were known to exist on the shores of Istanbul in ancient times, but are now under urbanization. The third part of the study brings together the risk factors of the coastal and underwater cultural heritage. It is observed from the thesis that the risk factors for coastal and underwater cultural heritage have increased due to increasing industrial developments, urbanization, and population growth. The author examines risk factors with a global approach by bringing together both literature and observation on the field. Risks are divided into two natural and human-made factors in the thesis. The table created by the author about these risks supports the originality of the study. In this frame, the study is supported by giving examples of national and international risks related to this subject.

The fourth chapter analyses the present legal situation in the protection of coastal and underwater cultural heritage. The history of the subject and aims of other organizations in this field, especially UNESCO and ICOMOS, are included. In this part of her work, the doctoral student explains the subject with original schemes. The issue of the protection of ancient artefacts, which started to show itself in the Ottoman state in the 1800s, is examined in detail until the 1983 Law on the Conservation of Cultural and Natural Property (2863) of the Republic of Türkiye. It is reported that one of the first examples of law on the protection of underwater archaeological artefacts was seen in the Ottoman period. In the last part of this chapter, the law and the regulations on the protection of underwater cultural heritage in Poland are also included. This supports that the study has a comparable feature. In the last part of the study, the doctoral student tries to prove that public awareness should be increased in the protection of coastal and underwater cultural heritage. She argues that archaeology should follow a common path with communication in to create awareness in the public. For this reason, she supports the subject with bidirectional scientific arguments. The author also examines the articles of the UNESCO 2001 Convention on the subject of raising public awareness. Thus, she presents data supporting her argument.

The researcher determined three different target groups in the application part of the study. The first of these is instructor divers, the second group is children (divided into three as primary school, middle school and high school), and the third group is touristic aquarium visitors. The author has planned educational studies to create awareness of instructor divers and children. It is seen that the training programs are repeated periodically. The continuity of educational programs is very important in terms of the validity of the results of the study. The work carried out in the aquarium is designed to create perception. A very creative collaboration has been revealed with the archaeology-aquarium study.

The author conducted a questionnaire consisting of eight questions with a total of 124 diving instructors who participated in the mentioned training program. The data are shown in graphs statistically. The author's work includes qualitative and quantitative research methods. Some data are shared showing that the implemented training program has achieved its purpose. In fact, this situation should be followed in the process. Because sometimes it is quite difficult to measurability of the results. As stated by the author of the thesis, it will be a very effective method to make the training programs continues and to prepare books on this subject according to age groups.

The doctoral student also tried to measure the knowledge level of children, who are the second target group, with a single question. It is mentioned that education on awareness is given to three different age groups in the protection of coastal and underwater cultural heritage in Türkiye, especially given to children, but it is not explained how much benefit is taken from pedagogical science and experts. If collaborations have been done with pedagogues, the details of this should be given in the thesis. Otherwise, what, how and with which pedagogical base is tried to be described to the mentioned age groups will be a matter of debate. In addition, it could be useful to provide a detailed explanation of the "discover archaeology" education program for primary and high school students in the thesis as a supporting document.

The thesis has successfully and widely subjected the coastal and underwater archaeology values in Türkiye. Thus, she underlined these kinds of invisible cultural assets should be protected. While doing this, Türkiye was taken as an example, and results that could be applied to the whole world occurred since many other countries have similar underwater cultural heritage values. In this study, the main subject of which is underwater archaeology, it is seen that communication sciences are also used in various aspects, especially fact of awareness. In this context, the thesis is an interdisciplinary study and the richness of the literature review brings a multifaceted perspective. According to the doctoral student, public awareness should be created to transfer the underwater cultural heritage to future generations. Public awareness will not only contribute to protection; It will also enable the discovery of cultural heritage values that have not yet been documented and perhaps cannot be documented for decades. Thus, in this study, underwater archaeology has come together with another branch of science -communication- that has not been brought together in this sense before. From this point of view, the study is remarkable and will contribute to the literature.

As a result, the thesis titled "Public Awareness on Coastal and Underwater Archaeological Heritage Protection in Turkey" prepared by Ms. Ceyda Oztosun, was well-constructed in terms of content, scope and methodology, and was successfully concluded. The thesis could be even more successful if the small criticisms and some suggestions mentioned above are taken into consideration. I believe that the thesis can be accepted- POSITIVELY- for defence.

Best Regards,

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