

Bias and Cherry-Picking in the History of Naima: An Examination on Image of Hocasade Mesud Efendi

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This study examines the cherry-picking displayed in the use of sources by Mustafa Naima, one of the seventeenth-century chroniclers, in his work *Tarih-i Naima*. The analysis compares the works of Naima and Karaçelebizade Abdülaziz Efendi, focusing on the example of Hocasade Mesud Efendi. In his chronicle, Naima records Mesud Efendi as the müfti-i fitne and constructs a negative portrayal, shaping his narrative accordingly. Naima's views on Mesud Efendi, who served as Şeyhülislam in 1656, are derived from Abdülaziz Efendi's work. Abdülaziz Efendi heavily criticizes Mesud Efendi due to their conflict and rivalry. Therefore, Naima's history also contains biased and severe accusations against Mesud Efendi. On the other hand, contemporary works of Naima such as *Zeyl-i Şakaik* and *Vekayü'l Fuzala* present a more impartial narrative about Mesud Efendi.

The aim of this paper is to emphasize the cherry-picking employed by Naima in constructing his narrative, highlighting that his work is shaped by the author's preferences. Naima's selective and biased choices in writing his own chronicle have influenced the approach taken by studies that utilize Naima as a source in modern historical literature. Through an evaluation based on the example of Mesud Efendi, this analysis will demonstrate that Naima's choices were deliberate, biased, and selective. It will explore the tracking of a historical and fictional event from the past to the present using a specific case study. Furthermore, it will address the possibility of encountering similar cases resulting from Naima's preferences.