

AZRA ERHAT



Azra Erhat (1915 - 1982) was a Turkish author, translator, academician, philologist, archaeologist, and an expert on Ancient Greek and Roman languages. Erhat is known for introducing the new nation of Türkiye to the Classics in the native Turkish language; one of the Turkish companions who together coined the popular term *Blue Voyage*. Erhat is especially well known for her translations into Turkish from the classics of Ancient Greece. Her translations of *the Iliad* and *the Odyssey* are considered as reference works.

Translation of the Iliad and the Odyssey

Azra Erhat collaborated with the poet A. Kadir to translate Homer's two great epics, *the Iliad* (1967) and *the Odyssey* (1970). The Kadir-Erhat duo's translation of these two major works into our language is regarded as an important cultural event in our art and literature history. Her distinctive humanistic approach, shaped by a blend of local values and connections between Western and Anatolian cultures, results in an easily understood and simple epic text. Her translations, not only linguistically but also structurally successful, contain the Anatolian identity that she values and represent the center of the land they belong to.

Notable Translations

- Elektra, Sophokles (1941)
- Devlet III, Platon (1944)
- Barış, Aristophanes (1947)
- Dişi Kedi, Colette (1954)
- İlyada, Homeros (1967)
- Odysseia, Homeros (1970)
- Şölen - Dostluk, Platon (1972)

The Blue Voyage Movement

Erhat's recreational activities had a close connection with her work as a writer and translator, and they had a significant impact on the growing tendency of Westernization in Kemal Atatürk's newly founded Republic of Türkiye. Azra Erhat, along with other authors is considered as the creator of the literary and tourism term Blue Voyage (Mavi Yolculuk). The name Blue Voyage is also the title of Erhat's travelogue, *Mavi Yolculuk* (1962). Erhat delighted her readers with thorough discussions of Classical Literature on Halicarnassus, Troy, Pergamum, Ephesus, and other Anatolian locations of Ancient Greece, expressing her strong belief that Anatolia gave birth to Western culture.

Awards

- Habib Törehan Science Award for Homer's Iliad Translation Volume 1 (1959)
- Turkish Language Institution Translation Award for Homer's Iliad Translation Volume 3 (1961)

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