

THE INTERN: MY EXPERIENCE AND GRATITUDE

I sincerely commend the Sociology Department at Sakarya University for providing me with an intellectually and socially transformative experience throughout my stay at the Department and University. I was immersed in the social fabric of Turkish culture of hospitality and collegial warmth.

From the lecturers to students, and even members of the wider community, I encountered warmth, kindness, and genuine acceptance. The spirit of brotherhood here for me is truly exceptional. I must say it is top-notch. From my very first interaction with the Head of Department, Professor Dr. Mustafa Kamal SAN, I was treated not just as a student, but as a brother, as though we had known each other for years.

Prophet Muhammad (peace be upon him) said, “*Whoever does not thank people has not truly thanked Allah.*” On this note, my profound gratitude goes to the Head of the Department of Sociology, Professor Dr. Mustafa Kamal SAN, whose openness, support, and collegial disposition created an enabling academic environment from the outset.

I am equally grateful to Dr. Ayhan KOCKAYA for his exceptional guidance and hospitality that ensured my stay in Sakarya was comfortable and fulfilling. In fact, he made my stay truly a home away from home. I also extend my sincere thanks to Dr. Osman AYDOGAN for his kindness and support throughout my stay.

What can I say about our dear Professor Dr. Haci Musa TASDELEN? AKA Sheik Musa, in the words of Dr. Ayhan. He embodies excellence in both academics and character. A scholar, a mentor, a father figure, and a guide. He went beyond his duties by taking me around Istanbul. These journeys provided me with invaluable insights into the city’s history, culture, and heritage. Prof., I am deeply grateful for everything.

I also acknowledged other staff of the Department for their warmth, receptiveness, and engagement, which greatly enhanced my intellectual and social experience.

Finally, my appreciation goes to the Ph.D. students of the Department Salih and Hassan Abdullah and the undergraduate students, namely, Beyza, Ada, Feyza, Memune, among others, for their academic engagement and hospitality.

The Sociology Department at Sakarya University is truly outstanding. I would confidently recommend it to anyone around the world seeking an institution that combines academic excellence with cultural richness and strong human values.

From us at the Sociology Department, University of Ilorin, it is not bye-bye but see you again.

Thank you.

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