

Foreword

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As we present the ninth issue of *Nesir: Journal of Literary Studies* (October 2025), dedicated to the theme “Mimesis in Philosophy and Literature: Representation, Truth, and Meaning,” the past four years can be seen as a period of profound renewal in intellectual, technical, and institutional terms. This renewal goes beyond a formal or infrastructural update and represents a reaffirmation of *Nesir*’s founding purpose to sustain literature as both an object of study and a mode of thought.

Founded in October 2021 as a fully open-access, double-blind, peer-reviewed journal in Turkish and English, *Nesir* has grown into a dynamic intellectual community, a genuine circle of dialogue and reflection. Each issue convenes an increasingly diverse group of scholars from local and global contexts, and each thematic dossier pushes the boundaries of critical inquiry. The past two years have marked a decisive phase of institutional consolidation and international recognition: the journal is now indexed in TR Dizin, EBSCO, Google Scholar, OpenAIRE, and ROAD. Beginning with this issue, all articles carry Crossref DOIs, completing our transition from Zenodo to full Crossref integration—an essential step for sustaining citation networks and ensuring the long-term visibility of our publications.

During this same period, the editorial and advisory boards have expanded and diversified significantly. Today, *Nesir* maintains an international editorial structure with active contributors not only from Turkey but also from the United States, Canada, Germany, Austria, France, Italy, and Greece. The board brings together distinguished scholars working across fields such as literary theory, hermeneutics, comparative literature, and classical and modern Turkish literature. Each member contributes as both a scientific advisor and an active participant in maintaining the ethical and academic integrity of the publication process. This diversity signifies more than geographical breadth; it embodies *Nesir*’s intellectual pluralism. The presence of scholars from varied academic traditions deepens the journal’s dialogue with international literary research and opens new spaces for collective reflection with every issue.

During this period, the journal’s website has been completely redesigned, guided by the principles of accessibility, linguistic equivalence, and transparency. The Turkish and English versions are now fully synchronized, equally accessible, and aligned with international publishing standards. Author guidelines, ethical disclosure forms, copyright policies, and the journal’s *AI Usage Policy* are all publicly available online. Submission and review processes have been restructured to ensure traceability and accountability at every stage. *Nesir*’s ethics and publication policies have also undergone comprehensive revision. Detailed procedures have been established for managing conflicts of interest, plagiarism, retractions, and corrections, while a separate

Artificial Intelligence Use Policy has been introduced. Together, these documents form the foundation of the journal's commitment to transparency, accountability, and academic integrity.

The journal's financial model is likewise grounded in the principles of open access and voluntary academic contribution. As a non-profit publication, *Nesir* is published with the institutional support of the Association for Thought and Literary Studies (Düşünce ve Edebiyat Araştırmaları Derneği), and all editorial work is carried out on a voluntary basis. No processing or publication fees are charged at any stage, and editorial decisions are made solely on academic merit. This structure ensures the journal's independence, continuity, and reliability.

The year 2025 also marks *Nesir*'s direct engagement with international academic communities. The symposium "The Problem of Prose in the Transformation of Turkish Literature," held at the University of Cologne on May 24, 2024, was one of the most tangible examples of this orientation. Over the course of a full day, scholars of Turkish and Western literature explored the historical and poetic dimensions of prose, extending the intellectual dialogue initiated by the journal's very name into an academic forum. In the same year, the active participation of the *Nesir* editorial team in major international events such as Türkologentag (Mainz) and the American Comparative Literature Association's 2025 Annual Meeting further strengthened the journal's global visibility and scholarly presence.

Of course, we are aware that the ecosystem of scholarly citation remains a process that unfolds over time. The quality and originality of the articles published in *Nesir* will, in the long run, generate their own academic resonance. Yet *Nesir* approaches this reality with an active strategy, cultivating a vibrant intellectual environment sustained through international collaborations, thematic dossiers, and online colloquia. The theme of this issue, *mimesis*, invites reflection on visibility and representation, on echo and originality. In the academic world, this dynamic manifests as what might be called the "citation visibility paradox": the more original a work is, the longer it takes to be recognized. The echo of thought often arrives belatedly. *Nesir* inhabits precisely this interval of delay, seeking visibility through continuity rather than speed, through meaning rather than citation. In this sense, our engagement with international indexing efforts expresses not a desire for exposure but a search for a distinct form of mimesis, a renewed way of thinking about how writing represents itself.

In line with this vision, *Nesir* continues to strengthen its international presence through sustained and transparent editorial development. As part of this ongoing effort, the journal will apply for inclusion in several major international databases by November 2025, including DOAJ (Directory of Open Access Journals), ERIH PLUS (European Reference Index for the Humanities), ESCI (Emerging Sources Citation Index – Web of Science), and Scopus. These applications are conceived as an extension of the journal's long-term commitment to creating a globally accessible, high-quality platform for literary research.

By 2025, *Nesir*'s editorial structure had reached a stage of intellectual maturity and institutional stability. This ninth issue, dedicated to the theme "Mimesis in Philosophy and Literature," offers the clearest expression of that evolution. Conceived in harmony with the

journal's philosophical orientation, the dossier marks a significant step forward in both thematic range and international engagement. It features sixteen research articles—ten in English and six in Turkish—alongside six book reviews, three translations, and one critical essay, together forming a comprehensive model that unites scholarly production with critical reception. Contributors represent universities in the United States, India, Turkey, the Netherlands, Georgia, Austria, and Northern Cyprus, revealing that *Nesir*'s reach now extends well beyond regional boundaries into an expanding network of dialogue across literary and academic traditions.

To write a *foreword* on *mimesis*, a concept that lies at the very origin of thinking about art and literature, is in a sense to reflect once more on the idea of *prose* itself. The word *foreword* carries a dual resonance: it denotes both “a word that comes before” (temporal) and “a word that gives direction” (orienting). Like *prose*, it signifies the inherent movement, progression, and openness within writing. Thus, every foreword speaks not only of what has passed but also of what is yet to come; it carries language forward, prepares a ground for the arrival of new thought, and opens the way toward the future. *Nesir* continues to inhabit this very space, placing the word forward, bridging texts and modes of thinking. With every issue, it seeks to ask new questions, to approach literature as a form of thought itself, and to reimagine academic production as an act of dialogue rather than declaration.

Looking ahead, *Nesir* will welcome original research articles and book reviews for its upcoming 10th issue (April 2026) and 12th issue (April 2027), both of which will be open-topic editions. These issues will be prepared with an emphasis on theoretical depth and interpretive strength, transcending chronological, regional, and thematic boundaries. In addition, the 11th issue (October 2026), titled “Literature and the Body: The Relations Between Being and Writing,” will bring together articles and reviews that explore the existential relationship between writing and corporeality from multiple perspectives. We warmly invite scholars who wish to think through the meaning of literature together to contribute to these future issues.

Finally, I extend my sincere gratitude to all our authors, reviewers, editorial team members, advisory board, and readers for their contributions to this issue. I would like to express my special thanks to Emre Koyuncu, guest editor of this dossier, whose intellectual guidance and editorial commitment have been invaluable in shaping the thematic coherence and scholarly depth of this issue. The unfolding of *Nesir* is, at its core, a collective and dialogical search for meaning, a continuous act of rebuilding both literature and thought.