

THE RELATIONSHIP AND SIMILARITIES BETWEEN TURKISH AND ENGLISH WITHIN THE FRAMEWORK OF LANGUAGE AND CULTURE CONNECTION

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ÖZET

Dil Kültür Bağlantısı Çerçevesinde Türkçe ile İngilizce Arasındaki İlişkiler ve Benzerlikler

Hiçbir toplum, başka toplumlarla ilişkide bulunmadan tek başına varlığını sürdüremez. Bugün çeşitli dillere ait, elimizde bulunan yazılı ürünlerin en eskisinde bile başka dilden alınma öğelerin varlığı göze çarpmaktadır” (Aksan, 1979: 137). Özellikle günümüzde politik, sosyal, kültürel bağlantılar ve hızla gelişen teknolojinin etkisiyle uluslar arası ilişkiler daha da sıklaşmıştır. Toplumsal ilişkilerden en çok etkilenen olgu, hiç kuşkusuz, dildir; çünkü dil, topluma bağlı, toplumun bütün değerleriyle birlikte ilerleyen bir varlıktır.

Diller arasındaki alışverişlerin tek nedeni, toplumsal, siyasal ve ticari ilişkiler değildir. İki dilin çeşitli nedenlerle karşılaşması ve bir arada kullanılır hale gelmesi de diller arasındaki etkileşim ve benzeşim nedenlerinden biridir.

Bilindiği gibi diller arası alışveriş sürecinde en çok alınan öğeler sözcüklerdir. Bilimde, sanatta ve teknikte ileri olan toplumlara yetişmeyi amaçlayan diğer toplumlar çoğu zaman yeni bir kavramı alırken bu kavramın göstergesini de olduğu gibi kendi dillerine çevirmeden almaktadırlar. Kimi zaman da sözcüğü sözcüğüne, birebir, yapılan çevirilerle İngilizcenin anlatım biçimi Türkçeye aktarılarak iki dil arasında benzeşim oluşmuştur.

Çeviri unsurunun yanı sıra, dillerde var olan eğilimleri incelediğimizde de diller arasında anlatım açısından benzerlikler olduğunu gözlemliyoruz. İngilizcede ve Türkçede toplumların bazı olaylara bakış, onları yorumlayış ve bazı kavramları, nesnelere tanımlayışları bakımından benzerlikler bulunur. Tamamen rastlantısal olan bu ortak tutumlar nedeniyle de diller arasında birbirine benzer anlatım özellikleri ortaya çıkmıştır. Örneğin; bütün dillerde görülen ortak bir tutum anlatıma güç katmak, anlatımı etkili kılmak ve anlaşmayı daha da kolaylaştırmak için atasözleri, deyimler, aktarmalar ve benzetmelere başvurmadır.

Bu çalışmada; İngilizce ve Türkçede bulunan atasözleri, deyimler, aktarmalar ve benzetmeler incelenecektir. İki dil arasında rastlantısal benzerliklerin yanı sıra çeviriler aracılığıyla oluşan benzerliklere örnekler verilecektir. Bu bağlamda

özellikle de son yıllarda Türkçeye hızla giren İngilizce kullanımların Türkçeye etkisi değerlendirilecektir.

Anahtar Kelimeler: Dil-kültür, diller arası alış verişler, diller arası etkileşim, anlambilim.

INTRODUCTION

Nowadays, the international communication has enhanced by the affection of political, religious, cultural relationships and technology which is improved rapidly and therefore, inter-language relations became fast.

Language which is a tool for communication between people is a part of culture, all languages change within time because “ language does not develop within a vacuum” (Lado, 1964: 23).

The elements which are accepted mostly during the inter-language relations are loan words. When other societies, who aim to catch the societies who are developed in art and technique, take a new concept, they also take the indicator of that concept mostly without translating into their own languages. In this study, the elements which are translated partially or completely into Turkish were given as being grouped as well as the loan words, idioms and terms which were taken into Turkish by such a manner. The model words which were formed at the result of translation from English into Turkish and provide the similarities between two languages and the multi-member translation factors which provide the parallelism between two languages by being transferred from English into Turkish via translation, especially in the section which were called as “expression models” and we see in translations of TV serials and movies, were mentioned.

In addition to the translation factors, when we study the tendencies in the languages, we also observe the paralleling between languages in respect of expression. There are similarities between the societies in respect of their reviewing manner to the certain events, their comment on them and describing some concepts and objects in English and Turkish.

Those similarities are one of the reasons which cause the forming of similar expression in characteristics between two languages.

1. Constitution of Similarity between English and Turkish as the Result of Common Expression Tendencies

All languages have their own expression method, description methods of objects and events.

In various languages which have the different expression types, the common attitudes are also observed. Those tendencies which are completely arbitrary are one of the reasons which cause the forming of similar expression characteristics between the languages. The common attitude which is observed in all languages

is to support the expression and to cite and figure of speech in order to ease the understanding or be affective.

Aksan (1978: 124-127) has examined the types of idioms transferring into Turkish under four headings. They are also observed in English. Such similar expression types show the accidental common tendencies which exist both in English and Turkish.

1.1 Application of Organ Names, Words which are Related to the Body to the Nature

This type of figure of speech which reflects the form similarity between the organs and things exist both in Turkish and English.

Eng. : The leg of a table **Eng. :** The mouth of a river

Tr. : Masanın ayağı **Tr. :** Irmağın ağzı

In addition to the figure of speech which is common in both languages, there are also expressions which bear the same meaning, but use the different figure of speech.

Eng. : The hands of a clock (saatin elleri)

Tr. : Saatin kolları

1.2. Application of the Words Related to the Nature to the Human

One of the common tendencies in all languages is to refer to the nature, objects in nature, animals, plants and events in order to express the individuals and characteristics which are related to them.

Since the word **snake** (*Eng. "snake ungrateful man, spiteful person*), which is used for the persons who are traitor, cynical and ungrateful, is also used in English, it bears the same auxiliary meanings.

Again, when the word of "**donkey**" in Turkish is used for the human except its original meaning, it means the "rude, bad-tempered, perverse, irritable" person. That word is also used in English at the same meaning. Such examples which reflect the common tendencies of both languages may be generated.

1.3. Concretizing

The idiom transferring on the bases of concretizing also exists in both English and Turkish. We see that the same figures of speech are sometimes made in both languages and the concretizing is sometimes made as referring the different figures of speech, in spite of having the same meaning. We see usually the concretizing in the idioms of both languages.

Eng. : A fish out of water.

Tr. : Sudan çıkmış balığa dönmek

In order to tell a concrete event such as one who leaves his/her own environment is in difficult to get used to the new situation, the concretizing is made in both languages by using the figure of speech such as a fish out of water.

Eng. : To have no time to die

Tr. : Başını kaşiyacak vakti olmamak

The concretizing is made in the different figures of speech in both Turkish and English in order to mention that one is very busy and does not have time to do something else.

In this idiom, the concretizing has been made as using the same figures of speech in both languages.

1.4. Transfers between the Concepts Related to the Senses

The expression types like **cold voice, warm hearted** may be seen in Turkish and English. In order to provide the affective expression, as the connection between the sense organs like **sweet voice, soft voice, sharp word, sharp look** is established and the figures of speech are used in Turkish, the figures of speech like **sweet voice, piercing sounds, sharp look** are also used in the same meaning in English.

One of the common expression tendencies between Turkish and English is the figure of speech. The figures of speech are used in both languages in order to make the speech more affective and more colorful. They may be similar expression types between the languages in respect of the figures of speech.

Eng. : As cunning as a fox

Eng. : As sweet as honey

Tr. : Tilki kadar kurnaz

Tr. : Bal gibi tatlı

Above-mentioned examples reflect the arbitrary common tendencies of two languages. Such utilizations are the expression types which two languages develop independently from each other.

In addition to the accidental expression similarities, the expression types between two languages which are parallel to each other had been formed by relationships, deals between the societies and thus, languages recently and by transferring the expression characteristics, idioms and terms of English into Turkish via translation manner.

2. Establishing the Similarities by means of Translation from English to Turkish and exchanges between two Languages

Even if the languages are not sourced from the same origin, they transfer some language characteristics to each other because of the inter-society relationships. Such interactions may be seen almost in all languages.

Even if they are not sourced from the same language family, the language elements which occurred at the result of social relationships during the history have been transferred from one society to another. As proved by the historical linguistic studies and socio-linguistic studies, the languages are under the continuous development and changing. According to Humboldt, to take the languages from history and to examine them out of the cultural events make the languages death. The language is not a dead thing, but is an activity.” It has the characteristics of renewing itself, developing and changing (see, Akarsu, 1984)”.

Even though English and Turkish have the different characteristics in respects of the root and structure, nowadays, there are many idioms, terms and expression models cause similarities between two languages.

Today, we listen to the music by “walkman”, we freeze our foods in “deep-freeze”, we wear the Italian design clothes and we watch the channels like Star, Flash, Show TV, when we watch our TV. The foreign technology and the language with it which, perhaps, we used them, since they meet our needs, had become a tool which we may use in every area which we desire, as becoming a part of our culture and becoming the habit.

We may meet the foreign words like Talk-show, Top-Ten, Subjective, Life Style in the well-known newspapers and magazines and like Week-end, Tele-Flash, Tele-Objective, Talk Show, Tele Shop, Coke’n Roll in the TV programs today.

Many products and goods which we use in daily life –even if they are national or foreign products or goods- have English names in the recent years. In addition to the products like Vim Progress, super perfumed Hacı Şakir Beauty Soap, we use the loan words like white board, mixer, blender, long play, board marker, stretch, body. In the music, the music type which its composer is national, lyrics are national, singer is national but it is called as “pop”, “pop music” or “pop stars” like in English . The food types such as fast foods like brunch, hamburger, sandwich, etc. contribute to our food culture.

In addition to the daily events and technologic developments, the artistic innovations are also reflected into the language. Many foreign sourced artistic branches and their works have joined into our culture as well as our traditional culture. For instance, the music types which are listened widely in Turkey are as follows: **Soul music, rap music, reggae, blues, country folk, rock in roll, soul rock, hard rock, heavy metal, new age.**

The word existence of a language develops and changes in direction to the needs, interest of the society who speaks that language and their relationships with other societies. The changes and innovations in the society and all changing in the other societies which they are in connection with them are expressed by the

language. In this case, as the society and language, the structure of the society, its traditions, customs, world view and economics, regarding that they reflect the equal values, are examined, the characteristics of the language will be determined and as the characteristics of the language are examined, the characteristics of the society will be defined.

When the characteristics of the languages are studied, the foreign elements, which are found, are the results of the deals between the societies which increase today. Mostly the new words, idioms and terms have been entered into the language via deals between the languages which increase at the result of close relationships between the societies, and the expression patterns which are parallel each other had been formed between languages.

2.1. Idioms which are Transferred via Translation from English into Turkish

Some part of the translated words is constituted by the idioms. During the dealing procedure between the languages, one idiom may be transferred into another language by the translation manner. Since the idioms reflect the living styles and values of the societies, they transfer those characteristics completely same into the language which is translated into.

When we examine the idioms in English and Turkish, we may learn about the thinking and comment manners of those societies on the events in direction of the similarities and differences of the expression styles in both languages.

While there are same idioms in respects of content and expression in English and Turkish, there also are the idioms which their expression manners are different. This difference is sourced from the world viewing and commenting manners of the societies.

- To came into the world---doğmak

To play with fire---tehlikeli bir işe kalkışmak

Eng. and Tr.=Same meaning and form

- To make a mountain out of the molehill---Önemsiz bir şeyi büyütme, abartmak

- To be at death's door---ölmek üzere olmak

Eng. and Tr.=Same meaning, different form

Like in the mentioned examples, the idiom which exists in English may be used in the same expression style and meaning in Turkish or despite of having the same meaning, its expression manner may be different. "To consider the flea as the camel" in Turkish means to considerable think about the unimportant thing. The same idiom in English is "to make a mountain out of a molehill".

When the idioms are translated into a different language, one of the methods which would be followed is to find the exact meaning in the target language. But the exact meaning of the idiom may not always be found as an idiom in another language. In this case, the idiom may be translated as keeping its meaning fixed or translated in modal manner.

Such a fully translated idioms, which are transferred into Turkish as being translated the each word of the idioms in English, are frequently seen recently.

Eng. : making wine out of water is nothing

Tr. : sudan şarap yapmak buna nazaran hiçbir şey (book translation)

Even though the exact meaning of the English idiom in the above-mentioned example is found in Turkish (making wine out of water is nothing), this idiom had been transferred into Turkish as paralleling to English expression by being translated in word by word. One part of the idioms which are transferred from the foreign languages into Turkish and their examples were given in page below also exists in French, German and other European languages as the product of a common cultural existence.

Eng. : Bird of peace

Eng. : Cold war

Eng. : Brain washing

Tr. : Barış güvercini

Tr. : Soğuk savaş

Tr. : Beyin yıkamak

In the recent years, many English phrases have been transferred into Turkish by the translation of English novels, foreign TV movies. Especially, since the translated movies were watched widely, the translated elements are widely accepted and used. In addition to the translated language elements which are transferred by translation manner and don't have the exact meaning in Turkish, there are also some expression types which are formed by several words and transferred from English by the word by word translation, even if its exact meaning exists in Turkish.

Eng. : If you choose the right person you can be happy.

Tr. : Eğer doğru insanı seçersen mutlu olabilirsin

Eng. : Right step at the right moment

Tr. : doğru zamanda doğru adım

The expression styles like to catch the right moment, choose the right person which we see in the examples have been formed by the direct translation of the right in English. But the word "right" in English can be expressed in different manners in Turkish according to the context.

Eng. : right

Tr. : doğru, güvenilir, dürüst, insafli, namuslu, elverişli, adil, uygun, insafli, isabetli, gereken, aranan, sağlam, sağlıklı

The word “special” in English also may be expressed in the different manners in accordance with the places where it will be used in Turkish.

The expression types which are translated into Turkish as **special person, special patient, special thing** may be expressed in the different words.

The word “special” has been translated from English into Turkish as “özel” in every context. However, the word “special” may be expressed with the different words in Turkish in accordance with the message which is targeted to be given.

Eng. : Are you doing something **special** today?

Tr. : Bugün **özel** bir şey yapıyor musun? (TV)

Eng. : You are very **special** for him.

Tr. : Sen onun için çok **özelsin**.

Eng. : special

Tr. : özel, önemli, değerli, ayrı, kıymetli, ayrı, ayrıcalıklı, eşsiz.

We see that the expression patters which are transferred from English into Turkish by translation are used in daily life, while, preliminary, we met them only in the translation area, i.e. in an essay, book or TV movie which were translated from English into Turkish. We observe that the translated elements in the language are used in the daily life as entering into Turkish, since the mass media tools, especially, the TV are used widely. Some of translated idioms which we use in the daily life are listed below (some of them meet their original meaning in French and there is a possibility to be transferred from French by translation manner previously.)

Eng. : to go out

Eng. : to test

Tr. : biriyle çıkmak

Tr. : test etmek

2.2. Expression Patterns which are Transferred from English into Turkish by Translation Manner

In addition to the expression styles like parallel idioms to each other, pattern words between Turkish and English, there are also multi-member expression types which are transferred from English into Turkish by translation.

When we examine the translations from English into Turkish, we see that some structures, so called expression patterns, are formed as transforming the expressions in English into Turkish word by word. As there are phrases which are proper for the structure and expression style of English, there are also Turkish patterns which are parallel to the expression style of English as being transferred them into Turkish.

Eng. : Does it tell you anything?

Tr. : Bu sana bir şey söylüyor mu?

Such an idea in Turkish may be expressed as *does it have any meaning for you? Does it make sense for you?*

We see such expression patterns which enter into our language by translation in the translations from English into Turkish. We also see that some of them are adapted timely and used in daily life.

Eng. : How do you find the program?

Tr. : Programı nasıl buluyorsun?

The sentence, “*how do you find the program?*” is completely proper for the expression pattern of English. However, when we want to learn whether one likes the thing in Turkish, we ask *what do you think about it?* instead of *how do you find it?* But, its form, paralleling to English has taken place and used in Turkish for a long time.

Eng. : How can I help you?

Tr. : Sana nasıl yardımcı olabilirim?

This sentence which was translated word by word from English into Turkish reflects the expression pattern of English. We ask the same question in Turkish as *what do you want me to do?* or so , *what do I do?*

Eng. : How nice to see you again.

Eng. : Thanks for the tea.

Tr. : Seni tekrar görmek ne güzel.

Tr. : Çay için teşekkürler.

Eng. : What’s the problem mum?

Eng. : I can’t do this.

Tr. : Anne sorun nedir?

Tr. : Pikniğe gidelim mi?

– İşim var. *Bunu yapamam.*

Eng. : I can’t go on like this.

Eng. : For the family to go on you don’t take on half of the responsibility.

Tr. : Bu şekilde devam edemem.

Tr. : Ailenin yürümesi için işlerin yarısını bile üstlenmiyorsun.

Eng. : The man in the street **Eng. :** What do you do at this time of the year?

Tr. : sokaktaki adam

Tr. : Yılın bu zamanında ne yaparsın?

As such sentences which reflect the expression characteristics of English are translated into Turkish word by word; the expression patterns which are parallel to each other between English and Turkish have been formed. Especially, at the

result of frequently repeating of such examples in the translations of TV serials and movies, there are some which takes place in Turkish.

2.3. Word Patterns which are Transferred from English into Turkish by Translation

Word patterns are multi-elemental factors which reflect the culture of a society, their reactions against the events and their addressing style, and we use in the cases when we greet someone, request something and in the cases such an illness, celebration, etc.

Such words are the examples which make clear the differences between the cultures. In Turkish, the word patterns like *thanks, thank you, God bless you, May God grant your every wish* are used against any favors. We may say that such words appear more frequently in Turkish than in English. Contrary to this, as translating the word patterns from English to Turkish word by word without regarding whether they have exact meaning in Turkish, the new utilizations which are not proper for the structure and expression pattern of Turkish language have been derived.

Some of such utilizations which we usually meet in translations of TV serials and movies are also used in the daily life. In the below listed examples, firstly, the translation of word patterns from English to Turkish are given as their translated form and then, the words which meet those word patterns in Turkish are given.

Eng. : May the god with you. **Eng. :** Take care of yourself

Tr. : Tanrı seninle olsun. **Tr. :** Kendine dikkat et. (Hoşçakal)

In Turkish, in accordance with the environment and circumstances which the speech is made, the word patterns like *it's very nice you came, Thanks to be God that we met, Welcome, I glad to see you* are used instead of *it is nice to see you or how nice to see you* in English.

If we meet one who visit us at home, we say “Welcome”, “it’s very nice you came” and if we see one whom we haven’t seen for a long time, we say “Thank to be God that we met” and we say a friend whom we meet on the road “I glad to see you”.

We say “look after yourself well”, “Be careful” instead of “goodbye”, “God saves you” by the affection of English.

When we move away from someone or see him/her off we use the word pattern of “God saves you”. But in English, “May the God be with you” word pattern is used. The parallel expression pattern has been established as translating its English version completely into Turkish.

2.4. Terms which are Formed by the Translation from English into Turkish

The main reasons of establishing of translation terms are the fast development of science and technique abroad. Nowadays, the new invention in any place in the world may spread fast to whole world. Mostly, when the new inventions go around world with their names, it is sometimes translated into the mother tongue.

In Turkish, they are translated, rather than establishing new terms for the new concepts. In fact, this is one of the issues which have been discussed in Turkey for a long time. It is good to derivate the words, terms which meet the new concepts from Turkish roots or translate the terms word by word from foreign language into Turkish in order to follow fast the technology and science which develop rapidly?

When we examine the various terms which are used in the several fields today, we may observe the terms which are formed by each element of the terms or translating only one element among two elements as well as the terms which are transferred into Turkish without translation.

There are many terms which are formed by the translation of each element of the English terms into our language (full translation).

The examples for *full* translated terms in the below section have been selected from the field of psychology (see, T. Morgan, 1984: 441-466)

Eng. : motivational conflict **Eng.** : field theory

Tr. : güdüsel çatışma **Tr.** : alan kuramı

Since those terms which some of them are sourced from French roots were translated from English source, they are mentioned in the below listed examples. Furthermore, such terms are used in many languages as yield of common culture.

Eng. : perceptual learning

Tr. : algısal öğrenme

In addition to the fully translated terms which are formed by the translation of the English terms into Turkish, *semi-translated* terms which are formed by the translation of one element or elements into Turkish as keeping fixed the other element are frequently seen. The examples of such translations which may be found in every field are also selected from the field of psychology.

There were and are many works on the issue of the terms which enter from the western languages into Turkish and becoming Turkish terms. In addition to the terms which we use as translating into Turkish, we see frequently the terms which we use same without finding the Turkish meaning of them in every field in the recent years.

Eng. : credit card

Eng. : check up

Tr. : kredi kartı

Tr. : çek ap

The terms which provide that the persons in the field of science, art, banking, etc. understand and take contact each other easily are establishing almost an international language in order to be followed the science and technology which develop fast.

Since there are certain words which belong to the certain professions, some terms which are used in the restricted fields and restricted persons may be used in the daily life at the result of using in direction of the needs of the persons who are out of those professions timely.

CONCLUSION

Parallel expression patterns between English and Turkish are established by the certain common tendencies which exist in both languages and translations.

Some common tendencies which may be observed in all languages may establish the paralleling between the languages in respect of the expression. When the certain events, objects and persons are defined, the languages may use the same figures of speech. But those are completely accidental paralleling which is sourced from expression types of the languages. The common attitude which is observed in all languages is to support the expression and to cite and figure of speech in order to ease the understanding or be affective. When the transfers of idioms in English and Turkish, it is observed the paralleling idiom transferring kinds and communications in both languages.

The similarities because of the common tendencies between Turkish and English, is formed by the similar expression types which are developed independently from each other by two languages. Such similar expression patterns are the accidental paralleling which is formed as the result of natural tendencies of the languages.

The paralleling which is formed as the result of translations from English into Turkish is established, since one depends on the utilizations which reflect the expression pattern of English during the translation period.

As the English words which we use in Turkish today are the origin of our study, at the result of the examination of the translation field (magazine, book, TV), it was determined that the loan words are not only at that stage but include the multi-member expression elements.

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