ANKARA UNIVERSITY DISTANCE EDUCATION

Turkish Language

Prepared by

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**Submission**

Distance education is a training pattern that education activities are predicated on communication techniques and teachers and students are non-spatial. Distance education programmes in Ankara University are internet based. You can get at the lesson content easily when you want. You can make contact with your teachers on the internet.

E-learning is different from classroom environment learning. So you should be careful about discipline. You should direct yourself for getting the lesson content every weekday or any day of the week. You can prepare a work schedule and you can determine your work hours.

This book will help you to understand this lesson. Also you can make contact with your teacher to ask your question about lesson.

**UNIT 1: LANGUAGE, FEATURES OF LANGUAGE AND TURKISH**

**Subjects of This Unit**

* What is language?
* Features of language
* Social side of language
* Individual side of language
* Meaning in word
* Language and thought
* Language and culture
* Development of language
* Importance of native language
* Birth of languages
* World languages
* Classification of languages
* Historical periods of Turkish
* Alphabet (writing) and language revolution

**What will be taught in this unit?**

Definition of language will be made. Features of language will be indicated and the importance of language will be explained in terms of social and indiviual. Language, thought and culture relation will be clarified and the importance of native language will be explained. Then some theories about the birth of language will be discussed. And then languages will be classsified in terms of form and source. Also you can find information about the place of Turkish in world languages. Finally, alphabet (writing) and language revolution will be told with causes and effects.

**Target of Learning**

* You will have theoritic information about language.
* You will understand the importance of language for human life and you can explain the relation between language-thought and language-culture.
* You will comprehend the importance of native language.
* You will have information about the birth of languages, classification of language and the place of Turkish in world languages.
* You will learn alphabet (writing) and language revolution.

**What should you do when you study this unit?**

* Please read the subjects carefully and be careful fort he order of subjects. If you don’t understand a subject, you shouldn’t read the other subject.
* Please revise frequently.
* If you don’t answer the questions in the end of unit, you should read the subject again. Also, you can prepare questions like that.
* You can find the books given in references.

**Introduction**

Language is a natural tool that it provides the communication among people and it consists of sound and markers. Language has specific rules and functioning shape and it has a systematic structure. Using of language occur as part of this system. These rules are base on experience which is gained for centuries.

Using the language as a communication and agreement tool is named as “linguistic competence”. Linguistic competence is a communicate skill over meaningful sounds of human.

**Features of Language**

Language is a living and multidirectional entity. Language can renew itself according to requirement of society with its historical saving. This innovation shows the aliveness of language. So, language can’t be limited with a historical period. There is a continuity in language.

Language is not independent of human brain. Occurrence, aliveness and continuity of language is depend on existence and mental activity of human. So, language is an “abstract” entity.

**Social Side of Language**

People learn the language when they born. Person learns the rule of language, process of language and the meaning of words. So the person approves the historical and social agreement. Because all the things which learned are depend on reconciliation. Communication and agreement emerge with this association. Persons can not make any change on this agreement because the language is a social entity.

The social side of language is related with the meaning of words. Common sense of words shows the social side of language. The common sense of words is important for a good communication.

History and life style of society affect the words. Some words can evoke depending upon the life style and history of society. For example, “flag” has the same meaning in all languages. A society who lives the liberty war will perceive this Word different from the other society who doesn’t know the liberty war.

Geographic structure and climate conditions can emerge the association of perception for words. For example, the Word “sea” is not the same emotional effect for society who lives in coast and who lives in moor.

Also, changes in social life reflect the language. For example, the “shanty” word comes from the immigration from village to city. The word “dolmush” comes from shanty settlement.

Language is a social entity and it reflects the life style and life conditions of the society.

**Individual Side of Language**

The relation between person and language is not limited with the social side of language. Language has a special place in individual life. Observations of person, impressions in person’s inner World, subjective emotion and thoughts provide the individual relation with language. This relation creates the indiviual side of language.

When the memories, summations and inner worlds are different, the reflection of these to the language will be different.

**Meaning in Word**

Words in language have different meanings in our mind. These meanings are like below:

* **Central/basic meaning:** Central meaning is the first meaning come to mind of a word. Central meaning is the oldest meaning and it is know by everyone. This meaning is also the cause of emerge for this Word. For example, “eye” word’s central meaning is the organ of sight.
* **Connotation:** Connotation is the meaning which emerges from central meaning. Connotation is related with central meaning. For example, for “eye” word can be defined as “a piece of a furniture”. This is the connotation of “eye” word. When a word gains meaning, similarity relation is effective mostly.

Central meaning and connotation create the real meaning of word. When the word is used apart from real meaning, this situation brings the *figurative* meaning to the word.

* **Associative meaning:** Besides central meaning and connotation of words, there are meanings due to different associations. Words can arouse different feelings in individuals because of personal life and experiences. Memories, observation and impression can differentiate the meaning of words. For example, the “sea” has association like “struggle to earn a living” for fisherman. Same word can evoke the “eternity”, “peace” or “freedom” for other people. These associations can differ according to experience of person.

Words take a place in our memory for many reasons. Alongside of meaning relations and association, sound similarity and origin relation are determiner. For example, “kıskanç” word can take a place in our mind because of the similarity with “kıskaç”. “Zaman” word is similar with “saman”; kader” word is similar with “keder”.

As is seen, language-society and language-individual relation have complicated and multiple processes. Language is social and abstract system which learned with its rules. Converting this system to the action by individual creates the “utterance”. Utterance is personal and concrete performance. Although one language is used in a society, there is utterance as person number. Language is both tool and product of utterance. Language evolves with utterance, clearness of utterance is possible with language.