



## THE DIFFERENCES IN TRANSLATION OF RUSSIAN VERBAL ASPECTS FROM RUSSIAN TO TURKISH\*

RUSÇA FİİLLERDEKİ GÖRÜNÜŞ TÜRLERİNİN TÜRKÇEYE AKTARILMASINDA GÖRÜLEN FARKLILIKLAR

**Leyla Çiğdem DALKILIÇ**

Yrd. Doç. Dr., Ankara Üniversitesi, Dil ve Tarih-Coğrafya Fakültesi, Slav Dilleri ve Edebiyatları Bölümü, Rus Dili ve Edebiyatı Anabilim Dalı, lcdalkilic@ankara.edu.tr

### Abstract

The structural differences in the grammar system of Russian and Turkish, which belong to different linguistic families, appear most strongly in aspect and tense categories of both languages. The comparative studies provide the basic support for a better understanding of the systematic features of languages, which show structural differences. The aim of this paper is to show the use of aspect category in Russian, which is not as clearly present in Turkish as a morphological form as it is in Russian, how it can be translated into Turkish and the difficulties or dilemmas encountered in this process. Russian aspect category is the speaker's way of describing and evaluating what he/she saw subjectively, in other words, it is a way of depicting events witnessed from his/her own perspective. In a sense, it also transfers a specific linguistic world view. In that respect, although infinitive verbs belong to two different types in Russian, this is a feature which becomes more obvious in verb conjugation. In this sense, "vid" represents an internal meaning, which is more likely to be seen in suffixes, rather than in the infinitive form. In Turkish however – unlike in Russian - aspect is not present as a grammar category. The difference in terms of tense category between the two languages brings along certain translation difficulties. In this study, the issue of how aspect category is transferred within the framework of tense category in Russian and Turkish will be examined comparatively.

### Öz

Farklı dil ailelerine mensup olan Rusça ve Türkçe gramer sisteminin sahip olduğu yapısal farklılıklar özellikle de her iki dilin görünüş ve zaman kategorilerinde belirgin bir şekilde kendini göstermektedir. Karşılaştırmalı çalışmalar ise, yapısal farklılıklar gösteren dillerin sistemsel özelliklerinin daha iyi anlaşılabilmesi için temel yardımcı desteği göstermektedir. Karşılaştırmalı yöntem aracılığıyla Türkçede morfolojik olarak Rusçadaki kadar net bir şekilde bulunmayan görünüş kategorisinin (tür kategorisi) Rusçadaki yeri, Türkçeye nasıl aktarıldığı ve bu esnada karşılaşılan zorluklar ya da ikilemlerin ortaya konması makalenin amacını oluşturmaktadır. Görünüş kategorisi konuşanın öznel olarak gördüğü, değerlendirdiği yani kendi bakış açısından tanık olduğu olayları betimleyiş biçimidir. Bir anlamda dilsel dünya görüşünü de aktarmaktadır. Bu bağlamda, Rusçada fiiller her ne kadar mastar hallerinde iken iki farklı türe ait de olsalar, bu durumun anlamsal özellikleri fiil çekiminde daha çok belirginlik kazanmaktadır. Bu anlamda, kişinin olaya yaklaşımı, bakış açısı ile şekillenen görünüş terimi daha çok mastarda değil çekim ekiminde bulunan bir iç anlam olarak karşımıza çıkmaktadır. Türkçede ise Rusçanın aksine görünüş ayrı bir gramer kategorisi olarak mevcut bulunmamaktadır. İki dil arasında zaman kategorisi açısından yaşanan bu fark belirli çeviri zorluklarını da beraberinde getirmektedir. Bu çalışmada dilbilgisinde yer alan görünüş kategorisinin birbirinden farklı iki dil ailesinde yer alan Rusça ve Türkçe dillerinde zaman kategorisi çerçevesinde nasıl aktarıldığı karşılaştırmalı olarak inceleneyecektir.

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## Introduction

The differences in language structures of various languages are available in Russian and Turkish as well. As a member of different linguistic families these differences are present in the grammatical structure of both languages, and they appear most clearly in the aspect and tense categories of the Russian and Turkish languages.

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In Russian, each morphologic structure, which has a formal expressive feature and can be distinguished from other structures of grammar by means of this feature, is studied under the title of *category*. One of these categories, that will be discussed, is *aspect* (form, type) category which in Russian is called “*вид*” (*vid*). In Russian, this category is examined under the title *aspectology*, which is a sub-branch of morphology. Y. Maslov defines aspectology as follows: “Aspectology is the discipline, which examines the grammatical structure and grammatical meaning of the language within the framework of aspect category and all phenomena related to the aspect category functionally-semantically” (Maslov 23). In Russian term “*vid*” is used as a counterpart English term *aspect*. In this study, the word “*aspect*” (*vid*) will be preferred to avoid any ambiguity.

Broadly speaking, the verbal aspects express the character of the action performance, described by the verb. The action performed, whether it is simple or complex, including several separate acts, its performance is distributing in time and space. The aspect difference shows, (a) that the verbal forms indicate the completion of the action or its continuation without completion (сеять-посеять – to sow, выполнять-выполнить – to fulfil);(b) that the action starts with one act and includes several types of such acts (стучать-стукнуть-постукивать – to knock ‘from time to time’, колоть, кольнуть, покалывать – to sting); (c) the shortness or duration of the action in time (стоял-постоял-постояивал – to stand); the restriction of the duration or its absence (ходить-походить – to go, walk); the movement in one or different directions or without indication of direction (лететь-летать – to fly) (Gvozdev 306). In Russian, the verbs with the same lexical meaning, but different grammatical meanings, are divided into two types: perfective (*sovershenniy vid*) and imperfective verbs (*nesovershenniy vid*), which are characterized by the distinctly expressed grammatical differences and have correlative grammatical categories.

Russian linguist A. Peshkovski defines aspect in verbs thus: “*Aspect shows how an ‘action’, ‘situation’ or ‘incident’, etc. expressed with a verb has occurred in a time period or how it is divided into time periods*” (Peshkovskiy 105). As can be understood from this description, aspect category and tense category are in close relationship. On the other hand, unlike the tense category, the aspect category is not related to the time period during which the action took place, but to how this action is perceived by the speaker who is talking about the action. In relation to this, linguist B. Comrie describes aspect as an instance which occurred in a certain time period as perceived or observed by the speaker in different ways (Comrie 3). In

other words, he describes aspect as an internal temporal constituency of a situation.

The meaning of aspect category becomes clearer within the tense category in Russian, in other words when the verb is conjugated. As mentioned above, verbs in Russian can have perfective aspect (*написать* – to write, *сделать* – to do, *приготовить* – to prepare) and imperfective aspect (*писат*ь – to write, *делат*ь – to do, *готовит*ь – to prepare). However, these basic features that verbs have in their infinitive forms diversify when they are conjugated. A. Dilaçar has tried to present this distinction in his work “*Türk Fülünde Kılınışla Görünüş ve Dilbilgisi Kitaplarımız*” (*Manner of Action and Aspect in Turkish Verbs and Our Grammar Books*) within the framework of addressing these terms in both Turkish and other world languages. A. Dilaçar’s definitions will be used for a better understanding of the aspect category in Russian. A. Dilaçar has divided infinitive and conjugated forms of verbs into two groups: manner of action and aspect. According to Dilaçar, the difference between manner of action and aspect is based on a subjective-objective (objective-subjective) distinction. In other words, he considers the infinitive forms of the verbs as objective and conjugated forms as subjective. According to this, the meaning of a verb in the infinitive form, which is a *manner of action*, is a natural feature in the course of a certain process. The infinitive form of the verb contains meanings such as starting, finishing, process, and repetition, which are connected to the main meaning, stated by the infinitive verb, and for that reason is objective. Aspect, however, is the transfiguration in the process and meaning of the conjugated verb by the speaker (Dilaçar 161). The aspect category is the speaker’s way of describing what he/she saw subjectively, evaluated and witnessed from his/her own perspective. In a sense, it also describes the linguistic view of the world. In that respect, although infinitive verbs belong to two different categories (perfective-imperfective) in Russian, this is a feature which can be seen most clearly in conjugation. However, it is worth noting that the speech is about the inner meaning of verbs, not just about the verbs in Russian, which are divided into two classes as perfective and imperfective forms. In that sense, “vid” is an internal meaning, which is mostly occurred and expressed by the conjugated verb, but not only by the verb in its infinitive form.

The fact that each verb does not always display aspect or does not give various meanings of the infinitive strengthens this definition. The infinitive form of the verb, which is called *manner of action* by Dilaçar, is related to the “action

methods of verbs” (sposobi deystviya glagolov/способы действия глаголов) in Russian. As a proof of this, Dilacar presents the following examples: *başlıyorum* (I am starting - начинаю) and *yürüyorum* (I am walking - иду). “(...) suffix *-yor* in Turkish indicates continuity, nevertheless the continuity in these two verbs is not the same, the verb “to start” can not be permanent, while the verb “to walk” is always ongoing” (Dilaçar 163). We can say the same thing for Russian verbs “начинаю” and “иду”. Despite the fact that both verbs refer to imperfective and point to the present continuous tense (in Russian - настоящее время), which has the meaning of persistency, the first one does not include any kind of permanency in its inner meaning, while the second verb includes the meaning of continuity. As stated by M. Malkoç, “*kılınış*” – a term which does not have an equivalent in English – should be interpreted as “types of action or situation” or “verb types” (Malkoç). To explain this, as an example he gives the verbs *bulmak* “to find - найти”, which has a meaning of finished; *tutuşmak* “to inflame - распалять”, which has a meaning of start and *damlamak* “to drip – капать”, which has a meaning of repetition. Action methods of verbs in Russian are lexical-grammatical classifications which indicate various temporal, procedural and resultative differences of the action, which are created by means of derivational affixes, such as prefixes and suffixes. These classifications seem to be a method, used in Turkish to express the aspect category, which does not exist in the Turkish language as a separate category. W. Klein names the verbs in manner of action category, in other words infinitive verbs, as “aktionsart of a verb”, which indicates the lexical meanings of verbs (Klein 16).

As stated before, in contrast to Russian *aspect* is not present in Turkish as a morphological category. In other words, verbs with the same lexical meanings are not expressed through different grammatical instruments in perfective and imperfective aspects. In Turkish, infinitive verbs can give both perfective and imperfective meanings (*gelmek*/to come, *bitirmek*/to finish, *başlamak*/to start, *durmak*/to stop, etc.). These meanings are expressed by *action methods of verbs* in Turkish. Aspect features of the verbs in Russian and their basic meanings and connotations show themselves in the tenses, which indicate how and when the action takes place in Turkish.

### **Method and Analysis**

The aim of this paper is to show how the aspect category is used in Russian, which is not as clearly present in Turkish as it is in Russian, how it can be translated to Turkish and the difficulties or dilemmas encountered in this process. For this

purpose, some examples of the writer and the examples taken from the National Corpus of Russian language (NCRL) have been used. This corpus is a reference system on an electronic collection of texts composed in Russian and it represents the language at a stage (or several stages) of its development in all the variety of genres, styles, territorial and social variants of usage, etc. The examples were selected from literary works covering the period 1950-2005. For this aim, first we customized subcorpus and found the main parameters and then we chose fiction under the title "gender and type". Returning back to the main search system, we made a lexico-grammatical search in the search system and chose the proper grammatical features like verb form, tense, aspect etc. Consequently, to find the necessary samples, more than one hundred samples were analysed. The selection of samples was performed manually. Based on this, using the sampling method, the issue of how aspect category is expressed within the framework of tense category in Russian and Turkish was examined comparatively. Before we proceed to the analysis of materials, it is worth mentioning that samples with specified dates and without page numbers are taken from NCRL, as for the examples that do not have a date and page number are authors' own examples. It is also worth paying attention to the fact that the examples in this study which are translated from Russian into English and Turkish may vary depending on the area of use.

### **The analysis of expressing aspect features while translating from Russian into Turkish**

Aspect, which can be expressed via different ways such as verb conjugations, adverbs and prepositions, should be understood as a morphological dilemma that separates an incident as either perfective or imperfective in Slavic languages (Klein 16), a category which includes Russian. Although this morphologic grammar category in Slavic languages does not exist in every language, it can express the meanings of aspect category in other languages. Other languages have their own, different linguistic elements which express the meaning of morphologic aspect category according to the characteristics of the language. The elements which comprise this category semantically are suffixes of the verbs tense. For example, completion of an action in the past is expressed by perfective verbs and the process or continuation of such action in a certain time period is expressed by imperfective verbs in Russian. However, completion of an action in the past is expressed by the –di suffix and continuation of the action is expressed by the –yordu suffix in Turkish.

Я **написал** письмо - (I wrote a letter) Mektup yazdım

Я **писал** письмо - (I was writing a letter) Mektup yazıyordum

Manner of action features are expressed by verbs which indicate initiation (*зажигать* - ignite, *закидать* - scatter etc.), those which express the start and end of an action (*умереть* = die, *найти* find etc.), and by neutral verbs, which do not express the start and end of an action (*идти* - walk, *написать* - write etc.). Briefly, while manner of action is restricted by lexical differences between the verbs, aspect is a totally grammatical category, which includes certain presentation types in relation to the course of action (Bacanlı 47).

While perfective verbs generally express actions, which denote completed and potential actions, imperfective verbs might contain both aspect and manner of action meanings. For example, *кашлять* (*kashlyat*), a verb meaning “to cough” might express both manner of action in the meaning of “continue to cough” and aspect in the meaning of “coughing” (Bacanlı 47). Since description of the aspect category in Turkish and the difficulties and dilemmas encountered in this process will be discussed in this study, manner of action category will not be included hereinafter. As mentioned before, aspect category in Russian is a transfiguration by the speaker of the process and meaning of the notion that the conjugated verb has. Although each conjugated verb indicates a certain time reference, aspect and tense categories are evaluated simultaneously in Russian. The meanings conveyed by the aspect category in Russian, which are present in verb lexemes and become clear with conjugations, are revealed in tenses in Turkish. Tenses in Russian comprise three basic time periods: present, past and future. However, tense category is a more complex structure in Turkish than simple and compound tenses. The aspect category in Russian will be discussed within the framework of the definite past tense (-di suffix), the indefinite past tense (-miş suffix), the present continuous tense (-yor suffix), the future tense (-ecek suffix) and the present tense (-ı-r suffix), which are the simple tenses in Turkish.

It is important to consider how perfective and imperfective verbs are used in the past tense in Russian and how they are expressed in Turkish. The use of imperfective verbs and perfective verbs and the meanings they give are different in the past tense. If the speaker is only interested in whether the action took place in the past and directs a question to both himself and the listener about this, imperfective verbs in the past tense are used. Two examples are given below:

- Все **собирались** в конференц-зале, никто не манкировал, слушали сосредоточено [Токарева Виктория. Своя правда // «Новый Мир», 2002]  
(Everybody gathered at the conference hall, nobody was neglecting the speaker, they listened carefully)  
(Herkes konferans salonunda toplandı, kimse saygısızlık etmiyor, dikkatlice dinliyordu).
- **Собирались** все в этот день? – Да, **собирались**  
(Did everybody gather that day? – Yes, they gathered.)  
(O gün herkes toplandı mı? – Evet toplandı).

In fact, imperfective verbs show whether the action really took place in the past and whether it has been completed or not. The meanings of these verbs are generally reflected more in dialogues and question and declarative sentences, which are used independently from other sentences. Imperfective verbs, however, provide different functions and meanings to the expression. Perfective verbs, expressing actions which occurred during a certain situation in the past, have rather a declarative, narrating function.

- Петя однажды **нанес визит** Главному ВМС, **выразил** соболезнование (у него умер отец) [Анатолий Азольский. Глаша // «Новый Мир», 2003]

(Once Petya visited the Navy commander and expressed condolences (his father died)

(Petya bir gün Deniz kuvvetleri komutanını ziyaret etti ve baş sağlığı diledi (babası vefat etmişti)

In the first part of the sentence the current situation is stated and what happened in that situation is stated in the second part.

The function regarding whether perfective and imperfective circumstance took place in the past can be better seen in the following two sentences:

- Не понимаю, о чём ты, – сказал Андрей. – Лично я никаких писем **не получал**. [Виктор Пелевин. Желтая стрела (1993)]

I don't understand what are you talking about – said Andrey, - Personally, i did not receive any letters)

(Neden bahsettiğini anlamıyorum dedi Andrey .- Şahsen, ben hiçbir mektup almadım)

- 11 июня 1998 года. **Получил** письмо от мамы. Первое за три года.  
[Андрей Геласимов. Год обмана (2003)]

(June 11, 1998, for the first time in three years i received a letter from my  
mom).

(11 Temmuz 1998 yılı. Annemden mektup **aldım**. Üç yıldır ilk defa.)

In the first sentence, it is stated that a situation which was mentioned before did not take place or occur in the past. However, in the second sentence the perfective verb states that a certain situation took place, and that it happened in the past. The fact that the imperfective verb is used with a negation particle expresses that an expected action did not take place. Although it seems that there is little difference between the two uses, perfective verbs indicate certain facts while imperfective verbs indicate general facts.

Both usages of perfective and imperfective verbs in this meaning, which denote a general and a certain fact, are expressed by the definite past tense (-di suffix) in Turkish, which is used for events that took place and were completed in the recent or distant past and express certainty.

In accordance with the communication needs of the speaker an event can be expressed differently in the dialogue. In Russian generally perfective verbs are used when describing any event related to a situation in the past:

- Черная хромая собака **встретилась** ему на пороге. [Александр  
Иличевский. Матисс // «Новый Мир», 2007]

(He came across a crippled black dog on the door step)

(Kapının eşliğinde kara, topal bir köpeğe rastla**dı**)

However, when our perspective towards the incident is changed, when we ask our question in that direction, we can use an imperfective verb; in that case we just want to know whether the action occurred and emphasize only the fact of whether the action took place, by using the imperfective verb 'which means didn't you see, didn't you come across'.

- Вам **не встречалась** на пороге черная хромая собака?

(Eşikte kara, topal bir köpeğe rastla**dınız** mı acaba?)

(Did you come across a crippled black dog on the door step?)



In some circumstances, perfective and imperfective verbs might be used instead of each other although they do not have the same meaning. In such a case, verbs can be translated into Turkish both with the *-di* suffix of the definite past tense and the *-di-di* suffixes of the indefinite past tense according to the time when the action took place. Using the latter in Turkish gives the meaning of certainty or probability:

- *Ну как, вы посмотрели фильм?*  
(*Did you watch the movie?*)  
(*Filmi izlediniz mi?*)
- *Вы смотрели этот фильм?*  
(*Have you watched this movie?*)  
(*Bu filmi (hiç) izlemiş miydin?*)

One more similar example; *Вы должны знать это правило, я дал его вам* (You should have known this rule, because I have explained it to you - you should know since you have the information - (*Bu kuralı biliyor olmanız gerek, çünkü bu bilgiyi size verdim* ) or *Вы должны знать это правило, я давал его вам* (You should have known this rule, because I gave/have given you this information - There is a fact that information was given, *Bu kuralı biliyor olmanız gerek, çünkü bu bilgiyi size verdim / vermiştim*).

While the perfective verb in the first situation indicates a certainty in a certain time, the imperfective verb in the second sentence indicates a general fact. These usages of the past tense in the Russian language are one of the most difficult points for people learning Russian as a foreign language. We can express both usages with the *-di* suffix of the definite or indefinite past tense in Turkish: (*I gave you (I told you – gave you – have given you) - Size verdim (anlattım - vermiştim (anlatmıştım)*) Similarly, using imperfective verbs in the past tense can be expressed by the *-di* suffix of the definite or indefinite past tense. While using the *-di* suffix of the indefinite past tense it is appropriate in case of rejection (*я не убивал – I didn't kill – ben öldürmedim; я не брал – I didn't take – ben almadım*); the indefinite past tense can be used when making a prediction or indicating that a certain situation is not present at the moment of speaking: *Кошелек нет на месте, кто-то его взял* (*The wallet is not there, somebody has taken it - Cüzdan yerinde yok biri almış* ); however, we can use both the definite and indefinite past tense, if words which add certainty to the expression are added. It is important to consider textual integrity

here: *где же твоя сумка, я **ведь** определенно брал её* (*Where is your bag, I took it – I am sure that I have taken it – Çantan nerededir, ben onu **aldım** [kesinlikle aldığıma eminim]*); *не могу найти свой кошелёк, хотя я его точно **клат** в сумку* (*I can't find my wallet, I put/have put it in my bag – cüzdanımı bulamıyorum, halbuki ben onu çantama **koğdum** / **koğmuştum***). There are a number of nuances and semantic differences between the past tense usages of perfective and imperfective verbs in Russian. While actions depicted with perfective verbs are consecutive within a certain time period, actions depicted with imperfective verbs show a coherent development within the process regardless of their connection to a certain time.

While expressing aspect category when translating from Russian to Turkish, the most apparent distinctions in terms of time perception and conveying the expression, can be observed in the future tense with the present tense meaning. It is accepted that the time concept is unidirectional and developed within the framework of a linear model. How the time has developed, the start of the action and the end of movement and processes have a meaning with only the present, past and future tenses, in other words, the moment of speech when the action took place. However, the course of action in time might shift to other time tables and this might cause the speaker to shift actions of past tense to future tense and actions of future tense to present tense (Koshmider 133; Pethruhina). This might cause competition among the tense forms in the language just as in situations which allow using perfective and imperfective verbs instead of each other in the past tense. It should be considered that tenses are developed based on a cognitive basis in Russian and they are studied within this framework. The present tense does not only express the actions at the moment of speech; actions can cover a wide area and they can be expressed by present tense or future tense forms. Forms with present tense meaning, in other words the expressions with the meaning in which the action is generally repeated and performed regularly, and general rules are expressed through use of the present continuous tense, which take the form of imperfective verbs in the Russian language. General rules might be expressed by present tense forms as in Turkish: *Лёд **тает** при нулевой температуре* (*Ice melts at a temperature of zero degrees – Buz sıfır derece sıcaklıkta erir*); *Дважды два равняется четырем* (*Two times two equals four – İki kere iki dört eder*); *Рыба **живёт** в воде* (*Fish lives in water – Balık suda yaşar*), *земля **вращается** вокруг солнца* (*The earth travels around the sun – Dünya güneşin etrafında döner*) etc. Present tense forms are used to indicate general facts in Russian. This gives an equal value in Turkish.

Although actions expand over a large period of time, expressions with a general meaning, probability and repetition in the past and regular actions in the past are expressed by simple (synthetic) future tense forms in Russian. Such forms are expressed in Turkish, using the present tense, although they are in future tense since the action of the present tense has a meaning, which does not indicate when the action will start and end or if it has ended:

- *Ведь бывает так, что **поглядишь** на человека всего разок – и на всю жизнь **запомнишь** не только черты лица, но и цвет глаз, и рисунок рта, и даже, пожалуй, манеру презрительно щуриться...* [Н.Н. Шпанов. Старая тетрадь 1935-1950].

*(It happens, you look at the person once and you remember not only the face, but also the colour of the eye, shape of the mouth and even the humiliating squinting, for life)*

*(Olur ya kişiye bir kez **bakarsın**, ve tüm hayatın boyunca sadece yüz hatlarını değil, göz rengini, ağız yapısını, ve hatta, aşağılayıcı göz kısma hareketini bile **hatırlarsın**)*

- ....*Расчесываю волосы на голове, смотрюсь в зеркало, брею себя бритвой...подбираю галстук к рубашке, понимаю, что мне идёт, а что не идёт, потому что у меня волосы определенного цвета и глаза...А бывает же, вот так утром **побреешься, умоешься, оденешься, заглянешь** в зеркало и останешься довольным* [Евгений Гришковец. Одновременно 2004 ]

*(... I comb my hair, I look at the mirror and shave... I choose a tie and understand which one suits me, because I have a certain hair and eye colour. Sometimes you shave, take a shower, put your clothes on, look at the mirror in the morning and you are satisfied / happen to be satisfied with your appearance)*

*(... Saçlarımı tarıyorum, aynaya bakıyorum, tıraş oluyorum... kravatımı seçiyor hangisinin bana yakışır yakışmadığını anlıyorum, çünkü belirli bir saç ve göz rengim var. Bazen, sabahleyin de tıraş **olursun**, yıkan**ırsın**, giyin**ırsın**, aynaya **bakar** ve dış görünüşünden memnun kal**ırsın** / kaldığın **olur**)*

Although actions relating to an experience based on the past are expressed by future tense forms, the start and end of the actions of the situation are not clear, for they did not take place in time; for that reason they have a meaning of the present tense. These future tense forms with the present tense meaning might give meanings of probability, possibility or certainty to the action in the present tense:

- Запечатлеваю на холсте интересные лица. Иногда езжу по городу, и рассматриваю толпу, вдруг **мелькнет** кто-нибудь с неординарной внешностью [Дарья Данцова. Уха из золотой рыбки 2004]

*(I reflect different faces on the canvas. I walk around the city and watch the crowd for the possibility that I could come across a person with a different look)*

*(Farklı yüzleri tuvale yansıtıyorum. Bazen şehirde geziniyor ve birden değişik görünümlü biri **çıkır/çıkwerir** diye kalabalığı izliyorum)*

- Это ж спроси на улице любого колхозника, и каждый **скажет** тебе, как погиб капитан Миляга [Владимир Войнович. Жизнь и необычайные приключения солдата Ивана Чонкина (1969-1975)]

*(Ask any farmer on the road, they would tell you how Captain Milyaga died)*

*(Yolda istediğin çiftçiye sor, herkes kaptan Milyaga'nın nasıl öldüğünü sana anlatır / anlatacaktır/ söyler/ söyleyecektir)*

The meaning of certainty that future tense forms have in the present tense in Russian is similar to the meaning of certainty of the future tense given by the present tense in Turkish – a feature mostly seen in spoken Turkish. When simple (synthetic) future tense forms in Russian are used in negative sentences, except for the abovementioned meanings of probability, possibility and certainty, they express impossibility. In that case, it is not possible to perform the action in the future or reject the fulfilment of the action. In this case and similar cases, it denotes that it is not possible to realize the action used in the mentioned structure:

- Почему так получилось, я вам сейчас точно **не скажу**. Это было очень давно [Вами кто владеет? (2002 // Дело (Самара), 2002.07.17)]

*(At the moment, I can't tell you exactly why it happened like this. It was a long time ago)*

*(Neden böyle olduğunu, şimdi size kesin olarak söyleyemem. Bu uzun zaman önceydi)*

- Жене анекдот рассказал, - она смеется. А чего смеётся – **не пойму**...[Григорий Горин. Почему повязка на ноге? (1960-1985).]

*(I told a joke to my wife and she is laughing, but I don't understand what she is laughing at)*

*(Eşime fıkra anlattım, ve eşim gülüyor, ama neye gülüyor, anlamıyorum)*

## Findings

Aspect category is the speaker's way of describing what he/she saw subjectively, evaluated and witnessed from his/her own perspective. In a sense, it also expresses a specific linguistic world view. In that respect, although infinitive verbs belong to two different categories in Russian, this is a feature which takes place only in conjugation. In this sense, "vid" represents an internal meaning which is present in the conjugated verbs but not in the infinitive verb. In Turkish, however – unlike in Russian – aspect does not exist as a grammar category. In other words, verbs with the same lexical meanings are not expressed by different grammatical instruments in the perfective and imperfective aspects. In Turkish, infinitive verbs can give both perfective and imperfective meanings (gelmek/to come, bitirmek/to finish, başlamak/to start, durmak/to stop, etc.). Aspect features of such verbs are expressed by action methods of verbs, which show how the action took place. The internal meaning phenomenon, which exists in conjugation in the Russian language, is examined in three main tenses: present, past and future. However, actions are discussed in five main time periods in Turkish. The difference in terms of tense category between the two languages brings along certain semantic difficulties. Since each conjugated verb indicates a certain time, aspect and tense categories are evaluated simultaneously in Russian. The meanings conveyed by aspect category in Russian, which are present in verb lexemes and become clear with conjugations, are revealed in tenses in Turkish.

The use of imperfective and perfective verbs and the meanings they give are different in the past tense and these different meanings appear depending on where they are used. While the perfective verb can indicate a certainty in a certain time, the imperfective verb can indicate a general fact. Imperfective verbs, however, give different functions and meanings to the expression. Perfective verbs which express actions which occurred during a certain situation in the past have a rather declarative, narrating function. Whereas in some circumstances, perfective and imperfective verbs might be used instead of each other, they do not have the same meaning. The present tense does not only express the actions at the moment of speech; actions can be performed in different areas and they can be expressed by present tense or future tense forms, which are the most distinct example of this. Although actions take place within a large period of time, expressions with a general meaning, probability and repetition in the past and regular actions in the past are expressed by future tense in Russian. Such forms are expressed in Turkish using

the present tense, although they are in future tense since the action of the present tense has a meaning which does not indicate when the action will start and end or if it has ended. The meaning of certainty that future tense forms have in the present tense in Russian is similar to the meaning of certainty of the future tense given by the present tense in Turkish, a phenomenon which is mostly seen in spoken Turkish. When future tense forms in Russian are used in negative sentences, except for the meanings of probability, possibility and certainty, they express impossibility. In that case, it is not possible to perform the action in the future or reject the fulfilment of the action.

### **Conclusion**

Aspect category, which has been discussed as a morphological grammar category in Russian, is the speaker's giving a special meaning to the action which is not included in the infinitive verb such as process, completion, restriction, repetition, etc. by going beyond the accepted meaning limitations of verb conjugation. As can be seen from the example sentences, although it is not morphological, in Turkish it is possible to talk about aspect and expression of aspect meanings, which exist in Russian in verb conjugations.

Since the existence of tenses depends on verb conjugations in Russian, tense and aspect categories are discussed as a whole. The existence of tense arises from the subjective perspective of the person who realizes the action. However, in Turkish, tense suffixes make the abstract time concept concrete and place the event in certain time periods according to the person's perspective. This in fact is a reflection of thought, memory, perception, knowledge, culture, etc. in the language after being filtered. While tenses are separated more clearly in Turkish than in Russian, we can say that time is more abstract in Russian. The reason for this is that time concepts are presented more definitely in Turkish and tense suffixes in the language make the abstract time concrete. Whether it is process, completion or repetition, each situation is divided into certain time periods. However, in Russian, the tense of action is defined by the internal meaning of the verbs, and it shows itself depending on the integrity of the text.

Whether the future tense forms used in the present tense meaning indicate the present or future tense can be understood only by addressing the way the form is used in the text. This indicates that the aspect category of the Russian language goes from meaning to form, not from form to meaning and that the intended meaning of the text is based on the discourse. Aspect and tense categories are

examined in a single system in Russian and are related to the subjective perspective of the person. Time, which is abstract and cannot be described only with words, becomes concrete with the conjugation of the verb and the meaning it has within the text.

The conjugation of the verbs not only indicate the moment when the event takes place, but also reflect the perspective of the speaker or writer (witnessing, hearing from somebody else, prediction, desire, etc.) and the connection of the situation, expressed in the sentence within the period of time (completion, continuity, etc.). The speaker might reflect his/her subjective opinion as well as expressing what he/she is saying directly by means of conjugation. This is the result of the fact that endings of conjugated verbs are the same as the tense endings. These differences which exist between languages, are in the perception of the person, namely societal, cultural and linguistic factors that play a significant role. The way societies perceive language and those societies' languages themselves have a crystal-clear relationship with culture. For that reason, it might be beneficial to discuss the time concept in Russian and Turkish culture from the cognitive perspective.

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