



Book Review

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A Dictionary of Turkisms in Bulgarian
by Türker Acaroğlu
Edirne, 2016
481 pages
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Trakya University, which continues its scientific studies and educational activities with the historical and cultural accumulation obtained from Edirne city in which the history and culture meet, does not limit its mission only with cities but also shapes it with the Balkan Region. Thus, it takes the role of regional university. As it is stated in the motto integrated with its logo (Bridge to the Future), it has the responsibility of being a bridge in Turkey's relations with the Balkans.

When we look at the publications of the university, the studies related to the Balkans have a significant place. However, the study which has been published recently differs from the other studies. *“Dictionary of Words Transferred from Turkish to Bulgarian”* which was prepared by the late *M. Türker Acaroğlu* and released on May, 2016 is the first and only one in this field.

The studies aiming to reveal the level of interaction between the languages are undoubtedly essential. Because, as it has been stated at the back page of the work *“Dictionary of Words Transferred from Turkish to Bulgarian”*, *“Civilizations know no boundaries. No language is pure”*.

Thousands of words have been transferred to the Balkan languages with the effect of Turkish. In terms of the Bulgarian language, this number is limited to at least 3 to 5 thousand in studies conducted in Turkey. Bulgarian writer and politician *Petko R. Slaveykov* expresses that 10 thousand Turkish words are used in the Bulgarian language. The effect of Turkish on Bulgarian is portrayed in *“A Dictionary of Turkisms in Bulgarian”* prepared by the Norwegian linguist *Alf Grannes*. *Acaroğlu*, too, brings together almost 15 thousand words with their alternatives in his study *“Dictionary of Words Transferred from Turkish to Bulgarian”*.

It cannot be considered that all the Turkish words in

“Dictionary of Words Transferred from Turkish to Bulgarian” are actively used in Bulgarian today.



However, based on the words in this dictionary, this study can facilitate how to determine the words actively used even today and can be the intermediary for us to figure out the consequences in the present day. For example, the equivalent of the word “match” in Bulgarian has not been produced even to this day; this word of Arabic origin was transferred to Bulgarian through Turkish and is being used actively.

This study accomplished its first purpose by compiling and gathering the index cards which the writer collected throughout his life. The second purpose was to provide guidance for Turcologists, Balkanists and Slavists to research Turkish elements in various disciplines in the future. Beyond question, the study of *Acaroglu* should be taken to a further level.

Acaroglu, who completed numerous studies, passed away on October 3, 2016, and “*Dictionary of Words Transferred from Turkish to Bulgarian*” is his last piece of study. With it, *Acaroglu* laid the foundation of the bridge reaching out to studies to be conducted in the future.