

URBANIZATION, STANDARD LANGUAGE, DIALECT

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Abstract

It is clear that in a written language there is a direct connection between the standard language and the dialects. However, in the process of urbanization, standard language and local forms of speech affect each other more intensively than usual. These interactions are encountered as the influence of dialects to standard language as a result of the migration from the village to the city, and the changes in lifestyles resulting from the decline of agriculture and stockbreeding culture; and also, as the influence of standard language to dialects and the weakening of dialects resulting from the developing technology, and the effect of communication opportunities to socio-cultural life.

Studies on dialects are most of the time made with the aim to detect the features of dialects. However, it would be beneficial for explaining the relations between dialects and standard language to determine the language uses of people speaking both in the standard language and the local dialects depending upon the social environments they are in, and to study them psycho-linguistically and sociolinguistically.

Key Words: Linguistic, standard language, dialect

ŞEHİRLEŞME, ÖLÇÜNLÜ DİL, AĞIZ

Özet

Bir yazı dilinde ölçünlü dil ile ağızlar arasında doğrudan bir bağ bulunduğu açıktır. Şehirleşme sürecinde ise ölçünlü dil ile yerel konuşma biçimleri birbirlerini her zaman olduğundan daha yoğun bir şekilde etkiler. Bu etkileşimler köyden kente göçe bağlı olarak ağızların, ölçünlü dile tesiri veya tarım ve hayvancılık kültürünün gerilemesi sonucu hayat tarzlarında ortaya çıkan değişiklikler ve gelişen teknoloji, iletişim imkanlarının sosyo-kültürel hayata etkisi neticesinde ölçünlü dilin ağızlara tesiri ve ağızların giderek zayıflaması biçiminde karşımıza çıkar.

Ağız araştırmaları, genellikle ağız özelliklerinin tespiti amacıyla yapılmaktadır. Ancak buldukları sosyal çevrelere bağlı olarak hem ölçünlü dille, hem de yerel ağız biçimleriyle konuşan kimselerin dil

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kullanımlarının belirlenmesi, sosyolinguistik ve psikolinguistik bakımdan incelenmesi, ağız ve ölçünlü dil arasındaki ilişkileri açıklamaya yararlı olacaktır.

Anahtar Kelimeler: Dilbilim, ölçünlü dil, ağız.

When the accommodation units in one country are analyzed in terms of population density, it is seen that settlement is very dense in some areas, while in others it is scattered, rare, or very slight. The main reasons of this are that the physical conditions, socio-economical and cultural structures of these areas are different.

Dictionaries of scientific and artistic terms define the *town / city / urbanization* in various ways depending on the perspective of related field, and emphasizing distinctive characteristics of the city.¹

City is generally a type of settlement, and “It can be described as a legal unity which has a local government, and as a type of settlement which create a center considering its environment, which has a collection-distribution center, where nonagricultural activities (industrial-service) intensify; which is the controlling place of agricultural and nonagricultural activities and which, in that sense, has an authentic urban life determined by organization and specialization.”²

¹ In dictionaries of terms, definitions of “city” are as follows:

A big center of settlement which gather various duties such as industry, management, and education, and which is, depending on the most dominant one among these duties, different in terms of living style and its effects to its environment . T. : şehir Eng.: town Fr.: ville Gr.: Stadt.” (Sami Öngör, *Coğrafya Terimleri Sözlüğü*, TDK Publishing. , Ankara 1980.)

A unit of settlement which is constantly in social development, where needs of the society such as settlement, housing, commuting, working, recreation, and entertainment are met; where very few people deal with agriculture, and which have a more intense population comparing to villages, and which are formed with small neighboring units. T. : şehir Eng.: city Fr.: ville Gr.: Stadt.” (Ruşen Keleş, *Kentbilim Terimleri Sözlüğü*, TDK Publishing. , Ankara 1980.)

A place of settlement based upon nonagricultural, initially industrial and service activities, which has a population more than 100.000. T. : şehir Eng.: city Fr.: ville.” (Özer Ozankaya, *Toplumbilim Terimleri Sözlüğü*, TDK Publishing, Ankara 1975)

Definitions related to urbanization are as follows:

Growing and getting crowded of a small settlement in a rural area in time as the convenient conditions are formed, and its having qualifications of city.

T. : şehirleşme Eng.: urbanisation Fr.: urbanisation Gr.: Verstädterung.” (Sami Öngör, *a.g.e.*, p. 173.)

“urbanization: The process of popularization which causes the result that the number of cities increase and the cities grow in parallel with industrialization and economical growth, and which results in increasing organization, specialization, and changes in human relations in society. T. : şehirleşme Eng.: urbanization Fr.: urbanisation Alm.: Stadtebauliche, Erschliessung landlicher Gebiete, Urbanisierung” (Ruşen Keleş, *a.g.e.*, TDK Publishing, Ankara 1980, 196p.)

“urbanization: The gathering of population in cities and the process of enlargement of urban areas as a result of the growth of nonagricultural activities, especially industry. T. : şehirleşme Eng: urbanization Fr.: urbanisation” (Özer Ozankaya, *a.g.e.*, TDK Publishing, Ankara 1975. 168 p.)

² Suher, Hande, “Şehirleşme ve Şehirleşme Politikaları”, *Türkiye’de Şehirleşme*, YeniYüzyıl Publishing No:7, İstanbul 1995, p. 9.

On the other hand, urbanization is initially a demographic incident, as it happens as the population intensifies in city centers. A rural settlement may turn into a city by increasing its population for various, especially socio-economical reasons. Urbanization affects the socio-cultural life of that area and accordingly, it brings about some changes in lifestyles of people. People coming from different parts of the society and beginning to share the same city become in contact with each other necessarily. "When considered with regards to lifestyle and cultural concepts, the villager and the urbanite are seen to have different cultural and socialization processes, and also different senses of time and space."³

Urbanization has brought about modernization and technology. In this respect, city life is agglomerating, robotizing, and isolating today's people. "Urban living style involves a highly specialized division of labor, the development of mediation in human relations, weakening of family relations, increase of voluntary associations, nominative pluralism, secularism, the rise of social conflicts and that the mass media plays a more significant role day by day."⁴

Urban living style also causes that human relations change, and there become problems of compliance between the old citizens of the city and the newcomers. People migrating to the city want to keep the customs and traditions peculiar to the agricultural community, which they bring from country side. In this regard, they gather in the same residential areas in cities they migrate, and continue pursuing their family, citizenship, and neighborliness relations. Because of the reasons that the structures of rural accommodation units change, new working areas emerge, they get immigration and agriculture and stockbreeding are left; it is seen that old and new living styles begin to clash also in these rural areas. Thus, a binary cultural structure arises in cities. Changes in residential area, occupation, family structure, and social life cause the changes in language use. In fact, language is not only a tool of communication. It also represents us the manners, life experiences, and the perception of the world of that society.

In the process of urbanization, standard language and dialects affect each other more deeply than usual. 'The most prestigious variant within a language, standard language, is accepted as "the most correct", "the most beautiful" form of language; and it makes the dialects regarded as "rough", "broken", "ugly" etc. approach to itself, spreads to the areas of dialects, and causes the local dialects to lose their initial feature on one hand; but it is nourished from the dialects on the other. And the dialects, while approaching the standard language on one hand,

³ Erkut, Gülден; "Kentlileşme Sürecinin Sosyolojik Boyutu", *Türkiye'de Şehirleşme*, YeniYüzyıl Publishing No:7, İstanbul 1995, p. 59

⁴ *Sosyoloji Sözlüğü*, "Kentlilik" (Citizenship) item, p. 400.

they are also nourished from the dialects.⁵

As a result of interactions arising due to urbanization, it is seen that the standard language changes partially, and the dialects encounter the danger of extinction. There is a two-sided interaction between urbanization and dialects.

1. The influence of dialects on standard language depending upon the migration from the village to the city.

2. Changes occurring in life styles as a consequence of decline of agriculture and stockbreeding culture, and the effect of standard language to dialects together with the weakening of dialects owing to developing technology and the effect of communication opportunities to socio-cultural life.

It is seen that structures of dialects are used also in written languages. "Local features, which belong to various levels of language, are also used in common and standard written language because of very different reasons. Thus, in studies of local languages, they are called with names such as areal phonetics, areal word, dialect word, and areal semantic; and these studies try to find out the structure of language. Using dialectic language occurs in two ways: 1. Using statements of dialect in written and literary language. For instance, *erinçek* "tembel" (lazy); or *Okul yolunda belediyenin açtığı çukurun üzerinden atlarken, çukura düşse yazdım.* (I was about to fell down while jumping over the pit that the municipality opened on the school road.) 2. Using a word from written or literary language in its dialect structure in terms of voice, form, and meaning."⁶

It is observed in Turkey that people avoid using dialects in environments where the standard language is dominant. Lately, including dialect uses in domestic TV series, no matter it cannot be told to what extent all of them are successful, creates sympathy for local dialects.

Studies on dialects are generally done to determine the boundaries and features of dialects, and the vocal and formal characteristics, vocabulary, and syntax of dialects are analyzed. In these studies, it is paid attention that the resource people, from whom compilations are made, are selected from those who has a little relation with standard language and who are illiterate.

The matter of finding resource people is closely related with the aim of dialect researches. "Choosing resource people from those who speak closely to historical dialect features of the region bring along a discussion. Should the dia-

⁵ Nurettin Demir, "Edebi Metinlerde Ağız Kullanımı Hakkında Bir Ön Çalışma". *Turcological Letters to Bernt Brendemoen*, Edited by Éva Á. Csató vd. (The Institute fo Comparative Research in Human Culture.). Oslo: Novus forlag. 2009. p. 97.

⁶ Günay Karaağaç, *Dil Bilimi Terimleri Sözlüğü*, TDK, Ankara 2013, p. 582.

lect researches be done on texts keeping archaic features? If dialects are live texts of language, isn't it necessary to compile the average communication language of the region? There serious questions and objections, are also directed to the fact dialects must be texts of 'live language'."⁷

In a language community, there are speakers representing different layers of language such as people only speaking in standard language, people speaking only in their local dialect, and those who speak both in standard language and the local dialect. That is, there is also a process at which standard language and dialect forms coincide, and both two layers of language live within the speech of the same speaker. In some regional dialects, speakers are seen to make switches easily between the sounds of standard language and dialect sounds, while in other dialects, even educated people experience this as a hard process, or sometimes it doesn't become possible. Thus, different attitudes of dialect speakers between using standard language or dialects create a new research area for us.

People belonging to different dialect groups, the ones who just speak in dialects or others who speak both standard language and dialects in the process of urbanization may be selected as resources. Compilations can be made from these people, even from three-generation representatives of the same family such as child, mother/father, and grandmother/grandfather. Data to be gained after the compilation may be analyzed from various aspects.

Assuredly, it cannot be considered as learning a second language if somebody who has learnt speaking in local dialect in the family learns the standard language, or if a person speaking standard language learns a local dialect. Because having different layers of a language is not bilingualism. Even so, standard language or a dialect is acquired after a learning process. At this point, generally, we can mention a natural direction from the voices dialects to the ones of standard language. However, while performing visual arts such as cinema, television, theatre; this direction may be from standard language to dialect. If the two layers of language are analyzed in terms of being used together, are there differences between users of Rize, Denizli, and Erzurum dialects while passing to standard language? If there are, what are the voices that make their passing to standard language easier or harder? Do factors such as age, gender, education level, and culture change this situation and to what extent do they change it? In that way, we can find out which dialect groups resist the standard language, and its linguistic, sociological, and psychological reasons of this. Moreover, we can settle negative and positive effects of characteristic voices of a dialect group in learning the

⁷ Ali Akar, "Ağız Araştırmalarında Yöntem Sorunları", *Turkish Studies - Türkoloji Araştırmaları Dergisi*, Güz 2006, Issue 2, p. 49.

voices of standard language.

In dialect researches, by nature of this discipline, oral compilations are made in general. Some written compilations may be asked from people who learn standard language in urbanization process. Some people who hasn't had any education, but speaks very close to standard language, and hardly shows the dialect region in their speech; may use letters indicating dialect voices; for instance, although they pronounce the word with the sound "ı", they may write "i" just as in North-Eastern Black sea dialect instead of "ı". This kind of language uses may also be seen, and they may be defined with psycholinguistic analyses.

Speeding of urbanization process is seen as a threat for dialects. On the other hand, dialects will continue to exist in oral culture especially through people using their local dialects in their social environment together with standard language. Language includes change by its nature. So, it is natural that Turkish Language experiences this process, as well.

CONCLUSION

In dialect researches, for the determination of characteristics of the relevant dialect group, it is given importance to choose the person from whom compilations will be made from among those who are away from standard language. Nevertheless, making compilations from resources with different features, as they make it possible to make sociolinguistic and psycholinguistic studies on dialects, is also needed. It is seen that standard language and dialect forms coincide, and the same person use both layers of language in urbanization process. This situation has brought a new dimension to dialect researches. Accordingly, new studies are needed. Why do and can some members of different dialect groups make transition easily between the voices of standard language and the voices of their own dialects while others do not or cannot? Is this an individual attitude or a social behavior? Which dialects do resist standard language? What are the characteristics of those who have both the standard and dialectic variations of a language? Do age, gender, education, and dialect region have a distinctive value among these characteristics? How many generations are going to use both dialect and standard language? In order to find answers to these and similar questions, compilations must be made from people who were once within their dialect regions, and who then enter the boundaries of standard language either by going out of their dialect regions with domestic migration or by the urbanization of rural areas they live in; and from members of the same family representing several generations. This data must be analyzed socio-linguistically and psycho-linguistically.

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-*Sosyoloji Sözlüğü*, “Kentlilik” (citizenship) item, p. 400.

