Purpose

Examination of the children’s literature products in terms of language is as crucial as the literary study of these works because these products are important tools in the child training. Story in children’s literature has both entertaining and training functions for the children. Therefore, the main aim of this study is to determine the vocabulary of Aytül Akal’s story book named “Gökyüzünde Balonlar”. Other aim of this study is to compare the findings obtained from the vocabulary of the book with the studies carried out about the vocabulary of children’s stories and with the vocabulary of 1st-8th grade students. This study is of great importance because it sets a good example of the examination of a writer and his/her work in vocabulary studies and also draws attention to the lack of studies related to the vocabulary of the children’s literature products. It is believed that results of the study will be a guide for children’s book writers and educators.

Method

Document review method, one of the qualitative research methods, was used in this study. Categorization was as such; words, proper nouns, idioms, proverbs, routine words and reduplication. Proper nouns were also studied in the paper. Elements of vocabulary in the book, which was examined with content analysis, were determined as; words, idioms, proverbs, reduplications, routine words and proper nouns. Story text which was computerized was transformed to index using Cibakaya program version 2.3. Frequency index of the words was also created using the same program. Also, by using this program vocabulary of the story book was compared with story word list created by Baş (2006) and with the words list

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belonging to the elementary education students.

Results

After the marking and unification were carried out in the story book named “Gökyüzünde Balonlar”, 6864 elements of vocabulary consisting of words, idioms, proverbs, reduplications, routine words and proper nouns were found. They make up of the repetition of 1939 elements. Each element of vocabulary was repeated 3.54 times on average. Basic vocabulary of the book consists of 6466 words of which 1637 are different. Percentage of the words in whole vocabulary is 94.17%.

Total 46 proper nouns consisted of the repetition of 19 different proper nouns and 46 proper nouns are equal to 0.67% of total vocabulary.

There are total 69, different 56 reduplications in the book. All reduplications are equal to 1% of total vocabulary.

There are total 25, different 23 routine words in the books, only two of them were repeated. The percentage of routine words in the whole vocabulary is 0.36%.

In “Gökyüzünde Balonlar”, there are total 256 idioms and they make up as a result of the repetition of 202 idioms. The percentage of the idioms in the whole vocabulary is 3.73%.

There are only two proverbs in the book. They are not repeated. The percentage of proverbs in the whole vocabulary is 0.03%.

Discussion, Conclusion

Akal’s placing around 2000 different elements of vocabulary in her work puts forth that her work is adequate in this meaning. Findings obtained in the research have been compared with the vocabulary of the 1-8th year class students and vocabulary of story texts which were formed by Baş (2006). According to this, it is identified that the level of being consistent with the vocabulary of “Gökyüzünde Balonlar” and the vocabulary of students is %84.3; and the level of being consistent with the vocabulary of story texts and the vocabulary used in the studied story is %86.6.

In this case, it finds out that the studied work has a high consistency level not only with the vocabulary of the students, but also with the vocabulary of story texts.

As a result, we can say that the book has a rich content for primary education and in terms of usage of idioms. 1637 different words which make up the basic vocabulary and 202 idioms were placed in the work. But it can be said that it is insufficient in relation to the other elements of vocabulary (proverbs, proper nouns, routine words). Especially it is remarkable that only two proverbs have been placed in a work which consists of 9 stories.

Suggestions as a result of this study related to Aytül Akal’s story book named “Gökyüzünde Balonlar” are as such;
1. Similar studies can be carried out in order to determine the vocabulary of the writer’s other books.

2. Other modern children’s literature writers’ works can also be studied in terms of vocabulary.

3. The vocabulary of the children’s literature products can be examined comparatively with children’s vocabulary.

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