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Migration Studies in International Relations Discipline in Turkey: An Analysis on Graduate Studies

Türkiye’de Uluslararası İlişkiler Disiplininde Göç: Lisansüstü Çalışmalar Üzerine Bir Analiz

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MIGRATION STUDIES IN INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS DISCIPLINE IN TURKEY: AN ANALYSIS ON GRADUATE STUDIES

Abstract

This study analyses graduate theses in International Relations (IR) discipline indexed with migration. As of 30 June 2020, 190 graduate theses indexed with migration in 10,251 graduate theses in International Relations subject in 1983-30 June 2020 period are analysed based on type (Master's/PhD), language (Turkish/English/French) and words in title with content analysis. It aims to evaluate how much and in which areas migration is studied in graduate studies in IR in Turkey in order to take general picture of the area. Considering impact and role of migration in domestic and foreign policy of Turkey, the study aims to contribute in determining the weight of migration studies, highly studied areas, prioritised areas, potential areas, and overstudied areas in the discipline through content analysis of the graduate theses in IR subject indexed with migration. It addresses that in IR discipline, number of graduate studies on migration should be increased, specifically, the number of PhD theses should be increased, emphasis should be given on theoretical studies, and more studies should be conducted on migration to Turkey from surrounding geography influencing Turkey directly in graduate theses on migration in IR discipline.

Keywords: Balkans, European Union, International Relations, Migration, Syria, Turkey.

TÜRKİYE'DE ULUSLARARASI İLİŞKİLER DİSİPLİNİNDE GÖÇ: LİSANSÜSTÜ ÇALIŞMALAR ÜZERİNE BİR ANALİZ

Öz

Bu makale Türkiye'de Uluslararası İlişkiler (Uİ) konulu lisansüstü çalışmalarda göç dizinli çalışmaları incelemektedir. Makalede 30 Haziran 2020 itibarıyla Yükseköğretim Kurulu Ulusal Tez Merkezi'nde yer alan 1983-30 Haziran 2020 tarihleri arasındaki "Uluslararası İlişkiler" konulu 10.251 lisansüstü tezde 'göç' kelimesinin dizinde yer aldığı 190 lisansüstü çalışma incelenmiştir. Veri seti tez türü (lisansüstü/doktora), tez dili (Türkçe/İngilizce/Fransızca) ve tez başlığında yer alan kelimeler bazında söylem analizi ile analiz edilmiştir. Makale, alanın genel bir fotoğrafını çekmek için göç konusunun Türkiye'de Uİ disiplinindeki lisansüstü tezlerde ne kadar ve hangi alanlarda çalışıldığını incelemeyi amaçlar. Türkiye'nin hem iç, hem de dış siyasetine etkileri ve oynadığı rolün önemi göz önüne alındığında, göç alanında Uİ disiplininde yapılan lisansüstü tezlerin söylem analizi yöntemiyle incelenmesi ile göçün disiplin içindeki ağırlığını, hangi konularda daha çok çalışma yapıldığını, hangi konulara ağırlık verilmesi gerektiğini, sonraki çalışmalardaki potansiyel alanların belirlenmesi ile aynı konuda benzer pek çok çalışma bulunmasının önüne geçilmesine katkıda bulunmayı amaçlamaktadır. Buna göre çalışma, göç konusunda lisansüstü çalışmalarının sayıca artırılması, doktora tezi çalışmalarının artırılması, kavramsal çalışmalara ağırlık verilmesi ve Türkiye'yi doğrudan ilgilendiren yakın çevreden göçlerle ilgili daha fazla çalışma yapılması gerektiğini gözler önüne sermektedir.

Anahtar Kelimeler: Balkanlar, Avrupa Birliği, Uluslararası İlişkiler, Göç, Suriye, Türkiye.

INTRODUCTION

Considering the fact that migration plays a very significant and decisive role in human history due to the fact that “settlement of migrant groups can fundamentally change the social, cultural, economic and political fabric of societies, particularly in the longer run” mentioned by Castles and Miller (2009, p. 1); analysing the place of migration studies in IR discipline is vital. In order to do that, it is better to mention about the evolution of IR as a separate discipline first. While the study of IR as a separate discipline dates back to First World War and onwards, it dates back to post-Second World War period in Turkey. Opening IR departments dates back to post-1980 era (Turan, 2009, p. 18). In this manner, introduction of IR courses to the curriculum as a separate discipline occurred long after the foundation of modern universities in Turkey, following a change in the programme at the Department of Political Sciences at the Faculty of Political Sciences in 1945-1955 period (Aydınlı, 2009, p. 4).

In the history of migration studies, early years of 1980s are considered as the beginning of Migration Studies as a separate study (Kaya, 2018). In IR discipline, categorising migration as soft threat according to categorisation of threats as hard and soft might have led to deficiencies in terms of time, quality and quantity in Migration Studies. For Turkey, Kaya (2018) pointed out that literature on migration developed in 2000s but studies, specifically on Syrians in Turkey, were mostly quantitative, and they were not rich in terms of theoretical and methodological aspects.

In this study, migrations graduate studies in IR discipline in Turkey are analysed. As of 30 June 2020, 190 graduate theses indexed with migration (The Council of Higher Education Thesis Center, 2020a) are analysed among 10,251 graduate theses in IR subject (The Council of Higher Education National Thesis Centre, 2020b) in 1983-30 June 2020 period. According to dataset, for Migration Studies in graduate theses in IR subject in Turkey, the beginning period was 1990s and the development period was 2000s but, in the world, it was 1980s as ‘refugee studies’, which was argued by Kaya (2018). The study aims to contribute to the existing the literature on Migration Studies through analysing how much and in which areas migration is studied in graduate studies in IR discipline in Turkey. Being considered the role played by migration in the history of Turks¹, its

¹ See for more information Bozkurt, F. ve Özgüzel, S. (2019). Türklerde Yaşam Tarzı Olarak Göç Olgusu ‘Göç Yolda Düzelir’, *Folklor/Edebiyat*, 25(100), 815-824, <https://doi.org/10.22559/folklor.1052> (Access Date: 16 June 2020).

increasing impact on domestic and foreign affairs in Turkey, it can be expected that numerous studies are conducted by various institutions on the area of study (Sirkeci and Yüceşahin, 2014). In order to get the picture on Migration Studies in Turkey, an analysis on structural organisation of Migration Studies focusing on research centres at the universities will shed a light on the scientific and structural development of the area in Turkey.

According to dataset provided by Higher Education Information System (2020), there are 3,727 research centres in 205 universities but total number of Research Centres on Migration Studies is only 22 in Turkey. The number of research centres at 130 state universities is 3008 and only 15 of them are on Migration Studies. The number of research centres at 75 foundation universities is 719 but only 7 of them are on Migration Studies. These numbers are given at Table 1 and Figure 1. List and the details on Research Centres of Migration Studies are given both at the web page of Preservation of the Academic Heritage in the Middle East Project by the Council of Higher Education (2020) and Istanbul Bilgi University Centre for Migration Research (2020).

Table 1: Number of Research Centres on Migration Studies at Universities in Turkey

TYPE OF UNIVERSITY	NUMBER OF UNIVERSITIES	NUMBER OF RESEARCH CENTRES	NUMBER OF RESEARCH CENTRES AT UNIVERSITIES ON MIGRATION STUDIES
State	130	3008	15
Foundation	75	719	7
TOTAL	205	3727	22

Source: *Higher Education Information System*, General Information on All Universities, <https://istatistik.yok.gov.tr> (Access Date: 30 June 2020).

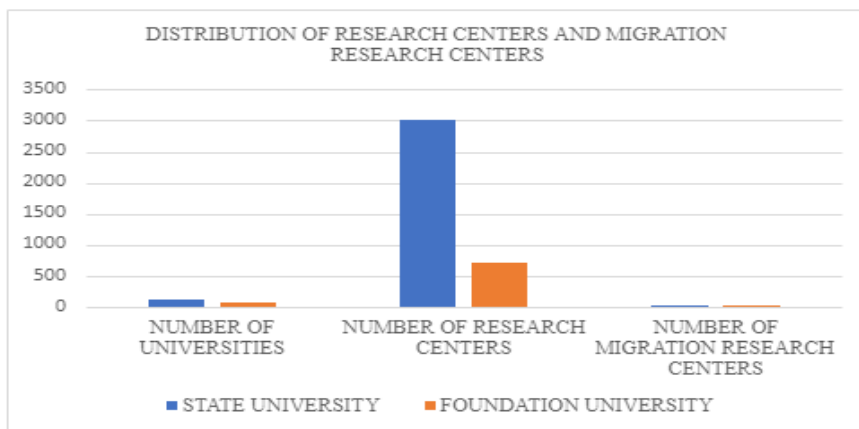


Figure 1: Distribution of Research Centres on Migration Studies at Universities in Turkey

Source: *Higher Education Information System*, General Information on All Universities, <https://istatistik.yok.gov.tr> (Access Date: 30 June 2020).

Based on the dataset provided by the Higher Education Information System, the percentage of number of universities with research centres on Migration Studies to total number of universities is only around 10% both in state and foundation universities but the percentage of number of research centres on Migration Studies to total number of research centres is only around 0.5% at state universities, 1% at foundation universities, and the percentage of total number of research centres on Migration Studies to total number of research centres is only 0.6% at universities in Turkey. Such numbers reflect that the numbers of research centres on Migration Studies are insufficient but they reflect also that there is a potential in this area as well, considering the history of Turks, location of Turkey, the rapidly increasing role of migration in security, domestic and foreign affairs both in Turkey and in the world, such potential should be utilised.

1. MIGRATION IN GRADUATE STUDIES

According to dataset generated from the Council of Higher Education (CoHE) National Thesis Centre (2020a), 10,251 graduate theses are completed in IR subject in 1983-30 June 2020 period as of 30 June 2020. In the dataset, the number of Master's theses is 8,717 while the number of PhD theses is 1,534. Among 8697 Master's theses, 5,924 of them are in Turkish, 2,670 of them are in English, 118 of them are in French, 2 of them are Arabic, 2 of them are in German, and 1 of them is in Spanish language. Among 1,534 PhD theses, 1,147 of them are in Turkish, 377 of them are in English, 8 of them are in French, 1 of them is Japanese, and 1 of them is in Russian language. The numbers are given in Table 2 and Figure 2.

Table 2: Number of Graduate Theses in IR subject based on Type and Language of Graduate Thesis

LANGUAGE OF GRADUATE THESES	NUMBER OF MASTER'S THESES	NUMBER OF PHD THESES	TOTAL NUMBER OF GRADUATE THESES
TURKISH	5,924	1,147	7,071
ENGLISH	2,670	377	3,047
FRENCH	118	8	126
GERMAN	2	0	2
ARABIC	2	0	2
RUSSIAN	0	1	1
JAPANESE	0	1	1
SPANISH	1	0	1
TOTAL	8,717	1,534	10,251

Source: *The Council of Higher Education National Thesis Centre, Graduate Theses in IR subject, 2020a, <https://tez.yok.gov.tr/UlusalTezMerkezi/tezSorguSonucYeni.jsp> (Access Date: 30 June 2020).*

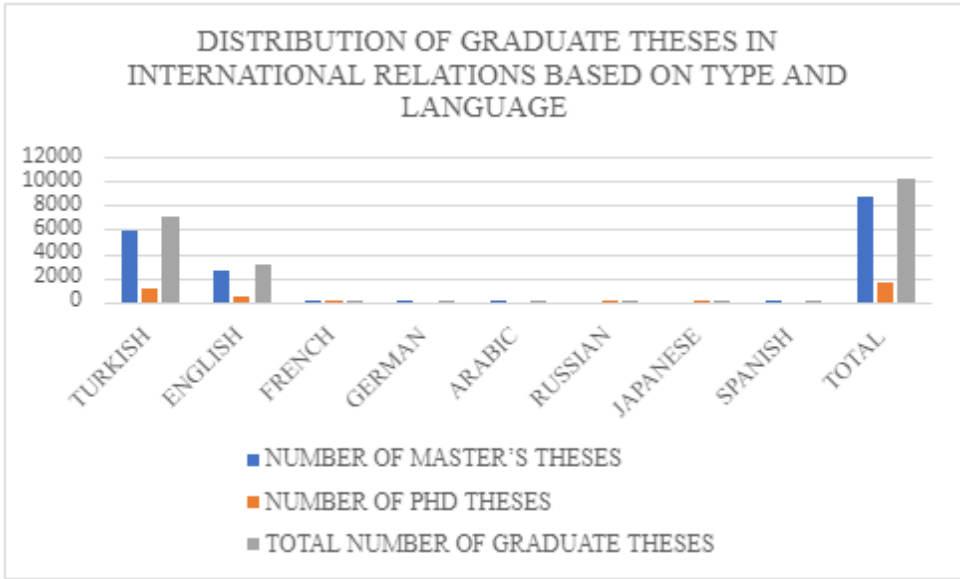


Figure 2: Distribution of Graduate Theses in IR subject based on Type and Language of Graduate Thesis

Source: *The Council of Higher Education Thesis Centre, Graduate Theses in IR subject, 2020a, <https://tez.yok.gov.tr/UlusalTezMerkezi/tezSorguSonucYeni.jsp> (Access Date: 30 June 2020).*

According to dataset (The Council of Higher Education National Thesis Centre, 2020b), among 10,251 graduate theses in IR subject, only 190 of them are indexed with migration. Among 8,717 Master’s theses in IR subject, only 168 of them are indexed with migration. The numbers are reflected in Table 3 and Figure 3.

Table 3: Number of Graduate Theses in IR subject Indexed with Migration based on Type of Graduate Thesis

TYPE OF GRADUATE THESES	NUMBER OF GRADUATE THESES INDEXED WITH MIGRATION	NUMBER OF GRADUATE THESES NOT INDEXED WITH MIGRATION	TOTAL NUMBER OF GRADUATE THESES
Master’s Thesis	168	8,549	8,717
PhD Thesis	22	1,512	1,534
TOTAL	190	10,061	10,251

Source: *The Council of Higher Education National Thesis Centre*, Graduate Theses in IR subject indexed with migration, 2020b, <https://tez.yok.gov.tr/UlusalTezMerkezi/tezSorguSonucYeni.jsp> (Access Date: 30 June 2020).

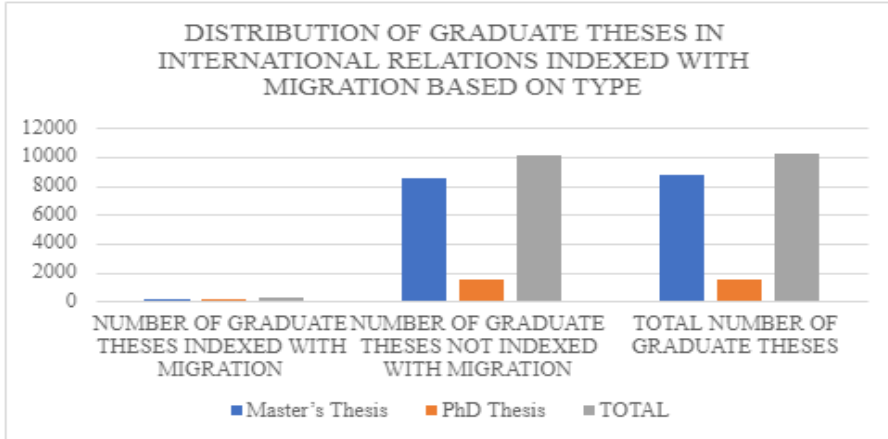


Figure 3: Distribution of Graduate Theses in IR subject Indexed with Migration based on Type of Graduate Thesis

Source: *The Council of Higher Education National Thesis Centre*, Graduate Theses in IR subject indexed with migration, 2020b, <https://tez.yok.gov.tr/UlusalTezMerkezi/tezSorguSonucYeni.jsp> (Access Date: 30 June 2020).

According to dataset (The Council of Higher Education, 2020b), in Master's theses, 108 of them are in Turkish², 58 of them are in English, and 2 of them are in French language. Among 1530 PhD theses in IR subject, only 22 of them are indexed with migration. In PhD theses, 16 of them are in Turkish, and 6 of them are in English language. The numbers are reflected in Table 4 and Figure 4.

Table 4: Numbers of Graduate Theses in IR subject Indexed with Migration based on Type and Language of Graduate Thesis

LANGUAGE OF GRADUATE THESIS	NUMBER OF MASTER'S THESES	NUMBER OF PHD THESES	TOTAL NUMBER OF GRADUATE THESES
TURKISH	108	16	124
ENGLISH	58	6	64
FRENCH	2	0	2
TOTAL	168	22	190

² One of them is recorded as Turkish mistakenly at the Council of Higher Education National Thesis Centre despite the language of the thesis is in English language, it is considered as written in English in the dataset.

Source: *The Council of Higher Education National Thesis Centre*, Graduate Theses in IR subject indexed with migration, 2020b, <https://tez.yok.gov.tr/UlusalTezMerkezi/tezSorguSonucYeni.jsp> (Access Date: 30 June 2020).

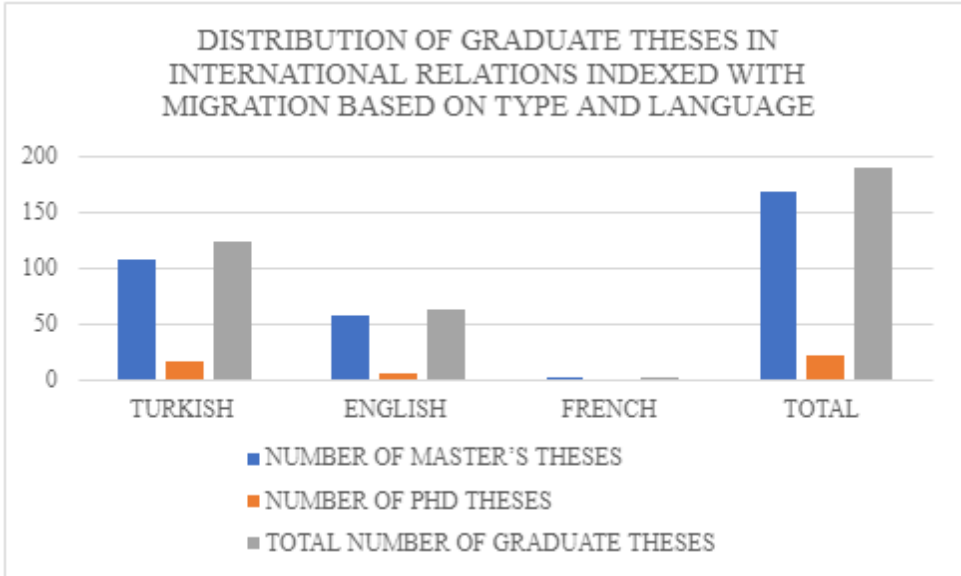


Figure 4: Distribution of Graduate Theses in IR subject Indexed with Migration based on Type and Language of Graduate Thesis

Source: *The Council of Higher Education National Thesis Centre*, Graduate Theses in IR subject indexed with migration, 2020b, <https://tez.yok.gov.tr/UlusalTezMerkezi/tezSorguSonucYeni.jsp> (Access Date: 30 June 2020).

According to dataset (The Council of Higher Education, 2020b), only 1.85% of 10,251 graduate theses in IR subject is indexed with migration. In Master's theses in IR subject, only 1.9% of 8,717 is indexed with migration. In Master's theses, only 1.8% of 5,924 Master's theses in Turkish language is indexed with migration, only 1.38% of 2,670 Master's theses in English language is indexed with migration, and among 118 Master's theses in French, only 1.69% of Master's theses in French language is indexed with migration. In Ph.D. theses in IR subject, only 1.4% of 1,534 Ph.D. theses is indexed with migration. Only 1.4% of 1,147 Ph.D. theses in Turkish language is indexed with migration, only 1.6% of 377 Ph.D. theses in English language is indexed with migration.

Considering such numbers, the percentage is around 1% in each area in terms of graduate studies in IR subject indexed with migration and the numbers are too limited. In terms of years, number of graduate studies in IR subject indexed with

migration reaches double digit only in 2011. It can be argued that it reflects the impact of the inflow of Syrians to Turkey due to ongoing conflict in Syria. The situation also coincides with the argument of Kaya (2018) on the quantitative increase in Migration Studies in 2000s.

Based on the dataset (The Council of Higher Education, 2020b), Table 5 reflects the number of graduate theses in IR subject indexed with migration in 1991-June 2020 period on yearly basis and Figure 5 reflects the distribution of graduate theses on yearly basis. According to that, while minor fluctuations are seen in 1991-2008, continuously rising graph in 2009-2012 period falls sharply in 2013, and except 2015, it has a rising tendency with peak point in 2018. General rising tendency in the graph after 2016 can be attributed to the atmosphere after the signature of the European Union (EU)-Turkey Refugee Deal (European Council, 2016).

Table 5: Number of Graduate Theses in IR subject Indexed with Migration on Yearly Basis

YEAR	TOTAL NUMBER OF GRADUATE THESES IN IR SUBJECT INDEXED WITH MIGRATION
1991	1
1993	2
2003	2
2004	5
2006	3
2007	1
2008	2
2009	6
2010	7
2011	12
2012	10
2013	4
2014	13
2015	10
2016	21
2017	20
2018	44
2019	25
2020	2
TOTAL	190

Source: *The Council of Higher Education National Thesis Centre*, Graduate Theses in IR subject indexed with migration, 2020b, <https://tez.yok.gov.tr/UlusalTezMerkezi/tezSorguSonucYeni.jsp> (Access Date: 30 June 2020).

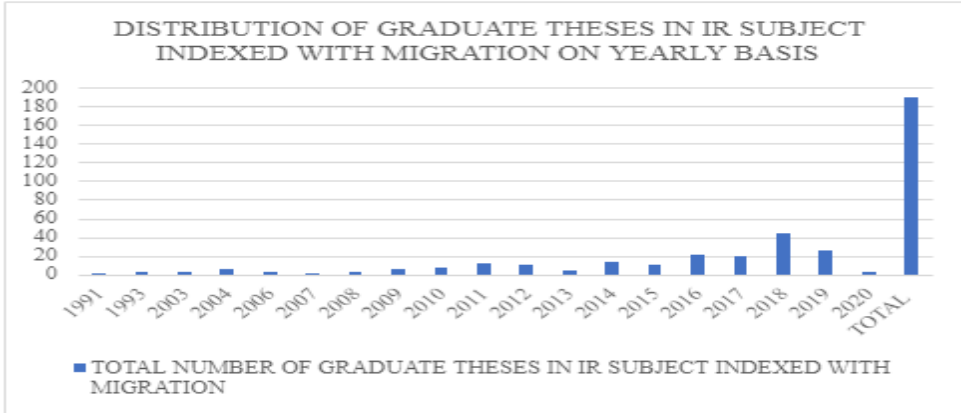


Figure 5: Distribution of Graduate Theses in IR subject Indexed with Migration on Yearly Basis

Source: *The Council of Higher Education National Thesis Centre*, Graduate Theses in IR subject indexed with migration, 2020b, <https://tez.yok.gov.tr/UlusalTezMerkezi/tezSorguSonucYeni.jsp> (Access Date: 30 June 2020).

In the analysis of the dataset on graduate theses in IR subject indexed with migration in terms of decades (The Council of Higher Education National Thesis Centre, 2020b), it is a single-digit number in 1990s, while it becomes a double-digit number in 2000s and a three-digit number in 2010s as given in Table 6. Such numbers are interesting in terms of reflecting the gradual rise in the number of graduate theses and the rapid rise by 2010 as given in Figure 6.

Table 6: Number of Graduate Theses in IR subject Indexed with Migration on 10-Year Basis

YEAR	1990-1999	2000-2009	2010-2019
00	0	0	7
01	1	0	12
02	0	0	10
03	2	2	4
04	0	5	13
05	0	0	10
06	0	3	21
07	0	1	20
08	0	2	44
09	0	6	25
TOTAL IN PERIOD	3	19	166
TOTAL	189		

Source: *The Council of Higher Education National Thesis Centre, Graduate Theses in IR subject indexed with migration, 2020b, <https://tez.yok.gov.tr/UlusalTezMerkezi/tezSorguSonucYeni.jsp> (Access Date: 30 June 2020).*

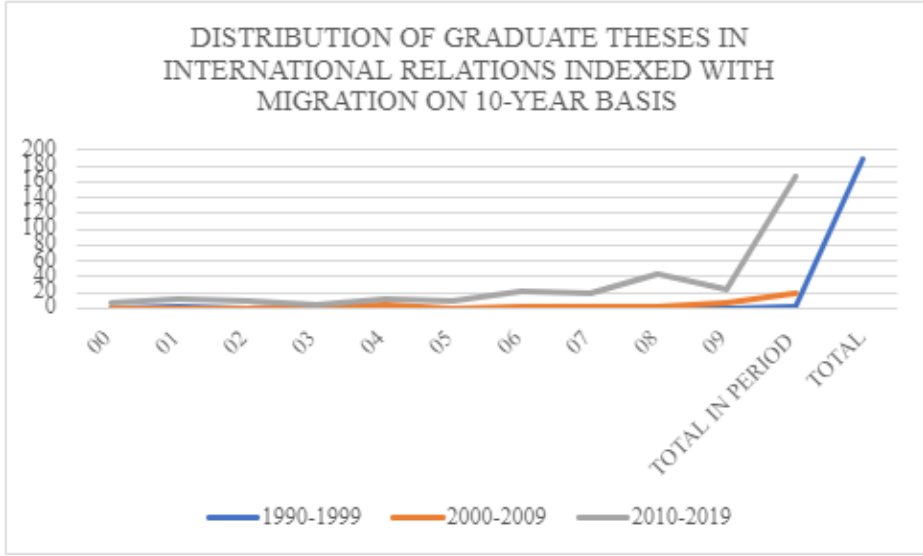


Figure 6: Distribution of Graduate Theses in IR Indexed with Migration on 10-Year Basis

Source: *The Council of Higher Education National Thesis Centre, Graduate Theses in IR subject indexed with migration, 2020b, <https://tez.yok.gov.tr/UlusalTezMerkezi/tezSorguSonucYeni.jsp> (Access Date: 30 June 2020).*

According to The Council of Higher Education National Thesis Centre, the first graduate thesis in IR subject was completed in 1983 (The Council of Higher Education National Thesis Centre, 2020a) while the first graduate thesis in International Relations subject indexed with migration was completed in 1991 (The Council of Higher Education National Thesis Centre, 2020b). Since Migration Studies began in 1980s under the title of ‘refugee studies’ in the world (Kaya, 2018), the completion of first graduate thesis (a Master’s thesis in Turkish language) in IR subject indexed with migration in 1991 in Turkey reflects that Turkey follows the valid tendency in the world, moreover, considering the title of the first graduate thesis in IR subject indexed with migration, “Migration from Bulgaria”, it reflects the valid situation in those years, like in the case of reaching double-digit numbers after inflow of Syrians to Turkey. As a result, it can be argued that the graduate studies in IR subject indexed with migration are influenced by conjuncture in terms of appearance, intensity and subject choice, meaning that it is directly proportional to current migration to Turkey.

Similar tendency is also valid in PhD theses specifically. The first PhD thesis was completed in 2003 on migration from Balkans in Turkish language, while the first PhD thesis in English was completed in 2008 on Bosnia. Thus, conjuncture influences the subject choice in PhD theses in IR subject indexed with migration as well.

In the analysis of titles of graduate theses in IR subject indexed with migration with content analysis, it is observed that “European Union” is the mostly used words in titles in terms of years (for 14 years) (The Council of Higher Education National Thesis Centre, 2020b) while “Turkey” is chosen the most in terms of number of graduate theses (72 times) (The Council of Higher Education National Thesis Centre, 2020b). The least number of graduate theses is observed in theoretical studies on migration (7 times) (The Council of Higher Education National Thesis Centre, 2020b). Such numbers reveal the fact that the argument of Kaya (2018) on insufficiency of theoretical studies on migration in Turkey is valid in graduate studies in IR subject indexed with migration in Turkey as well. Another interesting point is that despite the role of migration in Ottoman Empire, there are only 2 (The Council of Higher Education National Thesis Centre, 2020b) graduate studies with ‘Ottoman’ in the title and both of them are conducted in English.

In 30-year period of graduate studies in IR subject indexed with migration in Turkey, first study being completed in 1991 as Master’s thesis, choosing “European Union” in almost half of the total period is dramatic if one considers the ever-increasing role and numbers of migration in security, domestic and foreign affairs of Turkey. Being considered the geopolitical location of Turkey, the number of graduate theses with ‘human trafficking’ and ‘illegal migration’ is only 1 (The Council of Higher Education National Thesis Centre, 2020b). These numbers reflect both a challenge and also a potential in terms of Migration Studies in IR discipline in Turkey. If such statistics is considered in choosing a subject in graduate theses on migration in IR discipline in future, a significant contribution will be made to the existing literature in the field and also uniqueness will be ensured in the graduate study through choosing issues in potential areas.

In the analysis of the dataset, it is observed that while 4 (The Council of Higher Education National Thesis Centre, 2020b) of graduate theses (1 of them is a PhD thesis) titled with “United States of America”, there exists only 1 or 2 (The Council of Higher Education National Thesis Centre, 2020b) graduate theses titled with ‘Albanian’, ‘Armenian’, ‘Meskhetian (Ahiska) Turks’, ‘Turkman’, ‘East Turkistan’, ‘Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus (TRNC)’, ‘Azerbaijan’, and ‘Afghanistan’ despite their role in migration in Turkey; also, none of them is PhD

thesis. Such situation shows that these areas can be included to the prioritised areas in Migration Studies in IR discipline in Turkey. On the other hand, it is striking to see that the number of graduate theses titled with ‘Turkey-Canada’, ‘Turkey-Indonesia’, ‘Turkey-Yugoslavia’ is also 1 or 2 (The Council of Higher Education National Thesis Centre, 2020b).

Based on the analysis of the dataset, it can be argued that 2018 is a milestone, a turning point in terms of graduate studies in IR subject indexed with migration. While the rise in the number of graduate studies is observed by the year 2009 (from 2 in 2008 to 6 in 2009) (The Council of Higher Education National Thesis Centre, 2020b) the highest number of graduate studies are completed in 2018 (44) (The Council of Higher Education National Thesis Centre, 2020b). When the analysis on the titles is considered, it can be argued that it is due to increasing numbers of migrant inflow to Turkey from Syria and other conflict zones, the signature of the EU-Turkey Refugee Deal (European Council, 2016) and more significant role of such issues in Turkey-European Union relations since titles of graduate theses are dominantly on these issues in respective year and ahead. However, the first graduate thesis titled with ‘Syria’ is conducted in 2014 as Master’s thesis. It can be argued that it is too late to study such important topic in graduate studies in Turkey. In terms of the number of PhD theses titled with ‘Syria’, it is only 2 (The Council of Higher Education National Thesis Centre, 2020b), one is conducted in 2018 and 2020. It is too less and too late to study such vital topic in PhD level. It has a double-digit number (from 3 in 2007 to 15 in 2018) (The Council of Higher Education National Thesis Centre, 2020b) and PhD thesis in 2018. But still, it is away from being sufficient since the number of ‘Syrian Refugees in the Scope of Temporary Protection’ in Turkey has reached 3,588,054 that was officially announced by General Directorate of Migration Management at Turkish Ministry of Interior as of 18 June 2020.

Considering the number of graduate theses titled with ‘European Union’ is the highest in terms of number of years while it is graduate theses titled with ‘Turkey’ in terms of total numbers, it is interesting that the number of graduate theses titled with ‘Turkey-European Union’ is only 21 and the first one was completed in 2010. It shows that there is both a deficiency but also a potential in terms of number in this area; thus, it should also be included in the prioritised areas in migration studies in IR discipline in Turkey. In this area, the highest number of graduate theses is completed in 2018 (12) (The Council of Higher Education National Thesis

Centre, 2020b) and there is a rapid increase in the number of graduate theses in 2018 (from 2 in 2017 to 12 in 2018) (The Council of Higher Education National Thesis Centre, 2020b).

2. MIGRATION STUDIES IN MASTER'S THESES

In the analysis of 168 (The Council of Higher Education National Thesis Centre, 2020b) Master's theses in IR subject indexed with migration, 108 of them are in Turkish, 58 of them are in English and 2 of them are in French language. In 2 Master's theses in French language, it is interesting that one of them is titled with 'border', the least covered issue-a theoretical subject-and the other one is titled with 'European Union', the most covered issue in graduate theses in IR subject indexed with migration.

The rise in the number of Master's theses in IR subject indexed with migration begins in 2010. In this manner, the number of Master's theses in Turkish doubles in 2016 and 2 Master's theses in French are added to the statistics. Thus, year 2016 is unique in terms of the rise in the number and the language type of Master's theses in IR subject indexed with migration.

Year 2017 is specifically interesting in terms of Master's theses with titles on unique topics. 'Circassian', 'South Korea', 'Gulf countries', 'Mosul-Turkman', and 'Jordan-Palestine-Syria' are the titles on unique topics in Master's theses in 2017. Thus, year 2017 is unique in terms of diversity in subjects of the Master's theses in IR subject indexed with migration.

This tendency prevails in year 2018. It is observed that year 2018 is a milestone, turning point in many aspects. Aside from the continuation of the tendency of diversity in subjects of Master's theses began in 2017, year 2018 is the year that number of Master's theses peaks in 2018 (42). Among them, 30 of Master's theses are in Turkish and 12 of them are in English. Diversity of subjects, which is another tendency began in 2017, also peaks in 2018. 'Azerbaijan', 'France', 'Iraq-Syria', 'Turkey-East Turkistan', 'Turkey-Iraq Turkmen', 'Turkey-Iran', 'Turkey-Canada', 'Turkey-Jordan-Lebanon' are the titles on unique topics in Master's theses in 2018. Another unique characteristic of year 2018 is that 2 of 5 Master's theses in theoretical issues of migration, the least studied subject on migration in graduate studies, are completed in 2018. It is also unique that there are 2 Master's theses titled with 'Mexico-United States of America' (one of them is in Turkish and other one is in English). Year 2018 is also the peak year in terms of the number of Master's theses titled with 'Turkey-Syria' (5 of them in Turkish, 2 of them in English). 2 Master's theses titled with 'Europe-Syria' and 2 Master's theses titled with 'Turkey-European Union-Syria' are completed in 2018 but the number is

insufficient considering the vitality of the issue. Year 2018 is the peak year in terms of the number of Master's theses titled with 'European Union' (3 in Turkish and 2 in English) and the number of Master's theses titled with 'Turkey-European Union' (8 in Turkish and 1 in English).

In year 2019, while Master's theses titled with 'Turkey-Iran' which began in 2004 and Master's theses titled with 'Turkey-Greece' which began in 2010 continue, the number of Master's theses titled with 'Turkey-Germany' (2 in Turkish, 1 in English) is peaked in 2019.

3. MIGRATION STUDIES IN PHD THESES

In the analysis of PhD theses in IR subject indexed with migration (The Council of Higher Education National Thesis Centre, 2020b), the first one is completed in 2003 and 22 of 1,534 PhD theses in IR are indexed with migration while 16 of them are in Turkish and 6 of them are in English. While the first PhD thesis in IR subject indexed with migration is on Balkans and the last one is on Syria, they are two milestones in the history of migration in Turkey. Thus, it reflects the impact of the conjuncture on the choice of the topic in graduate theses in IR indexed with migration.

Since 2010, the number of PhD theses increase from single to more than one and from only in Turkish to many languages. Moreover, the choice on subject diverts from Balkans to Europe. This tendency in the direction of subjects also reflects the impact of conjuncture in choice of the subject of the PhD theses in IR indexed with migration.

While the first PhD thesis is titled 'Balkans' and in Turkish, the second one is titled 'European Union and Bosnia'. Among 6 PhD theses in English, 2 of them are titled 'European Union', 3 of them are titled 'Turkey', and 1 of them is titled 'Soviet Republics'. While the number of PhD theses titled 'Turkey' is 14, some of them is titled 'Turkey and European Union'.

It is striking that there are only 2 graduate theses titled 'Armenia' in IR subject indexed with migration and one of them is a PhD thesis in Turkish in 2014 (the other one is Master's thesis in Turkish in 2011). Also, it is interesting that one of graduate theses studied the least is titled 'displaced people' is a PhD thesis in Turkish.

It is also striking data that among graduate theses titled 'European Union', which is intensely preferred since 2008, 7 of them are PhD theses in Turkish and 2 of them are PhD theses in English. The rise in the number of PhD theses titled 'European Union' occurs after 2013, which coincides with the signature of the Turkey-European Union Refugee Deal (European Council, 2016).

It can be argued that the number of PhD theses titled ‘Syria’, which is 2 in total (the first one in 2018 and the last one in 2020) is both insufficient and late considering the importance of the issue for Turkey. On the other hand, it also shows that there is a potential and this area can be added to the prioritised areas for PhD theses in IR subject indexed with migration.

CONCLUSION

Considering the total number of graduate theses in IR subject indexed with migration reaching more than 10 thousand, the number of graduate theses in IR subject indexed with migration, which is 190, is away from being sufficient in quantity and also is challenging data. Turkey, bearing migrant characteristics and increasingly influenced by migration in security, domestic and foreign affairs, data shows that migration is now studied enough in graduate studies in IR discipline. The acceleration in number of graduate theses is seen in 2009 and it peaks in 2018. It is observed that while graduate studies are not homogeneously distributed to years in quantity, it can be argued that the topic might not be considered as interesting topic for graduate studies in 1993-2003 period since there is not a single graduate thesis concluded within that period. It can also be argued that the conjuncture has an impact on the choice of the subject since the titles are centred on certain topics which are hot topics of the agenda, namely Balkans in 1990s and 200s, Syria in 2010s.

In terms of subjects, it can be argued that more graduate studies should be conducted on theoretical issues of migration in IR. Moreover, ‘Syrians’ are understudied in graduate studies in International Relations subject indexed with migration in Turkey if the number of Syrians and the role the issue plays in foreign and security affairs of Turkey are taken into consideration. Also, the graduate studies on other groups in Turkey are insufficient quantitatively, there should be more than 1 or 2 graduate theses on the groups inflowing to Turkey in order to provide data for policies on such issues. The picture can be seen better if the graduate theses titled ‘Syria-Ruanda’ and ‘Mexico-Untied States of America’ are considered while the number of graduate studies on non-Syrians are less than the number of studies on these topics.

In conclusion, migration is understudied in graduate studies in IR discipline in Turkey and the situation is worse for PhD theses. Despite the Master’s theses are rich in terms of quantity, it is still away from being sufficient. Both in Master’s and PhD theses, Turkish language is preferred most while it is ‘Turkey’, ‘European Union’, and ‘Syria’ in terms of subject.

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