




Araştırma Notu / Research Notes

“Language” as Part of Education Policies: Pre-analysis of the 2023 Political Communication Text in Turkey

Eğitim Politikaları Bağlamında “Dilin” Yeri: Türkiye’de 2023 Siyasal İletişim Metninin Ön İncelemesi

Ebru Eren¹ 

¹ Asst. Prof. Dr., Yeditepe Üniversitesi, Siyaset Bilimi ve Uluslararası İlişkiler Bölümü, ebrueren@hotmail.fr

Özet	Abstract
<p>Bu araştırma notu, Türkiye’de siyasal iletişim metninin eğitim politikalarını nasıl şekillendirdiğini göstermeyi amaçlamaktadır: Siyasal iletişim, eğitim politikasını nasıl ideolojiye dayalı bir siyasal ürün haline getirmektedir? Doğrudan ideoloji temelli olan eğitim politikasının konusu nedir? Peki, eğitim politikaları bağlamında dilin yeri nedir? 14 Mayıs 2023 tarihinde yapılacak olan Türkiye Genel Seçimi ile ilgili seçim bildirgesi, ülkenin en güncel siyasal iletişim metni olduğu düşünülerek burada ön incelemeye tabi tutulmuştur.</p>	<p>The present research notes aim to discuss how political communication text shapes education policies in Turkey: How does political communication make education policy a political product based on ideology? What is the education policy topic that bears ideological traces? What is the part of language in the context of education policies? The election manifesto related to the Turkish General Election that is scheduled to take place on May 14, 2023, is pre-analyzed as the recent political communication text in Turkey.</p>
<p>Anahtar Kelimeler: Eğitim Politikası, Dil, Siyasal İletişim, Türkiye</p>	<p>Keywords: Education Policy, Language, Political Communication, Turkey</p>

1. One of the major topics of political communication texts is education policy. Political communication and education policy cannot be separated from each other. There is a cause-effect relationship between these notions: Political communication is the transmission of political discourse through mass media such as surveys, marketing and advertising widely used during election periods (Wolton, 1989). As for education policy, it provides intergenerational transmission of educational culture through sociopolitical control and reproduction (Bourdieu & Passeron, 1970).

2. In the context of political communication, education policy aims to shape individuals with a dominant ideology and to supervise them with political power. As “ideological apparatus” of state (Althusser, 2010), education policy becomes a direct product of political communication in the sense that these policies are shaped according to ideology (Boudon, 1986). As a result of political communication, education policies differ in line with ideologies (Wolton, 1995).

3. The present brief report aims to discuss how political communication texts shape education policies in Turkey. The goals of this report are to answer to problematics such as: How does political communication make education policy a political product based on ideology? What is the education policy topic that bears ideological traces? What is the part of language in the context of education policies? It should be noted that we have already examined the present subject in the context of the General Election held on June 24, 2018 (Eren, 2021) and confirmed that education policies are a direct product of political communication in Turkey.

4. In the recent political communication context, the Turkish General Election is scheduled to take place on May 14, 2023 in Turkey. It should be emphasized that one of the major texts of political communication is still not ready and thus, is not included in the scope of our report: *Adalet ve Kalkınma Partisi* (AK Party, official abbreviation) or The Justice and Development Party is preparing an electoral manifesto titled “*Türkiye Yüzyılı*” or “The Century of Türkiye”.

5. As for the other major text of political communication, *Cumhuriyet Halk Partisi* (CHP) or Republican People’s Party, *Demokrasi ve Atılım Partisi* (DEVA) or Democracy and Progress Party, *Demokratik Parti* (DP) or Party of Democracy, *Gelecek Partisi* or Future Party, İYİ Party and *Saadet Partisi* (SP) or Felicity Party prepared (January 30,

2023) an election manifesto titled “*Ortak Politikalar Mutabakat Metni*” or “Common Policies Text of Understanding”.

6. In this political communication text (CHP et al., 2023), education policy topics are such as: (1) “goal of quality in education”; (2) “educational planning and economy”; (3) “basic and special education”; (4) “language education”; (5) “religious education” and (6) “vocational education and higher education”. However according to the scope of your *Journal of Education, Language and Ideology*, the present brief report is only limited to the part of “language” in the context of education policy: The topic is “language education”.

7. The language education topic is mentioned four times throughout this text:

- (a) “We will open departments in Vocational High Schools that will train customs personnel in foreign languages” (CHP et al., 2023, p. 140);
- (b) “We will plan the number, qualifications and areas of expertise of the health personnel to be served within the scope of health tourism, and ensure that the health personnel acquire the necessary equipment, including foreign language diversity” (CHP et al., 2023, p. 150);
- (c) “We will organize the first year of the 4-year secondary school as a foreign language and coding preparatory class” (CHP et al., 2023, p. 180);
- (d) “By using digital content and environments, we will ensure that students learn at least one foreign language and gain coding skills with software” (CHP et al., 2023, p. 181);
- (e) “We will increase the foreign language achievement score required for instructors” (CHP et al., 2023, p. 183).

8. Contrary to the 2018 Turkish General Election manifesto, the language education topic is only discussed within the scope of foreign language education and not mother tongue education in the context of 2023 Turkish General Election manifesto (this is an important shortcoming). The importance of foreign language education is discussed in terms of vocational high schools (a), health personnel training (b), secondary schools (c), digital skills/needs of the age (d) but also instructor training (e). Even if language is part of education policies in this political communication text (2023), the language education topic is really limited due to the plurality of ideologies (CHP, DEVA, DP, GP, İYİ and SP). As its name suggests

explicitly, the “Common Policies Text of Understanding” bears the ideological traces of the six political parties that make the education policy a political product based on ideology.

Statement of Research and Publication Ethics: Scientific research and publication ethics rules are followed in the preparation of the article.

BIBLIOGRAPHY

- Althusser, L. (2010). *İdeoloji ve devletin ideolojik aygıtları*. (Çev. A. Tümertekin,). İthaki.
- Boudon, R. (1986). *L'idéologie. L'origine des idées reçues*. Librairie Artheme Fayard.
- Bourdieu, P. & Passeron, J.C. (1970). *La reproduction : Eléments pour une théorie du système d'enseignement*. Les Editions de Minuit.
- Cumhuriyet Halk Partisi, Demokrasi ve Atılım Partisi, Demokratik Parti, Gelecek Partisi, İYİ Parti and Saadet Partisi (CHP et al). (2023). “*Ortak Politikalar Mutabakat Metni*” Retrieved, February 20, 2023 from <https://chp.org.tr/yayin/ortak-politikalar-mutabakat-metni/Open>.
- Eren, E. (2021). Education policies in the context of political communication in Turkey. *European Journal of Educational Research*, 10(1), 227-240. <https://doi.org/10.12973/eu-er.10.1.227>
- Wolton, D. (1989). La communication politique : Construction d'un modèle. *Hermès La Revue*, 1(4), 27-42. <https://doi.org/10.4267/2042/15353>
- Wolton, D. (1995). Les contradictions de la communication politique. *Editions Hermès La Revue*, 3(17), 107-124. <https://doi.org/10.4267/2042/15211>