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WORKSHOP REPORT

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Panel: Language policy and protection of endangered Turkic languages, selected examples

On the occasion of 32nd German Oriental Studies Conference in

Münster/Germany that took place from 23 to 27 September 2013, Astrid Menz from the Orient-Institut Istanbul organized a panel with the title “Language policy and protection of endangered Turkic languages, selected examples”. The idea of the panel was to elaborate on the positive and/or negative influences historical, social, demographic, and political factors can have on the survival of languages. Based on case studies from various regions of the Turkic speaking world the participants focused on the challenges and prospects for the respective language communities.

Éva Á. Csató gave a talk on the vitality of small languages with only very few speakers. She showed that in some cases demographic factors together with the attitude of the language community are decisive factors for survival of a language. Astrid Menz discussed the case of Gagauz in Moldova and the Ukraine. She gave an overview of the steps taken by the administration of the autonomous region, language attitudes within the speech community and socio-linguistic factors, which are vital for the survival of the Gagauz language. Irina Nevskaya and Saule Tazhibaeva’s joint talk dealt with the present-day situation of endangered Turkic languages spoken in Kazakhstan (Karaim, Krymchak, Meskhetian Turkic, etc.) which has only recently received the attention of the Kazakh government. They also depicted a pilot research project on the sociolinguistic situation of the Turkic minorities in Kazakhstan. Elisabetta Ragagnin in her talk entitled “Isolated Turkic languages in Iran and Mongolia” gave a survey on the present-day sociolinguistic situation of Turkic varieties in Iran and in Mongolia on the basis of her own fieldwork. Monika Rind-Pawłowski gave a presentation on the minority language of the Tuvans in Dzungaria in northwest China. Their language is influenced by Mongolian,

and more recently by Kazakh and Chinese. Zinaida P. Waibel's talk covered the sociolinguistic situation in the Republic Khakassia, a region in the Russian Federation. Only %11 of the population of Khakassia claims to be Khakas. Zinaida Waibel discussed the possibilities and difficulties for planning a sustainable corpus on the condition of Turkic languages typical of many regions in Russia.

Yayıma Hazırlayan: Edanur Sağlam