

Report of the Erasmus+ KA171 Agreement's First-Period (2022-2026: KA171-HED-B772C2E9)

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Introduction

From the end of the 18th and the beginning of the 19th century, the classical monarchy systems of the old era gradually ended, and national states were established. The administrative order of the states of today's world is mostly in the form of nation-states governed by representative democracy. However, especially since the second half of the 20th century, international partnerships and collaborative studies in different channels such as science, art, education, culture and trade have begun to be carried out with transnational agreements that have become increasingly important. Especially with education programs at different grades, individuals from a younger age can get to know various cultures by living in different societies. In this way, the opportunity to receive education at universities in other countries creates an important awareness for the individuals, the hosting institutions, and future generations. The increase in such cultural exchanges will contribute to the formation of more tolerant people and societies that understand each other more.

In this context, one of the issues worth investigating is what characteristics were inherited by later generations from old monarchies as societies transformed. This question has been the source of motivation for our KA171 project proposal. Certainly, the most important legacy we inherit from our ancestors is the language we speak. We learn the language of the society we were born in from our parents and then pass it on to new generations. Although it is almost impossible to draw the boundaries of this heritage; it is possible to identify some areas that it has particularly affected.

Moreover, language relations studies contribute to understanding languages' past, present, and probable future. For instance, borrowing words or grammatical changes are among the most important study areas of language contacts. Some words can live in society for so long without knowing which source language they loaned from; even if there are political disagreements between those societies over time, they continue to use the language of that society they have unwittingly borrowed from. This can sometimes occur in intellectual language, sometimes in folk songs, and sometimes in a recipe. Language is passed on from generation to generation, just like genetic codes.

With the positive result of the application made in February 2022, the support of the Erasmus+ KA171 project was gained for the first time at Istanbul Medeniyet University. The proposal in the project application made within the Department of Turkish Language and Literature at the Faculty of Arts & Humanities was to follow the influence and traces of Turkish on the languages living today in different parts of the world under the Ottoman Empire's rule. In line with this issue, a mobility agreement was signed with universities in Southwest Asia, the Caucasus, and the Balkans, where the Ottoman Empire dominated more than other regions.

Erasmus+ KA171 project included learning and teaching mobility. During the mobility, the management of the student and academic staff exchange process has been transferred to the

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Istanbul Medeniyet University’s International Office Unit. The International Office is responsible for this mobility action as it is responsible for other mobility agreements. Still, the thesis and research questions of the project, which were briefly discussed above, are carried out by us. At this point, in the project’s first period, online seminars were organized to listen to the researchers who discussed the project from various aspects. In addition to the Erasmus+ KA171 project partner countries, the Shumen University of Bulgaria, which is an EU member in the geography above and with which we have an Erasmus+ KA131 agreement partnership, was included in the project topic. A researcher from Shumen University took part as an invited speaker in the online seminar series on the “Traces of Turkish in Different Geographies”. This report provides information about the online seminars and the main work of the invited speakers on the project proposal.

During the project’s first period, three online seminars were held with the partners from Ivane Javakhishvili Tbilisi State University, Georgia; Yarmouk University, Jordan and Konstantin Preslavsky University of Shumen, Bulgaria. A brief summary of the seminars is reported below.

Online Seminar # 1

Erasmus+ KA171

Partners: İstanbul Medeniyet University, Türkiye & Ivane Javakhishvili Tbilisi State University, Georgia

Speaker: Ketevan LORTKIPANIDZE (TSU)

Moderator: Betül ÖZBAY (IMU)

Topic: “Turkish Loanwords in Medieval Literary Georgian”

April 17, 2023

According to Prof. Lortkipanidze, the relations between Turkish and Georgian began in the 11th century, and there are many Turkish names in the work “Knight in Tiger Skin”, one of the important Georgian ethical poems. In this text, 27 individual and 15 compound words are considered to be taken from Turkish. Due to the strong Ottoman-Georgian relations in these centuries, the number of loan words is high. There are also changes in the field of borrowed words in the heroic epics in Turkish Georgian literature. Many words have entered Georgian via Turkish as loan words. For this reason, even if the origin of such loans is unknown, these words are called Turkish origin or Turkism in Georgia.

Cultural traces are also found in the relations between the Turkish and Georgian languages. For example, the word “armağan” in Kaşgarlı’s dictionary means “a gift taken from travel”; this word is found in Georgian with the same meaning. However, in Turkish “armağan” means just “gift” in general. Therefore, it is interesting that a very old Turkish word lives in Georgian with the same meaning as the Turkic languages’ first dictionary written in the 11th century.

Prof. Lortkipanidze adds that “bağa” is also found in the studied Georgian texts. This word means “toad” or “tortoise” in many Turkic languages; on the other hand, it has a different meaning in the Kazakh language as “short, dwarf”. In the Georgian text “Knight in Tiger Skin”, the meaning of “short, dwarf” is more appropriate instead of “tortoiseshell” considering to context. This suggestion was made based on the Kazakh language. In previous translations, it was translated as “tortoise, tortoiseshell” with a meaning far from the context.

In addition to these examples, according to Lortkipanidze, mixed-structured words are derived from Georgian affixes, although they have Turkish origins in literary texts. For instance, *si+alp+e* “heroic”; the origin of this word is the Turkish word “alp” meaning “brave”, and it has an abstract derivational suffix. She notes that the Turkish origin of this word could not be understood due to its different structure, and this explanation was not included in etymological dictionaries. However, comparative language relations studies have made it possible to explain these kinds of words etymologically.

After the presentation of Prof. Lortkipanidze, the seminar ended with a Q&A session.

Erasmus+ İSTANBUL MEDENİYET ÜNİVERSİTESİ

**ERASMUS+ KA171 & KA131 AGREEMENTS
ONLINE SEMINARS SERIES 1**

**ERASMUS+ KA171 ve KA131 ANLAŞMALARI
ÇEVİRİMİÇİ SEMİNERLER DİZİSİ**

17 Nisan 2023
Pazartesi SAAT: 15.30-16.30

**TRACES OF TURKISH IN DIFFERENT
GEOGRAPHIES: CAUCASUS (ERASMUS+
KA171 PROJECT)**

**“TÜRKÇENİN FARKLI COĞRAFYALARDA
İZLERİ: KAFKASLAR”
(ERASMUS+ KA171 PROJESİ)**

Speaker/Konuşmacı:
Ketevan LORTKIPANIDZE (TSU)

Moderator:
Betül ÖZBAY (İMÜ)

Subject/Konu: “Turkish Loanwords
in Medieval Literary Georgian” /
“Orta Çağ Edebî Gürcücede
Saptanan Türkçe Alıntı Kelimeler”

Zoom Meeting ID: 985 7805 1648
Zoom Password: 733556

Figure 1: Traces of Turkish in Different Geographies: Caucasus¹

¹ All designs by Funda Songür unless otherwise stated in the Image Credits.

Online Seminar # 2

Erasmus+ KA171

Partners: Istanbul Medeniyet University, Türkiye & Yarmouk University, Jordan

Speaker: Hassan ZYOUT (YU)

Moderator: A. Emin SARAÇ (IMU)

Topic: “The Status of Turkish in Jordan”

May 3, 2023

Dr. H. Zyout started by giving information about Jordanian and the Ottoman Empire historical relations. Afterward, he talked about the influence of Turkish on Arabic. Briefly, he explained the characteristics of the grammatical structures and borrowed words that were transferred from Turkish or through Turkish into the Jordanian Arabic dialect. He also talked about Turkish words in Jordanian proverbs and idioms.

Moreover, he mentioned some loan phrases and verbs in Jordanian. In this section, he explained the situation of the Turkish profession name suffix “+cI” in Jordanian Arabic with examples. He stated that this suffix’s feminine and plural forms also developed in Arabic. This linguistic development is quite remarkable for language relations studies; as it is known, there is no gender discrimination in Turkish, yet in Jordanian Arabic, this suffix has both feminine and plural forms.

Then, he gave examples of the term re-borrowing in language relations by mentioning striking examples of some proper nouns in the Jordanian. These words were originally Arabic but later loaned back to the Jordanian dialect through Turkish. For example, Arabic *Bahça*, Turkish *Behçet*; Arabic *İzze*, Turkish *İzzet* etc. He stated that this situation is frequently encountered in words that end with a silent “t” in Arabic. Moreover, he added that Turkish proper nouns are seen as family names in some examples; for example, the Turkish word *kaplan* “tiger” is *gapan* as a family name in the Jordanian dialect.

Later, Dr. Zyout said it is possible to come across Turkish names on the signs of various stores and shops in Jordan. He stated that some Turkish names that he identified, such as “Lale Sofrası” and “Arkadaş Köfte”, were written in both Arabic and Latin letters, especially in restaurants and cafes.

After the presentation, the seminar ended with a Q&A session.



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ERASMUS+ KA171 & KA131 AGREEMENTS ONLINE SEMINAR SERIES 2

ERASMUS+ KA171 ve KA131 ANLAŞMALARI
ÇEVİRİMİÇİ SEMİNERLER DİZİSİ 2

03 Mayıs 2023

Çarşamba SAAT: 15.30-16.30

**TRACES OF TURKISH IN DIFFERENT
GEOGRAPHIES: SOUTHWEST ASIA
(ERASMUS+ KA171 PROJECT)**

**“TÜRKÇENİN FARKLI COĞRAFYALARDA
İZLERİ: GÜNEYBATI ASYA”
(ERASMUS+ KA171 PROJESİ)**

Speaker/Konuşmacı:
Hassan ZYOUT (YU)

Moderator:
Ahmet Emin SARAÇ (İMÜ)

Subject/Konu: “The Status of
Turkish in Jordan”/ “Türkçenin
Ürdün’deki Yeri”

Zoom Meeting ID: 921 4000 5095
Zoom Password: 232296



Figure 2: Traces of Turkish in Different Geographies: Southwest Asia

Online Seminar # 3

Erasmus+ KA131

Partners: Istanbul Medeniyet University, Türkiye & Konstantin Preslavsky University of Shumen, Bulgaria

Speaker: Menent SHUKRIYEVA (ShU)

Moderator: Abidin KARASU (IMU)

Topic: “Studies at the Department of Turkish Language and Literature, University of Shumen”
May 17, 2023

Prof. Shukriyeva started her speech by giving general information about Turcology studies in Balkan countries. Later, she shared statistical data on the current Turkish population in Bulgaria and the opportunities for education in Turkish. Afterward, she spoke briefly about the political approach in Bulgaria in the 1950s and how the Turkish community was affected by this rigid policy.

She also noted that although the Turkish philology departments were first established in Bulgarian universities in the 1960s, these departments were closed due to various difficulties and reopened in 1992. Moreover, she added that today there are Turcology departments in three cities in Bulgaria: Sofia, Plovdiv, and Shumen. Later, she talked about the dictionary studies carried out in the Department of Turkish Language and Literature and the individual studies of the department’s members at Shumen University. Finally, the seminar was completed after the question-and-answer session.



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ERASMUS+ KA171 & KA131 AGREEMENTS ONLINE SEMINAR SERIES 3

ERASMUS+ KA171 ve KA131 ANLAŞMALARI
ÇEVİRİMİÇİ SEMİNERLER DİZİSİ 3

17 Mayıs 2023

Çarşamba SAAT: 15.00-16.00

**TRACES OF TURKISH IN DIFFERENT
GEOGRAPHIES: BALKANS
(ERASMUS+ KA131)**

**“TÜRKÇENİN FARKLI COĞRAFYALARDA
İZLERİ: BALKANLAR”**

Speaker/Konuşmacı:

Menent SHUKRIYEVA (ShU)

Moderator:

Abidin KARASU (İMÜ)

Subject/Konu: “Studies at the
Department of Turkish Language
and Literature, University of
Shumen” / “Şumen Üniversitesi
Türk Dili ve Edebiyatı Bölümü
Çalışmaları”

Zoom Meeting ID: 910 2756 8774
Zoom Password: 802788



Figure 3: Traces of Turkish in Different Geographies: Balkans

Conclusion

Consequently, in the online seminars held in April and May 2023, the current effect of Turkish in the mentioned regions was discussed by the participation of invited faculty members from Jordan, Georgia and Bulgaria. The seminars attracted the attention of both our students and guest participants. With these online seminars, it has been understood that the effects of Turkish on the regional languages, especially the spoken language, are apparent in the findings and discoveries of the expert researchers we have met. Although over 100 years have passed since the end of the Ottoman Empire’s rule in these regions, Turkish borrowed words, proverbs and idioms, proper nouns, adjectives, and derivational suffixes still exist today. Moreover, it has been understood that Turkish is used increasingly in the names of shops, restaurants, and cafés as an effect of the ease of transportation and increased international trade in recent years.

Thanks to this agreement, up-to-date information on the current situation of Turkish in different geographies was discussed; the guest speakers from partner countries were listened to, and questions that the participants wondered were included in the Q&A sections. New studies to be carried out, on-site visits will expand the scope of the studies and pave the way for new findings.