

Syntax & Semantics of Modern Turkish

Ling 314 – Spring 2021

Time TTWW 5656
Place TBA

Instructor Ümit Atlamaz
Email umit.atlamaz@boun.edu.tr
Office Hours By Appointment

TA Utku Türk
Email utku.turk@boun.edu.tr
PS Hours By Appointment

Course Description

This course is an in-depth investigation of the syntactic and semantic structure of Turkish within the framework of generative linguistics. Throughout the course, we will discuss various aspects of Turkish syntax and semantics to understand if the existing linguistic theories can account for the syntactic-semantic properties of Turkish. In cases where existing linguistic theories fall short of accounting for Turkish facts, we will attempt extending or modifying these theories. The course will be formally oriented. If you are not familiar with generative linguistic formalisms or do not feel comfortable enough, please talk to me before the add/drop period.

Course Learning Goals

- Understanding key syntactic and semantic properties of Turkish
- Understanding and creating formal representations of syntactic and semantic properties
- Understanding and modifying the aspects of linguistic theory through a natural language, i.e. Turkish

Reading

All the readings will be posted on the course site. For each major topic, we will try to read at least one paper on Turkish and one theoretical paper from the literature.


Course Requirements & Evaluation

Final grades will be determined by your performance on assignments, a midterm exam, a final exam, and your participation. Covid-19 has altered our lives significantly. All of us are being deeply impacted. Regardless, we need to work together to minimize its impact on our online class experience. For this reason, participation will be a key evaluation metric in your course grade and it is your responsibility to make sure you are participating enough.

Evaluation Criteria		
Assignments	40%	
Midterm Exam	30%	May 5
Final Exam	30%	TBD

Grade Catalog	
AA	≥ 90%
BA	≥ 85%
BB	≥ 80%
CB	≥ 75%
CC	≥ 70%
DC	≥ 60%
DD	≥ 55%
F	≤ 54%

Course Schedule

Date	Topic	Reading	Assignment
Week 1	Intro, Syllabus, Terminology Primer		
Week 2	Phrase Structure		
Week 3	Argument Structure, Case, Agreement		Assignment 1
Week 4	Predicates and Valence Chaning Operations	Özsoy 2009, Payne 1997	
Week 5	Referentiality, Definiteness, Specificity Case Revisited	Enç 1991, Görgülü 2014	
Week 6	Nominal Structure	Arslan-Kechriotis 2009, Hayashi 1996	Assignment 2
Week 7	Clause Types	Kural 1993, Demirok 2019, Haig 1997	MIDTERM EXAM
Week 8	Information Structure	Göksel & Özsoy 2000	Assignment 3
Week 9	Questions	Atlamaz 2015, Demirok 2022	
Week 10	Aspect	Taylan 1996	
Week 11	SPRING BREAK		
Week 12	Modality	von Vintel 2006, Yavaş 1982	Assignment 4
Week 13	Negation	Taylan 1986	

The schedule is tentative and subject to change. We will shift gears depending on how the semester unfolds.

All assignments are due Sundays by 5:00 pm.

Please, make sure your email registered in ÖBİKAS is in use. It is your responsibility to keep track of the email announcements.

Policies

Attendance

Attendance is mandatory. Any student who misses five or more classes is considered to have “missed more than an occasional class”. Students who must, for any reason, miss more than an occasional class should consult with their instructors directly.

Late Assignments & Projects

Late assignments and projects will not be accepted, except:

- If you are ill and missed the deadline. You will be asked to provide proof of illness (doctor’s report).
- If you know you will miss a deadline due to a family, cultural, or religious observance, it is your responsibility to contact your instructor early in the semester. You should arrange to take an alternative assessment, or to submit the assignment on another date.

Academic Integrity

Students are expected to know and follow Boğaziçi University policies on Academic Integrity:

- Student Rights and Responsibilities

Students may not collaborate on answering questions in homework assignments or exams; homework assignments and exams must be done independently. Collaboration is a violation of the Academic Integrity policy. All instances of plagiarism will be reported.

Disability Services

Students with disabilities requesting accommodations should reach out to the instructor as well as:

- Students with Disabilities Unit
- Engelli Öğrenciler Danışma Ve Koordinasyon Birimi

Useful Links

Department of Linguistics: <https://linguistics.boun.edu.tr>

Reading List

- Arslan-Kechriotis, Z. Ceyda. 2009. Referentiality in Turkish: NP/DP. Essays on Turkish Linguistics: In *Proceedings of the 14th International Conference on Turkish Linguistics*. Otto Harrassowitz Verlag.
- Atlamaz, Ümit. 2015. A Bidimensional Semantics for Questions. Ms. Rutgers University.
- Dayal, Veneeta. 2016. *Questions*. Oxford University Press.
- Demirok, Ömer. 2022. Intervention Effects follow from Scope Rigidity in Turkish. In *Semantics and Linguistic Theory 31*.
- Enç, Mürvet. 1991. The semantics of specificity. *Linguistic inquiry*: 1-25.
- Erguvanlı-Taylan, E. Eser. 1986. Some aspects of negation in Turkish. In *Proceedings of the Turkish Linguistics Conference*, eds. by Ayhan Aksu-Koç and E. Eser Erguvanlı-Taylan. Boğaziçi University Publications:159-179.
- Erguvanlı Taylan, E. Eser. 1996. The Parameter of Aspect in Turkish. In *Proceedings of the 6th International Conference on Turkish Linguistics*, eds. by A. Konrot: 153-168.
- Göksel, Aslı, and A. Sumru Özsoy. 2000. Is there a focus position in Turkish. *Studies on Turkish and Turkic languages 107*: 119-228.
- Görgülü, E. 2014. Conditions on Argumenthood in Turkish. *Dilbilim Araştırmaları Dergisi 2014/1*, Boğaziçi Üniversitesi Yayınevi.

- Haig, Geoffrey. 1997. Turkish relative clauses: A tale of two participles. *Turkic languages* 1.2: 184-209.
- Hayashi, Tooru. 1996. The dual status of possessive compounds in Modern Turkish. In *Symbolae Turcologicae* 6, eds. by A. Berta, B Brendemoen, & C. Schöen: 119-129.
- Kratzer, Angelika, and Junko Shimoyama. 2017. Indeterminate pronouns: The view from Japanese. In *Contrastiveness in information structure, alternatives and scalar implicatures*, eds. by Chungmin Lee, Ferenc Kiefer, and Manfred Krifka. Springer, Cham. 123-143.
- Kural, Murat. 1993. V-to(-I-to)-C in Turkish. *UCLA occasional papers in linguistics* 11: 17-54.
- Özsoy, A. Sumru. 2009. Argument structure, animacy, syntax and semantics of passivization in Turkish: A corpus-based approach. In *Corpus analysis and variation in linguistics*, eds. by Yuji Kawaguchi, et al. John Benjamins Publishing Company: 259-279.
- Payne, Thomas E. 1997. Voice and valence adjusting operations. In *Describing Morphosyntax*, by Thomas E. Payne. Cambridge University Press: 169-196.
- von Stechow, Kai. 2006. Modality and Language. In *Encyclopedia of Philosophy – Second Edition*, eds. by Donald M. Borcherdt. Detroit: MacMillan Reference USA.
- Yavaş, Feryal. 1982. The Turkish Aorist. *Glossa*:40-53