

## **The higher the frequency the more borrowing? A Case Study about Dutch borrowings in Turkish**

In situations of language contact, it is inevitable that languages borrow words, expressions, and structures from each other<sup>1,2</sup>. Turkish as spoken in the Netherlands (NL-Turkish) has been in contact with Dutch for over forty years. Dutch influence is particularly observed in literally translated collocations or partially schematic units in NL-Turkish<sup>3</sup>. Despite this influence, not all Dutch units are attractive for NL-Turkish speakers. Using Turkish and Dutch spoken corpora, we explore in a case study to what extent the frequency of certain units in a language (Dutch) increases their rate of borrowability for the contact language (Turkish).

Analyses of an NL-Turkish corpus reveal that the literal translation of the Dutch construction [N *doen*] “N do” is used in contexts where Turkish speakers in Turkey (TR-Turkish) would use other expressions. For example, TR-Turkish speakers use the expression [*Fransızca okumak*] “French read” when they talk about French classes they took at school. Dutch speakers, on the other hand, use [*Frans doen*] “French do”. NL-Turkish speakers literally translate the Dutch expression into Turkish as [*Fransızca yapmak*] “French do”, and use this expression instead of the conventional TR-Turkish expression. This translation sounds unconventional to TR-Turkish speakers since most of the specific instances of [N *do*] unit in TR-Turkish refer to doing things manually, such as [*kek yapmak*] “cake do/make”. About 40% of all unconventional expressions observed in NL-Turkish involve the construction [N *yapmak*] “N do”, making it by far the most frequent unconventionally used expression in NL-Turkish. In terms of contact linguistics, this signals that the construction [N *do*] is quite attractive for NL-Turkish speakers.

This case study is part of a broader study in which we investigate whether Dutch expressions with high frequency of occurrence in everyday speech are more attractive. We analyze two spoken corpora: CGN (the Dutch Spoken Corpus, nine million words) and a smaller corpus of NL-Turkish (328.000 words). In each corpus, we first extract all instances of the construction [N *do*]. Second, we inspect the extracted instances, classifying them into broad semantic noun categories. A preliminary analysis of the NL-Turkish corpus reveals that in 50% of the unconventional [N *yapmak*] “N do” expressions, the noun is related to an educational context (e.g. [*üniversite yapmak*] “university do”). In other words, [N<sub>educational</sub> *do*] expressions seem to be quite attractive for NL-Turkish speakers. The same analysis in CGN reveals that about 12% of all Dutch [N *doen*] “N do” expressions are related to educational context. In addition to these preliminary raw analyses, we will also analyze other, less-frequent, constructions in which ‘do’ combines with a semantically coherent class of nouns, and measure each expression’s collostructional strength in comparison to similar expressions. Although there are other factors involved in the borrowing process, we predict that high frequency of certain Dutch units increases their chances of getting borrowed.

466 words

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<sup>1</sup> Thomason, S. G. (2001). *Language Contact: An Introduction*. Washington D.C.:Georgetown University Press.

<sup>2</sup> Heine, B. & Kuteva, T. (2005). *Language contact and grammatical change*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press.

<sup>3</sup> Dogruoz, A.S.&Backus, A. (2009). Innovative Expressions in Dutch-Turkish: An assessment of on-going contact-induced change. *Bilingualism: Language and Cognition*.