



CUKUROVA
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CU SoFL

M A G A Z I N E O N L I N E



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A Word from the Director

Dear Reader, this issue theme of our newsletter is *Language and Culture*: two intertwined phenomena for a language community. As language practitioners, we may sometimes face the dilemma of whether we should tackle these issues separately in the classroom or adhere to the commonly accepted norm of presenting the two unified. As someone who has been involved in this field for over 25 years, based on my experiences as a learner and a practitioner, I can suggest a third way, which is incorporating as many diverse cultures as possible into the language I teach. Even though the trend among textbook writers and publishers is more or less in this direction, as a textbook evaluator, my observations tell me that writers are usually biased negatively or positively toward one direction. Here, I find it necessary for the teacher to intervene, drawing on their knowledge and expertise with and in other cultures. Therefore, the teacher benefiting from different resources available, via printed or online reliable material, can introduce their students to a plethora of insights into various cultural characteristics of an international community of which we are an inseparable segment. I believe this is what we should be doing if we aim to prepare our students for a linguistically and culturally diverse world, ready to accept our differences, tolerate our wrongdoings and appreciate our goodwill. Happy reads.

Prof. Dr. Yonca ÖZKAN

Director

Institutional News in Brief

The "First International Language-for-All Conference" Was Held by SoFL

The First International Language-for-All Conference (**LFAC '22**) to be held annually by Çukurova University School of Foreign Languages took place in Mithat Özsan Conference Hall on 21 – 22 October. Vice rectors Prof. Dr. Hayri Levent YILMAZ and Prof. Dr. Neslihan BOYAN, Provincial Director of National Education Yaşar KOÇAK, the Head of School of Foreign Languages Prof. Dr. Yonca ÖZKAN, senate members and academic staff members working at different departments at the university attended this academic event, hosted by Çukurova University. The First **LFAC** brought together many scholars from all around Turkey and the world and various studies in the fields such as Language Teaching, Linguistics, Sociolinguistics, Language and Culture, Language Teaching and Technology, Language and Globalization, and Literature were presented at the conference. Prestigious keynote speakers, Çukurova University faculty member and Hakkari University Vice Rector Prof. Dr. Erdoğan BADA, Gazi University faculty member Prof. Dr. Cem BALÇIKANLI and Sabancı University academic staff member Andrew BOSSON attended the conference with their invaluable contributions. Moreover, Emeritus Prof. Dr. Stephen D. KRASHEN, whose language learning hypotheses are globally known, gave his keynote speech via video conference at **LFAC '22**. The **First International Language-for-All Conference** is dedicated to Emeritus Prof. Dr. F. Özden EKMEÇİ, who made great contributions to the foundation of the School of Foreign Languages and English Language Teaching Department at Çukurova University.



Why **CU SoFL MAGAZINE**?

AIMS AND SCOPE

We wanted to create an online magazine for the School of Foreign Languages at Çukurova University to share experiences, to communicate, to network, to find useful tips for teaching and learning English.

Aims:

- to create a digital environment for English learners and instructors at schools of foreign languages where they can share their knowledge, experiences, achievements, and useful tips for colleagues and students.
- to create an online magazine for talented prep year students who would like to develop their personal and academic skills.
- to invite both teachers and students for brainstorming about the challenges and achievements at preparatory schools.
- to engage more students into creative projects and organize contests, podcasts and vcasts, video materials.
- to publish the interviews/essays/reflections of English instructors and learners from different cities in Turkey (also foreign instructors teaching in Turkey)
- to create a dynamic community, new bridges and exchanges among schools of foreign languages, departments and institutions at Çukurova university and other universities to create a new community based on common personal and professional development goals.

Submission Guidelines:

- The submission should be made as a word document.
- The submission should be in standard 12-point font, Times New Roman.
- The submission should include your name and affiliation, and a title for your work.
- The submission should include a brief biodata in a word document and a photo for each author if possible.

MESSAGES FROM SoFL TEAM

Dear students,

Our online magazine is open for you all. We accept all your creative written works such as news, memories, stories, letters, book or film reviews, poems, songs, scenarios, interview reports, etc. You are all welcome to send us any creative work of yours at any time during the academic year. You can even work collaboratively with your classmates or friends in other classes in our school. We would like to publish your creative works regularly.

We will have prompts or themes from time to time for the students who need some kind of inspiration but you can touch upon different kinds of issues that can grab the attention of your readers. You can also send your reaction letters to the written works for each issue. We will be happy to read and share them in the following issues.

Why should you write for this magazine?

- It can be an opportunity for you to improve your writing skills and share your creative skills and ideas with others on a platform.
- It can be an opportunity for you to realize your boundaries and maybe go beyond your limits through these writing experiences.
- It helps you to explore yourself and find your self-voice as a language learner and writer.

Dear Colleagues,

We are all looking forward to your contributions to our online magazine. It would be a great opportunity for our readers to benefit from your ideas and experiences. Let's create an inspiring space for each other!

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For all your questions, send an email to cusoflmagazine@gmail.com

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The theme of the fourth issue:

Language and Culture

Biodata

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The Phenomenon of English as a Lingua Franca

Language and culture are deeply intertwined as they evolve together and influence one another. However, the relationships between languages and cultures must be critically approached when looking at the contexts where English is used as a lingua franca (ELF). The term lingua franca can be described as a paradigm according to which most speakers of English are non-native speakers and all English varieties both native and non-native are accepted in their own right rather than evaluated against a native speaker benchmark.

English has a genuinely global status due to its special role as the world's primary language for international communication. Such exponential growth of ELF does not operate for a monolithic perception of language and culture with the only reference to mainstream ways of thinking and behaving. Based on this, the use of English may no longer be connected to the culture of native speakers only, as one of the primary functions of English is to enable speakers to share their ideas, cultures, beliefs, and values. As English is used to communicate in cross-cultural settings, it has now become more important to gain insights into how to develop a 'sphere of interculturality' – which can be explained as acquiring knowledge about others' culture and reflecting on one's own culture in relation to those of others. The concept of 'intercultural communicative competence' can also be highlighted in ELF settings because speakers of English negotiate between different cultures as well as representing their own individuality, values, beliefs, and behaviours. An interculturally competent speaker of English displays acknowledgment for identities of others, respect for otherness, and empathy. The notion then eliminates the goal of native speaker-level competence in English language use. Instead, it aims to develop speakers' competence of reflecting on their own cultural values as well as understanding and respecting those of others. Successful users of language in this respect are the ones who are equipped with the necessary resources of linguistic and cultural behavior to effectively participate in communication and are also aware of differences and how to handle them appropriately.

In this global era where English has the power and status of being the chief language used for international communication, it is relevant to embrace the sociolinguistic realities of various contexts as well as ensure the "cultural" shift from normativity that ELF perspective requires. As English serves the communicative needs of different communities, it follows logically that it must be diverse. It is unrealistic and irrelevant to the current sociolinguistic reality of English to stabilize it into one standard form since it is unreasonable to expect each speaker to use English like native speakers. A Spanish speaker will speak like a Spanish; an Indian will speak like an Indian, and a Turkish will speak like Turkish. What is of primary concern within ELF is *intelligibility* – which can be defined as the quality of clear communication. Raising awareness of this lingua franca status of English and its variations triggers speakers' confidence and belief in

their own accent which represents characteristics of their identity and cultural values. All in all, demanding that speakers lose their own identity and cultural background to the effect of blindly imitating native speaker behavior is a very constraining and discriminating attitude. What is relevant to the context of ELF is to embrace and respect the value of variations and foster awareness of cultural diversity.

Let language be your mirror...!

Esma DENİZ

Lecturer

Biodata

Neslihan GÜNDOĞDU is an English instructor with a 26 years of experience in teaching English to graduate and undergraduate students at the school of languages of Çukurova University. She holds a BA and MA degree in ELT. Currently, she is a PhD student, too. Her main interests in her field are material and professional development.

Evolution of the language or alienation from the mother tongue

Language is a living organism and it evolves in the culture that is born and affected by other cultures when people from different cultures speaking different languages interact with each other. During the interaction phase words are borrowed and adapted for use in other languages. These adapted words are the ones which do not exist in the target language.

Similarly, this is the case in Turkish too. In the past, the trend was adopting technical words which we did not have in Turkish. Nowadays, the trend is using English words, phrases and even sentences while writing or speaking in Turkish although they are not needed to be used. One can see the examples of this absurd use on social media. For example, when people share their photos on Instagram, they write English phrases like ‘*sister time, sisterhood, weekend vibe, new post*’ or half Turkish half English words like ‘*kahve time, Sunday keyfi, good morning millet, save etmek, ignore etmek*’. Other examples can be heard in most of the TV series on Turkish channels, too. The characters in these series use English words, phrases and sentences in their dialogues. As the viewers keep hearing them, they find this use natural. They become part of their speech in their dialogues and written texts.

This trend unfortunately causes people to become alienated from their mother tongue over time. One can witness this alienation in many incidents at different times and settings. Here comes a real story which takes place in a café in Turkey. A Turkish customer orders a coffee and a cookie in Turkish. When the waiter who is also Turkish hears the Turkish word ‘kurabiye’, he sarcastically asks the customer if he meant ‘cookie’. As the waiter’s sarcastic attitude annoys the customer, the customers answer him back by saying ‘Yes, cookie but as we both speak in Turkish I gave my order in Turkish’. Naturally, the waiter doesn’t understand the customer’s explanation in English and tells the customer he doesn’t understand what he just said. It could be inferred that with the influence of this trend people who know little English tend to go with this flow, too and even may look down on people who do not use English equivalent of the Turkish word. When we read or hear such stories, we usually laugh at them. However, through these stories we are being warned about the danger that we will face in the long run.

Now that you have become aware of this issue being raised, what can be done to enhance and enrich our mother tongue? Your suggestions and solutions are welcome on the next issue of the magazine. We can also organize a debate about this issue. If you are interested, you can contact me.

Neslihan GÜNDOĞDU

Lecturer

Intercultural Experiences from My Point of View

Cultural diversity brings variety and richness to societies in the world. In each culture, people have their own customs and traditions, body language, way of thinking, etc. When a person stays in a country and interacts with locals there, s/he starts noticing these differences and cannot help comparing the target culture with his/ her own culture. This may sometimes lead to a surprise or disappointment in the person. S/he inevitably criticizes or praises these differences.

I would like to share some of the experiences that I gained during my stay in England as an au-pair in my early twenties in 1991. My employer's mother passed away while I was working for him. After her death was announced by the family, I thought that the family's relatives and friends would rush to their house to give their condolences and support the family like in Turkish culture, but to my surprise, nobody came until the funeral whose organization took several days. Invitation cards were sent to family members and friends to attend the funeral. On the day of the funeral, the coffin of the departed was taken to the cemetery in a limousine. To my astonishment, the corpse was cremated rather than being buried. After the cremation, the ashes were buried in the cemetery. The people who were present at the funeral were hosted at the grandmother's house with some food and drinks. The guests gave their condolences to the grandmother's children and husband. Then they all left. The way the funeral was organized was like a wedding ceremony. I liked the idea of writing invitation cards to invite people to the funeral. However, I was shocked to learn that the body of the grandmother would be cremated because cremation was not acceptable in our religion.

Cultural exchanges are other incidents that I have observed. It is inevitable to have such experiences during the interaction of people from different cultures. A person can implement some aspects of another culture that s/he encounters in his life. I witnessed this implementation at the intercultural evening of a youth exchange in Belgium. I attended action 1.1 youth projects with some students from CU SoFL in Belgium years ago. As part of the project, the participants of each country organized a night to introduce their food, drinks, music and so on. When it was our turn to organize a Turkish night, we decided to cook some traditional food. While we were cooking we realized that we had run out of salt. As the shops had already closed at that time, we came up with the idea of borrowing some salt from one of the owners of the houses in the area. I sent one of the Belgian boys, David, to get some salt for us to cook our meal. Having completed cooking the meals I prepared a big plate for the family who lent us some salt and sent the plate with David to thank them for their help. He asked me why I gave the food to the family. I explained that this was part of our culture. The following evening it was the Belgian night. While the Belgian participants were making a dessert, they realized that they had forgotten to buy some biscuits. As the shops were closed at that time too, the Belgian participants obtained the biscuits from the owner of a café nearby. After the meals and desserts were ready, I saw David going out of the building with some food on a big plate. I asked him who the food was for. He told me that the food was for the owner of the café who provided the biscuits for them. I was so happy to see that David implemented what he saw from us the previous night.

In conclusion, we must bear in mind that we have no right to criticize people's behaviors from other cultures because our reactions to other cultures usually stem from the culture in which we were raised. In order to overcome our prejudices against other cultures, we should try to understand the underlying reasons for that particular behaviour.

Neslihan GÜNDOĞDU

Lecturer



Biodata

Marquis Teacher is a dedicated English Resource Advisor providing English education guidance, monitoring student progress, and helping students meet their English educational requirements and goals.

CULTURE & LANGUAGE

What Came First?

Language is a necessary component in the process of developing a culture. Isn't communication a vital requirement for humans? Humans have been communicating with one another and engaging in a range of activities since the beginning of time. Because of this, the language was developed first, for obvious reasons. The genesis and center of a civilization can be traced back to its language. Over time, numerous languages emerged. Furthermore, many other languages are still spoken around the world. Only roughly 200 of the world's over 7,000 languages are still utilized in their original spoken and written forms. A large proportion of the languages have become extinct.

Nobody really knows where language first emerged for humans. It is generally accepted that the first humans, Homo sapiens, communicated with one another using some form of spoken language. On the other hand, there are no surviving records of this early language to shed light on the genesis of speech. The origin of the word "culture" may be traced back to the Latin word "colere," which literally translates to "to grow anything out of the earth." The fact that we all have the same background brings us closer together than anything else. Language gives us the ability to communicate with one another as well as to express who we are. It enables us to communicate with one another, interpret the world around us, and entertain ourselves.

Language is the means through which humans interact with one another via a system of "spoken, written, or nonverbal symbols." Culture is utilization by the features and patterns of behavior that are shared by its members. Culture is typically broken down into its primary components, which include linguistics, the arts, and social customs. Language changes regularly to reflect a culture's shifting ideals. And you need to understand the other to comprehend the first. Language has an impact on all facets of social life. Understanding the local culture is also an important part of learning a language. Language also allows cultural values to arise and grow. On all fronts, culture encompasses a much broader range of topics. In addition, our culture instructs us on how to think, how to connect with other people, and how to view the world around us. The latter facilitates the utilization of our cultural point of view. In conclusion, language and culture are inextricably intertwined. All our essential beliefs, norms, and social connections are influenced by culture. Language, on the other hand, accelerates these interactions.

Types of Culture and The Important Types:

1. Art- Can be expressed via many mediums in culture. Dance, music, and painting are several main components under cultural art.
2. Literature- Holds the secrets to our cultural fabric. Stories, dramas, poetry, to include manuscripts, act as windows piercing into another culture.
3. Spiritual- Our spiritual belief also shines a light on our culture. Prayers, worship, and belief are a few ways toward understanding someone's culture.
4. Behavioral- The way we act around family, may differ from how we act around our close associates. Traditions, myths, and customs, allow the former to happen.

The Importance of Culture

1. Teach- It teaches community equality, love, and respect towards each other.
2. Encourage- It encourages art forms with a wide range of audiences.
3. Help- It helps to understand and exchange ideas with each other. Also, in respecting and appreciating other cultures.
4. Preserve- It preserves cultural ideas and traditions. In addition, supports people to contribute in ways that help society to grow and flourish.

Disclaimer: The aforementioned guidelines are not meant to be followed exactly as written. They are there to serve as a beacon for anyone who could be disoriented or caught in a secluded area without any light.

What We Can Learn from Learning Another's Culture?

It is essential that we come to terms with the fact that our culture prevents us from living in seclusion from other people. It encourages closer bonds between individuals. In addition, social connection with others improves people's ability to see and recognize shared explainable experiences that can be explained in the same way. We share a culture that does not belong to any one individual because it is shared by all of us. Our cultures may also include things like ethics, principles, and customs, among other things. The profound essence of a culture can be transmitted orally or in writing from one generation to the next. It is a process that is ongoing and never comes to an end. In a similar manner, it adapts to new adjustments depending on the current time and the circumstance

Culture is the most significant and indispensable facet of our existence. It is not a characteristic that is found in individuals by default. Respect for one another and shared understandings among members of a group of communities are the bedrocks of cultural inheritance. A distinction can be made between materialistic and non-materialistic cultures, and this distinction is at least as essential as the latter. In spite of the fact that we all currently reside in this era, there are certain traditions that we continue to uphold. First and foremost, every culture has its own group of festivals and customs, which are celebrated and observed. The environment plays a significant role in the cultural evolution that takes place. The core of the traditions, on the other hand, continues to be preserved. Therefore, upholding a set of morally admirable principles.

In today's world, everyone is connected and strives to understand the cultures of others. Do you have a firm grasp on the idea that different cultures coexist? Appreciating individuals of different cultures, traditions, languages, interests, and skill sets, as well as being able to cohabit with them,

is essentially what cultural diversity boils down to. The energy is maintained via common agreements respecting everyone within any given cultural background. Culture refers to the qualities of individuals or groups based on their conventions, traditions, beliefs, language, and so on. For a better way of life, we must accept and appreciate various cultures and customs. Furthermore, we may take care to shine a light on cultures that interest us for living in greater harmony together.

Understanding Language

The term “Language” is understood by the Trivium referring it (language) to be the primary medium through which all communications take place. The study of language in logical, intellectual, and interactive systems is linked to the utilization of words in a definite and regular pattern in human communication. This pattern may be found in both spoken and written language. In all spoken languages, vowels and consonants can be formed into syllables, and syllables can be segmented into components such as vowel and consonant. Additionally, some languages can appear in a variety of ways to sound the same while communicating different meanings.

The human language system is alive and well, and its maintenance and development are wholly dependent on the interactions and teachings of other people. According to the findings of research, the development of language occurred as earlier hominids gradually improved their hominoid communication systems to achieve the ability to speak with other minds and share their lived experiences. Moreover, we as humans have developed a universal language that enables us to communicate with one another. Moving forward, language is a collection of terms that individuals from the same community or nation, geographical area, or cultural tradition use.

Language gives us the ability to communicate our thoughts, feelings, and inquiries about the world that surrounds us. People who speak languages that are mutually intelligible to each other include those who share a common language, but those who are bilingual, or multilingual do not. Furthermore, language is characterized by features such as incoherence, sterility, inventiveness, structure, vocality, sociability, lack of instinct, and consistency. The term “language” may also refer to the cognitive ability to learn and use systems of composite communication when it is used as a general concept, it can refer to the set of rules that constructs these systems, or it can refer to the set of utterances that can be produced from those rules. All these interpretations are supported by research in the field of philosophy.

Marquis WILLIAMS

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Biodata

Olha KUNT, Ukrainian by nationality, moved to Turkey in 2009 and has been working as an English language instructor at the School of Foreign Languages at Çukurova University since 2010. She graduated from Zaporizhzhya National University in 2005 (Ukraine), and obtained her diploma as a teacher of both English and French.

In keeping with her professional development, she completed her MA in Didactics of Foreign Languages and Academic Research from the Le Mans Université (France, 2015-2019). As an academician, she is interested in creative writing and teaching higher order thinking skills through creative and scaffolding techniques. In March 2020, Olha also completed the CELTA Course (ITI Istanbul Training Center) and can add being a confident online study skills tutor to her teaching skills. She is fluent in Russian, Ukrainian, English, French and Turkish languages, and is interested in different cultures.

Language and the Self

Throughout the history of our civilization, language, as a living system reflecting the progress and development of mankind, has constantly changed over time. Nations around the world have created modern realities and social codes where language always indicates age, gender, religion, socioeconomic class, and membership in culture and ethnicity. The country where you were born, the background that you have got and the languages that you speak, form your identity and let others discover your origin. The acquisition of the first language helps us to explore the world around us and to construct the concepts of our neighborhood. Learning of a second language always leads to the understanding of another culture and builds a bridge between the language and the new environment. On the other hand, language is also an instrument that preserves the customs and traditions of a group and helps to transmit the most precious information and achievements from one generation to the next.

What about people who can speak more than 5 languages? Do they have a special button in the brain that allows them to turn on and off different languages? Do the characters in their dreams speak different languages? Can they lose their identity and belonging to their ethnos, if they learn more languages? Being fluent in Ukrainian, Russian, English, French and Turkish, makes me belong to the multilingual people, the so-called "polyglots". I often hear questions like these and I have started to search for my own answers.

I was born and lived in Ukraine until I was 25 years old. Like the majority of the population of Ukraine, I have been raised and have studied in a bilingual language environment. Russian and Ukrainian languages co-existed and provided all citizens with the choice which language to use in their daily life for decades. However, since 2004 "the language question" in combination with the politics of Ukrainization totally changed the vector of the country's development and the lives of millions. The current war in Ukraine is the war for Independence and language plays one of the significant roles in national identification and sense of ethnicity.

As a student, I started to learn French at school and later English at the university. Moreover, I had a fantastic opportunity to visit France and to listen to native speakers as tutors, as the schools and universities have had strong networks and international exchange programs. I started to compare

and analyze what the differences and the similarities are among cultures, customs, behaviors, and communication. Knowing the French language contributed a lot to my learning of the basic concepts of linguistics and the theory of communication. French also became the key to the concepts of architecture, museums and Fine Arts.

English language learning made me aware of the fact how important it is to build an international network and keep on professional documentation. My immigration and marriage experience also contributed a lot to my awareness. My career, employment and professional development were established due to my knowledge of the English language.

The Turkish Language was a huge challenge at first. As it is an agglutinative language, it has got an unusual structure and logic for a foreigner. It took me about 2,5 years to achieve B1 level and a strong belief in my willpower and capacity to learn totally new concepts and constructions in a limited time. Learning the Turkish Language let me discover the rich cultural mosaic of Turkey, its incredible gastronomy and history. Many people tell me that they can see the “Turkish side” of my personality, as I have been living and working in Turkey for the last 13 years and I truly admire local cultural heritage and have enormous respect for the elderly people.

At the moment, I started my journey into learning Python, the programming language. As the future of education will be related to digitalization, Artificial Intelligence and coding, I would like to get prepared well.

To summarize, speaking several languages gives people the opportunity to discover different cultures, mindset and customs. However, over the years and the countries, I realized that various languages of different nations represent common values of mankind. Your origin and ethnicity cannot be deleted over the years, because there is only one country and culture called your “Homeland”. Nevertheless, you must develop your skills, keep on your personal and professional development by using languages as a powerful tool.

Olha KUNT

Lecturer

Biodata

Cemile BUĞRA is a lecturer at CU SoFL. She has been teaching prep classes for almost 11 years. She holds a BA and MA degree in ELT. Currently, she is going on her PhD studies in ELT. Her main interests are teacher education and professional development. She is also interested in doing academic research and projects. She has some publications mostly about teacher research, collaborative action research, and exploratory research.

A Vicious Cycle: Language Shapes Culture or It Is Vice Versa?

A language is not just words. It is a culture, a tradition, a unification of a community, a whole history that creates what a community is. It is all embodied in a language.

Noam Chomsky

Culture and language are intertwined concepts that are hard to separate from each other and they have been embedded into one another, which makes them inseparable. When culture and language are evaluated in a broader sense, there is a cause-and-effect dilemma that raises lots of questions in the minds of people.

Since human beings started to live in communities, they have constituted some forms of habits, life styles, customs and rituals, etc. based on the geographic conditions they have been exposed to. Nonetheless, culture has such a powerful influence on human life that it can shape people's characteristics, behaviours, opinions, ideas, the way they approach an issue, and the way they speak. On the other hand, the language they speak affects the way they think and the way their minds work. It affects how they feel and how they express themselves about something that happens to them or they encounter in life. In short, culture and language shape people's identity, way of living, thinking, understanding etc.

Human beings are really complicated living beings on earth. Do you think they can all understand each other? Or do they pretend to do it? I am really curious about this. Being able to understand another person is a highly complicated phenomenon. Even people who speak the same language cannot understand each other literally. At this point, I really wonder whether people who speak different languages can understand each other completely without any conflicts or problems. If we think about the people who use pidgin language, how do they deal with communication problems? Moreover, if they speak a common language different from their mother tongues, is it possible for them to convey their messages without any meaning loss and understand each other truly?

We know that languages have different features, structures, forms, orders, and word varieties etc., which leads to a kind of barrier between people whose mother tongues are different. For instance, in some languages, there are no equivalents of some words when compared to another language. Particularly, authentic language items such as idiomatic, and metaphoric expressions are hard to translate and convey through another language. Therefore, this creates a gap between people from different cultures even if they speak the same languages. And Rumi says "Silence is the language of god, all else is poor translation." Do you agree with him? Is it impossible to translate from one language to another? This is most probably because of the cultural differences between languages. However, learning another language can help you understand more as Geoffrey Willans stated: "You can never understand one language until you understand at least two." Here we can realize that learning other languages and exploring more about other languages may help us to understand

the languages and communicate better as well since we would gain a broader sense of linguistic and cultural competence and awareness.

If we talk about communication issues, can we say that we are able to communicate with each other perfectly? Knowing the language/s is enough for communication or not? There are lots of elements and factors which affect these processes. Do we choose all those words and make sentences consciously or unconsciously? We use different types of languages in different contexts such as standard/formal, informal, regional or social dialects, etc. How do we decide what to use and where? To what extent can we do this properly? How do we use the language: automatically, naturally or wisely?

When it comes to miscommunication, there is more to say. Why do we misunderstand each other? It is because of our level of education, our values, perceptions, our cultural differences or we don't want to understand each other. There are lots of questions in my mind. I wonder whether we have power over our mind or our mind has power over us. And I remember a saying from Nelson Mandela: "If you talk to a man in a language that he understands, that goes to his head. If you talk to him in his language, that goes to his heart." As can be understood from this, the way that we use language matters in communication rather than knowing the language itself. Hence, knowing the language is not enough. We need to learn how to use it properly and effectively to be able to communicate well. And we can make it possible by being open-minded and being able to be aware of cultural diversity and embrace it thoroughly both from local and global perspectives as language and culture cannot be thought of separately.

All things considered, there are lots of variables that lead to a cause-and-effect dilemma between language and culture. While language and culture affect each other reciprocally, they influence our lives as well. And as humans, we contribute to the evolution of language and culture at the same time. In brief, language and culture are dynamic in nature and indispensable components of human life, which should be evaluated from various dimensions.

Cemile BUĞRA

Lecturer

Biodata

Seda GÜLER graduated from the Department of English Language Education at Çukurova University and completed her PhD degree in English Language Education at the same university. During her PhD, she studied interdisciplinary skills. She worked in various state schools. Currently, she has been working as an English language instructor at the School of Foreign Languages, Çukurova University.

Language & Culture

Language and culture, a chicken and egg situation...The undeniable truth is that the two are indispensable. Learning a language also means learning about the culture. The words and their meanings represent the culture of the communities. You may find more words to express a single phenomenon in a different language than yours or sometimes you can't find any corresponding ones that give the same taste or deep meaning that you mean. For instance; 'hoşbulduk' in Turkish doesn't have an exact equivalent in English so we can respond to welcome just by saying 'thanks' in English. Therefore, we learn language and culture together while learning English at SoFL. As English is an international language, we transfer our beliefs, values, traditions, etc., and exchange ideas when communicating with other people. Thus, we are also learning about not only American or British culture, but also the culture of various societies, and keeping up with the necessities of this globalized world. When we learn English, we see and understand different perspectives and become more flexible and open-minded, so learning English can also contribute to our personality and character. Considering this relationship between language and culture, my advice to my students is to try to learn the language in context and benefit from many different sources. In this context, technology can be a very useful tool. The library of SoFL and the central library of Çukurova University are also available for the access of our students. All in all, our students must learn English in such a cosmopolitan world, and to understand and use the language effectively, they need to be aware of the language-culture relation.

Seda GÜLER

Lecturer

Biodata

Ali AVŞAR is an English instructor with 29 years of experience in teaching English to graduate and undergraduate students at different higher education institutions. He holds a BA, MA and PhD degrees in ELT. His main interests in his field are general linguistics, discourse and personal and professional development.

The LFAC as a Personal Experience

On 21 and 22 October, 2022, YADYO hosted a conference with the title “Languages for All Conference” at Mithat Özsan Conference Hall at our university. The presentations covered a lot of subjects spanning from literature to field linguistics. It was an experience. I find this occasion a chance to thank Prof. Dr. Yonca ÖZKAN, the Head of School of Foreign Languages, and the conference preparation team, once again.

I would like to write about some of the presentations that I attended. On the first day, I was very happy to listen to Prof. Dr. Özden EKMEKÇİ, the founder of School of Foreign Languages, whom the LFAC Conference was dedicated to, talking about how she worked through opportunities and challenges that led to the formation of an ELT “school” at Çukurova University, in 1980s and 90s. The soil was barren, but thanks to those who worked hard and used “thinking time” trying to do the right things, we now live and work in a “nourishing” university environment. This once again shows that good things never come true without hard work and love.

Prof. Dr. Erdoğan BADA’s presentation was a “dramatic” reminder that we, language teachers and learners, live a life in the classroom, that we are sentimental and human, that we are weak and strong, in addition to the language teaching techniques and methods and materials we use. After this presentation, it was time for an unforgettable moment in which I got to listen to Prof. Stephen Krashen, who is a language learning theorist and who was an unreachable, distant star for us, because we only read about his ideas in books, and we never met him. It was an online presentation, but still it was a very effective talk that I will never forget. By the way, Professor Krashen was also a great talker and a storyteller.

After all these memorable, cherishable moments, it was very interesting to listen to a presentation that set on the table the “emotional work and labour” teachers do in the classroom. We don’t just teach, but we use our “emotions” in our work to adjust to the forever changing situations in the classroom interaction with the book, the environment, and the students. Our emotions are “assets”, we use them, we control them to create an environment in the classroom that would, hopefully, appeal to learners. Wow, wow, wow. I know this may come to you as obvious, but when I put it like this, I find it more astounding. Every and each human interaction is a kind of emotional exchange, and we must be careful not to make the environment “dirty” with spilling and spreading “contaminated” feelings here and there. We give and take feelings, so we must be careful about the quality of feelings we accept, and we give away and out.

Another presentation that I found very interesting was Kumari MAMTA’s work on her documentation of linguistic components that people used in their daily lives to describe “rarities of things”. At first, I didn’t understand the title, but when I read the abstract, I understood that people in daily life use a lot of different kinds of phrases to express a similar meaning to “some, a few, a little.” So, Ms. MAMTA collected data using field linguistics techniques by visiting groups of people in remote areas of India. She said that without proper documentation, any linguistic

peculiarity will disappear forever. By the way, what she did by travelling to remote areas of India to collect data from the local groups of people was like a biologist's trip to the Amazon Forests to collect animal and plant specimens from the canopy of trees. People in the photos that show nature scientists working in the wild make it look easy, and Ms. MAMTA also made it look easy in the presentation, but I am sure it had a lot of challenges. If we give an example from our city, it is like collecting data from the citizens about the rarities they use in their daily lives or going to remote areas of Adana to collect linguistic data from the villagers on the skirts of the Gothic looking Taurus mountains. I just wonder now if there are any linguists in Turkey documenting linguistic data in the field.

Another presentation that I personally found interesting was from Dr. Betül GÜLERYÜZ ADAMHASAN and Dr. Figen YILMAZ on the "Representation of Global Issues in EFL Textbooks". They studied the visual content and tasks of coursebooks and found out that some global issues were just "touched upon" using a single visual and not at all integrated into reading, listening, or other tasks. For me, even simple grammar books or children's books are a venue where one or more topics are given more recognition or status or weight by getting people to think and talk about them here and now. And not surprisingly, coursebook writers decide on those topics. However, we, teachers, are not "robotic practitioners" or "by-standers" or "viewers". We are the choosers. I don't mean we have a lot of choice, but still being aware is a great social position where you have the ability and power to evaluate and act when needed by voicing our ideas.

My personal account of the LFAC sessions shows that conferences are a journey and an experience. So, thank you very much again for organizing such a nice conference. I already look forward to attending next year's conference.

Ali AVŞAR

Lecturer

Students' Voices from CU SoFL

Our "**First International Language-for-All Conference**" also gave the opportunity for some of our students to attend and experience the conference. Here are some of their reflections.

Conference Reports

The program was so wonderful that I both enjoyed and learned new information while watching it. Everyone who spoke on the program was very impressive. All presenters conveyed their presentation very effectively to the audience. They answered the questions about the presentations very clearly. I was very impressed especially when Prof. Dr. Erdoğan BADA gave a speech. He had prepared his presentation very well. It was as if he was living what he was talking about during the presentation. He used all gestures and facial expressions and even his whole body while speaking. In addition, he managed to attract my attention more when he was speaking, sometimes by raising his voice and sometimes by lowering it. When he finished his speech, I realized that I had a really valuable time and learned new things. That day will remain in my memory as an unforgettable day. Because I have never participated in a program where such knowledgeable people spoke before in my life. It was a very nice experience for me. I hope I have a chance to participate in many more programs like that.

Menekşe AKÇA

I learned a lot of things from the conference organized by YADYO that I have never heard and known before. After the conference I said to myself that I still have a lot to learn from Prof. Dr. Erdoğan BADA's speech was the one that impressed me the most at the conference. His speech on human emotions, his dominance on the stage, knowing how to attract people's attention and being able to convey his feelings to the other person was really amazing. I also learned interesting things that I didn't know about metaphors from Elif KEMALOĞLU's presentation. I am not aware of how many areas of metaphors are used and how much they can tell people. In short, this conference has been a force that broadened my horizons and pushed me to learn new things.

Seher HALMAN

Being for the first time at the conference was such a special experience and I was so happy about being with the experts of my dream job. Also, I was so impressed by the presentation of all instructors since these made me more motivated about the presentation of my assignment. However, in my opinion Prof. Dr. Erdoğan BADA's presentation was different from others because the speech was more remarkable and enjoyable.

I have to say that Prof. Dr. Özden EKMEKÇİ's speech made me very emotional since learning how the place where I study was set up made me more excited for my department. Finally, being with different people from different countries but speaking the same language and meeting up for the same aim was such a unique experience that I am looking forward to the next conference.

Belgin EKİCİ

The conference started with Prof. Dr. Özden EKMEKÇİ's speech. She is so knowledgeable and experienced. During the conservation, I saw that she was emotional when she talked about past events. This influenced me about my future. After that, Prof. Erdoğan BADA gave a very successful lecture. He is very skilled at using body language and facial expressions. After the break, we listened to the English teacher Yunus Kürşat ÇELİK about "Perspectives of Turkish High School EFL Learners on the Language Learning Strategies." His narration was very descriptive and studied. When someone from the audience asked a question, he explained in a good way. And finally, English Teacher Agnieszka BOJARCZUK-TUNCER made a very fluent speech about "Linguistic Education of English as a Second Language for Children with Special Educational Needs at Early Ages in Public Schools in Poland". Her speech is my favorite part. In short, this conference gave me a different perspective as a preparatory student. It was a pleasure for me.

İrem TARAL

It was a pleasure for me to attend such a conference about cultures and language. I love every speaker. They gave me lots of things to think about again but one person, Prof. Dr. Özden EKMEKÇİ, spoke from the bottom of her heart. It was like watching an old movie while listening to her. She is so perfect and a brilliant person. If I have a chance to talk with her one day, I think I would cry. She gave me so much inspiration. I also attended the other speakers' presentations. The first one was about "Shakespeare and Feminism". I learned so many things so I am so thankful for the speaker. She was so good. I also attended my teachers' presentation, Mrs. Agnieszka BOJARCZUK-TUNCER. She was so good. She was so confident and I love every detail of her presentation. Thanks to everybody who worked for this conference. I'm looking forward to next year!

Bilal BAYRAKTAROĞLU

It was a pleasure for me to get together with Prof. Dr. Özden EKMEKÇİ, who is a very successful pioneer in a lot of important projects for our school. Everything was prepared meticulously. Teachers addressed many important topics. Therefore, I got inspiration about some sensitive issues like education of disabled children and methodology techniques for learning English. I think it was helpful to understand the significance of preparatory class and its students' physiology too. I really enjoyed when Prof. Dr. Erdoğan BADA was presenting. Because his narrative style was so interesting, attractive and entertaining. So it was very impressive. Ms. Agnieszka BOJARCZUK-TUNCER's presentation was so informative and fluent.

In summary, I generally liked the symposium but there was a point that bothered me. While the teacher was giving a presentation I also focused on the projection where the same things were written. Nevertheless, it wasn't so important when compared to the rest of the speech. The conference was very meaningful for me and my friends so I'm glad that I was there.

Lamia BAYTEKİN

Recently, I attended the first Language for All conference of YADYO. It was an incredible experience for me. Firstly, our YADYO manager Prof. Dr. Yonca ÖZKAN welcomed us warmly and thanked us. The conference started with Prof. Dr. Özden EKMEKÇİ's speech. She talked about her career and establishment of YADYO. She's a successful person and influenced me a lot. Then, Prof. Dr. Erdoğan BADA showed us his talent on drama. He was such a talented person. We were impressed by his presentation. After a short coffee break, Yunus Kürşat ÇELİK spoke about language learning strategies. He explained them fluently and contributed a lot to us. Later, Agnieszka BOJARCZUK-TUNCER's presentation about second language learning of students in Poland informed us a lot. It was a very educational conference and I'm happy to participate.

İmren CANBOLAT

Recently, I attended the conference held by the School of Foreign Languages. The conference first started with Prod. Dr. Özden EKMEKÇİ's speech. She was such a sweet woman and I was very impressed with her and I want to be someone like her one day. Then we watched a presentation by Prof. Dr. Erdoğan BADA. He is very talented and he talks about what happened in the drama. I'm really very happy to see someone as talented as him. After a short break there was a speech "Perspectives of Turkish High School EFL learners on the Languages Learning Strategies" by Yunus Kürşat ÇELİK. He explained fluently by listing many items. Later we watched Agnieszka BOJARCZUK-TUNCER's presentation. Her presentation informed us a lot. To sum up, this conference changed my perspective on some issues in a positive way and I'm very happy to participate.

Duygu HARCAN

Hello, I have never joined a conference like this for the first time in my life and I think it was such a good experience for me. I liked the atmosphere there, which was both formal and entertaining. Moreover, I'm so impressed by Prof. Dr. Özden EKMEKÇİ's academic career; she had put her signature to important events which were related to foreign education at Çukurova University. Also, she was a very kind and sympathetic person according to her attitudes. From my point of view, activities like this conference should be organized more frequently because they can be beneficial for students in terms of experiencing some academic organizations.

Rana ANTEPLİOĞLU

I had the chance to attend the conference in YADYO. A lot of professors joined this conference and the speech informed us. I was impressed by Prof. Dr. Erdoğan BADA. Firstly, Prof. Erdoğan BADA can speak about important issues in a funny way. In fact, me and my friends laughed at his acting. But when I started to watch him seriously, I liked it a lot. This is why his describing emotional states was so realistic. Even if some people laughed at him, he didn't care and continued his speech. I was amazed by his confidence and his stance on stage. Because of the fact that I don't have self-confidence, I was inspired by that. If he gives a speech again, I will definitely join it.

Azra SOYSAL

I learned a lot of things from the conference organized by YADYO that I have never heard and known before. After the conference I said to myself that I still have a lot to learn. Prof. Dr. Erdoğan BADA's speech was the one that impressed me the most at the conference. His speech on human emotions, his dominance on the stage, knowing how to attract people's attention and being able to convey his feelings to the other person was really amazing. I also learned interesting things that I didn't know about metaphors from Elif KEMALOĞLU's presentation. I am not aware of much they can tell people. In short, this conference has been a force that broadened my horizons and pushed me to learn new things.

Seher HALMAN

It was such a good experience for me to be at the conference. There were a lot of experienced people in their own field. By listening to their presentations, I have learned a few beneficial points. For example, I have learned to be determined from Prof. Dr. Özden EKMEKÇİ's speech. Her experiences were so profound and inspiring. Although I did not attend all of them, there were a lot of presentations and a lot of different topics which are all beneficial for students. I just attended four of them and I have to say all were informative. I hope these types of events increase. Finally, I want to thank all of the presenters and teachers.

İkbal KÜÇÜKCAN

It was my first conference experience and I can say it was different for me. I joined conferences "Live and Relieve Through Drama in the Classroom" and "An Examination of Shakespeare's Twelfth Night or What You will From the Perspective of Feminist Theory." I had so much fun in the first one and I learned that drama helps us discover true ourselves. In the second one, I admired Shakespeare because he had the ability to reflect a female character even if he was a man and helped us to witness closely those women who may have experienced difficulties in the seventeenth century.

İlknur TİLKİ

At the conference, everything was great for me. It was a pleasure to get together with Professor Özden EKMEKÇİ, who is a successful administrator and is making a contribution for YADYO. Everyone prepared conscientiously. As for the conference's topic, all of them were important, especially about preparatory class. Moreover, I learned different strategies for learning English from Hasan AHKEMOĞLU. He researched comprehensively his topic and so his presentation was fluent. I think Prof. Dr. Erdoğan BADA's presentation was funny because he was very energetic and this kept the audience's mind open. Of course, my teacher Agnieszka BOJARCZUK-TUNCER's presentation was enlightening and attractive. Because she used her body language and mimics. To sum up, I learned a lot of efficiency from the conference both about my career and learning English. And I'm glad that I was there.

Berivan KEKİL

Being a participant in the first YADYO conference is something I won't forget. The conference was well thought and designed from the waiting hall to the conference hall. I really enjoyed the Turkish coffee and pastries they served. Being able to have a video conference with one of the most important people for YADYO, Prof. Dr. Özden EKMEKÇİ, was a wonderful start for the conference. It was really nice to see my own teacher Ms. Agnieszka BOJARCZUK-TUNCER on the stage and her presentation was really good at making people aware of the needs and differences of students who need special education. This conference was not just educational but entertaining too. Prof. Dr. Erdoğan BADA's performance was really enjoyable. I am looking forward to the future conferences and I want to thank all the YADYO authorities who made this conference possible.

Namık Sedat ÜNLÜ

First of all, I have to thank YADYO for giving us such a valuable opportunity to learn many things about the education systems in Turkey and Poland. And we also learned about metaphors. As a preparatory student and an English teacher candidate the speeches were quite helpful and necessary for me. The topics were exactly what we are into to learn about our fields. All the conference was entertaining enough and very essential for our future academic life.

Öznur ÖZCAN

I watched a lecture by Prof. Stephen KRASHEN about how we acquire language on Youtube. I learned new information about language acquisition. The idea of everyone acquiring language in the same way is one of them and this is interesting. Because I was thinking that there are ways that change according to different ways like individual variation. This idea made more sense with the examples which were presented. For example, Prof. KRASHEN gave two brief lessons. In one of them, he speaks only German language, but in the other, he speaks by drawing pictures or showing gestures. This way we understand what you mean and it is called comprehensible input. Prof. KRASHEN said that "We acquire language when we understand what people tell us. Not how they say it, but what they say." I think that was the most beautiful sentence. Also, to the main presentation, he added funny stories, adjusted the tone and spoke rate were other nice things.

Rüya ŞENKUT

The following are the conclusions I made after Prof. Stephen KRASHEN's video. Language learning has nothing to do with any part of the brain, neither above, below, nor left and right. According to him, it is not useful to just hear a language or repeat what has been said. Stephen KRASHEN says there is only one way to learn a language. That is to understand the message. Pictures, world knowledge, and realia can help us. According to KRASHEN, in terms of foreign language performance, there are two fundamental approaches: acquisition and learning. The acquisition seems to be an authentic and natural process of languages like people acquire their native language as a child through genuine exposure and natural communication.

Akiye Berra ESGİCİ

Conference Reflection

Hello everybody,

There were many presenters at the conference who inspired us. For example, Prof. Dr. Stephen KRASHEN. We knew that he was an important speaker so even though we weren't able to listen to him we were able to get the outline of his speech. If you'd like, you can get a copy of it by contacting us or you can find his other speeches on the internet. In addition, Andrew BOSSON's workshop and Prof. Dr. Erdoğan BADA's drama were very inspiring.

However, it was Prof. Dr. Cem BALÇIKANLI's speech that motivated us to take action. He talked about a cafe that had previously taken place in Ankara. Some people went there in order to speak English. So, they gave this idea the name "English Café". They were gathering and speaking English at a café in Ankara. No one was judging another. So, we have made the decision to start such a thing. It doesn't have to be a café. It can be done at school, in the dorm or in any place in Adana. The place, the time or the number of people who join us don't matter. We'll remain steady on this idea. We have an announcement to share with you! If you'd like to join us you can find us in class 303. We would be glad to see your participation!

Nesrin ÖZHEKTİ

Hatice ALKAN

Çağla AKAN

Biodata

Mehmet Arda ACARCA, Halil Mert ULUĞ, Ekin Rodi BOZDAĞ, Vahit GÜZEL, Ahmet Erdem ÖNDAŞ - EC 103

Languages and Culture

Languages and culture are lively. They live and die. People change cultures and languages voluntarily. For example, foreign words in some songs affect languages. Songs change culture overtime. Sometimes the words that enter the language in restaurants and cafes affect the language, so culture changes and gets lost. Sometimes people's daily life can be affected and changed in cultures. Social media is very intertwined with people. It can influence people in all kinds of ways. For example, a sentence or word on social media affects people. People unconsciously use that word or sentence as if it were their own language. Later, that word or sentence is heard in everyone's mouth. No one is aware of it but it slowly changes the culture. Social media, streets, restaurants, cafes are very effective in people's lives. They can change people's language. People don't even think they do it themselves.

Mehmet Arda ACARCA
Halil Mert ULUĞ
Ekin Rodi BOZDAĞ
Vahit GÜZEL
Ahmet Erdem ÖNDAŞ

EC 103

Biodata:

Class of 102: Ali Umut, Ayşe, Bilge, Dođukan, Ebru, Esmâ, Ferdanur, Fırat, Hümeyra, Akif, Çağlar, Oğuzhan, Rümeyşa, Sema, Silâ, Silâ Nur, Sinem, Şebnem, Şevval, Emre, Burak, Neşet

Language and Culture

Language and culture affect each other in many ways. Firstly, culture shapes the words in a language. Some words have different meanings in different languages. For example, “horse” is important for Turkish people, because Turkish people were nomads. Horses were important for transportation and wars. But for other countries, it is just an animal. Secondly, history and historical events affect or change language. For instance, the internet created new words. Also, people share their culture by speaking. They speak about their traditions, so they share their culture. Lastly, we learn about other cultures when we learn another language. In conclusion, language and culture are inseparable concepts.



Biodata

I'm Berat YANAR and I'm 19 years old. I'm from Antalya and I'm studying at SoFL, Cukurova University. My department is ELT.

My name is İlknur Sena SAYGILI. I am 19 years old and I am studying at Cukurova University. My department is English Language Teaching.

My name is Anıl Şahin GÜNGÖRMÜŞ and I am 18 years old. I am studying at SoFL at Cukurova University. I am an English Language Teaching student.

Pros and Cons of Cultural Diversity

The definition of culture is “all the ways of life including arts, beliefs and institutions of a population that are passed down from generation to generation. Culture has been called “the way of life for an entire society.” As such, it includes codes of manners, dress, language, religion, rituals, art.” Culture helps us to know our own roots. Each person reflects the characteristics of their own culture. In general, every country has its own culture. And they are all different. This creates cultural diversity. The meaning of cultural diversity is “the existence of a variety of cultural or ethnic groups within a society.” Firstly, cultural diversity helps us understand each other better with other people. Because as people share their culture, we will all be able to learn new things. And when we learn, we can even start using it in our daily life. If there was no diversity, life would go on monotonously. In other words, we would all turn into robots. Secondly, cultural diversity helps us understand our weaknesses and strengths better. When we see someone who has different behaviour and different habits it helps us to know how to behave more politely and whether our behaviours are polite or impolite. Without this cultural diversity everyone would be the same, would act the same. This makes life unbearable. Life wouldn't be fun and we wouldn't learn other things. We mean, for example, we wouldn't have other types of food, other types of clothes and other types of instruments. This diversity makes life better and thanks to this diversity there are always things to learn. Imagine all of the people have one greeting, all of them eat certain types of food, this would be really boring. Cultural diversity prevents this. But there are also bad sides. For example, cultural diversity may lead to cultural shock. If a person who is not accustomed to another culture, goes to another region that's culture is different from his/her country's culture he/she may have some difficulties. These difficulties can include food culture, lifestyle, traditional days and many other things. On the other hand, the second bad side is racist people. There may be people that are just defending their own culture and refusing all other cultures. This situation may lead to serious conflicts and can turn people against each other. In conclusion, cultural diversity has both good and bad sides. Even though it has bad sides, it is mostly beneficial for our life.

Berat YANAR

İlknur Sena SAYGILI

Anıl Şahin GÜNGÖRMÜŞ

Biodata

*Hi! I am **Ceren AYIK**. I am a student in the School of Foreign Languages at Çukurova University. My department is English Language Teaching.*

Dances

The world we live in is home to many different cultures. Just as each of us has an identity, each culture has its own unique identity. Customs and traditions, languages, types of music, clothing, foods, dances and many more constitute cultural diversity. Our differences do not separate us, on the contrary, they strengthen and connect us. Different cultures are like flowers with different colors and scents. The combination of all the flowers makes the world a beautiful garden. I want to talk about one of the most beautiful issues of diversity: Dances. Here are a few...

Waltz: The waltz is an Austrian dance. Its most distinctive feature is that couples dance tightly with each other and rotate around a point.

Samba: It is a representation of the culture of a country. Brought to Brazil in the 19th century and performed at the world-famous Rio Carnival, this dance has more than seven varieties.

Salsa: It is a modern dance of Latin America and the United States. Salsa is a freestyle dance, has no rules, and is improvised.

Hopak: Hopak, the dance of Ukraine, has been performed since the 16th century. It is improvised. Hopak was a dance originally performed by soldiers as a victory.

Bharatanatyam: It is a dance native to the Tamil Nadu region of India. Mimics are used in this dance. Hand, arm movements and distinctive facial expressions are the most important features of the dance. Throughout the dance, the dancer uses their hands to tell a story, and facial expressions set their mood.

Ceren AYIK

Biodata

Ceren KARAKUŞ, *Mechanical Engineering*

Mirror of Culture

Language is like the mirror of cultures. The existence and power of a language is determined by the culture of that nation. So, a person who learns his/her mother tongue well learns the point of view and national culture of his/her nation. Language unites the social entity called nation and creates flows of feelings and ideas among individuals.

It is very important to know the language of that society in order to have experience about other cultures or to transfer cultural values to a part of our lives. It's not just about experience, it's also necessary for education and work. When we go to another country, we should master the language of that country a little bit so that we can understand its culture better.

Culture needs language, language needs culture. These two concepts cannot be considered independently of each other. For example, in order for German culture to progress the German language must develop.

We can see that our language is being deteriorated in the articles or conversations on social media. This is so bad for languages. So, we must protect our language, which reflects and sustains our culture.

Ceren KARAKUŞ

Biodata

I'm Ceren Nur ERDOĞAN. I was born on 15 April 2003, Istanbul. My department is English Language Teaching. Besides learning language, I also like drawing, reading books, playing the guitar and listening to music (especially Psychedelic and 70's Rock)

Why should you definitely read *The Little Prince*?

Here are some quotes from the book and my personal opinions.

- “But the conceited man did not hear him. Conceited people never hear anything but praise.”
- “Where are the people?” resumed *The Little Prince* at last. “It’s a little lonely in the desert...” “It is lonely when you’re among people, too,” said the snake.”
- “I have lived a great deal among grown-ups. I have seen them intimately, close at hand. And that hasn’t much improved my opinion of them.”
- “But the eyes are blind. One must look with the heart.”
- “It is much more difficult to judge oneself than to judge others. If you succeed in judging yourself rightly, then you are indeed a man of true wisdom.”
- “It is the time you have wasted for your rose that makes your rose so important.”
- “The most beautiful things in the world cannot be seen or touched, they are felt with the heart.”
- “Grown-ups never understand anything by themselves, and it is tiresome for children to be always and forever explaining things to them.”
- “Words are the source of misunderstandings.”

Taken from “*The Little Prince*” by de Saint-Exupery, Antoine

There are things that people of all ages often don't understand. This book allows you to make sense of things. Indeed, it makes you realize that there is no need to make sense of them :). I finished this book, which did not leave an impression on me when I was little, and I couldn't come to myself for a while. As you can see from the examples above, there are so many beautiful and sincere quotes from the book that I am filled with peace. *The Little Prince* also talks about the unnecessary whims of the elders. In this way, it allows you to notice the meaningless things in life and get rid of them. Please don't call *The Little Prince* " a children's tale. Because it is the tale of all humanity. In fact, my teacher told me that she and the adults in the book club often talked about this book. As you can understand, *The Little Prince* has the unique ability to impress people of all ages. A book that can give you a completely different perspective when you read it. If you read the book when you were younger and don't remember anything about it now, please read it again. Believe me, instead of one hour spent on social media, one hour allocated to *The Little Prince* will be worth a treasure for you. There is a question at the end of the book. If you wish, we can create a book club at YADYO and share our ideas about this question. To join, you can send me an email with your name and class number. I am looking forward to your emails.

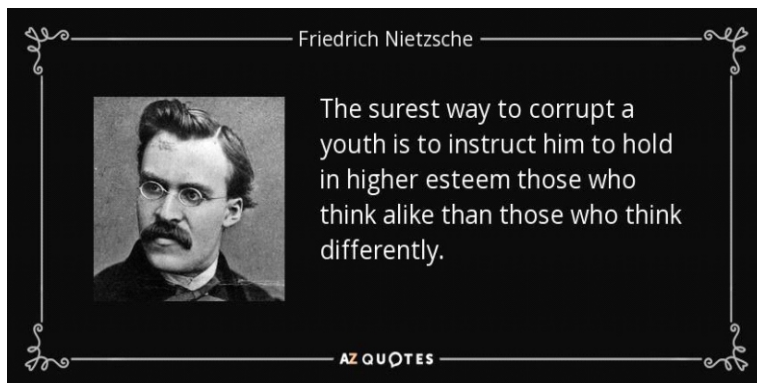
My mail account: llailurophilell@gmail.com

Ceren Nur ERDOĞAN

Biodata

I'm Ceren Nur ERDOĞAN. I was born on 15 April 2003, İstanbul. My department is English Language Teaching. Besides learning language, I also like drawing, reading books, playing the guitar and listening to music (especially Psychedelic and 70's Rock).

Cultural Corruption

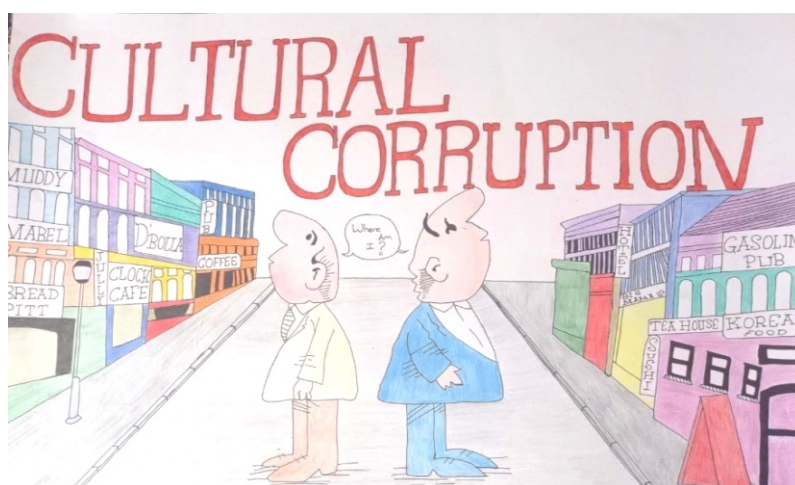


Culture is the total ways and efforts of life. It differs from place to place and man to man. As a result of this difference, people may get away from their own culture and identity. This is called "Cultural Corruption".

Cultural corruption affects many things. For instance; behaviours, language, daily life or ideas. Those effects have both a positive side and a negative side. If I start with the

behaviours; when a person loses their own identity, his/her behavior changes almost completely. Thanks to this; if the person has unsuitable behaviours, they are replaced by more suitable ones. However, the person may forget who he/she is. Because behaviours reflect us. The second one is language. As we meet different nationalities, new words can be added to our language. By means of those words, people can express themselves more broadly. Unfortunately; due to these words, language is in danger of losing its own self over time. If I move on to daily life, for example we can bring innovations to breakfasts or dinners that we make every day. Hence, we can get away from the ordinary. But in the absence of balance, we may suddenly find ourselves eating the breakfast of a completely different culture. The last one is ideas. As people see differences, their perspectives improve. They can think more widely without judgment. However, the ideas that have been practiced by ancestors for years lose their power.

In conclusion, when we say "cultural corruption" some people perceive it as a completely bad thing. But as you can see, it has a lot of good sides. And if we want to, we can overcome the bad sides together.



Drawn by Ceren Nur ERDOĞAN

Biodata

Çağla AKAN. *I am 17 and from Antakya. Now, I'm in the preparatory class of SoFL and I will be studying in the department of ELT in the following years. I am interested in writing, reading books, learning languages and dancing. The most peaceful thing that I love to do in my everyday life is doing yoga.*

Explore the Yoga Culture

"The nature of yoga is to shine the light of awareness into the darkest corners of the body." says Jason Crandell. He talks about yoga like it's a miracle, right? So let's shed light on this miracle-like exercise. *Yoga* -a discipline that consists of 3 components: breathing, flexibility and strength- aims to increase self-realization with physical, mental and spiritual wellness and balance. Now, you can take the chance of learning more about this miraculous practice which began in the past and has continued to the present, with the help of this article.

Yoga originates in India and developed about 5,000 years ago. It is one of the six schools of philosophy in Hinduism and it is also -with its meditation practices- a major part of Buddhism. The term yoga is derived from "yuj" which is a Sanskrit word that belongs to India and means "to unite" and "to join". And in yoga it stands for not only the internal connection between the human body and soul but also the external connection between the human body and nature. For example, in yoga terminology there are poses called "*tadasana*" (mountain pose) and "*bhujangasana*" (cobra pose). Furthermore, the arrival of yoga culture in the west was mainly because of Swami Vivekananda alongside the visitors who traveled to India. He described yoga as "science of the mind" and introduced it to the U.S. in the late 1890s. Last but not least the spread of yoga was also due to the first female yoga guru S. Sita Devi Yogendra, also known as "mother of modern yoga". She encouraged women to practice yoga in addition to writing numerous articles and journals about it.

Besides all these things, there are differences between traditional yoga and contemporary yoga. Traditional yoga includes five basic principles:

1. *Āsānā* (beneficial exercise): the series of exercises that improves flexibility, strength and balance, contributes to heart health, relieves period cramps etc.
2. *Prāṇāyāma* (correct breathing): controlling the breath, breathing into a certain part of the body. It reduces stress, relieves anxiety and helps to create space in the body.
3. *Savāsana* (complete relaxation): the final resting pose in yoga sessions. One should lie on one's back. It is essential to calm the body. Additionally, the term "*namaste*" is used in this part of yoga. It means "My soul honors your soul. I honor the place in you where the entire universe resides. I honor the light, love, truth, beauty and peace within you, because it is also within me. In sharing these things, we are united. We are the same."
4. *Vegetarian* (balanced diet): eating unprocessed foods like vegetables, avoiding foods that are uneasy to digest like meat and that overstimulate the body like onion, garlic etc.
5. *Vedānta & dhyāna* (positive thinking & meditation): the ultimate process of finding the inner self.

These are the guidelines that make up a whole. However, when it comes to contemporary yoga, the first goal that comes to people's mind is fitness. Some of them do it without mindfulness. Moreover, they may even be cruel to their body just for the sake of being fit. But this contradicts the real yoga. Nevertheless, it's fortunate that today's conditions make it possible to practice yoga for people of all ages, abilities and opportunities.

In brief, after getting to know the yoga culture this closely, why don't you take a step to shine the light of your awareness into the darkest corners of your body and live your life happier with a balanced mind, body and soul?

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Çağla AKAN

Biodata

Çağla AKAN. I'm a student who studies happily in SoFL now and will be studying ELT in the following years.

Ayşe Eylül SAYIN. I'm 18 and I am an ELT student. And I'm trying to improve myself here in SoFL.

Hatice ALKAN. I am a preparatory student in SoFL. My major is ELT and I love cats.

Death Rituals Across the Cultures

Have you ever wondered how other cultures view death? If you have and you're still wondering, let's learn more about it. Cultures across the world diversifies death in many ways and death rituals are one of them. In this article, we will talk about 2 interesting ones.

First, let's start with the Marina Community who live in the mountain region of Madagascar. They hold a ritual called “*famadihana*” for deceased individuals in their family every 3.5 or 7 years. Famadihana means “rotation of bones' ” in Marina dialect. This tradition's roots date back to the 19th century. When the Marina community established their kingdom in Madagascar, there were battles. So, they have found this custom so as not to forget their ancestors who passed away during the wars. The thing that makes this custom interesting is that there is no sadness, on the contrary there is happiness. Because their aim is, apart from remembering their ancestors, being hand in hand with them. To put it in a more detailed way, the first grave of the dead individual is opened after getting legal permissions. Then they exhume the person. After that they change the shroud and have fun dancing and singing together. Finally, they take 7 tours around the tomb and bury the person again.

Our second and last example is about hanging the dead people on the rocks. This tradition was being implemented by the Bo tribe from China. And people who live in *Sageto* province of the Philippines have been implementing this tradition for nearly 2,000 years. These people buried their deaths hanging on the upright rocks with handmade coffins. It's because they believe that with this way deaths could be closer to heaven. Although it is not known for sure, the second reason is that Bo people prefer hanging to death rather than burying. They believe by this way they could make the soil more fruitful for agriculture. When it comes to the process, these people prepare their own coffins. Before being hanged, the dead person is seated on a chair called “*Songadi*” and surrounded with weeds. After that relatives say goodbye to the coffin. Then the coffin is carried on shoulders. Apart from these things they also believe that if that person's blood messes someone up it brings good luck to that person.

We want to close with a quote from Ernest Hemingway: *Every man's life ends the same way. It is only the details of how he lived and how he died that distinguish one man from another.* So, let's always keep our beloved ones alive in our hearts as every culture does in a different way.

Çağla AKAN

Ayşe Eylül SAYIN

Hatice ALKAN

Biodata

*I'm **Deniz TOPAL**. I'm an electrical and electronics engineering student in Çukurova University. I speak English and German and I would like to be a successful engineer in the future.*

A Language Is a Bond

People have been living as a community. The most important elements that make up society are of course language and culture. Language and culture are interbedded and they support each other. Without one, the other one is unthinkable.

To know a language is not only to understand what is talked about. It also means learning the culture of the nations that have that language. The best example is surely proverbs and sayings. Proverbs and sayings give information about many issues from a nation's human relations to its characters, from its ethical values to family structure. The sum of these values is called culture and it is transmitted by language.

The best way to learn a nation's culture is to communicate with people who are from that nationality. This summer I worked as a barmaid in an English hotel and met people who are from different nationalities. Perhaps all of them had different native languages, where they live, the clothes they wore, the food they ate, their family structures. But English, the common language, united us all. I exchanged ideas with them on many issues, I learned many things and I met people who live on the other side of the world that I will never meet again. That was an incredible experience for me and it improved me in many ways.

Consequently, to know a language means to meet a person, to meet a nation, to know a culture, to discover new places, to sing a new song. So a language is a bond.

Deniz TOPAL

Biodata

*Ich bin **Deniz TOPAL**. Ich studiere Elektrotechnik an der Çukurova Universität. Ich spreche English und Deutsch. Ich wünsche in der Zukunft sein eine erfolgreiche Ingenieurin.*

Eine Sprache Ist Ein Band

Die Personen leben als eine Gesellschaft. Die wichtigsten Elemente der Gesellschaft sind die Kultur und die Sprache. Sprache und Kultur sind miteinander verflochten. Sie unterstützen sich gegenseitig.

Eine Sprache zu sprechen bedeutet nicht nur das Gesprochene zu verstehen, sondern auch die Kultur der Nationen mit dieser Sprache zu lernen. Die besten Beispiele sind natürlich Sprichwörter und Redewendungen. Sprichwörter und Redewendungen geben Information über von zwischenmenschliche Beziehungen bis ihrem Character, von ethischen Werten bis Familienstruktur. Diese Werte sind Kulturen und übermitteln mit Sprache.

Der beste Weg etwas über eine Kultur zu lernen, ist, mit Menschen dieser Nationalität zu chatten. Dieser Sommer arbeitete ich in einem English Hotel als eine Barmade und ich habe vielen Menschen getroffen. Vielleicht der Ort, an dem sie lebten, das Essen, das sie aßen, die Kleidung, die sie trugen, ihre Familienstrukturen unterschieden sich voneinander. aber es vereinte uns alle in Englisch, der gemeinsamen Sprache. Ich tauschte mich mit ihnen über viele Themen aus, lernte neue Dinge und traf Menschen, die ich vielleicht nie wieder auf der anderen Seite der Welt treffen würde. Das war sehr interessante Erfahrung für mich. Diese Erfahrung hat mich über vielen Themen entwickeln.

Also eine Sprache zu beherrschen; Einen Menschen zu treffen, eine Nation zu treffen, eine Kultur zu lernen, neue Orte zu entdecken, neue Leben zu berühren. Eine Sprache ist eine Person, eine Nation, eine Kultur, ein Lied, eine Bindung.

Deniz TOPAL

Biodata

*I'm **Ela BEKİR**. My department is English Language Teaching. Besides learning languages, I have hobbies like drawing, reading, listening to music, playing video games, and I hate routine so I always try new things.*

Celebrations of Culture

We all as human beings express our love through celebrations and share our happiness on specific days and times of the year with people we love. Every country has different cultures because of that every one of them celebrates according to its culture, customs and traditions over the years. To start with, in North America, especially in Mexico, they celebrate every year in a festival called "The Dead" to remember their loved ones who passed away. They believe the souls of the dead return to earth every year, so they decorate the streets and the houses, use makeup to draw skulls on their faces and make food, drinks and all go to cemeteries to celebrate there. You might be thinking this is weird but also the Indians celebrate in a festival called "Walk on The Fire". In this festival, the Indian men put a bowl of milk or water on their heads and walk on burning coal and they perform rituals as a sign of their deep faith. Not only the Indian or the Mexicans celebrate in a weird way, Spanish people, for example, celebrate a festival called "La Tomatina" every year and they use tons of tomatoes to throw at each other for hours. To sum up, every country has its own culture and beliefs so that difference reflects in the way they celebrate.

Ela BEKİR

Biodata

Emirhan KARAASLAN was born in Adana in 2002. He graduated from CEAS High School in 2020. He is taking English preparatory education at the School of Foreign Languages at Çukurova University. His department is Electrical-Electronics Engineering.

Gender Concept in Turkish Language

Most words in Turkish Language are genderless. But why? This situation has multiple reasons. First, let's check some differences between Turkish and Indo-European languages.

Nouns and adjectives in most Indo-European languages vary according to gender. For example, there are two variations of the word teacher in German:

Der Lehrer: Teacher (Masculine)
Die Lehrerin: Teacher (Feminine)

There are two variations of the word someone who acts in a film in English:

Actor (Masculine)
Actress (Feminine)

There are two variations of the word cook in Spanish:

Cocinera: Cook (Feminine)
Cocinero: Cook (Masculine)

There are two variations of the word worker in French:

Ouvrière: Worker (Feminine)
Ouvrier: Worker (Masculine)

The word welcome in Italian, French and Spanish vary according to gender:

In Italian:
Benvenuta (Feminine)
Benvenuto (Masculine)

In French:
Bienvenue (Feminine)
Bienvenu (Masculine)

In Spanish:
Bienvenidas (Feminine)
Bienvenidos (Masculine)

English has three personal pronouns for masculine, feminine and inanimate beings:

He (Masculine)
She (Feminine)
It (Inanimate)

These words are expressed in one word in Turkish:

Öğretmen: Teacher (Masculine/Feminine)

Oyuncu: Actor (Masculine/Feminine)

Aşçı: Cook (Masculine/Feminine)

İşçi: Worker (Masculine/Feminine)

Hoşgeldin: Welcome (Masculine/Feminine)

O: He/She/It

There are some reasons why some languages have gendered words. The first reason is religion. Old Indo-European people were pagan so they had multiple male and female gods. They believed all inanimate objects had souls and the objects belonged to certain gods. But the old Turkic people believed a single god with no gender so they didn't need gendered variations of words. The second reason is life-style. The old Turkic people were equestrian-nomadic. They had to act together under difficult life conditions. Every individual had equal responsibilities so everyone was equal. Men and women hunted together. Also, women joined the wars with the men. As a result, women were as important as men in Turkic society. But that was not the case with old Indo-European people who lived in sedentary life. Men worked, hunted, fought, farmed. Women did housework, took care of children. Place of women in society was very different from that of men.

The climatic conditions, vegetation and geological structure of the region where the societies live affect the life-style of the societies. The life-style of societies affects their rituals, mindsets etc. Lastly, the life-style affects their culture and the culture affects their language. In short, as you can see language is a cultural memory. Languages of societies contain cultural elements. Culture is hidden in language and vice versa. We can better understand history and culture by analyzing language.

Emirhan KARAASLAN

Biodata

I'm Engin HALİS and I'm 19. I live in Adana and now I am studying English at SoFL, Cukurova University. My department is Mechanical Engineering.

Culture and Language on Social Media

Culture and language affect each other. It's always been this way from past to present. This relationship generally affects each other positively. But on social media platforms, sometimes it might also turn negative. People use so many abbreviations on social media platforms. This damages our language and of course our culture. People forget the essence of their language. They talk awkwardly and so simply. On social media platforms, languages are suffering. Phrases lose their meanings and take on new ones. This is so bad for languages. I think new generations are responsible for that because they created their own language. They communicate with each other via this new language. With education, we can save our language from this situation. People should read more books, attend language classes and speaking clubs, they should also write things. Our languages are so beautiful and have quality. We should preserve our language.

Engin HALİS

Biodata

Selenay Işıl KAHYA, Birkan BESEREK, Püray ÖZKAN

The Meanings of Colors According to Cultures

If it's about culture, many things can be said. It is one of the most important things in every aspect of our lives. Life would be completely meaningless without it. Insomuch that, a person without the knowledge of his/her past history, origin and culture is like a tree without roots said Marcus Garvey. You can encounter culture anywhere you see, sometimes with countries, sometimes with nations and even with colors. The last one I said sounds weird but it's actually not. Colors and cultures are really close to each other. Each color has a different meaning in each country. Whereas a color symbolizes a good thing in a country, the same color might symbolize bad luck in a different country. For example; red symbolizes good luck and celebration in China but it means love and passion in western countries. Whereas pink means marriage in eastern countries, it symbolizes valentine's day in western. Orange symbolizes mourning in Egypt but it symbolizes courage in Japan. There are many examples like these and we can't end these by counting so the importance of culture in colors cannot be underestimated.

Selenay Işıl KAHYA
Birkan BESEREK
Püray ÖZKAN

Biodata

Enver TOPCU, Yusuf KARAKURT, Orhan Can ÜNLÜDOĞAN, Cihangir ERTÜRK



Preserve the Culture

Culture interacts with language. There are many types of this interaction. But especially nowadays, since social media is at the forefront, it shows its influence most in interaction. Social media changes languages in the current world. This interaction is very fast. It's sometimes good but sometimes bad. The meaning of words are lost on social media platforms. It creates new words. The words we get from foreign languages are increasing these days. At the end of this increase, our heritage is lost bit by bit. It is also quite difficult to return this fragmented heritage to its essence. To protect this heritage, we shouldn't use words from different languages. For example, when we learn a foreign word, we should learn it within its own rules, not in a way that affects our language. We should learn foreign words correctly. In this way, we can prevent the semantic confusion that may arise from foreign words in our own language.

Enver TOPCU
Yusuf KARAKURT
Orhan Can ÜNLÜDOĞAN
Cihangir ERTÜRK

Biodata

Fatma ŞEKER, Nesrin ÖZHEKTİ, Berivan TAN

Culture and Change

Culture has existed by changing since the past and it is a matter which makes one society different from another. Furthermore, it affects a great part of our lives. Particularly, people's lifestyles develop and change by means of the culture. For instance; In India, most of the women prefer to wear a dress called "Sari". This cloth is a symbol of their culture. Let's take another example; in Italy which has a rich food culture, it's considered as a rude manner to refuse a second plate and also these can cause the people who serve the food to get angry. Well, does culture affect only lifestyles? Art is another field which is impressed by culture. Each country has its own artistic items. To illustrate; in Türkiye, the Arabic alphabet was used in the past and this affected the way of art and one of the most important examples of this topic is "calligraphy". When it comes to religion, culture has remarkable impressions on it. We can see plenty of examples for that. Let's take a glance at it. The %89 percent of Turkish population consists of Muslims and they don't consume pork because of some religious and cultural reasons. In addition, according to the most religious rules, it's forbidden to steal something, torture, kill someone, tell a lie etc. In conclusion; culture is expanded all around the world and it affects, changes, develops lives in many ways.

Fatma ŞEKER
Nesrin ÖZHEKTİ
Berivan TAN

Biodata

Mira SATICI, Mechanical Engineering

Degeneration

Culture is everything material and spiritual to societies. Every society transfers its own culture to the future. Culture shows itself in religion, education, science, and art among many others. We learn culture consciously or unconsciously. Language is important for learning a culture. Also, language is important for transferring culture. I guess we can say that culture is nothing if there is no language. Language is a symbol of culture. Culture forms societies if it's shared. It is different in every society and country. Because it's human made. Culture progresses and dies with societies. So, if there is no society, there is no culture. We can say that culture is dead if societies degenerate. Well, how to lose it? There is a simple answer: degeneration. There are a lot of reasons but the most important one is language. For example, words which are used on social media and in cafes. Why do we use foreign words in our sentences? Why do we order our coffee with foreign words? Let's learn foreign languages but not confuse them. Culture will change if language changes. Society will change if culture changes. We have to stop this. Let's start fixing our language.

Mira SATICI

EC103

Biodata

Nehir ÖZKAN - *I am 18 and have been preparing for college currently. I like traveling and meeting new people. I have a pet cat and love him because he is always there with me when I am alone.*

An open letter to those in power...

I'm an 18-year-old youth from Turkey, and just like most of my peers across the world, I am full of aspirations, excitement, joy, hope, and worries and apprehensions about the future ahead of me. I'm healthy and thankfully have a family that I'm proud of; never to flinch at dispelling any problem standing in my way of progress as I coast through my teenage years.

My world is of different colors and shades, co-existing in a similar environment. People from all parts of the world are on the move and keep changing places and locations. The boundaries of my world are continuously becoming more and more blurred. We, young people, venture into various environments, taking our indigenous cultural characteristics with us and absorbing new ones from our host venues. This way, we become more prosperous with ever-expanding horizons, ever greatness of acceptance of differences, and ever-great capability of adaptation to brand-new environments. The places we see, the people we meet, the experiences we have, and the contribution that we make to the world should never be underestimated. We are always ready to learn and practice what we know for the common good of the world community. Given the chance and the opportunities, we of different races, creeds, beliefs, and faiths can be significant assets to humanity. So, my plea to the world leaders at the helm is to stop the massacres of our hopes through bitter acrimony, bottomless avarice, and senseless wars! We are the future; we are the beacons of incoming generations!



With my kindest regards,

Nehir ÖZKAN

Biodata

Sebih Sedad AHRAZ, Meleksu BÜYÜK, Elif Asude KEÇEBAŞ - EC103

Effect of Foreign Words on Mother Tongue

Sometimes we make some mistakes when using foreign words or adapting them to our daily life. Some mistakes are made voluntarily and some are involuntary. For example, we use words in other languages because we think they are cooler. Sometimes we cannot find the exact Turkish equivalent of a foreign word. We also know that this situation is not only valid for our country. Because no language is static. It changes, develops, and is affected. The important thing is to be able to control the change phase correctly. To prevent the complete degeneration of Turkish,

We talked about how natural language change is. Since language is the most important part of culture, of course, we need to talk about the change of culture. Culture is not static like language. It changes and renews every day. It has to be. We do not think that every cultural value is correct. The important point in cultural change should not be to forget our identity. Just wannabe, fantasy, etc, I think we should not give up on our own values for the sake of things. Knowing that every culture has false taboos, we should not look down on our own. We have stated countless times that language drives the change in culture. Everything starts with language. As each thing we say is repeated, it starts to feel right. That's why it's so important to pay attention to what we say. I think the statement that the word flies and the writing remains is not entirely correct. It is passed down from generation to generation. And as can be seen today, taboos form the culture.

We are in a period where the change of language or culture accelerates more. Everything is just a phone call away from us. There are a lot of things that I can't write about foreign series, news, books and I can't think of it. That's why we have to take careful, or rather conscious, steps. While incorporating every cultural value into our body, we should judge, but we should know how to question, change and sometimes embrace our own values. And that it will change a lot in every word we use....

Sebih Sedad AHRAZ
Meleksu BÜYÜK
Elif Asude KEÇEBAŞ

Biodata

*I am **Seha Enes ÇAKIR**. I was born on January 1 in 2003. I am from Adıyaman. I am in the preparatory class of The Electrical Electronics Engineering department at Çukurova University.*

Did Tolkien Create an Entire Language for His Books?

Tancave!

In the languages of Quenya which Tolkien created for his books, “Tancave” means “yes”.

When he was a teenager, he created his first language. Then, Tolkien went to Exeter College at Oxford University, where he studied English Language and Literature. While he was proceeding his studies about World languages. He used his experience to create the Elvish language which He combined old English, Finish and Welsh languages.

In many cases authors create their artificial languages after they write their books but, the opposite is true for J.R.R. Tolkien. The stories he wrote were inspired by the languages he created. He shaped the fictional races according to languages that he created earlier. For example, the Ents, the Orcs, the Dwarves, the Elves and the Hobbits all of these fictional races speak their own languages which were created by Tolkien himself.

Among a dozen languages which Tolkien created, he properly developed only two of them – Quenya and Sinderin, the languages which were used by the Elves. Tolkien didn’t use Quenya as a spoken language. It was reserved for poetry, songs, lament and magic but Sindarin was a spoken language.

Tolkien was a human that could create his own universe. There are only a few people like Tolkien in the entire history of humanity. So, we must protect his legacy and transfer it to the next generations.

Quel marth!

Good luck!

Seha Enes ÇAKIR

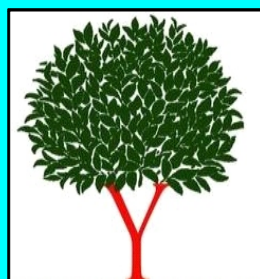
Biodata

Zeynep Tuğçe ARI. *I'm from Mersin. I'm 19 years old. I'm in the preparatory class of SoFl and next year I will be in the department of ELT. Lastly, I hope you like my paragraph about culture.*

Different Superstitions of Different Countries

Every country has its own different superstitions. Okay, but why do people believe them? What are the reasons? They believe because superstitions often involve supernatural beings and have religious roots and if religion is mentioned in something, it becomes important to people. However; these are not the only reasons. Some of them may be believed due to coincidence or bad luck. Now let's take a look at the different superstitions of some cultures in the world. For instance; in Japan black cats are believed to bring good luck regardless of other countries. Also in Turkey, when a baby starts to cry loudly, we try to calm him or her but again in Japan, they think that a baby who cries loudly will drive away evil spirits and bring himself/herself a healthy life. If we are going to keep talking about evil spirits, here is another example about it. As you know, most people knock their hands on wood to avoid evil spirits and bad luck. According to the belief of paganism, people believe that spirits live in trees and they knock on wood to get those spirits to protect themselves. Now we can talk about numbers. We all know that the number 13 is bad luck for a lot of people. But have you heard number 17 before? I know it sounds interesting but like number 13, number 17 is also considered bad luck. Especially in Italy, they don't use this number a lot. For example; they don't use it in the door number of their house or in the number of seats on buses and planes. In conclusion, as you can see every country has its own different beliefs. Even if you may find some of them absurd and meaningless, we need to respect them. Also, we have to look at the world through their eyes and empathize.

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