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Autor: Yilmaz , Özlem

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Kontakt/Contact

Digizeitschriften e.V.
SUB Göttingen
Platz der Göttinger Sieben 1
37073 Göttingen

✉ info@digizeitschriften.de

Reviews

Özlem Yılmaz: Review of Hamza Zülfikar, *Türkçede ses yansımaları* [Onomatopoeia in Turkish]. Ankara: Türk Dil Kurumu Yayınları, 1995. VIII + 699 pp.

Özlem Yılmaz, *Marmara Üniversitesi Türkiyat Araştırmaları Enstitüsü, İstanbul, Turkey.*

The study under review is divided into the following parts: "Preface", "Introduction", "Onomatopoeia from the point of view of phonetics", "Onomatopoeia from the point of view of morphology", "The hendiadys in onomatopoeia", "Conclusion", "Some remarks on the concept index", "Concept index", "Some remarks on the dictionary", "The sources of the dictionary and their abbreviations", "Abbreviations of toponyms", "Dictionary" and "Bibliography".

The "Preface" (pp. vii-viii) states the study's aim and the methods it employs. Though the author indicates that Modern Turkish is the particular area of investigation, the study actually covers the Southwest (Oghuz) group of Turkic languages. Zülfikar has used materials from written modern language texts and dictionaries, Anatolian dialects and, to a large degree, Turkish and the works of modern authors. In addition, he refers to Azerbaijani and Turkmen structures in order to support and explain the findings. The *Dīvānu luyāti' t-türk* and sources from the Old Turkic period are included in this examination as well. However, the book does not take into consideration those onomatopoeic roots or derivatives found in the *Dīvānu luyāti' t-türk* and Old Turkic but absent in the Oghuz group.

The "Introduction" (1-22) lists the terms used for onomatopoeia in Ottoman Turkish, Ancient Greek, Latin, some Western European languages (English, German, etc.), Russian and Turkic languages. Linguists' definitions of onomatopoeia are presented, and the basic features of onomatopoeia are explained in detail. Additionally, this section provides an overview of studies on the Turkish onomatopoeia carried out in Turkey and elsewhere.

Zülfikar discusses the role of onomatopoeia in the formation of languages and also looks at onomatopoeia in child language. He disagrees with Ferdinand de Saussure's position that the linguistic sign is arbitrary and that onomatopoeia usually

play the role of arbitrary language signs by losing some of their initial characteristics.

The second chapter entitled "Onomatopoeia from the point of view of phonetics" (23-91) consists of two parts: vowels and consonants. The section on vowels only considers the eight vowels used in written Turkish and discusses the role of vowel harmony in onomatopoeia. In the part devoted to the consonants, the twenty-one consonants used in the written language are examined. The author also demonstrates the features of the consonants *h, ħ, ğ, k, ŋ* (written *ñ*) and analyzes their functions in onomatopoeia, pointing out the relationship between them and natural sounds. Furthermore, this chapter also addresses consonant assimilation, consonant mutation, geminates, metathesis and consonant elision.

The next chapter, "Onomatopoeia from the point of view of morphology" (91-161) is made up of three parts:

1. The primary forms: In this part, the author shows that the primary forms constitute the non-separable, monosyllabic minimal parts of onomatopoeia. These components, which might be called nucleus forms, occur in certain patterns in the language. By combining with one another, the vowels and consonants which form these nuclei reflect natural sounds. The structure, function and use of these primary forms are explained.

2. The secondary forms: In this section, Zülfikar claims that the secondary forms are nominal structures which were expanded from the primary forms by means of affixes. The affixes in question are *-ıl (-il, -ul, -ül)* and *-ır (-ir, -ur, -ür)*, sometimes *-ış (-is, -uş, -üş)*, and rarely *-a (-e), -ı (-i, -u, -ü)*. The function and use of the secondary forms are shown.

3. The derivatives: They were formed by duplication of the primary and secondary forms or by attaching various affixes in order to perform certain grammatical functions. The author has subjected the onomatopoeic verbs and nouns derived from the primary and secondary forms to a thorough examination.

"The hendiadys in onomatopoeia" (161-165) is attributed the following functions: Creating continuity, intensifying meaning, harmonizing pronunciation, imitating natural sound, denoting one concept with two words, and repeating the primary or secondary forms to obtain a new meaning. In fact, the principal purpose of the hendiadys is to intensify and reinforce the meaning.

In the "Conclusion" (165-168), the researcher contends that the onomatopoeia form five word groups: Noun, adjective, adverb, verb, and interjection. The onomatopoeia throw light on the sound history of Turkish and lead researchers to the language's formation. Onomatopoeia are systematic and regular. They constitute a word category, the structure of which most closely approaches the nature of Turkish and best reflects the way the language functions.