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# **The Ninth International Conference on Turkish Linguistics**

**Gerjan van Schaaik**

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The Ninth International Conference on Turkish Linguistics was held in Oxford (UK) in August 1998 and was attended by 82 participants from 15 countries. Apart from two panel sessions, on typological traits on Turkic languages and on language contact, the following linguistic areas were covered: psycholinguistics, bilingualism, language acquisition, discourse and pragmatics, syntax and morphology, phonetics and phonology, computational applications.

The next conference will be organized by Boğaziçi Üniversitesi, and will be held in Istanbul from 16-18 August 2000.

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The Ninth International Conference on Turkish Linguistics was held from 12 to 14 August 1998 at Lincoln College in the historical city of Oxford, England. The conference was convened by Celia Kerslake of the Oriental Institute, University of Oxford and by Aslı Göksel of the School of Oriental and African Studies, University of London. There were 82 participants from fifteen different countries: 23 from Turkey, eighteen from Germany, thirteen from the UK, ten from the US, three from the Netherlands, two each from Japan, France, the Czech Republic, Canada and Australia, and one participant each from Sweden, Norway, Austria, Russia and Italy. A total number of 55 papers was presented. The conference venue was Lincoln College, a collection of beautiful old buildings, lodgings and gardens located at the site where in 1427 the Bishop of Lincoln, Richard Fleming, founded the “College of the Blessed Mary and All Saints, Lincoln, in the University of Oxford, commonly called Lincoln College”. As many of the participants undoubtedly noticed, in this wonderful place in the very heart of the city

and university, the spirit of academic work performed through the ages is still clearly in the air.

True to the tradition of these Turkological conferences, there were, in addition to the more serious activities during the daytime, quite a number of possibilities to unwind: Plenty of sightseeing in Oxford and its surroundings, a reception with a generous supply of drinks and delicious snacks, an exquisite dinner in a Lebanese restaurant, and of course, the more or less unavoidable visit to Blackwell's bookstore. To top it all off, the weather was beyond expectation. And it was in this excellent atmosphere that the last ICTL meeting of this century took place.

After Celia Kerslake's opening speech, the presentation of papers started in a series of theme-oriented parallel sessions and two panel sessions.

The aim of the first panel discussion, entitled *Linguistic evidence from peripheral Turkic languages* and chaired by Lars Johanson, was to find out what exactly constitutes the "Turkic type", since what is generally understood by this term is largely based on descriptions of Turkish. Apart from the introductory remarks by the chairman, the following papers were presented: *Consonantalization and obfuscation* by Arienne Dwyer; *On word order properties of genitival possessive constructions* by Éva Ágnes Csató; and *Lexical copying in Turkic: The case of Eynu* by Tooru Hayasi.

The objective of the second panel discussion, entitled *The role of yapmak, etmek and olmak in diaspora Turkish* and chaired by Petek Kurtböke, was to shed some light on the question how data and analyses can contribute to the description of these verbs within a language-contact framework. The papers read were: *The replacement of et- by yap- is evident in migrant Turkish. Is there anything to be learned from history?* by Hendrik Boeschoten (presented by Petek Kurtböke); *The use of yap- in Turkish-Norwegian code-switching* by Emel Türker; *The development of yapmak as auxiliary and main verb in the speech of Turkish bilingual children* by Carol Pfaff; and *Delexicalised verbs in Turkish from a corpus perspective* by Petek Kurtböke.

Roughly speaking, the remaining papers covered the following fields: (1) psycholinguistics; (2) studies on bilingualism; (3) studies on language acquisition; (4) discourse and pragmatics; (5) syntax and mor-

phology; (6) phonetics and phonology; and (7) computational applications.<sup>1</sup>

1. Psycholinguistics was covered by two papers: *Linguistic representations of movement in space and time* by Şeyda Özçalışkan\* and Dan Slobin; and *Cross-cultural speech act realisation: The case of requests in the Turkish speech of Turkish monolingual and Turkish-German bilingual speakers* by Leyla Marti.

2. Studies on bilingualism included the following topics: *How to get rid of the Turkish morphological system?* by Ineke van de Craats; *Grammatical properties in Turkish and Dutch possessive constructions* by Ineke van de Craats\*, Norbert Corver and Roeland van Hout; *Turkish relative clauses: Are they vulnerable to loss in language-contact situations?* by Kutlay Yağmur; *Development of Turkish clause linkage in the narrative texts of Turkish-French bilingual children* by Mehmet-Ali Akıncı\* and Harriet Jisa.

3. The field of language acquisition was addressed in the following papers: *Production of relative clauses in the acquisition of Turkish: The role of parallel function hypothesis* by Hülya Özcan; *When can children indicate the basis for their assertions? The acquisition of -DIR* by Ayhan Aksu-Koç; *What does a child have to acquire when acquiring the passive?* by Nihan Ketrez; *Children's acquisition of negation: Early evidence from Turkish* by Paivi Köskinen; *Head parameter setting in the acquisition of Turkish as a first language* by Cem Can and Özden Ekmekeçi; *Children's preferences in early phonological acquisition: How do they reflect sensitivity to the ambient language?* by Seyhun Topbaş and Handan Kopkallı-Yavuz.

4. Studies in discourse phenomena and pragmatics were represented by the following papers: *Plural agreement and discourse* by Mark Kirchner; *Differences in speech and gesture organisation in Turkish and English spatial discourse* by Aslı Özyürek; *Ya, şey, yani, işte: Interactional markers of Turkish* by Nurdan Özbek; *Politeness and the use of 'Estağfurullah'* by Arın Bayraktaroğlu.

5. Besides a number of papers on general syntactic and morphological aspects, there was a rich variety of papers on the following sub-

<sup>1</sup> In cases where a multi-authored paper was presented by one person, the name of that person is followed by an asterisk.

topics: relative clauses, clause linkage, modals, adverbial constructions, verb valency, and historical aspects of Turkish.

General papers: *Relativization of the constituents of the converb segment in the complex predication in Turkish* (read in Turkish) by Kemal Güler; *The properties of null objects in Turkish* by Ümit Deniz Turan; *Is there a focus position in Turkish?* by Aslı Göksel and Sumru Özsoy; *Double dative marking in Gagauz* by Yuu Kuribayashi; *The noun / adjective distinction in Turkish* by Friederike Braun\* and Geoffrey Haig; *Higher order compounds in Turkish* by Gerjan van Schaaik.

Relative clauses: *Some formal types of Turkic relative clause equivalents* by Claus Schönig; *Locating relative agreement in Turkish and Turkic* by Jaklin Kornfilt; *Copied relative constructions in Khalaj* by Filiz Kırıl; *Why Turkish needs -ki* by Christoph Schroeder.

Clause linkage: *Clause linkage strategies in Turkish* by Fatma Erkman-Akerson; *Strategies of clause-combining in Iraqi Turkmen* by Christiane Bulut.

Modals: *Semi-grammaticalised modality in Turkish* by Eser Taylan; *Analytical modal constructions in Gagauz* by Astrid Menz.

Adverbial constructions: *Specifier position of functional phrases in Turkish* by Gülşat Aygen-Tosun; *Piti piti karamela sepeti or how to choose your own adverb in Turkish* by Mireille Tremblay and Hitay Yüksek.

Verb valency: *(Are there really) Four operations for four affixes?* by Hitay Yüksek; *Changing argument structure without voice morphology: A concrete view* by Jaklin Kornfilt; *On the aspectual properties of unaccusatives* by Mine Nakipoğlu; *Detransitivizing passives* by Murat Kural.

Historical aspects: *Reflexive pronouns in Old Anatolian Turkish* by Mevlut Erdem; *Nogayca'da çekimli bol- ekeylemi ve Türkiye Türkçesi'ndeki işlevsel karşılıkları* (read in Turkish) by Birsal Karakoç; *Marked and non-marked genitive constructions in 16th-century Ottoman documents* by Claudia Roemer.

6. In the domain of phonetics and phonology the following papers were presented: *Acoustic analysis of voicing contrast in Turkish stops* by Handan Kopkallı-Yavuz; *Palatal synharmonism in the Turkic languages* by Irina Selyutina; *Labial attraction in Turkish: an empirical perspective* by Sharon Inkelas\*, Gunar Hansson, Aylin Küntay; *On non-final stress in Turkish simplex words* by Cem Çakır; *An integrated analysis of Turkish stress patterns* by Engin Sezer; *Clitics in Turkish* by

Marcel Erdal; *To be or not to be faithful* (on emphatic reduplication) by Meltem Kelepir; *On fusional features in Turkish* by Armin Bassarak.

7. The only paper in the area of computational applications was *The spoken Karaim CD: Sound, text, lexicon and "active morphology" for language learning multimedia* presented by David Nathan, who showed how the data on Karaim as collected by Éva Ágnes Csató are stored on CD-rom and how these data can be retrieved by means of a multimedia program that enables the user to simultaneously read and listen to text fragments.

The organisers of the conference aim at publishing the proceedings before the end of 1999, and since the deadline for submission of the final version of the papers was set as early as 10 October 1998, the issue of publication is clearly being tackled with commendable energy this time.

During the wrap-up session it was decided where to hold the next conference and how the planning committee should be made up. Furthermore, there was some discussion as to whether there is a need for abstracts to be selected anonymously. But an overwhelming majority of participants seems to feel quite comfortable with this system, which has been in practice since Eskişehir 1992.

We do hope to have another fruitful meeting in the year 2000. This time at Boğaziçi Üniversitesi in Istanbul: where the continents meet!