

Identifying Contact Effects on MWE's:
A case study of Dutch influence on Turkish MWE's

A. Seza Dođruöz

Netherlands Institute for Advanced Study in the Humanities and Social Sciences

a.s.dogruoz@gmail.com

WG1 and WG3

Languages are dynamic and they change constantly. Contact with other languages is one of the reasons for change. Turkish has been in contact with Dutch in the Netherlands over 60 years and it is changing through Dutch influence (Dođruöz, 2007, Dođruöz & Backus, 2007; 2009, Dođruöz & Gries, 2012). This change is not only observed through mixing of Turkish-Dutch words (i.e. code-switching) but mainly through literal translation of Dutch multi-word expressions (MWE's) into Turkish. Therefore, Turkish spoken in the Netherlands (NL-Turkish) sounds unconventional in comparison to Turkish spoken in Turkey (TR-Turkish).

These MWE's differ in terms of length, idiomaticity, fixed and non-fixed elements (Baldwin & Kim, 2010). In NL-Turkish, it is possible to say [*tren almak*] "take a train" and [*Ben ne bileyim*] "I don't know" whereas TR-Turkish makes use of [*trene binmek*] "get.on the train" and [*Ne bileyim*] "don't know" due to Dutch influence as in [*trein nemen*] "take a train" and [*Ik weet het niet*] "I don't know". The comparative analysis of NL-Turkish and TR-Turkish spoken corpora reveal that most of the on-going changes in NL-Turkish are taking place through fixed and semi-fixed MWEs rather than abstract syntax (e.g. word order). Following usage-based perspectives to language use, I have developed an identification and classification system for the changing MWE's and placed them on a continuum based on their fixed and less fixed elements. Currently, I am working on a prediction task to identify the changing [N do/make] light verb constructions automatically.