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SOME NOTES ON THE CLASSIFICATION OF LOANWORDS IN TURKISH

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During the past years there has been an increasing trend of replacing loanwords by Turkish words taken from dialects or from other Turkic languages, and where this is not possible new words are being invented which are generally in accordance with the phonetic rules of Turkish. But due to the vast number of words and phrases borrowed from Persian and Arabic throughout the centuries as well as the comparatively more recent borrowings from Western languages, and the continuous usage of such words in speech, it is rather difficult for the non-linguist to make a distinction between native and non-native words. This article tries to present some ways for the recognition of loanwords without any prior knowledge of their origin. Such a classification would have a number of advantages for a more systematic analysis of the phonetic and phonological structure of Turkish.

Loanwords in Turkish may be grouped into two classes :

- I — Assimilated
- II — Unassimilated

In the natural flow of the language some loanwords, by virtue of their constant usage and by their phonetic and phonological features, do not strike the native speaker as being different from words of native origin. Such loanwords are considered to be assimilated and are treated on the same basis as native Turkish words though historically they are borrowings. Unassimilated loanwords on the other hand, have various characteristics which cause them to be regarded as different from native words.

The following sections exemplify the basis on which loanwords are treated as unassimilated.

- i. Words with an initial consonant cluster as in the examples below :

Monosyllabic :

CCVC	
spor	'sports'
krem	'cream'
tren	'train'
grev	'strike'
fren	'brake'
plak	'record'

Disyllabic

CCVC - CVC	
plastik	'plastic'
flaster	'plaster'
traktör	'tractor'
CCVC - CV	
plazma	'plasm'
CCV-CV	
triko	'knitted fabric'
CCV - CVC	
klâsör	'file'
plânör	'glider'

No such initial clusters are possible in native Turkish words, and the words listed above have alternative pronunciations with a vowel separating the initial cluster, e. g.

tiren
sıpor
kılâsör
pîlâk

ii. Words with a final - syllable and word final - voiced stop. There are some exceptions, some words in constant use where the voiced bilabial plosive, i. e. /b/ in syllable final position is followed by a voiced sibilant, i. e. /z/, or a lateral, i.e. /l/, or a flapped continuant, i.e. /r/, are not treated as loans because of their frequent usage, e. g.

sebze	'vegetable'
kibrit	'match'
abla	'sister'

Examples of unassimilated loanwords with a syllable final stop are as follows:

mübrem	'urgent'
müdrük	'perceiving'

iii. Words with an initial or final voiced palato-alveolar sibilant, i.e. /j/. This sound does not occur in native Turkish words. Loanwords having this sound are few in number, and most of them are infrequently used in everyday language.

jilet	'razor blade'
jiklet	'chewing gum'
jöle	'jelly'
garaj	'garage'
ajan	'agent'

The alien nature of this sound is more apparent when the wide spread use of /c/, instead of /j/ in word initial position is considered, as in:

/cilet/ for /jilet/
 /ciklet/ for /jiklet/

iv. Words with initial -syllable and word initial -voiced or voiceless palatal plosive, i. e. [j] and [ç] followed by [a] or [a:]

[ɽzʒaɽ]	rüzgâr	'wind'
[caɽjiɽ]	kârgir	'wooden'
[caɽ]	kâr	'profit'
[ca:ɽiɽ]	kâşif	'explorer'

Such words are few in number, and in the orthography the palatalizing of the initial consonant is indicated by the circumflex accent placed on the following vowel as in the examples given above.

v. A limited number of words in which the voiced palatalized lateral [ɽ] is:

- a) preceded or followed by [ɽ]
 b) followed by [a] or [a:]

Examples :

b)	[ɽɽɽ]	rol	'role'
	[gɽɽ]	gol	'goal'
	[bɽɽ]	bol	'fruit punch'
	[xɽɽ]	hol	'entrance hall'
a)	[ɽaɽ]	lâf	'talk'
	[ɽa:cɽɽ]	lâkin	'but'

vi. Words with a vowel of O and O groups, i. e. /o/ and /ö/, in a syllable other than the first, e. g.

konsolos	'consul'
azot	'nitrogen'
kilo	'kilogramme'
koro	'chorus'
şarampol	'ditch'
gondol	'gondola'

This rule does not apply to suffixed forms, onomatopoeic words or compound words.

vii. Words with long vowels except:

a) when the word can have an alternative pronunciation with the long vowel being replaced by vowel + voiced palatal frictionless continuant, e. g. [t̪y:] or [t̪y̟] for tûy 'feather'.

b) Where in the orthography the long vowel is represented as 'vowel + ö', e. g. [da:] has the orthographic form 'dağ'.

Examples of unassimilated words with long vowels are as follows :

mâruf	'well known'
hata	'mistake'
gıda	'food'
tesir	'influence'
feci	'horrible'

viii. *Non-harmonic words* : Words which do not have harmony between syllables are mostly considered unassimilated loanwords apart from some exceptions like anne 'mother', elma 'apple'.

Examples of non-harmonic words are as follows:

kalem	'pencil'
takvim	'calendar'
kiraz	'cherry'
günah	'sin'
fobi	'phobia'

ix. Apart from the above mentioned characteristics, some words are considered unassimilated loanwords by intuition. Such words are few in number, and usually represent things for which there are already widely used native or assimilated loanwords in colloquial speech. For example:

Unassimilated loanwords :

- | | |
|-----------|----------------|
| 1. alyans | 'wedding ring' |
| 2. teklif | 'proposal' |

their synonyms :

1. yüzük or halka
2. öneri

It can now be stated that a word which has any of the features given above is classed as an unassimilated loanword. Some words exhibit more than one of these features, and as in such cases they retain a greater part of the phonetic features of the language from which they have been borrowed, their non-native origin is all the more apparent. For example, the word

biyoloji 'biology'

is an unassimilated loanword, because

- a) it is non-harmonic
- b) vowels of the Ö group occur in non-initial syllables
- c) the word has the consonant /j/ in it.

and

hidrat 'hydrate'

is an unassimilated loanword, because :

- a) /d/ which is a voiced stop occurs in syllable final position
- b) the word is non-harmonic.

TÜRK DİLİNDEKİ YABANCI SÖZCÜKLERİN SINIFLANDIRILMASI

ÖZET

Kökü çok eski geçmişe dayanan Türk diline yüzyıllar içinde türlü nedenlerle Doğu ve Batı dillerinden sızmış yabancı kaynaklı sözcükler vardır. Son yıllarda, bu yabancı sözcükleri çeşitli Anadolu ağızlarından ya da diğer Türk lehçelerinden alınanlarla değiştirme, yahut bunun olanaksız görüldüğü durumlarda, genellikle Türk dilinin ses yapısına uygun yeni sözcükler yaratma eğilimi gelişmektedir. Ancak bir yandan özellikle Arapça ve Farsçadan alınma sözcüklerin sayıca çokluğu, öte yandan da bunların konuşma dili içinde pek yaygın olarak kullanılmaları, öz Türkçe olan ve olmayan sözcüklerin ayırılmasında zorluklar doğurmaktadır.

Türk dilindeki yabancı sözcükler "özleşmiş" ve "özleşmemiş" olmak üzere başlıca iki kısımda incelenebilirler. Dilin doğal akışı içinde bazı yabancı sözcükler gerek sürekli ve yaygın olarak kullanılmaları, gerekse ses özellikleri nedeniyle ana dili Türkçe olan kişiler üzerinde yabancı bir sözcük etkisi göstermeyerek onu yadırgatmayacak duruma gelmişlerdir. Yabancı kaynaktan oldukları halde bu çeşit sözcükleri Türk dilinde özleşmiş olarak benimsemekteyiz. Buna karşılık özleşmemiş olan sözcükler, Türk dili içinde yabancı sözcükler olarak nitelendirilmelerini gerektiren özellikler göstermektedirler.

Bu yazı, ana kaynaklarını araştırma zorunda kalınmaksızın, Türk dilindeki yabancı sözcüklerin ayırımında kolaylık sağlayacak bazı ipuçları verme amacıyla hazırlanmıştır. Böyle bir sınıflandırma ve ayırım, Türk dilinin ses yapısı üzerinde daha sistemli bir sonuca ulaşma bakımından da yararlı olabilir.