



RHODE ISLAND COLLEGE

M.Ed. In TESL Program Language Group Specific Informational Reports

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Language Group: Turkish
Author: Emily Sanderson

Program Contact Person: Nancy Cloud (ncloud@ric.edu)

TURKISH

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History

- Turkish has been spoken in the area constituting Turkey since the thirteenth century.
- The establishment of the modern Turkish state in the 1920s involved considerable language reform.
 - ▣ Turkish was made the spoken language of Turkey.
 - ▣ The Arabic alphabet was replaced with the Roman alphabet
 - ▣ A massive literacy campaign was undertaken



(<http://www.lmp.ucla.edu>, 2010)

Affiliation

- Turkish belongs to the Turkic branch of the Altaic language family.
- It is the westernmost of the Turkic languages that are spoken across Central Asia and is generally classified as a member of the South-West group, also known as the Oguz group.
- Other Turkic languages, all of which are closely related:
 - ▣ Azerbaijani (Azeri), Kazakh, Kyrgyz, Tatar, Turkmen, Uighur, Uzbek.

Where is Turkish Spoken

- About 56 million people speak Turkish, most live in Turkey where it is the official language.
- In Bulgaria there are about 850,000 speakers.
- About 37,000 Turkish speakers live in Uzbekistan, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, and Azerbaijan.
- In Cyprus, Turkish is a co-official language where it is spoken as a first language by 19 percent of the population.
- Over a million speakers are found in Bulgaria, Macedonia, and Greece; over 1.5 million speakers live in Germany.

Varieties

Western dialect

- Danubian

Eastern dialects

- Eskisehir
- Razgrad
- Dinler
- Rumelian
- Karamanli
- Edirne
- Gaziantep
- Urfa

■ There are some other classifications that distinguish the following dialect groups: South-western, Central Anatolia, Eastern, Rumelian, and Kastamonu dialects

Interesting Facts

- Turkey holds the Turkish Language Olympics
 - Students who learned Turkish from over a hundred countries compete in different titles such as: grammar, talking skills, writing essays, reciting poems, singing songs, theatre, general culture, etc.

Writing System

- The Turkish alphabet contains 29 letters.
- There are 8 vowels and 21 consonants
- Although the English letters Q, W, X do not appear, there are 6 more letters, namely; Ç, Ğ, Ş, Ö, Ü, İ.
- The other letters are the same in both English and Turkish alphabets, but they are pronounced differently.
- <http://www.onlineturkish.com/alphabet.asp>

Linguistic Features

- Verbs come at the end of sentences

- **Turkish:** Köpek suyu içiyor.

- **English:** (The) dog (the) water is drinking.

- **Turkish:** Güç bunda kuvvetli.

- **English:** (The)Force in this one strong (is).

- Adjectives precede verbs

- Vowel Harmony

- Agglutination: suffixes give number and gender although:

- There is no grammatical gender

- The word , "o", for example, means "he", "she" and "it".

Communication Style

- Turkish speakers do not require as much personal space as many other cultures and will stand close to you while conversing. Backing away can be construed as unfriendly.
- Maintain eye contact while speaking since Turkish speakers take this as a sign of sincerity.
- When addressing a Turkish speaker the most common method is to call a man by his first name followed by 'bey' (pronounced bay). So, Ertan Gonca, would be Ertan Bey. Similarly a woman's first name would be followed by 'hanim' (pronounced ha-num).
- A common phrase you will hear Turks using is 'efendim' (literally 'my master'). You may hear this from a waiter, a secretary, taxi driver, doorman, shop staff and many others. It is simply a polite way of addressing people you are not familiar with.

References

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M.Ed. in TESL Program
Nancy Cloud, Director
Educational Studies Department
Rhode Island College, HBS 206 #5
600 Mt. Pleasant Avenue
Providence, RI 02908
Phone (401) 456-8789
Fax (401) 456-8284
ncloud@ric.edu

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