Purification of the Medical Terms in Turkish

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Purification of the Medical Terms in Turkish

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Abstract

In this study, it is intended to explore how the analysis of the conversation among the doctors and their patients in Turkish facilitate to develop textual and contextual understanding and to determine the importance of language planning in Turkey. In general term, the way the communicators interpret the speech presentation and text modes may vary from one situation to another. The words and the structures used in the language are the clues to comprehend the discourse in context. Therefore, this paper aims to examine the reasons why the doctors prefer using the medical terms and language of science via analysing their speech in different situations. In this context, the reasons of using the medical terms are investigated and some examples of the purification of the medical terminology is examined in this study. The data is collected through the observation reports, interviews with the doctors and the patients. The participants in this study include the patients and the doctors at Medical Faculty of Namık Kemal University.
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Keywords: Purification; medical terms; mutual intelligibility; language of science.

1. Introduction

Ozden (1997,61)states that Turkish Language Reform(TLR)study first began in the 1920s and 1930s as a large scale planning activity to save Turkish from domination by foreign influences. Language Planning(LP) is defined as intervention in the process of language change. Language Planning is examined under two broad categories: status planning and corpus planning. Status planning is interested in functions to varieties of language via authorative policy making, while corpus is concerned with the linguistic code itself(Dogancay,1993). Turkish was heavily influenced by Arabic and Persian English, Latin and French hence, many borrowed words easily entered the Turkish from these languages under the rule of Ottoman Empire. As a result, Turkish written language became incomprehensible for the ordinary Turkish People during Ottoman Empire. Only the rulers and some elite people could use this hybrid language. Under the leadership of Ataturk, a new modern Turkish nation began to appear.

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Therefore, the new nation wanted to unify the language. Thus, they set out a language planning activity concerning to change the script from Arabic to Latin. Then, they wanted to purify the lexicon. In this attempt, the reformers proposed many new Turkish words to replace foreign ones so as to create "Pure Turkish Language". According to Dogancay, this issue continued until 1970s. However, this language renovation attempt has decreased because of some political and sociocultural effects. Having been relevant to language correction, this study is the prevention of external or internal influence of the system of a language. Turkey is concerned with keeping the standard of Turkish spoken as close as possible to that of Istanbul Turkish. Undesirable elements within Turkish are coming from the development of unwanted internal forms and external influence via vocabulary and grammatical influence. Altehenger (1990,147) states that classical examples of language purification are those practiced by the language academics trying to avoid too many external influences on the 'high' language.

Language is the most developed and basic communicative system used in society or the total of the rules Regional dialects, language varieties of different socio-ethnic groups, various language variables like professional language use are all communicative systems of language and they have the same values like as, the systematic language in terms of linguistics. In Turkey the accent of the language the people use in Istanbul is accepted the Standard Turkish. Another judgement on the language is about the pollution of it. Pollution of the Turkish language is thought as the use of the standard language together mixed with the regional dialects, accents and loan words from the other languages thought as foreign languages at schools in Turkey like English (Konig,1998). In this context, Purification of the medical terms in Turkish is one of the most significant and fundamental concepts in order to achieve mutual intelligibility and effective communication between a doctor and his patients. Otherwise, there cannot be effective interaction between the sender and receiver in terms of communication process which leads to problems in the message that should be transformed. The doctors interviewed generally claim that finding the exact corresponding Turkish words for the medical terms is highly challenging and time-consuming. In addition, using the Turkish words instead of medical ones can cause problems as the Turkish words may not correspond to the target medical concepts. However, the medical terms the doctors use, while examining the patients, has been a great concern of patients as they do not have background information about the specific medical terms. Furthermore, as there is a mutual relationship between language and thought, an individual can think and utter speech creatively through his mother tongue effectively. On the other hand, the doctors in Turkey still commit using the medical terms especially when they are chatting among themselves and even with their patients. There could be various reasons of them to prefer using medical terms instead of finding the Turkish corresponding ones. The different uses of language rather than the systematic use are considered the irregular language use.

2. Method

In this study, not only the reasons of using the medical terms is investigated but also some examples of the purification of the medical terminology is examined. The data is collected through observation reports, interviews with the doctors and the patients. The participants in this study include the doctors, nurses and the patients at Medical Faculty of Namık Kemal University.

3. Findings

The findings indicate that although there is much evidence pointing to the prominent role that English occupies in Turkish education system largely through the government's planned language policy. In this study, a sample conversation among the two doctors and their patient at Namık Kemal University is selected among the three dialogues and interpreted in order to state the realization of pollution of Turkish. The foreign words used in this conversation are indicated as italics.

The Conversation:

Dr K: A. Bey durumunuzun sebebi *idiyopatik*.
Hasta: Yani doktor bey…
Dr L: Ben açıklayayım, yani *etyolojisi*'nde bilmedi imiz birçok faktör etkili olabilir.
Hasta: Yani doktor bey… Kötü bir ey mi? Askere gidebilir miyim? Ni anlıyım da askere gidemezsem **A**'yı benimle evlendirmezler.
Dr K: imdi öyle, hastalı ınız *CDC***'**nin istatistiklerine göre %95 oranında kadınlarda görülmektedir. Erkeklerde görüldü ünde daha *progresif* seyreder. Sizin durumunuzda hastalı ınızın *nonspesifik* bir etkene ba lı olması nedeniyle *progresyon*'unun daha iyi olmasını umuyoruz.
Dr L: Hem ire Hanım.. Hastanın damar yolunu açalım hemen *hidrate* edelim.
Hem ire: A. Bey. Kolunuzu açın lütfen.. **A.** hocam hasta hareket etmiyor..
Dr K: A. Bey, **A**. Bey.. Ses vermiyor.
Hasta: ….. (Ses yok, bayılmı tır.)

The translation of the conversation:
Dr.K. The reason of your case is *idiopedic***.**
Patient: Oh, no ! Doctor, you mean…
Dr.L: I can explain, I mean, many factors can be effective in its *etioloji*.
Patient: Oh,doctor , is it a worse situation ? Can I join the army ? I'm engaged.If I cannot join the army, my fiancee's family do not permit her to marry me.
Dr.K: Now, I mean, that is; according to *CDC***'s** statistics, the frequency rate (proportion)of your illness is observed %95 in females. When it is diagnosed in males it is develop much more *progresive***.** In your situation, we can say that your illness depends on a *nonspecific* factor so,we hope that its *progression* will be better**.**
Dr.L: (to the nurse) Ms. Özdemir, please to give an injection to the intravenuous way of the patient and make immediately *hidrate* it.
The nurse: Mr. A, open your arm please.. Ah ! sir, the patient do not move.
Dr.K: Mr.A.. There is no movement .
The patient… (there is no voice, he passed out.)

In the conversation, the doctors use foreign words for the key words in every sentence they produce.There is a mutual intelligibility among them but the patient can not understand their conversation and evaluates them incorrectly.The discourse of the conversation becomes unintelligible for the patient.The findings indicate that although there is much evidence pointing to the prominent role that English occupies in Turkish education system largely in spite of the government's planned language policy.
The analysis of the foreign words in the dialogue:
' diopatic' replaces the Turkish word '*do ustan akıl hastası*',
'*etioloji* is used the word ' *neden*',
'*progressive*' asamalı ilerleyen',
'*progression'* for the word'*ilerleme*',
'*specific*' replaces for the word '*özel'*
'*hydrate*' instead of 'su ile *birlestirme'*
'CDC' (*Centers for Disease Control and Prevention*) is used for ' *Hastalıktan Koruma ve Önleme Merkezi* '
The doctors claiming Turkish words may not correspond to the target medical concepts sometimes about the use of foreign words instead of Turkish correspondings were confirmed by this dialouge. For instance, for the word 'idiopetic'there is no exact Turkish word but there is a phrase like as 'a amalı ilerleyen'. For the word 'hydrate' also there is no corresponding Turkish word. However, reformers can propose many new Turkish words for some medical concepts which have no corresponding Turkish words. If every profession group commit to use foreign words in the conversation, the pollution of language is inevitable.

4. Discussion

For Konig(1998) It is frequently said that Turkish is used correctly or incorrectly by the people in Turkey. One

language analysis. Written language or systematic language used by the educated people is considered as the Standard Turkish , for it contains the systems and the rules. The deviations in Standard language are accepted as errors and irregular language use. In this context, the doctors having been educated people should not commit use foreign words instead of Turkish ones. When they do so, their behavior challenge Turkish Government's Language Policy.The understanding of descriptive linguistics which is developed in the 20th century and highlights the importance of spoken language, approaches the language in an objective point of view. In this context, Purification of the medical terms in Turkish is one of the most significant and fundamental concepts in order to achieve mutual intelligibility and effective communication between a doctor and his patients. Otherwise, there cannot be effective interaction between the sender and receiver in terms of communication process which leads to problems in the message that should be transformed. The doctors interviewed generally claim that finding the exact corresponding Turkish words for the medical terms is highly challenging and time-consuming. In addition, using the Turkish words instead of medical ones can cause problems as the Turkish words may not correspond to the target medical concepts. However, the medical terms the doctors use while examining the patients has been a great concern of patients as they do not have background information about the specific medical terms. Furthermore, as there is a mutual relationship between language and thought, an individual can think and utter speech creatively through his mother tongue effectively. On the other hand, the doctors in Turkey still commit using the medical terms especially when they are chatting among themselves and even with their patients. There could be various reasons of them to prefer using medical terms instead of finding the Turkish corresponding ones. The different uses of language rather than the systematic use are considered irregular language use. If trying to do so, it causes a challenge of Language Planning Policy of Turkish government.

4.   Conclusion and Recommendation

In conclusion, The words and the structures used in the language are the clues to comprehend the discourse in context. Therefore, this paper aims to examine the reasons why the doctors prefer using the medical terms and language of science via analysing their speech in different situations. In this context, the reasons of using the medical terms is investigated and some examples of the purification of the medical terminology is examined through a dialogue. The doctors in Turkey still commit using the medical terms especially when they are chatting among themselves and even with their patients. There could be various reasons of them to prefer using medical terms instead of finding the Turkish corresponding ones. The different uses of language rather than the systematic use are considered irregular language use. The doctors I interview claim that there is a specific terminology in every profession. Therefore, It is very convenient for them to use professional language mixed with Turkish. In this way, the special terminologies they have to acquire replace well. They conclude saying that it is incorrect to try to find corresponding Turkish words for the technical vocabularies. They insist on saying that they can learn the professional vocabularies well through replacing them in their own language. However, If every profession group commit to use foreign words in the conversation, the pollution of language is inevitable.As a result of this, the Language Planning or Language Policy of Turkish government easily frustrates.

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