

Den turkiska språkfamiljen

Turkiskan tillhör turkic-grenen av den altaiska språkfamiljen. Den tidigaste kända turkic-inskriptionen kommer från 600-talet, och muslimska texter skrivna på turkic dök upp under 1000-talet. Turkiskan, det moderna Turkiets språk, talas idag av runt 60 miljoner människor. Andra viktiga turkicspråk är Azeri (15 miljoner talare), Uzbek (14 miljoner talare), Tatar, Turkmen, Uighur och många andra från Balkan och över Centralasien, ned i nordvästra Kina och södra Sibirien. Ordet "turkiska" borde bara användas för själva språket som talas i Turkiet. Det är dock vanligt att kalla alla dessa språk turkiska, och skilja dem efter det geografiska området, exempelvis Azerbajjans turkiska.

Turkiskan brukade använda samma alfabet som arabiskan, men har skrivits med latinska bokstäver sedan 1928 som nämndes ovan. Sedan 1940 har Azeri och Uzbek skrivits med cyrilliska tecken, men det sker nu försök att byta till latinska.

Som ett altaiskt språk har turkiskan i princip ingenting gemensamt med engelskan eller med andra indoeuropeiska språk, förutom en del låneord, vanligtvis från franska eller engelska.

Historia

Språkets historia delas mellan tre huvudgrupper, gammalturkiska (från 600- till 1200-talet), mellanturkiska (från 1200- till 1900-talet) och nyturkiska från 1900-talet och framåt. Under det ottomanska imperiet invaderade arabiska och persiska ord det turkiska språket, och det blev som följt en sammanblandning av tre olika språk. Under den ottomanska perioden som pågick under fem århundraden segades turkiskans utveckling ned rejält. Turkiskan blev grunden för ottomanturkiskan, det ottomanska imperiets skrivna språk. Ottomanturkiska är i princip som turkiska, men med kraftigt med arabiska och persiska ord och med en del grammatisk influens. Ottomanturkiskan existerade samtidigt som den talade turkiskan, och det senare sågs som "skräpspråket" som inte var värdigt att studeras. Ottomanturkiskan och det talade språket representeras bägge med arabisk text.

Then there was the "new language" movement started by Kemal Atatürk. In 1928, five years after the proclamation of the Republic, the Arabic alphabet was replaced by the Latin one, which in turn speeded up the movement to rid the language of foreign words. Prior to the reform that introduced the Roman script, Turkish was written in the Arabic script. Up to the fifteenth century the Anatolian Turks used the Uighur script to write Turkish. The Turkish Language Institute (Turk Dil Kurumu) was established in 1932 to carry out linguistic research and contribute to the natural development of the language. As a consequence of these efforts, modern Turkish is a literary and cultural language developing naturally and free of foreign influences. Today literacy rates in Turkey are over 90%.

Speakers

Through the span of history, Turks have spread over a wide geographical area, taking their language with them. Turkish speaking people have lived in a wide area stretching from today's Mongolia to the north coast of the Black Sea, the Balkans, East Europe, Anatolia, Iraq and a wide area of northern Africa. Due to the distances involved, various dialects and accents have emerged. Turkish is also the language spoken at home by people who live in the areas that were governed by the Ottoman Empire. For instance, in Bulgaria there are over a million speakers. About 50,000 Turkish speakers live in Uzbekistan, Kazakhstan,

Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, and Azerbaijan. In Cyprus, Turkish is a co-official language (with Greek) where it is spoken as a first language by 19 percent of the population, especially in the North (KKTC). Over 1.5 million speakers are found in Bulgaria, Macedonia, and Greece; over 2.5 million speakers live in Germany (and other northern European countries) where Turks have for many years been "guest workers." About 40,000 Turkish speakers live in the United States.

Dialects

Turkish has several dialects. The Turkish dialects can be divided into two major groups: Western dialects and Eastern dialects. Of the major Turkish dialects, Danubian appears to be the only member of the Western group. The following dialects make up the Eastern group: Eskisehir, Razgrad, Dinler, Rumelian, Karamanli, Edirne, Gaziantep, and Urfa. There are some other classifications that distinguish the following dialect groups: South-western, Central Anatolia, Eastern, Rumelian, and Kastamonu dialects. Modern standard Turkish is based on the Istanbul dialect of Anatolian.

Alphabet

Since 1928, Turkish has been written in a slightly modified Latin alphabet which is very nearly phonetic. The Turkish alphabet has 8 vowels (a, e, ı, i, o, ö, u, ü) and 21 consonants. In Turkey's Turkish Q, X and W are not used, but in Tatar's Turkish these characters are used as well.

Most letters are pronounced pretty much as you would expect, but some are not. Once the phonetic value of all letters is known, then it is rather easy to pronounce any word one sees or to spell any word one hears. This means once you know how to pronounce the letters in the alphabet you can start reading perfectly right away!

Remember that while reciting the alphabet, a Turkish "E" is attached to all consonant sounds. Some of the following letters require explanation which has been provided, others are similar to English pronunciation:

Grammar

Turkish grammar is complex, but also quite regular. Its two most characteristic features are:

1- vowel harmony (vowels within a word follow certain harmonic patterns)

2- agglutination (addition suffixes to words)

Through this process, astoundingly long word phrases can be encountered. For example, the following means, "You are one of those whom we were not able to Turkify."

Türkleştiremedikerimizdensiniz.

Another interesting feature is that there is no gender in Turkish. The same word , "o", for example, means "he", "she" and "it".

Turks generally call each other by their given names. For example, a man whose name is Ahmet Kuran would be called Ahmet bey(bey = Mr.), and his wife whose name is Ayşe

Kuran would be called Ayşe hanım (hanım =Ms.). Good friends drop the "bey" and "hanım". But a letter would be addressed to Bay ve Bayan Ahmet Kuran (Mr. and Mrs...).

Like all of the Turkic languages, Turkish is agglutinative, that is, grammatical functions are indicated by adding various suffixes to stems. Separate suffixes on nouns indicate both gender and number, but there is no grammatical gender. Nouns are declined in three declensions with six case endings: nominative, genitive, dative, accusative, locative, and ablative; number is marked by a plural suffix. Verbs agree with their subjects in case and number, and, as in nouns, separate identifiable suffixes perform these functions. The order of elements in a verb form is: verb stem + tense aspect marker + subject affix. There is no definite article; the number "one" may be used as an indefinite article.

Subject-Object-Verb word order in Turkish is a typical Turkic characteristic, but other orders are possible under certain discourse situations. As a SOV language where objects precede the verb, Turkish has postpositions rather than prepositions, and relative clauses that precede the verb.

TENSE

The following table lists the combinations of the four terms of the aspectual paradigm with the three terms of the **tense** paradigm, including the tense-neutralizing evidential marker.

Synthetic tense-aspect combinations in Turkish

	Present	Past	Evidential
Progressive	gid-iyor-sun	gid-iyor-du-n	gid-iyor-muş-sun
Dispositive	gid-er-sin	gid-er-di-n	gid-er-miş-sin
Prospective	gid-ecek-sin	gid-ecek-ti-n	gid-ecek-miş-sin
Perfective	git-miş-sin	git-miş-ti-n	git-miş-miş-sin
		git-ti-n	

Note that gitmişin and gittin have the same tense, but slightly different aspectual values. The aspect suffix –miş has anterior perfective meaning, referring to an event that had been completed by some point in the past.

P.S: Kan skriva ett ord och alla tense i rätt rutan på svenska?