

# **Linguistic and Social Changes from Immigration to the Netherlands**

**Dutch-Turkish Contact in the Netherlands**

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## Introduction

Turkish immigration to the Netherlands increased in the 1960s and is characterized by three periods (Katzenson 2015). While Turkey was not the sole source of immigrants to the Netherlands, Turkish immigration from the 1960s and on has resulted in Turkish becoming one of the dominant non-Western ethnicities in the Netherlands. A graph of Turkish immigration to the Netherlands is given in Figure 1.

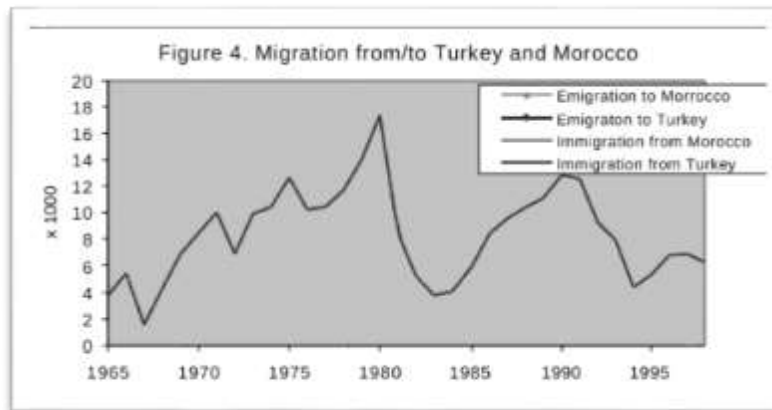


Figure 1: Turkish (and Moroccan) Immigration to the Netherlands from Zorlu (2001)

*\*Image has been touched up to only highlight Turkish immigration*

The first period was the guest-worker program, which allowed immigrants from the Mediterranean to fill the labor shortage in the Netherlands, among which were immigrants from Turkey. According to Katzenson (2015), “the goal of the guest-worker program was to [secure a workforce] that can withstand [the] seasonal or temporary characteristic of the job”. Although intended to be a program to gather a temporary workforce, immigration in the subsequent period began to take on a more permanent nature.

The second period (1980) was the immigration of family members from Turkey in order to unite families and communities in the Netherlands. In this period, Turkish immigrants immigrated to the Netherlands in a more permanent manner, as family members were brought over. The third period (late 1990) included not only the immigration of family members to reunify families, but also the formation of families within Turkish immigrants. At the same time as the third period of migration, the population of second and third generation Turkish immigrants living in the Netherlands has increased dramatically. In a table shown by Zorlu (2001), there are approximately 104,000 second generation Turkish immigrants living in the Netherlands.

## Contact change

Turkish speakers in the Netherlands tend to add, replace, or omit morphemes (smallest unit of meaning, typically a word but can also include other units such as prefixes or suffixes) when they speak Turkish. Their interaction with Dutch can be described using Muysken (2013)'s insertion strategy (insertion is the strategy in which the first language is spoken primarily, but there are traces of the second language present). The reason that this contact can be classified as insertion is because Turkish immigrants still interact in mostly Turkish, but features of Dutch morphemes are adopted.

## Contact Features

The influence that Dutch has on Turkish spoken by those born in the Netherlands can be classified in three features. These three features are highlighted in Dogruoz (2009). An example of the first feature, as described by Dogruoz (2009), is as follows:

Speaker Origin	Spoken Example	Spoken Example with Gloss underlined	Literal Translation
Netherlands	Dün akşam 21.30 <b>trenini aldım.</b>	Dün akşam 21.30 <u>Yesterday evening 21:30</u> <b>tren-i-ni al-dı-m.</b> <b>train-POSS3SG-ACC take-PAST-1SG</b>	Yesterday evening 21:30 train <b>take.</b>
Turkey	Dün akşam 21.30 <b>trenine bindim.</b>	Dün akşam 21.30 <u>Yesterday evening 21:30</u> <b>tren-i-ne bin-di-m.</b> <b>train-POSS3SG-DAT get on-PAST-1SG</b>	Yesterday evening 21:30 train <b>get on.</b>

According to Dogruoz (2009), this change is known as Replacement, where a morpheme is replaced with another morpheme. In this case, Turkish morphemes are replaced with Dutch morphemes. In Turkish, transportation vehicles are usually described as “get on”, but they instead use “taken”, which is typically used by Dutch speakers.

The second feature detailed by Dogruoz (2009) is that Turkish speakers born in the Netherlands may also add morphemes that are not normally used in native Turkish, but is used in Dutch. An example of this from Dogruoz (2009) is as follows:

Speaker Origin	Spoken Example with Gloss underlined	Literal Translation
Netherlands	Bir sene acaip <b>kötü</b> sıcak-tı burası. <u>One year very bad warm-PAST here</u>	One year very <b>bad</b> warm here.
Turkey	Bir sene acaip sıcak-tı burası. <u>One year very warm-PAST here</u>	One year very warm here.

While Turkish speakers tend to just use “very warm”, Dutch speakers tend to add morphemes to express intensity. In this case, “very bad warm” is used to express not just that it’s “warm”, but that it’s “incredibly warm”.

The third feature described by Dogruoz (2009) is omission of morphemes, where Turkish speakers born in the Netherlands tend to leave out morphemes that are used by native Turkish speakers. As example from Dogruoz (2009) is as follows:

Speaker Origin	Spoken Example with Gloss undrlined	Literal Translation
Netherlands	Öyle dizi-ler çok seviyorum. <u>That series-PL a lot like-PROG-1SG</u>	That series a lot like.
Turkey	Öyle dizi-ler-i çok seviyorum. <u>That series-PL-ACC a lot like-PROG-1SG</u>	That series a lot like.

What is omitted from Netherlands Turkish (and in English) is the marking, also known as an accusative marking that denotes what the object is. This allows the listener identify what the object that is acted upon. In the case of native Turkish, adding an “i” to “dizler” denotes that it’s “the series that is being liked”. However, such objects are not typically marked in English nor Dutch.

## Language Attitudes

In contrast to first generation Turkish immigrants, second and third generation Turkish immigrants tend to be less fluent in Turkish than their parents. In addition to applying the linguistic features as described above, Turkish immigrants born in the Netherlands tend to consider themselves more Dutch than Turkish, and they think that Dutch is a more important language compared to Turkish. Consequently, Turkish tends to be used less in the second generation than in the first generation, and even more so in the third generation. Sevinç (2014) provides a testimony of a participant in their study (referred to as Misra) who cannot connect with their cousin’s friends in Turkey because Misra did not speak Turkish well. Misra also notes that they would sometimes call their mother or father and tell them in Dutch, who would translate it into Turkish. An illustration of the encounter is given in Figure 2.



Figure 2: Created by Ruan, Jia 2019 (with stock images from Huffpost and Wikimedia)

### **Analogy with US Spanglish Contact**

The Dutch influence of Netherland Turkish speaker shares similarity to the US influence on Spanish described by Otheguy (2010). Otheguy (2010) described the situation of Spanish speakers in the US that is quite similar to Turkish speakers in the Netherlands: subsequent generations are less fluent in their heritage language. Otheguy (2010) stated that the use of Spanish tends to disappear within three, sometimes even two, generations. Otheguy noted that Spanish speakers in the US often use both the Spanish terms local to the region as well as the neutralizing term (the term known by speakers in every region). An example is the usage of the word “beismen” (translation: basement) as opposed to “sótano” (translation: basement). In this case, the term “beismen” is based on the English word, “basement”, and is used by US Spanish speakers, as opposed to “sótano”, which is considered proper Spanish and is used in Spain. This contact phenomenon, known as lexical borrowing, is most similar to Replacement described by Dogruoz (2009). The difference between the phenomenon described by Otheguy and by Dogruoz is that, in the case described by Dogruoz, Dutch Turkish speakers still use original Turkish words rather than invent or borrow new words.

### **Conclusion**

Turkish immigration to the Netherlands increased in the 1960s, when the Netherlands is experiencing a worker shortage under the guest-worker program. Despite the end of the guest-worker program, Turkish immigration continued in order to move family members and to form families in the Netherlands. Consequently, Turkish spoken by Turkish immigrants in the Netherlands tend to adopt Dutch morphemes in their native language. Moreover, second and third generation Turkish immigrants feel disconnected from their Turkish identity, since they are often alienated by native Turkish speakers what the natives would consider proper Turkish.

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