

Typological Similarities and Endangered Languages in Turkey

Language contact and especially contact induced changes in languages in linguistic area of a dominant language correlate with endangered state of a language. The relevant literature and typological studies propose a scale in measuring this state in order to determine the level of threat. There are studies that document changes in major typological characteristics of a language motivated by influence of intense borrowings over the time and there are also studies that report facts arguing against this conclusion.

In this paper, we will first present typological similarities of the languages spoken in Turkey. We will note degrees of convergences and divergences of typological properties and introduce state of these languages and their level of endangerment. Language descriptions will be derived from WALS database and will be confined to languages that are relatively well-documented.

The concepts “typical” of Comrie (2010) and “coherent” of Orgun (2011) will be employed in determining the particular linguistic forms that will then be checked against the data from languages.

The study will introduce a scalar list of languages following a detailed measure of their proximity to Turkish and comment on the consequences of contact induced changes in languages spoken in Turkey.

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