



Ankara University
Department of Linguistics
Sıhhiye, Ankara, Turkey, 06100
+9003123103280
bekar@ankara.edu.tr

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Review of the Doctoral Thesis of Ali Can Yalçınkaya, M.Sc.

Title: Turkic Loanwords in Hungarian: A Study Concerning Loanword Adaptation

Research Supervisors: Prof. Parapatics Andrea, Prof. Szentgyörgyi Szilárd,

University of Pannonia, Multilingualism Doctoral School,

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Introduction

The PhD Dissertation of Ali Can Yalçinkaya contains 141 pages, 5 chapters, 15 tables, and 1 figure. The Introduction section has modern and contemporary approaches including the area of research, main concepts, objectives, hypotheses, limitations, and data materials.

In this section, the research idea has been created in detail. In this respect, the *Introduction* section of this thesis contains a successful layout. In addition, the fact that the basic theoretical approaches discussed in this section are well described increases the clarity of the limitations, method, hypotheses, and research questions of the doctoral thesis.

The thesis generally covers the research problem with the different and original perspectives. To my knowledge, the subject of this thesis, which has not been addressed in the literature for many years but contains an extremely important research problems, makes a great contribution to the field. As well known, Turkish is a language that contains borrowings from many different languages. In this context, the fact that Turkish and Hungarian come from close language families and that the phonological processes of these two languages contain very similar phonemic characteristics (i.e., vowel harmony) is one of the main points that increase the originality of the thesis.

Structure of the Thesis

Research areas, main theoretical approaches and concepts, phonological stance model, phonetic approximation, combined accounts, research motivations, questions, hypotheses, data, scope of the study and limitations are clearly described in Chapter 1. In the Chapter 2, the methodology explained with theoretical points. Results for the borrowing and adaptation processes were presented in a detailed form in Chapter 3 by discussing the patterns of syllabic representations. Results obtained from different syllabic processes were discussed in Chapter 4, and final remarks were presented in Chapter 5.

Even though the overall thesis structure is well done, I propose to separate the *Introduction* section into two sections: Previous literature and Research design. In my opinion, presenting these two sections separately makes the thesis reading much easier. However, if this arrangement of the thesis is due to the thesis writing rules of the institute, it can absolutely remain as it is and it is appropriate.

Review of the Thesis

The main motivation of the thesis includes good theoretical analysis and future contributions both for phonologic and phonetics aspects. To investigate the loanword adaptation process of Turkic words in Hungarian represented the impact of language contact from different perspectives. The thesis focused on the 377 West Old Turkic borrowings in Hungarian, which has not been studied in this research design in previous literature, might generate further points both for phonology and acoustic-phonetic approaches.

The present study proposed insights into how loanwords are transferred from the target language to the source language. In this regard, the thesis provides a theoretical analysis, first focusing on the borrowing process, followed by an investigation of subsequent adaptation processes. As well discussed in the final remarks of the thesis, a key observation from the thesis is that the integration of loanwords from West Old Turkic into Hungarian is minimal at the initial stage. Accordingly, the average pronunciation difference of 7.21% displays that the borrowings are very similar to their West Old Turkic originals. I am on the same point with this claim that the words borrowed to Hungarian from Turkic were mostly copied in their original phonetic form. The overall findings enhance the understanding of the dynamics of borrowing and adaptation between West Old Turkic and Hungarian, elucidating the phonetic and phonological alternations that occur during the incorporation of loanwords.

My general suggestion is to expand this study with experimental methods that include online- or offline-based psycholinguistic perspectives. Accordingly, it is known in the literature that Sharon Peperkamp and her research team have conducted numerous studies on loanword processes. In this respect, making the phonological and phonological aspects of the study testable on different sample groups from psycholinguistic perspectives will make the research approachable with much broader methods. Below I am adding bibliographies of some very valuable research that may be related to this subject.

- Dailey, M., C. Straboni & S. Peperkamp (2023). Using allophonic variation in L2 word recognition: French listeners' processing of English vowel nasalization. *Second Language Research*. DOI: 10.1177/02676583231181472
- Martin, A. (Alexander), M. van Heugten, R. Kager & S. Peperkamp (2022). Marginal contrast in loanword phonology: Production and perception. *Laboratory Phonology* 13. DOI: 10.16995/labphon.6454.
- Peperkamp, S., Vendelin, I. & Nakamura, K. (2008). On the perceptual origin of loanword adaptations: experimental evidence from Japanese. *Phonology*, 25, 129-164.
- Vendelin, I. & Peperkamp, S. (2006). The influence of orthography on loanword adaptations. *Lingua*, 116, 996-1007.
- Guevara-Rukoz, A., Yu, S. & Peperkamp, S. (2021). Speech perception and loanword adaptations: the case of copy-vowel epenthesis. *Proceedings of INTERSPEECH 2021* (pp. 4004-4008).
- Peperkamp, S. (2005). A psycholinguistic theory of loanword adaptations. In: M. Ettliger, N. Fleischer & M. Park-Doob (eds.) *Proceedings of the 30th Annual Meeting of the Berkeley Linguistics Society*. Berkeley, CA: The Society, 341-352.

Conclusions and General Remarks

The following points may be stressed in the thesis:

1. More comprehensive information can be given on how statistical analysis is performed. For example, highlighting some methodological details such as what the statistical model is, which dependent or independent variables are used, will make the thesis easier to read. If a comprehensive analysis has not been conducted (not obligatory in a theoretical-based study), then I recommend that the details of the simple analysis be included in a slightly clearer language. The reason for taking this information into consideration is that the statistical emphasis in the second research question of the thesis. For this reason, it would be good to present more information such as main descriptive statistics based on how the frequency values of loanwords are measured, especially in the *Method* section. However, the main point for the theoretical analysis is very explanatory and well-designed in the same section.
2. The term “phonetic distance calculation” seems to be a crucial point in thesis since it is one of the research questions. However, it is not easy to reach this term from the thesis. This suggestion is also directly related to my previous suggestion (see 1). Although this study is theoretically based, it also includes some basic experimental steps. For this reason, in terms of the readability of the thesis, it is expected that the terminological expressions in the research questions will be seen frequently in the thesis. Accordingly, when I scanned the term “phonetic distance calculation” in the thesis, I could not easily access the term. Improvements can be made in this regard and should be cited more terminologically in the thesis. Because a statement in the research questions is expected to be parallel with *Introduction* and *Discussion* sections. In this context, it seems a bit difficult to access the relevant term in the thesis in its current form. Improvements can be made in this regard.
3. The *Discussion* section has been written successfully in general. However, the following question can be asked here as an additional contribution. For instance, how is this study different or similar to other languages in the loanword process? More comparisons can be made with different studies that overlap with the data obtained from this study. In addition, which linguistic components come to the fore in the interpretation phase of the loanword process, for example, is this process interpreted phonologically or phonetically? What can be the cross-linguistic contributions in these aspects? In other words, what is the general motivation of the data obtained as a result of this study for linguistics? Although some good argumentations have been presented in this section, a little more interpretation of the cross-linguistic part will make the thesis more understandable.

The literature references are correctly cited.

Decision

I would like strongly to recommend to the scientific committee to award the PhD degree to Ali Can Yalçinkaya. My overall decision is positive except for some minor weakness points.

This thesis is an original study that comprehensively investigates the loanwords on the basis of Turkic-Hungarian comparisons, where there are very few studies in the background. It is considered that the thesis regarding these aspects will make significant contributions to the literature. In general, the thesis has been written systematically except for some minor points. I would like to congratulate dear Ali Can Yalçinkaya and dear Supervisors who supported and contributed this process.



Assoc. Prof. Dr. İpek Pınar Uzun
Ankara University, Department of Linguistics
Head of the Linguistic Labs