

**(How) will Turkish Survive in Northwestern Europe? 50
Years of Migration, 35 years of Research on Sociopolitical
and Linguistic Developments in Diaspora Turkish**

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Migration from Turkey to the countries Germany, the Netherlands, Belgium, France, the Nordic countries and the UK has clearly affected the lifestyles, language practices and ideologies both of the migrants and of the receiving countries over the 50 years since the initial migration of “Gastarbeiter”. In the course of this time, the Turkish language has proven to have rather high “ethnolinguistic vitality” but it has not survived without change from the varieties spoken and written in Turkey.

In this presentation, I will review some of the many studies by linguists (many frequent participants in ICTL) which have given us insight into the development of these varieties of diaspora Turkish and how it is used in conjunction with the other languages used in the countries of current residence – and, for a longer or shorter period, also in Turkey, following re-migration.

The most prominent sociolinguistic issues which arise are whether and to what extent the Turkish language has been maintained into the third generation of speakers “with migrant background” under the changing policies of the receiving countries, how Turkish is used alternately or in conjunction with the other languages in the verbal repertoire of the communities and how processes of language attrition and language contact have affected the varieties of Turkish.

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