

## Common Cultural Turkish words in Albanian and Greek languages

Dr. Adem Balaban

Dr. Bünyamin Çağlayan

Department of Turkish Language and Literature  
Hëna e Plotë-Bedër University, Tirana, Albania  
Email: abalaban@beder.edu.al  
Email: bcaglayan@beder.edu.al

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### Abstract

*The Balkans has a very important place in human civilization. In history, the Balkans has been the cradle of many cultures and hosted many nations. Greeks and Albanians living in these lands are oldest nations. Then, by the arrival of the Turks, these three nations became neighbors in the Balkans. Turkish, Greek and Albanian nations were influenced by each other. This interaction is to be seen mostly in cultural area. This interaction was more effective in the field of language, especially during the Ottoman period. Many words were transferred from Turkish to Greek and Albanian during this period. Some Greek words were also transferred to Turkish and Albanian. Many words are commonly used, particularly in cultural areas and they are still used. Common words used in these areas Kitchen, tailoring, shipping, customs, weddings and other cultural aspects are indicators of a common culture. In our study, Turkish, Albanian and Greek common Turkish words which reflect the common cultural elements will be handled. We will also discuss the words which reflect the common cultural elements.*

**Keywords:** Turkish, Albanian, Greek, common words, culture

### 1. Introduction

Language is one of the most important features that separate man from other assets. Human beings as thinking give names to objects and some concepts and created the language. The language is occurred by the agreement. It has been the most powerful means of communication between people. Since very ancient times, researchers made many different definitions about the language. One of these definitions is sufficient. According to Ergin, "The language is a natural tool of understanding among the people. It has its own rules and develops in these rules. Its base was established unknown periods of history. It is a secret agreement which occurred from sounds. It is also a social institution. (Ergin, 2008:3)

Culture encompasses everything from the food, drink, dress, style of living up to moral values. It was the most important elements that make up society since the first human being. In general, culture which is considered as the main identity of a nation's has been incorporated with the language. According to the definition of UNESCO: "that in its widest sense, culture may now be said to be the whole complex of distinctive spiritual, material, intellectual and emotional features that characterize a society or social group. It includes not only the arts and letters, but also modes of life, the fundamental rights of the human being, value systems, traditions and beliefs". (UNESCO, 1982:2)

Many disciplines interest in culture from language to literature, anthropology, history etc. Because every branches of science that are interesting in human being evaluated their own culture which developed in it. Gökalp who is referring to this fact says about the culture:

"Culture is a compatible collection of religion, morality, law, mind, aesthetics, language, economics and philosophy about only one nation life. On the other hand, civilization is the sum of a common social life of many nations which are the same level of development. (Gökalp, 1997:25)

In time, people form their own cultural world according to the conditions of their culture, the rights and freedoms, geographical, physical and spiritual conditions. What are they more engaged in their region these cultural items keep in the place in their culture. There are a lot of cultural differences between nomadic society and sedentary society. Human beings have needed making a name each new object or notion. This nomenclature is sometimes taken from one language to another, sometimes the folks made it into their own language.

In generally, all material and moral elements that are into the culture of a nation are reflected in their languages. In this respect, there are some words that show each elements of the culture and provide information about this culture.

This also means that culture has influence upon the language and language is the main elements which reflect cultural elements.

Since the time immemorial, the relationship between language and culture has attracted the attention of sociologists and linguists as well. Language and culture, studies on the relationship between language and society has given rise to a new discipline called ethno linguistic. Sapir who is considered the founder of the "Ethnic linguistics" rejected the idea of transferability of the cultural characteristics one culture to another independently from the people. Sapir focused on the correlation between the individual's perception and cognitive faculties in order to explain that people who have the different behaviors, language and cultural background. (Moore, 2004, p.89-90 in Oğuz, 2011:134).

According to Kaplan who said that in a very tight relationship between language and culture: "Every nation creates language and culture for centuries. In the meantime, it flows like a river that passes through land takes some of the elements from the earth. Every civilized nation's spoken and written language has many words and phrases that were transferred from encountered civilizations. In this regard, the language of every nation is almost a summary of the history of the nation lived through the ages." (Kaplan, 2011:152).

According to Aksan who said "Language contains all the elements of culture": "If one foreigner who doesn't know Turkish and has been in neither Anatolia nor other Turkic countries learns Turkish in anywhere all over the world can acquire a lot of information on the Turkish culture and is able to recognize that culture by just studying Turkish vocabulary. (Aksan, 2011:21)

"Through all its verbal and non-verbal aspects, language embodies cultural reality." "Language is a system of signs that is seen as having itself a cultural value. Speakers identify themselves and others through their use of language; the view their language as a symbol of their social identity. The prohibition of its use is often perceived by its speakers as a rejection of their social group and their culture. Thus we can say that language symbolizes cultural reality." (Kramsch, 2003:3).

In this study, we will focus on Turkish linguistic elements in Greek and Albanian languages. These works have been used in the determination of Turkish words in Greek:

- *Common Turkish and Greek Idioms and Proverbs (Türkçe Ve Yunancadaki Ortak Deyim Ve Atasözleri)* written by Herkül Milas,
- *The dictionary of Turkish Words That Transferred Other Languages(Türkçe Verintiler Sözlüğü)* written by Günay Karaağaç,
- *Turkish Cultural Words in Balkan Languages (Balkan Dillerindeki Türkçe Kültür Kelimeleri)* written by Hatice Aksel
- *The Evaluation Of The Joint Vocabulary In Turkish And Greek In Point Of The Cross-Cultural Interaction (Kültürlerarası Etkileşim Bağlamında Türkçe ve Yunancadaki Ortak Sözcüklerinin Değerlendirilmesi)* written by Mustafa Yağbasan

In the Albanian, in order to identify the determination of Turkish words into Greek and Albanian languages we benefited from these works:

- *Dictionary of Orientalistic Words in Albanian (Fjalor i Orientalizmave Në Gjuhën Shqipe)* written by Tahir N. Dizdari
- *Turkish Words In Albanian Language And Comparing Them With Other Balkan Languages (Mbi Huazimet Turke Në Gjuhën Shqipe Krahasuar Me Gjuhët E Tjera Të Ballkanit)* written by Lindita Latifi xhanari
- *The Evaluation Of The Joint Vocabulary In Turkish And Greek In Point Of The Cross-Cultural Interaction (Kültürlerarası Etkileşim Bağlamında Türkçe ve Yunancadaki Ortak Sözcüklerinin Değerlendirilmesi)* written by Mustafa Yağbasan
- *The Sound Changes in Turkish Words in Albanian Language (Türkçeden Arnavutçaya Geçen Kelimelerdeki Ses Değişmeleri)* written by Adem Balaban

In this study, we firstly determined which cultural titles shall be and which words shall be collected under these titles. In the distinction made by the fields of cultural elements, the linguistic elements are listed in alphabetical order under these titles. When we are choosing the words, we preferred them which are used in daily language.

One language's influence on other language is not to be only their own linguistic elements. Sometimes linguistic element is transferred to other language as a meaning; sometimes new indicators are produced in that language according to affecting language. In such cases, linguistic elements can be changed but cultural indicators are not changed. In this study, we tried to show examples of Turkish linguistic indicators in Albanian and Greek languages.

When we show examples in these three languages, tried to give in Greek, Albanian and Turkish forms due to phonetics and morphologic changes in these words. Furthermore, English forms of these words are also given to the

source of other researchers.

## 2. The Relationships between Turkish, Greek and Albanian

Turks migrated from the steppes of Central Asia into Europe during the emigration of the nations. At the end of this migration, Turks who settled in Europe, including the Balkans interacted with other nations living there in many areas. The interaction which started at this period rose to the highest level during the Ottoman period. This interaction has been most effectively on language and culture fields. Especially during the Ottoman period, Turkish and Turkish culture has influenced many Balkan languages and cultures. This interaction occurred mostly in Serbian, Bosnian, Albanian and Greek. In particular, Serbian, Greek and Albanian transferred many words from Turkish.

Karaağaç explains that there are approximately 3000 Turkish words in Greek at his study of "*Dictionary of Turkish Words in Other Languages* (Türkçe Verintiler Sözlüğü)". (Karaağaç, 2008:LXIV). According to the researchers working on the Turkish words in Greek, these numbers ranged from 1500-3000. According to Karaağaç, the presence of Turkish words in Greek is 3000 in the study of Kukkidis in 1960. This number is 1968 in the study of Georgidas in 1974. There are Turkish words in "Etymological Dictionary of Giagkoullis" in 1994. (Karaağaç, 2008:LXIV)

Exchanging the word was not unilateral. At the same time, Turkish also transferred Greek words. According to Karaağaç, the number of these words are 900 in Konstantinos's study in 1960 and this number is 597 in Tzitzilis's book published in 1987. (Karaağaç, 2008:LXIII)

There are also many Turkish words in Albanian which affected by Turkish. According to Dizdari, the number of these words is 4406. (Dizdari, 2005:4)

As it is seen, to be used very common word shows that these three nations affected each other in terms of culture. Language which is a carrier of culture transferred cultural values from one society to another due to these cultural words. This cultural transfer and approaches are observed not only the linguistic level but also many areas such as lifestyle, social life etc. "In Turkish and Greek communities, the conclusions can be obtained from the common linguistic indicators as well as behavior is reflected in the social and cultural factors. (Yağbasan, 2010:369)

Any foreign word in a language carries marks its cultural layer. According to Aksan, "The word related catering, cuisine and nutrition shows the layout of feeding in a community. The foreign names within the one language's vocabulary bring out the effects of other culture." (Aksan 1998:66)

In the history, the Turks, Albanians and Greeks lived together as neighbors a long time. As a result of these relationships languages and cultures influenced each other. According to Aksan, sharing the same geography plays linguistically an important role in this interaction. Aksan expresses it like this:

"As a conclusion of the sharing of the same geography by different communities, the continuity of the words exchange is observed in the historical process. Moreover, it may be witnessing that the situation that are explained above changes the face of the languages." (Aksan, 1998:139).

According to Yağbasan who is referring to this issue, "The neighborhood is an undeniable fact that the effect of the existence of the relationship. Geographical and theological neighborhood and proximity makes exchange between the languages natural." (Yağbasan, 2010:371)

## 3. Cultural Items

Every nation lived in a system of customs, their faith, morals, law, education etc. in the historical process. This lifestyle and worldview provided that every nation has its own culture. Culture which contains a number of items in their own culture influenced them as well as they have developed through life style and philosophy of life. Major elements of culture include:

- a. Language,
- b. Religion,
- c. Education,
- d. Economics,
- e. Technology,
- f. Social Institutions
- g. Traditions And Customs,
- a. Moral Values
- b. Art,

- c. Literature,
- d. Folklore,
- e. Music
- f. Symbols
- g. Taboos And Ceremonies

Many researchers have made various divisions on the reflection of the cultural elements to the linguistic indicators. We try to give our own classification because capacity of this study was not sufficient to count them.

1. Plant names
2. Animal Names
3. Food culture
4. Goods, material or object words
5. Maritime-related words
6. Argo words
7. Business and Money, weight, number and size
8. Everyday cultural (abstract) words
9. Urban Planning, building, building materials and related words with hand tools
10. Nomenclaton words
11. Games - fun words
12. Military (war and peace) concepts and words
13. Business, Occupational and Vocational names; Vocational Equipment and Supplies
14. Geographical terms
15. Clothing and Finery, Fabrics, Leather, Rope, Embroidery and Accessories
16. Terms of Medicine and Health, Human and Animal limbs
17. Paint, Color, Fragrance and Cosmetic

#### 4. Turkish Cultural Words in Greek and Albanian

Turkish words in Greek that are still being used in the present, distribution of these words are possible to tabulate the following way. Yağbasan made a classification on the daily used words. (Yağbasan, 210:71)

**Table 1:** Classification on the daily used words.

Nr.	Cultural Topic	Number
1	Plants (vegetables, fruit), and the presence of food	99
2	Goods, material or object words	72
3	Street (slang) language words	37
4	Seafood and seafood related words	32
5	Cultural frequently used words in some mixed	31
6	Everyday cultural (abstract) words	24
7	Everyday (concrete) words	12
8	Building, construction materials and hand tools related words	28
9	Nomenclaton words	18
10	Games - fun words	18
11	Military (war and peace) concepts and words	14
12	Theological words and phrases	12
13	Agricultural words	10
14	Geographical terms	9
15	Occupational words	6
16	Animal names	6
17	Element words	2
<b>Total</b>		430

According to the study which is studied by Aksel on the all Balkan languages, Albanian, Turkish and Greek words used in the distribution of co-culture are as follows: (Aksel, 2005:12) (Aksel, 2005:12)

**Table 2:** The cultural topics which Albanian, Turkish and Greek words are used

Nr.	Cultural Topic	Number of Words Used in Albanian	Number of Words Used in Greek	Number of Commonly Used Words
1	Urban planning, construction, building elements and materials	96	63	54
2	Business, occupational and vocational names; vocational equipment and supplies	148	122	116
3	Household and kitchenware	140	84	77
4	Clothing and finery, fabrics, leather, rope, embroidery and accessories	110	89	75
5	Food and beverages, spices	44	37	23
6	Plant names	65	64	47
7	Animal names	31	23	16
8	Business and money, weight, number and size	62	35	28
9	Horses and horse teams	21	8	6
10	Terms of medicine and health, human and animal limbs	37	16	12
11	Metals, stones and chemical substances	33	19	14
12	Paint, color, fragrance and cosmetic	14	11	5
13	Verbs	42	15	8
<b>Total</b>		<b>843</b>	<b>523</b>	<b>473</b>

According to classification of the above, we offer the following to set an example for the list from a portion of the detected words. We tried to choose the words very different cultural areas to give an idea of the general.

#### 4.1 Plant names

English	Turkish	Albanian	Greek
Okra	<i>Bamya</i>	Bamje	Bamia
Tea	<i>Çay</i>	Çaj	Tsai
Hurma	<i>Hurma</i>	Hurma	Hurmas
Clove	<i>Karanfil</i>	Karafil	Karafilli
Beans	<i>Fasulye</i>	Fasule	Fasoulia
Medlar	<i>Muşmula</i>	Mushmula	Mousmoula
Lettuce	<i>Marul</i>	Marule	Maruli

#### 4.2 Animal Names

English	Turkish	Albanian	Greek
Animal	<i>Hayvan</i>	Hajvan	Haivani
Tiger	<i>Kaplan</i>	Kapllan	Kaplani
Monkey	<i>Maymun</i>	Majmun	Maymu
Goat	<i>Keçi</i>	Kec, Keci	Katsika
Stork	<i>Leylek</i>	Lejlek	Leleki
Coyote	<i>Çakal</i>	Çakall	Cakal
Nightingale	<i>Bülbül</i>	Bilbil	Bülbül

#### 4.3 Food Culture

English	Turkish	Albanian	Greek
Baklava	<i>Baklava</i>	Bakllava	Baklavas
Patty	<i>Börek</i>	Byrek	Boureki
Halvah	<i>Helva</i>	Hallvë	Chalva
Kadayıf	<i>Kadayıf</i>	Kadaif	Kadaifi
Cream	<i>Kaymak</i>	Kajmak	Kaimaki
Meatball	<i>Köfte</i>	Oofte	Kafta - Keftedes
Rice	<i>Pilav</i>	Pilaf	Pilafi

#### 4.4 Goods, Material Or Object Words

English	Turkish	Albanian	Greek
Glass	<i>Cam</i>	Xham	Tzami
Arbor	<i>Çardak</i>	Çardak	Tsardaki
Socks	<i>Çorap</i>	Çorape	Tsurapis
Cup	<i>Fincan</i>	Filxhan	Filtzani
Box	<i>Kutu</i>	Kuti	Kouti
Curtain	<i>Perde</i>	Perde	Berdes
Cap	<i>Kapak</i>	Kapak	Kapaki

#### 4.5 Maritime-Related Words

English	Turkish	Albanian	Greek
Octopus	<i>Ahtapot</i>	Oktapod	Htapodi
Gilt-Head/Bream	<i>Çipural/Koc</i>	Çipura	Tsipura
Mussel	<i>Midye</i>	Midhje	Midia
Squid	<i>Kalamar</i>	Kallamar	Kalamari
Boat	<i>Sandal</i>	Sandall	Sandali
Gray Mullet	<i>Kefal</i>	Kefall	Kefalos
Port	<i>Liman</i>	Liman	Limani

#### 4.6 Argo Words

English	Turkish	Albanian	Greek
Crook	<i>Batakçı</i>	Batakçi	Bataxis
Trouble	<i>Bela</i>	Bela	Belas
Fool	<i>Budala</i>	Budalla	Boudallas
Rip	<i>Çapkın</i>	Çapkën	Tsahpinis
Deception	<i>Dallavere</i>	Dalavere	Dalavere
Maniac	<i>Manyak</i>	Maniak	Manyakos
Infamous	<i>Rezil</i>	Rezili	Rezili

#### 4.7 Business And Money, Weight, Number And Size

English	Turkish	Albanian	Greek
Bazar	<i>Pazar</i>	Pazar	Pazar
Dinar	<i>Dinar</i>	Dinar	Dhinario
Tribute	<i>Haraç</i>	Haraç	Hartsı
Rent	<i>Kira</i>	Qira	Kira
Money	<i>Para</i>	Para	Paras

#### 4.8 Everyday Cultural (Abstract) Words

English	Turkish	Albanian	Greek
Lover	<i>Aşık</i>	Ashik	Asikis
Fertility	<i>Bereket</i>	Bereqet	Bereket
Crowd	<i>Kalabalık</i>	Kallaballëk	Kalabaliki
Worry	<i>Dert</i>	Dert	Derti
Oh	<i>Aman</i>	Aman	Aman
Affectation	<i>Naz</i>	Nazi	Naz
Love	<i>Sevda</i>	Sevda	Sevdas

#### 4.9 Urban Planning, Building, Building Materials And Related Words With Hand Tools

English	Turkish	Albanian	Greek
Arbor	<i>Çardak</i>	Çardak	Tsardhaki
Bath	<i>Hamam</i>	Hamam	Hamam

Inn	<i>Han</i>	Han	Han
Toilet	<i>Hela</i>	Hale	Hales
Coffee Shop	<i>Kahvehane</i>	Kafehane	Kahvenio
Mansion	<i>Konak</i>	Konak	Konak
Sewer	<i>Lağım</i>	Llagëm	Lagami

#### 4.10 Nomenclaton Words

<b>English</b>	<b>Turkish</b>	<b>Albanian</b>	<b>Greek</b>
Father	<i>Baba</i>	Baba, Atë	Babas
Bey	<i>Bey</i>	Bej	Beis
Master	<i>Efendi</i>	Efendi	Afendis
Porter	<i>Hamal</i>	Hamall	Hamalis
Guest	<i>Misafir</i>	Mysafir	Musafiris
Single	<i>Bekâr</i>	Beqar	Bekaris
Lady	<i>Hanım</i>	Hanëm	Hanomisa

#### 4.11 Games - Fun Words

<b>English</b>	<b>Turkish</b>	<b>Albanian</b>	<b>Greek</b>
-	<i>Karagöz</i>	Karagjoz	Karagoz
-	<i>Çiftetelli</i>	Çifteteli	Tsiftetelli
Drum	<i>Tambur</i>	Daulle	Tambouras
Clarion	<i>Zurna</i>	Zurna	Zurnas
Reed	<i>Saz</i>	Saz	Sazi
Membrane	<i>Zar</i>	Zari	Zar
Fair	<i>Panayır</i>	Panair	Panigyri

#### 4.12 Military (War And Peace) Concepts And Words

<b>English</b>	<b>Turkish</b>	<b>Albanian</b>	<b>Greek</b>
Flag	<i>Bayrak</i>	Bajrak	Bairaki
Edict	<i>Ferman</i>	Ferman	Firmani
Cartridge	<i>Fişek</i>	Fishek	Fiseki
Rifle	<i>Tüfek</i>	Dyfek	Toufeki
Order	<i>Tertip</i>	Tertip	Tertipi
Powder	<i>Barut</i>	Barut	Baruti
Wick	<i>Fitil</i>	Fitil	Fitili

#### 4.13 Business, Occupational And Vocational Names; Vocational Equipment And Supplies

<b>English</b>	<b>Turkish</b>	<b>Albanian</b>	<b>Greek</b>
Barber	<i>Berber</i>	Berber	Berberis
Apprentice	<i>Çırak</i>	Çirak	Tsiraki
Shepherd	<i>Çoban</i>	Çoban	Tsobanis
Tinsmith	<i>Kalaycı</i>	Kalajxhi, Teneqepunues	Kalaitzis
Carpenter	<i>Marangoz</i>	Marangoz	Marangos
Artisan	<i>Esnaf</i>	Esnaf	Sinafi
Halvaci	<i>Helvacı</i>	Hallvaxhi	Halvatsi

#### 4.14 Geographical Terms

<b>English</b>	<b>Turkish</b>	<b>Albanian</b>	<b>Greek</b>
Breeze	<i>Meltem</i>	Meltem	Meltemi
Map	<i>Harita</i>	Hartë	Hartis
Top	<i>Tepe</i>	Tepe	Tepes
World	<i>Dünya</i>	Dünja	Dounya
Weather	<i>Hava</i>	Hava	Havas
Gust	<i>Bora</i>	Bor	Bora

Square	Meydan	Mejdan	Meidani
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#### 4.15 Clothing And Finery, Fabrics, Leather, Rope, Embroidery And Accessories

English	Turkish	Albanian	Greek
Entari	<i>Entari</i>	Entari	Aderi
Socks	<i>Çorap</i>	Çorape	Tsorapi
Broadcloth	<i>Çuha</i>	Çuha	Tsuha
Bundle	<i>Bohça</i>	Bohçe	Bogos
Fistan	<i>Fistan</i>	Fistan	Fistani
Turban	<i>Sarik</i>	Sarrëk	Sariki
Vest	<i>Yelek</i>	Jelek	Geleko

#### 4.16 Terms Of Medicine And Health, Human And Animal Limbs

English	Turkish	Albanian	Greek
Crippled	<i>Sakat</i>	Sakat	Sakatis
Syrup	<i>Şurup</i>	Shurup	Surupi
Syringe	<i>Şiringa</i>	Shiringë	Siriga
Pill	<i>Hap</i>	Hapje	Hapi
Crazy	<i>Deli</i>	Deli	Deliş
Asthma	<i>Astım</i>	Astmë	Astma
-	<i>Sedef</i>	Sedef	Sedefinos

#### 4.17 Paint, Color, Fragrance And Cosmetic

English	Turkish	Albanian	Greek
Tin	<i>Kalay</i>	Kallaj	Kalai
Recina	<i>Recina</i>	Recina	Retsini
Varnish	<i>Vernik</i>	Vernik	Verniki
Paint	<i>Boya</i>	Bojë	Bogia

## 5. Conclusion

The Turks, Albanians and Greeks who lived next to each other in the history. They are influenced from each other and influenced each other in terms of the language and culture. During the Ottoman period, this interaction has occurred mostly Turkish and Turkish language influence on the others. In this interaction, many of Turkish words were transferred to Greek and Albanian. Turkish quoted words in Greek and Albanian moved to the Turkish culture to Greek and Albanian culture. In our study, 473 Turkish words with a common cultural value have been identified. These Turkish words are classified under the headings of culture and are given their spellings in Greek, Albanian and English. As shown in the above, the majority of the elements of Turkish cultural words in Greek and Albanian show that these nations have common values in many cultural fields.

These days which people are othering some people under the pretext of the smallest issues and people are increasing feelings of hatred, people should meet at least one of the commons and work to make the world a happy and peaceful. To accomplish this is not to be keeping alive some negative and false things in history but can be achieved with an emphasis on good things in history

In this subject all scientists should be in the role. Some inaccuracies in history are not related to nations but they should be given to person. These errors were usually made by those who have been living at the time administrators and intellectuals. In fact, they were also person and could make some mistakes. These mistakes should not cost a whole nation, they should not transformed into hatred between nations.

Instead of hatred, fights and war, some common features that arising from the partnerships with number of lives. These are the cultural, linguistic common features. The issue will serve two nations to approach and to love each other.

Pulling attention to the existence of a number of linguistic and cultural partnerships between the two nations will serve to keep alive the friendship between the two nations. This situation also will contribute to world peace.



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