

Times Higher Education (*THE*) Report for Boğaziçi University Language Research and Application Center

Boğaziçi University Language Research and Application Center (Dil Uygulama ve Araştırma Merkezi) supports theoretical and applied research on language. In 2019, the center has supported the activities described in (1), (2), and (3), which we believe can be considered suitable for SDG4: QUALITY EDUCATION, 4.3.2, 4.3.1, and 4.3.5.

(1) For the celebration of the International Day of Sign Languages, the center has collaborated with a local deaf association, Türkiye İşitme Engelliler Derneği (<https://tied.org.tr/>). We invited deaf children and their parents to the campus and conducted a book reading activity in Turkish Sign Language. The program of the activity can be seen below. Please also refer to the link below for seeing how the activity was conducted.

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Gqv_AfNZCIM&feature=youtu.be

Sağır çocuklar için etkinlik

Dünya İşaret Dilleri Günü



"Haydi çocuklar etkinliğe! Keşfet,Öğren,Eğlen"

13:00-13:30	Konuşmacı (Prof.Dr.A.Sumru ÖZSOY-Samet DEMİRTAŞ-Sabancı Vakfı)
13:30-14:00	Masal izleme (Uzayın yolculuğu,Külkedisi vb.)
14:00-14:30	Oyun zamanı (Eşleştirme)
14:30-14:45	Ara
14:45-15:00	Masal kitabını seçip okuma
15:00-15:30	Çocukların işaret dili ile masal anlatma
15:30-16:00	Meyve ismini bul!
16:00-16:30	Oyun zamanı (Elden eleme)
16:30...	Kapanış



(2) Jointly with the university's scientific research projects (BAP) office and the Linguistics Department, the center has supported the material development activities of the research project #14458, "Supporting Sign Language Development of Deaf Children with Hearing Parents through Linguistically-Informed Preschool Stories". The project includes developing children's stories in Turkish Sign Language based on linguistic research. The stories are videos where a deaf signer narrates in the center and the plot of the story is supported by age-relevant visuals in the background. Subtitles and voice-over are currently prepared for expanding the accessibility of the stories to hearing children as well. Comprehension questions and sign-lists are also created in Turkish Sign Language to consolidate learning. You can reach the video of the first story from the following link. Three more stories are in the process of being created. These stories will be freely available and contribute to the linguistic and cognitive development of deaf children in Turkey, who are under the risk of linguistic deprivation due to the fact that the parents of the great majority of these children are hearing and they cannot provide the crucial primary linguistic input in the accessible language, that is Turkish Sign Language.

<https://drive.google.com/file/d/1d8wocBeJdJLbFmbCkXNyAEzxsIzvwyi/view?usp=sharing>



(3) The center supports course content access to deaf research employees. The lectures of the linguistics course “LING 414: Sign Language Linguistics” was made accessible to two deaf research employees during Fall 2019. The lectures were translated on-site into Turkish Sign Language and the lecture notes were prepared in both English and Turkish. The active participation of the two deaf research employees was crucial because although hearing researchers work together with deaf researchers, the theoretical training of the deaf researchers still needs to be improved in Turkey as their access to research findings have been historically limited. Below we provided a screen shot where the interpreter on the right is interacting with the two deaf researchers on the center and the right. Underneath, we provide the screen-shot of a sample lecture note.



Muscles, joints, and body parts Kaslar, eklemler ve vücut bölümleri

- Transitional movement varies
- **Geçiş hareketi çeşitlilik gösterir**

Figure 21: Epenthetic movement from BEE to KNOW



BEE

KNOW

(Boğaziçi University, Sign Language Linguistics Laboratory Database)

Figure 22: Epenthetic movement from COW to KNOW



COW

KNOW

(Boğaziçi University, Sign Language Linguistics Laboratory Database)