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Hello,

My name is Deniz, and I am a PhD student of Sociolinguistics at the University of Eastern Finland. I was admitted to the PhD program 2 months ago, and that is why, I am in the beginning of my PhD studies. To familiarize myself with the academic publishing, I would like to turn my MA thesis, which I completed in 2017, into a journal article. Also, I hope that I will have the chance to attend the event to hear various ideas or suggestions about the research that I conducted during my MA studies, and the research that I intend to conduct during my PhD studies. With those aims in mind, I would like to submit the abstracts of my MA thesis, and my PhD research plan. Also, I would like to give the following link to my MA thesis:

<http://urn.fi/urn:nbn:fi:uef-20170621>

Best regards,

Deniz

MA Thesis' Abstract

**An Exploratory Study of Aegean Turkish Students' Attitudes and Motivation Levels
Toward Learning English**

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The role of learners' attitudes and motivation toward learning a language is recognized as a key factor that influences the language learning process, hence this paper explores different dimensions of the Aegean Turkish students' attitudes and motivation levels toward learning English. A specially designed questionnaire that included closed and open-ended items was administered to 1224 Turkish high school students from the Aegean region. In the closed-ended part, a likert type questionnaire consisting of 48 statements on a scale of 6 options from Strongly Agree to Strongly Disagree was employed; while several general questions related to the English teachers, the Turkish education system, course materials, and the English language itself were used in the open-ended part. The results of this study reveal that the students displayed slightly moderate attitudes and motivation levels toward learning English, and several statistically significant background variables, for example, the students' age, gender, multi-lingualism, high school types, duration of English studies, parents' education, English proficiency, and income levels, were found to influence the students' attitudes and motivation levels.

Keywords: language learning attitudes and motivation, Turkish high school students, the English language

Abstract of PhD Research Plan

A Nation-wide Analysis of Turkish Senior High School Students' Motivations Toward the Acquisition of English

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Turkey's English proficiency level is very poor, as the English Proficiency Index, which is published by Education First demonstrates, and it is a well-known fact among English teachers at Turkish schools that the students are not very enthusiastic about learning and speaking English at schools. For this reason, this study will investigate the Turkish students' motivation toward learning English by examining the students' motivations and whether various factors, such as English teachers, curriculum, language policy, course materials, learning environment, or individual differences influence their motivations, or not. Following the analysis of the results of the study, necessary suggestions, perhaps even to the Turkish Ministry of Education, will be made in the hope of improving the students' motivations, and in turn, the quality of English language instruction in Turkish schools. According to the statistical data released by the Turkish Ministry of Education in Turkey, there are almost 6 million high school students throughout the country, the majority of whom study at general state schools, which are called Anatolian high schools, and Turkey is divided into 7 main geographical regions, and the largest cities in these regions are Istanbul, Ankara, Izmir, Antalya, Samsun, Van, and Diyarbakir. In order to examine the students' motivation patterns, 100 students from each of the 4 grades of Anatolian high schools across 7 city centers and 7 rural areas of each region will be chosen as the target sample, hence the total number of students taking part in this study is expected to be around 5600, or even more. Owing to this sampling method, I aim to conduct a comprehensive investigation, which should prove valid and reliable in its analysis of students' motivation toward learning the English language across the country.

Keywords: English teaching policy, Turkish high school students, language learning attitudes and motivation