Most research into formulaic language is based on a narrow set of languages, particularly English. As a result, the status of formulaicity as a general principle of language is not well-understood (Dur- rant, 2013). For example, Sinclair’s (1991) "idiom principle"—a language user has large number of available semi-preconstructed phrases that constitute single choices during processing, has only rarely been applied to highly inflected, agglutinative languages such as Turkish. It is an open question whether it is applicable to the same extent as to non-agglutinative languages. If not, this has implications for processing of formulaic sequences in L2 English by Turkish learners.

Using a corpus-linguistic methodology, this research investigates to what extent the "idiom principle" applies to Turkish. It aimed to identify the types of formulaic patterns and frequency distributions of morphemic and lexical patterns in Turkish. Furthermore, it explored formulaic patterns in nominal and verbal morphology and between orthographic words. Nouns and verbs from different frequencies ranges were investigated. For this analysis, a general corpus of Turkish (TNC) with a size of 50 million words was used. The data suggest that there are considerable form-function and frequency differences between English and Turkish formulaic patterns. Results will be discussed through the lens of crosslinguistic influences. The findings provide a basis for determining which formulaic patterns we should focus on in a follow-up eye-tracking experiment, which aims to measure Turkish learners’ access to formulaic patterns in L2 English.

REFERENCES


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