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TURKISH DISCOUSE PARTICLES 'İŞTE' AND 'FALAN' AND THEIR ENGLISH EQUIVALENTS 'WELL' AND 'LIKE': A CORPUS STUDY

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Abstract

Numerous studies have investigated the functions of discourse particles *well* and *like* in spoken discourse. Their Turkish equivalents, *işte* and *falan* are among the most commonly used discourse particles in Turkish. However, there are relatively few studies on *işte,* and no studies at all on the use of *falan* as discourse particles. The purpose of this study is to draw attention to the importance of these discourse particles by drawing attention to their various functions in informal discourse. To these ends, authentic data about Turkish discourse have been collected through forum and blog sites on Google; the data regarding the English discourse, on the other hand, were obtained both from Google and also the Corpus of Contemporary American English (COCA). An analysis of the data revealed that *işte* has a variety of functions as a discourse particle in Turkish; and many of these functions show similarities to the functions of *well* in English. In a similar way, an analysis of the example sentences containing *falan* has revealed a strong resemblance between this Turkish discourse particle and the discourse particle *like* in English. On the other hand, further analysis of the aforementioned corresponding words revealed differences in terms of their usages and functions. Throughout this paper similarities and differences between Turkish discourse particles *işte* and *falan* and their English equivalents *well* and *like* are explained in a contrastive way with numerous examples from each of the languages under investigation.

Keywords: *contrastive linguistic analysis, discourse particles, corpus study*

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Türkçe Söylem Belirleyicileri 'İşte' ve 'Falan' ile İngilizce Karşılıkları 'Well' ve 'Like'

Özet

Konuşma İngilizcesinde *well* ve *like*'ın söylem belirleyiciler olarak kullanılmasının farklı işlevlerine dair bir çok araştırma bulunmaktadır. Türkçede ise *işte* ve *falan* sözcüklerinin yaygın bir şekilde ve benzer işlevlerle kullanıldığı görülmekle birlikle *işte* hakkında yapılan araştırmaların yetersizliği, *falan* hakkında da İngilizcedeki söylem belirleyicilerle ilgili araştırmalara benzer çalışmaların olmaması göze çarpmaktadır. Bu bağlamda mevcut çalışma, adı geçen Türkçe ve İngilizce söylem belirleyicileri karşılaştırmalı dilbilim temelinde ele alarak, iki dildeki sözlü derlemlerden örnekler vermek yoluyla bu sözcüklerin çeşitli durumlardaki benzer işlevlerine dikkat çekmeyi amaçlamaktadır. Türkçe diline ait örnekler, Google'da yer alan farklı forum ve blog sitelerinden toplanmıştır. İngilizce diline ait örnekler için ise Google'a ek olarak 'Günümüz Amerikan İngilizcesi Derlemi' (Corpus of Contemporary American English – kısaca COCA) kullanılmıştır. Elde edilen bulgulara göre, Türkçede *işte* sözcüğü bir çok durumda söylem belirleyici olarak kullanılmakta ve bu kullanımlardan büyük bir kısmı İngilizce *well* sözcüğü ile aynı işleve sahiptir. Benzer bir durumun, Türkçe *falan* ve İngilizce *like* sözcükleri için de geçerli olduğu görülmektedir. Bununla birlikte daha detaylı çözümlemeler sonucunda bu sözcüklerin Türkçe ve İngilizce dillerindeki işlevlerinin birebir aynı olmadığı belirlenerek iki dildeki kullanımlara ait farklılıklar örnekleriyle ortaya konulmuş ve tartışılmıştır.

Anahtar kelimeler: *Karşılaştırmalı dilbilim, söylem belirleyiciler, derlem çalışması*

Introduction

Discourse particles are commonly used in every language with a great number of different functions. A review of the literature reveals that the particle *well* has been studied by several researchers from different perspectives; and some of these studies are cross-linguistic in nature. It is the same for *like*. However, when we look at the Turkish context, we see that there are relatively fewer studies on discourse particles in general; and they rather than being of contrastive nature, merely focus on one language (see Yılmaz, 2004 for Turkish discourse particles).

A review of the literature on Turkish discourse particles reveals that, *işte* has lately become popular among researchers although unfortunately *falan* keeps being ignored. Although these studies yielded very useful data for an analysis of the different functions of the discourse particles in the Turkish

language, some important points were left untouched. For instance, to the best of my knowledge, the previous researchers translated *işte* as *you know* or *I mean* in stead of *well;* and they translated *well* as *şey* (i.e., Yılmaz, 1994). However, ignoring the fact that *well* and *işte* share a great number of common functions actually means missing the big picture, because as illustrated throughout this paper, *işte* is, in many ways, closer to *well* than to *you know* or *I mean.* A review of the literature on the use of discourse particles *well* and *işte* reveals that some researchers *like* Cuenca (2008) has investigated the occurrences of *well* in the film *Four Weddings and a Funeral* and their functional equivalents in the Catalan and Spanish dubbed versions. In fact, this method is very much in parallel with the Aijmer and Simon-Vandenbergen's (2003) discussion of the translational approach for a contrastive analysis of discourse markers. As they claim, translations can be effectively used to compare discourse particles in two or more languages. By means of translations, the polysemic nature of the discourse particle becomes more tangible thorough comparing the translations of the same item in different languages. Although this study does not make use of translations as a research method, future studies can use this useful method in order to better reveal the similarities and differences between English and Turkish in terms of the use of discourse particles in each language.

Method

Researchers should work on similarities and differences between seemingly close discourse particles in every language. Therefore, the main purpose of the present study is to reveal the similarities and differences between the uses of *well* and *işte,* and *like* and *falan* through contrastive analysis of the corpus data obtained through blog and forum sites listed in Google and spoken sections of COCA.

Another aim of this study is to investigate the relatively unexplored use of *falan.* A quick search on Google reveals that *falan* is one of the most commonly used discourse particles in Turkish. However, a review of the literature also shows that their no scientific research on it. In other words, there has not been even the smallest mention of *falan* in any of the scientific studies carried out on Turkish discourse particles. An analysis of the example sentences from the above-mentioned corpora revealed that there are in fact many similarities between the use of *falan* in Turkish and *like* in English as illustrated in the following sections. Although a lot of studies have been done on the

discourse particle *like* in English, no Turkish researcher has investigated it so far, individually or in connection with similar Turkish discourse particles.

Thus, this paper is unique in terms of its aim, that is, to investigate *falan* by drawing attention to the similarities and differences between this Turkish discourse and the equivalent discourse particle *like* in English.

Materials and Procedures

Care has been taken to English-Turkish parallel corpora. In order to work on parallel corpora on both languages, the majority of the examples were obtained from English and Turkish forum and blog sites; and only a small number of them were obtained from COCA. Since discourse particles are elements that are largely used in spoken and informal language rather than written and formal language, examples of formal written discourse were excluded from the scope of this study. Two peer researchers have checked the translation of each example in the following section in order to address possible concerns about reliability.

The corpus examples were selected in the following way. First, all instances of *well* and *işte*; and *like* and *falan* were extracted from the original texts in the corpora, together with their translations. Then, all the irrelevant ones were manually excluded and groupings were made according to their discourse functions.

The Case of Well and İşte:

Research has shown that *işte* is among the most frequently used discourse particles in Turkish (Özbek, 1995). Yılmaz (2004) suggests that "*işte* mainly acts as a frame particle demarcating utterances as containing detailed, highlighted, and reported information as well as connecting distant pieces of utterances (p.iii). As Yılmaz further argues, *işte* can be used as a marker of extended turns or a turn claimer. In the content domain of a conversation, *işte* can also function as a topic closure or exemplification marker, highlight marker, marker of reported speech, as a marker of information tie-back and finally as an answer preface to questions.

Well, on the other hand, can be used as a manner adverb or a discourse marker. Startvik (1980 in Müller, 2004) suggests that the discourse marker *well* can be used as a qualifier or as a frame. As a qualifier, *well* indicates agreement, positive reaction, reinforcement, the incomplete or non-straight answer to the wh- question, or a non-direct answer. As a frame, normally not occurring in the

initial position, *well* functions as a topic shifter, introducer of explanations, clarifications etc., indicator of the beginning of direct speech, and editing marker for self-correction. *Well* also functions on the level of discourse techniques as floorholder, hesitator, or initiator

Findings and Discussion

Well and *işte* share a number of functions as widely used discourse particles. The following items and examples within each item illustrate the common functions of *well* and *işte.*

Common Functions of 'Well' and 'İşte'

Rephrasing or correcting a phrase:

- They were listening and dancing to the music of a jazzy bygone era, reinventing the fancy footwork and teasing gyrations their jitterbugging grandparents made popular 60 years ago. Did I say listening? *Well,* all but one of the contestants competing in the Virginia Swing Dance Championships could hear the music *(From the TV Program CNN_SunMorn, 2000, COCA).*

- Did I Say "Shot at?"...*well***,** it was more like showered with flowers... *(From Community Blogs, Eric Jacky's* Blog*, March 26, 2008, Google)*

- A House Fell on My Sister . . **.** *well***,** not exactly, but . . *(From reubenhigginsfreese.blog.com, July 13, 2007, Google)*

Although not as common as *well*, *işte* can also be used for the purpose of correcting what has previously been said as illustrated in the following example:

- Canım kardeşim hemen de alınıyorsun ama öyle demek istemedim. *İşte* tam aksine seni araştırmalarından dolayı destekliyorum *(From gnoxis.com/forum/ December 11, 2008, Google)*

My dear brother, you take offense so easily, but I didn't mean that. İşte just the opposite, I support you on your investigations.

- Yok ben öyle demek istemedim, *işte* sırf bitmesin diye uzaklaşalım dedim *(From zekirdek.com/forum/ August 08, 2008, Google).*

No, I didn't mean that, işte I said we should get away so that it would not end.

Well and *işte* as indicators of contraposition to the previous statement:

One of the uses of *well* and *işte* as discourse particles is when the speaker wants to indicate a contraposition to the previous statement as illustrated below.

- Yes. But wouldn't that make them -- wouldn't that subject them to greater vulnerability? I mean, that's why they're underground, isn't it? I mean isn't that kind of a contradiction in terms.

- *Well, well* not really. I mean there's a couple of issues here. *(From Fox_Sunday 1998, COCA)*

- Tennesee Dude! I have only one beef with what you have to say. In your discourse you have, and I quote, "guilty or innocent" *Well...*, that is not the case. Sedley Alley is guilty; no other interpretation can be used *(From tcask.blogspot.com/, November 20, 2007, Google).*

İşte is used with a similar function in Turkish as the following examples illustrate:

- Eşcinsel dediğin zaman, sürekli kırıtan normalden daha kadın gibi olan teması geliyor akla. Ama *işte* öyle değil *(From Kıbrıs Gazetesi Blog, November 2007, Google).*

When you say homosexual, a person who always behaves coquettishly and more feminine than normal comes to mind. But işte, it is not like that.

- Gerçi hoş sana göre bu "sadece bir film ve çok eğlendin" ama *işte* öyle değil. zaten bu adamların istediği de bu tür bir zihin yapısı *(From stratejikboyut.com/comment, December 26, 2008, Google)*

Though it is nice for you, it is "only a movie and you enjoyed alot" but İşte it is not like that. That is the type of mentality these men want anyway.

- A: Harika bir rockçı. Özellikle Emre Aydın ile "Tüm Şehir Ağladı" şarkısına yaptığı düet bir harika...

B: Sesi hoş severim yani.

C: *İşte* doğrusunu söylemek gerekirse çok da sevmem *(From emre-aydin.biz/ Forum, October 09, 2008).*

A: He is a wonderful rock singer. Especially, the duet he made for Emre Aydın's song "Tüm Şehir Ağladı" is wonderful.

B: His voice is nice, I like him (yani)

C: Eh işte, to tell the truth, I don't like him very much.

<u>*Well* and *işte* as hesitators used while searching for the right phrase:</u>

The discourse particle *well* can be used by speakers when they are not sure how to say a certain thing or they are searching for the right phrase to put it in a most appropriate way. The following examples illustrate this use of *well:*

A: Why so? Is it -- is it because of...

B: Oh, *well*, there's...

A: Bill and the... *(From NBC_Today, 2008, COCA)*

In dialogs like the one given above, the speaker seems to be unsure of how to express what she has in her mind. *Well* in this function is usually surrounded with filler words like 'oh', repetitions and pauses (Müller, 2004). Some other examples are:

- *Well* ... what can I say? Seems like so much going on these days. The kids are back to school. So now, I have to fight with them every day over homework *(From kimn2ks.blogspot.com, September, 2008, Google)*

- *Well…* I think I feel sorry for her… coz when you have fame, beauty and luck... you should use them wisely. *(From going-global-global.blogspot.com, June 30, 2008, Google).*

- *Well...* I'm not sure how it would have gotten there, I guess. (From *bigadventureswithlittlebuddies.blogspot.com/ October 06, 2008, Google)*

İşte can be used with a similar function in Turkish; that is, while thinking about the right phrase. Since the speaker stops speaking while trying to find the right thing to say, there is usually silence in conversation which is shown with three dots following *well* in English and *İşte* in Turkish as illustrated in the example below:

- Gönlümde sana bir saray yapmak istiyorum, sarayın içinde sultan olmanı istiyorum… İstiyorum da *işte*… Nasıl desem ben korkuyorum… *(From turkiye-forum.org/, October 14, 2007, Google)*

I want to build a palace for you in my heart I want you to be the queen in that palace… I want that işte… How can I say I'm afraid…

- Nasıl desem kadının şeyi yanmış yani şeyi *işte* … *(From zevkli.org/ Forum, June 22, 2008, Google)*

How can I say? The woman's thing got burnt. I mean her thing işte …

Quotative *well* and *işte:*

Example sentences from blog and forum sites have also revealed that *well* and *işte* can be used in reported speech as illustrated below:

- And part of that thinking goes*: Well,* the majority of the sailors were black, and most of the officers were on shore, so why not blow it up? *(From NPR_Saturday, 1998, COCA).*

- And Cody said, I think one of them said, *well,* if she's going to be a swim suit model, yes. *(From NBC_Today, 2008, COCA)*

- If someone says, *well*, the boyfriend did it, there, you know, there might be different situations *(From CBS_48 Hours, 2008, COCA)*

Here, *well* functions as a quotative device for the thoughts of third persons. This function of *well* is quite similar to the function of *işte* in Turkish as in the following example:

- Ve *işte* diyor kadın "günlerdir beklediğim mucize bu, bu bile yeter bana" diyor içinden *(From forumturka.net/forum/ July 07, 2006, Google).*

And işte says the woman "this is the miracle I have been waiting for days, and even this will be enough for me", she says silently.

- *İşte* dedi Turgut "aynı duyguları bende yaşadım. Seni sevmekten korktum" *(From blog.milliyet.com.tr, April 2, 2008, Google)*

İşte said Turgut "I had the same feelings. I was afraid of loving you."

- *İşte* dedi "özel nedenler var yapamıyorum" bla bla … *(From blog.milliyet.com.tr/ February 19, 2007, Google)*

İşte she said "There are personal reasons; I can't do it, blah blah…"

Yılmaz (2004) suggests that *işte* as a marker of reported speech marks the boundaries between what really belongs to the producer of the sentence and what belongs to third persons. So that, the recipient will be better aware of the reported part of the conversation without being confused.

Well as a signal for the beginning of a story or a long narrative:

Both *well* and *işte* have similar functions in the following sentences namely, they signal the beginning of a story or a long narrative. This function of *well* and *işte* is sometimes confused with their function as hesitators. This can be due to the fact that some people hesitate about how to start a long narrative. Furthermore, it can be explained in relation with the fact that discourse particles have a number of different functions and some of these functions are really close to each other.

- A: Anybody want to tackle that?
  B: It looks like you.
  A: David?
  C: *Well,* I think that the administration probably should have granted the waiver. There isn't the precedent to not grant a waiver, although there are some tricky legal issues because of the way that mileage is regulated rather than clean air standards. But on the specifics of whether it's the best number from a scientific point of view or what the implications are from the scientific point of view, I would turn to the scientists. *(From NPR_TalkNat, 2008, COCA)*

- *Well,* it was many years ago. I decided it was time to leave home. I stood at the crossroads" *(From Let it Shine Blog, 2005, Google)*

- *Well*, several years ago, before I came to Washington, I had registered various domain names for a private client. I was doing Web site *(From americablog.com, February 14, 2005, Google).*

Just like *well*, *işte* can indicate the opening of a discourse unit or a long narrative as can be seen in the following examples.

- *İşte* bir zamanlar örgütün iletişimini sağlayan pepela isimli bir üye varmış. Fakat örgütü ele vermeye kalkınca asılarak öldürülmüş *(From forumburasi.com/ June 07, 2007, Google)*

İşte once upon a time, there was a member named Papela who was in charge of the communication of the organization but when he attempted to give away the organization, he was executed.

- *İşte* dün aralarından birini yoldan çıkarıp Alsancak'a götürdüm, biraz dolaştık akşam 7 falan böyle, neyse ikimizin de ertesi gün sınavı var ve benimki sabah 9'da hatta *(From panikimmanikim.blogspot.com, November 01, 2008)*

İşte yesterday, I seduced one of them and took her to Alsancak. We walked around, it was 7 in the evening falan; anyway, we both had exams the next day and in fact mine was at 9 in the morning.

- O günlerdeydi *İşte*. İstanbul Erkek Lisesi'ndeydim . Lisenin iki yanında iki büyük kulesi vardı…. *(From blog.milliyet.com.tr, February 19, 2005, Google)*

It was during those days işte. I was in Istanbul Boys' Lycee. The Lycee had two towers on both sides…

The use of *well* and *işte* to introduce a successive event:

Another common function of *well* and *işte* is that both of them can be used to introduce a successive event in a story or a narrative as illustrated with the following examples:

- So he thought he was OK. Well, then he came back and, bingo, as they say, there was DNA on the asp *(From NBC_Dateline 2008, COCA).*

- Anyway then went to wada gurduwara (temple) there had the prayers, saw a lot of friends. Well then, went home at around 12 plus and slept at 2 plus *(From iwanna-be-withyou.blogspot.com/ January 01, 2009, Google)*

- Well, then came poly and I wanted to go for the dancesport (*From beautifulcoralsofthedeepbluesea.blogspot.com/ June 8, 2008, Google)*

As can be seen in the example sentences given above, *well* is usually used with *then*. This use of *well* is quite similar to the use of *işte* in Turkish. Just like

well co-occurs with *then* to report the next scene or event, the Turkish word *işte* occurs with *sonra* which is the Turkish equivalent of then as in the following example

- *İşte* sonra bunlar işi baya iyi falan götürdü *(From oynasana.com/forum/ April 19, 2005, Google*)

İşte then *they carried on the job very well falan.*

- *İşte* sonra modelhanede bir tane soba var. O sobanın karşısına bir sandalye koyuyorum ve Bard da kucağıma atlıyor. Bard kucağımda uykuya dalıyor *(From blog.milliyet.com.tr/ January 31, 2008, Google)*

İşte then there is a stove in the modelhouse. I put a chair near that stove and Brad jumps into my lap. Bard falls into sleep in my lap.

- Sonra *işte* okulu bitirdim ve, ' Gülpare ' diye başka bir diziye başladım.

Then, işte I finished school and I started a new TV series called 'Gülpare'.

<u>*Well* and *işte* as topic closure markers and conclusive devices:</u>

Both *well* and *işte* can be used as topic closure markers in order to end a narrative or conclusive devices as will be explained with examples below:

- *Well,* that is all I have for you know. See you next week. *(From NBC_Dateline,2005, COCA).*

In the example given above, well is used as a topic closure marker. However, in the following example, *well* is used as a conclusive device.

- A: Did you watch the news last night?

B: No, Why?

A: They were all lies.

B: *Well,* you know the radio stations. *(From CBS_Sixty, 2007, COCA)*

- *Well,* enough for today... here are a few interesting links for you *(From smallbizlinks.blogspot.com/ June 17, 2004, Google)*

In a similar way, *işte* is used as a topic closure marker or a conclusive device. Some of the examples that illustrate this use are as follows:

- Her neyse öyle *işte!..* Madem doğduk yaşamak boynumuzun borcu *(From blog.milliyet.com.tr/, November 20, 2006).*

Anyway, öyle işte!.. Since we were born, we have the responsibility to live.

The following examples illustrate the use of *işte* as a topic closure marker:

- A: Üşütük işte . . . Bi kere parkta gördü taktı kafayı .

B: Ne yapacaksın, o da öyle *işte***.** *(From sonsozluk.com/ Forum, May 2, 2008, Google)*

A: He's nuts işte… He saw me once at the park and became obsessed

B: What can you do? He's like that işte.

- Ve sanki bunu satmıyorlar, basbaya kendilerince oynuyorlardı. İlginç *işte... (From ughmania.com/gezi Blog, August 19, 2006, Google)*

And it was as if they were not selling it but playing with it on their own. Interesting işte…

- *İşte* böyle sevgili okurlar, sizin de kolayca tahmin edeceğiniz gibi bu uçak düşecek! Hem de ıssız bir adaya. *(From blog.milliyet.com.tr/, November 08, 2007).*

İşte like this dear readers, as you can easily guess, this plane is going to crash! And on a deserted island too.

Well and *işte* in direct answers to wh- questions:

Speaker can use *well* in English and *işte* in Turkish when they do not want to give a clear answer to a question or they do not want to answer the question at all.

- A: How do you know?

B: *Well,* I know *(From Warm Wisdom Press Blog, 2008, Google).*

- A: But why did you do it?

B: *Well...*

A: *Well...?*

B: It was fun. *(From darkmirage.com/blog/ July, 2007, Google)*

- A: Where were you?

B: *Well…*

A: It doesn't matter anymore anyway. *(From deviantart.com/ Blog, May 31, 2008, Google).*

The following examples illustrate the use of *işte* with the same function.

- A: Onu da yapmış

B: Yok canım

A: Gerçek diyorum

B: Nerden biliyorsun?

A: Biliyorum *işte (From blog.milliyet.com.tr/, October 18, 2008, Google)*

A: She has done it too

B: No way

A: It's true

B: How do you know?

A: I know işte

- A: Nereye gittin?

B: Ya, Mersin'in çıkışına bir yerlere gittim *işte (From forum.memurlar.net/ July 21, 2007, Google)*

A: Where did you go?

B: Ya, I went somewhere just outside Mersin işte.

- A: Bugün insanlık için ne yaptın?

B: Bir şey yaptım *işte (From forum.memurlar.net/ January 31, 2008, Google)*

A: What have you done for humankind today?

B: I have done something işte.

Well and *işte* as floorholders:

Well can be used as a floorholder in spoken English. Some examples are:

- …but I don't think Hubby could get the time off work right after having this week off for shut-down. Oh, *well..... (the same speaker goes on)* Oh, and before we go to the snow again, we'll get the girls some snow boots and me some gloves (thanks for the loan, Auntie!). *(From ericah.blog.com, December 30, 2006, Google)*

Yılmaz (2004) suggests that *işte* can also be used as a floorholder. This is another common function it shares with *well* as a discourse particle. For example:

- A: Dün ona biraz kek götürdüm ama beğenmedi. Ya, *işte*…

B: Ya işte ne?

A: Neyse ya boşver, öyle işte. *(From tatlibetty.blogspot.com, December 12, 2005, Google)*

A: Yesterday, I took him some cake, but he didn't like it. Ya işte…

B: Ya işte what?

A: Anyway, forget it, that's it işte.

The explanations and examples given up to this point have hopefully been successful in revealing the similarities between *well* and *işte* as discourse markers. However, depending on the corpus work, it is impossible to claim that the discourse particle *işte* is a direct Turkish equivalent of the discourse particle *well*. There are obviously elements of *well* and *işte* that do not overlap. In fact, some uses of *işte* are very similar to the use of *you know* in English. Therefore,

starting from the tenth item below, the functions of *işte* that do not resemble *well* but rather *you know* will be discussed with examples in order to take a better picture of *işte* by drawing attention to differences as well as similarities.

İşte and *you know* as highlight markers:

As can be seen in the following examples, *işte* can be used as a highlight marker. This function of *işte* is closer to the function of *you know* rather than *well*. The examples are:

- Ama eğer kadın çalışıyorsa, yani kendi güvenliğini ve çocuğunun yarınını güvenceye aldığını hissediyorsa… *İşte* bütün sorunlar burada başlar…*(From blog.milliyet.com.tr, November 11, 2007, Google)*

But if the woman works, that is if she feels herself secure and feels that she has secured her child's future… İşte all problems start at this point…

- Seni görmeden, sesini duymadan, sana dokunmadan seni çok seviyorum; seni hayal ederek seviyorum. *İşte* gerçek sevgi budur. *(From sacritance.blogcu.com/, June 28, 2007, Google)*

I love you very much without seeing you, hearing your voice or touching you but only by imagining you. İşte this is real love.

- 'Are you OK? Is everybody OK?' And usually it is, you know. *(From NPR_TalkNation, 2001, COCA)*

- That is the real problem, you know, the one nobody will talk about *(From financialarmageddon.com blog, October 20, 2008, Google)*

- The ways that people find each other, I'm in awe of how creative, ironic, and sometimes even funny this thing called love is. This thing that reminds me of God. God is love, you know *(From poorreflections.blogspot.com, March 15, 2008, Google).*

İşte and *you know* as state markers:

Another function of *işte* is that it is an information state marker that marks shares and assumes knowledge between the speaker and the addressee (Furman & Özyürek, 2007) as can be seen in examples below:

- Hayat *işte* bildiğin gibi; Yaşıyoruz işimiz bu yaşamak! *(From blog.milliyet.com.tr/ December 14, 2008, Google)*

Life işte as you know; We live, living is our job.

- Kendi unutsa ben unutmam da, çocuk *işte (From blog.milliyet.com.tr/ September 14, 2007, Google)*

Even if he forgets, I don't forget, child işte.

This function of *işte* is close to the discourse marker *you know* in English as is the following example.

- I did not do what I was accused of doing. It's very difficult, *you know- (From CBS_Morning, 1998, COCA).*

- You start wondering if this one thing can be so awesome, could other things also be awesome? Could it be worth making yourself a little uncomfortable in the short term? Could it be time to grow up a little bit more? It's life *you know (From midwestgrrl.blogspot.com/ July 15, 2008, Google).*

İşte and *you know* as emphatic markers:

İşte and *you know* can be used as emphatic markers to stress the speaker's point in a speech (Furman & Özyürek, 2007). The following example illustrates this use of *işte* which has the same function as *you know* in English.

- Çünkü ben çocuk sever bir insanım, sokakta gördüğü çocukları çevirip seven türden değil belki ama çocukları seviyorum *işte (From blog.milliyet.com.tr/ May 20, 2005, Google)*

Because I am a person who likes children, perhaps not of the kind who hugs and caresses the children she sees on the street but I like children işte.

- A: Benim de bir kızım var, ismi Damla. O da Ankara'da tıp okuyor. İkisi okuldan arkadaş senin anlayacağın.

B: Ya, dünya küçük *işte. (From blog.milliyet.com.tr/ May 14, 2007, Google)*

A: I have a daughter too; her name is Damla. She studies medicine in Ankara too. They are school friends you know.

B: Ya, the world is small işte.

The following examples from English blog and forum sites reveal that the use of *you know* is quite similar to the use of *işte* as an emphatic marker.

- I wake up every Saturday in an even snarkier mood than usual. I decided to slough some of that off on you. Because I am like that, *you know (From stretchmarkmama.blogspot.com/, December 8, 2007, Google)*

- Have you ever read The Birthday Book, with all the birthdays? My one's actually really accurate for me – it says you're capable of being either a complete slut or totally loyal and monogamous and committed. And I am like that, *you know*. I can go uptown, I can go downtown! *(From sauce.net.au/ Blog, September 19, 2007, Google)*

İşte and and *you know as* as exemplification/detail markers:

Both *işte* and *you know* can be used as detail markers; that is, they are used to signal the presentation of a more detailed explanation of what has previously seen. Some examples with *işte* are as follows:

- En yakınımıza bile anlatamadığımız şeyleri ona anlatalım. Yani . . . günah çıkaralım *işte. (From blog.milliyet.com.tr/ March 25, 2005, Google)*

Let's tell Him the things we can't tell even people who are closest to us. That is… confess our sins işte.

- GSMH diye bir gösterge vardır. Bir ülkenin gayri safi milli hasılası. Bir de bunun kişi başına düşeni vardır. Örneğin *işte* bir kişi için 5600 dolar denir. *(From blog.milliyet.com.tr/ May 05, 2008, Google)*

There is an indicator called GNP. A country's gross national product. There is another similar kind, calculated for per capita. For example işte they say 5600 dollars for one person.

- Ne yaptığım belli *işte*; menfaatin yanında değil, doğrunun yanında olup isyan. *(From blog.milliyet.com.tr/ December 29, 2007, Google)*

What I'm doing is obvious işte; rebellion by not being together with gain but with the truth.

The following examples illustrate the same function of *you know* as a discourse marker used in exemplifications:

- There's this public persona of Barack Obama that is, *you know*, discipline, optimistic, he gives a good speech, he's positive" *(From Fox_HC, 2008, COCA)*

- And then the summer is just like, ohhh. It's like grease in the air, *you know,* that…thing. It's like chicken soup there in the summer…like, bones floating around, know what I mean *(From chriswasanon.blogspot.com, June 12, 2006, Google)*

- "Infrastructure is more attractive today than ever," Gilroy said. "It's tangible. It's a road. It's water. It's an airport. It's something that is — *you know*, you hear the term recession-proof." *(From crosscut.com/blog/ December 30, 2008, Google)*

It is worth mentioning here a quite different function of *işte:* Speakers can also be used when a speaker wants to say that s/he does not want to obey another person and that s/he insists on doing or not doing something. This use of *işte* implies that the speaker is angry and resolved to do or not to do something. No discourse particle in English is equivalent to this use of işte, which can be illustrated with the following examples:

- A: Sen gelme tabi, bütün arkadaşlar gelecek.

B: Banane, gelicem *işte (From hisse.net/forum/ October 02, 2006, Google).*

A: You don't come of course; all of my friends will come.

B: I don't care, I won't come, işte

- Bir daha şaka yapmayacağım *işte* inanmazsanız inanmayın *(From 1forum.net/ June 06, 2008, Google).*

I won't tell jokes again işte. If you don't want to believe, don't believe then.

- A: Benimki limonlu kek olsun, garson çabuk getir.

B: Yapamaz zaten.

C: Yapmayacağım *işte* garson muamelesi görüyorum resmen. Yapmayacağım *işte***,** küstüm size *(From dnsgrup.org/ Forum Cafeee, July 15, 2007, Google)*

A: I want lemon cake. Waitress, bring it quick!

B: She can't make it anyway.

C: I won't make it ***işte****. You treat me like a waitress. I won't make it* ***işte****. I won't talk to you anymore.*

The Case of 'Like' and 'Falan'

Results from recent studies reveal that *like* is indeed functional in organizing and structuring discourse. For example, depending on their findings, Romaine and Lagne (1991) claim that *like* has two main functions in spoken language, namely as a highlighting device and as a quotative device.

Because *like* has a number of functions, it is really difficult to detect the times it is used as a discourse marker in a sentence. For example, *like* can be used as a preposition as in the sentence: "she has always been *like* a sister to me'. *Like* can also be used as an adjective: 'it's just fun--good to be with folks of *like* minds *(COCA, From the Journal Social Work, January 2008);* as a conjunction as illustrated in the sentence 'nobody can cook lasagna *like* she does'; as an adverb: 'she is nothing *like* as beautiful as her sister'. ; as a noun: 'the insurance companies and the *like*; and finally as a verb: 'I *like* coffee'.

The discourse marker *like* is sometimes analyzed as a filler *like* 'um' indicating hesitation without contributing to the meaning of the utterance. However, various studies have revealed that *like* plays a much more important role in communication than a merely being a filler. For example, Andersen's

(2001) study shows that the use of *like* signals that what follows this marker is a loose interpretation of the speaker's belief. The following example illustrates this usage *well*:

- I noticed a little bit of *like* a heat wave that you see from fire *(From AccocPress, COCA, 2007)*

The speaker, by using *like* in this sentence informs the listeners that what s/he says does not exactly match what is on his/her mind.

Like is claimed to have a semantic core of approximation or looseness (Andersen, 2001) which is present in all of *like*'s discourse functions even in its use in quotations (Fox Tree & Thomlinson, 2008). Siegel (2002) claims that this use of *like* is nonstandard. Schourup (1985) argues that *like* is used as a discourse particle when there is a nonequivalence of what is said and what is meant, in other words between the intended meaning and the expression used to convey this meaning. Speakers also use *like* as a discourse particle when they are unsure of how to say what they mean or hesitant to say what they know. *Like* also gives the speaker room for qualification while at the same time gives the impression that the speaker is expecting the listener to fill in.

The researchers *like* Romaine and Lange (1991) who have studied different uses of *like* unanimously agree that the discourse marker *like* is much more common among young speakers than aged ones. The age difference is valid for both the focuser use of *like* and the quotative use. Though the use of *like* as a discourse particle is generally perceived to be more prevalent among women, the research shows contradictory results. Different researchers who have worked with varieties of English speakers have reached conflicting findings about the gender distribution of *like* (Dailey-O'Cain, 2000).

Siegel (2002) points out that the discourse particle *like* is still seen as a non-standard use although *like* functions as a true discourse particle with serious semantic effects. It is most commonly used as a hedge among American youth as in the following example:

- Hey, Gretchen, sweetheart, it's Orenthal James, who is finally at a place in his life where he is, *like*, totally, totally unattached with everybody." *(from Ind_Geraldo, COCA, 1995).*

According to Siegel (2002), *like* should be placed in the category of fillers or interjections like *um, oh, well* because it has the same function in a sentence although it does not have a defined grammatical role. However, Underhill (1988) thinks differently about the function of *like* as a discourse

particle. He claims that *like* is a marker of new information and focus rather than a filler.

Underhill (1988) points out that the focuser *like,* which can be used as a highlighting device can occur in the following six syntactic positions (pp. 243–244):

1. Before a noun phrase, as in: ‘‘Do we have to read *like* the chapters covered on the midterm for the final?’’

2. Before a predicate adjective or adjective phrase, as in: ‘‘Well, it’s not *like* wonderful, but it’s okay.’’

3. Before an adverb, adverb phrase, or prepositional phrase functioning adverbially, as in: ‘‘Man, get in the car, *like* now.’’

4. Before a verb phrase, as in: ‘‘I have to *like* go out and drive your car after dinner.’’

5. Before a subordinate clause (embedded sentence), as in: ‘‘He was explaining *like* what you do when you go into the Metro.’’

6. Before the entire sentence, as in: ‘ ***Like*** what do you mean?’’

Miller and Weinert (1995) analyze *like* as a discourse marker with various functions, one of which is to focus on or highlight constituents. Siegel (2002), on the other hand, suggests that *like* does not mark focus but is used at points of lexical indecisions just like other discourse particles. Especially while saying something that is not fully planned; and when the speaker is not sure whether s/he is actually giving the correct message.

After giving a detailed account of *like*’s semantic effects, Siegel (2002) claims that *like* has the effect of weakening strong determiners. For example, in the following sentence the existential *there* is softened by the presence of *like*

- There is *like* a disease in my family of starting little businesses. *(From CBS_Morning 2004, COCA)*

Siegel (2002) also suggests that *like*, as a discourse particle, affects truth conditionals as in the following sentence:

- The good thing for Chymopapain is that it has *like* an 80 percent success rate.” *(From CNN_Health, 1990, COCA)*

Since *falan* can be used as a discourse particle in Turkish, it shares a number of common elements with other discourse particles such as ambiguity in meaning. In fact, like other discourse particles, *falan* is used in different sentences with a different meaning in each sentence. Some dictionary work on the meaning and usage of *falan* has revealed that almost all Turkish

monolingual dictionaries including the TDK (Turkish Language Council) Dictionary agree on the definition of *falan* that it is a word that is used by speakers when they do not want to give exact details about a topic. *Falan* is used as a personal pronoun in this case because it is used by replacing the name of the real agent in a sentence. The dictionary illustrates this use of *falan* with the sentence:

- Bana *falan* geldi, *falan* gitti diye anlatmaya başladı (From *sozluk.turkcebilgi.com/falan).*

He started to talk to me like falan came and falan went.

Although dictionaries present the above meaning of *falan* as the primary meaning of the word, it seems that they are not taking the corpus into consideration, because a quick corpus search has revealed that *falan* is in fact very rarely used as a pronoun in the way illustrated above. Another definition of *falan* commonly used in dictionaries is that "speakers use *falan* when they think that the details they have given so far is enough" as illustrated in the following example.

- Sonra eve gittik *falan (From hardwaremania.com/forum/blogs/July 28, 2008, Google)*

Then, we went home falan

Falan sometimes has a very similar function to et cetera (etc.) or so on in a sentence, especially when speakers, after giving a number of examples, want to imply that no more examples are needed; or even if many other examples are given, they will be of the same kind, therefore there is no need to mention each single example. The following example illustrates this use of *falan*.

- 3 hafta önce erkek arkadaşıma Ender'den pantolon, gömlek, t-shirt *falan* aldık *(From itsbeauty.com/forum/, January 5, 2007, Google)1*

Three weeks ago, we bought trousers, a shirt and a t-shirt falan for my boyfriend from Ender.

Finally, *falan* can also be used as an adjective in sentences as illustrated in

- *Falan* yerde bir zengin yaşamış, bir tek kızı varmış, kızı genç yaşta ölmüş *(From makkale.blogcu.com/December 29, 2008, Google).*

There lived a rich person in a falan place, s/he had just one daughter, she died at a young age.

Schourup (1985) suggests that other languages use a word meaning *like* as a discourse particle with similar functions to those of the particle *like* in

English. In Turkish, *falan* can be the word that Schourup is talking about. Just *like falan, like* is considered to be a feature of informal spoken language (İyeiri et al, 2005). Furthermore, the functions of *falan* resemble in so many ways, the functions of the discourse particle *like* in English as illustrated below.

For the purpose of *making a parallel comparison of falan* and *like*, examples from Turkish and English blogs and forum sites on Google and spoken parts of COCA will be given in the following examples.

Use of *falan* and *like* with adjectives:

The discourse particle *like* can be used with adjectives. Some examples are:

- He isn't *like* handsome o no way, he just acted *like* a 7 years old *(From thoughtsfromworkatsmc.blogspot.com, May 29, 2008, Google)*

- I mean the first day that we met, she was *like* super tough... *(From NPR Weekend , 1995, COCA)*

- Because it's *like* interesting about how he can fit all that magic into one wand *(From NPR_ATCW, 2000, COCA)*

Falan can also be used with adjectives in a very similar way as illustrated with the following examples:

- Sorun ilginç *falan* değil, gayet normal. *(From Forum Donanımhaber, January 28, 2008, Google*)

The problem is not interesting falan, but quite normal.

- Bu arada bir bayan olarak söyleyeyim inanın hiç biriniz yakışıklı *falan* değilsiniz *(From Forum Donanımhaber, June 20, 2008, Google*)

By the way, as a woman, I shall say, believe me none of you is handsome falan.

- Aptal *falan* değil, aksine son derece bilinçli davranıyor *(From Forum Genelseçimler, September 22, 2007, Google)*

She is not stupid falan, but rather she is behaving in a very conscious way.

Although it seems that both *like* and *falan* can be used in combination with adjectives with more or less the same meaning, it is worth mentioning here that when *falan* is used with an adjective, the sentence is usually in the negative form as seen in examples given above, though in Google there were also exceptions. Some examples are:

- Bunlar bana göre muhteşem. hatta daha da muhteşem *falan. (From Mevsimsiz Forum, 2007, Google)*

For me, they are great. In fact, they are greater falan.

- Kendi halinde yakışıklı *falan* biriyim. *(From kremkaramel.com/ profile.php?ID=62081, December, 2007, Google)*

I'm a quiet, handsome falan person.

- Kendimi Brad Pitt gibi hissediyorum, böyle feci yakışıklı *falan. (From itukampus.com/bak/yakisikli, August 28, 2006, Google)*

I feel like Brad Pitt; that is, very handsome falan.

On the other hand in English, *like* + adjective combination appears as frequently in affirmative sentences as in negative ones, which makes it different from adjective + *falan combination*. A comparative study is needed to determine the distribution of *falan* in Turkish affirmative, negative or interrogative sentences; and compare is to the distribution of *like* in English sentences.

Use of *falan* and *like* in numerical expressions:

Both *falan* in Turkish and *like* in English are common before numerical expressions as illustrated below:

Like in numerical expressions:

- So I might have been, I don't know, *like* ten or 11 years old. *(From NPR_Sunday, 1998, COCA)*

- Mind you, I had been married *like* ten years and had two children by then…*(From ABC_2020, 1999, COCA).*

- It was *like* six hours I waited in a chair *(From Ind_Geraldo, 1992, COCA).*

- So, I've, I've heard it within *like* five minutes of when we got it. *(From ABC_Primetime, 2008, COCA)*

According to Andersen (2001) and Underhill (1998), the use of *like* in numerical expressions is very similar to the use of *approximately* or *roughly*. However, Siegel (2002), who echoes Schourup (1985), points out that *like* cannot be a synonym for *approximately* or *about.* Falan in numerical expressions:

- Ondört *falan*.

Fourteen falan

- Karayoluyla 1200 km *falan* yaptım sanırım.

I think I travelled 1200 km falan on the road.

- Sınav üçte *falan* değil, sabahın dokuzundaymış.

The exam was not at 3 o'clock falan, it was at 9 in the morning.

- Ama ortada pizza *falan* yoktu.

But there wasn't any pizza falan.

- Bir sofrada yirmi kişi *falan* olurdu.

There used to be 20 persons falan at a table.

- Şimdi kendimi doksan yaşında *falan* hissediyorum

Now I feel like 90 years old falan. (From various forum and blog sites on Google)

Like and *falan* in direct quotations:

Both *like* and *falan* can be used in direct quotations however with a difference. Especially in American English, speakers use the quotative *like* in place of the verbs like *say* or *tell*. In other words, instead of saying 'she said…', some speakers prefer to say 'she was *like*…'. When *like* is used in a quotative function, it allows the speaker to retain the vividness of direct speech and thought while preserving the pragmatic force of indirect speech (Romaine & Lange, 1991) as illustrated in the following examples.

- She was *like*, "How can you be Catholic if you don't believe" *(From blog.vh1.com, December, 01, 2008, Google)*.

- She was *like* what do you mean who told you that *(From depechemodegods.blogspot.com/ August, 2005, Google)*

- I saw that with all of my friends at the premiere, and I was *like* no way. *(From CBS_Early, 2007, COCA)*

In Turkish examples below, it is still possible to see the vividness in the use of *falan*. However, the combination of *falan* and speech act verbs is common, for example '*falan* dedi' as seen in the third example below:

- Öyle ne hergün seni seviyorum *falan*, aa bayar vallahi *(From komikler.com/komikforum/ February 04, 2007, Google).*

How come, everyday I love you falan, it turns me off, I swear.

- Ne öyle "aşkımsın bitanemsin" *falan* hepinize gülüorum. *(From murat-boz.resimleri.tv/ Forum, May 22, 2008, Google)*

Why do you say you are my love, my only one falan, I laugh at you all.

- Ne yapalım derken ruh çağıralım dedi. Lan dedim oğlum manyak mısınız ben inanmam öyle şeylere *falan* dedim. Ya abi gel oluyor *falan* dedi bu dangalaklar *(From itusozluk.com blog, 2007, Google*).

While trying to decide what to do, he said let's call sprits. I said are you crazy? I don't believe in such things falan. Come on dude, come it happens falan said these boneheads.

Conclusion

Previous studies have made it clear that discourse particles are commonly used in every language with a great number of different functions; and a review of the literature reveals a lack of studies on Turkish discourse particles. *İşte* and *falan* are among the most commonly used discourse particles in Turkish, but there are relatively few studies on *işte,* and no studies at all on the use of *falan*. However, researchers should work on similarities and differences between seemingly close discourse particles in all languages. For this purpose, this study mainly focused on the similarities as well as the differences between the uses of *well* and *işte,* and between *falan* and *like* by giving numerous examples from blog and forum sites listed in Google and spoken parts of COCA *(Corpus of Contemporary American English)* in order to work on parallel corpora on both languages.

The purpose of this study was to draw attention to the importance of the aforementioned discourse particles by revealing different functions of each one of them in both languages. An analysis of the collected data have revealed that *işte* has a large number of different functions as a discourse particles, and many of these functions are similar to the functions of *well,* which is a commonly used discourse particle in English. In a similar way, an analysis of the example sentences containing *falan* has revealed the strong resemblance between this discourse particle in Turkish and the discourse particle *like* in English. On the other hand, further analysis of the aforementioned corresponding words has also revealed differences in terms of their usages and functions. Throughout this paper similarities and differences between Turkish discourse particles *işte* and *falan* and English discourse particles *well* and *like* were explained in a contrastive way with as many exampled as possible.

For further researxh, it is important to take into consideration Aijmer and Simon-Vandenbergen's (2003) claim that translations can be used to compare discourse particles in two or more languages and the polysemic nature of the discourse particle becomes more tangible thorough comparing the translations of the item in different languages. Although this study did not make use of translations as a research method, future studies are strongly advised to use this useful method in order to better reveal the similarities and differences between English and Turkish in terms of the use of discourse particles in each language.

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