



University of Cyprus
Department of Turkish and
Middle Eastern Studies

LECTURE

THE DEPARTMENT OF TURKISH AND MIDDLE EASTERN STUDIES
INVITES YOU TO THE LECTURE:

Contact-induced structural change in spoken varieties of Turkic: Indo-European, Iranian, or Greek?

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Speaker:

CHRISTIANE BULUT

Associate Professor, Department of Turkish and Middle Eastern Studies

Abstract:

Turkic languages mainly rely on non-finite structures ('subjunctors') to express the syntactic equivalents of Indo-European dependent clauses: Basically *adverbial action clauses* are based on gerunds, while nominalized verb forms such as verbal nouns and participles form *agent clauses* (relative clauses) or *nominalized action clauses* (complement clauses). Consequently, the Turkic sentence only contains one single finite verb form, marked for +tense/mood/aspect ('thematic suffix') and +agent (personal suffix). Across the historical area of Western Oghuz (including greater Iran with Iraq and Azerbaijan, Anatolia, and Cyprus), spoken varieties of Turkic have almost completely restructured their syntax according to Indo-European models: Right-branching dependent clauses based on finite verb forms replace non-finite left-branching constructions. Is it possible to identify the source or model language of these structures? This paper will analyze different types of patterns of relativization and complementation that display characteristic features pointing to Iranian (predominantly Modern Persian and Kurdish), and Greek origins.

Short CV:

Christiane Bulut received a M.A. in Islamic Studies and American Studies, and a Ph.D. in Turcology and Middle Eastern Studies at Johannes Gutenberg-University Mainz. In her Ph.D. thesis (1995), she has analyzed language and orthography in the *Seyahatname*, a 17th century travelogue by the Ottoman globetrotter Evliya Çelebi. Her habilitation thesis (2006) describes Turkic varieties spoken in Central Iran. Bulut has held various academic positions in Turcology and Middle Eastern Studies, such as lecturer for Ottoman and Modern Turkish, and Assistant Professor in Turcology and Oriental Studies. In 2005/2006, she was invited as a guest researcher to SCAS (The Swedish Collegium for Advanced Study). From 1997 to 2009, she was a member of a large-scale research program on >Cultural and Linguistic Contacts in Northeast-Africa and Southwest Asia<. Her work concentrates on historical stages of Turkic and Turkic varieties spoken in Southeast-Anatolia, Cyprus, Iraq and West-Iran, where she has conducted several field-studies. Since September 2008, Bulut works as associate professor at the Department of Turkish and Middle Eastern Studies, University of Cyprus.

★The lecture is a part of the evaluation procedure for her promotion to the rank of Full Professor.

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ROOM 114, NEW CAMPUS (LEVENTIS BUILDING) UNIVERSITY OF CYPRUS



+ 357 22893950



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