

## Chapter 3

### ON THE FUNCTIONS OF TWO NEGATIVE SENSITIVE ITEMS

Emrah GÖRGÜLÜ<sup>1</sup>

#### 1. INTRODUCTION

There are several negative sensitive items in Turkish that require the presence of sentential negation in order to be licensed. Among these elements, there are two items, namely *kimse* and *hiçkimse* ‘no one/anyone’ whose syntactic and semantic properties are rather interesting in certain respects. In previous work, it was argued that their behavior is almost identical as negative polarity items (Aygen 1998, Keleşir 2001, Yanılmaz 2009) with no apparent distributional and semantic distinction whatsoever. The only difference was noted to be that *hiçkimse* carries more emphasis on the speaker’s part than *kimse*. In that sense, these two items seem to be in a syntactic and semantic complementary distribution. In this work, however, I show that their distributional and interpretational characteristics are not always identical as there are certain environments in which they cannot be used interchangeably. Based on a corpus analysis (TS Corpus v.2) developed by Sezer and Sezer (2012), I argue that the syntactic and semantic characteristics of *kimse* is different from *hiçkimse* since it exhibits a wider distribution. That is to say, in addition to its function as a negative sensitive element in the immediate environment of negation, it still functions as an indefinite in certain

---

<sup>1</sup> Asst. Prof. Dr. Emrah Görgülü, İstanbul Sabahattin Zaim University,  
emrah.gorgulu@izu.edu.tr

items in question were shown to be conforming to the adjacency requirements of the map. On the other hand, the semantic map correctly predicts the new function of *kimse* as a negative sensitive item. Future work will surely shed more light on the characteristics of these and similar elements.

## REFERENCES

1. van der Auwera, J. (2013). Semantic maps: for synchrony and diachrony. In *Synchrony and diachrony: a dynamic interface*. Anna G. Ramat, Caterina Mauri and Piera Molinelli (eds.), John Benjamins, 153-176.
2. Anderson, L. (1982). The 'Perfect' as a universal and as a language particular category. In *Tense and Aspect: Between Semantics and Pragmatics*. Paul Hopper (ed.). Amsterdam: Benjamins. 227-264.
3. Aygen, G. (1998). Split INFL Hypothesis in Turkish. MA Thesis. Boğaziçi University, Istanbul.
4. Bybee, Joan. L. (1985). *Morphology: A Study of the Relations Between Meaning and Form*. Amsterdam: Benjamins.
5. Croft, W., Shyldkroft, H. & Kemmer, S. (1983). Diachronic semantic processes in the middle voice. In *Papers from the 7th International Conference on Historical Linguistics*, A. G. Ramat, O. Carruba and G. Bernini (eds.), Amsterdam: Benjamins. 179-1912
6. Cysouw, M. (2001). Review of *Indefinite Pronouns* by Martin Haspelmath (1997). *Journal of Linguistics* 37(3). 99-114.
7. Görgülü, E. (2017). Negative polarity in Turkish: from negation to non-veridicality. *Macrolinguistics* 5(7), 51-69. The Learned Press.
8. Haspelmath, M. (1997). *Indefinite Pronouns*. (Oxford Studies in Typology and Linguistic Theory). Clarendon Press: Oxford.
9. Heim, I. (1982). The Semantics of Definite and Indefinite Noun Phrases. Doctoral Dissertation. University of Massachusetts, Amherst.
10. Hoeksema, J. (2010). Dutch *ENIG*: from nonveridicality to downward entailment. *Natural Language and Linguistic Theory* 28, 837-859. Kluwer Academic Publishers
11. İnce, A. (2012). Fragment answers and islands. *Syntax* 15(2), 184-214.
12. Kamali, B. (2017). Negative concord in Turkish polar questions. Paper presented in Com(parative) Syn(tax) Meeting. Leiden University Center for Linguistics. March 23, 2017.
13. Kelepir, M. (2001). Topics in Turkish Syntax: Clausal Structure and scope. Unpublished Doctoral Dissertation. The MIT Press.
14. Sezer, B., & Sezer T. (2013). TS Corpus: Herkes için Türkçe Derlem. *Proceedings of the 27th National Linguistic Conference*. May 3-4 2013, Antalya, Kemer: Hacettepe University, English Linguistics Department, pp: 217-225.

*Language and Literature II*

15. Şener, S. (2007). Cyclic NCI Movement. In E. Bainbridge and B. Agyabani (eds.), *Proceedings of the thirty-fourth Western Conference on Linguistics*. Vol. 17, 407-417.
16. Yanılmaz, A. (2009). An investigation into the lexical and syntactic properties of negative polarity items in Turkish. MA Thesis, Hacettepe University.