

Chapter 7

WHAT DOES HUMANITY LOSE WITH THE DEATH OF A LANGUAGE? (CUKUROVA ARABIC AS AN EXAMPLE)

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ABSTRACT

Human beings have been experiencing and observing similar things in their distant or proximal surroundings for thousands of years: Inequalities, conflicts, wars and chaos. The reason for this bad landscape is largely economic inequalities and differences. But there are also humanitarian reasons for this. Individuals and states take a destructive or -in most innocent expression- biased and distant attitude towards “the different”. This makes the world increasingly barren or even uninhabitable. In other words, the earth is moving towards uniformity in choices and likes in areas such as life style, clothing and dressing, food and drink. Uniformization strikes its latest and destructive blow on ethnic and linguistic diversity. As a result, ethnic groups are rapidly disappearing with their languages. This study examines how uniformization causes humanity in the context of natural human language. Accordingly, the death of a language means that humanity loses one of the most important data sources on the path to reaching the truth. Therefore, linguistic diversity should be

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a more livable world will be possible with a more democratic attitude in the individual-state and state-individual axis. Finally, let me point out that Y. N. Harari made a word for the diversity of plants and animals of our planet, and that we should also say for the language. Says Harari: “If we knew how many species we had already eradicated, we might be more motivated to protect those that still survive.” (2014, p. 73). It is inevitable for us to say: “If we knew how many languages we had eradicated and what we lost so far, we would be more willing to protect those that still survive.”

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