

# Word Frequency and Vocabulary Study of Reading Books Used Teaching Turkish as a Foreign Language

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## Abstract

*This study is made to determine which words are being used in teaching Turkish as a foreign language reading books and to give a suggestion about what vocabulary can be use. Turkish language is one of the major language in the world and it is being more popular day by day. There are so many institutes, schools, courses, departments in the world to teach Turkish. Reading skill is having an important place in language skills. For that reason in this research first of all twenty reading books are examined, vocabulary of these books are determined, frequency of words are designated and recommended some words for each book. Then reading books that used for teaching Turkish as a foreign language are examined that is in domestic and abroad and determined in which Common European Framework of Reference For Languages' level which words. It is shown local and foreign studies about word frequency as a sample. In this study qualitative research method is used. The purpose of the study is to suggest words for reading books according to levels.*

## 1. Introduction

Teaching Turkish as a foreign language is a popular study field in Turkey and worldwide. In this study twenty reading books that used to teach Turkish language is determined according to word frequency and vocabulary. Word frequency studies are very useful and helpful to teach and to learn a language. One of the good sample for word frequency is "The teacher's word book of 30000 words" [1] to teach common words to the students. On the other hand students are read more texts and books which has include the most used words [2]. The most used words are easy to remember [3]. In this study reading books and the most used Turkish words are compared. Reading books, texts, most used words and vocabulary studies are really important to teach a language especially a foreign language. Therefore vocabulary study is classified according to Common European Framework of Reference For Languages. And there are suggestions for each book in with levels. The first frequency study of Turkish language for spoken and written is below.

Spoken Turkish	Frequency	Written Turkish	Frequency
to say	8742	a/an	5589
a/an	4673	this	2170
this	3278	to be	2053
he/she/it	3203	to do	1944
I	2764	and	1736
what	2674	to say	946
to be	2625	he/she/it	856
to come	2372	what	685
to go	2372	head	651
you	1882	to take	650

thing	1343	I	607
there	1801	for	641
to take	1281	to see	569
to do	1264	to come	559
to give	1216	two	558

Table 1: Pierce's Turkish Most Used Words [4]

## 2. Methodology

In this study qualitative research method is used. Content analysis is used to analyse data. 15 A1 and A2 level books and 5 B1 and B2 level books, totally 20 reading books include in the research. To get the data these methods are used: Firstly all words are reduced subjective case, then specific names are deducted, question suffix are removed, the negative forms of verbs deducted and positive forms are added. Counting and fixing the words are made by analysis programme and all words are read. The number of headword list is made for Turkish language according to Common European Framework of Reference For Languages levels as belowed.

CEFR	A1	A2	B1	B2	C1	Total
<b>Levels</b>						
New Headwords	1500	1000	1000	1000	1000	
Total Headwords	1500	2500	3500	4500	5500	5500

Tablo 2: CEFR Levels and Number of Headwords List

## 3. Findings and Discussion

In this part of section of the study the reading books head words numbers and discussion about the vocabulary is figured. Teaching Turkish as a foreign language reading books according to levels:

Below the figure the words are given that not suitable and acceptable for this level.

Basic Level: Gökkuşığı (Rainbow) and Lale (Tulip) Reading Set:

Gökkuşığı (Rainbow) Reading Set: Hurt News, A Summer Memory, Environmentalist Youth, Secrets On The Wall, Selection The Gulistan, Kelile And Dimne, Selection The Mathnawi, The Ghost In The Graveyard, Nasreddin Hodja Jokes. (9 books)

Lale (Tulip) Reading Set: Ali Cengiz And His Tricks, Miller, His Son And Donkey, Bighearted Keloglan, King And Nightingale, King's New Clothes, Nasrettin Hodja. (6 books)

Intermediate Level: Gökkuşığı (Rainbow) Reading Set:

Gökkuşığı (Rainbow) Reading Set: Cavernous, Cingöz In Danger, First Leap, Ominous House, Dead In Underground. (5 books)

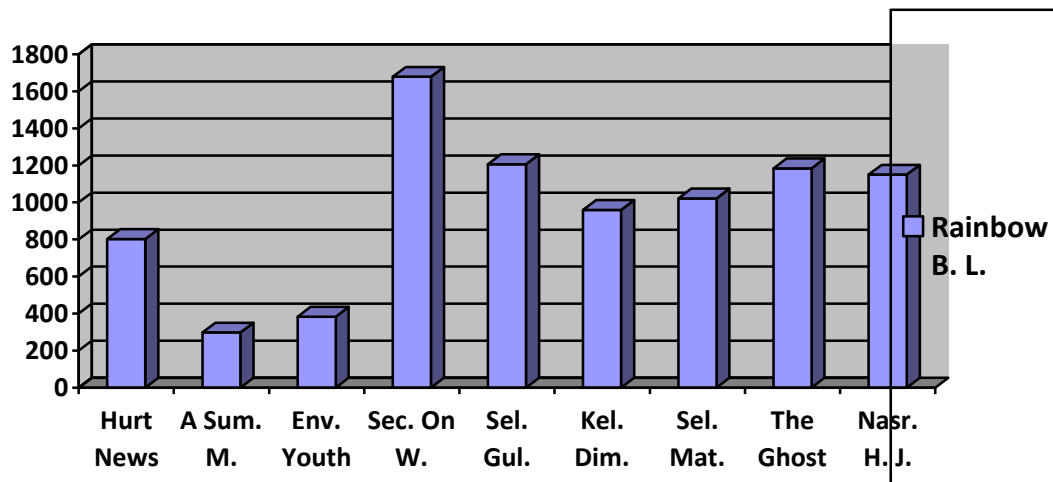


Figure 1: Rainbow Basic Level Reading Books

Hurt News: saint, plentifulness, armory, courage, principle, everlasting, captive, self-sacrifice, genuine, conductor, mentor, banner, pipe, bulwark, bayonet, toleration, demise.

A Summer Memory : roar, reservation, drunk, irritate.

Environmentalist Youth: patrol, studio, turtledove.

Secrets On The Wall: landlord, assume, enthrall, funeral, take courage, gin, gallows, mortal, traitor, street trading, butler, faithful, groan, constabulary, rattling.

Selection The Gulistan: bookman, bray, calamity, courage, cobbler, torment, sovereign, empery, execution, become bloodshot, revenge, deed, fidelity, tax.

Kelile And Dimne: greedy, bookman, jackal, calamity, become poor, sacrifice, philosopher, neckband, sovereign, fate, jeweler, struggle, streak, pars, peri, embonpoint, pilgrim, merchant, spawn.

Selection The Mathnawi: calamity, plentifulness, wise, bookman, magic, be polished, treasure, profit, prodigal, merchant.

The Ghost In The Graveyard: actress, scientist, bureau, gong, sewing, workshop, diamond, neckband, influential, guarantor, handcuffs, rosemary, jewel, orchestra, demon, merchant.

Nasreddin Hodja Jokes: fold, mite, wise, bookman, vaporization, fellowship, cassock, affectation, herd, saddlebag, trick, doomsday, stunt, streak, horseshoe, saddle, coffin.

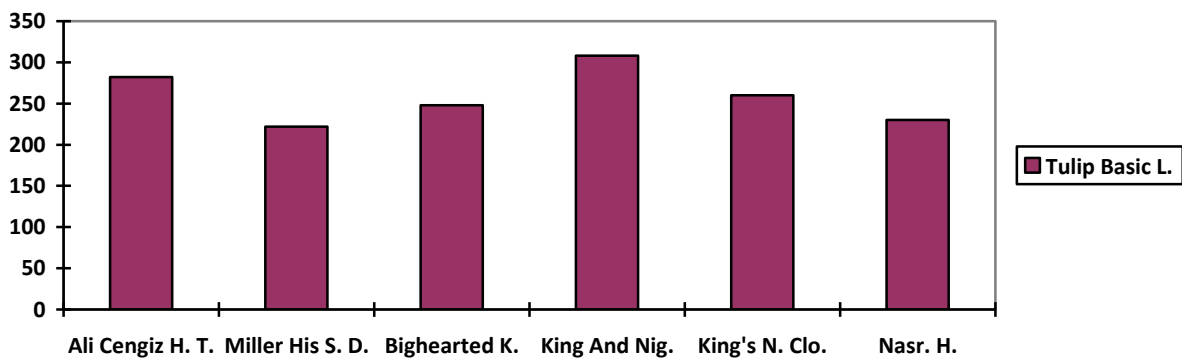


Figure 2: Tulip Basic Level Reading Books

Ali Cengiz And His Tricks: sparrowhawk, magician, sheepherding, trick, chaperon, coyness, secret, overflowing, hound.

Miller, His Son And Donkey: exhausted, encounter, wince, unscrupulous, find odd.

Bighearted Keloglan: gin, chaperon, chaff, ring.

King And Nightingale: diamond, jewel, console, merchant, roost, vizier, emerald.

King's New Clothes: fascinating, magic, swindler, imaginary, envy, arrogant, majesty, vizier.

Nasrettin Hodja: vinegar.

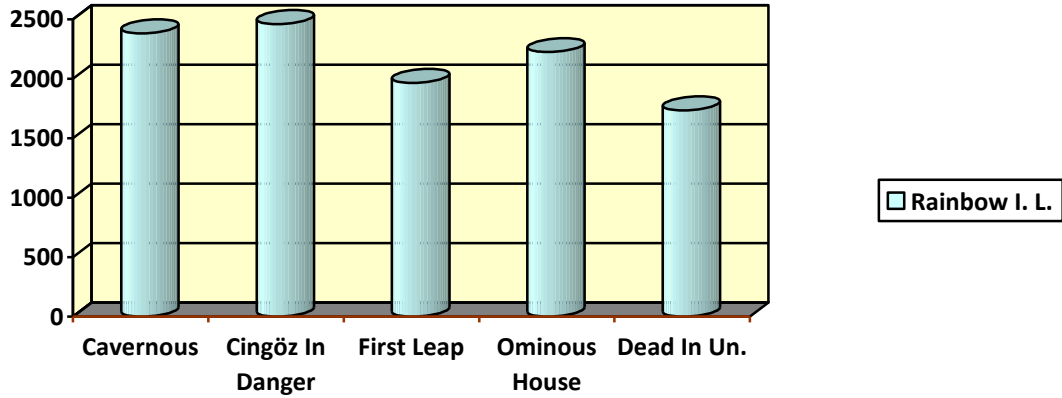


Figure 3: Rainbow Intermediate Level Reading Books

Cavernous: handset, hastily, revolt, saint, common, bureau, carbuncle, cauterize, decollete, makeshift, hashish addict, philosophical, physiognamy, pox, customs, harem, caviare, excellency, instinct, execution, floozie, be handcuffed, ruffian, gloomy, innocence, mistress, wine.

Cingöz In Danger: chandelier, contrariwise, crassness, gallows, lunatic, seise, frock, utter, slapstick, tender, spirit, grasp, chloroform, ruffian, armageddon, mademoiselle, mercy, monsieur, oka, causality, socialite, fuss, scrupulous.

First Leap: baron, bureu, descend, ringleader, hatemonger, simmer, garniture, carbonate, counterfoil, middleman, drygoods, lament, officaldom, venerable, specimen, rag, detective, cursory, paymaster, pickpocket, procumbent, impenetrable.

Ominous House: sedateness, handset, public order, drunkard, stray, barroom, distortionist, jacksnipe, burton, hashish addicts, disaster, ruffian, rowdiness.

Dead In Underground: hastily, public order, descend, pander, seise, bandit, disaster victim, depravement, hijacker, grasp, carrion, vault, grateful, procumbent.

#### 4. Concluding remarks and Suggestions

The important of vocabulary study is indisputable fact for teaching language. Known words will be increase the quality of language skills especially in reading and writing. In this study common and most used words are given to teach and learn Turkish according to levels. This study is given a method to make more quality and useful reading books for foreigner. And it's really important to use most used Turkish words in books and text. In the basic level the words should be given from the daily life. Therefore learners can contact with the people easily and keep up with them more simple. To form word frequency list is helping the teachers, educators and institutions to teach the language easier.

#### 5. References

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