

DISCORE NEWSLETTER

 discore.metu.edu.tr

 wwwdisco@metu.edu.tr

 @TheDISCORE




DISCORE is...


... an interdisciplinary research group based in the Department of Foreign Languages Education at Middle East Technical University. DISCORE aims to bring together researchers who are interested in **issues at the intersection of language, discourse, spoken and written interaction and corpus research.**

Upcoming Events


- * **Ulusal Dilbilim Kurultayı**
(National Linguistics Convention)
Çukurova University,
April 16-18

 [Conference website](#)

- * **Linguistics Prague 2026**
Charles University,
June 4-5

 [Conference website](#)

- * **ICOP-L2 Conference**
Newcastle University,
August 24-26

 [Conference website](#)



Progress on the National Corpus of Turkish Project

On 11 February 2025, representatives from the Turkish Language Association (TDK), Toros University and the METU DIScourse and CORpus REsearch Group (DISCORE) convened a meeting to discuss the preparation of the **National Corpus of Turkish (NCT)**. During the meeting, the DISCORE project team delivered a presentation entitled "Collaboration Opportunities between the Turkish Language Association and METU-DISCORE in the Field of Corpus Studies." The

meeting brought together Prof. Dr. Osman Mert, President of TDK; Assoc. Prof. Dr. Hale Işık Güler, Dr. Esranur Efeoğlu Özcan, Dr. Hülya Mısır, Yasemin Erdoğan Öztürk, and Pınar Turan from DISCORE; as well as members of the Contemporary Turkish Dictionary and Spelling Guide Committee and TDK experts. On 20 February, TDK and the METU-DISCORE research group held an online follow-up meeting. At this meeting, DISCORE presented a

* **What does the NCT project aim to accomplish?**

The National Corpus of Turkish is a national corpus project of the Turkish Language Association (TDK), created to document contemporary Turkish across written and spoken domains and to provide a foundation for corpus-based lexicography. Within this project, DISCORE leads the construction and structuring of the spoken component of the corpus.

report titled, "National Corpus of Turkish Project: Work Packages." Next, on 19 March, representatives from TDK, METU-DISCORE, the Department of Translation and Interpreting at Toros University, and the software development team met online to discuss the Infrastructure and Technical Specifications of the corpus. Then, the METU-DISCORE held an internal online meeting on 26 May to plan the spoken corpus subcategories and to form sub-teams. During this meeting, the group initiated work on the preliminary report for the spoken corpus category.

Members of the team met with the TDK officials and presented the report titled "National Corpus of Turkish Project: Spoken Corpus Subtype Definitions and Parameters" on 30 June. Assoc. Prof. Dr. Hale Işık Güler, Research Assistant Yasemin Erdoğan Öztürk, and Research Assistant Pinar Turan delivered the presentation on behalf of the DISCORE team.

METU-EMI Research Network

The METU-EMI Research Network is a sub-group of DISCORE which focuses on English-medium Instruction contexts and practice through various discourse-analytic approaches. The team has completed a TÜBİTAK 1001-funded research project (Project No. 121K227) that aimed to develop an empirically grounded understanding of teaching and learning practices in English-medium instruction (EMI) contexts in higher education in Türkiye. Coordinated by Assoc. Prof. Dr. Hale Işık-Güler, the three-year project (2022–2025) adopted a data-driven approach to examine real-time classroom interaction across a wide range of disciplines (Engineering and Technology, Arts and Humanities, Natural and Life Sciences, etc.). The research is based on a rich and large-scale dataset, including more than 151 hours of video-recorded EMI classes collected from METU, Boğaziçi University, Kadir Has University, and Bilkent University, alongside student questionnaires and stimulated-recall interviews with faculty members. By closely analyzing how instructional practices unfolded moment by moment, the project sought to identify both effective and challenging aspects of EMI teaching from the perspectives of instructors and students. One of the key outcomes of the project is the development of open-access, research-informed online training modules, designed to support EMI instructors in enhancing classroom interaction, pedagogical effectiveness, and student engagement across diverse academic and institutional contexts.

Conferences [METU-EMI Network Website](#)

Seven DISCORE members (Hale Işık-Güler, Yasemin Erdoğan-Öztürk, Esranur Efeoğlu-Özcan, Özlem Özbakış, Hülya Mısır, Mervener Yüce, and Sezin Sevimli) participated in **the 22nd International Conference on Turkish Linguistics (ICTL22)** hosted by Dokuz Eylül University .



[Book of Abstracts](#)



* Assoc. Prof. Dr. Hale Işık-Güler has been selected as a member of the Scientific Committee of the Turkish Language Association on November 25.

The team contributed to the conference with a range of single- and co-authored presentations, representing diverse strands of ongoing linguistic research within DISCORE.



On 3–4 July 2025, Dr. Hale Işık-Güler and Pinar Turan from the DISCORE team delivered two presentations at **the 6th English as a Medium of Instruction (EMI) Symposium**, held in conjunction with the 3rd ELINET Conference at the University of Oxford, United Kingdom. The presentations drew on ongoing research conducted within the METU EMI Network and highlighted current empirical studies emerging from this initiative. Drawing on data from the METU EMI Network's broader research programme on English as a Medium of Instruction, both talks examined classroom interaction and pedagogical practices in EMI contexts and aimed to contribute to the growing body of literature on EMI teaching and learning.



[Book of Abstracts](#)

Between 4–14 December, members of DISCORE and the METU-EMI Network carried out an 11-day visit to Japan under the Sakura Science Exchange – Research Collaboration Programme, funded by the Japan Science and Technology Agency. As part of the visit, the group visited Ritsumeikan University in Osaka, where they engaged with academic staff and explored opportunities for research exchange and collaboration.

During the visit, DISCORE and METU-EMI Network members also delivered four joint presentations at **the 8th JAAL in JACET Conference**, the annual conference of the Japan Association for Applied Linguistics (JAAL), held on 6–7 December 2025 at Ritsumeikan University, Osaka:

- Işık-Güler, H. (2025). Harnessing Classroom Evidence for EMI Faculty Development: Insights from the EMIT4F Project.
- Sato, T., & Işık-Güler, H. (2025). Japanese–Turkish Perspectives on LI in EMI: Practices, Disciplinary Differences, and Implications.
- Şimşek Tontuş, A., Turan, P., & Top, İ. E. (2025). More Than Meets the Eye: Rethinking How We Analyze EMI Classroom Interaction.
- Köse, B., Yüce, M. N., & Sevimli, S. (2025). From Shared Struggles to Discipline-Specific Needs: Student Voices on EMI from a Turkish Context.

 [Book of Abstracts](#)

The group also visited Toyo University’s Kawagoe and Hakusan campuses, where they introduced Middle East Technical University (METU) as an English-medium university and held meetings to discuss potential collaboration on English as a Medium of Instruction (EMI).

The visit also included six classroom observations across EMI courses representing different disciplines at various university campuses, during which the team collected empirical data for ongoing research.

Finally, on 13 December, Dr. Hale Işık-Güler delivered an invited webinar for the Japan Association of College English Teachers (JACET) entitled “Learning from EMI Practice in Türkiye: An



Online Seminar with Researchers from METU.” In this talk, she introduced the METU EMI Research Network, its research agenda, and its key outputs.

At **the 38th National Linguistics Conference (Ulusal Dilbilim Kurultayı)**, hosted by Atatürk University, DISCORE members Ali Anaç and Assoc. Prof. Dr. Hale Işık-Güler participated with their presentation entitled, “Bağışı ve Bağışçılığı Çerçeveleme: Bağış Seferberliklerindeki İkna Yöntemlerinin Çok Kipli

Söylem Çözümlemesi Yöntemi ile İncelenmesi” [Eng: “Framing Donation and the Donor: A Multimodal Discourse Analysis of Persuasion Strategies in Donation Campaigns].



 [Book of Abstracts](#)



Merve Nur Yüce and Hale Işık-Güler participated online in **The 4th International Conference on Discourse Pragmatics** (ICDP4), organized by Zhejiang International Studies University on 17–19 October, and presented their paper entitled “Constructing Vigilantism: Discursive Practices of Online Shaming in Turkish X” in the panel “Online Aggression and Shaming.”



Papers

Members of DISCORE published various co-authored papers in 2025. **Betül Çimenli Olcars** examined how language teacher trainees managed topic transitions in an online intercultural virtual exchange setting using Multimodal CA. ([Satar & Çimenli Olcars, 2025](#)). The study detailed three distinct features on topic transition and the relevant interactional resources to realize them, which prove contingent on task accomplishment: timing of transitions, signalling transitions, and formulating ‘work-thus-far’, ‘work-at-hand’, and ‘work-to-come’. Using the same methodology, **Pinar Turan** investigated how members’ screen-sharing behavior can help establish shared orientations to screen as an epistemic resource for managing troubles of various kinds in a language teacher education setting ([Turan & Yiğitoğlu Aptoula, 2025](#)). **Esratur Efeoğlu-Özcan** looked into the Turkish social-cultural practice of fortune-telling through coffee cup readings. The discourse analytic study revealed that the

participants in these events mobilize several semiotic resources to establish solidarity (i.e., between the reader and the client) through troubles talk. The study further highlights how these practices relate to religion- or culture-specific linguistic elements and to women’s intimate discourse as a collection of community-building social practices ([Eröz, Efeoğlu-Özcan & Başaran Uysal, 2025](#)). **Hale Işık-Güler** employed line-by-line analysis of ‘diss tracks’ in an asynchronous rap battle between two renowned White rappers in the USA. Using the lenses of (im)politeness, the study highlights how various realizations of impoliteness (through cursing, insulting, dismissing, etc.) form power relations in the rappers’ attempts to ‘out-diss’ each other ([Oğuz & Işık-Güler, 2025](#)). **Esratur Efeoğlu-Özcan** and **Hale Işık-Güler** published a methodological paper related to the processes and issues with compiling a corpus named “Corpus of Turkish Youth Language” (CoTY), walking through design and construction of the corpus involving a 168,748 tokens covering informal, naturally occurring, and spontaneous instances of Turkish youth talk ([Efeoğlu-Özcan & Işık-Güler, 2025](#)).



In-Group Events

On 6 November, DISCORE members held a Reading Session on “AI and Applied Linguistics.” During the session, participants shared and discussed selected articles addressing key themes such as AI and academic writing, the role of AI in article processing and editorial workflows in academic journals, and the reciprocal influences between Applied Linguistics and AI.



The group met on 28 November for a data session for Ali Anaç’s dataset. The dataset included video recordings of an L2 teacher education classroom. Contributions from the group helped validate and improve the analyses of classroom deontics, which were based on CA. The group also scheduled another data session for Merve Nur Yüce and Gamze Kapucu’s dataset involving classroom interactions at a higher education setting.

Milestones

In 2025, three DISCORE members have completed their PhD dissertations. These are **Yasemin Erdoğan-Öztürk** (*Contested Belongings: Identity Negotiations Among Multilingual Turkish Returnee Women in a Digital Community*, [link](#)); **Özlem Özbakış** (*Exploring Leadership Configurations in Decision-making Interaction in a Turkish Software Engineering Company: An Ethnomethodological Multimodal Conversation Analysis*, [link](#)); and **Betül Çimenli Olcars** (*A Conversation Analytic Investigation of Resources for Alignment and Affiliation in Topic Management During Video-Mediated Virtual Exchange*, [link](#)). **Zeynep Arisoy** completed her M.A. Thesis (*Media Representations of Femicide in The Guardian and Cumhuriyet Newspapers: A Corpus Assisted Critical Discourse Analysis*, [link](#)).



DISCORE celebrates methodological diversity!

There are many different approaches to discourse analysis, none of them [is] uniquely “right.” Different approaches fit different issues and questions better or worse than others. And, too, different approaches sometimes reach similar conclusions though they use different tools and terminologies connected to different “micro-communities” of researchers.

–James P. Gee