



**Alkayış, M. Fatih (2019). Türkiye Türkçesinde Bitki Adları
Hiperyayın, ISBN 978-605-281-343-0, 432 pages**

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Abstract: Plants have been used by mankind in many areas from past to present. In this respect, plants are indispensable for human beings, named by each nation in different ways and these nomenclatures have often been the subject of examination for linguists. The book “Türkiye Türkçesinde Bitki Adları” prepared by Alkayış is one of those investigations. In this study, the book is introduced and some evaluations are made on the book.

Key words: Plant names in Turkish, Turkish plant names, vernacular plant names

Özet: Bitkiler, geçmişten günümüze insanoğlu tarafından birçok alanda kullanılmıştır. Bu bakımdan insanoğlu için vazgeçilmez bir öneme sahip olan bitkiler, her millet tarafından farklı şekillerde adlandırılmış ve bu adlandırılmalar, dilciler için çoğu zaman bir inceleme konusu olmuştur. Alkayış tarafından hazırlanan “Türkiye Türkçesinde Bitki Adları” isimli kitap da bu incelemelerden biridir. Bu çalışmada söz konusu kitap tanıtılmış ve kitap üzerine bazı değerlendirmelerde bulunulmuştur.

Anahtar Kelimeler: Türkçede bitki adları, Türkçe bitki adları, yerel bitki adları

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1. Introduction

Plants have been used by mankind in many areas from past to present. They are an indispensable asset for human beings in fields such as medicine, anthropology, pharmacy, literature, art, biology, botany and gastronomy. Sait Faik once said “if one does not know the names of flowers and fishes, he can’t write stories”. In fact, he mentions about the importance of plant and animal names in literature. Likewise, plant names have an important place in classical Turkish literature. Hayali, in the following couplet says, likens figured saplings in the garden to light-faced houris that have come down from the sky thanks to newly opened flowers and flowers shining with dew (Kaya, 2015).

Cemende her nihâli gökden inmiş hûra benzettüm

Çiçekler gördüm anların yüzünde nûra benzettüm Hayâlî
(Tarlan, 1992).

Various ways of plants naming that have such an importance in society have been followed. Plants have been named in different ways according to the cultural background of the societies as well as their appearance, usage or their habitats. Turkish language has many plant names produced in this way. For example, *Antirrhinum* plant whose flowers resemble the mouth of a lion is called as snapdragon. Similarly, plants such as mountain poplar, garden terraces, island bulbs, Cretan tulips are named in this way due to the geography where they grow. Naming plants in Turkish is very important for the vocabulary of Turkish Language. To find Turkish equivalents or reproduce new names to plant taxa which are of Latin or latinized origin and use these plant names in Turkish forms enriches the vocabulary of the Turkish language. Therefore, different studies have been conducted regarding plant names. “Türkiye Türkçesinde Bitki Adları” (2019) published by Alkayış, is one of the most important studies on plant names

in Turkish language. The author states the aim of his work as the determination of the modes of plant naming and to reveal the richness of Turkish in terms of plants by a structural and conceptual investigation of the plant names in Turkish.

In this study, the book titled “Türkiye Türkçesinde Bitki Adları” prepared by Alkayış is introduced and some evaluations are made on the book.

2. The book

Türkiye Türkçesinde Bitki Adları (Plant Names in Turkish)

The book was published by Hyper Publications in İstanbul in 2019. The study, except for the Kısaltmalar (abbreviations), Simgeler (symbols) and Önsöz (preface), consists of six parts: Giriş (Introduction), İnceleme (Review), Bitki Adlarında Geçen Yapım Ekleri (derivational suffixes in plant names), Türkiye Türkçesi Bitki Adları Sözlüğü (dictionary of Turkish plant names), Sonuç (conclusion) and Bibliyografya (bibliography).

The abbreviations (Kısaltmalar) section includes the abbreviations of publication names, language codes, and some other abbreviations.

In the preface, the author first emphasizes the importance of plants, then gives some information about his work. In addition, the author reserves a paragraph of appreciation to the people who helped when creating his work.

Introduction is the first part of the study and it is a transition to the review section. In this chapter the author, referring to the importance of plants in human life in the first paragraph, says, “nature takes its naturalness, beauty and vitality from plants. It is actually plants that bring nature into poetry, painting and various art branches”; in this way he emphasizes the importance of plants in nature. From

sixteenth page, the author provides information on ways to name plants, and he supports this with information giving examples in Turkish, German, English etc. The author later mentions that plant names are important not only for linguists, but also for anthropologists, pharmacists, ecologists and ethnobotanists. This, of course, increases the value of the study even more. Lastly the author gives information about the methods he used while preparing the study.

The review part is the second part of the study and it is one of the main parts. This section consists of three titles: “Basit Yapılı Bitki Adları (the simple structured plant names)”, “Türemiş Bitki Adları (derivative plant names)” and “Birleşik Bitki Adları (compound plant names)”.

Basit Yapılı Bitki Adları section is the first title of the review section. This section was handled under two subtitles as “Türkçe Kökenli Bitki Adları (Turkish originated plant names)” and “Alıntı Kökenli Bitki Adları” (derivative plant names). Alkayış states that Turkish originated plant names do not occupy much place in the study, only 46 samples such as “ağu”, “çöpür”, “erik”, “enek”, in this structure, could be detected. The author moves to the derivative plant names section, he states that excerpts of plant names used in Turkish came from the Arabic Persian, Armenian, Latin, Greek, French, English, Italian, Spanish, Bulgarian, Chinese, Georgian, Serbian, Slavic, Mongolian, Russian, Portuguese and Polish languages and then he gives the examples of plant names derived from these languages under the same title. Some examples are as follow:

bezir (<Ar. *bezr*)
gül (<Far. *gul*)
kiraz (<Yun. *Kerasi*)
feliks (Lat. *felix*)
funda (İt. *fonda*)

“Türemiş Bitki Adları” section is the second title of the review section. Under this heading, Alkayış identifies the origins of derivative words and gives examples. For the origins of the words that could not be determined in the examples he uses “?” sign. In addition, Alkayış separates the existing words one by one in this section. Some examples are as follow:

alça (< T. *al+ça*)
şarlık (< Ar. *şa'r + T. lik*)
tüllü (Fr. *tulle + T. lü*)
söbelek (? *söbe + T. lek*)

“Birleşik Bitki Adları” section is the third and last title of the review section. This section, occupies the widest place in the review section, and is handled under two subtitles as “Yapı Bakımından Birleşik Bitki Adlarının Kuruluşu (structural formation of compound plant names)” and “Kavram Bakımından Birleşik Bitki Adlarının Kuruluşu (conceptual formation of compound plant names)”. Under the title of “Yapı Bakımından Birleşik Bitki Adlarının Kuruluşu”, Alkayış classifies what kind of structures the plant names consist of. These structures are handled in six different ways as noun phrase, adjective phrase, adjective-verb group form, repeat group form, adjective group form and sentence form. Alkayış has subclassified these six forms among themselves too. Conceptually, “Kavram Bakımından Birleşik Bitki Adlarının Kuruluşu” section is handled in seven different ways, as plant names taken from human characteristics, animals, organs, goods and objects,

analogies, species, and geographical places. Alkayış later subclassifies these forms among themselves too.

“Bitki Adlarında Geçen Yapım Ekleri (derivation suffixes in plant names)” section constitutes the third part of the study. In this section, derivational suffixes are examined under four subtitles; noun noun, verb noun, verb verb and verb noun derivational suffixes. In this section, besides one Mongolian, one Persian, one Arabic and 31 Turkish plant names, there are derivation suffixes of 34 nouns from nouns, three verbs from nouns, seven verbs from verbs and 37 nouns from verbs.

“Türkiye Türkçesinde Bitki Adları Sözlüğü (dictionary of plant names in Turkish)” section constitutes the fourth part of the study. This part, which constitutes the most comprehensive part of the study, includes the pages from 147 to 425. In this section the author lists the plant names used in Turkish and their dialects within the framework of lexicography rules and creates a dictionary. The meaning of each word given as per item is given here. However, for words that are differently expressed in different sources, meaning is not given separately, only one meaning that is considered to be common is given. The origin of each headword, which structure the words consist of, from which sources the words are taken is indicated in parentheses. Below are some examples from the “Türkiye Türkçesinde Bitki Adları Sözlüğü” section.

ak arpa: (< T. *ak + arpa*) Bir çeşit beyaz arpa. (DS, I, 140; DS, XII, 4410)

akbacak: (T. *ak + OFar. pāçak*) Çiğ olarak yenilen bir ot. (DS, I, 141)

bostan: (< Far. *būstān*) Hıyar, salatalık, karpuz (*bostan borusu*) (DS, II, 742; DS, XII, 4463; AAT, 207; Erz. İ.A., III, 48)

eşek papatyası: (T. *eşek + Yun. papadia + T. sı*) bk. Beyaz papatya. (TSBAS, 103)

kabağaç (T. *kaba + ağaç*) (And. Ağz.: *kabaaç, kabaç, kabağaç*) Kalın gövdeli meşe ağacı. (DS, VIII, 2577)

mekrikarmudu: (? *mekrik + Far. emrūd*) Sarı renkli, küçük yaz armudu. (DS, IX, 3153)

saat çiçeği: (Ar. *sā'at + T. çiçeği*) Bir tür çiçek. (TS, 2, 1874)

şifi: (?) Fidan. (DS, X, 3776; DS, XII, 4726)

zülbeya (Ar. *zūlbeyā* “*beyā* dolmuş, dolu”), (And. Ağz.: *zülee*) Geç olgunlaşan kara ve küçük bir erik çeşidi. (DS, XI, 4401, 4402)

“Sonuç” (conclusion) section is the fifth part of the study. In this part, Alkayış discussed the plant names in Turkish in terms of structure and concept, and showed that Turkish has a rich plant culture.

The bibliography section is the sixth and final part of the study. In this section, the author lines up the sources he refers to in alphabetical order while creating his work.

This book titled “Türkiye Türkçesinde Bitki Adları” is a valuable study and was prepared to reveal the richness of vocabulary of Turkish language on plant names. It is obvious that not only linguists, but also pharmacists,

ecologists, ethnobotanists and many other scientists will benefit from this study. For such a valuable study, I would

like to thank Assoc. Prof. Dr. Alkayış and wish him success in his future studies.

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