

Preface

The 15th International Conference on Turkish Linguistics (ICTL) was held in Szeged, Hungary, from 20 to 22 August 2010. The Department of Altaic Studies, University of Szeged, hosted the meeting, which is a prominent platform for linguists to present and discuss recent research findings, mainly in the field of Turkish linguistics, but also in Turkic linguistics. The biennial conference was first held in 1982.¹ In 2008, the participants at the Antalya meeting, organized by the Linguistics Department at Ankara University, requested the Department of Altaic Studies to host the next conference to express its recognition of the prestigious Turkology department in Szeged founded by András Róna-Tas.

A total of 219 abstracts were submitted, of which an international review committee consisting of five scholars accepted 140 as papers and 30 as poster presentations. We owe the committee a debt of gratitude for their substantial contribution to the success of the conference.

The Book of Abstracts contains 115 abstracts (94 accepted as papers and 21 as posters), of which 93 papers and 17 posters were presented during the three-day conference. 152 scholars from 22 countries attended the 15th ICTL. After the opening plenary session, the conference continued in four parallel sections. The first day covered language acquisition, Turkic languages in contact, and issues in Turkish bilingualism. On the second day, presenters discussed computational linguistics problems, pragmatics and discourse, and questions of historical linguistics, semantics, and syntax. The poster session was also opened on this day. The closing day sections were dedicated to papers dealing with phonetics and phonology and issues in sociolinguistics.

The present volume contains a collection of 55 papers submitted and selected for the proceedings in the belief that these papers on Turkish and Turkic linguistics might make a contribution to a knowledge base on various areas of linguistics in general.

On behalf of the conference organizers, I would like to express my gratitude to the University of Szeged, the Hungarian Academy of Sciences, the Szeged Foundation, the New Hungary Development Plan, Ms. Necla Aksop, and the owners of the Turkish Sever retail chain for their financial support. We are indebted to Béla Kempf for his assistance on technical and organizational issues and Top Congress Ltd. for their excellent confer-

1 The host universities, venues, and dates of past conferences are as follows: University of California, Berkeley, USA (1982); Boğaziçi University, Istanbul, Turkey (1984); University of Tilburg, The Netherlands (1986); Middle East Technical University, Ankara, Turkey (1988); School of Oriental and African Studies, London, Great Britain (1990); Anadolu University, Eskişehir, Turkey (1992); Johannes Gutenberg University, Mainz, Germany (1994); Ankara University, Ankara, Turkey (1996); Lincoln College, Oxford, Great Britain (1998); Boğaziçi University, Istanbul, Turkey (2000); Eastern Mediterranean University, Gazimagusa, Cyprus (2002); Dokuz Eylül University, Izmir, Turkey (2004); Uppsala University, Uppsala, Sweden (2006); and Ankara University, Antalya, Turkey (2008).



ence management. We are also very grateful to the enthusiastic group of students at the Department of Altaic Studies who were always prepared to assist participants with every concern and without whom the conference would have been less cheerful.

Finally, we owe a debt of thanks to His Excellency Hasan Kemal Gür, the Ambassador of the Republic of Turkey, and Mr. Suat Karakuş, President of the Turkish–Hungarian Chamber of Commerce for their generous financial support. The publication of the present volume would not have been possible without it.

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