



Turkish Teaching Activities of Yunus Emre Institute

Dear Readers,

In this writing, I will mention about Yunus Emre Institute, which is one of the soft power elements of Turkey and the activities of the institute regarding Turkish Teaching.

Yunus Emre Institute

Yunus Emre Foundation is a public foundation which was established on 05.05.2007 by Law number 5653 with the purpose of promoting Turkey, Turkish language, history, culture and art; to make related information and documents available to the world; to give services to the ones who would like to study abroad in the fields of Turkish language, culture and art; to increase Turkey's cultural exchange and improve its amicable relations with other countries.

Yunus Emre Institute is conducting culture and art activities with the intent of promoting our country as well as teaching the Turkish language to foreigners in the centers established as affiliate establishments of the foundation abroad to realize the aims of the law, and supporting Turkology departments and Turkish language education through co-operation established with educational institutions and contributing to scientific studies.

The institute, which was named after Yunus Emre, who is an Anatolian sufi and represents humanism and social peace, has taken an important role in making the voice of ancient Turkish language heard by the world and promoting our historical and cultural heritage.

Teaching Turkish in Cultural Centers

Yunus Emre Institute, beyond organizing Turkish courses in Cultural Centers, universities, private and public schools for the audience worldwide in different age groups who want to learn Turkish with modern language teaching methods and by using materials it has developed, serves to the cultural diplomacy through its aim of introducing Turkey and its values via correct sources.

Yunus Emre Institute has taught Turkish to over 125,000 people so far within the scope of Tercihim Türkçe (My Choice is Turkish) Project and Turkology Project.

Turkish Language Teaching Portal (turkce.yee.org.tr)

By following the developments in teaching Turkish as a foreign language area, the Institute has developed Turkish Language Teaching Portal with the aim of teaching Turkish to the ones who want to learn Turkish without being dependent on time and location.

In the portal developed by opportunities of today's technology, word lists and grammar structures determined according to levels are shown stage by stage, and the structures

that the students can use frequently in daily life are taught through the activities based on reading, listening, writing and speaking skills. The portal also serves as a supporting source for teachers besides the students.

The Turkish Language Teaching Portal, which has the feature of being the first system prepared for the development of four basic language skills, has reached 131,000 users from 193 countries within a year. This shows that more than 100,000 people in the world have already learned Turkish language via internet through Turkish Language Teaching Portal. The 10 countries with the highest number of users are Egypt, Syria, Saudi Arabia, Algeria, Afghanistan, Jordan, Iraq, Palestine, Tunisia and Morocco.

Thanks to the portal, the institute is able to reach the regions by means of the internet where it has not physically located yet and enables the opportunity to get those who want to learn Turkish and Turkish culture together with the enthusiasts.

Turkish Summer School

Yunus Emre Institute has invited hundreds of students to learn Turkish language in Turkey every summer and to get to know Turkish culture closely through Turkish Summer School Program since 2010. Turkish Summer School program is organized with participation of the students studying at Yunus Emre Institutes abroad and students from Turkology departments in many countries of the world. In this broad organization, where only Turkish is used as the language of communication, students can improve their Turkish proficiency with the courses organized in accordance with their levels and by communicating in the natural environment of Turkish; on the other hand, by seeing the prominent historical and touristic places of the cities visited, they find the opportunity to know the culture of the region in its own location.

Within the scope of Turkish Summer School, guest students from different cultures are divided into groups and hosted in universities in more than 30 cities. Students who are taking an intensive Turkish course for a month learn the traditional handicrafts from their masters as well as joining city trips organized at the weekends and find the opportunity of experiencing them even for a short time.

Hundreds of guest students coming together for the closure program at the end of Turkish Summer School and after spending the last week by visiting the historical and touristic places of Istanbul and gaining many experiences and friends return to their countries as cultural ambassadors. So far, a total of 2,855 people have had the opportunity to get to know Turkey closely and practice in Turkish by participating in Turkish Summer School.

Turkish Proficiency Exam

Yunus Emre Institute has developed a Türkçe Yeterlik Sınavı-TYS (Turkish Proficiency Exam-TPE) in order to measure the language competencies of individuals learning Turkish as a foreign language in accordance with Common European Framework of Reference for Languages (CEFR) and started to implement this exam on an international scale. The Institute supports Turkey's policy towards the acceptance of foreign students while it contributes forming a standardized Turkish exam which is internationally valid.

TYS has a great importance in terms of making the universities of Turkey center of attention of foreign students and assessing Turkish level of relevant students with correct standards.

8,137 people have applied for Türkçe Yeterlik Sınavı since the year that it was started to be implemented and 5,263 of these participants entitled to acquire Turkish Proficiency Certificate.

Türkçe Yeterlik Sınavı which is currently implemented as paper-based will be able to be applied as web-based in 2019.

Turkish Teaching Materials

Yunus Emre Institute is carrying out various R & D studies, developing projects and creating works for various target groups with its expert staff in order to meet the needs of the area of Turkish teaching as a foreign language, to be able to prepare qualified materials for the people working in the field, to go beyond the standards in language teaching and to carry out studies that bring innovation to the field. In this context; textbooks, workbooks and teacher's guidebooks have been prepared in accordance with the criteria of the Common European Framework of Reference for Languages (CEFR) and the principles of teaching Turkish as a foreign language.

The materials and tools for teaching Turkish as a Foreign Language are designed by taking the foreign language learning stages of different age groups and the factors that facilitate their learning into consideration.

Yunus Emre Institute Turkish teaching sets are prepared for 3 different age groups.

Çocuklar İçin Türkçe (Turkish for Children) Set: It consists of 4 study books and 4 teacher's books and listening CDs for the age group of 6 to 9.

Türkçe Öğreniyorum (I Learn Turkish) Set: It consists of 4 study books and 4 workbooks and listening CDs for the age group of 10 to 15.

Yedi İklim Türkçe (Seven Seasons Turkish) Set: It consists of 6 study books, 6 workbooks and 6 teacher's books and listening CDs for the target group over the age of 15 (adults).

In addition to Turkish teaching sets, the Institute has also developed visual and audio language teaching materials such as supportive reading books, illustrated dictionaries and Z-book.

Yunus Emre Institute that tries to do its part in teaching Turkish to Syrian refugees distributed 2 million Turkish teaching books to national education schools with UNHCR fund in 2016-2017 school year. In addition to the material support, it also collaborates with private institutions and government organizations in the field of training teachers who will teach Turkish to Syrians.

Yunus Emre Institute, since its establishment, has been carrying out activities to promote Turkey, Turkish language and its history and art in line with its law of establishment,

and developing materials to make them available for people who are in need especially those who teach and learn Turkish as a foreign language.

Sincerely,

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