

**In Memoriam: Elif Daldeniz Baysan
(1970-2012)**

Özlem Berk Albachten*

On the morning of September 15, we learned of the death of Elif Daldeniz with a feeling of deep anguish. Although we knew that she was fighting cancer for nearly two years, accepting it as part of her life, she was fighting this battle with such optimism –or so it seemed to us- that we were almost sure that she would win. In a message she wrote to me she said, “*Life, in fact, is always a constant battle. It is only that one feels it more in her skin going through a health problem*”. She conducted this battle of life with a smiling face and constantly working, thinking, and producing. Elif was not only a prodigious researcher, translator, and educator. She was also an immensely graceful, thoughtful, and good hearted friend and colleague. Elif Daldeniz was an Assistant Professor at the Department of Translation Studies at Okan University.

Elif Daldeniz was born in Germany; her childhood was spent between Germany and Turkey, between two languages and two cultures. From a very early age on, she was able to establish direct bonds with issues such as language acquisition, multilingualism, identity, intercultural communication and translation. In her essay published in *Çeviribilim* journal[†] after her death, she stated “*those fluxes*” that she experienced between two languages and two countries “- *despite some losses - have turned into a benefit.*” And perhaps this was the reason why she chose a career requiring her to navigate between languages. After receiving her undergraduate degree in Translation Studies at Boğaziçi University, she received her master’s and doctoral degrees in the Department of German Language and Literature at Istanbul University. For almost ten years following her graduation from Boğaziçi University, she worked in the field of industrial property protection first as a translator and then as a trademark and patent agent. She was one of the first professionals to gain these titles successfully passing two exams given by the Turkish Patent Institute in 1996 for trademark and patent agency. She, afterwards, wrote her doctoral thesis on the same subject by the title: “Language and Translation in Intercultural Transfer: The Formation of Turkish Patent Specifications as a Text Type”.

In the short period after she completed her doctoral studies, Elif Daldeniz wrote a sizeable number of articles, presented papers at academic conferences and played an active role in the activities regarding her profession. Elif focused her studies particularly on intercultural communication, translator’s identity, translation of philosophical and cultural texts and translation of concepts.

She contemplated on the impact of translated texts on Turkish culture and thought, with respect to the historicity of translation as a concept, addressing the cultural and ideological aspects of this phenomenon. Translation of concepts was a topic she was working on especially in recent years. In this framework, she examined the transfer and translation of the concept of culture in Ottoman and modern Turkish thinking and discussed its role in the building of Turkish national identity.

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† Elif Daldeniz, “Gel-Gitler Çocukluğu: Hangi Ülke, Hangi Dil?” 21 October 2012, <http://ceviribilim.com/?p=6133>.

Since 2011, she was working on a TUBITAK project (The Scientific and Technological Research Council of Turkey) on the history and conceptual map of Turkish urban studies, with Nihal Ekin Erkan, focusing on the development and transformation of key concepts of urban studies in Turkey. This interdisciplinary project followed the traces of the concepts in Turkish urban history. Various papers and articles that she produced within this project have special importance in her research. In this context, her papers examining the role of local governments in disaster management and international policies in disaster risk mitigation, the impact of development plans on cultural policies within the framework of the concepts of “culture” and “design” in the development plans, and finally her presentation that traced the concept of “gecekodu” (shanty/ slum housing) in Turkey questioning the translations of this concept from the local “into the language of the international” at the 4th IATIS Conference in Belfast in late July, which I was able to listen to, were among the pioneering studies on the translation of concepts in Turkey.

Elif Daldeniz contributed to the advancement of Translation Studies as a discipline in Turkey and to the development of the profession of translating through both her studies and endeavors in various associations. She was among the founding members of the Translation Association in Turkey and served as the Secretary General of the Association in its first period (2009-2011). Elif was also a member of ÇEVİRİ, Translators Society, and ARÇ, a volunteer organization launched for the purpose of rendering interpreting services to foreign SAR teams and other relief organizations in disaster situations.

In Erkal Ünal’s words, Elif Daldeniz was among the few people in Turkey who “*was listening, sharing, giving hope and leading the way with her presence and voice*” in the development of Translation Studies as a discipline in Turkey. She will be greatly missed by her family, friends, and students. Those who have not had the opportunity to meet her personally might find her work and contributions to the discipline of Translation Studies in the list below.

Elif Daldeniz’s Academic Background and Works

Education

(2004) PhD in German Language and Literature, Istanbul University.

Dissertation: “Kültürlerarası Aktarımda Dil ve Çeviri Olgularına Bakış: Bir Metin Alt Türü Olarak Patent Metinlerinin Oluşum Serüveni” (Language and Translation in Intercultural Transfer: The Formation of Turkish Patent Specifications as a Text Type).

Advisor: Prof. Dr. Turgay Kurultay

(2000) M.A. in German Language and Literature, Istanbul University.

Thesis: “Walter Benjamin ve Yeniden Üretilbilir Sanat Yapıtı” (Walter Benjamin and the Reproduction of the Work of Art). Advisor: Prof. Dr. Zeynep Sayın Balıkçioğlu

(1994) B.A. in Translation Studies, Boğaziçi University.

Publications

(forthcoming) “Globalization and Translation: Insights from a Specialized Field”, in *Translation in Turkey*, Saliha Paker, John Milton, and Şehnaz Tahir-Gürçağlar (eds.), Amsterdam & Philadelphia: John Benjamins.

- (forthcoming) “Gel-Gitler Çocukluğu: Hangi Ülke, Hangi Dil?”, in *Au pays des poissons captives: Une enfance turque*, Nedim Gürsel (ed.), Esther Heboyan (trans.), Saint-Pourçain-sur-Sioule, Fransa: Bleu autor. <http://ceviribilim.com/?p=6133>.
- (forthcoming) (with Nihal Ekin Erkan) “Kalkınma Planlarında “Kültür” ve “Tasarım” Kavramları”, *International 21st Urban Design and Implementations Symposium Proceedings*, M.S.G.S.University, Faculty of Architecture, Department of City and Regional Planning, Urbanism Division, 13-14 October 2010.
- (forthcoming) (with Nihal Ekin Erkan) “Türkiye Şehircilik Tarihine Kavramlarla Bakış”, *1st Architectural History Conference Proceedings*, METU Department of Architecture, Graduate Program in Architectural History, 20-22 October 2010.
- (forthcoming) (with Nihal Ekin Erkan) “‘Gecekondu’, ‘favela’ ya da ‘township’ ile karşılaşınca ve tümü de ‘shanty town’a çevrildiğinde: yereli uluslararasına diline çevirme”, *Çevirmenin Notu*.
- (forthcoming) (with Nihal Ekin Erkan) “Transferring the international DRR policy into the local context”, *Natural Hazards*, <http://link.springer.com/article/10.1007/s11069-012-0494-9>.
- (2012) “Türk’üm, doğruyum, çalışkanım”, *Taraf*, 20 September 2012.
- (2011) “Çeviri Tartışmaları ve Toplumsal Bellek”, in *Turgay Kurultay'a Bir Armağan Çeviribilimden Kesitler / Ein Kaleideskop der Translationswissenschaft Festschrift für Turgay Kurultay*, Sakine Eruz and Filiz Şan (eds.), Multilingual, Istanbul, 101-121.
- (2010) “Islamic Publishing Houses in Transformation: The Role of Translation”, *Translation Studies*, 3:2, Routledge, 216-230.
- (2010) “Introduction Translation, Modernity and its Dissidents: Turkey as a ‘republic of translation’”, *Translation Studies*, 3:2, Routledge, 129-131.
- (2010) “Kavramların Yolculuğu: Kültür Kavramının Türkçedeki Serüvenini Çeviribilimsel Bakışla Sorgulamak” *Alman Dili ve Edebiyatı Dergisi / Studien zur Deutschen Sprache und Literatur*, 1:23, Istanbul University, Faculty of Letters, 83-115.
- (2008) “Die (Un)Möglichkeit der Kulturellen Verständigung”, *Migration und gesellschaftliche partizipation*, Wolfgang Gieler & René Seidel (eds.), Scientia Bonnenis, Bonn, 12-21.
- (2008) “Translating in the EU – Expectations from Modern Times?”, in *New Trends in Translation and Cultural Identity*, Michaela Munoz (eds.), Cambridge Scholars Publishers, 67-78.
- (2007) “Çevril(ebil)meyi İstemek”, *ÇN*, No. 6, September 2007, Istanbul, 133-137.
- (2006) “Kültür ve Düşünce Metinleri Çevirmenliği”, *Varlık*, No. 1185, 1 June 2006, 30-32.
- (2006) “Çevirmenin Tarafsızlığı”, *Radikal 2, Radikal*, 1 October 2006, 6.
- (2006) “Different approaches to translation theories in the light of Heidegger’s notion of language and translation”, *Interdisciplinarite en Traduction – Interdisciplinarity on Translation*, Actes du 11e Collque International sur la Traduction organisé par l’Université Technique de Yıldız - Proceedings of the 11nd International colloquium on Translation organised by Yıldız Technical University, Sündüz Öztürk Kasar (ed.) Vol. II, Les Éditions ISIS, Istanbul, 61-69.
- (2006) (with Yeşim Tükel) “Kavramlar Çevrildikçe Çeviri Düşüncemizi Biçimlendiriyor (Mu?) Boğaziçi University, Department of Translation and Interpreting Studies Symposium, 14-15 November 2005” *Alman Dili ve Edebiyatı Dergisi Studien zur Deutschen Sprache und Literatur*, No. XVII, Istanbul University, Faculty of Letters, Istanbul, 165-167.
- (2001) “Zerdüş: Tiksinti Duymayan İnsan” *Cogito, Nietzsche: Kayıp Bir Kıta*, No. 25, Yapı Kredi Publishing, Istanbul, 251-261.

Translations

- (2008) “Tasarımda Kararlı Yalınlık”, *Sergi Tanıtım Yazıları*, 15 May-15 June 2008, Milli Reassürans Sanat Galerisi, İstanbul (from German into Turkish).
- (2008) “Temsil Eden / Temsil Edilen”, *Sergi Tanıtım Yazıları*, 6-29 Kasım 2008, Milli Reassürans Sanat Galerisi, İstanbul (from German into Turkish).
- (2007) Jamal Mahjoub, “Karıştırılmamışsa Çalkalanmış Olabilir”, *İktidarsız*, January issue www.iktidarsiz.com, (from English into Turkish).
- (2007) Jamal Mahjoub, “Memlekete mi geldim?”, *İktidarsız*, April issue www.iktidarsiz.com, (from English into Turkish).
- (2007) Jamal Mahjoub, “Tehlikeli İlişkiler”, *İktidarsız*, summer issue, www.iktidarsiz.com (from English into Turkish).
- (2006) Belgin Tayfun, “Renk-Duygu”, *Kemal Seyhan Sergi Kitabı*, Milli Reasürans T.A.Ş., İstanbul, 10- 12 (from German into Turkish).
- (2006) Hans-Jürgen Schwalm "Jochen Proehl'ün Manzara Dünyası", *Jochen Proehl Sergi Kitabı*, Milli Reasürans T.A.Ş., İstanbul, 3-5 (from German into Turkish).
- (2006) Wolf Herzogenrath, “Mesafe ve Yakınlık”, *Sergi Kataloğu*, Milli Reasürans, İstanbul, (from German into Turkish).
- (2006) Jamal Mahjoub, “Aidiyetsiz Ülkenin Savunusu”, *İktidarsız*, December issue, www.iktidarsiz.com, (from English into Turkish).
- (2004) Jonathan Crary, *Gözlemcinin Teknikleri On Dokuzuncu Yüzyılda Görme ve Modernite Üzerine*, Metis, İstanbul, (from English and German into Turkish).
- (1998) “John Freely, Bizans’ın Kırık Parçaları”, *Sanat Dünyamız*, No. 69-70, Yapı Kredi Publishing, İstanbul (from English into Turkish).
- (1996) Gene Fellner, *Alexander Berkman’ın Yaşamı, Kavram Yayınları* (from English into Turkish).
- (1995) Güven Turan, “The Alive, The Dying”, *Tömer Bursa Şubesi Çeviri Dergisi*, No. 195, Bursa (from Turkish into English).
- (1995) Güven Turan, “Warlord”, *Tömer Bursa Şubesi Çeviri Dergisi*, No. 194, Bursa (from Turkish into English).

Translation Editor

- (2010) Walter Benjamin, *Sanatta ve Edebiyatta Eleştiri: Alman Romantizminde Sanat Eleştirisi Kavramı (Der Begriff der Kunstkritik in der deutschen Romantik)*, Trans. Mustafa Tüzel, İletişim.

Editing/Refereeing

- (May 2010) Special issue editor: *Translation Studies: Translation at the Crossroads: Perspectives from Turkey*, Routledge.
- (2008-) Member of the advisory board: *MTM minor translating major: A Translation Journal*.
- (2009-) Referee for *Çeviribilim Dergisi*.

Theses supervised

- (2008) Anıl Yücel, “Reklam ve Çeviri: “Coca cola tadında hayat” kampanyasının incelenmesi” (21 March 2008)

- (2008) Pınar ırır, “Re-contextualization of News Translation: A Comparative Analysis of the News Published in Relation to the Four EU Documents” (18 November 2008)
- (2009) Semih Trkođlu, “Critical Analysis of Translation Guidebooks Published in Turkey” (14 October 2009)