Turkish

Category	What the language does	Comments: How English differs and/or how the language will interfere with English	Example or description of errors
Phonology (the sounds that exist in the language)	The phonological differences tend to only affect the way the Turkish student *speaks* English. The phonology does not generally interfere with their writing. There are a couple of small exceptions.		
	There is no 'th' in Turkish.	'Th' gets pronounced as 't' or 'd' in English words.	T: taught = E: thought, in sound
	The letter 'w' exists in Turkish, marginally.	They can pronounce the letter, but sometimes cannot distinguish it from 'v'.	vet = wet, in sound (in both directions T⇔ E).
	Turkish does not have the 'ng' sound.	The sound 'ng' may be swapped for 'nk' or words ending in 'nk' may be hyper-corrected to 'ng'	I need a think that keeps paper together. I thing he's tired.
	Turkish syllable structure is fairly well regulated. Syllables tend to be made up of alternating consonant and vowel (CV, or more generally (C)V(C)).	English syllables are more sporadic. An English word can have two or three consonants before there is a vowel. ('strength' for example).	A Turkish speaker not being careful may say 'siport' for 'sport', breaking up the initial 's' and 'p'. Alternatively, they may hypercorrect their English syllables so that 'support' is pronounced 'sport'.
	Turkish has vowel harmony. This is phenomenon where vowels change based on the suffix(es) added to a word.	English does not alter vowels based on suffixed. The 'a' in *date* is pronounced the same when you make it past tense: 'date +ed=dated'.	Vowel harmony is related to the point above, but may be more subtle to detect. The vowel that is inserted (sport > siport) is determined by Turkish vowel harmony.
Syntax (parts of speech and rules)			
Parts of Speech	Turkish is Subject+Object+Verb and has suffixes on the verb that denote tense, person, number, and sometimes verb aspect or modality. Suffixes also attach to nouns the denoted possession, plurality, case. Turkish can have free-word order which allows the writer to place focus or emphasis on a particular part of the sentence.	The difference in word order and importance of suffixes does not translate well in writing English which has limited suffixes and rigid word order. The rest of this subsection explores what this means in detail.	The importance of suffixes: hizmetinizdeyiz = service-your-in-we-are Free word order: I love you = You I love, where in the second sentence the 'you' is emphasized, but ultimately has the same meaning as the first.

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Pronoun	Person and number are coded on the verb, so the pronoun is omitted.	Pronouns are always required in English.	Turkish: Kitap okumayı severiz English: lit.:[We (coded by suffix)] love reading book English: intended: We love reading books.
Articles	Turkish has an indefinite article (a/an) but uses it infrequently. There is no definite article (the). If the indefinite article is used, it goes between the adjective and noun. Articles are not important in Turkish.	If the student was not taught the importance of articles in English early on, then they will transfer the Turkish lack of importance into English.	[Assuming they use an article, here is where it would go]: I have red **a** car.
Adjectives	Turkish orders adjectives based on what is more important or what is being emphasized.	In English has a general order of adjectives (General opinion > Specific opinion > Size > Shape > Age > Color > Nationality > Material), so in English, a Turkish writer may organize adjectives in a way that sounds odd to native English speakers.	To a Turkish writer: I have a **red big** car = I have a **big red** car.
Plural (marking on noun)	Nouns are not marked with the plural marker if the noun is accompanied by number or quantifier such as 'some' or 'a lot.' If the noun can be understood to be plural in context, the plural marker is not used.	English marks plurals on nouns even if number or quantifiers are present.	There are a lot of tree. (A quantifier is used, so the -s on 'tree' is missing.) I like cat. (Context can be such that the writer/speaker intends to say: I like [all] cats.)
Plural (with "much" and "many")	The Turkish count/non-count noun distinction is largely the same as in English, but more importantly, the Turkish equivalents of "much" and "many" are interchangeable	Misuse of "much" and "many" with an occasional error in count/non-count distinction in English.	How **many** bread do you want?
Negation	Turkish shows negation through negative concord—they use two negative words to mark negation.	Negative concord looks like a double negative to native English speakers. Turkish writers will use what English speakers call double negatives, but this seems correct to them.	I don't never swim. No mushrooms aren't left.
Possession	Turkish shows possession on each noun of the phrase	In English, possession is marked only by the possessor: X's Y.	Turkish: Nick'in arabasi? English: lit.: Nick's car's, intended: Nick's car.
Prepositions	The prepositions 'on-in-at' are the same in Turkish	Sometimes Turkish students have difficulty distinguishing these prepositions in English.	I put it **at** the table.

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Gender	Turkish pronouns do not distinguish gender.	English singular pronouns are explicit about gender, he=male, she=female, it=neuter, etc.	A Turkish speaker may use pronouns such as he, she, it inconsistently.
Objects	Objects in Turkish take special suffixes	To compensate for lack of the suffixes in English, students will use English prepositions that are equivalent to the suffixes in Turkish.	I am afraid **from** spiders. I got married **with** Jenny.
Verbs (aspect)	Turkish does not have perfect aspect.	English has three aspects: one that shows habitual action (indicative), one that shows on-going action (progressive or continuous; used with 'be' and '-ing'), and one that shows completed action (perfect; used with 'have' and/or '-en'). This last one is what Turkish lacks.	Turkish writers will use simple tenses or continuous (progressive) aspect instead of perfect aspect in English.
Verbs (to be)	The third person singular form of "be" is not used in spoken or informal Turkish. There is a formal "to be" in Turkish.	The word "is" will be omitted in English.	He tall. It big.
Verbs (to have)	Related to the point above, the Turkish verb for 'have' is restricted to the meaning 'to be in possession of'.	There will be no verb "have" as auxiliary, or slightly unusual usage in American English sentences.	To say "I have a cat" in Turkish would be back-translated as "There is my cat," as in "There exists a cat in my possession." A Turkish writer may ask a question such as: "Have you a cat?" rather than "Do you have a cat?"
Verbs (conditionals)	Turkish has a tense that expresses conditionals. There is a word for "if" but it is rarely used.	In English, the word "if" is always used in order to specify a conditional statement. "Then" is more or less optional.	If-then statements are usually constructed using a marker on the verb in Turkish. When a Turkish speaker writes English, the 'if' may go missing or there may be unusual phrasing in expressing conditions.
Verbs (evidentials—something English does not have)	Turkish verbs are also marked for evidentials (suggests how the speaker knows the information).	In English we express 'hearsay' evidence overtly, but it is not obligatory to do so, especially if context makes clear that our evidence is hearsay.	Turkish writers may feel obligated to state evidence even if it is awkward to native English speakers. There may be overuse of phrases like "It seems that," "as far as I know," "apparently."

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Misc (words expressing emotion)	Emotions are verbs in Turkish	Emotions will not just be missing "be", they are will be conjugated like English verbs	I afraid cats. (Intended: I am afraid of cats.) I afraid cats when I was a child. (Intended: I was afraid of cats when I was a child.)
False cognates (words that look similar in both languages, but have different meanings;in reading and writing they may think/intend the meaning of the original language)	Word from the language	Meaning of the word	English word used
	mama	pet or baby food	mama
	personel	personnel	personal
	prezervatif	condom	preservative
	aroma	flavor	aroma
Style	The structure and style is significantly similar to (American) English writing structure and style.		
	Both cultures tend to write in a rather straightforward manner, limiting digressions. Writing is linear with an introduction, body, and conclusion.		
Culture	Turkey is largely patriarchal, female teachers have a harder time earning and maintaining respect from male students. Don't assume this will be the case, be aware that this **might** be the case. Patriarchy depends on the city and therefore it is a tendency rather than a rule.		
	What the book says is truth. If you contradict the book, you must have an argument prepared.		
	Avoid discussing Turkishness or Ataturk with the student. Follow their lead to avoid insults. Insults to Turkishness or Ataturk is a jail-able offense. The Turks do not have the freedom of speech we have in America. Many comments that we may find innocuous may in fact be insulting. Follow their lead in discussions on the topic.		

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	Politics and religion are not discussed openly. These may have to be off-topic themes for writing assignments, or else do not require they talk about their own.		
	English learning programs in Turkey are imperfect. Many teachers are not trained properly or there are not enough resources.		
	Turks are very proud. They understand the importance of learning English, but do not take the language or the process of learning it very seriously. They do not often speak English with each other, saving their English speaking for situations where English is necessary.		

<div align="center">Works Consulted</div>

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