

# War is Hell

Today, we're taking a field trip to the battlefields of Gallipoli to learn about the strange behavior of material and nationality modifiers. Suit up soldier.

📁 Materials and nationalities. ● Intermediate

## Dialog

- 1 | Hemşire Banu      Tahta masadaki bandajları uzatır mısınız? İngiliz askerinin kanaması var.
- 2 | Hemşire Duygu      Buyurun. Ameliyat Ameliyat olması lazım. Galiba karaciğerinde metal parçalar var.
- 3 | Hemşire Banu      Korkarım doğru ve çok yakında İngiliz askeri daha gelecek.
- 4 | Hemşire Duygu      Evet. . . İngiliz gemileri durmayacak. Birçok İngiliz, Türk, Fransız, Avustralyalı asker ölüyor, çok yazık.
- 5 | Hemşire Banu      Dün bir Fransız bacağını kaybetti. Evvelki gün çamurdaki bir Türk bir de Avustralyalı bir çocuk anneleri için ağlıyorlardı.
- 6 | Hemşire Duygu      Savaş tam bir katliam. Bu bedel Türk yurdunu korumak için ödeniyor ama çok ağır bir yük.
- 7 | Hemşire Banu      Haklısın ama artık şu pamuk sargıyı verir misin? Savaş bitene kadar çok çalışacağız.

## Dialog Translation

- 1 | Hemşire Banu      Can you pass me the bandages on the wooden table? The English soldier is bleeding.
- 2 | Hemşire Duygu      Here you go. He needs to have an operation. There seems to be metal pieces in his liver.

3 | Hemşire Banu

I'm afraid so and that very soon more English soldiers will come.

4 | Hemşire Duygu

Yes, the English ships won't cease. Many English, Turkish, French, and Australian soldiers are dying - it's such a shame.

5 | Hemşire Banu

Yesterday, a French soldier lost his leg. The day before, a Turkish and Australian kid were crying for their mothers in the mud.

6 | Hemşire Duygu

War is a downright slaughter. This price is being paid to protect the Turkish motherland, but it's too heavy a load.

7 | Hemşire Banu

You're right, but for now, will you pass that cotton bandage? Until the war is finished, we have much work to do.

## Language Points

### Material Adjectives

Material adjectives are a little strange in Turkish. When using a material (*metal, altın, tahta*) to describe something, you use the noun form of the material, but you don't form a compound noun. Since you are combining two nouns into a single unit, you would expect to create a compound noun by adding *-si* to the second noun. However, Turkish doesn't do this; instead, the material noun mimics an adjective and the modified noun does not take a suffix.

**Tahta masa.**

*Wood table.*

**Cam pencere.**

*Glass window.*

**İpek elbise.**

*Silk dress.*

### Nationalities and -li

Some nationalities in Turkish have their own unique words. Most, though, are formed by adding the suffix *-li* (meaning *from* or *of*) to the country name.

Interestingly, *Amerikan* and *Amerikalı* are both in daily use. *Amerikalı* is generally used with people, while *Amerikan* is used for things.

**İngiliz**

*English*

**Alman**

*German*

**Fransız**

*French*

**İspanyol**

*Spanish*

**Suriyeli**

*Syrian*

**Kenyalı**

*Kenyan*

**Çinli**

*Chinese*

**Hintli**

*Indian*

## Nationalities as Adjectives and Nouns

When using nationalities to describe something, they can both act as adjectives and nouns. That is, sometimes the nationality will form a compound noun with the word it's modifying (thus acting like a noun), and sometimes it doesn't (thus acting like an adjective). There is a subtle difference between both cases.

In general, a nationality is used as an adjective when it is personifying. Don't make a compound noun when you are describing people (or otherwise personifying for literary reasons). As you would expect from Turkish's usual behavior, these words can be used alone to refer to a person of that nationality.

**Bir Fransız doktor.**

*A French doctor.*

**Onlar Türkler.**

*They are Turks.*

**Japon insanlar.**

*Japanese people.*

**Bir Rus'la çıkıyor.**

*He is dating a Russian.*

When using nationalities to describe non-person things, form a compound noun by adding *-si* to the second noun. This is different from English. We use adjectives to say something like *Turkish coffee*, whereas Turkish uses two nouns: *Türk kahvesi*. For nationalities that are formed with *-li*, just use the country name: *Çin yemeği*, not *Çinli yemeği*.

**Fransız ekmeği.**

*French bread.*

**İngiliz gemileri.**

*English ships.*

**Kanada havası.**

*Canadian weather.*

**Belçika kırsı.**

*Belgian countryside.*

The distinction between these two ways of modifying words with nationalities is made clearer with the word *asker* (soldier). Using *İngiliz* (for example) as a personifying adjective to say *İngiliz asker* refers to a soldier that is English - that is, he has English parents but could be an American citizen in the American army. On the other hand, forming the compound noun to say *İngiliz askeri* refers to a soldier of the English army - in fact, the soldier might be Indian or Chinese, but they are employed by the country of England.

## Vocabulary

asker

*soldier*

kanamak

*to bleed*

ameliyat

*surgery*

yazık *shame, pity*

Avustralya *Australia*

katliam *massacre*

bedel *price*

yurt *homeland*

yük *burden*

sargı *bandage*

## Review

1. Why are material modifiers weird in Turkish?

- a. They require a special suffix when modifying nouns.
- b. They modify as nouns, but don't form compound nouns.
- c. They are adjectives that sometimes act like nouns.
- d. They form a compound noun with the word that they modify.

2. Why are nationality modifiers weird in Turkish?

- a. Turkish uses nationalities as adjectives, whereas English uses compound nouns.
- b. They always form compound nouns with the words they are modifying.
- c. They never form compound nouns with the words they are modifying.
- d. They sometimes form a compound noun, and sometimes they don't.

3. Which of the following are correct Turkish? (pick all)

- a. altın saati
- b. Avustralyalı birası
- c. gümüş çatal
- d. Alman birası
- e. Hint yemek
- f. Çinli mühendis

4. Translate: *A French soldier in the Turkish army. (ordu) (write)*

5. Translate: *a wooden spoon in the French kitchen. (write)*

## Answer Key

1. b

2. d

3. c d f

4. Bir fransız asker türk ordusunda , Türk ordusunda bir fransız asker , Türk ordusundaki bir fransız asker , Türk ordusunda fransız asker , Türk ordusundaki fransız asker

5. Fransız mutfağında bir tahta kaşık , Fransız mutfağındaki bir tahta kaşık , Bir tahta kaşık fransız mutfağında , Fransız mutfağındaki tahta kaşık , Fransız mutfağında tahta kaşık

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