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Book Review

Murat Derin

Çanakkale Onsekiz Mart University, Turkey
e-mail: muratderin@trakya.edu.tr

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Western Thrace-Komotini Dialect Review
(Phonology and Morphology-Texts-Vocabulary)
by Muharrem ÖZDEN

Edirne, 2016

874 pages

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Western Thrace-Komotini Dialect Review (Phonology and Morphology-Texts-Vocabulary) was written by Assoc. Prof. Dr. Muharrem ÖZDEN. It was published with the number 180 by Trakya University. The main phonological and morphological properties of Komotini Dialect was reviewed in this book.

The author stated that the number of the studies focusing on Rumelian Region is less than the ones focusing on Anatolian dialects and he conducted his research in that way. He interviewed 200 people from Komotini and nearby villages and 109 of the interviews were considered worth reviewing. The interview questions included folkloric elements.

The differences between the plain part and the Balkan region in Komotini were also examined. The 280-hour voice record was examined carefully and put down on paper. In order to get to the original texts the interviewees were selected carefully. Especially, the women and the old who were not influenced by urban culture and speech were chosen while the uneducated males who were not travelled outside the region were interviewed in order to reveal all kinds of dialectical properties. While the compiled texts were being put on paper, the translation scripting method for Southern West Anatolian Dialects by Zeynep Kormaz was utilized.

As the author conducted his research in a foreign country, he came across many bureaucratic difficulties. The residents in the region were very suspecting and worried about the research. He was supported by the students in Trakya University Faculty of Education, Komotini BAKEŞ Institution and Komotini Consulate General of Turkey.

The introduction part of the book includes a brief history of Western Thrace and Komotini, Western Thrace

Public Calendar, The Western Thrace names of villages in Turkey, the population shifts in Rodop (Komotini-Şapçı) and its villages. The Phonology and Morphology, Texts and Vocabulary were reviewed in Part I, Part II and Part III, respectively. A dictionary with 6000 words were created at the end of the study. The author took very good care of the vocabulary in order to record the vocabulary which has been fading. In addition to Turkish, words from Pomak, Bulgarian and Greek languages were detected and they were added to the dictionary as well. This body of work has contributed to Turkish culture and literature and filled in the gap. The author and his book has accomplished the objective.

