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**A DEEP APPROACH® TO TURKISH
SUGGESTION CARD FOR SELF-DIRECTED
LEARNING**

CARD NUMBER: 2

THEME: COMICS AND CARTOONS

KARIKATÜR VE MIZAH

LEVEL: Intermediate

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**FOCUS ON LANGUAGE
and MULTI MEDIA LANGUAGE ASSISTANT**

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1. Background information

Özet: Bu video'da Nasreddin Hoca'nın gölde yoğurt mayalamasını hayretle karşılayan köylüler arasındaki konuşmayı izleyeceksiniz. Nasreddin Hoca gölün yoğurt olabileceğine inanarak köylüleri şaşırtıyor ve çok düşük bir olasılığın bile dikkate değer olduğu mesajını veriyor.

Summary: "Leavening yogurt". In this video, you will watch a dialogue between Nasreddin Hoca and the villagers, who are perplexed to see him leavening yogurt in the lake. With the belief that it may be possible to turn the lake into yogurt, Nasreddin Hoca puzzles the villagers and conveys the message that even the improbable is possible.

2. Language Assistance

Key words for the video passage transcribed (see glossary)

uz, dere tepe, düz gitmek, maya, maya çalmak, alık

Guided questions for the video to deepen listening comprehension

1. Göl kenarındaki insanlar neden Nasreddin Hoca'ya gülüyorlar?
Why do people by the lake are laughing at Nasreddin Hoca?
2. Nasreddin Hoca göl kenarında etrafında toplanan kalabalığa nasıl cevap veriyor?
How does Hoca reply back to the people gathering around him by the lake?

Front page photograph: Bronze sculpture of Nasreddin Hoca and his donkey in Moscow, Russia (Yartsevskaya Street, 25A), taken by Zumrasha and used with permission from the author. Wikimedia Commons, free media repository. http://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Nasreddin_Hoca_In_Moscow.jpg

Grammar

Presumptive or Narrative Past Tense [*mİş*-lı Geçmiş Zaman]

There are generally two ways of talking about past events in Turkish. First, there is the definite past (*-DI*), which is used to show that the speaker was present when the conversation happened, and saw or observed the action. On the other hand, there are some occasions during which the speaker does not witness nor see the action, and is not able to use the definite past. In these cases, the speaker uses narrative or presumptive past (*-mİş*). The speaker is either told about the actions or did the actions without necessarily being aware of them. The English translation for the sentences in *-mİş* is complicated; that is because of the lack of a corresponding expression of uncertainty in English tenses. Sometimes, such expressions as *it is said that, it seems, apparently* could be used to express the uncertainty in the sentences.

Examples:

A. 1. Günlerden bir gün karakaçan önde Hoca arkada elde bir kase yoğurtla yola çık-**mİş**-lar. [Once upon a time, Hoja, holding a bowl of yogurt, and his donkey (karakaçan) *set out* for a trip.] The English translation for this sentence is simple past tense; that is because of the lack of a corresponding expression of uncertainty in English.

2. Sonunda bir göl kenarına var-**mİş**-lar. [Finally, they arrived at a lakeside.]

3. Hoca göle maya çalmaya başla-**mİş**. [Hoja started to leaven the lake (with the yogurt he brought with him).]

4. Etraftan hocayı görenler çevresinde birer ikişer toplan-**mİş**-lar. [Those seeing Hoja doing that started gathering around him.]

As you can see in the above examples, the speaker is narrating a tale (of Nasreddin Hoja), that is why – *mİş* past tense is used here.

B. There are also some cases, in which the speaker was present at the time of action, but was not consciously aware of the case. See the following examples:

5. Tam otuz yıldır saatim işlemiş ben durmuşum;
Gökyüzünden habersiz, uçurtma uçurmuşum. (Necip Fazıl Kısakürek).

[For thirty years, my clock has been working, but I have lingered (in time);
I have flown a kite, without the sky noticing it.]

The poet in these lines speaks as if the clock has been working without his being aware of it and he just realizes that he has spent his past thirty years in vain.

C. There are some cases in which the speaker only focuses on the result of the action (the result being in the present) and not on the process. See the following examples:

Yemek harika olmuş! [The food (meal) is great.]

Sen çok güzel olmuşsun böyle! [You look beautiful this way.]

Vocabulary (Kaynak: [Türk Dil Kurumu](#))

karakaçan eşek

uz (II) *zf.* Masallarda az gittik uz gittik, dere tepe düz gittik tekerlemesinde ‘uzak’ anlamında kullanılan bir söz.

dere tepe düz gitmek (idiom) engelleri aşarak gitmek: “Gece boyunca kırlarda yürüdü, *dere tepe düz gitti ve bir dağın eteğine geldi.*” -İ. O. Anar. (Deyim)

maya Bazı besinlerin yapımında mayalanmayı sağlamak için kullanılan madde, ferment: *Ekmek mayası. Yoğurt mayası.*

maya çalmak mayalanmayı sağlamak. (Güncel Türkçe Sözlük)

alılık *sf.* Sersem, budala, ebleh: “*Sen ne alılık herifsin be? Beni duyuyor musun?*” -N. Hikmet. (Güncel Türkçe Sözlük)

3. Transcription and Glossary

Transcription of the video "Leavening yogurt"

Günlerden bir gün **karakaçan** önde Hoca arkada elde bir kase yoğurtla çıkmışlar yola. Az gitmişler **uz gitmişler. Dere tepe düz gitmişler** ve sonunda varmışlar bir göl kenarına...

(1:55) Hoca hemen sıvayıp kolunu kaşık kaşık alıp kaseden yoğurdu başlamış göle **maya çalmaya**. Etraftan hocayı görenler toplanmışlar çevresinde birer ikişer. Tutamayıp kendilerini gülerек bıyık altından, sormuşlar hocaya hep bir ağızdan: “Ne yapıyorsun, Hocam?”

Hoca, işe vermeden ara, dönüp cevap vermiş meraklılara: “E görmüyor musunuz, ağalar? Göle yoğurt mayası çalıyorum.” demiş.

Önce, bakmışlar birbirlerine **alılık alılık**. Sonra yine hep bir ağızdan bağırışmış kalabalık: “Aman hocam! Göl bu. Hiç tutar mı, maya?”

“E bende biliyorum ağalar” demiş Hoca. “Göl maya tutmaz. Bu acı göl yoğurt olmaz. Ama, ya birde tutarsa?”

One day Hodja sets off with a bowl of yoghurt in his hand with Karakaçan. They pass rivers and hills and after a long journey they reach to edge of a lake. Hodja rolls up his sleeves and spoons the yoghurt into the lake as a starter. People who see Hodja gather around him laughing inwardly and ask all together at once: “what are you doing, Hodja?”

Without a break from what he is doing, Hodja answers : “Don’t you see? I am putting starter into the lake.”

They stare at each other stupidly. Then they shout all at once “Hodja, for heaven’s sake! It is a lake. It would never turn into yoghurt!”

“I know” says Hodja. “A lake would not turn into yoghurt. But what if it did?”

Glossary

Alık: stupid, dull.

Dere tepe düz gitmek: to continue your journey/wandering in spite of all the difficulties you face.

Karakaçan: donkey.

Maya: ferment, yeast.

Maya çalmak: to leaven.

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