

Abstract

This study concentrates on the verbal communication vs. silence of the Turkish women in the family and in all female group interaction. The data is based on the speech actions of 30 Turkish working class women (15 of whom come from Eskisehir and 15 from Hamburg). The data was collected in two phases. First, the women were interviewed by the researcher in their home setting. Then, their discourse have been recorded in female groups. The analysis shows that the women's speech actions have been affected by the Turkish traditional cultural values. There is a silence difference between traditional and not-so-traditional women. While the former show more silence in front of their husbands in the family setting, the latter do not remain so so silent. The interaction of these women with their spouses in the family setting follows these values strictly, whereas these values apply less strictly to their conversation in all female groups.