

DR. HASRET SAYGI

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BIO

Hasret Saygi is a sociolinguist specialising in multilingualism, migration, and intercultural communication. Her research explores the complex relationship between language and identity, using discourse-analytical and ethnographic perspectives. She has conducted numerous projects involving refugees, migrants, and international students across diverse contexts. She is the author of *Risky Communications and Precarity in London's Shared Housing* (Palgrave), a sociolinguistic take on language, identity, and household relations in shared homes. Dr. Saygi holds a PhD from Boğaziçi University, Istanbul, and a Master's degree from King's College London, both in the field of Applied Linguistics. She is currently an Honorary Research Fellow at the UCL Institute of Education and a faculty member at Istanbul 29 Mayıs University.

EDUCATION

Degree	Department	University	Year
B.A. (Major)	English Language Teaching	Middle East Technical University	2010
B.A. (Minor)	Political Science	Middle East Technical University	2010
Student Exchange	English Language Teaching	Middlesex University, UK	2009
M.A.	ELT and Applied Linguistics	King's College London, UK	2012
Visiting Doctoral Researcher	Applied Linguistics	University of Lleida, Spain	2016
Ph.D.	English Language Teaching	Boğaziçi University	2019
Postdoctoral Research	Culture Communication& Media	University College London	2025

M.A. Thesis

Saygi, H. (2012). Understanding Language Use in Workplace Contexts: Case Studies of Turkish Migrant Workers from a Sociohistorical Perspective. **King's College London**, UK.

Supervisor: Martin Dewey

Ph.D. Thesis

Saygi, H. (2019). Everyday Interactions Between Local and Refugee Women in a Turkish Town: Identity Construction and Negotiation. **Boğaziçi University**, Turkey.

Supervisors: Yasemin Bayyurt & Işıl Erduyan

ACADEMIC CAREER

2025- present

Honorary Research Fellow at the Institute of Education, Department of Curriculum, Pedagogy & Assessment, **University College London**

2025- present

Assistant Professor at the Faculty of Education, Foreign Languages Education Department, English Language Teaching Program, Istanbul 29 Mayıs University

2024-2025

Honorary Research Fellow at the Institute of Education, Department of Culture, Communication and Media, **University College London**

2020- 2023

Assistant Professor at the Faculty of Education, Foreign Languages Education Department, English Language Teaching Program, Istanbul 29 Mayıs University

2019-2020

Deputy Project Coordinator at the Application and Research Center for Street-Living and Working Children, Maltepe University, Istanbul

PUBLICATIONS

1. Book

Saygi, H. (2025). *Risky Communications and Precarity in London's Shared Housing*. Palgrave Macmillan.

- Monograph examining language, precarity, and inequality in urban housing markets.
- **Publisher-nominated for British Association for Applied Linguistics (BAAL) Book Prize.**

2. Journal Articles

Peer-reviewed journal articles (Indexed in SSCI)

- Saygi, H., & Young, S. (2025). Narratives of sacrifice and aspiration: Turkish middle-class families and educational migration to London. *Journal of Multilingual and Multicultural Development*, 1-16. <https://doi.org/10.1080/01434632.2025.2581861>. (SSCI, Q1)
- Saygi, H. (2024). Mocanu, Vasilica: Language Learning in Study Abroad: Social, Cultural, and Identity-Related Factors, *Journal of English as a Lingua Franca*, 13(1), 191-196, <https://doi.org/10.1515/jelf-2024-2005> (Book review)
- Saygi, H. & Erduyan, I. (2023). Local linguistic ideologies and Iraqi Turkmens' experience of forced migration to Turkey: A folk linguistic perspective. *Language Policy*, 22(3). 289-314, <https://doi.org/10.1007/s10993-023-09657-4> . (SSCI, Q1)
- Saygi, H. (2023). A linguistic ethnography of the sense of belonging: Iraqi Turkmen women refugees in Turkey. *Language & Communication*, 88, 14-26, <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.langcom.2022.10.002>. (SSCI, Q1)
- Young, S. & Saygi, H. (under review). School as a site of English as an Additional Language (EAL) learning: experiences of newly arrived Turkish migrants in the UK.
- Young, S. & Saygi, H. (under review). Language brokering as a site of language learning: linguistic practices amongst Turkish migrant adolescents in London.

Peer-reviewed journal articles (indexed in TR Dizin and other international databases)

- Altıparmak, M. & Saygı, H. (2025). Syrian Students and Arabic in Turkey: Language Policies, Informal Support Mechanisms, and the Search for Linguistic Identity. *Journal of Language Education and Research*, 11(1), 99-125, <https://doi.org/10.31464/jlere.1565640>.
- İzgi, R. & Saygı, H. (2025). Language, Identity, and Migration: A Discourse Analysis of Imam Hatip Students' Attitudes towards Arabic. *Hacettepe University Journal of Faculty of Letters*, 42(3), <https://doi.org/10.32600/huefd.1566229>.
- Saygı, H. (2019). Anadolu'da Mülteci ve Yerel Kadın Karşılaşmaları [Encounters between Refugee and Local Women in Anatolia]. *Mekanda Adalet ve Mültecilik [Spatial Justice and Refugeeeness, Beyond.Istanbul]*, 7, 110-116.
- Saygı, H. (under review). Unequal multilingualisms: Selective bias and the hierarchisation of languages in Turkey. *Language Journal*.
- Saygı, H. (under review). Multilingual Service Encounters in Istanbul's Grand Bazaar. *Current Perspectives in Social Sciences*.
- Saygı, H. (under review). Is "Language as the Key to Integration" A Myth? Legitimate Speakership. *Journal of Language Research*.

3. Book Chapter

- Saygı, H. (2020). "Dilbilimsel Etnografik Açıdan Anadolu'da Kadınlığın Müzakeresi ve İnşası" [Negotiation and Construction of Womanhood in Anatolia from a Linguistic Ethnographic Perspective]. Daniş D. ve Biehl K. (eds.), In *Toplumsal Cinsiyet Perspektifinden Türkiye'de Göç Araştırmaları [Migration Research in Turkey from a Gender Perspective]*, Istanbul: GAR (Göç Araştırmaları Derneği), 101-121.

RESEARCH PROJECTS

- 1. Supporting Turkish Heritage Language Education in the UK: Teacher Development and Complementary School Partnerships**
This project is conducted in partnership with Turkish complementary schools and in liaison with the Education Offices of the Turkish Embassy and the Consulate of Northern Cyprus in London. It aims to strengthen induction processes and develop training materials for Turkish heritage language teachers, focusing on their professional roles, needs, and pedagogical challenges. The project involves the co-design of a workshop and seminar series alongside practical resources to support sustainable heritage language education. 2026-2028.
- 2. New-Wave Turkish Migration to London: Children's Schooling, Language Needs and Belonging**
Collaborative study with Dr Sara Young (UCL IOE) examining new-wave Turkish middle-class migration, children's adaptation to British schooling, English and Turkish language needs, access barriers, and language brokering practices. 2024-2026.
- 3. Language Dynamics and Fairness in Shared Housing: A Sociolinguistic Perspective**
Fieldwork exploring the lived experiences of unrelated adults within London's multicultural shared housing environments, focusing on how language and identity intersect in the formation of household dynamics and the negotiation of home. 2024-2025.

4. Internationalisation Policies, Practices and Discourses of Higher Education in the UK: A Language Policy Perspective

This research investigates the common language-related challenges faced by international students and their impact on active learning and participation processes. Additionally, it examines the support mechanisms developed by the UK universities to assist international students in overcoming these challenges. The project is funded by The Scientific and Technological Research Council of Turkey- TUBITAK 2219 (**30.0000€**), 2023-2024.

5. The Impact of Migration on Multilingual Practices and Language Attitudes in Turkey

The project aims to understand how policies and social approaches to migration and cultural diversity in Turkey are perceived among university students. It seeks to develop a comprehensive understanding of the challenges Turkey faces in the context of rising migration and diversity, focusing on how language ideologies, language attitudes, and cultural hierarchies shape students' perceptions. 2023- 2024.

6. 'We are at School: Üsküdar' Project with Roma Children

School-based action research conducted in cooperation with universities, public organizations, local teachers and parents. Supporting Roma children who are at risk of interrupting education, and contributing to the formation of more inclusive and intercultural institutional habitus at school. 2019-2022.

7. 'Everyday Interactions Between Local and Refugee Women in a Turkish Town: Identity Construction and Negotiation'

Community-based academic research conducted as a part of the doctoral project supported by the Scientific and Technological Research Council of Turkey (TUBITAK 2211, **24.0000€**), Kırşehir, Turkey, 2016-2018.

Assisting in building new communication channels between a group of local and refugee women sharing the same neighborhood and promoting their harmonious co-existence.

8. 'Back-to-School & After-School' Projects for Syrian Refugee Children, AD.DAR Syrian & Syrian-Palestinian Community Center, Project coordinator and voluntary teacher, Istanbul, Turkey, 2014-2016.

Assisting the Syrian refugee children to register and integrate into the local schools and provide them with supplementary language and literacy education in their neighborhood in Istanbul. In 2015, the project was extended to include Syrian mothers to provide Turkish and literacy education.

9. 'ELF-Aware Teacher Education' Project coordinated by Prof. Yasemin Bayyurt and supported by Boğaziçi University BAP, Project Assistant, Istanbul, Turkey, 2014-2015.

The EU-funded ENRICH Project aimed at raising English language teachers' competence in engaging with multilingual and multicultural English language teaching and learning contexts.

CONFERENCE PAPERS PRESENTED AT INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCES

- Saygi, H. (March, 2026). Linguistic Precarity and Household Communication in London's Shared Housing, *American Association for Applied Linguistics Conference*, **University of Chicago**, United States of America [Paper presentation].
- Saygi, H. & Young, S. (September, 2025). Educational Mobility as a Family Project: Middle Class Turks Moving to London, *British Association for Applied Linguistics Conference*, **University of Glasgow**, United Kingdom [Paper presentation].
- Saygi, H. (May, 2025). From Arabic to English: Multilingual Bias and Language Hierarchies in Turkey. *Social Justice in ELT Conference*, **Bahçeşehir University**, Turkey [Paper presentation].
- Saygi, H. (March, 2025). From Affinity to Stigma: Arabic Language in Turkey's Migration Context, *The British Academy Linguistic Injustice and Inequality in the Public Domain*, **University of Stirling**, United Kingdom [Paper presentation].
- Saygi, H. (September, 2024). Intercultural Encounters in London's Share Houses, *British Association for Applied Linguistics Conference*, **University of Essex**, United Kingdom [Paper presentation].
- Saygi, H. (June, 2024). Activist Academic Research in Turkey's Migratory Context, *Innovative Methods in Migration Research*, **Manchester Metropolitan University**, United Kingdom [Paper presentation].
- Saygi, H. (October, 2023). Navigating Multilingual Bias: Arabic in Turkish Migratory Context, *The 14th International Free Linguistics Conference*, **Kadir Has University**, Turkey [Plenary Talk].
- Saygi, H. (July, 2021). Construction of womanhood parameters in a Turkish town, *International Pragmatics Association, 16th International Pragmatics Conference*, **Winterthur, Switzerland** [Paper presentation].
- Saygi, H. (December, 2018). Construction of religious identity through a shared activity: Quran recitations among the refugee and local women, *Globalising Sociolinguistics Conference*, **University of Leiden**, Leiden, the Netherlands [Paper presentation].
- Saygi, H. (July, 2018). Linguistic ethnographic exploration of stance taking practices between the refugee and local neighbours, *International Migration, Integration and Social Cohesion (IMISCOE) Conference*, **University of Pompeu Fabra Barcelona**, Spain [Paper presentation].
- Saygi, H. (July, 2018). Strangers in the neighbourhood: Encounters between the refugee and local women, *The IAFOR International Conference on the City*, **University of Barcelona**, Barcelona, Spain [Paper presentation].
- Saygi, H. (July, 2018). Application of Du Bois' Stance Triangle Model as an analytical tool to investigate stancetaking practices, *Metapragmatics, Language Ideologies & Positioning Practices Research School*, **University of Vienna**, Vienna, Austria [Paper presentation].
- Saygi, H. (February, 2017). Conceptualising sense of belonging from a discursive perspective in the context of migration, *Next Generation Global Studies on Spaces and Times of Globalization Boundaries, borders and walls: What of universality?*, **University of Padova**, Padova, Italy [Paper presentation].
- Saygi, H. (July, 2017). Construction of Womanhood Parameters: Stances towards Womanhood in a Turkish Context, *The 19th Conference of DiscourseNet 19 on Discourse, Knowledge and Practice in Society*, **University of Bucharest**, Romania [Paper presentation].
- Saygi, H. (November, 2016). Sociolinguistic aspects of the process of integration between refugees and locals in Turkey, *International Association for Languages and International Communication Conference*, **Universitat Autònoma de Barcelona**, Barcelona, Spain [Paper presentation].

Saygı, H. (October, 2015). A Case study on multilingual service encounters in Istanbul's Grand Bazaar, *The 21st Conference of the International Association for World Englishes*, **Boğaziçi University**, Istanbul, Turkey [Paper presentation].

Saygı, H. (September, 2015). Understanding language use in workplace contexts: Case studies of Turkish migrant workers in London, *HUMAN Social Interaction and Applied Linguistics Conference*, **Hacettepe University**, Ankara, Turkey [Paper presentation].

CONFERENCE PAPERS PRESENTED AT NATIONAL CONFERENCES

Saygı, H. (Eylül, 2019). Anadolu'da yerel ve mülteci kadın karşılaşmaları: Kadınlığın milliyetçilik ve dindarlık ekseninde inşası [Local and refugee women encounters in Anatolia: Construction of womanhood in the lens of nationalism and religiosity], *Göç ve Toplumsal Cinsiyet Atölyesi [Workshop on Migration and Gender]*, Kırkayak Kültür STGM, Gaziantep, Turkey [Panelist].

Saygı, H. (May, 2019). Mülteci ve yerel kadınlar arasındaki etkileşimin dilbilimsel etnografik açıdan incelemesi, [A linguistic ethnographic exploration of the interaction between a group of local and refugee women] *Migration Research in Turkey from a Gender Perspective*, Sabancı University (SU GENDER), Istanbul, Turkey [Paper presentation].

Saygı, H. (April, 2019). An ethnographic investigation of everyday life in a Turkish town from a diversity perspective, *Pathways to Social Cohesion Conference*, Hacettepe University (HUGO), Ankara, Turkey [Paper presentation].

Interviews/ Columns

Saygı, H. (October 2, 2019). "Toplumsal Kaynaşma Ortak Kimlikler ve Aidiyetlikler Üzerinden Sağlanamaz" [Social Integration Cannot Be Ensured Through Common Identities and Belongings], Boğaziçi University News Bulletin.

https://www.academia.edu/42468628/Toplumsal_kayna%C5%9Fma_ortak_kimlikler_ve_aidiyetlikler_%C3%BCzerinden_sa%C4%9Flanamaz

Saygı, H. (June 24, 2019). "Is 'Language as the Key to Integration' a Myth?", *International Migration, Integration and Social Cohesion (IMISCOE) PhD Network*.

<https://imiscoephdblog.wordpress.com/2019/06/24/is-language-as-the-key-to-integration-a-myth/>

Saygı, H. (February 26, 2019). "Refugees' Desire for Ordinarity", *International Migration, Integration and Social Cohesion (IMISCOE) PhD Network*.

<https://imiscoephdblog.wordpress.com/2019/02/26/refugees-desire-for-ordinarity/>

Public Talks

Saygı, H & Young, S. (January, 2026), Supporting Turkish as a Heritage Language in the UK. London Turkish Embassy and Yunus Emre Institute, London, **the UK** [Panelist & Workshop organiser]

Saygı, H. (April, 2016). Barriers to education for Syrian refugee children in Turkey, *Toward the 2016 G7 Ise-Shima Summit: Global Conference of Parliamentarians on Population and Development*, Tokyo, **Japan** [Panelist].

Saygı, H. (August, 2015). Integration of refugee children and schooling, *European Young Leaders Summer Training Seminar*, Sarajevo, **Bosnia and Herzegovina** [Panelist].

GRANTS & AWARDS

- **Honorary Research Fellow Appointment** by **University College London IOE**, Department of Curriculum, Pedagogy and Assessment, 2025-28.
- **Honorary Research Fellow Appointment** by **University College London IOE**, Department of Culture, Communication & Media, 2024-25.
- Scientific and Technological Research Council of Turkey (TÜBİTAK- 2219), **Postdoctoral Research Grant** by The Scientific and Technological Research Council of Turkey- TUBITAK 2219 (30.000€), 2024-2025.
- **The Best PhD Thesis in Social Sciences Award**, Boğaziçi University, 2019.
- **Doctoral Research Grant**, Scientific and Technological Research Council of Turkey (TÜBİTAK- 2211), 2013-2017.
- **Awarded International Recognition as a Young Refugee Rights Activist**, Invited Panelist, **Japan G7 Ise-Shima Summit: Global Conference of Parliamentarians on Population and Development**, Tokyo, 2016.

MASTER'S THESES DIRECTED

- Altıparmak. M. (2023). "Sociolinguistic evaluation of Arabic support education for Syrian children."
- İzgi R. (2023). "Examining Arabic language policies in Turkey at family and student levels: A study of Imam Hatip schools."

PEER REVIEW

- European Journal of Applied Linguistics
- Journal of Linguistic Anthropology

RESEARCH INTERESTS

Discourse Analysis
Language and Migration
Language and Identity
Language Ideologies
Linguistic Ethnography

COURSES TAUGHT

Theoretical Linguistics
Sociolinguistics
Discourse Analysis

World Englishes and English as a Lingua Franca
Academic Writing
Project Development

MEMBERSHIPS

American Association for Applied Linguistics (AAAL)
British Association for Applied Linguistics (BAAL)
International Migration, Integration, and Social Cohesion (IMISCOE)