



Bölüm #1

İngilizce Saati Nedir? Bizi Neler Bekliyor?

Tarih

14 Şubat 2018

Konuşmacılar

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İngilizce Konuşma Süresi

33 dakika

Hüseyin: Hi everyone, welcome to the English hour.

Canberk: *Let's get into it.*

Hüseyin: Yes, Let's get into it. Do you know what English hour is? It is a program I think it'll be the first Turkish English podcast in this format. Me and my friend Canberk will be talking about various issues such as health, traffic. What else Canberk?

Canberk: *Well, we can talk about a lot of different things. I think we're going to start off by talking about what we're doing here.*

Hüseyin: Well, right but what about artificial intelligence? It's been one of our focus points.

Canberk: *Yeah, yeah artificial intelligence. It's fun to talk about.*

Hüseyin: What about the Space X?

Canberk: *What about particle physics, or quantum mechanics?*

Hüseyin: Oh, why not? But I think that might go a little beyond the scope of what we are trying to accomplish.

Canberk: *Yeah, at least for now.*

Hüseyin: Yeah, first we need to educate students, train students for a little while and then maybe we can go into the advanced stuff.

Canberk: *Yeah, why not? I mean advanced is a relative term when it comes to something like TOEFL for example.*

Hüseyin: Or the language itself.

Canberk: *Exactly. You are going to have to dabble in a lot of different areas. You're going to have to have some basic understanding of many different things.*

Hüseyin: That's true but for example when we talk about an exam like TOEFL or IELTS or PTE, these are generally tests of English that aim to assess students' academic English.

Canberk: *That's right.*

Hüseyin: So, that gives us a starting ground. So we don't have to know everything. We can talk about academic stuff and campus. I think it would be good. You're good to go.

Canberk: *Sounds fine.*

Hüseyin: I think we will not be talking about movies or series but we'll focus on things such as, as I said in the beginning, traffic problems, global warming or maybe healthcare or living or studying abroad; because these are the topics that come up very frequently in such tests.

Canberk: *Yeah, I totally agree and I think you have given us a good palette of different fields. I think you can add history in there. You can add geography, geology. You can talk about certain aspects of physics.*

Hüseyin: That's true.

Canberk: *Especially the popular ones like I think when I say particle physics even though it is advanced scientific field, it is not so advanced when you take a lot of it from a more popular perspective.*

Hüseyin: That's true, you can dumb it down a little bit.

Canberk: *Exactly, you have many people talking about it. Maybe we can at least talk about it in an informed manner.*

Hüseyin: Oh, yeah.

Canberk: *You can give people simple ideas.*

Hüseyin: But I think I'll have to do some reading first, because at this very moment I don't feel very comfortable talking about particle physics. The only

thing I know about the particle physics is the term particle physics which is a shame

Canberk: *It's good stuff. I think, I mean right, now it's not the time, but when we do research and then when we go into an area of, you know, expertise, an area of scientific research, then we're going to be more comfortable with that.*

Hüseyin: I think there is also this popular theory which is The String Theory. Right? Is that true? I think it's String Theory.

Canberk: *It is called The String Theory, it is called The Superstring Theory. There are few names being thrown around.*

Hüseyin: Okay I heard The String Theory. So again I know the name, but other than that, I've very little idea.

Canberk: *Yeah.*

Hüseyin: Okay, enough for physics I guess, because this is not going to be...

Canberk: *Now we are gravitating towards that.*

Hüseyin: Yes, very drifting away from the main topic. So everyone, let's get the business. So, as I said, we'll be talking about issues that really matter to us in our daily lives, because you know when you talk to someone in English, you want to talk about something that matters like your health, your country, your culture. What are some other things that might matter in a daily conversation with foreigners, what do you think?

Canberk: *Well, yeah health is always a big issue. It's like, you can talk about different diseases, disorders, illnesses and all of these things are different, at least they are categorized in different ways. And you can also talk about, like, epidemics. I think that's a major one. We've one had in Ebola for example. And then, we also have had recent talk of the cholera outbreak in Haiti. The United Nations accepted responsibility for that, you know, relatively recently.*

Hüseyin: Yeah.

Canberk: *So, that could be another you know.*

Hüseyin: That's true. Well, apart from that, I think we should definitely talk about extensively on culture, especially on Turkish culture, because you know what, when I work students one-to-one when I tutor them, one of the goals is to make sure that they can talk about themselves in their country, and Turkey is our country. And what, I mean, one of the things that we can do as citizens, as people of this country is to represent, because we, like, we are all ambassadors of our cultures. Right? We're living representations of what our country, nation, culture, history stands for. So I think all of us should be able to tell about something about our history which dates back centuries.

Canberk: *That's right. Even, more than that.*

Hüseyin: Yeah, even more than that, like, we have quite a history starting from China and going all the way up to Anatolia, the culture, the food, the complexity. I mean the modern day Turkey has been home to the greatest civilizations of the Earth. Right?

Canberk: *That's right.*

Hüseyin: Even the early civilizations, like, most people don't know that the Greek culture, most of the Greek culture was based in Anatolia, in Ephesus, in İzmir and in neighboring cities or the invention of money, right?

Canberk: *Yeah that's right.*

Hüseyin: So, like, our country has been the cradle of many civilizations. What do you think? What can we talk about?

Canberk: *Exactly, I mean some of the most enduring civilizations as well, like you're talking about the Ottoman Empire for example which is very close to heart for us, because our country, the modern Turkey, could be seen at least partly as a successor to the Ottoman Empire which reigned for nearly 600 years which is a tremendous amount of time.*

Hüseyin: Over three countries, not countries, continents.

Canberk: *That's right.*

Hüseyin: In modern terms, I'm inclined to say countries because countries seem to be a huge chunk of land. But then it was not a country, it was, like, continents, three major continents over the rule of one empire.

Canberk: *That's right. And then you had the Byzantine Empire, you had the Roman Empire.*

Hüseyin: And part of the Persian Empire. I think they were on the southern border of the Turkey, right, like the modern day Iran is the successor to the Persian Empire.

Canberk: *that's right. You have the Safavids and, you know, you go back, but you know, the point of the matter is that, you know, this area, this region in the world is very rich in culture.*

Hüseyin: That's so true, and I personally find it very disturbing that we don't talk about it. Like, I mean, the Europeans and other countries, they like talking about what they've accomplished, which is fine, because if you've done something significant, it's your right to talk about it; but in our case we have so much to talk about, but ironically we talk about it very little, or maybe we don't know that much about it and most people don't have the linguistic ability to really delve into those topics.

Canberk: *Yeah, well, linguistic ability is one point to make. I totally agree with that. The other point being, I think there is a general lack of understanding of history, which is a problem.*

Hüseyin: For sure.

Canberk: *Unfortunately, because when you don't know about your roots, it is hard to establish an identity for yourself and also a vector towards the future.*

Hüseyin: Well, one of the things that I find very disturbing and I still do is the fact that in the Turkish education system, we are told about like the distant or past empires and everything; but we learn very little about recent past especially the past hundred years.

Canberk: *That's a good point.*

Hüseyin: I've personally found it very disturbing because I think what has happened in the past hundred years is not entirely clear, so I think it's a war being fought because there are different parties, political groups, ideologies and so much has happened in the past hundred years. No one has a clear picture or there is not an objective picture of the reality and yeah, as I said I find it really disturbing, because you don't know much about what happened in the past, in the close past.

Canberk: *Yeah, I mean you're totally right. I think there are several reasons why that happened. I think one of the main reasons is the evolution of communication, like, the mass communication that, you know, took place in over the last centuries, especially the last hundred years, has a lot to do with this, because our ability to record and save what we do as human beings in daily life has increased tremendously.*

Hüseyin: That's true.

Canberk: *Especially over the last decades, over the last century. So what happened was this huge explosion of information that took place and it's really hard to catch up with that, because when you look at Wikipedia for example you have millions of articles.*

Hüseyin: Well, you cannot look at Wikipedia, it is blocked.

Canberk: *Yeah unfortunately, at least for now.*

Hüseyin: I find it a shame. I hope if there is reasonable ground for that. But I find it, I don't know, questionable.

Canberk: *Well, I mean there are millions of articles and a lot of them are about things happened in the recent past, as you mentioned; but it's like so much information and so detailed that it might be hard to get to the bottom of it. Another point of course is just, you know, just as we talked about, the educational system is not designed in a way that equipped you with that kind of information.*

Hüseyin: That's true. This brings me to something else. So you've talked about the explosion in communication, the media, the types of media that is available and the means of communication.

Canberk: *Yeah.*

Hüseyin: Well, I think that has a tremendous effect on our identity because in the past, cultures and countries were literally bound by their physical limits or border, but right now I think there is a globalization of culture. It's not a globalization of world; it's also globalization of culture, the globalization of language. And I don't know if you noticed but you probably did. For example, most companies are going international, most music is going international. For example, people in Turkey eat or have started to eat the same types of food that people in Europe eat or people in the US eat. You have, I don't know, international brands such as Starbucks or Burger King or McDonald's opening up stores in various countries. And they have huge multi-million-dollar marketing budgets, and, you know, if you can engineer the reality or the perception, you make the reality. You can really control people. You can really guide people in a certain direction and I think the changes in global landscape have really eroded the notion of culture and identity. What is your take?

Canberk: *Well, I think when you talked about manipulating people's perceptions, I was reminded of the saying that history is written by the victor. So I think it goes back to the problem of history.*

Hüseyin: This reminded me of a quote by Winston Churchill who said, I can't quite remember the exact words but it was something along the lines of "I think history will treat me favorably for I plan to write it."

Canberk: *I see, well. He had a point, at least partially, but it's like I think history has a way, I think not history but truth has a way of coming out, you know, it has its way of manifesting itself. So even though we talk favorably at least some people, a lot of people in the West talk favorably about Churchill, a lot of us here in, you know, in Europe, in Middle East, in places where different cultures and civilization meet, do not really think very highly of him. So maybe he was right, maybe he was wrong. Going back to the idea of, you know, history being in a very important area to consider, I think here, you know, what we are trying to do with English, with the English language is really important in the sense that we bridge the gap between different cultures.*

Hüseyin: Yeah, that is true.

Canberk: Because English has become the lingua franca of the world. It's the common language that binds us all together.

Hüseyin: Right, exactly. I mean it's not a rule but it's the de facto standard.

Canberk: *That's right. I mean if you're doing business, you have to use this language. If you're doing science, you have to use it. If you are, like, even literature, we have literaries, we have authors in here Turkey who write in their native tongue and they are doing a great job; but if you want to be recognized internationally, even though you can use your own language and be recognized internationally, if you have the ability to write in multiple languages, you're going to go much farther than that. So, if you think about all of this, when you have a good grasp of the English language, you can break a lot of barriers and contribute to this human legacy that we've been talking about here. You know the history aspect, cultural aspect, all of this comes together and when you have, you know, the ability, the willingness to learn this language and to take it really to a level where you're proficient in speaking, in*

writing. Then you're going to have access to types of knowledge you didn't have before and that's going to help you in many different fields and many different ways.

Hüseyin: That's true. I'd like to touch on a different point. It's a related, pertinent but a different point at the same time. So, sometimes people do not really like the idea of like learning English, speaking English because it has almost become a requirement, right? If you're doing business, if you're in academia, you have to learn English and you have to speak it fluently and you have to have a good grasp of the language to really work in an international setting. So, it might not look fair to everyone, because if you come from a different linguistic background such as Arabic, Turkish, Chinese or something else, you might not like the idea of learning a different language; but I'd like to approach the issue from two points two perspectives. So first of all, there are numerous studies showing that being a bilingual person or learning a second or a foreign language makes you a better person. It enhances your cognitive abilities. It enhances your problem-solving skills. That's definitely an advantage in today's fast-paced work.

Canberk: Absolutely.

Hüseyin: And secondly, I think this is the critical point, secondly, when you learn the de facto of language of the world, you can make yourself heard. You stop being or playing the victim. You can play victim for as long as you want. You might expect people to come to you to learn about you, to learn about your language and culture; but that's a very passive approach. You can say "Well the Turkish culture is great, it is the best" and expect other people to come and to glorify you. But that's not going to happen because in today's world that's not how things work. If you want to make yourself heard, if you want to get your name out, you have to make sure that you do it for yourself. And what better way than learning English and using it, like, using a different language of a different country of a different culture to advance your own goals, to advance your own purposes and I think in this case English has a

critical role to play. It can help you achieve your goals both as a person and as the representation or the embodiment of a culture or a nation.

Canberk: *That's right. I totally agree with that. I mean I think this also goes back to a linguistic idea, too. It's like, take the Orientalists, right? When they looked at the foreign culture, this exotic culture, that was the Middle East, that was the Far East, that was the East basically; they went ahead and explored it and they observed it. But they did more than observe; they also described. I think this is the key issue here. When you're out speaking a language, when you're out writing a language, when you're able to express yourself in a language, that gives you the ability to describe the world that you see around you.*

Hüseyin: You can describe it the way you want.

Canberk: *Exactly and that is powerful.*

Hüseyin: That's very powerful.

Canberk: *And if that language that you use is English, it is all the more powerful because more people than in any other language or cultural and language context have access to the English language and also the content that is created in the English language. So if you go into that environment, into that context, then that means you're going to be able to project the power. You're going to be able to express yourself in a way that you can't do with any other language.*

Hüseyin: Well, if you are the one writing the story, you're all the more powerful.

Canberk: *Exactly. Rather than being described, go ahead and describe and express yourself and contribute to this human legacy.*

Hüseyin: So everyone, this is the point, "Write your own story. Don't let others write it for you, because you may not like their story."

Canberk: *I totally agree with that.*

Hüseyin: Okay the thing is, I think we've overstepped our boundaries. I was expecting this to be a simple introduction to the English Hour project but then being the people we are, we have overstepped our boundaries because there is just so much to talk about. And it's kind of difficult to try to stick to the limits of a simple language. Then we started maybe at a simple level but then we went to use advanced words and phrases, which was fun, but I'm hoping that you guys were able to follow the conversation. If you are able to follow this conversation, I can definitely say that your English is world class. If you're not able to follow this conversation thoroughly but you made it to the last point, then I congratulate you, because that takes a lot courage and effort and motivation.

Canberk: *And motivation. And speaking of motivation, I want to say one thing, which is, you know, we are definitely branching out here. You know, we are talking about many different things; but it all goes back to the same point, which is, your personal drive that I see in you to teach people this language, it is not just teaching something; it is teaching something that will change people's lives.*

Hüseyin: That's true and another point; this really goes back in time. You might remember this or you might not. Years ago, when we were I think in the third or, I think when we were juniors or seniors, we were having these conversations with you. You might not remember it now maybe you'll remember.

Canberk: *At university.*

Hüseyin: Yes. Yeah, we talked about using the language as an instrument, learning a language not as an end but as a means. So when you use language as an instrument, when it becomes a powerful weapon in your hands or in your tongue, when it becomes a powerful weapon or a tool or an instrument, you can really excel in that skill; because if you learn a language with the intention

of using it, and using it throughout the process, then you progress and advance much faster. It becomes a part of your life; it becomes a part of your arsenal, right?

Canberk: *That's right. There is the thing about language. It really opens up itself to you when you use it as a tool, when you recognize that it is an instrument rather than as an end, as a goal. So, what you want to do to make sure that you treat language as a tool or as an instrument is you want to really be curious about the world. You want to learn about the world. If you are in a state of curiosity about what's going on around you, then the language that you want to learn will become much easier to learn, because you need access so that you can learn about things. You need access to different cultures. You need access to sciences, you need access to arts and how are you going to get that access? It's going to be through language, and English gives you the most access that you can get among any other languages. So, I think that's the importance of English, and the second point here that is really important to remember I think, is, as we said, you should treat the language as an instrument to learn it the best. The second thing you should keep in mind is that when you learn a language, any language, with a vision, with perspective, with a purpose that will give you incredible amounts of motivation to keep going until the end. You can make progress that maybe you have never dreamed of; but you need to have a vision, maybe you need to have a global vision and you need to have, you know, this attitude of using language for something.*

Hüseyin: I've got one more thing to add here. I think you have to find ways to incorporate language learning into your life. It should not become a chore; it should be a part of your life. So, it might be reading new articles while taking the commute or it might be listening a podcast before you're going to bed or it might be listening to or watching YouTube channel in English in topics that you are curious about rather than simply going to the Turkish channels which you might find easier. Well, in this episode, well you can call this a preliminary

episode or an introduction episode or as we talked this might be an experimental episode. This might be anything.

Canberk: *It's a conversation. That is a beautiful thing.*

Hüseyin: Yeah, the nice part is I think I've enjoyed this conversation.

Canberk: *I have, too.*

Hüseyin: I hope our listeners will enjoy this conversation as well because we have touched on a lot of points; but I guess I should promise, or maybe we should promise, that in the coming episodes we will stick to the certain theme, because our goal here is to make sure that in each lesson, in each episode you get the gist of a certain theme or a topic. For example, if we are talking about living abroad, we'll just delve into that topic. We'll cover that topic thoroughly so that you'll know what to expect and what to say and what to use, right?

Canberk: *Exactly. Here is the idea that we have, right? We want to make sure that people listening to us, you guys, are well equipped to talk about or write about any particular topic that we choose to cover here. So one episode of this ongoing conversation that we're going to have hopefully, just one episode is going to be the all you need to write a short composition-type essay or maybe just speak for a few minutes about that particular topic and that's going to be incredibly helpful for you in exams such as TOEFL and IELTS to get you going in your academic career or to maybe pass, you know, a prep school at your university. You are going to be successful there as well. So just as Hüseyin mentioned about artificial intelligence, for example, we can have an episode on AI, and then you can take all of the information contained in that episode and all of the words and phrases that are used. You can take that and you can put it in a writing form or like a speaking form and that is going to be very beneficial.*

Hüseyin: Yeah, our goal is to make sure that you are well equipped to tackle the challenges your life throws at you. So, when you take AI episode or when you take traffic or healthcare episode, when you go through those episodes, you will learn the key phrases, the key words and the concepts and more importantly, background information and stories because I think we'll be sharing a lot of stories. We both have a lot of stories to share. And when you combine all of that information, you will have the necessary information and the skills to talk about those topics. And our goal here is to prioritize the topics or issues that matter to you personally in your academic life, in your professional life and all around your life in general. So that's our goal and I hope you enjoyed this episode. It's been a long episode and now I'm looking at the timer and it tells me that it's been more than 30 minutes and I cannot personally believe that it has been this long but it was an enjoyable conversation.

Canberk: *Totally.*

Hüseyin: What do you have for us in the closing section, Canberk?

Canberk: *Well I mean I hope this is the beginning of a long, ongoing conversation, a flowing conversation, an organic conversation that helps people learn about language and also learn about life in general. I think I totally enjoyed this and I think I'm going to enjoy more of it, as well. So, good luck to all of you guys.*

Hüseyin: Well same here. I'd like to just add an extra side note. I was thinking about doing a scripted run but I felt like going the natural route. I'm glad that we did because it wouldn't really matter, because right now I'm pretty comfortable.

Canberk: *yeah, exactly.*

Hüseyin: It is a little, how to say, that unsystematic maybe. We drifted away a little bit; but I think we are able to wrap things up and connect the dots.

Canberk: *Yeah we anticipated that, I think we cherish that. We cherish just drifting off because that's when ideas come out, that's when you really think about something in real time.*

Hüseyin: That is true.

Canberk: *I think that's valuable.*

Hüseyin: Well, I would say I was thinking on my feet but I'm not. I'm just sitting down on my chair. So it has been enjoyable episode. As Canberk said, it's the beginning of a long journey. It might be the beginning of the end. The end of what, I don't know, the end of useless classes, the end of boring lectures; because we want this to be fun, we want this to help the people and we want this to motivate and inspire people. And these episodes, these classes serve that purpose, then I'll personally feel accomplished and satisfied and I'll feel good as a human being. That's my take.

Canberk: *Sounds good.*

Hüseyin: Okay everyone, see you in the next episode and I will take some time to edit and upload this episode. As I said this is a preliminary, this is an experimental episode and I'm really curious about your comments and feedback. So if you have any comments, questions and suggestions, make sure that you add that in the comments or email me back so I can read what you think.