



RESEARCH ARTICLE

Some Nursery Rhymes that can be used in Pre-School Turkish Education in Kosovo

Elsev Brina Lopar^{1*}, Mesut Uğurlu²¹University of Prizren "Ukshin Hoti", Faculty of Education, Prizren, Kosova²Ministry of National Education of Turkish Republic, Education Expert

ARTICLE INFO	ABSTRACT
Received: Sep 16, 2024 Accepted: Nov 7, 2024	Balkan states has various ethnic groups in its population. One of these ethnic groups is the Turks, inherited by the Ottoman Empire, which has dominated the region for centuries. A study has been initiated in order to identify and record the oral folk culture assets of the Turks living in Kosovo. Within the scope of this study supported by TÜBİTAK, oral folk culture products such as tales, lullabies, anecdotes, epics, legends, riddles, proverbs, idioms, manias and nursery rhymes are compiled by interviewing Turks living in the region. It is checked whether these compiled products have been registered before. We checked whether the rhymes compiled within the scope of our study were recorded before or not. In the literature review, we determined that the 12 nursery rhymes presented in our article were not included in the previous studies in the Kosovo region. Therefore, the rhymes presented in our study are rhymes used in the Kosovo region but not recorded before. Based on the idea that these rhymes we have compiled should be used in pre-school education as an element of folk culture, we have presented them within the scope of our study, together with our evaluations on whether it is appropriate to use them in pre-school Turkish education in Kosovo.
Keywords	
Kosovo Turkish Folk Culture	
Nursery rhyme	
Oral Culture	
Pre-school education	
Turkish Folk Culture	
*Corresponding Author	
elsev.brina@uni-prizren.com	

INTRODUCTION

According to the TDK (Turkish Language Institution) dictionary, nursery rhymes are used in several senses. These are "rhyming rhymes", "stereotypes", "ready-made phrases that are compatible with each other", "introductory words usually found at the beginning of tales", "saying race among instrumental poets" and "words used especially by Kavuklu in Ortaoyunu". (TDK Dictionary, 2023). As it can be understood from its definition, nursery rhymes can be found in different folk literature products. According to Duymaz, the situation causes the rhymes to not be fully and precisely defined in terms of shape, subject, content and functions (2002: 9). According to Ungan, the functional aspect of rhymes is neglected because the idea that rhymes consist of meaningful, semi-meaningful, meaningless, weird, and nonsensical words in some sources (2009: 219).

Nursery rhymes, which are one of the oral cultural elements of Turkish folk culture, especially performed among friends in childhood, are very important educational and cultural tools such as lullabies, fairy tales and riddles used in pre-school education. It contributes positively to the development of children in using the language of perception of sounds with the harmony of sound and harmony applied in the performance of the nursery rhymes, and contributes to the development of children's psychomotor skills by providing the habit of memorization by repeating the words frequently (Yalçın & Aytaş, 2017: 139). Due to their nature, preschool children sometimes want to argue with their friends and sometimes challenge each other before the games to be played, and they like to do this¹. One of the instruments they use in these challenges where they can spend their loaded

¹ In fact, this situation is not much different in adolescents and adults. Therefore, we can talk about the existence of a sense of competition in the nature of human beings.

energies is rhymes². Rhymes containing humor allow children to spend their energies quantitatively higher.

METHODOLOGY

In Turkey and in many countries of the world, there are pre-school education institutions that provide Turkish education. One of these countries is the Republic of Kosovo. Turkish-language schools and institutions in Kosovo are affiliated with Ministry of Education of Kosovo and therefore implement the education curriculum rules of this ministry³. Trainings are given by the teachers within the scope of this curriculum, as well as some educational activities are implemented. These educational activities are generally activities that contribute to the development of children's language and speech skills. Folklore products are also used in some activities. Some of these folklore products are fairy tales, lullabies, riddles, idioms and nursery rhymes. The products mentioned here are oral culture products. As the name suggests, these products, which are transmitted orally and are generally kept in memory, will either evolve or disappear after a while if they are not recorded in writing.

A study has been started in order to record the oral cultural products in the memories of the Turks living in Kosovo. Within the scope of this study supported by TÜBİTAK (The Scientific and Technological Research Council of Türkiye), we are compiling Turkish oral culture products in the city of Prizren, Kosovo. One of the oral culture products we have compiled is rhymes. We conducted a literature review that the rhymes compiled within the scope of our research were not recorded before. As a result of this scanning, we have determined that some of the nursery rhymes we have compiled have not been published anywhere before and have not been recorded. It is aimed to share the nursery rhymes that we have compiled through this research and which we have determined that have not been recorded before, with the preschool education community that provides Turkish education in Kosovo.

The rhymes we collected were evaluated thematically. As a result of our evaluations, it has been determined whether it is appropriate to use the data we obtained in pre-school education in Kosovo. As a result of our field research, 12 rhymes that have not been compiled before and our determinations about these rhymes are presented below.

Compiled Rhymes and Their Functions

The nursery rhymes that we have determined that have been compiled within the scope of our study and have never been published before, and our evaluations on the functions of these rhymes and the use of teachers working in pre-school education are as follows:

1. Kırmızı mum,
Dolapta petmez,
Yala yala bitmez,
Ayşe çık, sen dur, sen çık. (SP1).
English Translation (EnT)
Red candle,
Molasses in the fridge,
Lick lick it's not over,
Ayşe get out, you stop, you get out.

Evaluation: Kosovo, but the reason for this is likely to have escaped the attention of the compilers. Because it is a very common rhyme. It is a well-known nursery rhyme in Turkey and frequently used for midwife selection in children's games. It is understood from the last line of the rhyme that this rhyme has the function of choosing the people who will play in a game. In any playgroup, if there is a person or people who need to be eliminated before children can play among themselves, the children can eliminate and/or choose these people among themselves with this rhyme. In this rhyme, which

² Another is counting (sayışmalar).

³ For a comparative analysis of the education system in Kosovo and the education system in Turkey, see (Zengin & Topsakal, 2008), For new trends in the education system in North Macedonia, see (Emin, 2020).

is often performed in the game of hide and seek, the last indicated player candidate becomes the “ebe”⁴ or leaves the game.

2. Karga karga “gak!” dedi,
 “Çik şu dala bak!” dedi,
 Çıktım baktım o dala,
 Bu karga ne budala (SP2).
 (EnT)
 Crow crow said “gak!”,
 “climb and look at that branch!” she said,
 I went out and looked at that branch,
 What a fool is this crow.

Evaluation: Although this rhyme was compiled for the first time in Kosovo, it is a frequently used rhyme in Anatolia, especially in Turkey⁵. It's likely that earlier compilers overlooked this rhyme. When examined thematically, it is a fable-like nursery rhyme that teaches children to look through the eyes of animals and can be shown as an example that not every animal will be cute.

3. Leylek leylek havada,
 Yumurtası tavada,
 Kondi bizim hayada (büyük balkona)⁶ (SP2).
 (EnT)
 Stork stork is in the air,
 Her egg is in the pan,
 Land on our balcony.

Evaluation: This nursery rhyme is usually performed by mothers by lying on their backs and putting their children on the upper side of their legs, lifting and lowering them. *When the rhyme is over, the waving and hugging and kissing figures, which symbolize the baby's fall into the mother's lap, are repeated* (Ergun, 2011: 136). It is not possible to apply this type of performance to students by teachers in pre-school education. However, it is considered that teaching children verbally would be a fun activity and would contribute to the linguistic, perceptual, mental and cultural development of children.

4. Kuzu kuzu mee!
 Bin tepeme,
 Hadi gidelim,
 Hacı nineme,

⁴ The player who play in the middle.

⁵ The Turkish version of this rhyme is almost the same as in Kosovo and as follows:

Karga karga gak dedi,
 Çık şu dala bak dedi.
 Çıktım baktım o dala,
 Bu karga ne budala (Özbaş, 2010: 64).
 (EnT)

Crow crow said “gak!”
 “climb and look at that branch!” she said
 I went out and looked at that branch
 What a fool is this crow

⁶ The Turkish version of this rhyme as follows:

Leylek leylek havada
 Yumurtası tavada
 Geldi bizim hayata
 Hayatımız yıkıldı
 Leylek hapse tıkıldı (Ergun, 2011: 136).
 (EnT)

Stork stork is in the air
 Her egg is in the pan
 She land on our balcony
 Our life was destroyed
 The stork was imprisoned

Haci ninem hasta,
 Corbasi tasta⁷ (SP2).
 (EnT)
 Lamb lamb mee!
 Get on to my head
 Let's go,
 To my Haji grandma,
 My Haji grandma is sick,
 Her soup is in bowl.

Evaluation: Similar to this rhyme is also available in Turkey. In fact, it is not similar, it is the same rhyme, but the last lines of our compilation and the Turkish version are different. It has been determined that this rhyme, which was performed in Turkey, was also performed in Kosovo, but it was not recorded before. Within the scope of our study, it was recorded as above. In the nursery rhyme, the closeness of humans and animals as friends draws attention. There is a theme that lambs, which are animals raised in villages, are like friends with people. Riding a lamb on a human back and going to a sick grandmother together is an example of the intimacy between humans and animals. In addition, people who are sick in this rhyme are recommended to drink hot soup. With these thematic features, it is considered that performing the rhymes with children can have very positive effects.

5. Be birader buraya bak,
 Basi bereli burma biyikli,
 Basti bucuq bayan berberiyle,
 Bizim Bedri bey birlikte,
 Bi pirinci birinci buluşta,
 Birbirine dizip Bursa pazarında idi⁸ (SP3; SP4; Avramenko, B., 2022: 140).
 (EnT)
 Hey, look here bro,
 His head bruised, his moustache twisted,
 With a half-and-a-half female barber,
 Our Bedri Bey together,
 In the first invention of a rice,
 Lined it up together he was in the Bursa market.

Evaluation: As can be understood from the last line of this rhyme, it is a rhyme performed in Turkey. Because Bursa is one of the city of Turkey. However, as a result of our research, it is remarkable that the rhyme has not been published in any academic publication other than Avramenko's article (2022: 140), which was published in Ukrainian. Nevertheless, it should be noted that this rhyme has not been published in Kosovo before, considering that it is a rhyme performed in Turkey. If you pay attention to the rhyme, it contains many words that start with the letter "b". The reason for this is to contribute to the development of language and speaking skills by causing it to be difficult to say. For this reason, it should be especially preferred to be used in the education of pre-school children.

⁷ Kuzu kuzu mee
 Bin tepeme
 Haydi gidelim
 Haci dedeme
 Haci dedem hasta
 Mendili bohça
 Kendisi hoca (Our nursery rhymes, 2023).
 (EnT)
 Lamb lamb mee!
 Get on to my head,
 Let's go,
 To my Haji grandpa,
 My Haji grandpa is sick,
 Handkerchief bundle,
 He is the Hodja.

6. Masal masal matitas,
 Çorbalar hazır tas tas,
 Futbolcular verir pas,
 Gol olunca tutmayam yas⁹ (SP5; Pre-school, 2023).
 (EnT)
 Fairy tale matitas,
 Soups are ready bowl bowl,
 Football players give pass,
 We don't mourn when a goal is scored.

Evaluation: It has been determined that this rhyme compiled in Kosovo has not been compiled and recorded in the Kosovo region before. As a result of our research, it has been understood that the rhyme in question is a rhyme originating from Türkiye. However, it has been determined that this rhyme is not included in any academic research, and the reason for this is not understood. It probably escaped the attention of researchers. When the thematic content of this compiled nursery rhyme is examined, it is seen that it directs children to correct behavioral movements. It is understood from the first verse of the nursery rhyme that it is a fairy tale nursery rhyme. It is understood in the last two verse of this nursery rhyme that football players play by passing to each other and that it is a thematic content that advises not to mourn even if lost in the game and gives a positive message for preschool children.

7. Salli salata,
 Çocuklara falaka (SP6; Kıymaz, 2019: 235)
 (EnT)
 Tuesday salad,
 Bastinado to the kids.

Evaluation: This nursery rhyme is a rhyme sung during a pre-game challenge for girls to play against boys. On the other hand, boys respond to this challenge with the words "Friday cumruk, punch on girls". Although these nursery rhymes have content to increase the game competition between girls and boys, it is not suitable to be performed in pre-school education because it contains violent words.

8. Tapşin tapşin eleri,
 Yorulmasın kollari,
 Celmiş tavşan su içma,
 Bu tutmuş,
 Bu çesmiş,
 Bu pişirmiş,
 Bu da ane bana ane bana demiş¹⁰ (SP7).
 (EnT)
 Tapshin tapshin her hands,
 Don't let her arms get tired,

¹⁰ Derlediğimiz bu tekerlemenin "Bu tutmuş, Bu çesmiş, Bu pişirmiş, Bu da ane bana ane bana demiş" kısmı, Hafızın bir başka tekeleme derlemesinin son bölümü ile aynıdır:

Çevre çevre çayircik
 Orta yerde bunarcik
 Çeldi mi tapsan su içma?
 Çeldi.

Bu tutti
 Bu çesti
 Bu pişirdi
 Bu yedi

Bu dedi: "Hâne bana pay pay pay" (Hafız, 1985: 15).

Tekerleme ayrıca Makedonya yöresinde şu şekilde icra edilmektedir:

Tapşin tapşin elleri
 Yorulmasın kollari

İnci gibi dişleri

Sırma gibi kaşlari (Fatmagül, 2023).

The rabbit came to drink water,
 This has taken
 This is cut
 This is cooked
 This is "where is mine, where is mine!" said.

Evaluation: This rhyme is a rhyme for children to gain the habit of eating. It is considered to be more effective on children aged 2-3 years. It is thought that it may be partially effective on children in pre-school education, but it is not expected to have much effect on children over 4 years old. During the performance of this nursery rhyme, children's hands are physically moved. In fact, with this aspect, it is an application that has a function for the development of hand muscles of very young children. For this reason, it is not expected to be effective and applied especially in children over 4 years of age.

9. Tarana tartar,
 Bogazini yirtar,
 Baklava kardaş,
 Cel beni kurtar (SP9; Aperlasyon, 2023).
 (EnT)
 He weighs the tarhana,
 Tear my throat,
 Baklava bro,
 Come and save me.

Evaluation: There are two nutritional materials that draw attention in this rhyme. One is tarhana and the other is baklava. Thematically, it is stated that tarhana tears the throat because it is a salty nutrition product, and baklava is a sweet material that will eliminate this predatory feature of tarhana. The deeper meaning conveys the craving for dessert following a salty meal. It is considered that this nursery rhyme is an entertainment rhyme that can be used in the nutrition of children in pre-school education.

10. Portokalli soydum,
 Baş ucuna koydom,
 Ben bir yalan uydurdum,
 Duma duma dum,
 Kırmızı mum,
 Dolapta pekmez,
 Yala yala bitmez,
 Ayşecik fatmacık,
 Sen bu oyundan çık¹¹ (SP10).

¹¹ Portakalı soydum
 Başucuma koydum
 Ben bir yalan uydurdum
 Duma duma dum
 Kırmızı mum
 Kafeste cik cik
 Ayşecik
 Annesi moruk
 Belgin Doruk
 Ayşecik Fatmacık
 Cık a cık a cık
 Sen bu oyundan çık (Oğuz, 1992: 28).
 (EnT)
 I peeled the orange,
 I put it on my bed,
 I made up a lie,
 Duma Duma Dum,
 Red candle,
 "cik", "cik" in the cage,

(EnT)
 I peeled the orange,
 I put it on my head
 I made up a lie
 Duma duma dum,
 Red candle,
 Molasses in the refrigerator,
 Lick lick, it does not end,
 Ayşecik Fatmacik,
 You get out of this game.

Evaluation: This rhyme is a counting rhyme. In other words, it is a countdown where those who want to participate in the game are selected and those who cannot participate in the game are selected. Therefore, this rhyme is a rhyme that can be recommended to be applied in pre-school education, especially in games, as a justice providing justice for the fair determination of the players and those who cannot participate in the game before each game. This counting, which is quite common in Turkey, was published for the first time in this study, although it is also performed in the Kosovo region.

11. O piti piti,
 Karamela sepeti,
 Terazı lastik jimnastik,
 Biz size geldik bitlendik,
 Anana gitim temizlendik,
 Son dersimiz matematik,
 Makınemiz otomatik¹² (SP10).

(EnT)
 Oh piti piti,
 Butterscotch basket,
 Scales rubber gymnastics,
 We came to you, we got lice,
 I went to your mother, we cleaned,
 Our last lesson is math,
 Our machine is automatic

Evaluation: This rhyme is a very common rhyme among children in Turkey. It is a rhyme with the function of choosing whether to join or leave the game before starting the game. Although it is quite common in Turkey and is performed among children in Kosovo, it has not been previously compiled

Ayşecik,
 Hes mother is old,
 Belgin Doruk,
 Ayşecik Fatmacik,
 Get out of this game.

¹² O piti piti
 Karamela sepeti
 Terazı lastik jimnastik
 Biz size geldik bitlendik
 Hamama gittik temizlendik
 Dik dik dik fidanı dik (Şendağ, 2009: 59; Aktaran: Uysal, 2017:108).

(EnT)
 Oh piti piti,
 Butterscotch basket,
 Scales rubber gymnastics,
 We came to you, we got lice,
 We went to the bath and cleaned,
 Plant, plant, plant,
 Plant the sapling

and recorded. There are some differences between the rhymes we compiled and the compilations in Turkey, especially in the last lines. There are differences between the performances of this rhyme in Turkey, especially in the last lines. It is considered that the nursery rhyme is a suitable nursery rhyme to be used in choosing participant or not to be a participant to the game.

12. Ramazanin ilk çeçesi,
Yandi pilav temceresi,
Yansin sinsin uaa (SP11).
(EnT)
First night of Ramadan
Burnt rice pot,
Let you burn uaa.

Evaluation: These three verses, which we have compiled as rhymes in our study, are performed as Ramadan mania in the Manastir region of the Republic of North Macedonia. In Kosovo, it has been recorded as a rhyme type. Thematically, the burning of the rice pot on the first night of Ramadan does not include a theme that can be recommended for pre-school education. However, since the meaning and theme in the last verse is not very meaningful and instructive for children, it is not recommended to be used in pre-school education.

CONCLUSION

A large number of tales, lullabies, manias, legends, epics, proverbs, idioms, anecdotes and tongue twisters have been compiled within the scope of the "Turkish Oral Culture Compilation Study in Kosovo" initiated with the support of TÜBİTAK. The compiled nursery rhymes were reviewed in the literature. As a result of the scanning, it has been determined that the 12 nursery rhymes presented in this article have not been recorded in the Kosovo region before. These 12 nursery rhymes, which were found to be performed in the Kosovo region, are presented within the scope of our study.

Rhymes are commonly performed, especially among children. The pre-game can be played to determine who will join the game, who will not, and who will be matched with whom. Due to this function, it is a tool that can be used in pre-school education. We evaluated whether the nursery rhymes we compiled from this function feature and presented within the scope of the article are suitable for teachers who teach Turkish in preschool in Kosovo. As a result of these evaluations, it was concluded that the nursery rhymes numbered 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 9, 10 and 11 are appropriate to be used in the education of pre-school Turkish children in Kosovo. Rhyme number 7 was not found appropriate because it contains violence. The nursery rhyme 8 is not expected to be effective and applied in children over 4 years old. Since the nursery rhyme no 12 does not have the meaning and theme to be used in pre-school education, it is not recommended to be used in pre-school education.

It is one of the remarkable findings that most of the rhymes compiled and published within the scope of the study are rhymes that are currently performed in Turkey, and that these rhymes were compiled for the first time in the Kosovo region. The question of whether these rhymes were transferred from Turkey to Kosovo dialects or whether they took their place in Turkey from Kosovo Turks is not included in the limits of our study.

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Oral Resources

Source Persons (SP): Surname, First Name. Age, Occupation, Place of Residence, Origin, Compiler's Surname, Name. Compilation Place, Compilation Date.

SP1: Ç., A. 19, Student, Prizren-Kosovo, Turkish, Uğurlu, Mesut. Prizren-Kosovo, 17.01.2023.

SP2: K, A. 65, Dental technician, Prizren-Kosovo, Türk, Uğurlu, Mesut. Prizren-Kosovo,

SP3: B, S. 71, Housewife, Prizren-Kosovo, Turkish, Uğurlu, Mesut. Prizren-Kosovo, 03.01.2023.

SP4: B., N. 58, Housewife, Prizren-Kosovo, Turkish, Uğurlu, Mesut. Prizren-Kosovo, 05.01.2023.

SP5: H., E. 29, Classroom Teaching Graduate, Prizren-Kosovo, Türk, Uğurlu, Mesut. Prizren-Kosovo, 06.01.2023

SP6: M., La. 19, Student, Prizren-Kosovo, Turkish, Uğurlu, Mesut. Prizren-Kosovo, 09.01.2023.

SP7: M., Lü. 19, Student, Prizren-Kosovo, Turkish, Uğurlu, Mesut. Prizren-Kosovo, 09.01.2023.

SP8: T., H. 62, Retired Teacher, Prizren-Kosovo, Turkish, Uğurlu, Mesut. Prizren-Kosovo, 10.01.2023.

SP9: K., A. 69, Retired, Prizren-Kosovo, Turkish, Uğurlu, Mesut. Prizren-Kosovo, 12.01.2023.

SP10: S., N. 69, Repairman, Prizren-Kosovo, Turkish, Uğurlu, Mesut. Prizren-Kosovo, 15.01.2023.

SP11: V., E. 16, Student, Prizren-Kosovo, Turkish, Uğurlu, Mesut. Prizren-Kosovo, 23.01.2023.