

Research Article

A Qualitative Study on the Representation of Stuttering in Turkish National Corpus

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ABSTRACT

Purpose: There is a need to understand how stuttering is perceived among the public. The examination of any available corpora is one of the options to address this need. Following a recent study using corpora to examine stuttering coverage in newspaper media in the United States, the current study aims to reveal the contextual use of stuttering in Turkish National Corpus (TNC) 3.0.

Method: A simple search query (“kekeme*”) was entered into TNC, formed and designed as a general corpus with a total of 50 million words. While the Turkish term “kekeme” literally translates to “stutterer”, its use as a standalone noun is discouraged in clinical and academic contexts in Türkiye to prioritize person-first language (e.g. “person who stutters”). Due to the agglutinative nature of the Turkish language, the authors used “kekeme*” with the asterisk attached to encompass its various morphosyntactic derivations within the corpus. The data were the results of this query within the written texts that covered 98% of the corpus encompassing a 20-year timeframe (1990-2009). Following further analysis of the initial search result, a total of 280 occurrences was considered and analyzed through content analysis.

Results: Two themes and 20 codes emerged: Research on stuttering (e.g., theories of stuttering onset and development; prevalence, experience, definition, course, and multifaceted impacts of stuttering; suggestions on how to manage stuttering and approach people who stutter (PWS), etc.), and literary fiction and non-fiction (e.g., stigmatization of the PWS, stuttering as a figure of speech, “ideal occupation” for PWS; information about stuttering onset and development, etc.).

Conclusion: The information derived from the contextual use of stuttering was both consistent and inconsistent with the findings of previous literature. Therefore, the use of a corpus might hold the potential to bridge the gap between various perspectives on fluency disorders.

Keywords: stuttering, Turkish national corpus, fluency disorders, qualitative content analysis

Araştırma Makalesi

Türkçe Ulusal Derleminde Kekemeliğin Temsiliyeti üzerine Nitel bir
Çalışma

Genişletilmiş Türkçe Özet

Amaç: Kekemeliğin toplum içinde nasıl algılandığının anlaşılması gerekmektedir. Bu ihtiyacı karşılamamanın bir yolu, mevcut derlemlerin incelenmesidir. Derlem, metinlerdeki gerçek kullanım örüntülerini ortaya çıkarmak için bir araya getirilen yazılı ve/veya sözlü metinlerin toplamını ifade etmektedir (Biber ve ark., 2006). Amerika Birleşik Devletleri'nde yayımlanan ve gazete haberlerinden oluşan bir derlemi kullanan yakın tarihli bir çalışmanın bulguları, kekemeliğin spor, sanat, politika, ekonomi gibi farklı alanlardaki bağlamsal kullanımını ortaya koymuştur (Azios ve ark., 2020). Çalışmanın yazarları böylesi bir incelemenin medya kullanıcılarında kekemelik algısının nasıl oluştuğuna ilişkin fikir sağlayabileceğini öne sürmüşlerdir (Azios ve ark., 2020). Bu çalışmanın bulgularına dayanarak mevcut derlem incelemeleri, kekemeliğin toplum içinde nasıl algılandığını anlamak ve Türkiye'de kekemelik üzerine yapılan geçmiş araştırmaların merceğinden derlemlerin sonuçlarını değerlendirme gereksinimini karşılayabilir (Aydın-Oral ve ark., 2022; Aydın-Uysal & Özdemir, 2019; Aydın-Uysal & Ege, 2020; Başaran ve ark., 2022; Cangi ve ark., 2025; Cangi & Işıldar, 2021; Cangi & Özkaraalp, 2021; Çağlayan ve ark., 2025; Demirsoy-Demirci ve ark., 2025; Erim & Aydın-Uysal, 2022; 2024; Healey, 2020; Hocaoglu & Cangi, 2024; Kara & Karamete, 2023; Karahan-Tığrak ve ark., 2021; Karsan ve ark., 2022; Kayhan-Aktürk & Özdemir, 2021; Kaymış & Oğuz, 2025; Koçak & Cangi, 2022; Polat ve ark., 2022; Temiz & Özdemir, 2024; Tiryaki ve ark., 2023; Tezel-Bayraktaroğlu ve ark., 2020; Uysal & Köse, 2021; Uysal ve ark., 2025; Weidner ve ark., 2017; Yaşar & Özdemir, 2023; Yaşar ve ark., 2020; 2022; Yırtık & Cankuvvet, 2025). Bu nedenle, mevcut çalışma Türkçe Ulusal Derlemi (TUD) 3.0'da (Aksan ve ark., 2012) kekemeliğin bağlamsal kullanımını ortaya çıkarmayı amaçlamaktadır.

Yöntem: Çalışmada nitel araştırma yöntemlerinden içerik analizi kullanılmıştır (Creswell, 2013). Toplam 50 milyon sözcükten oluşan ve genel bir derlem olarak tasarlanan TUD 3.0'a basit bir arama sorgusu ("kekeme*") girilmiştir. Klinik ve akademik bağlamlarda "kekeme" yerine "kekemeliği olan birey" ifadesinin kullanımı esas alınsa da, Türkçenin sondan eklemeli morfolojik yapısı gereği bu çalışmada "kekeme*" ifadesi tercih edilmiştir. İfadenin sonuna eklenen yıldız işareti, derlem içerisindeki farklı biçimsözdizimsel yapıların (örneğin; kekemelik, kekemelikten dolayı, kekemeliğe dair vb.) eksiksiz şekilde gözlemlenmesini sağlamıştır. Veriler, 20 yıllık bir zaman dilimini (1990-2009) kapsayan derlemin %98'ini kapsayan yazılı metinlerdeki bu sorunun sonuçlarından meydana gelmiştir (Aksan ve ark., 2012). İlk arama sonucunda yapılan ileri analizin ardından, toplam 280 kullanım sıklığı ele alınmış ve içerik analizi yoluyla analiz edilmiştir. Bütüncü dilbilimde kullanılan yöntemler arasında bu çalışmada bağlam dizinlerinden (ing. *concordance*) faydalanılmıştır. Bu sayede, yazarlar kekemeliğin farklı bağlamlarda nasıl kullanıldığını inceleme fırsatı bulmuştur (bağlam dizinleri dahil olmak üzere farklı tekniklerin ayrıntılı incelemesi için bkz. Brookes, 2020). Genel amaç, kekemeliğin bağlamsal kullanımını ortaya koymak olduğu için bağlamdaki anahtar sözcük yerine cümle görünümü seçilmiştir (bkz. Şekil 1).

Veri analizinde MAXQDA v.24.5.0 programı kullanılmıştır (VERBI Software, 2025). Her bir kullanım, ayrı birer cümle olarak alt alta listelenmiştir. Devamında, içerik analizi ile ilgili işlemler başlatılmıştır (Creswell, 2013). Veriler tümevarımsal şekilde analiz edilmiştir. Öncelikle, kullanımlar birçok defa incelenmiştir. Sorumlu araştırmacı bu kullanımları okurken notlar almış ve bir kod listesi oluşturmuştur. Bu kodlar, ilişkili temalar altında kümelendirilmiştir. İnandırıcılığın sağlanması için sorumlu araştırmacı kodları birçok defa okumuş ve nitel veri analizi konusunda deneyim sahibi ikinci araştırmacı ile bir toplantı gerçekleştirmiştir. İkinci araştırmacı da verileri ve bu verilere ait kod ve temaları bağımsız olarak incelemiştir. Toplantı sonucunda, her iki araştırmacı da kodlar ve temaların içeriği ve anlaşılabilirliği konusunda tartışmış ve son hali konusunda fikir birliğine varmıştır. Kullanımları ortaya koyarken, kekemelik hakkında bilimsel literatür ile uyumlu ve uyumsuz olanların bir arada sunulmasına özen gösterilmiştir. Her iki araştırmacı da Dil ve Konuşma Terapisi alanında doktora derecelerini almıştır ve kekemeliği olan bireylerle uzun süreli klinik deneyime sahiptir. İlk yazar, Türkiye'de nitel araştırma metodolojisi üzerine lisansüstü bir dersi misafir öğrenci olarak takip etmiş, diğer yazar da doktora tezinde nitel metodolojiden faydalanmıştır. Her iki araştırmacı da İngiliz Dilbilimi veya İngilizce Öğretmenliği bölümünden lisans derecelerini



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aldığı için bütüncü dilbilim metodolojisini kullanmak konusunda gerekli becerilere sahiptir. Bununla birlikte, Dil ve Konuşma Terapisi perspektifiyle TUD 3.0'dan elde edilen ve kekemeliğe ilişkin bulguları değerlendirmek konusunda da uzman oldukları düşünülmektedir.

Bulgular: Araştırma sonucunda iki tema ve 20 kod ortaya çıkmıştır: *Tema-1: Kekemelik üzerine araştırmalar* (Kod-1: Kekemeliğin başlangıcı ve gelişimi ile ilgili kuramlar, Kod-2: Kekemeliğin yaygınlığı, Kod-3: Kekemeliğin çok yönlü etkileri, Kod-4: Kekemeliği olan bireylere (KOB) nasıl yaklaşılacağı ile ilgili öneriler, Kod-5: Kekemeliğin nasıl yönetileceğine ilişkin öneriler, Kod-6: Kekemelik deneyimi, Kod-7: Kekemeliğin tanımı, Kod-8: Kekemeliğin seyri, Kod-9: KOB'un ebeveynleri, Kod-10: Dil ve Konuşma Terapisi hizmetlerinin eksikliği, Kod-11: Kekemeliğe yönelik kamusal algılar) ve *Tema-2: Edebi kurgu ve kurgu dışı* (Kod-12: KOB'un damgalanması, Kod-13: Mecaz olarak kekemelik, Kod-14: KOB için "ideal meslek", Kod-15: Kekemeliğin başlangıcı ve gelişimi hakkında bilgi, Kod-16: Kekemelik için savunuculuk, Kod-17: Kekemeliğe karşı zorbalık, Kod-18: "Kekemeliği yenmek", Kod-19: Müdahaleyi kimin gerçekleştireceğine yönelik bilgi, Kod-10: İletişim sırasında KOB'un olumsuz deneyimleri).

Sonuç: Mevcut çalışma, TUD 3.0'dan faydalanarak kekemeliğin farklı bağlamlarda nasıl kullanıldığına ilişkin bulgular ortaya koymuştur. Biber ve arkadaşları (2006) tarafından belirtildiği üzere, bütüncü dilbilim metodolojileri hedef sözcüğün nasıl kullanıldığına ilişkin zengin bir bilgi sağlamaktadır. Şimdiye kadar dilbilim alanında sözlükbilimin ilgi alanına giren bu yaklaşım, artık söylem ve edimbilgisini de dahil ederek daha geniş bir çerçeve sunmaktadır. Bu yeni çerçeve, araştırmacılara sözcük anlamının nasıl oluşturulduğuna dair daha detaylı bir perspektif sağlamaktadır. Kekemelik bağlamında bu çalışma, kekemelik anlamının mikro düzeyde nasıl oluşturulduğuna odaklanmıştır. Aynı zamanda, kekemelik algısının farklı bağlamlarda kullanılan alıntılar ışığında nasıl şekillendiğini anlamayı da amaçlamıştır. Bu amaç doğrultusunda benimsenen içerik analizi yöntemi, kekemeliğin bütüncü dilbilim ve Dil ve Konuşma Terapisi perspektiflerinden incelenmesine olanak tanımıştır.

Bulguların, TUD 3.0 aracılığıyla sunulan alıntılarının 1990-2009 yılları arasındaki yazılı metinlere dayandığını belirtmek önemlidir (Aksan ve ark., 2012). İki farklı temada incelenen bu alıntılar, farklı türlerdeki metinlere ait olmakta ve kekemeliğin ayırt edici ve bağlamsal kullanımlarını yansıtmaktadır. Ancak, bu kullanımların bilimsel literatür ışığında değerlendirilmesi gerekliliği açıktır. Başka bir deyişle, Azios ve arkadaşlarının (2020) vurguladığı gibi (mevcut çalışmada ikinci tema altında kategorize edilen) gazetelerde sunulan bilgiler, sadece toplum üyelerini değil; aynı zamanda KOB'u da okuyucu kitlesi olarak görmelidir. Bu nedenle, KOB'un zamanında ve uygun bir müdahale alabilmesi için sorumlu uzmanlara yönlendirilebilmesi adına bu bilgilerin mutlaka bilimsel verilerle desteklenmesi gerekmektedir.

Bu gerekçeyle, mevcut alıntılar Türkiye'de kekemelik üzerine gerçekleştirilen geçmiş çalışmalar ışığında değerlendirilmiştir. İlk tema incelendiğinde, bazı alıntılarının geçmiş literatürle uyumlu olduğu, bazılarının ise uyumsuzluk gösterdiği gözlenmiştir. Kekemeliğin başlangıcı ve gelişimine ilişkin kuramlar ile kekemeliğin deneyimi ve tanımına dair alıntılar, kekemeliğe yönelik çok faktörlü yaklaşımı ve bu yaklaşımı destekleyen değerlendirme uygulamalarını destekler niteliktedir (Healey, 2020). Özellikle Kod-1 bağlamında, yapısal faktörlerin kekemeliğin ortaya çıkışında tek başına etkili olmadığı söylenebilir. Türkiye'de son dönemde bu alana odaklanan birtakım çalışmalar mevcuttur: Örneğin, çalışmalarında transkranyal manyetik stimülasyon kullanan Tezel-Bayraktaroğlu ve arkadaşları (2020) sağ anterior Broadman Bölgesi 45'in, kekemelik için önemli bir nöroanatomik bölge olduğunu belirtmiştir. Ayrıca Karsan ve arkadaşları (2022), transkranyal doğru akım stimülasyonunun hedef aldığı inferior frontal girusun, müdahale sonrası okuma performansındaki acıcılık bozukluklarını azaltabildiğini, ancak konuşma acıcılığında benzer bir etki yaratmadığını ifade etmiştir. Bu bilimsel bulguların uzun vadede halkın kekemeliğe dair bilgi edindikleri yazılı ve/veya sözlü kaynaklara yansımaları gerektiği düşünülmektedir.

Kod 3 ve 9 ile ilgili olarak kekemeliğin çok yönlü etkileri ve KOB'un ebeveynleri üzerindeki potansiyel etkileri, Aydın-Uysal ve Özdemir (2019), Cangi ve arkadaşları (2025), Cangi ve Işıldar (2021), Cangi ve Özkaraalp (2021), Çağlayan ve arkadaşları (2025), Demirsoy-Demirci ve arkadaşları (2025), Erim ve Aydın-Uysal (2022), Hocaoglu ve Cangi (2024), Karahan-Tığrak ve arkadaşları (2021), Kaymış ve Oğuz (2025), Koçak ve Cangi (2022), Temiz ve Özdemir (2024), Yaşar ve arkadaşları (2020; 2022), Yaşar ve Özdemir (2023) ile Yırtık ve Cankuvvet (2025) tarafından gerçekleştirilen çalışmaların bulguları ile uyumludur. Bu çalışmalar, farklı ölçüm araçları kullanarak çoğunlukla kekemeliğin psikolojik boyutunu veya KOB'un ya da ebeveynlerinin kekemeliğe karşı tepkilerini incelemiştir. Tüm bu çalışmalardan çıkarılabilecek temel sonuç ise dil ve konuşma terapistlerinin (DKT) bu tepkilere yönelik farkındalığının olması ve değerlendirme ile terapi uygulamalarını daha kapsamlı bir şekilde yürütmesi gerekliliğidir. Türkiye'de yapılan çalışmalar sınırlı olduğundan, Kod-9'a ait alıntı tümüyle geçerli



olmayabilir. Bununla birlikte, kekemeliğin değerlendirilmesi sürecinde ebeveynlerin kekemeliğe karşı gösterdikleri tepkilerin göz ardı edilmemesi büyük önem taşımaktadır (Cangi ve ark., 2025; Yaşar & Özdemir, 2023; Yaşar ve ark., 2020; 2022). Bu temanın son koduyla ilgili olarak İnsan Özellikleri Kamuoyu Anketi (POSHA-S) kullanılarak kekemeliğin kamuoyundaki algısı hakkında çok sayıda çalışma mevcuttur (Başaran ve ark., 2022; Çağlayan & Özdemir, 2022; Özdemir ve ark., 2011a; 2011b; Weidner ve ark., 2017). İlgili çalışmaların tamamı, kekemeliğe ilgili yanlış inanışların varlığını doğrulamaktadır.

Edebi kurgu ve kurgu dışı eserler, romanlardan gazete köşe yazılarına kadar geniş bir tür yelpazesini kapsamaktadır. Bu temanın ilk koduyla (Kod-12) ilgili olarak, kekemelikte damgalanma durumunun KOB üzerindeki olumsuz etkileri ciddiye alınmakta ve klinik bağlamda değerlendirmenin bir parçası olarak sürece dahil edilmektedir. Tiryaki ve arkadaşları (2023) tarafından yakın zamanda Türkçeye uyarlanan Kekemelik İçselleştirilmiş Damgalama Ölçeği, bu duruma örnek teşkil etmektedir. Benzer şekilde, Kod-20'de sunulan alıntıya yanıt verecek şekilde, KOB'un iletişim sırasındaki olumsuz deneyimlerini ölçmek için KiddyCAT (Aydın-Oral ve ark., 2022), Kekemeliğe İlişkin Yararlı Olmayan Düşünce ve İnançlar Ölçeği (Aydın-Uysal & Ege, 2020), Wright ve Ayre Kekemeliği Öz Değerlendirme Ölçeği (Uysal & Köse, 2021) ve Kekemelik Beklentisi Ölçeği'nin (Uysal ve ark., 2025) Türkçe versiyonları klinik kullanıma sunulmuştur. Buna ek olarak, kekemeliği olan çocuklar çocukluk döneminden itibaren akran zorbalığı riskiyle karşı karşıya olabilirler. Kod-17'de verilen alıntıyı teyit eden bu durum, sadece DKT'lerin değil; psikologlar, psikolojik danışmanlar dahil olmak üzere farklı profesyonellerin işbirliğine duyulan ihtiyaca dikkat çekmektedir (Erim & Aydın-Uysal, 2024; Kara & Karamete, 2023; Kayhan-Aktürk & Özdemir, 2021). Daha yeni ve önemli bir gelişme ise Kekemeler Derneği'nin kurulmasıdır. Bu sivil toplum kuruluşu, KOB ile DKT dahil diğer paydaşları bir araya getirerek, atölye çalışmaları ve çevrimiçi destek grupları düzenlemektedir (Kekemeler Derneği, t.y.). Bu girişim, Türkiye'de kekemelik konusunda artan savunuculuğu vurgulamakta ve Kod-16'da sunulan alıntıya doğrudan yanıt oluşturmaktadır.

Öte yandan, özellikle Kod-14, Kod-15, Kod-18 ve Kod-19'a ait alıntılar hem ulusal hem de uluslararası literatürle tamamen uyumsuz olması bakımından dikkat çekicidir (daha ayrıntılı inceleme için bkz. Aydın-Uysal & Temiz, 2024; Cangi & Şen-Aksüt, 2024; Guitir, 2024). Bu durum, kısmen Türkiye'de DKT alanının yeni olması ve bu alıntıların yazıldığı 1990-2009 dönemiyle aynı zamana denk gelmesinden kaynaklanıyor olabilir. Bu ifade, 1990 ile 2009 yılları arasında DKT'lerin yeterli sayıda olmadığını yansıtan Kod-10 ile desteklenebilir. Türkiye'de Dil ve Konuşma Terapisi alanında 27 aktif lisans programı bulunmaktadır (Birol ve ark., 2025) ve kekemelik üzerine kayda değer bir ulusal literatür oluşmuştur. Kekemeliğe ilişkin bilgi birikiminin artması sonucunda gelecekte oluşturulacak bir derlem, kekemeliğin bilimsel temelli ve daha gerçekçi bir şekilde betimlenmesine olanak sağlayacak bulgular sunabilir.

Sonuç olarak, kekemeliğin bağlamsal kullanımından elde edilen bilgiler geçmiş literatürün sunduğu bulgular ile hem tutarlı hem de tutarsız görünmektedir. Bu nedenle derlem kullanımı, kekemeliğe ilişkin çeşitli bakış açıları arasındaki boşluğu doldurma potansiyeline sahip olabilir.

Anahtar sözcükler: kekemelik, Türkçe ulusal derlemi, akıcılık bozuklukları, nitel içerik analizi

Introduction

Understanding stuttering entails approaching it from both behaviorist and social constructivist paradigms (Azios, 2017). The former paradigm defines stuttering through its overt characteristics (including blocks, repetitions, and prolongations in the flow of speech). More broadly, the latter one considers the emotions and contextual influence of communication in different settings where people who stutter (PWS) derive their interpretation of the world on



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the individual basis (Tetnowski & Damico, 2004). This might result in PWS being more comfortable with speaking in front of a small group of people compared to a larger audience. From an integrative perspective, the attitudes of individuals around PWS significantly influence the experience of stuttering. This means that each moment is shaped by interpersonal and societal attitudes. If these attitudes are negative, PWS might be faced with the stigma associated with stuttering, which can have a long-term impact on them (Çağlayan & Özdemir, 2022).

As for documenting the nature of these attitudes, previous studies in Türkiye have used a number of measurement tools including specific inventories (e.g., the Turkish version of Public Opinion Survey of Human Attributes-Stuttering, POSHA-S [Çağlayan & Özdemir, 2022; Özdemir et al., 2011a; 2011b], Clinician Attitudes Toward Stuttering [Maviş et al., 2013] and questionnaires based on the extensive literature about attitudes toward stuttering [Yırtık et al., 2021]). The population investigated in these studies included a range of participant groups, such as lay persons (public members), teachers, employers, and speech and language therapists (SLTs). The common findings of these studies indicated the low levels of awareness related to stuttering, which could play a significant role in how stuttering is perceived. In this context, it is important to understand whether and how potential sources of information may contribute to the content and the quantity of the information held by various groups within the public. As part of POSHA-S, these sources of information included televisions, radio or movies as well as newspapers, journals, books, and internet (Çağlayan & Özdemir, 2022). Recent studies also examined child literature (Özdemir & Dağ, 2023), and videos posted on social media platforms including YouTube (Cangökçe et al., 2021; Çavdar et al., 2025) and Instagram (Çavdar et al., 2025) as potential sources of stuttering. Regarding YouTube videos, Cangökçe-Yaşar et al. (2021) reported that the videos prepared by SLTs had better quality in terms of the parameters examined (such as educational value, video quality, information reliability, and audio-visual



quality), although these videos were low in popularity. The authors also emphasized the importance of accessing credible information about stuttering. As for children's books, Özdemir and Dağ (2023) reported that the contents of these books were restricted to the reactions of PWS and their social environment, concluding that prospective books to be written need to assist the PWS in navigating what they may experience throughout the course of stuttering. The authors put forward the need to prepare a greater number of children's books in which PWS are portrayed along with their experiences, which could potentially shape the perceptions toward stuttering at both individual and societal levels (Özdemir & Dağ, 2023).

Apart from the availability of these sources, the use of corpus could be an empirical option to examine how stuttering is represented. A corpus refers to a collection of written or spoken texts that can be analyzed to identify actual patterns of use in natural texts (Biber et al., 2006). To the best of the authors' knowledge, one study by Azios et al. (2020) examined the portrayal of stuttering in the United States newspaper media between 1980-2018, based on a corpus derived from ProQuest database. The findings revealed that stuttering was represented among various sections including sports, arts, politics, economy, etc. The authors suggested that such an examination ought to be combined with how media users relate to stuttering and how that impacts on individual behaviors (such as seeking help), which could provide deeper insight for healthcare professionals in the management of stuttering (Azios et al., 2020). Based on the findings of this study, examining any available corpora may address the need to understand how stuttering is perceived among the general public and evaluate the output derived from these corpora through the lens of previous studies conducted on stuttering in Türkiye (Aydın-Oral et al., 2022; Aydın-Uysal & Özdemir, 2019; Aydın-Uysal & Ege, 2020; Başaran et al., 2022; Cangi et al., 2025; Cangi & Işıldar, 2021; Cangi & Özkaraalp, 2021; Çağlayan et al., 2025; Demirsoy-Demirci et al., 2025; Erim & Aydın-Uysal, 2022; 2024;



Healey, 2020; Hocaoglu & Cangı, 2024; Kara & Karamete, 2023; Karahan-Tığrak et al., 2021; Karsan et al., 2022; Kayhan-Aktürk & Özdemir, 2021; Kaymıř & Oğuz, 2025; Koçak & Cangı, 2022; Polat et al., 2022; Temiz & Özdemir, 2024; Tiryaki et al., 2023; Tezel-Bayraktaroğlu et al., 2020; Uysal & Köse, 2021; Uysal et al., 2025; Weidner et al., 2017; Yaşar & Özdemir, 2023; Yaşar et al., 2020; 2022; Yırtık & Cankuvvet, 2025). Therefore, the current study aimed to reveal the contextual use of stuttering in a corpus widely used in Türkiye entitled Turkish National Corpus (TNC) 3.0 (Aksan et al., 2012).

Methods

Study Design

A qualitative methodology including content analysis was adopted in the study (Creswell, 2013). Qualitative methodology would provide more profound insight into the data. While employing this methodology, the source of the data was derived from the outcome of conducting a simple search query related to stuttering. This query was entered into TNC 3.0 which was created and designed as a general corpus containing a total of 50 million words (Aksan et al., 2012). In order to access the TNC 3.0, the corresponding author of the study was granted permission by one of the researchers who designed and developed the TNC 3.0 on condition that it was properly cited (Aksan et al., 2012). The link of the TNC 3.0 is as follows: <https://v3.tnc.org.tr>. As this study analyzed publicly available data from the TNC 3.0 without involving human participants, it was exempt from institutional ethical review. The study was conducted in accordance with the principles of Helsinki Declaration.

Data Extraction

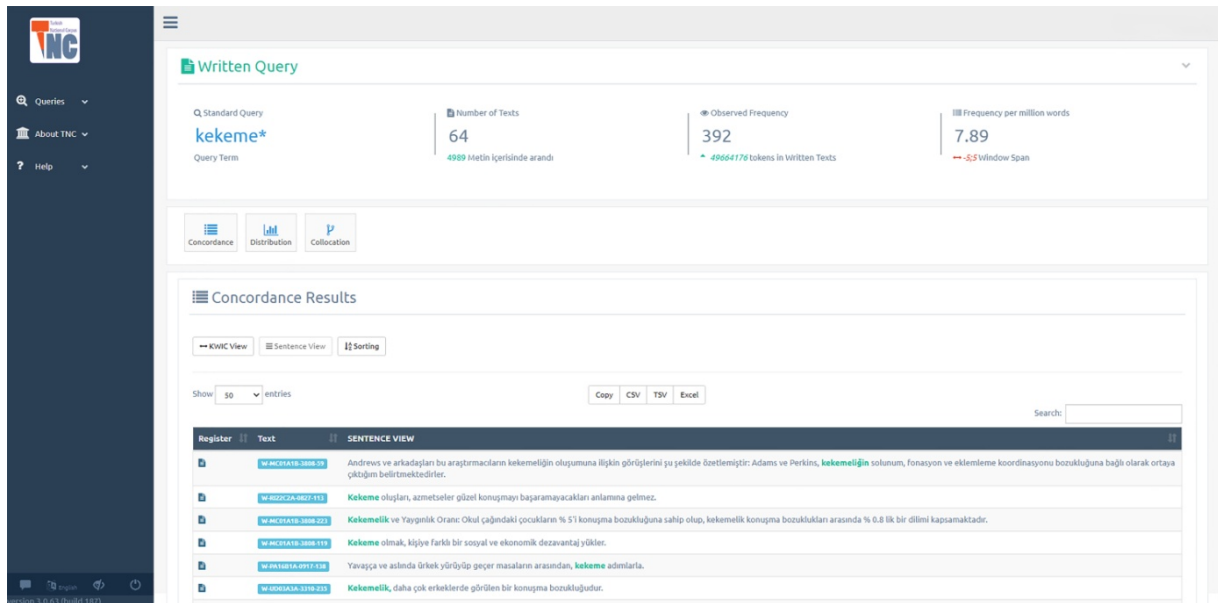
The results of the query related to stuttering within the written texts constituted the data of the study (see Figure 1). These written texts covered 98% of the corpus and belonged to a



wide variety of genres (e.g., newspaper, novels, scientific articles, etc.) produced within a 20-year timeframe (1990-2009) (Aksan et al., 2012). Regarding the search query, only the keyword “*kekeme**” was entered. While the Turkish term “*kekeme*” literally translates to “stutterer”, its use as a standalone noun is discouraged in clinical and academic contexts in Türkiye, aligning with international standards that prioritize person-first language (e.g., “person who stutters”). Nevertheless, due to the agglutinative nature of the Turkish language, the authors used “*kekeme**” with the asterisk attached to encompass its various morphosyntactic derivations within the corpus, such as *kekemelik* (stuttering), *kekemelikten dolayı* (due to stuttering), and *kekemeliğe dair* (concerning stuttering). A similar search was also applied in the spoken texts, which constituted the 2% of the corpus; however, no results were found from this search. In contrast to English, where *stuttering* and *stammering* are used interchangeably, Turkish has only “*kekemelik*” to refer to stuttering.

Figure 1.

The Results of the Query in TNC 3.0



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The initial search revealed that stuttering was mentioned in 64 texts with an observed frequency of 392, which was downloaded as a Microsoft Excel file from TNC 3.0. Following further analysis by eliminating those that were either titles or duplicates, a total of 280 occurrences were considered. Each occurrence corresponded to a sentence in which a morphosyntactic variant of stuttering appeared in Turkish. Moreover, each occurrence had textual metadata ID that included information about the publication, year, media, sample, register, domain, derived text type, gender, type of author, and audience.

Among the techniques that could be utilized in corpus methodology, concordance was used in this study, which enabled the authors to examine every occurrence of stuttering in context (see Brookes, 2020, for an overview and detailed explanation of techniques including concordance). This facilitated the process of scanning the usage patterns of stuttering. The sentence view was selected instead of the keyword-in-context view, as the overall aim was to reveal the contextual use of stuttering (see Figure 1).

Data Analysis (Credibility and Positionality)

The Microsoft Excel file containing a total of 280 occurrences was later transferred to MAXQDA v.24.5.0 for data analysis (VERBI Software, 2025). Each occurrence was listed separately and line by line in the form of a sentence. Afterwards, the procedures related to content analysis (Creswell, 2013) were initiated by the corresponding author. The data were analyzed inductively. Initially, the occurrences were read several times. The researcher took notes during reading these occurrences and prepared a list of codes. These codes were clustered within their relevant themes. To ensure trustworthiness, the researcher read these codes several times and held a meeting with the other researcher who was involved in the study and who had extensive experience in qualitative data analysis. This researcher separately examined the occurrences, as well as the codes and their associated themes. Following the meeting, both



researchers discussed the content and comprehensibility of these codes and themes, and reached an agreement on their final version. While reporting the occurrences, special attention was paid to those that were both consistent and inconsistent with the scientific literature about stuttering.

Both authors of the study hold PhD degrees in Speech and Language Therapy, with bachelor's degrees in either English Linguistics or English Language Teaching. The authors have extensive clinical experience working with PWS. The first author previously participated in a graduate course on qualitative research methodology as a guest student in Türkiye, while the second author employed qualitative methodology in their PhD thesis. Both researchers possess the necessary skills to utilize corpus methodology, as well as to critically evaluate the findings obtained through this methodology in relation to stuttering from the perspective of Speech and Language Therapy.

Results

Two themes and 20 codes emerged following the analysis (see Table 1): “Research on stuttering”, and “literary fiction and non-fiction”. The first theme covered various aspects of stuttering. There were statements referring to theories about stuttering onset and development. Moreover, information was derived regarding the experiences and definitions of stuttering, as well as suggestions on how to approach PWS and manage stuttering. Addressing the multifaceted impacts of stuttering, information about the parents of PWS was also included. Under this theme, the lack of available speech and language therapy services and public perceptions of stuttering were revealed through their relevant excerpts. These excerpts were presented with their corresponding Textual Metadata IDs in TNC 3.0 (see Table 1). Within this theme, Code-1 (Theories of stuttering onset and development) emerged as the most frequent one, while Codes 10 (Lack of available speech and language therapy services) and 11 (Public



perceptions of stuttering) emerged as the least frequent. (see Figure 2 for the frequency and overview of themes and codes).

The second theme covered exemplary demonstrations of literary fiction and non-fiction. The statements included in this theme were related to the stigmatization and negative experiences of PWS during communication, as well as bullying and advocacy about stuttering. Moreover, the information was derived regarding stuttering onset and development, and about whom to carry out the intervention. From a literary standpoint, there were statements in which stuttering was used as a figure of speech (e.g., metaphor). These excerpts were presented with their responding Textual Metadata IDs in TNC 3.0 (See Table 1). Within this theme, Code-12 (Stigmatization of the PWS) emerged as the most frequent one, while Codes 19 (Information about whom to carry out the intervention) and 20 (Negative experiences of PWS during communication) emerged as the least frequent (see Figure 2 for the frequency and overview of themes and codes).



Table 1.

Themes and Codes.

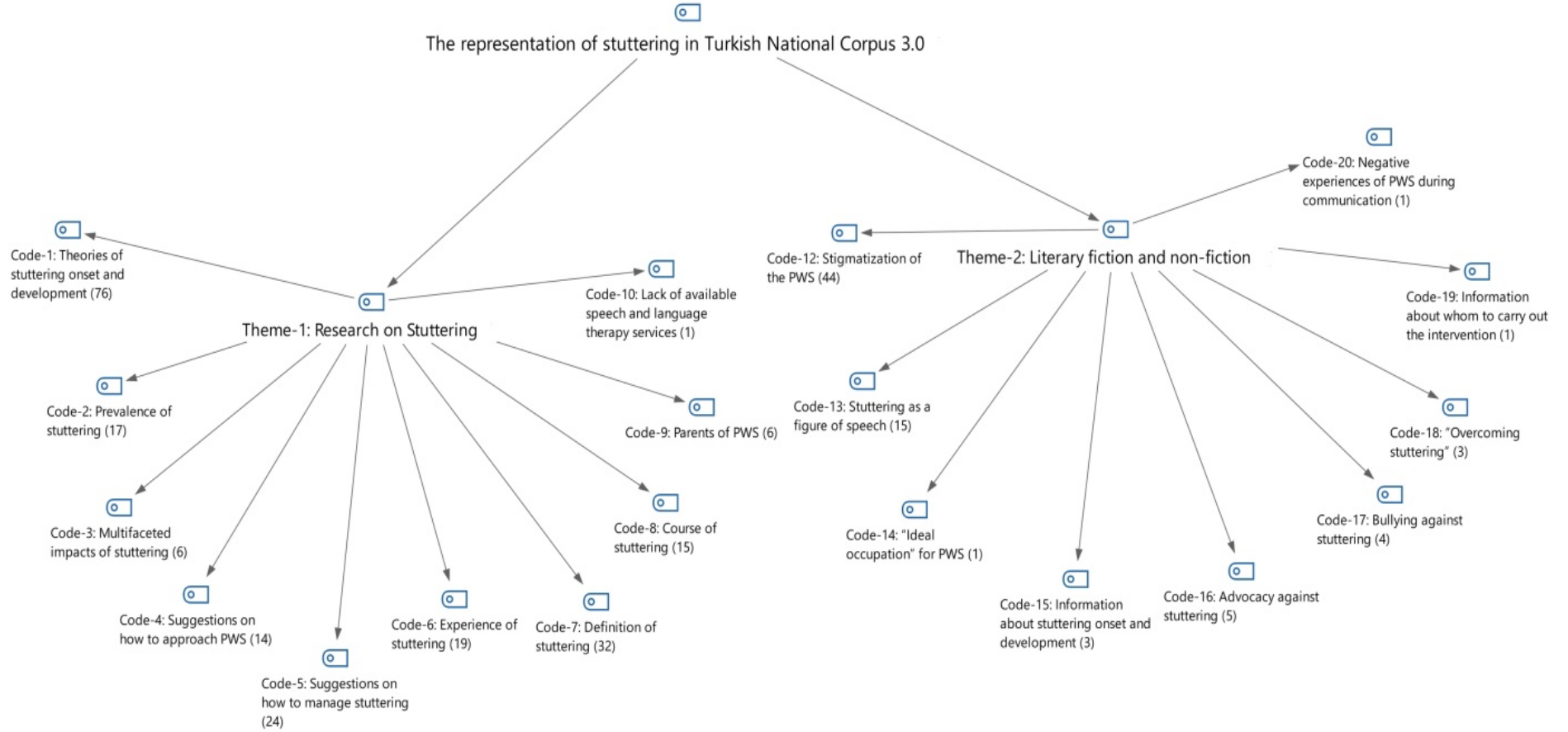
Themes	Codes	Excerpt	Textual Metadata ID in TNC 3.0
Theme 1: Research on stuttering	Code-1: Theories of stuttering onset and development	<i>“As a matter of fact, Bloodstein states that nowadays it is known that structural factors alone are not sufficient in the emergence of stuttering and that environmental factors are effective in the emergence of stuttering.”</i>	W-MC01A1B-3808-339
	Code-2: Prevalence of stuttering	<i>“Stuttering is more common in boys.”</i>	W-QC01A4A-1081-368
	Code-3: Multifaceted impacts of stuttering	<i>“Being a stutterer puts the person at a distinct social and economic disadvantage.”</i>	W-MC01A1B-3808-119
	Code-4: Suggestions on how to approach PWS	<i>“The pronunciation of a child with early stuttering should never be corrected or any association made that might draw his/her attention to the speech disorder.”</i>	W-MC03A4A-1443-312
	Code-5: Suggestions on how to manage stuttering	<i>“The most important initial goal is to encourage the person to speak more, despite the stuttering behavior.”</i>	W-MC03A4A-1443-309
	Code-6: Experience of stuttering	<i>“Because no stuttering is like any other.”</i>	W-MC03A4A-1443-302
	Code-7: Definition of stuttering	<i>“However, the most acceptable definition of stuttering is the one that includes all its features.”</i>	W-MC01A1B-3808-37
	Code-8: Course of stuttering	<i>“However, environmental factors and learning play an important role in the development and persistence of stuttering.”</i>	W-MC01A1B-3808-43
	Code-9: Parents of PWS	<i>“Studies have found that parents of children who stutter are overly oppressive, overly critical, overly prone to discipline and criticize their children, have a hidden rejectionism towards their children, show more negative attitudes, interrupt their children more often, are irritable, angry, meticulous and orderly than parents of children who do not stutter.”</i>	W-MC01A1B-3808-174
	Code-10: Lack of available speech and language therapy services	<i>“The fact that the number of speech pathologists is very low, that there are no institutions that train specialists in this field, and that health professionals and the media are not informed about the factors that cause stuttering and its treatment pave the way for these false beliefs.”</i>	W-MC01A1B-3808-347
	Code-11: Public perceptions of stuttering	<i>“There are a number of false beliefs about stuttering among both medical doctors and the public.”</i>	W-MC01A1B-3808-218

Themes	Codes	Excerpt	Textual Metadata ID in TNC 3.0
Theme 2: Literary fiction and non-fiction	Code-12: Stigmatization of the PWS	<i>"Don't ever do that!" said the stutterer, whose face grew redder the more (s)he stuttered, not fitting such things for a smart, well-behaved, hard-working person like me."</i>	W-PG09C4A-0224-185
	Code-13: Stuttering as a figure of speech	<i>"(S)he kept nailing us into the night with a stuttering respect."</i>	W-LH13C1A-1559-130
	Code-14: "Ideal occupation" for PWS	<i>"A person who stutters does not choose to become a lawyer because of his or her health condition."</i>	W-VD02A3A-2654-124
	Code-15: Information about stuttering onset and development	<i>"Children who smell paint thinner and glue stutter over time."</i>	W-QI42E1B-2939-180
	Code-16: Advocacy for stuttering	<i>"Is it a shame to stutter? A disgrace?"</i>	W-RG09C4A-1169-132
	Code-17: Bullying against stuttering	<i>"Betül Mardin: I was mocked for my stuttering."</i>	W-VI27D1B-2473-2
	Code-18: "Overcoming stuttering"	<i>"(S)he worked day and night to overcome his/her stuttering and lisping, (s)he practiced his/her speech by putting pebbles (s)he had collected in his/her mouth, and one day (s)he became such a great orator that it was a great pleasure for people to listen to him/her."</i>	W-RI22E1B-2911-103
	Code-19: Information about whom to carry out the intervention	<i>"... , one of the doctors of Istanbul Surgical Hospital ... , whom we asked whether there is a treatment for stuttering and what kind of treatment is carried out, said the following to our column on the subject: "Stuttering is treated with special education. ""</i>	W-NI32D1B-2490-21
	Code-20: Negative experiences of PWS during communication	<i>"This is how my stuttering started", (s)he said and added: "Whenever I speak in public, in critical situations, the idea that I will stutter immediately sticks in my brain, and it happens. ""</i>	W-UC03A3A-1469-1



Figure 2.

The Frequency and Overview of Themes and Codes



Discussion

The current study reported the findings of how stuttering was used in various contexts as a result of utilizing TNC 3.0. As put forward by Biber et al. (2006), corpus linguistic methodologies foster an understanding of how a target word may be used. This has primarily been of interest to lexicography in linguistics, where lexicographers aim to scrutinize different uses of the same word. However, at a broader level, including discourse and pragmatics, researchers can delve into how word meaning is constructed and possibly differentiated depending on various contexts. In the case of stuttering, the current study aimed to understand how the meaning of stuttering was formed at the micro level, while also examining how the perception of stuttering was shaped within the excerpts that referred to various contexts of its use. Employing content analysis as part of qualitative methodology served this aim by delineating stuttering from the perspectives of both corpus linguistics and speech and language therapy.

It is important to note that the excerpts were based on the written texts dated between 1990 and 2009 in TNC 3.0 (Aksan et al., 2012). These excerpts were categorized into two themes including research on stuttering and the portrayal of stuttering in fiction and non-fiction. The texts belonging to various genres may reflect differential and contextual uses of stuttering; however, such uses are expected to be fundamentally informed by scientific literature. In other words, as put forward and exemplified by Azios et al. (2020), information provided by newspapers (categorized under the second theme in the current study) is intended for a wide audience, including not only lay persons or members of the public but also PWS themselves. Nevertheless, this information needs to be supported by or grounded in a scientific knowledge base so that these individuals can be referred for appropriate professionals to receive timely and appropriate intervention.

Due to this significant reason, these excerpts were discussed in the realm of previous studies conducted on stuttering in Türkiye. Considering the first theme, some of the excerpts were consistent with previous national literature, while others were not. The excerpts related to theories of stuttering onset and development (Code-1) as well as the experience and definition of stuttering (Code-6 and 7) aligned with the multifactorial approach to stuttering and the assessment practices that supported this approach as in the case of Turkish version of cognitive, affective, linguistic, motor, and social aspects of assessment (CALMS-TR) (Healey, 2020). Moreover, the Turkish versions of Stuttering Severity Instrument – Fourth Edition (SSI-4; Mutlu et al., 2020), Test of Childhood Stuttering (Mutlu et al., 2025), and Short Behavioral Inhibition Scale (Mutlu et al., 2025) are available for clinical use. Specific to Code-1 where it was stated that the effects or existence of structural factors were not sufficient for the emergence of stuttering, it could be said that there has been a recent surge of studies in Türkiye examining such factors in detail. For instance, Tezel-Bayraktaroğlu et al. (2020) reported that right anterior Broadman Area 45 could be an important neuroanatomical region for stuttering, based on findings obtained through transcranial magnetic stimulation. Moreover, Karsan et al. (2022) found that targeting the inferior frontal gyrus with transcranial direct current stimulation could reduce dysfluencies observed in reading performance following intervention, although this effect did not extend to conversational fluency. On the other hand, based on preliminary findings, Polat et al. (2022) indicated no significant differences between children with and without stuttering in terms of the distributions of allele frequencies and the DRD2 gene C957T polymorphism with respect to the genetic underpinnings of stuttering. It might be stated that these findings could be reflected in the written texts that inform the public members about the knowledge base of stuttering in the long term.



As regards Codes 3 and 9, the multifaceted impacts of stuttering, as well as its potential effects on the parents of PWS have been further documented by a number of studies including those of Aydın-Uysal and Özdemir (2019), Cangi et al. (2025), Cangi and Işıldar (2021), Cangi and Özkaraalp (2021), Çağlayan et al. (2025), Demirsoy-Demirci et al. (2025), Erim and Aydın-Uysal (2022), Hocaoglu and Cangi (2024), Karahan-Tığrak et al. (2021), Kaymıř and Oğuz (2025), Koçak and Cangi (2022), Temiz and Özdemir (2024), Yaşar et al. (2020; 2022), Yaşar and Özdemir (2023), and Yırtık and Cankuvvet (2025). Despite these studies using different measurement tools and examining mostly the psychological characteristics of or reactions to stuttering either by PWS or their parents, a possible integrative conclusion to be drawn from them is that SLTs need to be aware of these reactions and conduct their assessment and treatment practices in a more comprehensive manner. It is also important to note that the excerpt of Code-9 may not be fully valid given the small number of studies conducted in Türkiye, however, parental reactions toward stuttering should not be ruled out in the assessment of stuttering (Cangi et al., 2025; Yaşar & Özdemir, 2023; Yaşar et al., 2020; 2022). As for the final code under this theme, there has been a substantial body of literature on public perceptions of stuttering through the use of POSHA-S (Başaran et al., 2022; Çağlayan & Özdemir, 2022; Özdemir et al., 2011a; 2011b; Weidner et al., 2017), which confirm the existence of false beliefs that may surround fluency disorders by including a diverse range of participants (e.g., children, employers, psychological counselors, etc.).

The literary fiction and non-fiction texts encompass a wide range of genres, from novels to newspaper columns. As for the first code (Code-12) under this theme, the issue of stigmatization may have negative impacts on the PWS, such as decrease in self-esteem and life satisfaction, which are taken seriously as part of the assessment practices in clinical contexts. One example is self-stigma about stuttering, which is measured by Self-Stigma of Stuttering



Scale, recently adapted to Turkish by Tiryaki et al. (2023). Similarly, Turkish versions of KiddyCAT (Aydın-Oral et al., 2022), the Unhelpful Thoughts and Beliefs Scale (Aydın-Uysal & Ege, 2020), the Wright and Ayre Stuttering Self-Rating Profile (Uysal & Köse, 2021), and Stuttering Anticipation Scale (Uysal et al., 2025) were adapted for clinical use to measure the negative experiences of PWS during communication, in a way that corresponds to the excerpt presented in Code-20. Added to this, PWS may be at risk of bullying from peers since childhood, which confirms the excerpt given in Code-17 and draws attention to the collaboration among various professionals including not only SLTs but also psychologists, psychological counselors, and others. (Kayhan-Aktürk & Özdemir, 2021; Kara & Karamete, 2023; Erim & Aydın-Uysal, 2024). A more recent and significant development is the formation of the “Kekemeler Derneği” (English translation: “*Association of Stutterers*”). This non-governmental organization unites the community of PWS and other stakeholders including SLTs, and actively addresses advocacy needs by organizing workshops and online support groups for PWS (Kekemeler Derneği, n.d.). This highlights the growing advocacy for stuttering in Türkiye, directly responding to the excerpt presented in Code-16.

On the other hand, the excerpts, especially those that belong to Code-14, Code-15, Code-18, and Code-19 are striking in the sense that they are entirely incompatible with both national and international literature (see Aydın-Uysal & Temiz, 2024; Cangi & Şen-Aksüt, 2024; Guitar, 2024 for further examination). This might be partly due to the recency of the field of Speech and Language Therapy in Türkiye, which coincides with the period between 1990 and 2009 when these excerpts were written. This statement may also be supported by Code-10, which reflects the historical shortage of SLTs during this period. Currently, there are 27 undergraduate programs in Speech and Language Therapy in Türkiye, according to Birol et al. (2025), and a considerable body of national literature on stuttering has been built. The



expansion of stuttering-related knowledge base may provide findings that could facilitate a more realistic and scientifically-informed portrayal of stuttering, provided that a future corpus is developed.

Conclusion

In conclusion, the information observed through the occurrences derived from TNC 3.0 was both consistent and inconsistent with the findings of previous literature. Therefore, the use of a corpus may hold the potential to bridge the gap between various perspectives on fluency disorders. The study is limited to the results derived from TNC 3.0, which included written texts formed between 1990 and 2009, along with no findings derived from the oral texts in the corpus. Due to this limitation, the findings may not fully reflect the current societal perception of stuttering in Türkiye. On the other hand, these findings could be compared with those obtained from widely used corpora such as British National Corpus (Aston & Burnard, 2022) to ensure cross-linguistic and cross-cultural comparison and to depict the portrayal of stuttering in future studies.



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