Turkish is a member of the Oguz group of the Turkic family and is spoken by about 50 million people in Turkey, by about 120,000 in Cyprus, and by another million in large communities in Bulgaria, Greece, and the former Yugoslavia. Modern Standard Turkish is the dialect spoken in Istanbul.

The speaker in this recording is a fifty-four year-old male from Istanbul.

<u>Turkish Consonant Phonemes:</u>

Stops:	p	t			k	?
	b	d			g	
Affricates:			tʃ			
			dʒ			
Fricatives:	f	s	ʃ		h	
	v	z	ʒ			
Nasals:	m	n				
Liquids:		l ɾ				
Glides:				j		

/t,d,s,z,n/ are dental as opposed to alveolar. Voiceless stops are slightly aspirated and are released in all environments. However, they are in contrast with voiceless stop + /h/ combinations, that are two seperate segments. Voiced stops are also strongly released. /l/ is realized as both clear and dark, corresponding to the backness of nearby vowels (although there are some notable exceptions). The velar plosives and /l/ are palatalized before front vowels and before /a/ when it is marked with a circumflex. Voiced non-sonorants do not occur word finally. Consonant length is contrastive.

<u>Turkish Vowel Phonemes:</u> <u>Vowels Encountered:</u>

i y   ɯ u

ɛ œ   ɔ
      a

Vowel length is contrastive but is also associated with quality variation. Variation between tense and lax vowels is allophonic: tense vowels occur in open syllables, and lax vowels occur in closed syllables. The treatment of vowel / glide combinations in Turkish phonology implies that the glides should be considered consonantal.

Turkish is subject to vowel harmony with respect to backness and roundedness. If the first vowel in a word is back, the following vowels are back. If the first vowel is front, the following vowels are front. If the first vowel is unround, following vowels are unround. If the first vowel is round, the following vowels are either high and rounded, or non-high and unrounded. Exceptions to the vowel harmony rules belong to four classes: 1) simple native words, 2) compound words, 3) Invariable suffixes, 4) Some foreign borrowings.