

MUTUAL PERCEPTIONS OF KOREAN AND TURKISH SOCIETIES:  
PROSPECTS FOR DEVELOPMENT OF POLITICAL, ECONOMIC AND  
CULTURAL RELATIONS

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MUTUAL PERCEPTIONS OF KOREAN AND TURKISH SOCIETIES:  
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CULTURAL RELATIONS

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Approval of the Graduate School of Social Sciences

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## **ABSTRACT**

### **MUTUAL PERCEPTIONS OF KOREAN AND TURKISH SOCIETIES: PROSPECTS FOR DEVELOPMENT OF POLITICAL, ECONOMIC AND CULTURAL RELATIONS**

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This thesis analyzes mutual perceptions of the Turkish and Korean peoples about each other on the aspects of politics, military, economy, culture and education of the countries through in-depth interviews with Turkish and Korean people. The research also makes use of an analysis on press and media in both countries, and the official statistics of the governments and international institutions are given to compare the objectivity.

Keywords: Mutual Perceptions, Turkey, Korea, Turkish-Korean relations

## ÖZ

### KORE VE TÜRK TOPLUMLARIN KARŞILIKLI ALGILARI: SİYASAL, EKONOMİK VE KÜLTÜREL İLİŞKİLERİN GELİŞMESİ İÇİN BEKLENTİLER

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Bu tez, derinlemesine görüşmeler yöntemi aracılığıyla Kore ve Türk toplumlarının birbirleri hakkında siyasi, askeri, iktisadi, kültürel ve eğitsel alanlarda karşılıklı algılarını incelemektedir. Araştırma, her iki ülkedeki basın ve yayın organlarını ve idari ve uluslararası kurumların resmi istatistiklerini de karşılaştırmalar yapmak amacıyla kullanmaktadır.

Anahtar Kelimeler: Karşılıklı Algıları, Türkiye, Kore, Türk-Kore ilişkileri

To Everyone involved in Turkish-Korean Relations

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## CHAPTER 1

### INTRODUCTION

#### 1. Statement of the Problem and Background

The relationship between Turks and Koreans goes to an ancient time, approximately 2~4 centuries B.C. When ancient Turks, i.e., Hyung-nu (匈奴) and Gök Turks (突厥) lived in Mongolia, they made contacts with ancient Koreans, i.e., Kocosen (古朝鮮) and Kogurye (高句麗) who lived in Manchuria and the Korean Peninsula. It is very well known that ancient Turks and Koreans were allies in their wars against China in the periods of Han (漢), Shu (隋), and Tang (唐) dynasties. However, as Turks moved westward from Mongolia to Central Asia, Caucasus and Anatolia, their relationship gradually faded away.

The relations between the Turks and the Koreans who share many common cultural elements are rather internal and fundamental than formal and external relations. For the first time, Gustafa Ramstedt argued in 1928 that Turks and Koreans are closest each other in terms of linguistic perspective. Many scholars such as Nicholas Poppe, Talat Tekin and Han-Woo Choi strongly support the Altaic theory that there is genetic relationship between Turkic, Mongolian, Manchu-Tungus and Korean languages. Indeed, there are so many common elements between Turkic and Korean languages, except Turkic loan words in Korean. Comparing the two nations' ancient myths as well, we can find many similarities. For example, a wolf occurs in the founding narrative of Gök Turks as well as ancient Korean kingdom Kogurye (高句麗) in the first century B.C. In the myth of Kogurye, Sky god Haemosu (解慕漱) turned into a wolf in order to

attack his enemy. Interestingly, the name of Kogurye capital city was *jolbon* (卒本) “gold star” which occurs in Yakut Turkic vocabulary in the same meaning. It is very noticeable that both of ancient Turks and Koreans believed in Sky god, Gök Tengri for pre-Islamic Turkic societies.

In modern times, the relations between Turkey and Korea have developed again since the participation of Turkish troops in the Korean War between 1950 and 1953. 15,000 Turkish troops, fourth largest troop after the U.S., British and Canadian military forces, came to defend South Korea and fought along with the Koreans against huge Chinese troops. During the Korean War Turkish soldiers fought more bravely than any other country and as the result around 2,500 Turkish soldiers were sacrificed. For this reason Koreans call Turkey as “blood brotherhood country”. During the war Turkish soldiers introduced Islam to Korea for the first time in Korean history. It is very famous saying in the diplomatic circles that Turkey has always supported South Korea with respect to all agenda in any platform of international diplomacy since the Korean War.

Especially, after the 2002 World Cup which showed great emotional closeness and solidarity between the Turkish and Korean societies, the Turkish-Korean relations have gained pace. Recently, since the interests in Korean culture have been spreading over Turkish society because of Korean dramas and movies, cultural exchanges between Turkey and Korea have rapidly developed. Meanwhile, Turkey is known and recommended to Korean society for its beautiful natural landscape and many significant historical remains, and the number of Korean tourists to Turkey has been rapidly increasing each year. According to Turkish official statistics, in 2013, 187,000 Korean tourists visited Turkey. Compared to the number 29,274 in 2001, it was a remarkable growth.

Several Turkish-Korean culture centers were established in both countries to promote cultural exchanges. Moreover, academic exchanges and cooperation have started to increase academic conferences, student

exchange programs and partnership between universities and institutions in both countries. In 2013, the Free Trade Agreement (FTA) between Turkey and Korea came into effect on May 1, and Istanbul-Gyeongju World Expo 2013 was held in İstanbul in the summer.

As Turkey-Korea relations are promoted in diverse areas such as academic fields, cultural exchanges, trades and economic cooperation, politics and military, the significance in mutual understanding is crucially needed. In order to develop further relations between Turkey and Korea, the understanding of mutual perceptions in both countries is required for a better approach.

## 2. Research Purpose

This thesis aims at analyzing mutual perceptions of the Turkish and Korean peoples about each other on the aspects of culture, education, economy, politics and military of both countries through in-depth interviews with Turkish and Korean people. The research also makes use of the analysis on press and media in both countries. This thesis chose a descriptive and analytical methodology to show the picture of mutual perceptions on Turkish-Korean societies. The perceptions cover the areas of politics, military, economy, culture, and education. These five subjects are chosen to explain the perceptions of each society's towards the other since those are the areas which can show the relations between Turkey and Korea well. The mutual perceptions between the two societies include traditional perceptions, the perceptions formed through the Korean War, the perceptions due to the Korea's fast economic development, the perceptions recently changed due to the Korean Wave called Hallyu and some perceptions which have changed as realizing the cultural similarities through the increase of mutual interchanges between Turkey and Korea. In this context, this study explains mutual popular perceptions in the process of the development of Turkish-Korean relations and gives suggestion for the



further development of relations between Turkey and Korea.

This thesis is trying to compare mutual perceptions of Turkish and Korean societies and to understand the probable effects of these reciprocal perceptions on the development of the relations in both countries. The sub-questions of the thesis are as follows: What were the main reasons and factors in the development of relations between Turkey and Korea? What aspects of the relations were of utmost importance? Did the rapprochement and closeness create an understanding between the two societies toward each other? Were the close relations affected by mutual perceptions towards both societies? To what extent these perceptions can affect the development of relations in both countries? What area, culture, education, politics, economics, military, and so on, can be influenced most by the positive (and/or negative) image of the countries vis-à-vis each other? Do the perceptions among both societies continue, and in what areas can we expect further developments and changes?

### 3. Previous Researches

Previous researches regarding the relations of Turkey and Korea in terms of comparative studies are generally limited to the studies in linguistic field. With regard to the comparative studies in linguistic field, Jae-Man Suh conducted researches in Turkish and Korean languages and published *A Dictionary of Turkish-Korean* (1982) and *An Elementary Turkish Grammar* (1982). Hyo-Joung Kim published *Turkish Grammar* (1994). Gil-Woong Kang's comparative research "A Comparative Studies of Noun Suffixes of Korean and Turkic" (1976) covers the noun suffixes of Korean and Turkic language. Han-Woo Choi proved that the Korean and Turkic languages are Altaic languages through his several comparative studies in languages such as *Comparative Phonology of Turkic and Korean* (1986), *Comparative Morphology of Turkic and Korean* (1989), "Turkic Loan Words in Korean in the Early Period" (1995), "A Study of Turkic Animal Names in

Korean" (1995) and "A Comparative Study of Korean and Turkic- Is Korean Altaic?" (1996). In addition, in terms of comparative studies in literature field, Hatice Koroglu conducted comparative research on Turkish and Korean literature in her *A Study of Modern Self-Identity of Women in the Novels of Hye-Seok Na and Fatima Aliye Hanim* (2010) and Nan-A Lee conducted descriptive analysis on Korean literature in Turkish literature in her study "Korean Literature of the Turkish Literary World and its Media" (2009). In relation to language education, Türközü Göksal suggested proper Korean language education for Turks in his study *Korean Language Education for Turks* (1999). In respect of comparative studies in religion field, Kwang-Ho Lee compared Turkish folk Islam and Korean Shamanism in his *A Comparative Studies of Turkish Folk Islam and Korean Shamanism* (1998). In the field of mythology, Hyo-Joung Kim compared animal motifs of Turkic and Korean myths in her article "On the Motif of Animal Metamorphosis in the Legend of Ancient Korean Kingdom" (2005). In terms of comparative studies in Turkish-Korean political and economic relations, Hee-Chul Lee's studies are remarkable. In his *Turkish-Korean Relations* (2007) and his article "An Analysis of Korean-Turkish Relations: Rising Trade Partnership and Deepening Integration" (2012), he describes the process of the development of Turkish-Korean relations mainly focusing on the period after the Korean War to the present.

When it comes to the perception studies between Turkey and Korea, researches were very limited. S. Goksel Turkozu's studies on mutual perceptions on Turkish and Korean literature field were discussed in Turkish-Korean Literary Symposium in September 2013. In his 10 pages article, "Differences and Knowing Each Others in Turkish-Korean Literature" (2013), Turkozu points out that Korean literature is rarely known in Turkish society. He also noted that Turkish literature is more translated into Korean rather than the number of Korean literature translated into Turkish. In his studies, for the mutual recognition in the field of literature, he emphasizes the need of increasing translators, representing the cultural similarities of Korea to Turkish publishers, and holding various events to

publicize Korean writers and poets to Turkish readers. In addition, Jeong, Jae Yun compared the contents of Turkish and Korean elementary school textbooks of social studies to examine how the perceptions of the two countries on each other are represented in the textbooks. In his 28 pages article, “Mutual Understandings between Korea and Turkey – Focusing on the Country Narratives in Social Studies Textbooks in Both Countries” (2012), he analyzed elementary textbooks of Turkey and Korea to compare how Korea is viewed in Turkish textbooks and how Turkey is described in Korean textbooks. He argues that the country narratives about Turkey described in the Korean textbooks are one of the official ways for Koreans to perceive Turkey. In the same way, he claims that the country narratives about Korea found in the Turkish textbooks play a significant role in how Turkish people to understand Korea. According to his analysis, Turkey is introduced as the part of the non-Western world and the history of Turkey is described from Seljuk dynasty, the Ottoman Empire, and the republic of Turkey and the current affairs of the contemporary Turkish society. On the other hand, according to Jung’s studies, the Turkish textbooks are mostly focused on the Korean War, and tend to emphasize the Turkish contribution to the Korean War. He points out that the level of perception found in the Turkish and Korean textbooks on each other is uneven and this is due to the fact that textbooks are social products reflecting the power, politics, social ideas and values of the society.

Most of the previous studies were concerning linguistic comparative studies and the previous studies in comparative perception studies are very limited in certain area of the field and topic. There is no perception studies conducted previously, which encompasses the overall picture of mutual perceptions on Turkish and Korean societies. This study would be the first research to present a whole picture of mutual perceptions between Turkish and Korean societies in significant subjects. Moreover, while the previous perception studies were restricted in analyzing the written texts such as literature and textbooks, this research provides more general perceptions of the people with the data collected by the in-depth interviews conducted to

many different occupations and ages, and complements with the analysis of the press and media of both Korea and Turkey. As the mutual relations between Turkey and Korea have rapidly increasing lately, the study regarding mutual perceptions of the two countries is considered especially required. Moreover, this research will contribute in not only opening a new field in Turkish-Korean comparative studies but also provide necessary and helpful information in developing Turkish-Korean relations in various areas.

#### 4. Research Design and Method

In order to understand the mutual perception of both countries better, in-depth interviews and analyses on the press and media are selected as research methods. The reason why the research was carried out in in-depth interviews, which is one of the qualitative research methods, is to get as much as possible information without any limit and to prevent respondents from being oriented by the questions. The research participants are divided into two groups; Turks and Koreans. The in-depth interviews with Turks were designed to find out the Turkish perceptions on Korea. The in-depth interviews with Koreans were devised to obtain the Korean perceptions on Turkey. The Turkish interviewees are selected from among the Turks who have some kind of contact with Korea, have acquaintance with Korean language, or have been to Korea. Particularly over the last 60 years there have been a limited number of people who happened to know Korea, and it will be very beneficial to find out their perceptions about Korea and Korean people and language. In the same way, to find out the perceptions of the Korean people on Turkey and Turks, in-depth interviews were carried out with the Korean people who have connection with Turkey, have acquaintance with the Turks, or have been to Turkey. Since the Turkish people who have knowledge about Korea and Korean people who know about Turkey are barely found, population for in-depth interview is limited to the people who have acquaintances with Turkey or Korea, in order to avoid collecting wrong information. Therefore,

in-depth interviews were executed with both countries' people of many different ages, genders, occupations, and educational status and each group of people were aimed to be selected evenly to prevent the result from being partial.

Totally 35 Turkish interviewees and 34 Korean interviewees were selected. The interviewees were aimed to be selected from diverse occupations to collect popular perceptions of the two societies. Both groups of people include soldiers, government officials, diplomats, businessmen, journalist, professors, students and housewives. Total 35 Turkish interviewees consist of three soldiers including two Korean War veterans, three government officials including one diplomat, one businessman, one attorney, one journalist, three professors, two academicians, two teachers, one civil engineer, one housewife, and 17 students including two who have never been to Korea nor have any acquaintance with any Korean but are heavily into Korean cultures. Among the 35 Turkish interviewees, 19 visited or stayed in Korea, 13 have acquaintances with Koreans, and three have never been to Korea but highly involved in Korean cultural activities. The Turkish interviewees include Korean Fans which are highly interested in Korean culture including Korean music, dramas, films, food, fashion, brands, celebrities and etc. These groups of people gain information about Korea by researching and participating on Korean cultural activities. Turkey was reported as having more than 100,000 Korean Fans.<sup>1</sup> In terms of Korean interviewees, a total of 34 Korean interviewees consist of five soldiers, five government officials including two diplomats, three businessmen, six office workers including two never visited but working at a Turkey-related company in Korea, one journalist married to a Turk, one Taekwondo instructor, five professors including three visiting professors, and six students. Among 34 Korean interviewees, 32 visited or stayed in Turkey and two have never visited Turkey but work in Turkey-related

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<sup>1</sup> "K-pop fan base continues to grow," KOREA.net., Accessed March 9, 2014. <http://www.korea.net/NewsFocus/Culture/view?articleId=104412>.

companies. The interviewees' age varies from 10s to 90s since it includes from young students to Korean War veterans. With regard to interviewees' staying period in the counterpart country, the Turkish interviewees' stay in Korea varies from short visits to 17 years. The Korean interviewees' stay in Turkey varies from short visits to 23 years.

In addition, the in-depth interview questionnaire includes 10 general questions about each country including interviewees' relations with the country, 10 general questions about impression and characteristics of each country's people, more than 15 questions for each special category of culture, education, economy, politics and military which were interviewed with different groups of people according to their occupations and educational status. The interview questions focused on the subjects regarding culture, education, economy, politics and military because the selected subjects are the significant and comprehensive categories to perceive one another's society. In addition, those subjects are very important subjects to have comparative pictures regarding mutual perceptions on the two societies. The interview questions and the information about interviewees can be found in the appendices at the end of the study. Naturally, I left the interviewees anonymous.

Over the course of 11 months, from May 2013 to March 2014, when the research was carried out, the data was collected through the in-depth interview conducted in both Turkey and Korea. The in-depth interviews were carried out at schools such as library, empty classroom, professor's office, student cafeteria, and dorms for the interviews with related occupations such as students, academicians, and professors. In addition, other interviews were conducted at governmental offices, workplace offices, association offices and cafes for the people such as government officials, diplomats, businessmen, soldiers, journalists, housewives and the others. The places for interviews were carefully considered to be chosen to be quiet and mostly empty places in order to avoid noise and any other interruption. In general, the interview hours vary from one hour to three hours. However,

there were also some restricted and unfinished interviews due to the interviewees' conditions and schedules. Interviews were conducted in three different languages, which are English, Turkish and Korean, according to the interviewees' conditions. If the interviewees were comfortable and fluent in English, the interviews were carried out in English. Most of the interviews were carried out in the interviewees' first language which they feel more comfortable with.

During the interviews, the researcher took notes and all of the interviews were voice recorded for the better analysis afterward to prevent any kind of missing. All interviews were transcribed into documents later on. The transcripts were analyzed and categorized under the subjects of each categories; Culture and Education, Economy, Politics and Military.

In addition to in-depth interviews, analysis and comparison on the press and media of Turkey and Korea such as newspapers, dramas, movies, and video clips introducing each country were also added to support and provide better explanation on certain topics. The main newspapers of Turkey and Korea were examined such as Hurriyet, Milliyet, Cumhuriyet in Turkey and Chosun-Ilbo, Joongang-Ilbo, DongA-Ilbo, Hankyoreh, in Korea and compared to find out how Turkey and Korea were described in each other's newspapers and what aspects of Turkey and Korea were focused on each other. Moreover, it was also meaningful to analyze movies, dramas, and video clips about each other's understanding to find out mutual perceptions of Turkey and Korea. In addition to these, some official statistics concerning the issues were examined so as to figure out how opinions of interviewees have objective factuality.

## **Limitations**

The most difficult thing in the process of interviews was finding the people and making appointments for the interviews. Some people were very busy and hard to make time for the interview. Others were available only

with short and limited time which is insufficient to go over all the important questions. In addition, some were hardly hospitable to accept an interview. For these reasons, the results of the interviews can be insufficient first, because some of the interviews were able to cover some parts of the questions and second, because interview participants were restricted to the people who are hospitable, which also includes the possibility of limitation in Turkish interviewees who have positive attitude toward Koreans and Korea.

In addition, the results of the thesis may include some limitations in terms of differences in languages. This is due to the fact that the most of the interviews were conducted in the interviewees' first language which is not English but Turkish or Korean; however, the thesis is written in English. I tried as best as to find the exact meaning in English which may replace the word in the interviewees' first language. However still it is difficult to say that the word carries exactly the same meaning from the native language of the interviewees due to the subtle distinction between the different languages. In addition, there are some words which are in Turkish or Korean, but do not exist in English. In this case, it is hard to express the exact meaning in English.

Moreover, it is a hasty conclusion to say the results of this research represent whole society's perceptions. First, certain interview questions include sensitive or uneasy questions to answer for the certain people due to their occupations or social status. Therefore, the results also carry the possibility of insufficient information regarding the real perceptions of the people. Second, some Turkish interviewees might have hardly shared their thoughts when it comes to negative perceptions about Korea since the researcher was Korean. On the other hand, the Korean interviewees tend to be more honest in their answer since they hardly feel uncomfortable to express negative opinion about Turkish society to the Korean researcher.



## **Outline of the Thesis**

This thesis broadly consists of a general overview of the historical background of Turkish-Korean relations and mutual perceptions of Turks and Koreans on four major subjects. The first part is the overview of the historical development of Turkish-Korean relations starting from the Korean War in terms of military, politics, economy, culture and education. The second part covers mutual general impressions of Turks and Koreans about each other. The third part discusses mutual perceptions on politics and military of Turkey and Korea. The fourth part includes mutual perceptions on Turkish and Korean economy. The last part analyzes mutual perceptions on culture and education of Turkey and Korea. In conclusion, I will attempt to show a whole picture of mutual perceptions on Turkish and Korean societies and suggest prospects for further development of relations between Turkey and Korea in terms of politics, economic, and cultural fields.

## **CHAPTER 2**

### **TURKISH-KOREAN RELATIONS**

It was only one year after the government of the Republic of Korea was proclaimed to the world on August 15<sup>th</sup>, 1948; Turkey was the tenth country to recognize the Korean government on August 13<sup>th</sup>, 1949 as the legitimate government in the Korean peninsula. On July 1950, Turkey decided to dispatch troops to the Korean War as a member of the UN. This was the beginning of modern Turkish-Korean relations. During the three years of the 1950-1953 Korean War, the Turks sent 14,976 soldiers to Korea. Following the United States, United Kingdom, and Canada, Turkey dispatched the fourth largest number of soldiers among 21 participant countries. Including the 1,005 that died in battle, the casualties of Turkish soldiers were estimated to be around 3,700. The Turkish army is known as a significant contribution in the battles of Kunuri and Kumyangjangni. Through the news of the Turkish radio and newspapers during the Korean War, many Turkish people started to learn about Korea. Since then, when it comes to Korea, most Turkish people from young to old talk about how they helped Korea, and how the two countries are blood brothers.

After the Korean War, on March 3<sup>rd</sup>, 1957 Turkey and Korea established diplomatic ties. As the result of diplomatic relations, the first Korean Ambassador to Turkey, Il-Kwon Chung and the first Turkish Ambassador to Korea, Dr. Kamil Idil assumed their positions. A year later the diplomatic offices were established in April 1958, and the Turkish Prime Minister Adnan Menderes paid an official visit to Korea at the invitation of Korean President Syngman Rhee.

Even after the Korean War ended with a call for a ceasefire, Turkish troops were constantly stationed in Korea under the name of the Turkish Honor Guard as a symbol of the UN Command in Korea. The Turkish Honor Guard was eventually withdrawn from Korea in 1971. On August 23, 1971, Ankara and Seoul set up a sister city affiliation and built a Korean Park in Ankara.

In May 1973, the Korean War Veterans Association was established in Turkey which later integrated into the War Veterans Association in 1984. In September 1974, the Korean and Turkish Parliamentarians Friendship Association was founded. In November 1973, the Korean War Memorial Monument was erected in the Korean Park and became a symbol of the historical bonds between the two countries.

In May 1972, Turkey and Korea concluded visa exemption agreement. In August 1972, the cultural agreement was signed between the two countries and the department of Turkish language was founded in Hankuk University of Foreign Studies in Korea. In May 1974 the Cultural Agreement came into effect between Turkey and Korea.

In addition to this, in 1974 the Korea Trade Center was opened for the development of economic cooperation between both countries. In order to develop relations between the two countries, many official visits were exchanged. In June 1976 Turkish Foreign Minister Caglayangil visited Korea. In May 1977 South Korean Prime Minister Choi Gyu-ha visited Turkey. In May 1979 Turkish Foreign Minister Ökçün visited Korea.

After the withdrawal of the Turkish troops, the focus of relations between Turkey and Korea moved from military-based relations to economic cooperation. Successively, in December 1977 the Trade Promotion and Economic and Technical Cooperation Agreement, and in June 1979 the Aeronautical Agreement, were signed and came into effect between Turkey and Korea.

During the 1980s, through mutual visits of government officials and businessmen from Turkey and Korea, the economic and trade relations between the two countries started to develop. In 1981 as an economic cooperation at the governmental level, the first Korea-Turkey Joint Economic Committee meeting was held in Ankara. In December 1982, Turkish President Kenan Evren visited Korea as the first official visit to Korea by a Turkish president. When he was working as a lieutenant major in the Turkish Ninth Brigade staff between 1958 and 1959, he was concerned with the postwar development of Korea. Therefore, when he was elected president he visited Korea to develop the strong alliance formed

during the Korean War and build relations with economic cooperation.<sup>2</sup> In February 1984 South Korean Parliament Speaker Chae Moon-shik visited Turkey. In March 1986, the Convention for the Avoidance of Double Taxation and for the arrangement of matters with respect to taxes and income took effect. In addition to the consecutive agreements, Turkish Prime Minister Turgut Ozal visited Korea in November 1986. He also displayed a great concern to Korean economic development as the Prime Minister who had changed Turkey's economic structure to a free-market economy.

In 1988, the Seoul Olympic Games were held in Korea and 75 Turkish athletes participated in the 1988 Seoul Olympic Games as well.

The diplomatic exchanges also continued throughout the 1990s. In June 1989 South Korean Parliament Speaker Kim Jae-soon visited Turkey. In return for this visit, the Turkish Parliament Speaker Ismet Kaya Erdem visited Korea in May 1990. In July 1990 Korean Prime Minister Kang Young-hun paid an official visit to Turkey. In October 1990, Korean Army Chief of Staff Lee Jin-sam visited Turkey. In May 1991 Turkish Prime Minister Yıldırım Akbulut visited Korea. In April 1993 Kim Myung-yoon was sent as a Korean envoy to Turkey with condolence delegations for the death of President Turgut Ozal. In December 1993 Turkish Commerce and Industry Minister Tahir Köse visited Korea with an aim to develop economic relations between the two countries. In March 1994 Turkish Army Chief of Staff Ismail Hakki Karadayi visited Korea. In December 1995 South Korea's Deputy Foreign Minister Ban Ki-moon visited Turkey. In May 1996 Prime Minister Lee Soo-sung visited Turkey.

In October 1998 Park Jung-soo was sent as a delegate to Turkey to celebrate the 75<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Proclamation of the Republic of Turkey. When the earthquake struck Turkey in 1999, a volunteer organization named "People Who Share Turkey's Suffering" was formed by the people from all parts of the Korean society and began to raise funds when Korea's

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<sup>2</sup> Sang-ki Paik, *Half a Century with Turkish People*, (Seoul: Life and Dream, 2007), p.181

major newspaper *Dong-A Ilbo* started a campaign to help and provide humanitarian aid to Turkey. Within 35 days, Korean people gathered 1 million USD in cash and relief supplies and donated it all to the earthquake victims.<sup>3</sup> Through the whole process of reports about the earthquake-stricken area, rescue activities, and forgotten stories on the Korean War alongside news stories on Turkey, the Korean society was able to newly recognize an old ally in Turkey.

In November 1999 National Defense Minister Cho Sung-tae visited Turkey. In November 1999 Foreign Minister Soon-young Hong visited Turkey to participate in the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE) summit in Istanbul. In June 2000, Turkish National Defense Minister Sabahattin Cakmakoglu visited Korea.

During the 2002 World Cup, which was co-hosted between Korea and Japan, the friendship between Turkey and Korea was displayed very vividly and broadcasted to the whole world. During the third place playoff game between Turkey and Korea, the Korean people eagerly cheered for Turkey and the encouragements between the players after the game especially showed how deep the friendship was between the two countries. This third-place match between Turkey and Korea was broadcasted by the foreign press as the most beautiful match in the world as exemplary in terms of friendship, fair play, and sportsmanship. The French official broadcasting TF1TV evaluated that the Turkey-Korea match was very impressive and was an advanced match. The commentator was filled with admiration as the Turkish flag stretched out over the cheering section and both team players put arms around each other's shoulders. RMC Radio highly praised that the great respect between the Korean and Turkish players would be seen as a most friendly match.

In return for Turkish Prime Minister Tayyip Erdogan's visit to Korea in February 2004, Foreign Minister Ban Ki-moon visited Turkey in April 2004. Ban Ki-moon's visit to Turkey was a historic event because it

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<sup>3</sup> Jung-yeol Woo, "Can't forget Korea's friendship which helped Turkey under the earthquake disaster", *Dong-A Ilbo*, August 25, 2009. <http://www.donga.com/news/print.php?n=200908250071>.

registered the first official visit to Ankara, Turkey by a Korean Foreign Minister. This visit was realized 47 years after the establishment of diplomatic relations between Turkey and Korea. Later on, in April 2005 President Roh Moo-hyun officially visited Turkey and it was the first presidential visit from South Korea to Turkey since the beginning of the diplomatic relations between the two countries in 1957. Korea President Roh had a summit meeting with Turkish President Ahmet Necdet Sezer during his visit to Turkey. The two leaders strengthened the friendly relationship and formed the basis to promote exchanges between the two countries by concluding the Treaty on Tourism and agreeing to commemorate the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Korea-Turkey diplomatic relations in 2007.<sup>4</sup> In June 2005, Lee Myung-bak, the Mayor of Seoul, visited Turkey. In 2005 the Korea-Turkey Friendship Association (한터친선협회) was set up.

In April 2007 Chief Justice of the Constitutional Court Lee Kang-gook visited Turkey. In January 2008 Kim Shin-il, the Minister of Education and Human Resources Development visited Turkey. In July 2008 National Defense Minister Lee Sang-hee visited Turkey. In August 2010 Turkish Transport Minister Binali Yildirim visited Korea. The bilateral relations were further enhanced with the Korean Prime Minister Han Seung-soo's visit to Turkey in December 2008 and also with his visit to participate in the 5<sup>th</sup> World Water Forum in March 2009. In March 2010 Trade Minister Kim Jong-hoon visited Turkey and the Korea-Turkey Business Forum was held in Istanbul. Many key members of the governments including Prime Minister Erdogan, and heads of the leading conglomerates of both countries attended. The discussion in the Business Forum showed that the cooperation between Turkey and Korea had been further deepening in various sectors such as: the defense industry, the nuclear power plants, construction, IT, and shipbuilding, etc.

In the year 2010 as a meaningful term in strengthening the political relations between the two countries, both the Turkish President and Prime

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<sup>4</sup> Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade, *2006 Diplomatic White Paper*, (Seoul: MOFAT, 2006), p.89.

Minister visited Korea. In June 2010 Turkish President Abdullah Gul visited Korea and Turkish War veterans accompanied his visit. Turkish President Abdullah Gul's visit to Korea was his first visit to Korea since taking office in 2007 and it had a very special meaning for the bolstering of bilateral relations as Korea marked the 60<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the outbreak of the Korean War.<sup>5</sup> During his visit to Korea, many business contacts were made and a cooperation agreement on nuclear energy was signed. He also met with Chung Mong-koo, chairman of the Hyundai Motor Company, which is South Korea's leading automotive manufacturer. The Turkish President further referred to the student exchange program between the two countries. During President Abdullah Gul visit to Korea, three important agreements were signed between the two countries, which were: the Memorandum of Understanding on Cooperation in Nuclear Energy, the Agreement on Cooperation in Customs, the Agreement on Cultural Exchange Program between 2010 and 2012, and the Memorandum of Understanding on Cooperation between Turkey's Mineral Research and Exploration Institute (MTA) and its South Korean counterpart, KIGAM. In addition, at the Turkey-South Korea Business Forum, President Gul reiterated that the perfect relations between the two countries should reverberate into their commercial relations as well. Referring to the 3 billion dollars in the bilateral trade volume between the two countries, 93 percent of which is from South Korea into Turkey, he remarked that this imbalance should be ameliorated.<sup>6</sup>

Subsequently, Turkish Prime Minister Recep Tayyip Erdogan visited Korea to participate in the G20 summit held in Seoul on the 11<sup>th</sup>-12<sup>th</sup> of November 2010. The Prime Minister urged the two countries to address the large trade imbalance in disfavor of Turkey. He also gave a positive assessment of two rounds of free trade agreement (FTA) negotiations that

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<sup>5</sup> Na Jeong-ju, "South Korea, Turkey Agree to Boost Ties", *Korea Times*, June 15, 2010.

<sup>6</sup> "Turkey-Korea: Robust Cooperation Based upon Fraternity", Presidency of the Republic of Turkey, June 16, 2010. <http://www.tccb.gov.tr/news/397/49798/turkeykorea-robust-cooperation-based-upon-fraternity.html>.

took place in 2010 and expressed hope that the deal would be finalized by the first half of next year. Erdogan stressed that the two countries should continue to cooperate not only in economic sectors but also in other various areas, calling the two nations “brother countries.”<sup>7</sup> On November 13<sup>th</sup>, 2010 Turkish Prime Minister Erdogan and Korean President Lee Myung-bak had a bilateral meeting following the G20 summit. The two leaders evaluated the outcomes of the Seoul summit, and discussed a wide range of topics, including trade, investment, nuclear power, military affairs, and infrastructure. In commemoration of the 60th anniversary of the outbreak of the Korean War, President Lee extended his deepest thanks to Turkish veterans who served in Korea. Lee and Erdogan reaffirmed both nations’ diplomatic ties and vowed to further enhance bilateral cooperation.<sup>8</sup> In May 2011 Turkish Parliament Speaker Mehmet Ali Şahin visited Korea. In November 2011 at the G20 summit in Cannes, Korean President Lee Myung-bak and Turkish Prime Minister Recep Tayyip Erdogan had summit talks on the sidelines of the G20 summit. At the summit, the Turkish Prime Minister asked for Korea’s participation in a nuclear power plant construction project, and Korean President Lee suggested holding substantive negotiations in reply. Both leaders agreed to conclude negotiations of the Turkey-Korea Free Trade Agreement within the current year and expand the scope of cooperation to defense as well. Korean President Lee also expressed his sincere condolences to the earthquake victims and the Turkish people and vowed to provide more aid and assist relief efforts within an additional 100 million dollars of support. Korea had previously aided Turkey’s rescue efforts by sending relief supplies including winter tents.<sup>9</sup> In December 2011, the Turkey-South Korea Parliamentary

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<sup>7</sup> G20 Seoul Summit 2010, “(G20) (Yonhap News Agency Interview) PM Erdogan urges G-20 cooperation for balanced world development”, *Yonhap News Agency*, November 12, 2010. <http://english.yonhapnews.co.kr/g20/2010/11/12/68/6401000000AEN20101112013600315F.HTML>.

<sup>8</sup> “Summit Diplomacy: Korea-Turkey Summit (November 2010)”, Korea.net, <http://www.korea.net/Government/Briefing-Room/Summit-Diplomacy?pageIndex=13>.

<sup>9</sup> “President Lee wraps up European tour”, Korea.net, November 7, 2011, <http://www.korea.net/NewsFocus/Policies/view?articleId=89692>.



Friendship Group (Türkiye-Güney Kore Parlamentolararası Dostluk Grubu) led by the Chairman Fikri Işık was formed.

In January 2012, Foreign Minister Kim Sung-hwan made an official visit to Turkey at the invitation of his Turkish counterpart Ahmet Davutoglu. In their meeting, the Foreign Ministers of the two countries agreed to develop the bilateral strategic partnership based on the long-standing brotherhood between the two countries. After the meeting, they signed the Action Plan for Cooperation between the Foreign Ministries for 2012-2016, under which the ministries are to play a leading role in promoting exchanges and substantive cooperation between the two countries. The two Ministers affirmed the significant contribution of top-level figures which are: President Abdullah Gul's state visit to Korea in June 2010, and Prime Minister Erdogan's visit to Korea for the G20 Seoul Summit and the summit held on the sidelines of the G20 Cannes Summit in November 2011, the development of bilateral relations, and the agreement to maintain such momentum. Furthermore, they discussed major bilateral issues, including ways to deepen economic and trade ties and conclude a bilateral FTA, as well as ways to work together in the G20 and the UN. The visit of Foreign Minister Kim Sung-hwan to Turkey has served as a valuable opportunity to reaffirm the long-standing brotherhood with Turkey and to further develop the bilateral relationship since it was the first visit of a foreign minister in eight years since the former Minister Ban Ki-moon in 2004.<sup>10</sup>

In February 2012 President Lee Myung-Bak visited Turkey and "the Joint Declaration on the Establishment of a Strategic Partnership" was signed to upgrade the bilateral relations between Turkey and Korea to the strategic partnership level. At this time, President Lee had a meeting with the Turkish students of Ankara University, which has a Korean Language and Literature Department. About a hundred of Korea fans including Ankara University students participated in this meeting. President Lee

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<sup>10</sup> Spokesperson and Deputy Minister for Public Relations of MOFAT, "Outcome of the Foreign Minister's Official Visit to Turkey", January 20, 2012. See, <http://www.korea.net/Government/Briefing-Room/Press-Releases/view?articleId=993>.

encouraged that both countries' students play roles in expanding exchanges and cooperation between the two countries for continuous development for partnership for the future generation of Turkey and Korea. Throughout the meeting, many students showed interests in the Korean cultures including: Korean foods and K-pop, learning the Korean language in Turkey, opportunities to work at Korean companies, etc. President Lee said that since the amount of trades between the two countries has almost reached to 10-20 billion dollars, around a hundred of Korean language students will be needed. Moreover, for this meeting, K-pop star Kim Jae-joong the member of JYJ who is the most popular Korean celebrity in Turkey joined as well. Kim Jae-joong had the first fan meeting in Turkey as a Korean singer, playing a role as a deliverer of the Korean Wave. The 600 fan meeting tickets were all sold out in 30 minutes and more than two thousand people applied for it. Through the event, the realization of the popularity of the Korean Wave occurred. As of January 2012, from the gathered results, 17 fan clubs related to the Korean Wave and 170 thousand fan club members are active in Turkey.<sup>11</sup>

In March 2012, Turkish Prime Minister Tayyip Erdogan visited Korea for the Second Nuclear Security Summit held in Seoul. In August 2013 Korean Prime Minister Chung Hong-won visited Turkey for "Istanbul-Gyeongju World Culture Expo" which was held from August 31<sup>st</sup> to September 22<sup>nd</sup> 2013. On this occasion, the Prime Ministers of the two countries had a meeting and signed the Culture Agreement. In October 2013, Korean Parliament Speaker Kang Chang-hee visited Turkey and had meetings with Turkish President Abdullah Gul and Turkish Parliament Speaker Cemil Cicek and discussed major issues including reinforcement and expansion in economic cooperation.<sup>12</sup> Korean Parliament Speaker Kang expressed thankfulness to Turkish participation in the Korean War and

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<sup>11</sup> Jung Jae-chul, "The Korean Wave even stroke Turkey", *Naeil Newspaper*, February 7, 2012.

<sup>12</sup> "President Gül Receives South Korean Parliament Speaker", Presidency of the Republic of Turkey, October 9, 2013. <http://www.tccb.gov.tr/news/397/87359/president-gul-receives-south-korean-parliament-speaker.html>.

said that they are planning to support the descendants of the Korean War veterans. He also requested to give many opportunities to Korean companies for various projects since numbers of Korean companies have been preparing to enter into the Turkish market. Turkish President Abdullah Gul noted his hope for the development between the two countries in the aspects of trades, industries, and tourism. He also requested a help to reduce the imbalance in trades between the two countries, with Korean companies investing more in Turkey, and increasing Korean tourists to Turkey.<sup>13</sup> During the meeting with the Turkish Parliament's President Cemil Cicek, Kang requested to accelerate the ratification of the Social Security Agreement and expressed his hope for the cooperation in nuclear central projects. He also requested the Turkish Parliament's support for Korean major companies to participate in Turkish large-scale infrastructure projects such as High-speed Railway and Railway Bridge. Cemil Cicek requested Korean support for the 2020 Izmir Expo and for the election of the World Heritage Committee's member<sup>14</sup> In November 2013 Korean Chief Justice of the Supreme Court Yang Seung-tae paid an official visit to Turkey upon the invitation of the Supreme Court of Turkey in the purpose of establishing and developing friendly relationship in the field of justice, of sharing information and experience by making visits between High Judicial Institutions, of getting to know judicial systems better and, of ensuring to strengthen the relations to be established. The Korean Chief Justice of the Supreme Court and the accompanying delegation visited the Turkish President of Supreme Court Ali Alkan and discussed judicial systems of the two countries and common problems of justice. They also visited the President of Constitutional Court Hasim Kilic and Deputy President of

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<sup>13</sup> "Parliament Speaker Kang Chang-hee, series of talks with Turkish important figures including Turkish President Gul", Ilyosisa, October 10, 2013.  
<http://www.ilyosisa.co.kr/news/articleView.html?idxno=44218>.

<sup>14</sup> "TBMM Baskani Cicek Kore Cumhuriyeti Ulusal Meclis Baskani Kang Chang-Hee ile gorustu", Meclis Haber, October 9, 2013.  
[http://www.tbmm.gov.tr/develop/owa/haber\\_portal.aciklama?p1=126424](http://www.tbmm.gov.tr/develop/owa/haber_portal.aciklama?p1=126424).

Council of State Sinan Yorukoglu.<sup>15</sup>

Concurrently, at the private level, the Korea-Turkey Business Council was established in 1987 and the first meeting was held in Istanbul in June 1989. During this period, several Turkish government officials and businessmen visited Korea to learn about Korea's fast economic development based on export-oriented industrialization and development strategies since Turkey had chosen Korea's economic model to apply Turkey.<sup>16</sup>

In the mid-1980s, Korean companies started to show interest in investing in Turkey. In 1987 the first Korean business investment in Turkey was realized by Goldstar's joint investment company with Turkish company Vestel at a factory in Manisa and began to manufacture microwaves and color TVs in June 1988. Likewise, Samsung Electronics went into business partnership with Tatis Holding and at a factory in Izmir, they started to manufacture color TVs and videos. In the 1980s, starting with Samsung Electronics in December 1984, and followed by LG Electronics, Hyundai, Daewoo, Samsung, Sunkyung, and most of Korea's major companies had entered and opened branches in Turkey. In 1990, Hyundai Motors began start to export their automobiles to Turkey and established an automobile factory in Izmit in November 1995.<sup>17</sup>

In June 1994 Investment Promotion and Protection Agreement was concluded, as were the Memorandum of Understanding concerning Trade in Textile and Clothing in December 1997, and the Agreement for Cooperation in the Peaceful Uses of Nuclear Energy in June 1999 between Turkey and Korea.

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<sup>15</sup> "Chief Justice Yang Seung-Tae, meeting with Turkish Chief Justice", Lawtimes, November 7, 2013. <http://www.lawtimes.co.kr/LawNews/News/NewsContents.aspx?serial=79711>. / Republic of Turkey Supreme Court, "visit of South Korea Delegation to the Supreme Court of Turkey", <http://www.yargitay.gov.tr/eng/index2.php?pgid=1&&sayfa=4>.

<sup>16</sup> Veysi Sevig, "Güney Kore Modeli". *Dunya*, 15 September 1984; and "Ankara Applying Seoul Model", *Turkish Daily News*, 12 December 1986.

<sup>17</sup> Hee-Chul Lee, *Turkey-Korea Relations*, pp.70-71.

Despite the high-level political relations, the economic relations between the two countries are still far from the desired level and the bilateral volume of trade is below its potential level.

**Table 2.1 Korea's Trade with Turkey**

	export		import	
	Amount (1,000 USD)	Growth Rate	Amount (1,000 USD)	Growth Rate
2013	5,115,169	21.9	625,239	2.0
2012	4,551,618	-10.2	672,311	-16.4
2011	5,070,997	35.1	804,624	55.9
2010	3,752,906	41.1	516,290	18.8
2009	2,660,688	-29.5	434,435	20.0
2008	3,772,570	-7.7	361,913	28.5
2007	4,087,436	34.6	281,570	44.9
2006	3,035,803	9.1	194,333	52.5
2005	2,782,025	18.1	127,408	22.5
2004	2,356,221	71.4	104,044	33.2
2003	1,374,736	58.8	78,126	-37.7
2002	865,920	24.2	125,342	-3.8
2001	697,085	-42.2	130,332	156.5
2000	1,206,539	57.3	50,811	-52.1
1999	767,179	-27.0	106,046	172.2
1998	1,050,585	-6.3	38,953	-40.8
1997	1,121,859	50.4	65,848	-58.1
1996	745,948	29.8	157,165	36.7
1995	574,725	108.2	115,005	-14.2
1994	276,027	-54.8	134,065	-4.7
1993	610,218	52.9	140,652	-54.7
1992	399,122	24.5	310,593	-4.9
1991	320,693	-8.2	326,671	97.3
1990	349,253	155.1	165,595	362.4
1989	136,927	43.4	35,812	-4.0
1988	95,493	32.0	37,300	362.7
1987	72,333	26.3	8,062	4.0
1986	57,282	-46.7	7,750	-90.3

[Source: Korea International Trade Association]

In terms of bilateral trade and investment, until the early 1990s, Turkey and Korea had kept a balance of trade. From 1993 the balance of trade between Turkey and Korea had started slanting toward Korea's profit. After the sign of an agreement in 1991 for the reciprocal promotion and protection of investment in order to remove obstacles in trade between Turkey and Korea, Korea's large companies rapidly expanded into Turkey.

President Roh Moo-Hyun also addressed the unbalanced trade between Turkey and Korea during his visit to Turkey in 2005 and recommended Korean companies to invest in Turkey.<sup>18</sup> In 2005, Korea's major companies' managers such as: Samsung, LG Electronics, and Hyundai visited Turkey with President Roh. Korean businessmen have considered Turkey as a production and investment base for the markets in Europe, Russia, the Middle East, and Central Asia as a bridge nation. Korean companies did a \$326 million foreign direct investment in Turkey from 1980 to 2002. The amount of Korea's investment in Turkey increased \$510 million by 2010. Korea's investment in Turkey was \$19 million in 1991 and it displayed a 26-fold increase in twenty years.<sup>19</sup> Korea's major companies such as: Hyundai Motors, Hyundai Rotem, LG Electronics, KT&G, and POSCO invested in Turkey, and other leading businesses have been constructing their factories and taking part in large-scale projects. Particularly, Korean businessmen focus on areas of manufacturing such as: electronics, steel, and automobiles instead of consumer and service areas. The investment relations consist of one-sided investments by Korea in Turkey, while Turkey's investment in Korea is valued at merely \$7 million. The interests of Turkish companies in joint ventures with Korean companies are increasing, as Korea's technological prowess has become known to the Turkish business community. In 2000, Arcelik and LG began

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<sup>18</sup> "Sizin Sayenizde Dünyanın 10. Büyük Ekonomisi Olduk (We become the 10th largest economy thanks to you)", Radikal, April 17, 2005. <http://www.radikal.com.tr/haber.php?haberno=149904>.

<sup>19</sup> Korea's direct investment makes it the 11<sup>th</sup> largest investor in Turkey. Currently, 114 Korean companies operate in various cities, with a special interest in sectors such as production, tourism, communication, and transportation.

the joint air conditioner factory, followed by the Eurotem factory by Hyundai Rotem and Turkish State Railways (TCDD) in 2007; the economic cooperation between Turkey and Korea steered into strategic national projects.<sup>20</sup>

It is known that Korean automobile brand Hyundai had established its factories in Turkey in 1997 and since then it has continued to increase investment. In 2013 Hyundai Motor Company had completed expansion of its Turkey plant, Hyundai Assan Otomotiv Sanayi (HAOS), doubling its annual capacity to 200,000 units with an investment of \$634 million. With an additional \$43 million added by the end of this year, the total investment will reach \$677 million, creating more than 2,700 new jobs in Turkey. Established in 1997, HAOS, in Izmit, Turkey, is Hyundai Motor's longest-operating manufacturing facility among seven factories outside of Korea.<sup>21</sup> Likewise, many Korean companies have made considerable amounts of investments in Turkey, cooperating with Turkish firms in manufacturing and various sectors. For example, in 2008 Kiturami Boiler Sales Company Ltd., a South Korean manufacturer of heating and cooling equipment had formed a joint venture with Turkey's İlhanlı Group to erect a water heater factory in Turkey.<sup>22</sup> In 2013 Turkey's Kibar Holding and South Korea's POSCO (formerly Pohang Iron and Steel Company) jointly completed Turkey's first stainless steel plant in the province of Kocaeli and began operations. Kibar Holding and POSCO had signed the deal to construct the plant for \$350 million in January of 2011. POSCO is the fourth-largest steel producer in the world.<sup>23</sup>

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<sup>20</sup> "An Analysis of Korean-Turkish Relations: Rising Trade Partnership and Deepening Integration", *USAK Yearbook*, vol.5, 2012, p.235.

<sup>21</sup> "Hyundai Motor Turkey Plant Completes Major Expansion, First New Generation i10 Rolls Off Assembly Line", Hyundai Motor UK, September 26, 2013.  
<http://www.hyundaipressoffice.co.uk/release/436/>.

<sup>22</sup> "S. Korean, Turkish firms collaborate on heater factory", *Today's Zaman*, July 26, 2008.  
<http://www.todayszaman.com/news-148557-s-korean-turkish-firms-collaborate-on-heater-factory.html>.

<sup>23</sup> "Turkey's first stainless steel factory begins operating in Kocaeli". *Today's Zaman*, August 15, 2013,

Currently, many Korean enterprises have entered into Turkey including KOTRA, Hyundai Motor, LG Electronics, Mando Machinery, CJ, KCC, KT&G, Hyosung, etc. As of February 2012, 202 South Korean companies were active in Turkey. It is shown that Turkey attracted Foreign Direct Investment flows worth 372 million USD from Korea in the last ten years. These investments were mainly made in automotive, IT, mining, tourism and manufacturing industries. On the contrary the Turkish companies' investments are very limited in Korea. Korea's chief items of export to Turkey are automobiles, synthetic resins, and automobile parts. Turkey's chief items of export to Korea are petroleum products, automobile parts, and textiles.

The bilateral economic and trade relations are regularly discussed at the Joint Economic Commission (JEC) and the Business Council (BC) meetings.

On May 1<sup>st</sup>, 2013, "the Framework Agreement Establishing a Free Trade Area between Turkey and Korea" and "the Agreement on Trade in Goods between Turkey and Korea" entered into force.

**Table 2.2 Increase after the effectuation of  
Turkey-Korea FTA on May 1<sup>st</sup>, 2013**

(Unit: million \$)

	May-December 2012	May-December 2013
Korea's export to Turkey	2,878	<b>3,999 (38.9% increase over the previous year)</b>
Korea's import from Turkey	404	<b>465 (15.1% increase over the previous year)</b>
Total turnover	3,282	<b>4,464 (36.0% increase over the previous year)</b>

[Source: Korea Custom Service statistics]

After the FTA between the two countries came into effect on May 1<sup>st</sup>, 2013, the trade between the two countries started to increase. Many

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ISTANBUL. <http://www.todayszaman.com/news-323723-turkeys-first-stainless-steel-factory-begins-operating-in-kocaeli.html>.



experts say that the effects of FTA between the countries will hardly show in the beginning but it will be very beneficial to both countries long-term. However, even comparing to the previous year just before the FTA took effect, it is clear to see the obvious increase in both countries' exports and imports. During 2012 from May to December, Korea's export to Turkey was \$2,878 million. However within a year later, it increased to \$3,999 million, which was a 38.9% increase over the previous year. Likewise, Korea's import from Turkey, which is Turkey's export to Korea had increased as well. During 2012 from May to December, Korea's import from Turkey was \$404 million. However during 2013 from May to December, it increased to \$465 million, which was a 15.1% increase over the previous year. The total turnover of the trade between Turkey and Korea shows an overall increase over the previous year of 36 %.

Traditional relations between the two countries started with military-based affairs and have been continued up to recent years as cooperation in the defense industry, an aspect of high technology industries. In the 1980s the cooperation in the defense industry was brought up as the subject of discussion and started with the joint manufacturing of self-propelled howitzers.<sup>24</sup> The military relations between the two countries in the area of defense industry have increased recently. The Turkish and Korean Air Forces are both mostly based on U.S. systems, and this closeness facilitates air force cooperation between Ankara and Seoul.<sup>25</sup> In deals worth billions of dollars, South Korean firms lead several Turkish defense programs, including the co-manufacture of howitzers and trainer aircraft. Turkish Land Forces signed a one billion dollar contract in 2001 with Korea's Samsung Company on artillery firing control system.<sup>26</sup> Ankara

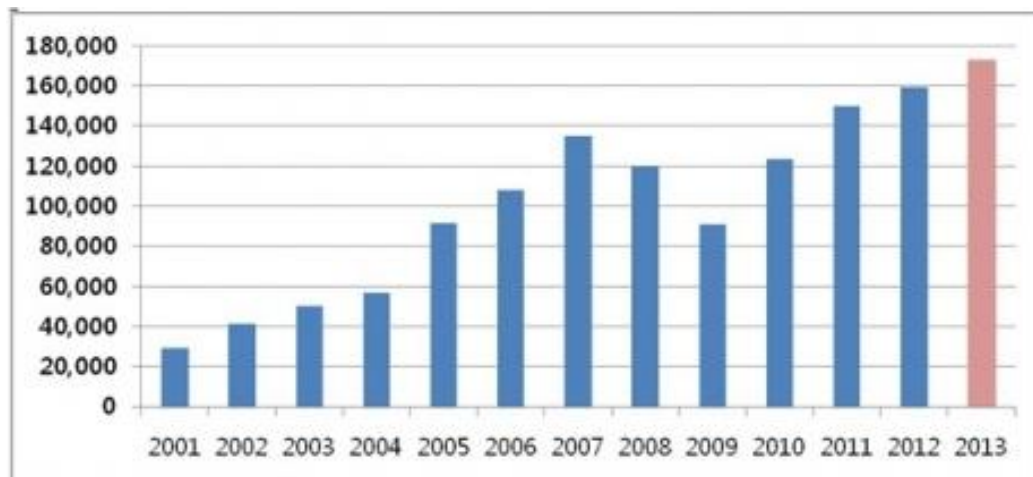
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<sup>24</sup> "Korea and Turkey are Developing as a Partner of Technology Cooperation", *Defense Daily*, Seoul, August 4, 2008; Ümit Enginsoy, "Turkey and Korea Aim to up Business", *Hurriyet Daily News*, April 13, 2010.

<sup>25</sup> Ümit Enginsoy, "Turkish-Korean defense cooperation at full speed", *Hürriyet Daily News*, Ankara, May 9, 2010.

<sup>26</sup> "Güney Kore ile CASA İşbirliği (CASA Cooperation with South Korea)", *Milliyet*, Jun 4, 2001.

and Seoul also signed an agreement on the Military Intelligence Cooperation.<sup>27</sup> Turkey builds howitzers under a South Korean license and a South Korean company is providing technology transfers and know-how to Turkish efforts to design, develop and manufacture Turkey's first national battle tank.<sup>28</sup> In addition, Turkey and Korea are discussing possible cooperation for the construction of a joint fighter aircraft in the 2020s.<sup>29</sup>



**Figure 2.1 Korean visitors to Turkey for the recent 10 years**  
(Source: Republic of Turkey Ministry of Culture and Tourism)

Another area of cooperation between Turkey and Korea is its tourism sector. A steady increase in number of Korean tourists to Turkey shows Koreans' growing interest in Turkey. Although only 22,000 Koreans traveled to Turkey in 2000, the number doubled just after the 2002 World Cup and continued to grow. The number of visitors decreased in 2008 and 2009 compared to 2007 due to the economic crisis, but it has continued to grow in a very rapid pace after 2010. On the other hand, the number of Turkish nationals visiting Korea was 5,800 in 2000 but it jumped to 10,300

<sup>27</sup> "Türkiye-Güney Kore Siyasi İlişkileri (Turkey-South Korea Political relations)", Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Turkey.

<sup>28</sup> Ümit Enginsoy, "Turkey, S Korea to commemorate war's 60th anniversary", *Hürriyet Daily News*, Ankara, May 17, 2010.

<sup>29</sup> Ümit Enginsoy, "Gunship offer hard to refuse for Seoul", *Hürriyet Daily News*, Ankara, Nov 4, 2011.

due to the 2002 World Cup. Since 2003, the number of Turkish nationals traveling to Korea has been constantly increasing. Despite the global economic crisis, the number of visitors in 2009 was similar to that of 2008 and has been steadily increasing since then.

**Table 2.3 The number of mutual visitors between Turkey and Korea**

Country	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013
Koreans to Turkey	22,266	29,274	42,574	46,405	56,926	91,597	108,140	135,124	119,500	89,148	123,315	149,943	159,084	187,040
Turks to Korea	5,891	6,227	10,325	7,990	8,645	8,976	8,969	11,625	12,574	12,409	16,320	17,298	19,290	18,423

[Source: Republic of Turkey Ministry of Culture and Tourism, Korean Tourism Organization]

Moreover, in May 2006, Korean Air began a regular route from Istanbul to Incheon and from Incheon to Istanbul. Since October 2009 Asian Airlines has operated joint flights through code-sharing with Turkish Airlines. The regular services from both countries play a great role in the invigoration of people and material exchanges by lessening the geographical distance.

Due to the cultural similarities in Turkey and Korea, there are lots of potentials for cooperation in areas of culture and education. In August 1972, the Cultural Agreement was signed between the two countries and the Department of Turkish Language was established in Hankuk University of Foreign Studies in Korea by Dr. Won-tak Park who finished a PhD at the Department of Social Science in Ankara University in 1966. With permission from the Ministry of Education in 1972, a Turkish language class was started with the first 20 students in 1973. In 1989, the Department of Korean Language and Literature was established in Ankara University by the efforts of Korean ambassador Myung-Ha Chang and Dr. Han-Woo Choi, and Turkish Prof. Dr. Pulat Otkan, Prof. Dr. Mustafa Canpolat, and Prof. Dr. Dogan Aksan.<sup>30</sup> These two language departments

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<sup>30</sup> Hee-chul Lee, *Siyasi, Ekonomik, Askeri ve Kulturel Açidan Türkiye-Kore İlişkileri*. Ankara, Turk Tarih

have enhanced not only the academic exchanges between the two countries but also cultural, business, and political cooperation.

Inspired by the Korean movies and dramas, numbers of fans of Korean culture have organized dozens of online fan clubs. They love Korean films, dramas, music, celebrities, fashion, cuisine, and Korean brands. It is easy to find websites run by Turks that is filled with information on Korean culture, food, language, history, current issues and entertainment. The members of these fan clubs regularly

**Table 2.4 Number of Hallyu fans**

Counted Year	Country	Number of Hallyu fans
2012	Belarus	1,000
2012	Peru	8,000
2012	Chile	20,000
2012	Mexico	60,000
2012	Turkey	>100,000
2011	France	>100,000

(Source: Official Hallyu fan clubs)

hold “Korean food festival”, “Korean culture week”, “Korean movie week”, etc. and many of them study Korean language taking Korean language courses. This phenomenon is called Hallyu, which means “Korean Wave” or Korean fever which is spreading throughout Turkey. The Korean Wave has made a substantial impact on Turkey-Korean relations and it has been influencing young Turkish people. This movement of pro-Korean sentiment has laid the foundation for continuous and comprehensive cultural exchanges, and promoted cooperation to forge close bonds between the two countries. In December 2010, the “Korean Ramyeon Festival” was held in Istanbul, ended with great success, and began to be held in other cities as well. In December 2012, a K-pop competition was held in Istanbul, with 74 applicant groups. During this period, many side events were also provided. Taekwondo demonstrations were performed by four Turkish local trainers. Several Media outlets also gave attention to the K-pop competition. Bugun TV described the Turkish youths’ performances and Milliyet newspaper noted that these types of cultural exchanges would play a significant role in enhancing cooperation between both nations in the future. In fact, Turkey

was reported to have more than 100,000 individual Hallyu fans, which is one of the biggest Hallyu fan countries in the world.<sup>31</sup>

Moreover, the “Istanbul-Gyeongju World Culture EXPO 2013” was held from August 31<sup>st</sup> to September 22<sup>nd</sup> for 23 days in Istanbul, Turkey with a theme of “Road, Encounter and Companion”. Forty-six programs in eight categories including performances, exhibitions, films, and special events went with the participation of 40 countries.<sup>32</sup> Hosted by Gyeongsangbuk-do and Gyeongju-si, Korea and Istanbul, Turkey, it was sponsored by the Korean Ministry of Culture, Sports and Tourism and the Turkish Ministry of Culture and Tourism.<sup>33</sup> According to the Turkish Research Consultancy, Yontem Research Consultancy, 84% Turkish citizens supported Istanbul-Gyeongju Expo.<sup>34</sup> On the other hand, just in a week almost 1 million Turkish people attended the Istanbul-Gyeongju Expo held in Istanbul. During 23 days, around 487,700 people had visited the Expo. During March-April 2014, as one of the post-Istanbul-Gyeongju World Culture EXPO exhibition, the Korean-Turkish Professional Photographer Photo Exhibition named “Blooming Silk Road” was held in Korea. For the first time, Korean and Turkish major photographers gathered in Korea. Eight Korean professional photographers and five world-famous Turkish photographers participated in the exhibition. In addition, since the photo exhibition “On Korea-Beyond Silk Road” received considerable attention, it was also exhibited in “Photofest”, the world photo

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<sup>31</sup> Lee Seung-Ah, “K-pop fan base continues to grow”, Korea.net, December 21, 2012, See, <http://www.korea.net/NewsFocus/Culture/view?articleId=104412>.

<sup>32</sup> Istanbul Buyuksehir Belediyesi, “Expo, dünyanın en büyük kültür, tarih ve eğitim bileşkesidir”, September 4, 2013. <http://www.ibb.gov.tr/tr-TR/Pages/Haber.aspx?NewsID=21428#.U0iCe6hFKOU>.

<sup>33</sup> Istanbul-Gyeongju World Culture EXPO 2013, “Korean Waves in Istanbul”, August 28, 2013. [http://www.istanbul-gyeongju.com/programs/board/boardView.aspx?srchEDate=&cmd=258&srchVoteType=-1&bod\\_uid=26806&srchColumn=&pageOrder=0&srchKeyword=&pageNo=1&pageRef=0&mnu\\_uid=898&pagePrvNxt=1&srchSDate=&srchBgpUid=-1&srchEnable=-1&](http://www.istanbul-gyeongju.com/programs/board/boardView.aspx?srchEDate=&cmd=258&srchVoteType=-1&bod_uid=26806&srchColumn=&pageOrder=0&srchKeyword=&pageNo=1&pageRef=0&mnu_uid=898&pagePrvNxt=1&srchSDate=&srchBgpUid=-1&srchEnable=-1&).

<sup>34</sup> Kim Jae-won, “84% Turkish citizens supports Istanbul-Kyungju Expo”, *Newsis*, June 7, 2012. See, <http://news.naver.com/main/read.nhn?mode=LSD&mid=sec&sid1=103&oid=003&aid=0004541279>.

festival held in Bursa, Turkey and the CerModern Art Center in Ankara.<sup>35</sup>

The fact that Korean film director Kim Ki-Duk received the Special Director Award in the International Antalya Gold Orange Film Festival (Uluslararası Antalya Altın Portakal Film Festivali) in 2006 showed the potential of Korean film art in developing a bond of sympathy among Turkish society. Furthermore, the meeting with Korean film director Kim Ki-Duk held in Istanbul during the “Turkey-Korea Film Week” in September 2013, more than a thousand fans came to the 500-seat theater, so whole floors, aisles, corridors, the stage, and even the platform of the theater were filled with people trying to ask questions to him. Turkish famous painter Yalcin Karayagiz, President of Mimar Sinan University of Fine Arts, said that he is a huge fan of Kim Ki-Duk. He said, “I am the one among the Turks who watched whole movies of Kim Ki-Duk. I especially like the metaphor of him.” He continued, “Since two years before when the Istanbul-Gyeongju Expo got confirmed, I suggested to the Korean Ministry of Culture and Tourism and to the Expo organizer to invite film director Kim Ki-Duk to Turkey.” Meanwhile, “Turkey-Korea Film Week” was the first film festival that the two countries held together and it was meaningful to promote these future exchanges in the area of film arts between Turkey and Korea.<sup>36</sup>

Several Korean dramas including *Dae Jang Geum* have been aired through state-run TVs such as TRT or private broadcasting stations. Many of Turkish middle-aged men and women watch Korean historical dramas and thousands of young Turkish students watch Korean romantic dramas and movies. In fact, due to popularity and sympathy toward Korean dramas and movies, several Turkish movies and dramas have been produced by using the scenarios of Korean dramas and movies. For example, a Korean

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<sup>35</sup> Eun Yun-soo, “Gyeongju Expo, opening the ‘Korean-Turkish major photographer photo exhibition’”, *Asia news agency*, March 19, 2014. See, <http://www.aneusa.com/detail.php?number=632267&thread=09r02>.

<sup>36</sup> Eun Yun-Soo, “Turkey, enthusiastic cheer to master director Kim Ki-Duk”, *Asia news agency*, September 15, 2013. <http://www.aneusa.com/detail.php?number=546168&thread=07r02>.

movie called *A Moment to Remember* (내 머리 속의 지우개) was re-made to *You are my house* (Evim Sensin) by Turkish movie director Ozcan Deniz. A popular Korean drama named *I'm sorry I love you* (미안하다 사랑한다) was re-produced to *Love Story* (Aşk Hikayesi) by Fox TV. Meanwhile, a famous Turkish movie *My Father and My Son* (Babam ve Oğlum) was exported to Korea and it is planned to be re-produced by a Korean film director. Moreover, TRT is also trying to aircast Turkish dramas in Korean TV broadcasting and it is expected to bring Koreans to be more interested in Turkish cultures.<sup>37</sup>

For the purpose of promoting mutual exchanges between Turkey and Korea, the Istanbul Cultural Center was established in Seoul, Korea by a Turkish citizen in 1998. In 2011, Korea Culture Center was opened in Ankara, the capital of Turkey by the Korean government. In addition the Korean government has founded Sejong Institutes to spread the Korean language. Among the 90 institutes in the world, three are in Turkey: Ankara, Istanbul, and Izmir. The Korean government has put an effort into spreading Korean culture and Korean language since cultural relations form a foundation for economic and political relations.

In addition to this, exchanges and cooperation have also started in the area of literature. With the opening of the Korean Culture Center in Ankara, the Turkey-Korea Literature Symposium was held for the first time in Turkey with the participation of 25 major writers of the two countries under the theme of "Korean-Turkish Modern Literature 100<sup>th</sup> year, for Mutual Understanding and Communication." At the symposium, what was found in common between Turkish and Korean literature was that the two countries went through similar modern history and made changes in literary history as well.<sup>38</sup> Again in September 2013, the Turkey-Korea

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<sup>37</sup> Emeti Saruhan, "Koreliler dizilerimize hayran biz onlara", *Yeni Safak*, 23 March 2013. <http://yenisafak.com.tr/pazar-haber/koreliler-dizilerimize-hayran-biz-onlara-24.03.2013-502985>.

<sup>38</sup> Park Hae-Hyun, "Same concern with Korean literature in Turkish literature", *Chosun Ilbo*, October 19, 2011. [http://news.chosun.com/site/data/html\\_dir/2011/10/18/2011101802628.html](http://news.chosun.com/site/data/html_dir/2011/10/18/2011101802628.html).

Literature Symposium was held in Istanbul, Turkey. After Turkish writer Orhan Pamuk won Nobel Prize in Literature in 2006, Korean readers' interests in Turkish literature have increased. Orhan Pamuk's novel named "My name is red" was translated in Korean and sold more than 300,000 copies in Korea. Since then, the works of Turkish writer Aziz Nesin, Ihsan Oktay Anar, Ahmet Altan, Yasar Kemal, etc. have been translated into Korean. In Turkey, the novel of Korean writer Yi Munyol such as: "Poet", "Our distorted hero", and a collection of poems of Chun Sang-byoung, "Return to sky", were translated into Turkish.<sup>39</sup>

In addition, the Korean Folk Art Company has visited Turkey and gave performances several times. Moreover the Korean government has been inviting Turkish students to Korea every year and supporting them with scholarship. Likewise, the Turkish government has been inviting Korean students to Turkey.

The areas of cooperation between the two countries have been gradually diversifying. The Joint Economic Committee Meeting was one of the major mechanisms between Turkish and Korean governments. However, in recent years the two governments held several meetings in various spheres such as: policy consultation meetings, and consular affairs. Both countries are expanding their cooperation areas from construction, transportation, shipping, and shipbuilding to energy and the defense industry, beyond the trade of goods. Concurrently, the width of cooperation and exchanges is growing in all fields of politics, economy, cultures, military, etc.<sup>40</sup>

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<sup>39</sup> S. Goksel Turkozu, "Mutual perception between Turkish and Korean literature", Turkish-Korean Literature Symposium, 04-05 September 2013.

<sup>40</sup> Heechul Lee, "An Analysis of Korean-Turkish Relations: Rising Trade Partnership and Deepening Integration", *USAK Yearbook*, Vol.5 (2012): p.238.



## CHAPTER 3

### MUTUAL GENERAL IMPRESSIONS OF TURKS AND KOREANS

#### 3.1 Korean General Impressions of Turks

It is rare to find Koreans who have negative perceptions about Turks. In general, Turkey is known as the brother country for Korea. Many different TV programs and books introduce Turkey as a brother country. Therefore when Koreans hear “Turkey” or “Turk” they immediately recall “brother country.” According to interviews, numbers of people who have been to Turkey or stayed in Turkey said that the first thing that comes to mind when they think of Turkey is the Korean War and the 2002 World Cup. In addition several people said the crossway of the Eastern and Western civilizations, the historical places, and the beautiful scenery of the nature. A few people said Islam, Kebab, Atatürk, and the kindness of the Turks.

According to in-depth interviews conducted to Koreans in various occupations to find out Korea’s general perceptions of Turks, 44% of Korean interviewees said that they have positive impressions of Turks. Half of the interviewees said that their perceptions about Turks are neutral. The followings are the characteristics of Turks in the eyes of Koreans: kind and helpful (91%), relation-based (88%), emotional (88%), warmhearted (85%), subjective (82%), unsystematic (76%), conservative (73%), family-tied (71%), biased (71%), present-focused (63%), inaccurate (62%), and slow (59%).

A lot of Koreans who ever visited Turkey or have acquaintances with Turkish people say that Turks are kind and always try to help. Furthermore, a famous Korean entertainment program called “Sister than Flowers” covered an episode about a nice and helpful Turkish man. In the program, a famous young actor and middle-aged actresses visit Turkey. Before departing from the Korean airport, the actor tries to find a Turk to exchange his dollars to Turkish Liras. Finally, they meet a Turkish man who exchanges the money for him and also gave his phone number telling him

to call him if they need any help during their visit in Turkey. The young celebrity happily smiles, cannot hide his joy and shouts, “The brother country!”<sup>41</sup> After this episode went on the air, the image of Turks was strongly impressed in Koreans that Turks are kind and helpful.<sup>42</sup> Numbers of Koreans naturally started to perceive Turks as very friendly and helpful. Some even posted in their blogs or internet websites saying, “If you go Turkey for tourism, ask Turks rather than the information desk. Turks are very kind and willing to help you.”

91% of the interviewees said that Turks are kind and helpful. Most of them noted that the Turks are generally willing to help when they are asked to. One of them said, “When I was lost and trying to find some place, not only did they explain how to get there but when they thought that I couldn’t understand them, they walked with me to the destination without any hesitation” (Student/Female/26). Similarly, one of the students noted that Turkish people just help strangers. She said, “[o]ne time I was looking for someplace and someone walked with me and looked online and called people just to help me” (Student/Female/23). This was the common case many Koreans experienced when they were trying to find places. Someone who lived in Turkey for two years said that she thought that Turks are very helpful and willing to help when she did not know the administrative process of Turkey and had a hard time figuring out what to do, and her neighbors helped her out during her stay in Turkey (Office worker/Female/28). It was easy to find several Koreans who received help from their neighbors when they needed help and did not know how the things in Turkey worked. One student shared her first impression of Turks as very kind and helping through her experience on her first day in Turkey:

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<sup>41</sup> A Korean entertainment program named “Sister than flowers” is an entertainment shows broadcasted by tvN from 29 November 2013 to 17 January 2014 covering the stories Korean famous celebrities experience during the trip to other countries. Its second episode was covered in Turkey. The scene about the kind Turkish man went on the air on December 6, 2013. Since the program broadcasted, the number of Korean tourists visiting Turkey has rose shot up.

<sup>42</sup> Jin Young-jun, “Concern for Seoul tourism cicerone service”, *SkyeDaily*, January 27, 2014. [http://www.skyedaily.com/news/news\\_view.html?ID=14474](http://www.skyedaily.com/news/news_view.html?ID=14474).

When I first came to Turkey, I had to find TOMER (Turkish language institute), which was told to be in Besevler. One of the students in the dorm took me there but it was moved to a faraway place called Golbasi. Actually it is something bothersome but she took me there, talked to people, and explained for me everything. Basically she did everything for me since I didn't know anything at that time. I thought that Turks are very nice and helping. The kindness of Turks is well-known among Korean tourists who visit Turkey. You can easily find many Korean blogs that write how Turks were kind and helpful during their trip in Turkey (Student/Female/26).

Likewise, lots of Koreans explain how they were touched by the kindness of Turks and share their experiences in Turkey. Furthermore, one of the workers who worked in Turkey for two years said, "Turks help well when I ask them for help. Moreover sometimes they see our needs first and help us even when they are not asked to" (Office worker/Female/36). It also shows the aspect of the Turks that they are curious and concerned about others. Several people addressed that Turks are gladly willing to help at least in the beginning. A student commented, "[w]hen they are asked to help, they generally try to help gladly at least in the beginning even though they tend to not take responsibility and give up easily before they figure it out" (Student/Male/33). Moreover, some pointed out that Turks often say, "[i]f you need any help please tell me and never feel uncomfortable or shy to ask me for help." Because of their attitudes to help all the times and always mentioning this frequently, it seems like Turks are always helpful and love helping others. However one of the interviewees who have lived in Turkey for three and a half years said, "[t]hey express all the time that they want to help out; however, when help is actually necessary, there is no effort put forth towards solving the problem. In most cases, the situation turns out to be only empty words." She also added, "[t]hey are very nice and greet foreigners and explain directions well. However they don't seem to be that nice to other Turks" (Housewife/Female/33).

When they were commenting about Turks being kind and helpful, they also mentioned that Turks are warmhearted. 85% of the interviewees said that Turks are warmhearted people. Most of them said that they felt

Turks were very warm and kind when they were helping them. A housewife said, “[t]hey welcome and treat guests very well. They also share well if they have it when I tell them I need something. They really care about others” (House wife/Female/32). She added that her neighbors often share food and bread when they make them. She also said that the carpets and curtains at her house are from her friend and her son’s grandmother who are all Turks. Similarly, several students said that Turkish people share well. One student also said that she was touched when Turkish people gave even they did not have much. She added, “[w]hen a foreigner visits, they give the best of what they have.” She also noted that they never spare something that is valuable for them. She said, “I visited families who gave me their favorite bracelets or scarves” (Student/Female/23). Through these experiences, Koreans think Turks are very caring and warmhearted. Another student said that he felt that Turks are warmhearted when he was invited to their house and treated with good foods (Student/Male/24). According to these interviews, it can be considered that Turks are willing to share with others and like to treat guests with abundant foods. For Koreans, they feel cared and think that someone is warmhearted when they are shared something and treated well with good foods.

According to Koreans, Turks are relationship-oriented people rather than work-based. 88% of the interviewees said that Turks are relationship-based. Only 9% of the interviewees said that Turks are work-oriented and the majority of them were businessmen. One student remarked how a relationship is important to Turks:

In Turkey also the relations between families, neighbors, and friends are important. When I meet Turkish friends after a long interval, they always ask about the people around me and how they are doing. Moreover they explain how their families and friends are doing even I don’t ask them. After all these, our meeting starts (Student/Female/26).

Several Koreans noted that if the relations are good, work is smooth as well. A student who studied in Turkey for three and a half years said, “[w]hen undergoing an administrative process, having a good first

impression expedites the process” (Student/Male/33). Similarly, many students pointed out that the administrative problems in Turkey do not work by certain instructions but by relations. They remarked that if you build good relations with the government officials working in a certain department, it is much easier to solve administrative problems. In addition, some people commented about the “torpil (pulling strings) culture” of Turkey. One who lived in Turkey for three and a half years said, “I observed the ‘torpil culture’ of Turks. Their attitude towards someone who is related to them and someone who isn’t is obviously different” (Housewife/Female/33). It is easy to see Turkish people saying that they need ‘torpil’ to get a job, to enter a good university, to work at the government, and to receive a good score at important exams.

In addition, some pointed out that Turks accept or agree with you after you build relations with them. One of the office workers said, “I often see that Turks tend to not accept a new thing but after relations build up, they become more open-minded and agree with you easily” (Office worker/Female/28). Similarly, one student who studied in Turkey for three years also said, “[b]uilding a good relationship is very important in Turkey, since their works and attitudes change by relations. You have to make them feel good. Then everything will work out easier afterwards” (Student/Male/32).

Similarly, many people remarked that Turks are relationship-based because they are very emotional. A number of Koreans who lived in Turkey for more than a year said that you have to make the government officials happy to quicken your administrative works. One of the students explained his experience at the dormitory office to apply for residency at the public dorm:

Whether you are assigned a dorm today or not depends on the mood of the government official at the dorm office. If s/he is happy on the day, then I can be assigned a dorm. But if s/he is frustrated or angry on that day then you have to try another day. If not, s/he will scream and get mad at you. Sometimes s/he says that there is no empty room for you at all and s/he will never assign a dorm for you. They don’t work by the regulations but by their mood

(Student/Male/24).

Generally, most of the students agree with him since they all had similar experiences to his. It can be said that according to Koreans, the emotions of Turks highly influence their work process and results.

88% of the interviewees said that Turks are emotional rather than rational. Many Koreans who have interaction with Turks said that it is easy to find out that Turks are emotional throughout conversations with them. A professor who studied and worked in Turkey for 10 years commented that Turks are very emotional about their family relations and their own country (Professor/Female/54). Likewise, several Koreans recognized that Turks react emotionally and hardly respond objectively about their own country and family. In addition, many have pointed out that Turks tend to put their reaction according to their emotion rather than a rational way of thinking.

Several people said that Turks easily become aggressive. One of the students said, "Turkish guys become extremely aggressive if someone hurt their pride" (Student/Male/27). In addition to this, another student remarked that Turks put into actions right away when they become upset (Student/Female/26). One lady who worked in Turkey for two years said that she thinks Turks are hot-blooded because they are very emotional and their reactions are based on emotions rather than rationality:

I saw two Turkish friends talking about the politics. They get upset and angrily shouted at each other when they supported opposite sides. When I saw this, I thought that they are very emotional and cannot be objective (Office worker/Female/28).

Another student said that he felt that Turks are emotional when he saw that they were very quick to fight (Student/Male/23). A housewife shared what she observed during her stay in Turkey:

I can often see them getting into fights at the street over nothing. I saw it many times that people got angry easily and shouted in loud voices when they were talking on the phone (Housewife/Female/32).

According to Koreans, Turks are very emotional and express their emotions easily into actions. One of the students said, “[t]hey become very aggressive unnecessarily during soccer matches. They also immediately show reactions to emotional things such as music” (Student/Male/33). Another student commented on emotions taking a large part among the Turkish society, giving an example on university life:

I was very surprised that emotional things can be an excuse at work or school. I saw many times that students gave emotional and private excuses for reasons why they couldn’t do homework or couldn’t study for exams. More surprisingly, professors generally felt sympathy on them and allowed them to turn them in later or give them another chance. Those reasons that a student was having a hard time because of her own emotional matters are not acceptable in Korea. Even if the professor felt sorry for the student or felt sympathy towards her the result cannot be changed because of that. But in Turkey, emotional matters can be effective in the workplace as well (Student/Female/27).

Similarly, several students mentioned that they thought it was very interesting that professors consider students’ emotional conditions and take personal matters into account for schoolwork which is related to a grade. In Korea, it is unimaginable for students to make excuses based on personal reasons. Therefore this seems very surprising to Korean students. According to Hofstede’s country comparison, Turkey scored a 45 on the aspect of Masculinity. This means Turkey is on the feminine side of the scale. According to Hofstede, the dominant value in society is caring for others. Therefore the softer aspects of culture such as: leveling with others, consensus, and sympathy for the underdog are valued and encouraged in Turkish society.<sup>43</sup> In the same vein with the result of Hofstede’s theory, it can be considered that it is acceptable in Turkish society to give personal excuses and also show sympathy for others because of the important values in Turkish society such as caring for others and feeling sympathy for someone who is in a difficult condition.

According to Koreans, Turks are also subjective rather than

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<sup>43</sup> Cultural Tools: Country Comparison-Turkey, The Hofstede Centre. See, [geert-hofstede.com/turkey.html](http://geert-hofstede.com/turkey.html).

objective. 82% of the interviewees said that Turks are generally subjective. One of the interviewees said that Turks react very emotionally because they are subjective. She said that they hardly admit their mistakes. She noted, “[t]hey rarely admit the fact that they did wrong. Therefore I think that they are not objective but subjective” (Office worker/Female/28). Similarly, a student said that she realized that Turks are subjective when she saw that they take any problem only in their own perspective. She also added that they believe their thoughts to be always right without considering others’ opinions (Student/Female/26). Likewise, another student noted, “[d]ealing with a certain topic, they tend to insist their own thoughts rather than finding the fact” (Student/Male/33). As quoted, it is easy to see that Turks tend to take it as something wrong when something is different. In the same vein, a student remarked, “[t]hey generally consider differences as something weird, wrong, or dangerous. It is rare to see them taking differences as something new or interesting” (Student/Female/27). A housewife said, “I rarely see anyone who has an objective perspective. They don’t try to listen to different ideas from their own and immediately say, ‘that is wrong’ according to their own standard. They seem to be inflexible toward different values” (Housewife/Female/33).

Several people noted that Turks are subjective because they are very conservative. 73% of the interviewees said that Turks are traditional. Numbers of people pointed out that Turks are conservative in aspects of religion, food, and culture. Some said that the fact 90% of Turks believe in Islam shows that they are very conservative. In the perspective of Koreans, Turkish society can be seen as a society in which there is no respect for differentiation due to the fact that it does not actually allow a variation in religion. For Koreans, it is unimaginable for there to be only one dominant religion in their nation. Because of religious conservatism, other cultural aspects such as food and fashion seemed to be conservative as well since those are related. One student commented about Turkish reactions to fashion:

Their view on the style in which females dress is very



conservative. They all stare at girls who wear short skirts or short pants. They act as if they have never seen females' legs before and condemn them. This mentality contributes to the reason as to why girls cannot walk around comfortably at night and the reason why they cannot travel outside of the country (Student/Female/26).

Similar to this, a female worker said, “[i]t is easy to perceive as conservative from this custom because it is religious. There are so many things that they are not allow to do. For this reason, I feel that they are conservative” (Office worker/Female/36). In addition, one student remarked on the Turkish perception on food because of its religious perspective:

Turkish girls were asking me what kinds of meat we ate in Korea. I told them that we eat chickens, cows, and pigs. Then, they frowned and talked among themselves how they can eat dirty things. They said very disrespectfully that pigs eat excrement (Student/Female/27).

Likewise, numbers of Turks say that they cannot eat Sushi because it is raw fish. They say that they should not eat raw meat. Meanwhile, some say that it is not only because of religious reasons. One of the students who studied in Turkey for three and a half years commented on the fact that a foreign restaurant cannot be really successful in Turkey:

Turkish people are very conservative in terms of food culture. Only a few foreign restaurants are found and they are not popular at all. It is generally only shared among high-class people who have had foreign experiences. In general, Turkish people do not try different food or are curious about foreign food. They always eat the same food. Turks really love their own food (Student/Male/32).

Likewise, another student also mentioned the conservative food culture of Turkey. He noted, “[t]hey don’t easily approach foreign food and are even closed off to it.” He also added, “In terms of music trends, Turks love their own music and do not easily follow the modern music trend” (Student/Male/33). One of the professors who studied and worked in Turkey for 10 years remarked that Turks very prize their own thing. She noted, “[t]hey value their own things. They are conservative. Their identity and community spirit on Islam, family, kin and nation is very strong

(Professor/Female/54).” This comment also explains other perceptions from Koreans about Turks being conservative on religion, food, and culture.

Moreover, Koreans said Turks are generally biased. 71% of the interviewees said that Turks are biased. Some of them said that Turks have a bias toward foreign food, culture, and religion and they hardly accept them or try to understand them. A housewife assumed that this bias rooted from the pride they have in their own culture. She commented, “Turks are highly proud of their own food, culture and religion. They have a bias toward different food, culture, and religion” (Housewife/Female/33). In addition, several people mentioned the most heard prejudices from Turks such as: Chinese people eat bugs and Asians are short and small. One student noted, “Turks have biases toward Chinese that the Chinese are dirty, selfish, and unhelpful for Turkey” (Student/Male/33). Another student pointed out the Turkish prejudice that Koreans are small and short:

I often hear the Turks saying that Koreans are small and short because they only eat weeds. However, I see many short Turkish guys and girls. Generally, I don’t think Turks are taller than Koreans. They should rather say that Koreans are skinnier than Turks (Student/Female/27).

One of the office worker said, “Turks have a prejudice against foreigners due to cultural misunderstandings. For example, they have a certain bias towards something they have never experienced such as Koreans eating bugs like the Chinese do” (Office worker/Female/28). Another female worker commented on the most mentioned biases of Turkish people:

They talk a lot based on their own bias. For example, they have a bias that Korean girls are all slim and rich as they watch Korean dramas. About Chinese, they say that Chinese are dirty and uncivilized because they eat bugs. About Japanese, they say very positive things according to their own biases (Office worker/Female/36).

Moreover Korean people generally considered Turks as biased because they found several biases they had toward many different things in everyday life. A student noted, “Turkish people think that you would get a cold if you eat

ice cream in the winter” (Student/Female/26). It can be assumed that because of this prejudice, in Turkey, it is hard to find ice cream at the market in winter. However in Korea everyone eats ice cream in the winter and no one gets sick because of the ice cream. Therefore for Koreans, this Turkish perspective is seemed to be bias.

In addition to this, 76% of the interviewees said that Turks are unsystematic and relaxed. According to Koreans, Turks are unsystematic and relax especially in terms of administrative tasks and lifestyles. Many students said that the administrative works of government departments are all dispersed and rarely connected to one another. Some students pointed out that several administrative works, which are expected to be linked, are hardly connected systematically. He said that since government departments are not systematically connected, where the accountability lies is not clear either (Student/Male/33). Likewise, an experience of a student shows a systematic lack between administrative departments:

When I was trying to register for graduate school, it took so long that the school already started before I was able to register since all the administrative departments were shifting responsibility back and forth. I had to go back and forth all the time between the Ministry of Education, the Higher Education Council, the police office, and the university (Student/Female/27).

In addition, another student shared her experiences at a government office:

If you go to each government department, you will recognize that the administrative process changes day-to-day and also by person. It is easy to find out by talking to people who were in the same situation as me. What they went through and what the government official told them are all different (Student/Female/26).

Similarly many Korean people who had to figure out administrative tasks noted that they had a hard time and were very confused when they were figuring out the administrative process. Moreover, Korean people also said that Turks are very relaxed at the workplace and in general life. The majority of people agree on that Turks work very slow because they are relaxed and not totally focused on their work. Several people pointed out

that Turkish people talk on the phone with their friends and families, drink tea, and even gossip with the person next to them during their work hours, which is unimaginable in Korea. One of the students said, “I always wait for a long time at the bank, police station, and any government office. They drink tea and chat with others rather than handle my affairs first” (Student/Female/26).

Furthermore, some students said that the lifestyle of Turkish students is disorganized and very relaxed. One of the students that lived at a dorm said, “I felt that even the students’ lifestyle was disorganized when I was living with Turkish students” (Student/Female/28). Since in Korea, students live busy lives with a packed schedule, Turkish students in comparison seem to be very relaxed and unorganized to Korean students. Because of this different lifestyle, Turkish students might have been viewed as lazy to Korean students. According to the interviews conducted to many different professions, the largest number who remarked that Turks are lazy and slow was the student group compared to other occupations. In addition, a woman who has a son going to a Turkish elementary school said, “[w]hen they organize certain meeting or events, it is indigested and disorganized.” She also added, “[d]uring the parents’ meeting, when a teacher says one thing, all the mothers say ten things at the same time” (Housewife/Female/32). It can be seen as relaxed and free to others, however for Koreans this situation can be considered as disorganized and unsystematic since Koreans tend to be systematic in their work and lifestyle.

According to the interviews conducted to Koreans in various occupations, Turks are family-tied. 71% of the interviewees said that Turks are family-tied. A housewife said that they have a culture that gives importance to family and relatives (Housewife/Female/33). Several Koreans who lived in Turkey for years recognized that Turkish families visit their relatives more than Koreans usually do. One of them shared her observation about Turkish families and relatives:

They mostly live close to each other and spend time together a lot. I saw many of my Turkish friends’ family live in the same building

with their relatives. It seems like a big family dispersed to different floors rather than sharing one house. They are very intimate with each other. They generally eat together and sit together to drink tea after dinner time. I don't talk or visit my uncles or aunts that much. I just visit them only in cultural holidays (Student/Female/27).

Compared to Korea, the fact that Turks spend more time with their family is considered by Koreans that Turks are family-tied and give importance to their family. A student who studied in Turkey for four and a half years said, "I see that my Turkish friends run to their families right away when they find out something has happened to them." Through this observation, he said that he felt that Turks put a priority on family. He also added, "I see their religious views and beliefs following after their family's" (Student/Male/23). Similarly, another student said that the value judgment of the family tends to become the value judgment of each individual (Student/Male/33). In addition, a female worker said, "[i]n every conversation, they talk about family a lot. In addition, children believe and speak father's thought rather than their own objective thought" (Office worker/Female/27). Likewise, several people said that many things such as beliefs and perspectives are shared among Turkish families. They pointed out that the family supports the same political parties and the same soccer teams.

In addition, a student shared her impression when she visited her Turkish friend's house:

I think generally the culture is very family-based. But the campus age might try to be more independent. They eat in a small living room all together on the floor with a small sheet covering them. Their family culture is very intimate and comfortable. ... In my family, it is hard for the whole family to sit together and eat at same time. (Student/Female/23)

In Korea, since everyone is busy with their own work, it is hard for the whole family to gather together to have dinner during the week. It is common to see in a Korean family that little children are at an afterschool institute for English, mathematics, piano lessons, drawing, Taekwondo or something, while university students are busy with their school works, and

fathers are at work until late at night. Therefore the scenery in a Turkish family during meal time might seem to be very intimate and family-tied for Korean students.

One of the students said that she recognized that the family is very important in Turkey when she saw students always being conscious of their parents:

I thought that they were very tied to their parents when Turkish girls were saying that they have to get permission from their parents or they have to hide from their parents. Moreover, they even give their parents as excuse for the reason why they cannot meet today. For example, they say, “[m]y mom does not let me leave home today.” It seemed like a very childish response since university students are more independent in Korea (Student/Female/27).

Since university students are considered to be adults in Korea, they are more independent compared to Turkish students. In general, they rarely ask their parents to get permission on every little thing. Therefore, Turkish students, especially females, are always conscious about their parents and when they say that their parents would be angry at them, they sounds like they are still under the control of their parents. Similarly, a student said that she thought that they were family-tied when the children end up following their parents’ decision even they themselves do not want to (Student/Female/26). One of the office workers who worked in Turkey for two years noted the reason why the girls are so subordinate to their parents. She considered it to be rooted from extended family culture:

When I observed the extended family culture in Turkey, they are very family-centered and fathers are authoritative. Especially, when it comes to women in the family, women don’t have a right to decide. In the east side, the father’s decision is the law (Office worker/Female/36).

In extended family cultures, the father is usually authoritative and women have to follow what the father says. Turkey can be considered to be in a transitional period from an extended family to nuclear family since the gap between cities and villages is considerable. Even in nuclear families in cities, the reason why girls are still subordinate to their parents might be because

they are influenced by their parents' mindset. It can be assumed that their parents might have been brought up from extended families in which the fathers are authoritative and mothers and daughters had no right to make decisions. Therefore Turkish girls belong more to their parents compared to Korean girls.

In conclusion, Korean general impressions of Turks can be considered positive especially because of the Korean War and the 2002 World Cup. Moreover, among Koreans, Turkish people are well-known as very kind and helpful. Many view Turks as warmhearted people. They also recognized that Turks are family-tied. In addition, Koreans consider that Turks are relationship-based rather than work-based and therefore they are more relaxed and easy-going rather than disciplined and systematic. Hence, sometimes Turks can seem inaccurate and slow. According to Koreans, Turks are emotional and subjective. Moreover, Koreans agreed that Turks are conservative in terms of food, religion and cultures. Because of this, Koreans have pointed out that Turks tend to be biased toward different cultures and nations.

### **3.2 Turkish General Impressions of Koreans**

Most Turkish people have positive images of Korean people. 90% of Turkish interviewees said that Koreans are good in manner, in character and achieved a great success in economy. Turkish people's good images of Koreans have its roots in the Korean Wars and were solidified by the 2002 World Cup. Many Turkish people think that during the Korean War, Turkey and Korea became blood brother countries, and in the third-place match of the 2002 World Cup, it strengthened the friendship. The positive characteristics of Korean people that Turkish perceive them to have has allowed Turks to have an overall positive impression of Korean people. The followings are the positive attributes of Koreans which a majority of Turkish interviewees pointed out: successful (90%), warmhearted (88%), hard-working (86%), systematic (84%), trustworthy (84%), hasty and fast (81%), helpful and beneficent (80%), altruistic (79%), well-mannered (77%), honest (74%), creative (74%), loyal and faithful (69%) and family-tied (67%).

Turkish people think that Koreans are successful because of their fast economic development in the last forty years. According to the in-depth interview conducted to find out Turkish people's perceptions of Korea, 90% of the Turkish interviewees said that Koreans are doing well in economic growth. Moreover many of them said the term "success" when they were asked to say the first thing about Korea that comes to mind when they think of Korea. This shows that the majority of Turkish people perceive Korea as a successful nation that has achieved success especially in the area of economic development, since most of them mentioned Korea's fast economic development and its global brands. A professor who had conducted his research in Korea as a visiting researcher through the Korean government scholarship program said that, "[t]he most interesting thing about Korea for me is the fast development in industrialization of Korea. I was so impressed by the Asian four tigers, especially by Korea. My interest in Korea originated from there" (Professor/Male/35). As the professor cited, the Asian Four Tigers is a term used to refer to four countries, which are Hong Kong, Singapore, South Korea, and Taiwan.



These four countries were under the control of imperialism in the past but after independence they accomplished rapid economic developments with exceptionally high growth rates and fast industrialization between the early 1960s and the 1990s. By the twenty-first century, they had developed into advanced and high-income economies. The economic successes of these four Asian countries have been role models for many developing countries. It was recognized throughout the interviews that a majority of people who received a higher education were aware of the economic success story of Korea. Moreover group of people who studied or working in the economy-related areas have a very positive impression of Korea because of its fast economic development.

The Turkish people also referred to Korea's brands as global brands such as: Samsung, LG, and Hyundai. A comment of one of the interviewees shows how Korean brands are perceived by Turkish people:

The name of Samsung immediately brings to mind South Korea, the name of Hyundai immediately brings to mind South Korea, the name of Daewoo immediately brings to mind South Korea, the name of Kia brings to mind South Korea, and the name of LG brings to mind South Korea. These are the representatives of Korean brands and they are global brands (Professor/Male/35).

The top Korean companies are well-known and are playing roles as representatives of Korea in Turkey. The Korean companies' investments and establishments of factories in Turkey bring positive images about Korea to Turkish people. A professor said, "[t]hey have their factories in Turkey and made investments in Turkey. They are top companies not only in Turkey but also globally" (Professor/Male/35). As he noted, not only have they established their factories in Turkey, but many Korean companies have also made substantial amounts of investments in Turkey, cooperating with Turkish firms in manufacturing and in various sectors. The fact that the Korean brands are known as global trademarks plays a considerable role in improving the image of Korea. An interviewee highly appreciated Korean brands because Korean brands gained credit from people.

Korean brands and Korean goods are very trustworthy from the point of view of consumers. At least they gained trust as much as Western companies. For example, cell-phones and computers of Samsung stay in step with the world's best companies such as IBM or iPhone. I think that Korean brands put considerable amounts of investment to gain the credibility of consumers. In addition Korean brands build a good model for Turkish brands. We see that Korean brands supply very good display devices in the Olympiads and many important events (Professor/Male/35).

As it is quoted, Korean brands gained credit from Turkish people because they are competing well with the world's best companies and are even displayed in world events. These facts have increased their global brand value and image among Turkish people. Therefore Turkish people think that Korean brands can be models for Turkish brands.

In addition, they perceive Koreans as successful because Korea's world economic ranking is a step ahead of Turkey. Many students and professors among the interviewees noted Korea's advanced economic level among the world economy. A diplomat cited Korea's economic ranking in the world to explain the reason why he considers Korea's economy as very successful:

I think the Korean economy is very successful. I think it is more balanced than being successful. The balance between export and import is very good. Even though Korea has a large economy, it is still growing. This is also one of the signs of success. According to the volume of trade, Korea has the number 6<sup>th</sup> economy in the world. In overall terms, Korea is the 13<sup>th</sup> economy in the world. So it is very successful. It is more successful than Turkey. Turkey is 17<sup>th</sup> (Diplomat/Male/39).

He even remarked the volume of trade to show that the balance between trades proves the economic success of Korea. It is clear that the majority of Turkish people consider the Korean economy as successful because it is more successful than Turkey according to the world economic ranking.

Turkish people link Korea's success with their tendency to work hard. Turkish people say that Koreans are successful because they are hard-working. One of the interviewee said that if Koreans were not hard-working people, they would not have become as rich as they are now. An

interviewee working in Korea said that they are very hard-working and diligent. He said, “[t]hey are always working” (Attorney/Male/32). Turkish people consider Koreans as very hard-working people who work all the times. A professor who has experiences in Korea for a year for his research emphasized that he has very positive impressions about Koreans especially because of their success and diligence:

My every impression about Korea is all positive. During the one year of my stay in Korea, ... Because of my experience, I think Koreans are extremely diligent. They have a strong willingness and ambition for success. At the same time, they like learning .... And they always try to be number one. They put every effort to become the best. They say, “[w]e will become first in Asia. We will surpass Japan.” Korean community never forgets their past and their history. They put importance on their national emotion and what they experienced in the past. These are my positive impression about the Korean community. ... Their experiences in the past, especially the history related to Japan make them extreme nationalists. Their severe poverty and semi-colonial experiences left a deep scar on them. In a positive way, this nationalistic emotion led them to succeed and develop their country, ... (Professor/Male/35).

His experiences in Korea as a researcher allowed him to have many different acquaintances with Korean students, academicians and professors. He recognized that Koreans are extremely diligent and have a strong willingness and ambition for success. He also found that Koreans like learning and always try hard to become the best. He found that this diligence and ambition for success from Koreans is in being nationalists. In addition to this, he construes Koreans being nationalists from Korea’s past experiences under Japanese imperialism. He assumed that these’ negative experiences such as poverty and humiliation under Japanese control became a motivation for Koreans to have a tenacity and desire to beat Japan and become first in Asia. In addition to this, the professor thinks that another reason for Koreans to be hard-working people is based on their educational spirit rooted from Buddhism and Confucianism:

They are hardworking people, ... Their culture influenced by Buddhism and Confucianism is very good. For example, they put a great significance on education. I think this is a very important value of

Koreans. I think one of the foundations that led Korea to develop very fast is their value on education ... (Professor/Male/35).

He commented that Koreans were able to achieve this fast development because of their emphasis on education. He thinks that Koreans have worked hard because they put strong importance on education and this led Korea to be successful in economic development. Moreover he thinks that this value on education originated from the Korean culture based on Buddhism and Confucianism. This also shows that some educated Turkish people have positive views on the values of the Eastern spirit such as Buddhism and Confucianism.

In addition to this, according to Turkish people, Koreans are hasty and fast. They said Koreans live very busy life and they have to be very fast and rapid to finish things within a given time. One of the interviewees shared his first impression about Koreans when he first landed in the airport in Korea. He said, “[e]veryone seemed to be so busy and they were all running from here to there as if there was an emergency. They were very hurried and walking fast. So I was wondering if something was going on somewhere” (Academician/Male/31). This clearly explains that the Turkish perspective on Koreans is that Koreans always have something to do, and it must be done quickly. The instance he described shows well how Turkish people feel when they first get into Korea. To Turkish people, Koreans always try to finish their work very fast and even walk quickly in the street as if they have something very urgent and busy to attend to at all times. The interviewee expressed that Korean people were running here and there like they were so busy and some emergency happened. This explains well how hastiness and speed became a priority for a Korean’s lifestyle and habits. At the same time, it implies that Koreans are hasty and fast compared to Turkish people. If Turkish people were hastier and faster than Koreans, this spectacle would not have caught their eyes. To a Turkish man, even the walking appearances of Koreans seem like they were running.

A number of interviewees also shared similar experiences they had in Korea. Another interviewee living in Korea said, “[t]hey are really hasty

and fast because the first sentence that I learned when I came to Korea was “빨리빨리(Bbali-Bbali)” which means “faster faster” (Attorney/Male/32).

The fact that the first Korean phrase that he learned is “faster faster” shows the frequency of usages of this expression in Korean society. It can be assumed that Turkish people hear this expression a lot in many different situations so that they were able to learn this term. Since languages reflect the mindset of the people, Korean people using the term “faster faster” can be considered as Koreans being a people who have a mindset of doing, working, and finishing faster.

A government official who worked in Korea for more than 10 years noted how the mindset of being fast and hasty applies to Korean workplaces. He said, “[s]ince they work fast and make a quick decision and move as teams, they can speed up when they develop” (Government official/Male/39). He observed the outcomes of being hasty and fast and pointed out that the positive effect of it is the rapid growth and the fast outcomes. On the other hand, he also commented on the negative aspects of being fast. “Koreans work fast, make things quickly, and grow very fast but they can’t make a new thing since they cannot see a new thing. Because they are too busy running, they cannot see other things” (Government official/Male/39). He pointed out that fastness can hinder creative ideas and thinking since it is all focused on completing the work quickly and to grow rapidly. However, it is a hasty conclusion to say that fastness hinders creativity. Considering that innovation is one of the results of creative ideas and thinking, Korea is evaluated to be one of the most innovative countries in the world.

According to the Innovation Union Scoreboard 2014 by the European Commission, internationally South Korea defends its position as top global innovator together with the U.S. When looking at the performance of innovation systems in a global context, South Korea has a performance lead over the EU. Moreover, it was reported that the U.S. and South Korea outperformed the EU both by 17% and Japan by 13%. Furthermore, while the gap between the U.S. and Japan is decreasing, it

widens with South Korea.<sup>44</sup> Therefore, the result even overturns the existing perceptions of Turks that Japan is the best country in regards to innovation.

Turkish people also found that Koreans are very systematic. They said that Koreans work very systematically and fast. A journalist who visited Korea said, “Koreans are fast, practical, hard-working and always strict-scheduled. Therefore they have to work very systematically in a busy schedule” (Journalist/Female/26). She found that Koreans work very systematically because they have to finish their lots of work in their busy schedules. The fact that she considered Koreans working systematically as fast, practical, and hard-working within strict-schedules can mean that Koreans work faster and more practically than Turkish people. Especially what she mentioned that Koreans always have a strict schedule shows that Turkish people usually have more flexible schedules in their workplace than Koreans. One student expressed her opinion about what she observed in a Korean’s daily life. She said, “Koreans live very busy lives. It seems too hectic. But they finish their work first and then rest. They are not like the Turks. Turkish people are more easy-going” (Student/Female/23). It can be said that Turkish people generally perceive being systematic and fast as a good thing. Nevertheless, the life of Korean people is considered too overwhelming to Turkish people since Turkish people pursue more flexible and relaxed lives because they are more easy-going people than Koreans. However, a professor who had conducted his research in Korea as a visiting researcher for a year expressed a different perspective:

I learned there so much from both the system and the students. For example, besides the meal hours and coffee time, you can’t take them out from their work because they take their job very seriously. They never eat or drink during their work hours. They go all together to eat and drink if it’s meal hours but they never say during work hours, “I’m bored. Let’s take a break to get some coffee.” I think that this is a very good thing. However, most of the time, Turkish are more free and relaxed in this sense. I don’t think it is a good thing. I

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<sup>44</sup> European Commission, Innovation Union Scoreboard 2014, Enterprise and Industry, Belgium: European Union, 2014.

think this is the one of the good characteristics of Koreans (Professor/Male/35).

Korean people are focused on their work and are very strict on keeping their work hours but Turkish people are more flexible and relaxed so they can have some breaks and have coffee during their work hours. This case is similar with the student said that Koreans finish their works first and then rest. The student considered Koreans being disciplined as too strict and hectic but the professor viewed this as a very positive thing and he even said that he learned so much from this system and the people. It can be considered that the perspectives of Turkish people viewing Koreans as being disciplined can be diverse by the values they pursue according to their professions and educational backgrounds. Likewise, a government official said, “Koreans are very educated, disciplined, and hardworking. Discipline is very important in Korea. In Turkey, however, flexibility is more important. I think this is a cultural difference” (Government official/Female/38). It is obvious that Turkish people pursue being flexible and relaxed, and contrarily, Korean people value being systematic and disciplined.

In addition, Turkish people said that not only in their works but also in cities and environment, it is possible to see that Koreans are very systematic. A student who is studying in Korea said, “[e]specially in city and city planning, they are systematic and well-organized (Graduate student/Male/32).” It shows that Turkish people perceive cities in Korea as systematic in their systems and well-organized in their appearances. A professor who studied and taught in Korea for more than three years said that the thing that attracted his attention the most in everyday Korean culture was its system and order. This also shows that the system and orders of Korean society are generally noticeable by Turkish people. The professor also said that he realized that Koreans have a well-organized society when he saw the showcase of Korea in the 2002 World Cup (Professor/Male/45). It can be said that Koreans prepare events very systematically so that it is seen as well-organized and orderly by Turkish people.

According to the dimension Uncertainty Avoidance, which is one of the dimensions of national cultures suggested by Hofstede, Korea scores an 85 and it is one of the most uncertainty avoiding countries in the world.<sup>45</sup> According to Hofstede, countries with high dimensions of uncertainty avoidance have a norm of: time is money, an inner urge to be busy and work hard, and precision and punctuality.<sup>46</sup> Since precision and punctuality are considered important in Korean society, it seems like Koreans are systematic according to those whose values are not. In addition, since time is considered money to Koreans and they have inner urges to be busy and work hard, they try to make full use of their time to be effective and efficient. As a result, they tend to be fast, systematic, and disciplined when they try to make their time worth it. This tendency of Koreans might be rooted from the historical background of Korea. Historically, Korea has gone through numerous invasions from the foreign nations since most of the times, Korea was a small and weak country. Under the Japanese colonial era, Koreans were extremely humiliated and severely suffered. After independence, Koreans had to go through a series of hardships including the Korea War controlled by foreign powers. Therefore, Koreans have such a mindset that they have to work hard and succeed so that they would not repeat the same history. Contrarily, Turkey was an empire that had governed over a vast area. Many other nations came to yield submission to them. Therefore, Turks have the identity of the Ottoman Empire. Therefore, it seems like Turks are more relaxed than Koreans. For this reason, Koreans may seem too disciplined and hard-working by Turks.

Turkish people see that Koreans are warmhearted people and this image of Koreans made Turkish people feel closer to them and have sympathy for them. Throughout the interviews, 88% of the interviewees noted that Koreans are warmhearted. When Turkish people talk about

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<sup>45</sup> Cultural Tools: Country Comparison-Korea, The Hofstede Centre. See, [geert-hofstede.com/turkey.html](http://geert-hofstede.com/turkey.html).

<sup>46</sup> Geert Hofstede and Gert Jan Hofstede, *Culture and Organizations: Software of the Mind*, (New York: McGraw-Hill, 2005), 168.



Koreans being warmhearted people, many of them also mentioned that Koreans have a very smiley face. Numbers of Turkish students repeated that Koreans are very smiley and warmhearted so they feel intimacy toward Koreans. One of the students said, “Koreans are very sincere and genuine. Many Koreans have a smiling face” (Student/Female/19). It shows that Turkish people generally perceive them as warmhearted if they have a smiling face. In addition, one of the interviewees shared his experience in Korea that made him think that the Koreans are warmhearted people:

They are really warmhearted. If you go to Western countries and see a child with their parents, and show affection for the child, the parents will be bothered. On the contrary, if you show affection to children in Korea, their family would be happy. Again, if you talk to Koreans in the Korean language they will become really happy. Moreover they will be so happy if you eat Kimchi (Attorney/Male/32).

When Turkish people talk about being warmhearted, they consider Koreans as warmhearted because generally they compare Korean people with Western people especially Americans. The measurement of Koreans being more warmhearted than the Americans is the reaction to the cultural behaviors of Turkish people. Western societies are usually based on individualism, it is very important to respect individuals’ private sphere. Therefore it is expected not to bother others by interfering. On the contrary in Eastern societies including Turkey and Korea, community is considered important and people have been used to interfering in each other’s affairs and even taking it positively since they are caring for and concerned for others. It is expected to show positive responses when someone shows positive actions. Therefore Korean people show pleasure when a foreigner shows affection to their child saying, “cute, or lovely” or smiling or even talking to the child. Likewise, Turkish people can see the similar responses from Koreans as they were used to seeing in Turkey, so they have positive affections toward Koreans. Due to this cultural similarity, Turkish people feel closer to Korean people and consider them warmhearted. Turkish people perceiving Koreans as warmhearted people played a considerable role on Turkish people’s overall positive image on the Koreans.

Similar to this, Turkish people consider Koreans to be really helpful and beneficent people. Among the Turkish interviewees, 80% of the people remarked that Koreans are helpful and beneficent. An interviewee working in Korea said that Koreans are very helpful and beneficent. He said, “[i]t is very easy to see them helping someone in everywhere such as: subways, buses, streets, and every place” (Attorney/Male/32). One of the academicians who taught in Korea for two years said that Koreans are very nice and helpful to foreigners. She said, “Koreans are warmhearted. They help and always try to help foreigners.” She immediately made a connection with Korean being warmhearted because what she observed was Korean being helpful to foreigners. She continued, “[a]lmost every Korean people we met in the street always tried to help us” (Academician/Female/38). Many Turkish people who have been to Korea observed Koreans helping others on the street, buses and subways and they realized that Koreans try to be very helpful to foreigners.

In addition to this, most of the students that studied or are studying in Korea said that Korean students and professors are very helpful in class and school. One exchange student who studied for a year in Korea said that the professors were all so warmhearted and helpful to her in class, and many students helped her a lot when there was a certain part that she couldn’t understand in the class. She said, “[t]hey always tried to help me continuously” (Student/Female/23). The experiences of Turkish students are positive because the Korean people around them were very helpful and willing to help them all the time. The experiences of Turkish students make them remember Koreans are helpful people. The volunteers at the Sewol ferry disaster can be a recent example that Koreans are helpful. Thousands of volunteers from across the country gathered to help the families who were waiting for their loved ones to return. As grief over the sinking spread across the country, people sent supplies and asked how they can help.<sup>47</sup> Many civilian divers came to volunteer and one of them was sacrificed

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<sup>47</sup> Cho Chung-un, “Sewol Disaster: Volunteers share pain at Jindo”, *The Korea Herald*, April 25, 2014. <http://www.koreaherald.com/view.php?ud=20140424001095>.

during a recovery attempt. This character of helping might be deeply rooted from Korean history that Korea experienced so much suffering in the past. It can be explained that since Koreans had gone through many hardships, they easily feel sympathy on someone who is suffering and try to help those in need.

In addition Turkish people recognized that Koreans are very family-tied. 67% of the interviewees answered that Koreans are very family oriented. Throughout the interviews, the first thing that many people who have personal relationship with Koreans outside of the workplace said was that Koreans are very family-tied, much like Turks. It was possible to conclude that Turkish people feel closer to Koreans because of their similarity to Turkish culture. The Turkish people, who have visited Korea or have acquaintances with Koreans, say that Koreans put importance on family and care about family a lot. Turkish people view this positively since they are also a very family-tied society and put a strong emphasis on family. Especially female interviewees who are daughters or mothers in their family have very positive views toward Koreans being family-tied. A housewife said that she really likes that Koreans are family-tied (Housewife/Female/26). In the same vein, many students spoke very positively of Koreans being family-tied. In addition, a Korean War veteran said that Koreans highly value their parents and greatly appreciate them (Soldier/Male/90). Showing respect to and highly valuing their parents also comes from the spirit of respecting elders. At the same time, they perceive Koreans to be very polite and respectful, especially to elders. A student who is highly involved in Korean cultural activities said that Koreans are very polite and courteous (Student/Female/23). Likewise, an undergraduate student studying in Korea said, "Koreans are almost perfect in terms of showing respect to elders (Student/Male/22)." It is obvious how much he appreciated and was surprised by Koreans' attitude towards elders by the expression he used to describe it as "almost perfect." The housewife also added, "Koreans shows respect to elders even on the streets. I think that this is one of the successes of Korean society" (Housewife/Female/26). It can be said that

some Turkish people even regard Koreans being respectful and polite as a social success.

What was perceived by the interviewees about Korea's family ties is correct. Koreans were living in extended families until the modern times. This not only provided social security to big families, but also solidarity among family members when needed. Though, living within extended families is becoming less and less of an occurrence now, the Korean culture still requires young members to respect their elders. In addition to this, giving importance on respecting elders is generally considered to have its root in Confucianism, which highly emphasizes courtesy. However, historically, Korea was referred to as "Eastern Land of Courtesy" by the Chinese first, because Korea seldom cultivated overseas colonies, never invaded its neighbors, nor sought development outside given boundaries. Even Confucius said that his lifelong desire was to go Korea to learn courtesy. In the Treatise of Dong-Yi written by the seventh descendant of Confucius, it refers to Korea as "a country of courteous gentlemen in the East", explaining the courtesy of Koreans including the respect for their parents.

## **CHAPTER 4**

### **MUTUAL PERCEPTIONS ON TURKISH-KOREAN POLITICS AND MILITARY**

#### **4.1 Korean Perceptions on Turkish Politics and Military**

This chapter will discuss Korean people's perceptions on the Turkish politics and military. It is categorized into five parts: democracy in Turkey, the Turkish government, Kurdish Question in Turkey, participation of the Turkish soldiers in the Korean War, and the Turkish military. The first part will be covering the Korean people's perceptions about democracy in Turkey, party politics in Turkey, participation and interest of Turkish people in politics, and freedom of speech in Turkey. The second part will be discussing the Korean people's views on integrity amongst the Turkish government officials, influence of religions in politics, influential factors in decision-making within the Turkish government, and the Turkish president and prime ministers. The third part will generally be covering the Korean people's general perceptions about Kurdish Question in Turkey, and the Koreans' opinion and solution for it. The fourth part will be including the Korean people's perceptions on the Turkish soldiers' participation in the Korean War. Lastly, the fifth part will be focused on the Korean people's perceptions about the position of the army within the politics in Turkey including the intervention of the army in the politics in the past, and Korean people's general perceptions on military power of Turkey.

##### **4.1.1 Korean Perceptions on Democracy in Turkey**

Korean people's perceptions about democracy in Turkey are generally negative. Only a small number of Korean populations have positive perceptions about Turkish democracy. Those who perceive democracy in Turkey positively evaluate that the Turkish democracy has continuously been in progress as compared to the past. They acknowledge

that at least the democratic system has taken root and parliamentary democracy is being carried out in Turkey. However most Koreans who have stayed in Turkey or who have watched news about Turkey have negative perceptions about Turkish democracy. This is mostly due to the government's armed pressure exerted upon the people during the Gezi Park Affairs in 2013. Those who have negative perceptions about Turkish democracy perceive that Turkey is in the transition period for the entrenchment of democracy. One such individual stated that the democratic system in Turkey has settled but has not yet been implemented in practice (Businessman/Male/42).

There are two primary reasons for the Korean people's negative perceptions about democracy in Turkey. These include the Turkish government's repression and the lack of national awareness about democracy. In relation to the government's repression, one interviewee commented "Turkey has a democratic system but the government is authoritarian" (Office worker/Male/54). Another interviewee stated, "Turkish government is very biased to the point of being called a dictatorship" (Businessman/Male/58). Many mentioned the Gezi Park Affairs to comment on the immature democracy of Turkey. One interviewee for example, shared what he thought during the Gezi Park Affairs:

The opinion of the minority is rarely reflected onto politics in Turkey. Armed force was used on the protestors. Contrarily, mass assembly was intended and acted out by pro-government power (Soldier/Male/37).

One student said that she was very surprised at the Turkish government controlling all the SNS (Social Network Service) related to the Gezi Park Affairs. "Complete democracy is not implemented in Turkey" (Student/Female/22), she said. In addition, a graduate student stated, "Fundamentally, the press and media are on the side of the government and freedom of assembly and association is hardly guaranteed in Turkey" (Student/Male/32). Likewise, an office worker also saw democracy in Turkey as immature due to the Turkish government's controlling of the

press (Office worker/Male/44). Moreover, a student noted that the prime minister has been replacing all the government workers with his own people (Student/Female/26). In fact, according to the Democracy Index given by The Economist Intelligence Unit, Turkey is evaluated as a Hybrid regime whereas Korea is categorized as a full democracy. Particularly, Turkey shows low scores in political participation, political culture, and civil liberties.<sup>48</sup> These same categories are also recognized and pointed out by the Koreans. Therefore, it is natural that Koreans perceive Turkey as a democratically lacking country.

Category scores							
	Rank	Overall score	I Electoral process and pluralism	II Functioning of government	III Political participation	IV Political culture	V Civil liberties
Bangladesh	84	5.86	7.42	5.43	5.00	4.38	7.06
Bolivia	=85	5.84	7.00	5.00	6.11	3.75	7.35
Honduras	=85	5.84	8.75	5.71	3.89	4.38	6.47
Ecuador	87	5.78	7.83	4.64	5.00	4.38	7.06
Turkey	88	5.76	7.92	6.79	5.00	5.00	4.12

**Figure 4.1 Democracy Index 2012 (Turkey)**

(Source: Economist Intelligence Unit)

In regards to the Turkish people's lack of awareness towards democracy, several people pointed out that this was due to a deficient understanding the concept of democracy. One student commented on the Turkish people's passivity in regards to politics:

Turkish people do not fully know what democracy is. They do not try to show the power of the people. I have heard many people saying that "[t]here is nothing we can do", even when they found out the unrighteousness and corruptions among the political leaders. They do not think of change when they see problems (Student/Female/27).

Likewise, a businessman noted:

The thing that I was most surprised about after coming to

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<sup>48</sup> Th Economist Intelligence Unit, *Democracy Index 2012: Democracy at a standstill -A report from The Economist Intelligence Unit*, The Economist Intelligence Unit Limited 2013. p.6.

Turkey was that there is no movement of opposition even when all sorts of utility bills, transportation fees, phone and Internet bills increased without collecting the public opinion. I was surprised at that the people are being very complacent toward the governmental powers (Businessman/Male/41).

Similarly, several people expressed their surprise at the Turkish people's passive involvement in politics. Another student said, "I perceive democracy in Turkey as immature because of the lack of people's direct participation in politics" (Student/Male/33). Moreover a government official remarked, "[t]he rule of law is still insufficient in Turkey due to the influence of the low level of national awareness about democracy and many authoritarian factors [for Turkey] to be called a democratic country" (Diplomat/Male/51). One professor commented about the level of national awareness of the Turkish people and noted the influence of the indigenous religious culture on politics:

...However the level of national awareness falls to that of Europeans. Because of the indigenous Islamic culture, politics are still led by the indigenous power. Because of this, new figures are rarely pushed to the front in local politics. Thus, the influence of the indigenous religious culture in the local politics also affects national politics in the same way (Professor/Male/59).

According to popular Korean thought, Turkish culture, whose religious values are predominant and even substantially influence politics, seem to hinder democracy in Turkey. One student argued down the effect of religious power on politics by saying, "[t]he politics in Turkey is like a minnow in a seine under the control of the religion called Islam" (Student/Female/22).

In addition, the Korean people commented on Turkey's party politics and their perceptions were both negative and positive. Some have said that party politics within Turkey have developed well alongside the parliamentary government. Others have stated that the party politics in Turkey are immature and have reached their limit. One individual, with particular positive perceptions on Turkey's party politics, noted that Turkish party politics have developed through years of long, political



experience (Soldier/Male/48). One of the businessmen highly evaluated the party politics in Turkey because he said that the parliamentary cabinet system seems to be well-settled down (Businessman/Male/42). In addition, a graduate student said, “[t]he political parties are expressing their opinions quite a lot and actively working to gain support from the people” (Student/Male/32). Furthermore, one of the interviewees commented that Turkish party politics have positively moved forward in line with development in democracy:

It has changed from one party system to a multiparty system and the Democratic Party had seized the power for a long time. However, it was toppled down by the military intervention. Nevertheless, parties that have the will of the people like the Democratic Party have continued to emerge. Even parties were dispersed on the grounds of unconstitutionality by the Constitutional Court, such as AKP,<sup>49</sup> have come to power. Now, it [AKP] became the absolute ruling party and it seems to be succeeding in weakening the power of the military, which was the biggest threat to Turkish politics. Now I am apprehensive that AKP may control several political systems for its own sake to maintain its own power. However I am confident in stating that the direction of Turkish politics has moved towards a more positive direction regarding the development of democracy since the establishment of the Republic of Turkey (Businessman/Male/41).

On the other hand, the people who have negative perceptions on the party politics in Turkey mostly pointed out the absence of an opposition party that can prevent the ruling party from abusing power. One official noted the lack of opposition parties that can stand beside the ruling party (Government official/Female/33). Some saw the absence of an opposition party that has sufficient power to hold the ruling party in check as an obstacle for the development of party politics and democracy (Office worker/Male/54). Similarly, one of the interviewees noted, “[t]he party politics in Turkey is undeveloped because of the self-righteous behaviors of the ruling party” (Soldier/Male/37). In addition, a professor remarked on

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<sup>49</sup> AKP is a social conservative political party of Turkey, which stands for Justice and Development Party in English. It is founded in 2001, came into power by winning over a two-thirds of parliamentary seats since 2002, and its leader is Recep Tayyip Erdogan which is the current Prime Minister of Turkey.

the extreme political factions within political parties in Turkey:

It has been recognized that the emergence of new political figures in the ruling party has been obvious during the last ten years; nevertheless, overall Turkish politics could not have gotten out of extreme factional politics during the past half century. The political factions seen in Turkish politics can be found even within the ruling party. The level of democratization within the party can be said to be very low since the participations of the members and public debates are rarely conducted during the process of policy or bill making within each political party (Professor/Male/59).

Moreover, a graduate student noted that political parties hardly ever win the trust of the people because the parties work for their own profits rather than for public opinion (Student/Male/33). Likewise, another interviewee pointed out the damages on party politics by numerous coups and absence of parties that collect opinions of diverse civic organizations such as progressive, labor, and others (Soldier/Male/37). In addition to this, a diplomat remarked, “[t]he alignments of political parties have changed continuously with the parties’ leaders as the central figures (Diplomat/Male/61). Furthermore, another diplomat considered the people’s ideological divisions as the reason for poor party politics:

Ideological divisions among the people are very clear such as Islamists, Republicans, Nationalists and etc. Since they support the party in the same line with them, it is hardly found that a party supported by the people for their platform policies. Therefore the party politics is inevitably limited in Turkey (Diplomat/Male/51).

As it is quoted, he was finding the limit of party politics in Turkey from strong ideological divisions among the people. Several people also mentioned strong divisions by ideological preference when they talked about Turkish people’s participation in politics.

Korean people’s perceptions about Turks’ participation and interest in politics can be divided into two different categories: Some Koreans think that Turkish people are very interested and highly participative in politics. Others think that Turkish people have no interest in politics and that there is a low participation rate in politics in Turkey. The former say that Turkish

people are highly interested in politics and actively participating in politics. One of the interviewees from the former group of opinions said that Turkish people have strong political tendencies and participation in election is generally high (Soldier/Male/37). Another interviewee said, "Turkish people are highly interested in politics. They wait with patience and move into action when they think participation is needed" (Professor/Female/54). A diplomat commented, "[t]he people's interest and participation in politics is high because whichever party that comes into power greatly influences their lives" (Diplomat/Male/51). Several people noted that participation in politics is higher amongst the young generation. A government official said, "I think that the participation is strong in young generation" (Government official/Female/33). Likewise, a student said, "[w]hen students gather, they talk about politics a lot. The participation in the election seems to be high too" (Student/Female/26). Another student noted, "I saw that educated people are more actively participating in politics. It seems like that political participation is hard for the people from families that lack education" (Student/Female/22).

However, several people commented that political participation is high but it is generally attributable to mass psychology. One businessman stated that Turks are very interested and highly participating in politics but decision-making is strongly dependent on herd instinct rather than objective considerations (Businessman/Male/42). Moreover, a Korean journalist who married a Turk evaluated that the level of the people's consciousness on political participations is low because they are acting by mass psychology:

I think the level of consciousness in public participation in politics is low because the people are very aware of political participations but now everyone is scared to speak out, and since the critical thinking and views have decreased, the people mostly behave by the mass instinct (Journalist/Female/51).

Furthermore, a professor who worked in Turkey for more than 10 years commented that democracy would not develop by people's political

participation alone:

Although Turkish people's consciousness of participation in politics is high, the political consciousness is still based on traditional Islamic culture rather than democracy consciousness based on the universal concept of democracy. ... In the case of Middle Eastern Arab countries, political participation among the younger generation is very high. The problem is that the democratic system of these countries rarely run normally and it is not possible for party politics to settle down at all. Typical examples of countries where democracy does not develop by political participation alone are countries such as Iran and other Middle Eastern Arab countries. This phenomenon can be considered to be rooted from the traditions of the deep-rooted Islamic religious culture in the Middle East (Professor/Male/59).

For such reasons, some Koreans had critical views on Turkish people's participation in politics even though they recognized the high participation rate in politics. It can be regarded that Koreans have higher expectation from the people in terms of their participation in politics such as deciding with objective political views and speaking openly in public rather than moving by the herd mentality.

On the other hand, the latter, the people who perceive that Turkish people's interests and participation in politics is low, say that Turks rarely care about politics and lack of consciousness. One of the interviewees who worked in Turkey for more than 20 years said that the majority of the people are apathetic to politics. Another interviewee said that the people's interest and participation in politics is low because of the lack of consciousness (Soldier/Male/48). Likewise, an office worker said that Turks are indifferent to politics and lack of critical spirit (Office worker/Male/54). In addition, several students pointed out that Turks show a concern for politics, however, they do not put them into action. A student said, "[t]hey seem to be very interested in politics but in reality they rarely ever put into action for any change" (Student/Male/32). Similarly, another student observed, "[t]hey want political change. In spite of that, they fail to put into action by supporting a new party. Instead, the majority chooses to give up without any political participation" (Student/Male/33).

When it comes to democracy, the Korean people also noted the

importance of freedom of speech in Turkey, since freedom of speech is one of the rights of a democratic country. In terms of freedom of speech in Turkey, the Korean people have positive and negative impressions. The majority of the people think that freedom of speech is suppressed in Turkey and only a few people consider that Turkey is quite free in this regard. Most of the Koreans had negative views in the aspect of freedom of speech in Turkey. Especially, the Koreans who witnessed the Gezi Park Affairs in Turkey in 2013 remarked with one voice that the press coverage related to the Gezi Park Affairs presented lopsided view of the affairs. One of them said that the press and media rarely gave coverage about the truth regarding the Gezi Park Affairs (Office worker/Male/54). In addition, one of the students pointed out, “[t]he press and media are very biased and the honest report on political areas is barely found” (Student/Male/32). Likewise, another student observed, “[r]egarding the Gezi Park Affairs, I witnessed that freedom of speech is restricted and controlled by a few men in power” (Student/Female/22). In the same vein, a graduate student noted, “[t]hrough the control of reports during the 2013 massive demonstration, it was proved that freedom of speech is hardly guaranteed in Turkey” (Student/Male/33). One of the government officials commented on restriction on the press and media by the government:

The government, especially which has power by occupying the majority of the parliament, oppresses the press and media in various ways such as imposing taxes to control them. Hence freedom of speech is low in Turkey, even so, it is not as bad as undeveloped countries, which hardly have freedom of speech (Diplomat/Male/51).

Moreover, a businessman observed that the ruling party has tightened censorship of the media and press (Businessman/Male/42). A soldier noted, “[t]hey arrested the reporter who criticized the government, and made press and media to give the coverage forced by the government (soldier/Male/48). Furthermore, a journalist said that almost everything is under the control of the present government (Journalist/Female/51).

On the other hand, a few people said that Turkey can be considered

as a country that has freedom of speech. Most of them had not been in Turkey during the Gezi Park Affairs in 2013 and therefore they were not able to observe both the reality and the coverage regarding the Gezi Park Affairs given by the Turkish media and press. The reasons that they have positive view in terms of freedom of speech in Turkey were because they compared Turkey to other countries that have no freedom of speech or they compared the current situation of Turkey to the past when freedom of speech was restrained. One of the professors commented on the extent of the freedom of speech in Turkey by comparing to the non-western countries:

Although freedom of speech in Turkey is below the level of that of Europe, it is a lot better compared to the non-western countries. The press and media can freely criticize the head of the ruling party or the leader of the country (Professor/Male/59).

It is clear that the people who evaluated Turkey positively in terms of freedom of speech compared Turkey to other countries, which lack freedom of speech. In addition, another professor noted that thanks to the development of the internet, modern press media can enjoy freedom (Professor/Female/54). Compared to the times when there was no internet, people were not able to share and express their thoughts and opinions as quickly as the present day. Due to the development of the internet, news and information are spread rapidly and truths are hardly hidden since people are easily exposed to the news through YouTube and SNS such as Facebook and Twitter, even though the government tries to control the press coverage.

#### **4.1.2 Korean Perceptions on the Turkish government**

It is found that Koreans' perceptions on the Turkish government are mostly negative. Since integrity is one of the most important values for government officials in Korea, numbers of Koreans mentioned about the lack of integrity of Turkish government officials. Irrationality, corruption, absurdity, and collusive links between politicians and businessmen were

the factors that made Koreans hold negative images of Turkish government officials. One of the interviewees said that corruption and irregularities are prevalent among politicians (Soldier/Male/48). Another interviewee observed, “[c]orruptions and irregularities haven’t been resolved due to the long-term seizure of power by the ruling party” (Businessman/Male/42). In addition, a journalist noted, “Turkish government officials are low in integrity. The politicians first pursue their own profits rather than the public interest” (Journalist/Female/51). Meanwhile, one of the graduate students said, “[i]rregularities of the high ranking politicians are serious but that of normal politicians seems to be not that much severe” (Student/Male/33). Several people mentioned the Turkish prime minister especially since his phone conversation with his son about hiding black money was revealed and spread like wildfire through YouTube. A student said that integrity of the Turkish government officials is very low because Turkish prime minister is not very clean (Student/Female/26). A professor also noted, “[t]he current case of the prime minister shows that the integrity is very low and I think the former politicians were nearly alike (Professor/Female/54).”

Moreover, quite a number of people pointed out the collusive links between politicians and businessmen. One student said that it seems like the links between politicians and businessmen are very strong (Student/Male/32). An office worker also noted, “I heard that the back-scratching between politicians and businessmen are numerous in Turkey” (Office worker/Male/44). A businessman remarked, “I found that the integrity among business is very low. I don’t think there will be much difference in the integrity of politicians and business” (Businessman/Male/55).

In addition, several people commented about the reasons why the integrity of Turkish government officials is low. A government official considered the “Torpil culture” of Turkey to be one of the reasons for the lack of integrity:

Collusive links between politicians and businessmen are

hardly considered as problem because of the Turkish culture which regards “Torpil(투필)” as natural, integrity of politicians cannot be high. It is hardly seen through reports, politicians or bureaucrats being punished concerning this matter (Diplomat/Male/51).

A professor also added about the public disclosure of personal assets of politicians:

For the integrity of politicians, the politician himself’ and the family’s property ought to be regularly disclosed to the public, however it is not in Turkish politics (Professor/Male/59).

As it is quoted, corruptions and irregularities are rarely considered as crucial problems in Turkey. When it comes to bribery or corruption, it is easy to see Turks saying, “everyone does it.” Therefore, even though they have negative views about corruption and irregularity, it is never considered as a serious problem to the extent that can influence people’s supports towards the party or politician. Moreover, since the property of politicians is not disclosed to the public, the people also do not consider integrity as a standard to be a government official. It can be said that integrity is one of the most important values of the government officials in Korea, while other values such as religion, political party, or ethnic group are considered to be more important standard to gain support from the people in Turkey.

In fact, according to the Corruption Perception index 2013 by Transparency International, Turkey ranks 53 with the score of 50, which shows that the country can be hardly considered clean.<sup>50</sup> Therefore, the

RANK	COUNTRY	SCORE	2012 SCORE
46	South Korea	55	56
47	Seychelles	54	52
47	Hungary	54	55
49	Rwanda	53	53
49	Latvia	53	49
49	Costa Rica	53	54
52	Mauritius	52	57
53	Turkey	50	49
53	Malaysia	50	49

**Figure 4.2 The Corruption Ranking**  
(Source: Transparency International)

Koreans’ perceptions on Turkish

<sup>50</sup> According to the Corruption Perceptions Index 2013 provided by Transparency International,



government officials' integrity can be considered justifiable. However, considering that the Korean government's corruption index is also high with the ranking 46 with the score of 55, which has a small gap with that of Turkey, it is obvious that Koreans tend to be very critical.

In terms of the influence of religions in politics, Most of the Koreans who have stayed in Turkey said that religion affects Turkish politics. One of the diplomats said that there is no influence of religion in politics under the principle of secularism but in real politics, a little influence of religion exists (Diplomat/Male/61). The majority of the people perceive that the influence of religion in politics is quite strong. A businessman said, "I see the influence of religion is powerful" (Businessman/Male/58). Another businessman also commented on the influence of religion as a result of the Muslim population in the country:

To the public, Turkey is a secularist country following separation of religion and politics, but in reality, the majority of the people are Muslims so it can be considered that the influence of religion is huge in Turkish politics (Businessman/Male/42).

In the same vein, a professor observed the influence of religion in the countries where Islam is the prevalent religion:

In Turkey, the influence of religion on politics is comparatively less than that of the Middle East such as Iran and Arab countries, but still big compared to the West. Among the countries that are predominantly Islamic, there is none in which the religion doesn't vastly affect politics. Turkey is no exception (Professor/Male/59).

Similarly, another businessman noted that the one of the factors that can gain support from the people is religion:

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Turkey scored 49 in 2012 and scored 50 in 2013. The score indicates the perceived level of public sector corruption on a scale of 0 – 100, where 0 means that a country is perceived as highly corrupted and 100 means it is perceived as very clean. Meanwhile, Korea ranked 46 in 2013 with the score of 55 which also means that the country is not clean. See, <http://www.transparency.org/cpi2013/results>.

Politics can show power when it gains people's heart. Since one of the major factors that can move people's heart is religion in Turkey, I think, influence of religion is very substantial in Turkey. One of the main keys that the long-term seizure of power of the present government for more than 10 years is that it relieved the constraints on Islam which has been under the "persecution(?)" all the while (Businessman/Male/41).

Likewise, many people pointed out the influence of religion in the people's lives. Since religion takes a huge part of the people's lives, it is natural that religion has considerable influence in politics. One Taekwondo instructor said, "I think that since the culture is under a profound influence of religion, naturally politics is also under the influence of religion" (Taekwondo Instructor/Male/46).

Several people remarked that religion is very influential in the present government. A student said, "[i]t seems to be very powerful in the present government since it is to the extent that the prime minister speaks pro-Islamic statements freely and forcibly without any hesitation" (Student/Male/33). In addition, another student pointed out, "[i]t seems to be very strong. The law prohibiting wearing headscarf in public institutions, which Atatürk established, has also changed so that people can now wear headscarves in public offices and schools" (Student/Female/26). Moreover, a professor commented about the government using religion to manipulate the people. She said, "[t]he politicians exploit the people's piety in politics. At the present, the whole society is under the influences of religion" (Professor/Female/54).

In addition, a number of people commented on the situation of Turkey that politics is inextricably tied up with religion. A journalist mentioned a religious group leader as an influential figure to the Turkish politics. She said, "[b]ecause of Fethullah Gulen,<sup>51</sup> who is giving crucial influences on politics, politics and religion became subordinate relations"

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<sup>51</sup> Fethullah Gulen is a Turkish religious leader of the Islamic organization and the founder of the Gulen movement, which is of religious activists. Since the 1980, the Gulen movement has grown to comprise several million followers including important business groups and politicians in Turkey. His movement gives major emphasis to secular education and amounts to hundreds of institutions all over the world.

(Journalist/Female/51). One of the government officials also remarked the link between politics and religious group:

It is known that the present government maintains a close association with Fethullah Gulen group. Moreover, according to the characteristics of Islamic country, politics cannot be free from the religion (Diplomat/Male/51).

Although Turkey is officially not an Islamic country and claim to advocate secularism (where religion and politics are separate), the influence of religion on politics is so considerable that some of the Koreans considered Turkey as an Islamic country. A student pointed out the position of religion as a component of Turkey:

The department of religious affairs administration exists in Turkey. Moreover, I heard that Imams, who are religious leaders, are paid by the government. The religion seems to already be a huge part of the country and of course, it is very influential in politics too (Student/Female/27).

Interestingly, even though Koreans recognized the influence of religion on Turkish politics and the majority of the Koreans who lived in Turkey said that the influence of religion in politic is very substantial, when it comes to the most influential power in decision-making of the Turkish government, numbers of people pointed out the political leader of the country. In addition to this, many people think that the national interests and the party interests are the most influential factors that are considered in the decision-making process of the Turkish government. Some people consider the national prestige or pride as the most influential factor in decision-making within the government. Ironically, only a few people considered religion as an influential value in decision-making for the Turkish government. It can be explained thusly, that religion does affect politics and politicians use religion to gain people's support, but perhaps it might not be the most crucial factor that directly affects the decision of the government. Perhaps the thoughts of the political leaders of the country, which the majority of the Koreans considered as the most influential power

on the decision-making, may not necessarily contradictory and perhaps the will of the political leaders may also coincide with their religious values.

A large number of people noted that the prime minister is the most influential power in the decision-making process of the Turkish government. Most of the government officials said with one voice that the idea and the will of the prime minister is the most influential factor in decision-making of the government. One of the government officials said that the prime minister's opinion is the most crucial factor to make a decision in the government (Diplomat/Male/51). Another government official also noted that the politician leader and the ruling party is the most influential power in decision-making of the government (Government official/Female/33). A graduate student said that the decision of the prime minister is so powerful that he never tries to listen to opposing opinions (Student/Male/33). One of the professors pointed out Prime Minister Tayyip Erdogan and the Foreign Minister Ahmet Davutoglu as the most influential figures in decision-making of the Turkish government:

Erdogan and Davutoglu's staff are leading the decision-making of the Turkish government. The advising staff is playing active part in many different fields of Turkey and stands out in various areas. They are the professional experts influenced by the religious and political thoughts of Fethullah Gulen (Professor/Male/59).

Many people noted the national interests and the party interests as the most influential factors in decision-making of the government. One businessman considered, "[t]he most influential value in the decision-making process is stability of the national interest and the most influential power is the ruling party" (Businessman/Male/58). Likewise, a diplomat said that the national interests and pride are the most influential factors in decision-making of the government (Diplomat/Male/61). Another businessman also remarked the national economy as an important value in government's decision-making:

I think that the major values of making decision of the government are the development of the national economy and

enhancing the country's position within the regional area, which are also for the expansion of the Turkish economy since the government wins people's trust through this (Businessman/Male/41).

In the same vein, a student remarked how the economic development is valued in the current government:

The current government's plan for the economic development seems to be strongly influencing the decisions of the government rather than the public opinions or the specialist group's ideas (Student/Male/32).

In addition, a businessman said that the party interests would be the most influential power in decision-making of the government because all the political parties pursue their own party interests first (Businessman/Male/51). Meanwhile, a few people considered religion as the influential factor in decision-making of the government. One of the businessmen commented, "I think that the influence of Islam religion, which comprises 90 percent of the population, would affect the decision of the government" (Businessman/Male/55).

Many Koreans showed interest in Turkish presidents and prime ministers. The Turkish presidents and prime ministers that Koreans were mostly interested in were Recep Tayyip Erdogan, Mustafa Kemal Ataturk, and Halil Turgut Ozal<sup>52</sup>. The majority of the people have interest in the current Prime Minister, Recep Tayyip Erdogan. Some are interested in him because of his important role in Turkish politics. Others pay attention to him because of his strong leadership and long-term seizure of power. One of the soldiers said that he is interested in Prime Minister Erdogan because the current prime minister's mind is important for the future of Turkey in terms of political democratization and economic development (Soldier/Male/37). A professor said, "I am very interested in Prime Minister Erdogan since he is the first prime minister who ended the politics led by

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<sup>52</sup> Halil Turgut Ozal was the prime minister (1983-1989) and the president (1989-1993) of Turkey. While he was the prime minister, he transformed the economy of Turkey by paving the way for the privatization of many state enterprises.

the military” (Professor/Male/59). In addition, a businessman showed interest in him because he has been in power for a long time with strong leadership (Businessman/Male/42). He added, “[d]ue to the long-term seizure of power by the current Prime Minister Erdogan, there is a strong Islamic conservative disposition such as a law prohibiting the sale of alcohol at night” (Businessman/Male/42). Moreover, an office worker mentioned that he became interested in Erdogan because of the Gezi Park Affairs. He said, “I think that he is an authoritarian leader close to a dictator. He should collect extensive opinions from the people” (Office worker/Male/54). Almost every student who showed interest in Prime Minister Erdogan had negative views on him. One of the students said, “[t]he current prime minister has despotized and he has been in power for too long” (Student/Female/26). Another student remarked, “I am interested in Prime Minister Erdogan because he is too opinionated to be called a prime minister for a democratic country” (Student/Male/33). Furthermore, the other student commented that the current prime minister seems to want to be a king:

It seems like that the current prime minister want to be a kind of hero rather than lead modern politics. He appears in the media and expresses his opinion about all sorts of matters like as if he was a dictator (Student/Male/32).

In addition, several people expressed interest in Mustafa Kemal Ataturk, the founder of the republic of Turkey. The Koreans show interest in Ataturk because of the policies he pushed, the fact that he was the founder of the country, and that Turks like him so much. One of the soldiers said that he is interested in Ataturk because he is the father of the country (Soldier/Male/48). A government official said that she is interested in the policies that Ataturk carried out, for example, introducing secularism into Turkey (Government official/Female/33). In addition, a student explained the great love of the Turks toward Ataturk through her experience:

I became interested in Ataturk. 'Have you ever been to the Ataturk Museum?' this is the first question that every friend I met the first time asked me right after introduction. I felt that how much these people love him to the extent they all ask this question to the foreigners. I became curious about him because of this (Student/Female/22).

Moreover, a businessman commented that he became interested in the first President Ataturk because of the fact that he has been loved by people of all ages in his country:

I became interested in the first President Mustafa Kemal Ataturk because of the fact that people of all ages in Turkey love him. Usually, it is uneasy to be loved by every people that much. Not only had Ataturk achieved the independence movement of Turkey but also he made a great revolution for modern Turkey from the wrong Islamic culture. He accomplished economic development out of the Islamic mindset and brought cultural, educational, and political revolution such as participation of women in politics and society, revolution of writing language, revolution of calendar, revolution of consciousness and so on. He is the father of modern Turkey (Businessman/Male/55).

Furthermore, a journalist remarked that Ataturk was the wise politician who knew the future of Turkey (Journalist/Female/51).

Some people show interest in the past President and Prime Minister Hilal Turgut Ozal because he became a political leader without any background in politics, transformed the Turkish economy, and visited Korea. A diplomat said that he is interested in Turgut Ozal because of his background. He said, "[i]t is very impressive that he became an example for the one who doesn't have political background also can be the head of the government by support from the people because of his professionalism" (Diplomat/Male/51). Another diplomat said that he is interested in Turgut Ozal because he visited Korea (Diplomat/Male/61). In addition, a businessman became interested in Turgut Ozal because he received the highest praise (Businessman/Male/58). Moreover a professor also highly valued him by saying, "[h]e was the prime minister and the president who strove hard to revive the Turkish economy" (Professor/Female/54).

Accordingly, it is obvious that Koreans mostly have positive perceptions toward the first President Ataturk and the former President and

Prime Minister Turgut Ozal, while they generally have negative impressions about the current Prime Minister Erdogan.

#### **4.1.3 Korean Perceptions on the Kurdish Question<sup>53</sup>**

Most of the Koreans were aware of the conflicts between the Turkish government and the Kurds in terms of the territory separation in Turkey. Some Koreans perceive the Kurdish question in the perspective of the Turkish government. One of the businessmen shared his thoughts regarding the Kurdish question by using the Korean figurative expression:

Kurdish issues are like chicken ribs (figurative expression in Korean: something that one hesitates to give up even though it is of little value) to the Turkish government. Turkish government is combining the engagement policy such as broadcasting in Kurdish languages, strong policies such as military operations to sweep the Kurdish rebels, and seeking to find a way to resolve the problems (Businessman/Male/42).

On the other hand, others perceive the Kurdish question through the perspective of the Kurdish people. A businessman emphasized on the scars remained in the Kurdish people's heart throughout the history:

The Kurdish question was an inevitable consequence under the Turkey's founding principle of Ataturk. The Kurds were deeply hurt throughout history. The benefit that they have received is too insufficient to wash off the wound. ... To resolve the problem, I think, a help from a third-party is needed (Businessman/Male/41).

In addition to this, others perceive the Kurdish question in the eyes of the third-person considering both the Kurds and the Turkish government. One graduate student shared both stances concerning the problem:

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<sup>53</sup> There is a conflict, generally mistakenly called as the Kurdish-Turkish conflict, in Turkey between the Turkish government and Kurdish groups, which have demanded separation from Turkey to create an independent country or to have autonomy and better political and cultural rights for Kurds in Turkey. There have been many armed clashes between PKK (Kurdistan Workers' Party) and the Turkish security forces and have left numerous casualties.



I think that the Turks say that the problems decreased a lot compared to the past, and the Kurds say that the condition hasn't improved because of their scars that remain from the past. I think that the independence of Kurds would not be helpful to anyone and I hope that the current discussion about autonomous rights would be settled well in a positive way (Student/Male/32).

Meanwhile, a few people perceive the Kurdish question not as a problem within Turkey but outside of Turkey. One of the businessmen observed that the Kurdish question in Turkey is actually the problem of Kurds scattered throughout different nations:

I think that it is Iraq's problem rather than Turkey's problem. The Kurds scattered amongst two to three countries want national independence but the national interests of the two to three countries are all different (Businessman/Male/55).

In addition, a few persons perceive the Kurdish question in the position of the Turks. These people are generally the people who have intimate relations with the Turks and spend longer time with the Turks. They tend to say what exactly the Turks usually say. A woman married a Turk remarked that the Kurdish question is a political problem and not a problem between the Turks and the Kurds:

The citizens of Turkey have lived without hostility but due to the political issues, the current government has been helping Kurds to have their own territory. For this reason, the opposition among the people against the government is very strong nowadays (Journalist/Female/51).

A large number of Koreans expressed a hope for the solution to the Kurdish question. Many people remarked that the Turkish government should develop engagement policies toward the Kurds. Moreover, the majority of the people said that the Kurdish question can be resolved through a political approach. Some people said that it can come into solution by the economic and diplomatic methods. However, a few people said that the Kurdish question would be hardly resolved.

A diplomat who suggested the political way of approaching the

problem commented, “[t]he last 30 years of history shows that the problem cannot be resolved with force. I think that political solutions that permit Kurds to have some self-rule are needed” (Diplomat/Male/51). He also expressed the positive expectation for the ongoing negotiation of the Turkish government with the Kurds:

I hope the current government would finish the ongoing peace negotiation with PKK well, so that the shedding of blood due to Kurdish issues in Turkey would be over. For this, efforts to seek the solution for the sake of the country is required rather than interests of a party such as pushing the peace talks for the way to gain supports needed for the amendment of constitution (Diplomat/Male/51).

In the same vein, a businessman said, “[b]y political solution the Kurdish question can be settled. Engagement policies in social and political means seem to be the solution” (Businessman/Male/42). Similarly, one of the office workers noted, “[t]he Turkish government should accept their demands and seek a way to coexist and prosper together” (Office worker/Male/54). Moreover, several people suggested both a political and economic way of approaches to resolve the Kurdish question. One professor commented that the Kurdish question can be resolved by the economic and political solutions:

Turkish government should promote the development of industries in Kurdish regions and contribute to bring improvement in the Kurdish regions. In addition to this, the Turkish government needs to introduce the policy of multiracial nations (Professor/Female/54).

Likewise, another professor also commented that both political and economic solutions should be used to resolve the Kurdish question. He added that the military force would only deepen mutual distrust and hostility. He remarked, “[f]or the political solution, they should continue to talk and try to change the national consciousness through opening the public forum through the press and media” (Professor/Male/59). He also noted for an economic approach, such as attracting foreign capital and increasing investment in the eastern region:

For the economic solution, the Turkish government should increase investments in Turkey's eastern regions. If it is insufficient, they should expand the investment areas for the foreign investors and consolidate the favors for the investors so that foreign capital can enter the eastern regions. In addition, the Turkish government should make the economic development possible over the short haul though the foreign capital and professional manpower (Professor/Male/59).

However, a few people said that the Kurdish question cannot be resolved. They say that there is no solution. One of the students noted that the reasons why the solution for the Kurdish question is impossible because,

It seems hard to be settled if it is not a complete independence. It can be lulled for a while but political groups trying to take profits through this would be there at all times (Student/Male/33).

In the same vein, an office worker said, "[t]he Kurdish question cannot be settled unless Turkey accepts the Kurds as an autonomous state" (Office worker/Female/29). Likewise a soldier remarked, "[s]ince Turkey would not parcel out the territory and allow Kurds to establish their own country, the Kurdish question would remain" (Soldier/Male/48).

#### **4.1.4 Korean Perceptions on the Participation of the Turkish Soldiers in the Korean War**

Almost every Korean person has a positive perception about the Turkish soldiers' participation in the Korean War in the 1950s. Most of them say that it made Korea and Turkey become brother countries. They say that it made a bridge between the two countries and an amicable relationship started from there. Many people said that the participation of the Turkish soldiers in the Korean War definitely contributed to Korean-Turkish relations. Some view it as the point that Korea and Turkey became 'blood allies' in terms of relationship between the two countries. Others give more importance to the Korean War as a starting point for Korea and Turkey to have closer and intimate sentiments with one another, in spite of the geographic distance between the two countries. To use the words of a diplomat, the participation of the Turkish soldiers in the Korean War was

the crucial momentum to liaise Korea with Turkey, and it also contributed to the Turks' hospitable perceptions toward Korea (Diplomat/Male/51).

One of the soldiers said, “[f]or the Turks, the participation in the Korean War is their pride. In addition, it highly contributed to the military and diplomatic relations between Korea and Turkey” (Soldier/Male/37). Another soldier noted that he thinks the participation of the Turkish soldiers in the Korean War is the starting point of the Korean-Turkish relations (Soldier/Male/39). In addition, one of the graduate students remarked, “[t]he participation of the Turkish soldiers in the Korean War made a historical connection between the two countries” (Student/Male/32). A Taekwondo instructor commented, “[t]he participation of the Turkish soldiers in the Korean War established both countries as blood allies between the two” (Taekwondo instructor/Male/46). A professor noted, “[d]ue to the Turkish soldier’s participation in the Korean War, the Korean people perceive Korea and Turkey as blood brother countries” (Professor/Female/54).

Numbers of people said that the Korean War drew the two countries closer together. A soldier called the participation of the Turkish soldiers in the Korean War as the event that formed the national communions between the two countries (Soldier/Male/37). A journalist also said that the participation of the Turkish soldiers in the Korean War built a good relationship between Korea and Turkey (Journalist/Female/51). Several people said that the participation of the Turkish soldiers in the Korean War not only built the amicable relations between the two countries but also made it possible for the two countries to maintain cordial relations. An office worker said, “[t]he Turkish soldiers’ participation in the Korean War has played a considerable role in keeping friendly relations between the two countries” (Office worker/Male/54). Moreover, a cleric noted that the Turkish soldier’s participation makes it possible for both countries to maintain familiar feelings to one another (Cleric/Male/52).

One of the professors interpreted the reason for good sentiments between the two countries stem from a shared historical ground:

The participation of the Turkish soldiers in the Korean War was in conformity with the international circumstances and the foreign policy of the times. After the Second World War, Turkey who wanted to display the traditional leadership and the status they once had during the Ottoman Empire, joined the US and the advanced European countries to participate in the Korean War. However, in Korea, as the facts that Turkey was an Asian country different from the West, and that historically Turkey was the intimate nation to Koreans, which stem from Mongolian descent were being known, Korea and Turkey began to build mutual relations. Especially, as Turks perceive Korea's economic development from the ruins of war as a successful result of their sacrifice towards protecting Korea, Turks seem to have more intimate feelings toward Korea (Professor/Male/59).

#### **4.1.5 Korean Perceptions on Turkish Military**

Korean people commented about the position of the army in Turkey. Their responses were divided into two different categories; one is high, the other is weakening. A large number of people perceive that the position of the army is high within Turkey because of the foundation of Turkey by Ataturk. Many soldiers said that the army's status is high in Turkey because of the influence of Ataturk. One of the soldiers said, "I think that the position of the Turkish army is high within Turkey. I consider the Turkish army as the core that has maintained Turkey since Ataturk" (Soldier/Male/39). Another soldier noted, "[t]he position of the army is high because of the Ataturk's institutional guarantee supported by the Constitution and the counter-terrorism operations for about 40 years" (Soldier/Male/48). An office worker said that the army's position is high in Turkey because they were the founders of the republic (Office worker/Male/54). Moreover, a diplomat remarked, "[t]he Turkish army is recognized as high stature and influence within Turkey because of the support of the people and the past history where the army had intervened in politics though the coups" (Diplomat/Male/51).

In addition, a considerable number of Koreans recognized that the status of the army has fallen by the present government. Several students said that the status of the army was high before but it has fallen under the current government. One of the graduate students said, "[t]he position of the army was good but it has subsided by the current government"

(Student/Male/33). A businessman also remarked, “[t]he actual power of the army within the politics has fallen greatly after the AKP came into power” (Businessman/Male/41). In the same vein, a journalist noted that the position of the army was high, however it has been undermined as the police power strengthened by the current government (Journalist/Female/51). In addition, a professor remarked, “[t]he Turkish army, which has maintained the spirit of Atatürk, had high reputation and trust from the people in Turkey. However, through the Ergenekon Affairs<sup>54</sup>, I think, the people might have been disappointed very much” (Professor/Female/54). Furthermore, another professor explained that the army’s status has weakened due to the de facto of the United States and the influence of the global politics:

Only 10 years ago the status of the army was absolute, but it has very weakened for the last 10 years. Especially after the Ergenekon affair, the power of the army fell greatly. It was the result of that de facto of the United States, which aimed to weaken the power of the Turkish army, successfully interacted with the life-and-death reformation of the current government of Erdogan. Of course, it can be said that there was an influence of the international politics circumstances that the power of the army is debilitating globally due to the development of democracy (Professor/Male/59).

In addition to this, a number of Koreans mentioned the intervention of the army in Turkish politics in the past. Most of them had positive perception about the fact that the army intervened in the politics. They recognized that it was necessary considering the situations of the times. Almost every government official agreed that the interventions of the army in the past brought better results for Turkey. One of the government officials said that it was the needs of the times (Government official/Female/33). Likewise, another government official commented that the selection of secularism is considered to be desirable for the development

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<sup>54</sup> Numbers of high-class people including military top brass, professors, journalists, and opposition lawmakers were accused of plotting a coup against the Turkish government in 2007. Those were the all alleged members of Ergenekon, which is a supposed secularist nationalist clandestine organization in Turkey. It is suspected of related to the military forces.

of Turkey:

I consider secularism is advisable for development of Turkey. Since if there was no intervention of the army in politics and the Turkey of that day would not have been able to maintain the secularism in this extent, I think that the intervention of the army was necessary at that time (Diplomat/Male/51).

In the same vein, several soldiers also said that the army had reorganized the order for a certain extent when Turkey was in the state of chaos. A soldier noted, “[t]he Turkish army cleaned up the political corruptions during the state of disorder and handed it over to the civilians” (Soldier/Male/48). Another soldier stated the conditions of the times when the army intervened to explain its distinctiveness from the other coups in the history:

The political intervention through the coup is basically wrong, however this case should not be considered as a simple case. History and the people should evaluate what would have been the best for the army to do during the times of the political disorder, economic doldrums, and social division at that time (Soldier/Male/37).

Likewise, a professor noted, “I think that it was the necessary intervention at that time. If the army had not intervened in politics at that time, the Turkish people would have experienced the worse period of confusion” (Professor/Female/54). A journalist also agreed that it was a good choice for the army in times of disorder. She stated, “[t]he army was intervened to stabilize the political disorder and later it was separated again” (Journalist/Female/51). Similarly, a graduate student said, “[s]ince the intervention of the army is not a good thing but the result of the intervention was better than the condition before the intervention, I think it was a good choice” (Student/Male/33). Another student also added, “I think that they tried to protect democracy and secularism” (Student/Male/32). Moreover, a professor commented that Turkey would have been in a state of digression in terms of democracy and economic development:

Since the Turkish people’s political consciousness was not

fully mature at that time, if there was no intervention of the army in politics, the Turkey of today would not emerged from the backwardness of democracy or economic development such as Iran or Arab countries in the Middle East. However, there is no pretext or justification for the army's intervention in politics (Professor/Male/59).

When it comes to the military power of Turkey, most of the Korean people had positive perceptions about it. The majority of the Korean people said that military power of Turkey is strong. Especially, all the soldiers perceive the military power of Turkey as quite strong. One of the soldiers taking military education in Turkey said that he perceives the Turkish army as a very strong military force (Soldier/Male/37). Another soldier emphasized the level of the military power of Turkey:

The military strength of Turkey is improving through national defense planning and the fighting power has grown to a considerable extent that the neighboring countries could hardly disregard (Soldier/Male/37).

Similar to the soldier's statement, a diplomat also said that the military power of Turkey is very strong compared to the neighboring countries (Diplomat/Male/51). In addition, a professor considered that Turkey has great military strength as a member of NATO (Professor/Female/54). A graduate student added, "[t]he military power of Turkey is great since there is NATO military hardware stores in Turkey and also they have their own weapon production" (Professor/Male/33). Moreover, a professor complimented the Turkish army on their strong sense of being elites and their sense of duty:

The military power of Turkey ranks among the world's top. Especially the strong sense of being elites and their full commitment with a sense of duty are incomparable to any other nations' army (Professor/Male/59).

In addition, a student showed how much the Turkish government places importance on military force. She noted, "I think that the Turkish government is very concerned with military power. They have bought many fighters. Since Turkey has lots of borders, the military strength is



considered very crucial” (Student/Female/26).

It can be considered that Koreans generally have positive perceptions about the Turkish military. Most of the Koreans recognize that the military power of Turkey is strong. In addition, Koreans considered that the participation of the Turkish soldiers on the Korean War brought positive results for both countries, strengthening their relationship. Moreover Koreans evaluate the army’s intervention in politics in the past as necessary because they think that it brought better conditions for Turkey.

Throughout the interviews with the various occupations, it is found that generally soldiers have the tendency to avoid the questions that they feel uncomfortable in answering. They hardly answered or answered very vaguely on the questions related to politics. Only a few shared their perception on the politics. One of the soldiers skipped all the questions related to politics. He noted, “I hardly want to mention anything about political parts because of my social position” (Soldier/Male/37). However, he also rarely answered the questions about the military that he felt uncomfortable in answering. In addition, unexpectedly, the diplomats and government officials shared rather more explicitly about their opinions on Turkish politics. It may be due to the fact that interviews were given on the condition of anonymity. In addition to this, female office workers mostly said that they do not know much about politics and military areas. It shows that even though they work in Turkey or work in Turkey-related companies, they rarely care about the politics or the military of Turkey. For this reasons, most of the office workers’ perceptions quoted on this thesis are mostly male office workers rather than females.

Moreover, it was shown that interests and knowledge about politics and military differ by the profession. The professors tend to have more understanding on the historical and political background of the political situations. Therefore, their views were mostly covering analysis including the historical and political factors, which might have caused the current conditions. In addition, the diplomats’ perspectives were generally based on the background knowledge of the diplomatic and political policies of the Turkish government. Moreover, the diplomats tend to take a third person

position while the students generally sympathize with the ordinary Turkish people including the Turkish students. In regards to the businessmen, it was obvious that they have carefully kept track of the political situations of Turkey and the changes in policies or regulations that could possibly affect their businesses. Furthermore, the perceptions that the Koreans have on Turkish politics differ by the group of people they have met. For example, it can be assumed that the perceptions of the students and Taekwondo instructor about the Turkish politics were influenced by the attitudes of the Turks who have generally interacted such students and ordinary people since the ideas and the words they used to express their thoughts were similar to that of the Turks. As expected, the soldiers were found to have more deep knowledge of the military conditions and system of Turkey. For this reason, the soldiers tend to have a more positive perception and higher evaluation on the Turkish military compared to other professions.

## **4.2 Turkish Perception on Korean Politics and Military**

This chapter will discuss Turkish people's perceptions on Korean politics and the military. It is categorized into five different parts: democracy in Korea, the Korean government, relations between South and North Korea, participation of Turkish soldiers in the Korean War, and the Korean military. The first part will cover Turkish people's perceptions about democracy in Korea, the participation and interests of Korean people in politics, and freedom of speech in Korea. The second part will discuss Turkish people's views on the integrity of government officials, the influence of religions in politics, and influential factors in decision-making from the Korean government. The third part will generally cover Turkish people's perceptions about the probability of a war between South and North Korea, the prospect of the South-North Korean relationship, and the possibility of unification. The fourth part will include Turkish people's impressions on the participation of Turkish soldiers in the Korean War. Lastly, the fifth part will focus on Turkish people's perceptions about the position of the army within the politics in Korea, including the intervention of the army in politics in the past, and Turkish people's general perceptions on the military power of Korea.

### **4.2.1 Turkish Perceptions on Democracy in Korea**

Turkish people's perceptions about democracy in Korea can be categorized into positive and negative attitudes. The people who perceive democracy in Korea positively believe that Korea developed in terms of democratic organization, rights and liberties. On the other hand, the people who think negatively about democracy in Korea said that Korea is still immature in terms of democratic developments. The people who perceive Korea as a democratic country said that democracy is highly developed in Korea and the Korean democracy developed very quickly in a short period. One of the interviewees who think positively about democracy in Korea thinks that the Korean democracy will grow much more than Japan. He pointed out, "So far Japan was the only democratic country in terms of a

Western sense. But Korea has caught up with Japan especially after the 1990s.” He compared the democracy of Korea to that of Turkey as both countries went through similar processes. He added, “It is more like Turkey in that aspect. Both Turkey and Korea had a military coup but went through democratic process after the 1990s. It has much more potential than Japan” (Academician/Male/31). Similarly, another interviewee remarked upon Korea’s change from a military government to a democratic country. She said, “Korea was a military government actually and the military was the dominant political power they had.” She added with a positive voice, “for the first time there is a female president over the entire region. So in South Korea it shows that they are not giving all political power to males but also giving a chance to females. I think that this is also showing an equality which is the basis of a democratic country.” Having a female president played a great role for Turkish people to perceive Korea as a country with equality in term of giving opportunities to both males and females. She also mentioned, “South Korean people are selecting their own government. They are giving their own votes” (Journalist/Female/26). Turkish people perceive Korea as a democratic country because the political rights of the people in Korea were guaranteed and the Koreans vote for people for their own government.

However the people who evaluate Korea as a country with an immature democracy had higher expectations to for a democratic country. For them, political rights and political opportunities for gender equality were not enough for Korea to be considered a developed democracy. One student who did her internship for a few months in Korea thinks that the Korean democracy is of deficiencies and errors (Student/Female/23). Another student said, “I think that the democracy in Korea is developed. But I see (in the news) that sometimes fights occur in the National Assembly” (Student/Female/28). The people who perceive democracy in Korea as undeveloped point out the problems and deficiencies found in Korean politics. One of the professors said that his criticism about Korea is related to democracy. He said he considers Korea to be a very developed and successful country in economic aspects. He continued, “I hardly see

the same development in Korean democracy and politics.” He explained that he sees Korea as undeveloped in democracy in comparison with Turkey. “[c]ompared to Turkey, in terms of a standard of democracy, human rights, and the implementation of democracy, I can see clearly that Turkey is more advanced in democracy” (Professor/Male/35).

Yet, according to the Democracy Index by the Economist Intelligence Unit, Turkey ranked 88 while Korea ranked 20 in respect to democracy. In addition, Korea scored 8.21 in the functioning of government while Turkey scored only 5.00. Moreover, Korea scored 8.53 while Turkey scored 7.06 in terms of civil liberties.<sup>55</sup> Therefore, the professor’s perception on Korean democracy does not quite correlate with the research conducted.

Category scores							
	Rank	Overall score	I Electoral process and pluralism	II Functioning of government	III Political participation	IV Political culture	V Civil liberties
South Korea	20	8.13	9.17	8.21	7.22	7.50	8.53
United States of America	21	8.11	9.17	7.50	7.22	8.13	8.53
Costa Rica	22	8.10	9.58	8.21	6.11	6.88	9.71
Japan	23	8.08	9.17	8.21	6.11	7.50	9.41
Belgium	24	8.05	9.58	8.21	5.56	7.50	9.41

**Figure 4.3 Democracy Index 2012 (Korea)**

(Source: The Economist Intelligence Unit)

Meanwhile, the professor also pointed out the long-term seizure of power by one man in Korean history as a factor to the immaturity of Korean democracy:

Along with this, when it comes to Korean history, one man had ruled over the country for a long time. I think this one-man-reigning structure hindered democracy to be implemented well in Korea. If you have to make choice between democracy and human rights or prosperity and economic growth, I think Koreans chose prosperity and economic growth. However after the middle of the 1990s, I see that Koreans are saying, “It is enough. We are pleasant and full. Now we need democracy.” But there are still a lot of things that need to be done in order to go further. For examples, the parties are polarized, we can

<sup>55</sup> The Economist Intelligence Unit, *Democracy Index 2012: Democracy at a standstill -A report from The Economist Intelligence Unit*, The Economist Intelligence Unit Limited 2013. p.4.

see the members of the National Assembly fighting with each other, and politics is also polarized. I think Korea is still developing in terms of democracy. I think for a more mature democracy, Korean politics has to be improved even more (Professor/Male/35).

As he mentioned, there was the long-term seizure of power by President Park Chung-hee from 1963 to 1979 in Korean history. However the evaluations about him among Koreans are divided extremely. Some say that he was a dictator and the people were oppressed. Others say that he brought economic development and built modern Korea. However, Turkey has a similar history, which includes a long-term rule over the country by one man who was named Mustafa Kemal Ataturk from 1923 to 1938. On the contrary to Korea's case, most of Turkish people love him and many express their love and respect towards him. The majority of Turkish people evaluate his works positively. The interesting thing is that Mustafa Kemal Ataturk was a role model and hero to the Korean President Park Chung-hee. President Park always proclaimed the same slogan Ataturk used to say. However the impressions left to their people are very different in the two countries. The most criticism given by Koreans, who have a negative impression on President Park, is that the democracy of Korea was hindered because of this long-term seizure of power by one man. Turkish people who accredit the hindrance of Korea's democracy to President Park's long-term reign might have been influenced by Koreans who have had a negative perception of President Park.

Turkish people who lived in Korea for more than a year were able to see and hear how politics in Korea work, through the news and the people they interacted with. The factors that made Turkish people to consider democracy in Korea as immature were ones that witnessed government official fights at the National Assembly meeting, polarized parties, and polarized politics. In addition, one attorney said that Korea cannot be considered a democratic country since courts martial still exist in Korea (Attorney/Male/32). He noted the fact that the existence of courts martial means the military still has power in politics and therefore, there is still a way to go to be a democratic country.

When it comes to democracy, Turkish people also shared the participation and interests of Korean people in politics since democracy is a system of government run by the political rights of the people by voting for their own rulers in elections. The Turkish perceptions about Korea's participation and interests in politics can be categorized into two groups: some Turkish people think that Korean people are very interested and participate in politics; others think that Koreans have no interests in politics and there is a low participation rate in politics in Korea. Most professors and academicians agreed that Koreans are very interested and mostly participating in politics. One student said that Koreans are people who claim their rights (Student/Female/23). A journalist who visited Korea said that Korean people are interested in politics a lot and they like to speak about politics as well. She also related Koreans as being very interested in politics with a Korean culture that was formed through historical experiences. She commented, "[t]his is also related to South Korean culture because for many years these people felt the damage of war so they are very aware of this. Therefore, as it is in Turkey, politics takes a very important place in the life of the people" (Journalist/Female/26).

On the contrary, some Turkish people say that Koreans do not have much participation as before. A student who studies in Korea said, "Koreans were very participating in politics in their history but I don't see it anymore" (Student/Male/23). As he said, Korea went through many protests led by the students around the 1980s for their political rights and freedom. Unlike the past, protests led by students are not commonly found. Therefore that particular student perceived that Korean students are passive in participating in political demonstrations. Likewise, another student who is highly interested in Korean culture said that in general they are not really concerned about politics. She thinks that they do not pay much attention to politics (Student/Female/23). It is considered that Turkish people perceive that Koreans are not interested in politics because they rarely talk about politics in everyday conversations. A businessman also noted, "Korean people have no interest in politics because they view everything with an economic perspective" (Businessman/Male/32).

Interestingly, one diplomat interprets the same attitudes of Koreans in a very positive way. By comparing them with Turkish people, he remarked that Koreans do not pay attention to politics:

Korean people do not pay attention to politics as much as Turkish people do. Compared to the Turkish, Korean people do not know anything about politics. In Turkey, everyone talks about politics. In Korea, people talk about fashion, celebrities, movies, and culture, but not about politics. In Turkey everything is about politics. Turkish people are very interested in politics. Koreans are not (Government official/Male/39).

Interestingly, unlike others, he found this tendency of Koreans rarely talking about politics as a positive sign of its development in democracy. He commented, “[i]t is a good thing. It shows that democracy exists there. The degree to which people talk about politics indicates that country’s level of democracy. Sparse talk about democracy means that democracy exists in that country. It is the same in America, where people rarely talk about politics” (Government official/Male/39).

Meanwhile, Turkish people also noted upon freedom of speech in Korea since freedom of speech is one of the rights of the people from a democratic country. In terms of freedom of speech in Korea, Turkish people have positive and negative impressions. A majority of people view that Korea has freedom of speech, but some think that Korea is restrained in freedom of speech. A few people mentioned that there is no freedom of speech in Korea. One of them remarked that Korean people talk about the same things all the time, which are: food, alcohol, men, and women. He said, “[y]ou can hardly hear them talking about anything else besides these” (Attorney/Male/32). However one government official considered that the reason why Koreans rarely talk about politics is that their political rights are not suppressed and democracy exists in the country. He remarked that when there is no democracy, the people talk more about politics.

Most Turkish people perceive Korea as a country with a freedom of speech. They say that they never hear or see that freedom of speech getting suppressed in Korea. When they talk about freedom of speech in Korea,



most of the time they compare it with that of Turkey. One of the interviewees said, “[t]here is complete freedom of speech in Korea. I have never seen anyone who cannot speak when they want to say something. There is much more freedom compared to Turkey for sure” (Government official/Male/39). Since the press and media are controlled by the government in Turkey, for Turkish people, it seems freer in Korea compared to Turkey. Even the SNS (Social Networking Service)<sup>56</sup> has been placed under the control of the government. For example, recently in 2014 just before the elections, Twitter and YouTube were blocked in Turkey. No one was able to access Twitter to share their own opinions and thoughts, and no one was able to watch any videos shared through YouTube. Since the video of the Turkish Prime Minister’s talk with his son about hiding money off the books was spread through SNS just before the elections, Twitter and YouTube were blocked by the government. Likewise, an academician noted, “I haven’t heard of any case of anyone in prison for his political thoughts or expressing his idea in South Korea. Therefore it seems to be freer than it is in Turkey” (Academician/Male/31). As the interviewee shared, since some people in Turkey were imprisoned for their political opinions, it seems that Korea has a freedom of speech compared to Turkey because no Koreans were known to be put in prison because of his or her political thoughts in present-day Korea.

One journalist shared her impression formed through her experiences during her visit in Korea:

I don’t think they have much of a problem with freedom of speech in Korea. The people have no problem on speaking and they were feeling free to answer if they were asked any kind of questions. Contrarily, I think the government officials are the same everywhere. They do not speak very openly (Journalist/Female/26).

According to the in-depth interviews with Turkish people from various occupations, it can be said that their perceptions on freedom of speech in

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<sup>56</sup> SNS stands for Social Networking Service such as: Facebook and Twitter.

Korea differ by the people they meet and talk to according to their occupations. The people who have more personal relationships and experiences with Korean people consider that freedom of speech exists in Korea. For example, the people who have stayed and lived in Korea for more than ten years naturally have more interactions with Korean people personally besides official meetings. In addition, occupations such as professors or students might have more opportunities to share and hear about what people think and believe. Those groups of people were able to hear Korean people talk about politics and express their own opinions about the government and beliefs. Therefore they think that the people in Korea have freedom of speech. On the other hand, the people who generally have official or business meetings with Koreans can think that Koreans are guarded in sharing their own thoughts and beliefs. Since occupations such as: journalists, government officials, businessmen, or attorneys usually have official meetings or work-based interactions with people, they might have heard more official or political answers or talks from the people they had met. It can be considered that these groups of people have more of a fear of speech rather than a freedom of speech. Even besides official or business meetings, people of such occupations might have a tendency to interact more with people who are more cautious when they talk even in personal meetings because of their occupations. For instance, public figures like government officials, CEOs, or businessmen who have to consider their profits all the time, might consider it risky to discuss politics, even at a personal level because of their social positions.

#### **4.2.2 Turkish Perceptions on the Korean government**

Turkish perceptions on the Korean government can be categorized into positive and negative attitudes. Turkish people who have positive views on the Korean government evaluate the integrity of Korean government officials highly. On the other hand, the people who have negative views on the Korean government evaluate the integrity of Korean government officials very lowly basing it upon corruption. The people who have lived and worked in Korea longer view Korean government officials as corrupted because they

watch the news and hear what other people say, such as: the occurrences of irregularities and bribes among government officials. One of the interviewees who had worked in Korea for three years said that he saw poor integrity from Korean government officials (Attorney/Male/32). Contrary to this, a professor who studied and worked in Korea for two and a half years said, "I think the government officials of Korea are mostly men of clean and strict integrity" (Professor/Male/40). In addition, an academician recognized the corruption of Korean government officials but still viewed them more positively. He noted, "[o]f course indulgences and bribery exist in Korea, but still the integrity of Korean government officials is better than that of the Middle East, Africa, India or any other undeveloped countries" (Academician/Male/31). It shows that compared to countries in a worse situation, Korean government officials are evaluated to be fine in terms of integrity.

However the majority of Turkish people assume that corruption exists among government officials since they see corruption everywhere even though they have not seen or heard anything specifically about the corruption of the Korean government. It seems like in general, Turkish people have no expectations for government officials to be clean and strict. A government official said, "[t]here is corruption in the government of Korea but it also exists in other countries in the world. It is same in America too" (Government official/Male/39). It can be assumed that he sees American government officials as more mature in terms of integrity but he also finds corruption in American government officials as well. Therefore he admits that corruption is something that exists in every country. Likewise, one student said, "[i]n any country, good men and bad men exist. I don't think there would be much difference between Turkey and Korea in terms of integrity from government officials" (Student/Female/23). Contrary to Koreans, it is clear that Turkish people do not have high expectation for government officials in terms of integrity. For Koreans, because of the influence of Confucianism, integrity is one of the most important values and qualifications for government officials. However for the Turks, it seems to be not a priority for government officials.

In addition, Turkish people have two different views about the influence of religions in politics. Some people say that religions affect Korean politics but other say that religious power is not strong enough to affect politics in Korea. Those who think religions have an influence in politics were people who stayed in Korea less than three years or just visited for a short period. In addition, the people who recognize the influence of religion in politics are those who are in the area of education such as: professors, academicians, and students. One of the students observed that political parties were influenced or formed by a religious foundation:

I think religion has an influence on politics in Korea. When political parties are founded, I think religion also affects the formation. When they give a speech about their party, they speak related to religion. Even when they establish a school, they consider religion and the schools to be founded by religious foundations (Student/Female/23).

However, the reality is that members of political parties are sometimes believers of a certain religion and their beliefs can affect their decisions or their actions. The parties formed by religious foundations do exist in Korea but those parties are not major parties and usually have a small number of members and supporters.

An academician who had visited Korea several times noted that since religious influences are effective in Korean politics, religion is as important as it is in Turkey:

Christianity plays certain roles in Korean politics. Buddhism is not that strong in Korean society. Their influences in politics get emphasized during certain campaigns or events. They also ask for the supports of religious leaders during the election campaigns. Therefore it is as important as it is in Turkey or in the United States (Academician/Male/31).

According to the statistics from Global Research in 2012, 22.5% of Koreans are Protestants (11 million), 22.1% of Koreans are Buddhists (10.8 million), and 10.1% of Koreans are Catholics (4.9 million). The interviewee

mentioned Christianity as the biggest religion in Korea, which adds up to 32.6% of the population (16 million) when Protestants and Catholics are added together. However, even though Christians are the majority, it is unacceptable for the government or politicians to display any sort of religious practice or claim a certain religion in Korea since 44.9% of Koreans have no religion.<sup>57</sup> Contrarily, the Turkish Prime Minister mentions religion to get support from people and his wife wears a headscarf in public because 99% of the population in Turkey is Muslims. In this sense religion can be considered important in Korea but it is hard to say that it is as important as it is in Turkey despite the fact that the Turkish legal system prohibits the intervention of religion in politics. Nevertheless, it is true that political parties and candidates visit influential religious leaders to ask for support since religious leaders can be influential among the believers.

A government official working in Korea for more than 10 years said that there is not much influence of religions in politics in Korea. He remarked, “[n]ot as much as it is in Turkey. In Korea, religion is not so much influential in Korean politics” (Government official/Male/39). The people who lived in Korea for a long time have observed less influence of religion in politics compared to Turkey. In the same vein, one of the professors who conducted research in Korea said that there is an influence of religion in politics but it is limited. He explained his observation compared to the situation in Turkey:

What I observed is that if I say there is no relation between religion and politics, it is wrong. Compared to Turkey, the influence of religion in politics is very limited in Korea. There are larger numbers of Christians and a little number of more influential Buddhism in Korean society. In general, religion is not the thing that drives, shapes, and influences social life in Korea. People in Korea are not under the pressure of religion and they are happy. Of course there are propagating activities of Christians, but it is not planned or a

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<sup>57</sup> Under Article 20 of the Constitution of the Republic of Korea, it is written that 1) All citizens shall enjoy freedom of religion. 2) No state religion shall be recognized, and church and state shall be separated.

supported policy by the government. However in Turkey, relations between religion and government policies are still very problematic. Turks are under the pressure of Islamic rules and they are forced to follow religious activities. There are polarizations in religion, bothering others about not following religious rules. I didn't see this in Korea. On the other hand, in Korea, no one bothers you about not going to church (Professor/Male/35).

Another interviewee also emphasized that religions do not affect politics in Korea. He observed that in Korea, religion plays more of a social role rather than a political role. Religions in Korea are places where you can feel equality and have opportunities for networking:

There is no such thing as religion in Korea. There is no religion in Korea. In the places where there is no religion, politics are not influenced by religion. In Korea, religion is equal for the poor. If that is not the case, the people who need a network enter into a church community (Attorney/Male/32).

It is found that the Turkish people who have longer experiences in Korea found that religion is not as influential as it is in Turkey. Some of them observed the activities of religious organizations but they found that they are not related to the government. They realized the influences of religion in Korea are more effective in the social area rather than the political sphere. On the other hand, the Turkish people who have shorter experiences in Korea consider religion as influential in Korea as it is in Turkey. It might be that since they are exposed to a society where religion is strongly connected to the government, people living in Turkey might have a tendency to assume that religion is influential in politics in other countries as well. Therefore they might conclude that religion is influential when they see or hear anything that is related to politics. For example, if the President is a Christian, Turkish people can assume that the country is ruled by Christian doctrines and values. However, the religions of past presidents changed as the presidents of Korea changed. Moreover, it is hardly possible for a Korean president to speak for his or her own religion due to the diversity of religions among Korean citizens and the many politicians with

many different religions in political parties. For this reason, the presidents of Korea tend to take a neutral position despite what their religion is.

**Table 4.1 Religion of the President of Korea**

	President	Religion
1	Seung-Man Lee(1-3rd)	Protestant Christian
2	Bo-Sun Yoon(4th)	Protestant Christian
3	Chung-Hee Park(5-9th)	Atheist
4	Kyu-Hwa Choi(10th)	Atheist
5	Doo-Hwan Chun(11-12th)	Buddhist
6	Tae-Woo Roh(13th)	Buddhist
7	Yong-Sam Kim(14th)	Protestant Christian
8	Dae-Jung Kim(15th)	Catholic Christian
9	Moo-Hyun Roh(16th)	Buddhist
10	Myung-Pak Lee(17th)	Protestant Christian
11	Geun-Hye Park(18th)	Unknown

In addition, Turkish people think that a national interest is the most important value and political weight is the influential factor in the decision-making of the Korean government. One of the students said that the most influential factor in decision-making of the government in Korea is national interest, especially economic interest. A government official noted that political weight plays an influential power when the government makes decisions. He considers, therefore, that the Korean government's decisions are not always right but more slanted to where the political power is at:

I don't think that the Korean government makes decision very objectively. In my opinion, it is more subjective. It is the same in American and Turkey too. It changes by politics. The Korean government does not make very reasonable decisions but more political decisions. I think that the Korean government is very political (Government official/Male/39).

Likewise, an academicians remarked that the most influential factor in decision-making of the Korean government is the political interests of the

politicians (Academician/Male/31). In general, Turkish people consider that national interests are the most important values considered for the Korean government's decision-making process in diplomatic relations. For domestic politics, Turkish people think that political weight and political interests of politicians are the influential factors in the Korean government's decision-process.

#### **4.2.3 Turkish Perceptions on Relation between South and North Korea.**

Most Turkish people mention North Korea when they meet someone from Korea. Generally, the first question asked by Turks is, "Are you from North or South Korea?" Then, when the answer is, "South Korea," they always talk about the possibility of a war between South and North Korea, the leader of North Korea, or the participation of the Turkish soldiers in the Korean War. When it comes to talking about a war between South and North Korea, the majority of Turkish people have positive prospects about it. The majority of Turkish people think that the probability of a war between South and North Korea is very low. Many of them said that North Korea would not start a war because they know that they cannot win the war. A diplomat said that South Korea would not start a war anyway but also North Korea knows they cannot win the war. He added,

It is not 1950 anymore. It became the past now. North Korea knows very well that they cannot win the war so they are only inciting sedition. They are just making disturbance. They would not start a war for real (Diplomat/Male/39).

Turkish people view that the possibility of a war is very low because South Korea does not want a war and North Korea also knows that they cannot win a war. In the same vein, one of the government officials noted, "I don't think that there will be a war because South Korea has very good international relationships. The South Korean economy is strong and it has very good ties with many developed countries" (Government



official/Female/38). Likewise, a student noted that North Korea will not start a war if China does not support them:

Considering the situation, it is hard to expect the outbreak of war between South and North Korea. Even if a war breaks out, it seems like only North Korea would fight for the war since China is the only one who could support North Korea, but China does not want a war now because they are focused on economic development (Student/Female/28).

In addition to this, several people mentioned Korea's advanced technology and military power. One of the students studying in Korea remarked, "I don't think a war will start. The technology of South Korea is very high and the military power of South Korea ranks top four when Turkey is the fifth" (Student/Male/23). As the student commented, some think that a war will not occur because North Korea cannot win the war because of advanced technology and strong military power from South Korea. In addition, some people observed that North Korea can only threaten but never start a war because no one wants a war now. One of the students argued that North Korean leaders can only threaten but never start a war:

I think that the leader of North Korea is very immature. Every time a new leader comes into power, North Korea attacks or threatens South Korea. I don't think a war would break out because none of the leaders would want to return to 50 years ago. The North Korean leader just wants to show off. I don't think a real war would start (Student/Female/23).

Almost all Turkish people that range from soldiers to students who have acquaintances with Korea showed their hope for unification and peace between South and North Korea. However they all recognize the threat of North Korea. One of the Korean War veterans expressed his heart for peace in the Korean peninsula:

You are two brother countries. You must reunify. You want to be unified too. But North Korea does not want to. I know that North Korea is threatening you saying they will start a war against you. But don't fight. War is very bad. The people were poor and starving. It is really bad (Korean War veteran/Male/90).

Looking back upon the Korean War he had fought in, he recalled all the bad memories of war such as: starvation, poverty, and death. He repeated several times not to fight and not to start a war since war is bad. A professor also expressed his hope for peace. He also compared North Korea's aggressive attitude to South Korea's effort for peace. He recognized South Korea's works and blamed North Korean people about acting against it:

I hope there wouldn't be any war. I think South Korea did everything they could do to prevent war. North Koreans are very capricious people. We can never predict what they are going to do next. ... There are departments for reunification including the Ministry of Unification. ... I know that South Koreans try to help North Korea and long for reunification with good intention (Professor/Male/35).

In addition, Turkish people have positive, neutral, and negative perceptions about the prospects of relations between South and North Korea. The people who view it positively say that the relations would get better and unification would be possible soon. A diplomat said that if positive policies were carried out in South Korea, the relations between South and North would get better as well:

I think the relation between South and North can get better. I believe that if good and wise policies were carried out, the relations between South and North Korea would get better. I believe that the relations with North Korea would be normalized because information goes to North Korea. It didn't go in the past. As much as North Korea gets to know how South Korea thinks about them, the relations will return to normal (Diplomat/Male/39).

In addition, several people show their positive expectations such as reunification. A businessman said, "I think that they will reunite in the future like Germany" (Businessman/Female/38). Likewise, a professor said that reunification will be achieved sooner" (Professor/Male/45). An academician also expressed his expectation for reunification within two decades. However he also mentioned the need of intervention from the outside. He noted, "China will be a major determinant in the possibility of

reunification and relations between the two countries much more than the United States” (Academician/Male/31). Since North Korea does not show any intentions for reunification in peace, China has to persuade and help North Korea for unification. Because North Korea cannot start a war by itself without help from China, the role of China in the Korean peninsula can be considered crucial.

Some think that the relations would be continued in the status quo. A soldier remarked, “I evaluate that the current situation would remain under the control of South Korea” (Soldier/Male/30). In the same manner, one of the professors noted that the relation between South and North would remain unchanged” (Professor/Male/40). South and North Korea have been in a state of truce since 1953. The relations between South and North Korea have changed according to the policies of the government and the conditions of North Korea. Unfortunately, there has been no real attempt for the reunification from both South and North Korea.

However a few people who negatively perceive the prospect of the relations between South and North Korea say that the relations might get more deteriorated. A student said, “I think the relations between South and North Korea will become more tense” (Student/Female/23). They heard and saw the news about North Korea’s threat that they will annihilate South Korea. Moreover the fact that North Korea has nuclear weapons made the Turks worry more about a war in the Korean peninsula.

When it comes to talking about the possibility of unification, Turkish perceptions could be divided into two categories, which are negative and positive perceptions. A few people think that the possibility of unification between South and North Korea is low. They think unification seems to be very hard and a complicated matter. A soldier said that he does not think South and North Korea will be unified (Soldier/Male/30). Some people say that unification might be possible in the future but it seems to be hard for now. A diplomat commented on several regional factors that hinder and delay the unification of Korea. He also noted that the reunification would not happen without the help from those countries. He

emphasized that the division and the reunification of Korea is not only a matter of Korea:

Possibly North and South Korea would be unified one day but not very soon. Reunification does not only depend on Korean presidents. Reunification does not only depend on Korea. There are so many regional factors. When it comes to the reunification, it is not enough for the North and South Korean leaders to shake hands together. There are other countries: America, China, Russia, and Japan. If all of them do not agree, reunification would not happen. It is also not dependent on North Korea. Even if the North Korean leader wants reunification today or tomorrow, it would not happen. There are so many factors (Diplomat/Male/39).

On the contrary, the majority of the interviewees said that they think the unification between South and North Korea is possible. A Korean War veteran remarked, “[r]eunification is a matter of time” (Korean War veteran/Male/84). In addition, most of them said that reunification will be possible for economic and political reasons. An academician who conducts research on China and Korean history commented on the possibility of reunification with economic reasons since economic cooperation in the region became more important than before:

... I guess North Korea has more reasons to reunify and China would have no reason to support the North Korean regime anymore. Especially if the economic union such as ASEAN developed further like in Europe and if the East-Asian region becomes more integrated than the separation between North and South Korea, and if any country which becomes more burdensome than economic matters, then China would also support the reunification of the two countries (Academician/Male/31).

On the other hand, a diplomat noted that it is impossible to unify with economic reasons but it would be possible with a political way. He pointed out the economic gap between South and North Korea and argued that help would be needed from foreign countries for reunification:

It is impossible to reunify with economic reasons because there is a huge gap between North and South Korea. Therefore when North and South Korea get together, it will bring negative effects on the South Korean economy. North Korea is poor. Even North Korea would

want to reunify because of economic reasons, the South Korean young generation would not want to reunify (Diplomat/Male/39).

As he commented, several other interviewees pointed out that the South Korean economy will be destroyed if they unified without solving the North Korean economic problem. A Korean War veteran said, "South Korea has to raise up North Korea's economy first and then reunify. If they just reunify without raising North Korea's economy, the Korean economy will be destroyed" (Soldier/Male/84). Actually, according to *The Estimation of the United Korea's Potential Economic Power*, the report by Hyundai Economic Research Institute, the GDP (Gross Domestic Product) scale of the United Korea would be at 6.9 trillion dollars and the per capita GDP would be at 92 thousand dollars. It would be the 7<sup>th</sup> largest economy in the world following China, U.S., India, Brazil, Japan, and Russia. This estimation was predicted for by the case of the "Eurasian economic bloc" maximizing the synergy effect of the reunification through developing the China-Russia border areas, establishing the Korean race economic bloc, connecting Social Overhead Capital (SOC) to the Eurasia region, and so on.<sup>58</sup> These research results show that the future of the Korean economy is not as negative as the people worry about.

The people who say that reunification would be possible through politics comment on the role of foreign powers, not only the politics between South and North Korea. They say that the countries which were involved in the division of Korea would be able to contribute for the reunification of Korea. A diplomat pointed out the importance of the talks between these six countries:

... I think mostly reunification would be possible with politics. There should be a consensus within the countries; China, Russia, North Korea, South Korea, Japan, and America should come into a

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<sup>58</sup> Seon-Ok Yeon, "The United Korea, the 7<sup>th</sup> major economic power in 2050", *ChosunBiz*, April 24, 2014, [http://biz.chosun.com/site/data/html\\_dir/2014/04/20/2014042000437.html](http://biz.chosun.com/site/data/html_dir/2014/04/20/2014042000437.html). / Hane Kim, "Hyundai Economic Research Institute "The United Korea, the 7<sup>th</sup> great economic power in 2050"," *Newstomato*, April 20, 2014, <http://www.newstomato.com/ReadNews.aspx?no=462279>.

consensus. These six countries should seriously work together to bring reunification. This six-party-talk is very important (Diplomat/Male/39).

Some Turkish people see that the reunification of Korea can be possible only when the six countries work together. In a similar vein, one of the professors also commented on the roles of foreign countries. He also added that reunification might be possible if the regime of North Korea changes in a positive way:

For the reunification, there should be help from foreign countries such as: America and Japan. Without the help of the outside world, it seems difficult for South Korea to unify the two Koreas alone. If North Korea changes its mind, flips the government, or opens its door to the world, reunification might become possible. In this condition I think the relation between the two countries would improve considerably. If the regime doesn't moderate, change, or overset by inside or outside pressures of America or South Korea, the unification of the two Koreas and the resolution of many problems seem very difficult (Professor/Male/35).

Many Turkish people expressed hope for the reunification of Korea. Moreover they said that the division of one nation should not be acceptable in the 21<sup>st</sup> century. A journalist said, "I saw that there is a big hope in Korean people. They believe that they should be together. Today South and North Korea is the only nation which is divided in the world in the 21<sup>st</sup> century and we should not have such a kind of situation in this century." She also noted that she felt hope when she went to the DMZ (demilitarized zone) between South and North Korea. She said, "I went to the DMZ and I saw a railroad going from the south to the north so people can travel from the south to the north. So there is a hope" (Journalist/Female/26). Several Turkish people remarked that it is very sad that one nation got divided. One of the students expressed her sadness about the situation of the Korean nation:

... It is very sad that one nation got divided because of the political reasons. When North and South Koreans were together they were originally relatives. They are from the same blood. I think that it is something that cannot be divided, such as: a mother, a father and children (Student/Female/23).

An attorney also expressed the hope for the reunification of Korea in the future. He pointed out the fact that South and North Korea had lived together for 1,948 years and have separated for 65 years. He noted, “[i]f the two brother countries had lived together for 1,948 years, they can also live together in the future” (Attorney/Male/32). As previously quoted, many Turkish people expressed sadness about the division of Korea and showed a hope for the reunification of the one nation. It shows how Turkish people feel close to Koreans and have sympathy on Korea’s situation. The reason why Turkish people feel intimacy towards Koreans can be originated from Turkish people’s participation in the Korean War.

#### **4.2.4 Turkish Perceptions on the Participation of the Turkish Soldiers in the Korean War**

Almost every Turkish person has positive perceptions about the Turkish soldiers’ participation in the Korean War in the 1950s. Most of them say that it was a good decision to send Turkish troops to Korea. They said that it made Turkey and Korea blood brothers. Some of them were very proud of the Turks who were always helping others who were in difficulty. They emphasized that they all went there voluntarily. Others said that the participation of Turkish soldiers in the Korean War brought positive results such as achieving NATO membership. The majority of Turkish people became very emotional as tears gathered in their eyes when they expressed their impressions about the Turkish soldiers’ participation in the Korean War.

It seems like the participation of the Turkish soldiers in the Korean War made Turkish people have closer feelings toward Korea as they felt sympathy toward Korea and Koreans. One of the Korean War veterans enthusiastically expressed his love for Korea:

We love Korea as if it is our own country. We all went there voluntarily and gladly. We would also go even now if it happens again. Our children would also go there even now if a war occurs in Korea.

Our young men would all be willing to go to Korea. Turks love Korea to that extent (Soldier/Male/90).

As he talked about the Korean War, his eyes filled with tears. His experience in the Korean War made him think of Korea as his own country. It seems like Turkish people easily feel sympathy toward others especially those who are suffering, since the countries that participated in the Korean War rarely have the same perceptions as the Turkish people. While Turkish people feel sympathy toward Koreans to the extent of claiming Korea as their own country, Americans and the British rarely feel a closeness just because of their participation to the Korean War even though they were the countries that sent the largest number of soldiers to Korea.

One of the students shared her feeling about how the Turkish soldiers went to Korea even with the hard conditions and how the Turkish soldiers who went to Korea were still pleased and proud of themselves:

It takes 12 hours by plane from Turkey to Korea. At that time there was no flight and the Turkish soldiers went to fight for the war by ship. I think it was a good decision to go there. I went to the photo exhibition of the Korean War Veterans. I met several Korean War Veterans there. They said there were many poor. They said they built a school there. I think they did a very good job from a humanitarian point of view. I don't think any of them who went there is regretful at all. When they were explaining to me about how they went there, they were very proud of themselves. They were very glad to go there (Student/Female/23).

A number of Turkish people were proud of the participation of Turkish soldiers in the Korean War because of their sacrifice and voluntarily being in the side of justice. One of the soldiers remarked that it was the result of the Turkish government being on the side of the righteous. He added that since this is also needed in the political conjuncture, Turkish people had fought in Korea (Soldier/Male/30). Similarly, one of the professors was filled with pride when he was explaining about the participation of the Turkish troops in the Korean War. He noted, "[s]ince it was a volunteer participation of the Turkish army, it is an admirable job for



Turks” (Professor/Male/45). Likewise, a diplomat gave unstinted praise to the sacrifice and charity of the Turks:

I think that the participation of Turkish soldiers in the Korean War is very magnificent. It is a huge self-sacrificing charitableness of Turkish people because South Korea was under the oppression in the war. This is an indigenous characteristic of Turkish people of being against the oppressor (Diplomat/Male/39).

It is very obvious that Turks are very proud of themselves being on the side of the oppressed and helping those who are in miserable conditions. Not only in terms of the Turkish people’s participation in the Korean War but also in everyday conversations they emphasize how they are helpful to those who are in need.

Turkish people pointed out that the Turkish soldiers’ participation played a significant role in the two countries’ relationship. One of the government officials expressed her gladness about the participation of the Turkish troops. She remarked, “[t]hey formed a good foundation for this good friendship. I think they chose a right country to help” (Government official/Female/38). In addition, a student said that the participation of the Turkish soldiers in the Korean War provided the two nations to get to know each other and to become closer to one another (Student/Female/28). In the same vein, a Turk who works in Korea remarked that the participation of the Turkish soldiers in the Korean War was very substantial in strengthening the relationship between the two countries:

...For this reasons, I say that luckily the Turkish soldiers participated in the Korean War and got to know Koreans. If Turks had not participated in the Korean War, the friendship between the two countries might not be as good as it is now. We are close friends and got to know each other in the Korean War. Before the Korean War we didn’t know each other. In the Korean War we became friends, in the 2002 World Cup we solidified our friendship, and luckily still we are close friends. I can say that our friendship is holding fast in a good way (Attorney/Male/32).

Likewise, another student said that it strengthens the relations between South Korea and Turkey. He joyfully said, “Korean people become very

friendly if we say we are Turks and they even make a discount for us!” (Student/Male/23) Several Turkish people happily said that the participation of the Turkish soldiers became the reason for why Koreans love Turks. A journalist shared her opinion, “I think this is the only reason why Korean people have sympathy to Turkish people. Korean people were very touched about the fact that Turkish soldiers died in the Korean War” (Journalist/Female/26). It can be said that the participation of the Turkish soldiers in the Korean War not only built a strong tie between the two governments but also the emotional intimacy between the people of both countries.

#### **4.2.5 Turkish Perceptions on the Korean Military**

Turkish people commented about the position of the army in the politics in Korea. Their responses were divided into two different categories which were negative and positive. The people who have negative perceptions about the position of the army in Korean politics said that the army is still in a strong position in Korean politics. An attorney said, “[o]f course there is the influence of the army in Korean politics.” He pointed out, “[t]he military courts still exist in Korea” (Attorney/Male/32). He interpreted the existence of the military courts as a strong power of the army within politics. A few people said that the position of the army within politics is still strong in Korea. However the majority of Turkish people have positive perceptions that the position of the army is not that strong in Korean politics. One of the academicians said, “I don’t think they are as strong as they were in the last two decades. Like Turkey, Korea also underwent a change in terms of political strength and the Korean army has been taken away far from domestic politics” (Academician/Male/31). Similarly, a diplomat also compared Korea’s history to Turkey’s and explained the historical and current reasons for the influence of the army in politics:

There is influence. I cannot say there is no influence. There is influence but decreasing. I think it is normal because of North Korea. There is influence but a little and it decreased compared to the past. It

is a country that experienced a coup. So it is normal to have influences of military power. It is similar to Turkey (Diplomat/Male/39).

Historically, since Korea went through a military coup, the army seized power in politics. Now, because Korea is divided into North and South also, North Korea randomly threatens South Korea, the roles of the army in Korea should be strong and the army has power in Korean politics. On the other hand, the Turkish people also acknowledged the fact that the power of the military in Korean politics is decreasing nowadays. One of the soldiers said, “I don’t think the army has any power in Korean politics” (Soldier/Male/30).

In addition to this, a number of highly educated Turkish people mentioned the intervention of the army in Korean politics in the past. Most of them had negative perceptions about the fact that the army intervened in politics. One of the academicians pointed out the negative actions of military power and noted that the intervention of the army into politics hindered the development of democracy and economy in Korea:

I think that they were orchestrated from abroad like they were in Turkey. In the name of national interest, the army had used its military power and suppressed the public opinion. In some cases, they supported the troubles but they suppressed the workers and oppressed their rights so in this respect it was really bad for the development of the Korean democracy. I think that the Korean economy could have much more developed if it was not for the military coup (Academician/Male/31).

In the same vein, a professor noted about the army’s intervention into politics that it cannot be accepted in a modern democratic country (Professor/Male/45). Moreover, another professor said, “I think the intervention of the army into politics in the past undermined the national unity of Koreans” (Professor/Male/40). In addition, one of the government officials expressed his opposition against the military regime and the coup:

What can I say? Of course it is very bad. It is very scary thing as it was in Turkey. I’m against every coup. The worst democracy is so much better than the best coup. Even the worst democracy, the worst

coalition is much better than the best military regime. I'm opposed to military regimes (Government official/Male/39).

An attorney also expressed his regret about the intervention of the army into politics in the past. He said, “[i]t is the same as Turkey. I wish it had not happened at all” (Attorney/Male/32).

As it is quoted by the interviews conducted with many different professions, the majority of highly educated people had negative perceptions about the intervention of the army in politics in the past. Because of these negative memories and experiences related to the military intervention in Turkish history, Turkish people might easily feel sympathy on the army's intervention in Korean politics in the past. It is obvious that they assume that the military interventions in politics in Korea might be similar to that of Turkey in the past.

1	 <u>United States of America</u>	PwrIndx: 0.2475	1	 United States of America	PwrIndx: 0.2208
2	 <u>Russia</u>	PwrIndx: 0.2618	2	 <u>Russia</u>	PwrIndx: 0.2355
3	 <u>China</u>	PwrIndx: 0.3351	3	 <u>China</u>	PwrIndx: 0.2594
4	 <u>India</u>	PwrIndx: 0.4346	4	 <u>India</u>	PwrIndx: 0.3872
5	 <u>United Kingdom</u>	PwrIndx: 0.5185	5	 <u>United Kingdom</u>	PwrIndx: 0.3923
6	 <u>France</u>	PwrIndx: 0.6163	6	 <u>France</u>	PwrIndx: 0.4706
7	 <u>Germany</u>	PwrIndx: 0.6491	7	 <u>Germany</u>	PwrIndx: 0.4899
8	 <u>South Korea</u>	PwrIndx: 0.6547	8	 <u>Turkey</u>	PwrIndx: 0.5171
9	 <u>Italy</u>	PwrIndx: 0.6838	9	 <u>South Korea</u>	PwrIndx: 0.5536
10	 <u>Brazil</u>	PwrIndx: 0.6912	10	 <u>Japan</u>	PwrIndx: 0.5581

**Figure 4.4 World Military Power ranking (2013 & 2014)**  
(Source: Global Firepower)

When it comes to the military power of Korea, most Turkish people had positive perceptions about it. The majority of Turkish people said that the military power of Korea is strong. However a few people said that the military power of Korea is weak.

A Korean War veteran said that the military power of Korea got stronger and the weapons got better. He added that it was unprepared during the time of the Korean War (Korean War veteran/Male/84). As he compared the military power of Korea to the time of the Korean War, it is obviously stronger than it was in the 1950s. Another young soldier pointed out the world ranking of the Korean military. He noted, "I think the Korean military ranks among the top ten in the world" (Soldier/Male/30). A student also remarked that the military power of Korea is strong when it comes to comparing it to that of Turkey. He also commented about the technological developments in the area of the military in Korea. He said, "[t]he technology of Korea is in advanced and the military power of Korea ranks top four while Turkey is five. The Korean military power is strong" (Student/Male/23). Several Turkish people mentioned the advanced technology and military duty of Korean men. One of the professors said, "[t]he Korean military is also strong in terms of technology. They give a longer military education than us." He also added, "I think the Korean military power is very strong. In addition Korea has an advanced defense industry" (Professor/Male/35). A journalist shared her observations about the military duty of Korea:

...Today, the military is still very important in South Korea as I said it was a military country. People are still going for their military duty. I met a Korean man in Europe and he was going to his country for his military duty. He said that he will return after fulfilling the military duty. Therefore South Korea is a kind of militaristic country actually (Journalist/Female/26).

The fact that every Korean man has military duty gave such impression to the Turkish people that the military power of Korea is quite strong. One of the students also noted, "I know that two years of military service is mandatory in Korea" (Student/Female/23). In addition, people were aware of the fact that Korea has military duty because Korea is in the middle of a war. They were aware that the military power of Korea has been strengthened to defend against North Korea. A professor noted, "I think the Korean military power is strong and must be strong until reunification"

(Professor/Male/45). Therefore it can be said that Turkish people consider that the Korean military has been reinforced in case of a war between North Korea.

Contrary to this, some people think that the military power of Korea is still weak to defend itself. The people who perceive that the Korean military is weak mostly compare the military power of Korea to that of other countries. One of the government officials said that South Korea would not be able to win the war against North Korea with its own military power:

The level of technology is high but in general the military power of Korea is still vulnerable. I mean it is weak. The Korean army is weak. It is weak compared to the Turkish. It is weak compared to American. South Korea cannot stand against North Korea by its own power. In my opinion, for example, if North Korea starts a war right now, South Korea would fall apart into bits in a week if no one helps South Korea (Government official/Male/39).

However, according to the GFP (Global Fire Power), which is the credible military power evaluation institution, South Korea ranks ninth in the world while North Korea ranks 35<sup>th</sup> regarding military strength.<sup>59</sup> Therefore, some Turkish people's perceptions that North Korea is much stronger than South Korea can be considered biased and a wrong perception regarding the military power of Korea.

In conclusion, it is found that Turkish people's perceptions on Korean military power are positive in general. However, when it comes to the army's intervention into the politics in the Korea's history, Turkish people mostly expressed strong negative impressions about it. In terms of a probability of war between South and North Korea, most Turkish people consider it as very low. In addition, the majority of Turkish people expressed their hope for the unification of South and North Korea. With regard to the Turkish soldiers' participation in the Korean War, most Turkish people have positive perceptions about it and many of them are

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<sup>59</sup> "Countries Ranked by Military Strength (2014)", Global Fire Power, March 4, 2014, See, <http://www.globalfirepower.com/countries-listing.asp>.

proud of themselves. A number of Turkish people believe that the Korean War established a strong tie between Turkey and South Korea.

## **CHAPTER 5**

### **MUTUAL PERCEPTIONS ON TURKISH-KOREAN ECONOMY**

#### **5.1 Korean Perception on the Turkish Economy**

This chapter will discuss Korean people's perceptions on the Turkish economy. It is categorized into four different parts: the Turkish economy, Turkish brands, Turkish-Korean cooperation in economic relations, and the FTA between Turkey and Korea. The first part will be covering the Korean people's perceptions about the Turkish economy in general, the Turkish economy compared to that of neighboring countries in the Middle East and Europe, powers leading the Turkish economy, hindrances and obstacles for the Turkish economy, and anticipation for the future Turkish economy. The second part will generally be covering the Korean people's views on Turkish brands and companies. In the third part, the Korean people's perceptions about the volume of trade between Turkey and Korea, hindrances and obstacles for the economic cooperation and potential of the Turkish-Korean economic cooperation will be discussed. Lastly, the fourth part will be focused on the recently effectuated FTA between Turkey and Korea.

##### **5.1.1 Korean Perception on the Turkish Economy**

Korean people's perceptions about the Turkish economy are mostly positive. Many people view that the Turkish economy has been growing and has potential to grow more. Especially, people of the certain professions such as businessmen, government officials, and professors have more background knowledge of the Turkish economy than the average person. Therefore, their perceptions seem to be based on actual statistical data or significant events concerning the economic development of Turkey. One businessman said, "[t]he potential of 80 million Turks is very big. 7-8% of the past 10 years' economic growth rate seems to be continued for a while"



(Businessman/Male/55). Another businessman also noted, “[o]utwardly Turkey is a developing country and has big potential to grow” (Businessman/Male/42). Likewise, a government official said, “[i]t has maintained a high growth rate” (Government official/Male/43). Another government official also added, “[t]he Turkish economy is not bad even now. I think it has potential to grow even more” (Government official/Male/40). Moreover, a professor commented, “I think that Turkish economic growth rate has been continued to increase and the Turkish economy has developed enough to become a part of the G20” (Professor/Female/54). In addition to this, a businessman observed, “[b]ecause of its foreign trade deficit and imbalance in its current account, it is hard to understand [the economic growth of Turkey]. However, due to its political stability a lot of foreign capital has flowed into Turkey” (Businessman/Male/58). Furthermore, an economics professor remarked positively on Turkey’s outlook for joining the OECD in 2015 (Professor/Male/62).

Meanwhile, unlike the professions mentioned earlier, other people’s positive perceptions on Turkish economy tend to be formed from what they have seen and heard from other people and the news. For an example, one student stated, “[t]he Turkish economy is growing” (Student/Male/24). Another student also expressed positive expectations for the Turkish economy saying, “Turkey seems to be a step behind Korea economically. However I think that the Turkish economy will soar” (Student/Female/22). In the same vein, an office worker also considered Turkey as a semi-developed country which has huge potential to grow (Office worker/Female/47). A soldier evaluated, “[c]ompared to other countries, Turkey’s economic growth rate is higher. Moreover, Turkey is a country with a big growth potential” (Soldier/Male/37).

In spite of the overall positive perceptions about the Turkish economy, several Koreans pointed out some negative aspects as well. The negative perceptions that Koreans have about the Turkish economy were mostly regarding the economic conditions of the people rather than the overall performance of the Turkish economy. These were the people who have interacted with ordinary people. They have seen and experienced the

lives of ordinary people. Therefore they focused more on the actual internal economic situation of Turkey rather than what is seen and evaluated from the outside. Several people pointed out that the gap between rich and poor is ever widening. A Taekwondo instructor commented about the economic structure of Turkey using metaphorical expression:

Since the gap between rich and poor is deepening, the middle class is small in number. ... The present Turkish economy is structured only for the upper class, and other classes are only being fed by the crumbs that fall from the upper class. This form of economic structure has the potential to worsen as time goes on (Taekwondo Instructor/Male/46).

A businessman also mentioned about the gap between rich and poor in Turkey. He noted, “[t]here is instability in the prices and the phenomenon of the rich getting richer and the poor getting poorer is severe” (Businessman/Male/42). Another businessman remarked on poor economic conditions of the people:

The economic conditions of ordinary people are not good. It seems to be that government’s financial capability is solid due to the high taxes. Therefore it is considered that the economic development led by the government accomplished general appearance of high rate of economic development in Turkey. In addition to this, the market share of the large and medium sized companies is high. I think that these prevailingly formed the visible side of the Turkish economy. In this situation, it seems that the ordinary people’s economic condition is getting worse, and they are being more dependent on the government (Businessman/Male/41).

In addition, a soldier noted that the GDP of Turkey ranks 17<sup>th</sup> to 20<sup>th</sup> in the world. Nevertheless, he pointed out that the Turkish economy is extremely polarized (Soldier/Male/37). A cleric observed, “[e]ven though the gap between rich and poor is enormous, I think that, generally speaking Turkish economy is stable” (Cleric/Male/52). Likewise, although Koreans recognized that the country’s economy is stable and developing, at the same time, they also had negative perceptions about the poor economic conditions of ordinary people. Meanwhile, another soldier commented on the excessive consumption habits of the country:

Although per capita national income in Turkey is half of Korea, the Turk's propensity to consume is similar to that of Korea. That is to say that the Turkish people's sense of saving or investing for the future is weak (Soldier/Male/37).

Some people commented that the economic infrastructure is weak. A Taekwondo instructor noted, "[t]he basic industrial structure, including the heavy chemical industry, is weak" (Taekwondo instructor/Male/46). Similarly, a graduate student remarked on the absence of self-sustainable sectors such as manufacturing industry:

The quality of Turkey's economic level is low compared to its international position. This is because there is no self-sustainable structure that could support the Turkish economy. ... However, if the manufacturing industry is reinforced, the unemployment rate will decrease and the Turkish economy will be able to skyrocket (Student/Male/32).

Compared to its neighboring countries, most Koreans perceived that the level of the Turkish economy ranks between Europe and the Middle East. A businessman noted, "I consider that Turkey to be in the middle class among the European countries. Compared with the Middle Eastern countries, I think that Turkey is at the top" (Businessman/Male/41). A government official said, "[t]he Turkish economy is better than the Middle East but it is behind Europe" (Government official/Male/43). Likewise, a soldier commented, "I think that Turkey is more developed than the Middle East countries but it is inferior to Europe" (Soldier/Male/39). Another soldier also noted, "[i]ts economic level is below the level of Europe, yet it leads among Middle Eastern countries" (Soldier/Male/48). In addition, a graduate student said, "Turkey's economic level is higher than countries in Eastern Europe and the Middle East but lower than the major European countries" (Student/Male/33). Similarly, an office worker noted, "[i]t is higher than the Middle East, similar to Eastern Europe, and lower than Middle Western Europe" (Office worker/Male/44). In the same vein, a diplomat commented, "[i]t is behind Europe. In regards to per capita income,

it is lower than Middle Eastern countries but its economic constitution such as industrialization is superior to the Middle East” (Diplomat/Male/51). Another diplomat added, “Turkey plays the role of a developed country in the Middle East, whereas it is evaluated as an undeveloped country within Europe” (Diplomat/Male/61). In addition, a soldier commented, “[t]he Turkish economy is weaker than Europe’s because of its weak economic infrastructure. Turkey puts more effort than the Middle East, yet it does not have enough money. Therefore its condition is ambiguous” (Soldier/Male/37).

Meanwhile, some people had a more positive expectation on the Turkish economy compared to the neighboring countries due to its potentials. A government official remarked, “[p]resently, Turkey’s economic level is in the middle. However, it seems that Turkey has much more potential than the neighboring countries” (government official/Male/40). Similarly, a soldier noted, “[o]f course Turkey’s economic level is not higher than Western Europe, but its economic growth rate is much higher than any other countries in Western Europe” (Soldier/Male/37). Moreover, a professor who had studied and worked in Turkey for 10 years expressed Turkey’s economic potential by comparing it with its neighboring countries:

It has grown a lot. It is not to the extent of Europe, but it must be much better than Eastern Europe. It is more stable than Greece, since Greece is in a precarious situation. Iran, Syria and Egypt are in difficult situations, but Turkey has gone into the developing orbit. There is so much potential to grow more. I think that Turkey will rocket as a leader in the Middle East. It has a good relationship with Arabs as a fellow Muslim country, but at the same time, it maintains intimate cooperative relations with Israel as a member of NATO. Therefore, Turkey has so much potential to develop in regards to political, diplomatic, and economic areas if there is no big hardship concerning the Kurdish problem (Professor/Female/54).

Meanwhile, Korean people think that the forces behind the Turkish economy are the state, human resources, foreign capital, geographical location, natural resources, and national traits of the Turks. The majority of the people think that the strong leadership of the government and low-cost labor of the young population are the major forces that lead the Turkish

economy. One businessman noted, “[t]he powerful leadership of the ruling party and diamond-shaped structure with a large number of young people are the driving forces of the Turkish economy” (Businessman/Male/42). Likewise, a considerable number of people emphasized the role of the government which composes a crucial part of the Turkish economy. A student said, “[t]he state is definitely a dominant power within the Turkish economy” (Student/Male/24). One soldier observed the government lead policies for the economic development of Turkey:

The government valorizes for economic stabilization through price stabilization and employment creation policy. In addition, the government has carried out a stimulating economic policy through the vitalization of real estate and a large-scale national development project. Moreover, the state has invigorated the domestic economy especially considering Turkish people’s propensity to consume (Soldier/Male/37).

In the same vein, a professor commented, “[t]he Turkish economy is led by the government. It seems that it will be changed if the prime minister and president are replaced by others because politics, economy and diplomacy are all related” (Professor/Female/54). In addition, an office worker noted, “Turkey has a large number of active producing and consuming population with the average age of 30” (Office worker/Male/44). A businessman added, “[a] well-educated young population provides cheap but high quality labor. ...this is the source of Turkey’s economic competitiveness” (Businessman/Male/55).

In addition to this, many people recognized that foreign capital run the Turkish economy. A businessman commented, “I think that foreign capital flowed into Turkey for the past 10 years due to the various policies of the Turkish government, and that capital was the biggest driving force behind Turkey’s economic development” (Businessman/Male/41). Another businessman also remarked, “[f]oreign capital flowed into Turkey as its international credit rating increased” (Businessman/Male/58). A diplomat also noted, “[f]oreign investment is the power leading the Turkish economy” (Diplomat/Male/61). Likewise, a journalist commented that the Turkish

economy is run by foreign investment capital (Journalist/Female/51). In a little different view, a Taekwondo instructor showed concerns for the inflow of foreign capital into Turkey:

Foreign capital is the driving force behind the Turkish economy. That is to say that financial capital runs Turkey's economy. However this is a bubble economy that can lead to a liquidity crisis in anytime. Therefore, economy is always unstable. Even though, there are various small and big industries, they are not enough for the country to reply on them in the state of crisis (Taekwondo instructor/Male/46).

Many agreed that the geographical location of Turkey is the force behind the Turkish economy. Several businessmen mentioned geographical advantages of Turkey. A businessman noted, "Turkey links the Arab world to Europe, and it benefits from the trade between them. Moreover, Turkey can target both the European market and Arab markets" (Businessman/Male/55). Another businessman commented about the geographical merits of Turkey:

Meanwhile, I think that, with the independence of the Central Asian region, Turkey gained lots of economic profit as its status and role become important. For example, the reconstruction of Afghanistan and Iraq, sanction on Iran by the West, economic collapse of Dubai, and Turkey as Iran's new way out and so on (Businessman/Male/41).

Similarly, a graduate student commented on geographical location of Turkey:

The geographical location is the crucial power behind the Turkish economy. Turkey is close to Europe ... and also to Africa. There is much opportunity for Turkey in the Islamic region including the Middle East. Moreover, many major foreign companies seem to invest in Turkey a lot (Student/Female/26).

In addition, some people view natural resources and tourism resources as the forces leading the Turkish economy. A government official stated, "[a]bundant agricultural products and young human capital are the forces leading the Turkish economy" (Government official/Male/40). A cleric also

agreed, “[h]uman resources and natural resources are the main foundation leading the Turkish economy” (Cleric/Male/52). A soldier pointed out plentiful tourism and human and natural resources as the major drives leading the Turkish economy (Soldier/Male/37). Likewise, a graduate student noted, “[a]bundant primary resources such as agricultural, fishery, and underground resources and a competitive tourism resources are the major factors propelling the Turkish economy” (Student/Male/33). Moreover, several office workers, who are working in the companies in Turkey, put a high valuation on the contribution of tourism to the Turkish economy. In fact, according to the World Tourism Organization (UNWTO), Turkey ranked 6<sup>th</sup> in the world in tourist arrivals with 35.7 million, and it retained 25.7 billion USD as receipts in 2012.<sup>60</sup> Moreover, according to the World Travel & Tourism Council, the direct contribution of travel and tourism to GDP was 57.7 billion TRY, which was 4.1 percent of total GDP in 2012, and it is forecasted to rise by 3.5 percent per annum, from 2013-2023, to 84.3 billion TRY in 2023. In addition, the total contribution of travel and tourism to GDP was 155.8 billion TRY, which was 10.9 percent of total GDP in 2012, and it is forecasted to rise by 3.7 percent per annum to 232 billion TRY in 2023.<sup>61</sup>

In addition to this, some people mentioned the national traits of Turks as the power leading the Turkish economy. One businessman noted, “I think that diligent and sincere Turkish people have been building the Turkish economy from the bottom to top” (Businessman/Male/41). In addition, a student said, “I think people’s deep-rooted loyalty to their nation and love for their homeland is the driving force of the Turkish economy” (Student/Female/22).” On the other hand, a graduate student remarked, “[t]he high taxes and people’s propensity to comply with the government policies maintain the Turkish economy (Student/Male/33).” Meanwhile, another graduate student commented that the people’s propensity to

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<sup>60</sup> Source: World Tourism Organization (UNWTO) Tourism Highlights, 2013 edition

<sup>61</sup> Travel & Tourism Economic Impact 2013: Turkey, World Travel & Tourism Council (WTTC).

consume sustains the country's economy:

I think that it is due to the firm domestic market of Turkey. Since their spending power is extremely high compared to their income, there is an abundance of liquidity [in the domestic market] even during the times of recession. That is to say that [the people's propensity to consume] works as a driving force to maintain market expansion (Student/Male/32).

Korean people perceived a back-scratching alliance of government and business, political disorder, national character of Turks, the Kurdish problem, and lack of production based construction as the factors that hinder the development of the Turkish economy. A large number of Koreans consider the collusive links between politicians and businessmen as the biggest hindrance for the development of the Turkish economy. A diplomat noted, "[t]he unhealthy links between business and politics is a hindrance to the Turkish economy" (Diplomat/Male/61). A graduate student also stated, "I heard that there is a considerable amount of black money circling between politicians and businessmen" (Student/Female/26). A businessman commented on the back-scratching alliance of government and businesses:

I don't know in detail since the Turkish economic growth has maintained its position at the world's top level. Nevertheless, I think that the back-scratching alliance between politicians and businessmen is the biggest obstacle. The back-scratching alliance of the government and businesses restrains and blocks free competition, thereby making the most out of the capability in regards to economic development. It also restricts foreign capital flowing into Turkey (Businessman/Male/41).

Likewise, a Taekwondo instructor also noted, "I think that all the corruption originate from the unhealthy links between politicians and businessmen" (Taekwondo instructor/Male/46). Moreover, many people considered political disorder as the biggest stumbling block to economic development. One businessman viewed the low zeal for education and corruption and bureaucratism in the government as the main hindrance to the economic development:



The low zeal for education makes it impossible to nurture young talents. In addition to this, bureaucratism and corruption are hindrances for the economic development. (Businessman/Male/42)

In addition, a graduate student commented, “[b]esides the state-run economic activity, it is a lack of a system or support for voluntary economic activity which can compete in the world market” (Student/Male/33). In the same vein, an office worker pointed out the incompetency of government officials and the poor infrastructure. He explained that, “[i]nsufficient macroeconomic policy, which plans the future of the national economy, lack of transportation infrastructure, and overly slow internet and so on” (Office worker/Male/44). Moreover, a businessman observed the distrust in politics among the young generation:

First of all, the new generation of young people has a deep political distrust in the government. At present, discontent toward the present government is being expressed. Unfortunately, the government does not seem willing to resolve this discontent (Businessman/Male/55).

In addition, many Koreans considered Turkish national character as the hindrance to economic development. A diplomat stated, “[t]he variety of the people in Turkey, which is called the Mosaic State, makes it difficult to exert integrated faculties. In addition, there is a lack of active endeavoring” (Diplomat/Male/51). A journalist commented, “I think that the national character of Turks hinders economic development. The people do not work hard compared to Koreans” (Journalist/Female/51). Moreover, a graduate student explained the national character of the Turks by comparing with Koreans’ ‘faster faster’ culture:

I think that the culture of ‘Inshallah (God willing)’ plays a big part. Work that must be done often gets delayed. It seems that they rarely feel worth working for as much as Koreans do. There is ‘빨리 빨리’ (faster faster)’ in Korea. On the contrary, there is no ‘빨리 빨리’ (faster faster)’ in Turkey. This seems related to Turkey’s economic development (Student/Female/26).

Moreover, some Koreans regard the Kurdish problem as an obstacle to economic development in Turkey. One of the students noted,

I think that the Kurdish problem can be an obstacle for the development of the Turkish economy since it can be seen from outside as something happening all over the country. Therefore it makes Turkey to seem like a dangerous country (Student/Female/26).

In fact, political problems do affect the economy of a country because they influence foreign investment. It is very possible that the Kurdish problem in Turkey has affected the inflow of foreign capital and investment into Turkey. The Kurdish problem may portray Turkey as a dangerous and instable country so that foreign investors may think twice before investing in Turkey. According to Koreans, since foreign capitals and foreign investment are a large part of the Turkish economy, the Kurdish problem can be considered as one of the major obstacles for the development of the Turkish economy.

Furthermore, a few Koreans mentioned the lack of production-based construction in Turkey. A student stated, “[t]here is no manufacturing despite rich resources” (Student/Male/24). A soldier noted, “[t]he Turkish economy consists of a consumption-based structure rather than production” (Soldier/Male/37). In addition, a businessman commented, “[b]ecause of the weak production base, there are chronic trade and fiscal deficits” (Businessman/Male/51).

Meanwhile, Koreans mostly have positive perceptions about the future prospects of the Turkish economy. Only a small number of people expressed negative views about the future of Turkish economy. The majority of the people who have positive outlook for the Turkish economy think that the Turkish economy will continue to develop. One office worker stated that she thinks that the Turkish economy has a good outlook because of its fast economic growth rate (Office worker/Female/47). A diplomat who has positive outlook for Turkish economy commented, “[d]ue to the political effort of the present government, the Turkish economy has steadily grown for the last 10 years” (Diplomat/Male/51). Another diplomat

noted, “[t]he potential to grow is very big” (Diplomat/Male/61). One businessman stated, “I expect the Turkey’s economy to expand because Turkey has sold post-war reconstruction goods due to continuous wars in the neighboring countries” (Businessman/Male/58). In addition, a soldier remarked, “[b]ecause of the plentiful resources, and land, and improvement in national character, I anticipate a good future for the Turkish economy” (Soldier/Male/37). A graduate student commented that he perceives the Turkish economy positively because of the geographical location, tourism resources and high domestic economy of Turkey:

Turkey is located in a geographically significant position. In addition, it has tourism resources, which is a big part of the Turkish economy. Moreover, it has a growing domestic market. Therefore, there is more potential to improve rather than to worsen (Student/Male/32).

In the same vein, a government official noted, “[i]t seems that the secondary and tertiary industries can be developed on the basis of the stable primary industry in Turkey” (Government official/Male/40). Moreover, a graduate student remarked, “Turkey’s economic future is bright because it has abundant agricultural, fishery, and underground resources for the primary industry and it has numbers of the world tourism resources” (Student/Male/33). Moreover a businessman commented on Turkish market expansion into the Middle Eastern and European markets:

I think that, in general, the future of the Turkish economy is bright. First of all, through the continuous improvement of relations with Middle Eastern countries, the Turkish market has expanded into the Middle Eastern region. Since Turkey has already started to expand into the European region including East Europe, it seems that Turkey has potential to influence continuously. In addition, I think that the firm primary agricultural industry and tourism industry built a secure foundation for Turkish economic growth. I think the task for Turkish companies is to develop international competitive power through the more efficient administration and management (Businessman/Male/41).

Furthermore, a professor remarked, “[i]f Turkey can become politically stable, the Turkish economy can continue to grow since it has abundant

production, plentiful domestic market, ample resources and a large amount of usable land” (Professor/Female/54). In addition to this, a student noted, “[i]t seems to be good. The people say that it is much better than 10 years ago. It seems like Turkey has started to join world events such as global meetings and international conferences. I think that this is a start” (Student/Female/26).

On the contrary, some people had negative expectations for Turkish economy. One businessman commented, “[i]t seems that the recent slowdown of economic growth, inflationary pressure, and the current account deficits are impediments to Turkish economic development” (Businessman/Male/42). In addition, an office worker stated, “Turkey has the potential to grow thanks to the low average age of its population. Nevertheless it has a lack of goods and services that have competitiveness in exports” (Office worker/Male/54). Moreover, a soldier noted, “[f]oreign capital runs a tight ship of the Turkish economy” (Soldier/Male/37). Therefore, it is considered to be unstable. Similarly, a Taekwondo instructor remarked, “[i]t seems to be changed depending on the foreign investors’ movement” (Taekwondo instructor/Male/46). Furthermore, another soldier observed, “[t]he Turkish economy is precarious because of the artificial vitalization of real estate, high household debt, and a less-than-transparent bank and business structure” (Soldier/Male/37). Unfortunately, a journalist married with a Turk remarked, “I anticipate that Turkey will face an economic crisis” (Journalist/Female/51).

### **5.1.2 Korean Perceptions on Turkish Brands**

In regards to Turkish brands, the majority of Koreans have negative perceptions mostly because of the lack of brand awareness. Moreover, some do not even know a single Turkish brand. On the other hand, a small number of Koreans have positive perceptions and expectations toward Turkish brands.

Most of the Koreans, excluding businessmen, view Turkish brands as brands with poor credibility and a low level of awareness in the global market. One office worker stated, “I consider the level of Turkish manufacturing technique to be low. Turkish companies manufacture low and middle-priced goods with a low level of brand awareness” (Office worker/Male/44). A government official noted, “[i]t is still at the level of a developing country” (Government official/Male/40). A diplomat commented, “[i]t still lacks the effort for self-technology development. Turkish brand awareness in the world is not high” (Diplomat/Male/51). Another diplomat added, “[t]he number of global scale business is small. In addition, the credibility of Turkish brands is weak as well” (Diplomat/Male/61). Moreover, a soldier commented, “Turkish brands are hardly found among global brands. Most Turkish brands are mid-sized firms” (Soldier/Male/48). A Taekwondo instructor observed, “[m]ost of the reliable Turkish brands are made in partnership with foreign companies. Entirely Turkish brands are few in number” (Taekwondo instructor/Male/46). A professor noted, “[t]here are no global Turkish brands” (Professor/Male/62). A graduate student commented on the lack of brand awareness outside of Turkey:

Besides tourism sector, most of them are frothy. Only inside Turkey do Turks feel proud of their brands, but Turkish brand awareness is nonexistent overseas. There is no brand awareness. However, Turkey has quality raw materials among several items. There is a potential for the development through marketing (Student/Male/32).

Another student observed, “[i]t seems like Sabanci, Teknosa, and Koc are large companies only inside Turkey. The quality of their products is not worth buying. The people may prefer nuts and fruits” (Student/Female/26). A journalist remarked the need for Turkish brands to become conglomerates to be recognized as global brands:

Koç Holding, a conglomerate, is the only Turkish company that is listed in the Global Fortune 500, while there are about 10 Korean conglomerates are listed in. It shows that the Turkish brands must be corporatized to become conglomerates. BEKO has some recognition in Europe as a global brand (Journalist/Female/51).

Furthermore, some people said that they do not know any Turkish brands. Others said that they hardly trust Turkish brands. One of the soldier stated, “I do not prefer Turkish brands” (Soldier/Male/39). A graduate student noted, “I hardly trust Turkish firms and brands” (Student/Male/33). An office worker mentioned, “I don’t know anything about Turkish brands” (Office worker/Female/47). Another office worker said, “I don’t think that Turkish brands are that influential” (Office worker/Female/29).

However, some Koreans have a more positive perception of Turkish brands, focusing on the potential of the companies. Most of them are Korean businessmen working and investing in Turkey. It seems that, since they saw the potentials of Turkish brands, they came and invested in Turkey. Therefore, it is natural for them to have positive views toward Turkish brands. One businessman commented, “[f]rom the standpoint of an economically developed country, Turkish brands still have a long way to go. However, since they have been promoting internally and externally, brand awareness has been improving” (Businessman/Male/55). Another businessman noted, “Turkish brands have made a lot of effort and now they are seeing the fruits of their labor” (Businessman/Male/58). In addition, the other businessman remarked, “[t]here is no remarkable companies yet. I think that better companies and brands can come out in the future” (Businessman/Male/55). Moreover, one of the businessmen valued the efforts of Turkish companies and the results of many years’ of effort:

I think that the Turkish companies are generally more trustworthy than the Middle Eastern or East European countries. As the result of the past years’ effort to meet European standards, Turkish brands have been able to enter the mid-upper level in the world (Businessman/Male/41).

In addition to this, one soldier observed, “[n]ot only are Turkish brands and companies recognized in Turkey, but they also recognized regionally in neighboring countries” (Soldier/Male/37). A cleric stated, “I think that the

brand awareness of the Turkish brands and companies is increasing” (Cleric/Male/52).

### **5.1.3 Korean Perceptions on Turkish-Korean Cooperation in Economic Relations**

When it comes to the Turkish-Korean economic relations, the majority of Koreans have positive views. Many people recognized that Turkish-Korean economic cooperation has been increasing. In addition, a number of Koreans expressed high expectations of the continuous increase in economic cooperation between the two countries. A journalist considered that the Turkish-Korean economic cooperation has been good because, “it has been continuously increasing” (Journalist/Female/51). One diplomat showed positive prospects for Turkish-Korean economic cooperation:

I think that the economic cooperation between the two countries is good now. Because of the Free Trade Agreement, trade between the two countries will be increased. Moreover, Korean businesses are very interested in investing and expanding into Turkey (Diplomat/Male/51).

Another diplomat also added, “[a]fter the Free Trade Agreement (FTA)<sup>62</sup> came into force, Koreans companies’ investment in Turkey has been accelerating” (Diplomat/Male/61). A businessman noted, “Korea has been investing in capital equipment and Turkey is a significant trade partner of Korea” (Businessman/Male/51). Another businessman stated, “Turkish economic cooperation with Korea has been increasing” (Businessman/Male/55). Likewise, many people have a good outlook for Turkish-Korean economic cooperation, mainly due to the Free Trade

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<sup>62</sup> On 1 May 2013, “the Framework Agreement Establishing a Free Trade Area between Turkey and Korea” and “the Agreement on Trade in Goods between Turkey and Korea” entered into force. Comparing 2012 to 2013 from May to December, Korea’s export to Turkey has increased from 2,878 million to 3,999 million, which is 38.9% increase within a year. Likewise, Turkey’s export to Korea has increased from 404 million dollars to 465 million dollars, which is 15.1% increase over the previous year. Total turnover of the trade between Turkey and Korea shows an overall increase over the previous year of 36 percent.

Agreement came into effect on May 1<sup>st</sup>, 2013. One businessman commented, “[a]lthough traditionally Turkey has been a country with a current account deficit with Korea, it is anticipated that the current account deficit would be narrowed with the effectuation of the FTA on May 1<sup>st</sup>, 2013” (Businessman/Male/42). In addition, a government official noted, “[t]he FTA set the stage for future economic cooperation between Turkey and Korea” (Government official/Female/33). Moreover, a graduate student said, “[t]rade volume has been growing each year. Both countries seem to be aimed for better cooperative relations, for example, through the effectuation of FTA” (Student/Male/33). In addition to this, another graduate student remarked, “the economic cooperation between Turkey and Korea is good. The various relevant laws and regulations are favorable to it” (Student/Male/32).

Nevertheless, at the same time, some also showed concerns toward imbalance in economic relations. An office worker stated, “I think Turkish-Korean economic cooperation is good. Many Korean companies have been actively entering into Turkey. However, Turkish companies have no movement to expand into Korea” (Office worker/Male/54). One of the businessmen expressed his concerns for the lack of Turkish companies’ movement in regards to the trade between Korea:

I heard that the volume of trade between Turkey and Korea has increased more than 30 percent within a year after the effectuation of FTA. However, the majority of the increase was Korean exports into Turkey. For the present, Korea and Turkey seem to be in the best relations in all the areas such as politics, economy and culture. Nevertheless, it seems like that private Turkish enterprises have no intention to expand into Korea. I think that Turkish companies rarely make good use of the FTA. I wonder if Turkish exports to Korea also depend on the initiative of Korean importers (Businessman/Male/41).

That is to say, there are some concerns in relation to the economic cooperation between Turkey and Korea, even though many Koreans think that it has been good.

On the other hand, a small number of people consider that Turkish-Korean economic cooperation is very insignificant. One government official



had a negative view of Turkish-Korean economic cooperation because of the lack of trade volume (Government official/Male/40). A soldier also noted, “[t]he total trade volume [between Turkey and Korea] is still insignificant” (Soldier/Male/48). In addition, a Taekwondo instructor commented that the Turkish-Korean economic cooperation is insignificant due to distance and imbalance:

Turkish-Korean economic cooperation is limited due to the distance. Moreover, it can cause imbalance to the economic cooperation since the Turkish economic foundation is weak. Especially, in regards to trade, it is hard to escape imbalance between exports and imports (Taekwondo instructor/Male/46).

In addition, an economics professor remarked, “the investments of Korea’s multinational companies are insufficient. Korea’s five leading companies such as Samsung, LG, SK, Hyundai, and Lotte should invest more [in Turkey]” (Professor/Male/62). Moreover, another professor commented about the lack of actual cooperative relations in progress:

They always talk about cooperation, but I don’t know if the things are going well. There were several projects, including a bridge and nuclear project, in which both countries were supposed to work together. However it did not go well. I heard that they will develop a next-generation fighter plane together. It seems like Turkey and Korea are emotionally close, but there is no real relationship (Professor/Female/54).

In fact, whenever the political leaders of the two countries come together, they always talk about economic cooperation. However, in reality, there is not much cooperation between the two countries. It seems that it is hard for the two different countries’ needs and conditions to be fulfilled. Therefore, Turkey generally ended up choosing a different country over Korea for public projects. Furthermore, one student remarked, “I usually try to look up the news related to Turkey. However, news articles related to economic cooperation are rare” (Student/Female/22).

With regards to the trade between Turkey and Korea, several people commented on the trade items and areas of cooperation. One soldier said,

“[t]rade between Turkey and Korea is generally concentrated on certain parts of defense industry and private sectors” (Soldier/Male/37). Another soldier stated, “[f]rom the Turkish point of view, the trade items are limited to primary industry such as agriculture due to the lack of technique and price competitiveness” (Soldier/Male/37). On the other hand, one businessman commented on the various sectors of the Koreans companies’ advance in the Turkish market:

It seems like mostly the trade between Turkey and Korea is dominated by the exports from Korea to Turkey. Many different Korean machines and products have been sold to Turkey, from military equipment, power plant construction, large-scale civil engineering and construction projects to service industry such as home shopping. ...It seems that Korean companies’ advance into Turkey will grow more and more in various sectors for a while (Businessman/Male/41).

In relation to the volume of trade between Turkey and Korea, a large number of Koreans pointed out the imbalance of trade between the two countries. One office worker working in a tourism organization commented, “[t]rade imbalance between the two countries is serious. It seems difficult to be resolved in a short period of time” (Office worker/Male/54). A journalist noted, “[t]rade from Korea to Turkey is active. On the contrary, a few goods have been exporting from Turkey to Korea” (Journalist/Female/51). A Taekwondo instructor stated, “[t]rade between the two countries mostly consists of the one-sided exports of Korea. There are many items to export from Korea while it seems like it is difficult for Turkey to find items to export to Korea” (Taekwondo instructor/Male/46). In addition to this, an economics professor commented, “the volume of trade between Turkey and Korea appeared to be an adverse balance of trade. This is due to the lack of investment stimulation between the Korean and Turkish government, and the lack of human interchange” (Professor/Male/62). Moreover, a soldier remarked, “[d]ue to the one-sided exports of Korea, there is much dissatisfaction in Turkey” (Soldier/Male/48). Meanwhile, a student noted that the FTA is a good chance to overcome the imbalance of trade:

There is imbalance of trade between Turkey and Korea. Generally, Turkey imports and Korea exports. I think that the FTA is a good opportunity because we can sell our products and buy Turkish fruits and nut products. Then it is advantageous to both sides (Student/Female/26).

In addition, several businessmen were aware of the fact that the volume of trade between Turkey and Korea is about 60-70 billion USD. One diplomat commented that the trade volume between the two countries is not enough for their economic scale:

The volume of trade between Turkey and Korea has decreased from 60 billion dollars in 2011 to 52 billion dollars in 2012. Considering the both countries' economic scale and the total trade volume with the world, it is still insufficient. It is expected that trade would grow more between the two countries thanks to the FTA (Diplomat/Male/51).

In the same vein, a graduate student remarked on the comparative trade dependence of Turkey and Korea to each other:

Korea has a high trade dependence on the U.S., Japan, China and Europe. Turkey has a big trade dependence on Europe and the Middle East. Even though the Turkey-Korea trade volume has been growing each year, the mutual trade dependence of both countries cannot be seen as high (Student/Male/33).

In terms of hindrance and obstacles in Turkish-Korean economic cooperation, Koreans pointed out the long distance, different mindset originated from the cultures, structural restriction such as regulations, lack of items and competitiveness, less profits compared to costs, and insufficient human interchange. The majority of Koreans said that the biggest obstacle is the long distance between Turkey and Korea. One businessman noted, "[t]here seems to be no other obstacle besides the long distance between the two countries" (Businessman/Male/42). A diplomat also commented, "[i]t is lack of the companies' mutual interest and information about each other's market because of the long distance" (Diplomat/Male/51). In addition, a government official stated, "[g]eographical distance is the obstacle for economic cooperation"

(Government official/Male/43). Moreover, a professor remarked, “[b]ecause of the long distance, it seems like the profit is not enough for both sides” (Professor/Female/54). In addition to this, a businessman suggested, “[a] reformation in transportation is crucial to overcome the long distance between the two countries” (Businessman/Male/58).

In addition, many people consider the differences of the mindset and attitudes based on their own cultures as the biggest hindrance to Turkish-Korean economic cooperation. One soldier stated, “I consider the differences on entrepreneurial spirit and business ethics between the two countries as the biggest hindrance of Turkish-Korean economic cooperation” (Soldier/Male/37). It is considered, in Korea, that entrepreneurial spirit such as challenge and boldness is required for the businessmen. However, to use a Korean businessman’s phrase, the Turkish businesses are stability-oriented. Because of such differences, it may be hard for both countries’ businessmen to come to agreement. Another soldier said, “[t]he religious foreignness seems to be the hindrance to economic cooperation” (Soldier/Male/37). A graduate student noted, “I think that the cultural differences and the national character of the Turks are hindrances because, although Turkey is a modern country, their national character has not modernized yet” (Student/Male/32). He pointed out that, for the business relations, if the conditions and profits are good, they sign a contract. He continued, however, explaining that they are obsequious to foreign buyers and promise many things that they cannot keep. Therefore, foreign buyers make a contract with the Turkish businessmen, but later the Turks are stigmatized as swindlers since they could not keep their word and change the conditions every time. It seems to be rooted from the Turkish culture that everything works out easily if the relations are built well. Because of the Turkish relationship-based culture, in the beginning, they try to build a good relationship with the foreign businessmen, so that they say that they will offer good conditions to the point that they can hardly offer. On the contrary, even with a very good condition, a Turkish businessman would not sign a contract if his pride was hurt. Likewise, it can be said that the Turkish culture that good relations and feelings are considered as high

values also comes into business relations. Similarly, an office worker mentioned, “I think that the biggest hindrance for the Turkish-Korean economic cooperation is the inconsistent attitude of the Turks” (Office worker/Female/29). According to the Hofstede’s country comparison by the dimension of national culture, Korea scored at 85 in regard of uncertainty avoidance.<sup>63</sup> That is to say that Korea is one of the most uncertainty avoiding countries in the world. According to Hofstede, countries exhibiting high uncertainty avoidance are intolerant of unorthodox behavior and ideas. Since precision and punctuality are the norm in Korea, the inconsistent attitude of the Turks can be seen as an obstacle for the Koreans. Furthermore, a journalist married a Turk commented on the hardship experienced in the process when a Korean company enters into the Turkish market:

If a Korean company works in the Turkish market to the same behavior pattern they do in the Korean market, it may not fit to the situation in Turkey. In addition, due to the lack of understanding, there is slow going on the work (Journalist/Female/51).

Moreover, some Koreans mentioned structural obstacles such as legal restrictions and taxes. A government official noted, “I think that the expensive taxes are the obstacle for Korean companies to work in Turkey” (Government official/Male/40). In addition, a soldier stated, “I consider the restrictions by Turkish laws and regulations, and social system are the obstacles for Turkish-Korean economic cooperation” (Soldier/Male/39). Moreover, a Taekwondo instructor considered the Turkish economic structure as the hindrance for the Turkish-Korean economic cooperation:

I think the hindrance is the Turkish economic structure. Since the Turkish economy’s dependence on foreign capitals is quite high, [whether Korea can cooperate with Turkey or not] can be changed by how much a Korean company can meet the conditions of Turkey (Taekwondo instructor/Male/46).

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<sup>63</sup> Cultural Tools: Country Comparison-Korea, The Hofstede Centre. See, [geert-hofstede.com/turkey.html](http://geert-hofstede.com/turkey.html).

Meanwhile, most of the Koreans have positive perceptions on the potentials of Turkish-Korean economic cooperation. Many expressed a positive outlook for the future economic relations between Turkey and Korea. Only a few people had negative views about the future economic cooperative relations between the two countries. One government official stated, “[i]t is considered that, as time goes by, the economic cooperation would be strengthened more” (Government official/Male/40). Similarly, a diplomat commented, “[t]here is a big possibility for the trade and investments to be increased” (Diplomat/Male/61). Moreover, a businessman remarked, “I anticipate that the cooperative relations between both countries will be developed more thanks to the historical friendly relations and the recent effectuation of the FTA” (Businessman/Male/42). A graduate student also commented, “I think that the prospects are very good. I think that being a ‘brother country’ is a great benefit for us [in regards to the economic cooperation with Turkey]” (Student/Female/26). An office worker noted, “Korean products’ sales to Turkey will consistently increase” (Office worker/Male/54). In addition, a soldier stated, “[a] country with a lack of resources and superiority in technology, and a country which does not, met. I think that the outlook is good” (Soldier/Male/37). Korea lacks natural resources but is advanced technologically, while Turkey has abundant natural resources but needs to improve in technology. Therefore, Koreans think that the Turkish-Korean economic relations can take the form of complementary cooperation. In the same vein, a student remarked, “[t]he potential of the economic cooperation between the two countries is very big. Korea is a leading country in manufacturing, which Turkey needs. Turkey has a growing economy which Korea needs” (Student/Male/24). According to the Industrial Competitiveness of Nations by United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO), Korea maintained its position at number four globally.<sup>64</sup> In addition, Turkey is one of the large

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<sup>64</sup> UNIDO, *The Industrial Competitiveness of Nations: Looking back, forging ahead, Competitive Industrial Performance Report 2012/2013*, (Vienna: United Nations Industrial Development

emerging market economies. Turkish economy is cyclically advanced and economic growth has been led by private consumption.<sup>65</sup> Turkey's GDP has maintained a 4.0 percent growth rate, and household final consumption expenditure increased by 5.1 percent at constant prices in 2013 compared to the previous year.<sup>66</sup> Moreover, one of soldiers commented on the potentials of Turkish-Korean economic cooperation as the bridges to the market expansion:

I think that if Turkish-Korean economic cooperation is carried out in the aspects of the Korean advance into the Middle East and the Central Asian markets via Turkey and the Turkish advance into the Northeast Asian market via Korea, the cooperative relations will be maintained and developed continuously (Soldier/Male/37).

A student stated, "I think that since Turkey is a country with infinite potential for economic development, if we cooperate with Turkey economically, the Korean economy can also grow" (Student/Female/22).

Furthermore, a graduate student commented on the credibility of Korean goods in Turkey:

I think that the outlook of the future economic cooperation between the two countries is bright because Turkish credibility of the Korean products has been rising sharply recently. The perception that Korean goods are cheaper than European products but are similar in quality has increased (Student/Male/32).

Although most of Koreans have a good outlook for the future economic cooperation between Turkey and Korea, a few people had a doubtful view. One soldier stated, "[i]t is not of the level to have great expectations" (Soldier/Male/37). A professor commented about the lack of specialty in the counterpart's market:

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Organization, 2013).

<sup>65</sup> International Monetary Fund, *World Economic Outlook: Recovery Strengthens, Remains Uneven*, (Washington: IMF, April 2014).

<sup>66</sup> Turkish Statistical Institute, *Gross Domestic Product*, III. Quarter 2013, December 2013.

I wish that it would be positive. Though, in relation to the economic cooperation, if there is no novel item, for Turkey that it must be only Korea, and for Korea that it must be only Turkey, the partnership cooperation hardly seems possible. While Europe is in the face, there is no reason for Turkey to bring something from Korea if they have human resources and techniques. Moreover there is no reason [for Turkey] to be in Korean trade area. Since 2002, they have come a long way. Nevertheless, there is nothing that is very successful. ... Kebab restaurants are not very successful either. ... It is same for Korea as well. Koreans manufacture automobiles there, but the intent is not just to access the Turkish market. Since Turkey is close to Europe [Korean companies] wanted to capitalize on the geographical merits [of Turkey] (Professor/Female/54).

#### **5.1.4 Korean perceptions on the FTA between Turkey and Korea**

On May 1<sup>st</sup>, 2013 the Free Trade Agreement between Turkey and Korea came into effect. Korean people have positive and negative perceptions about the results and prospects of the FTA. One businessman commented, “I think that export and import will be increased more due to the FTA. It is a very good thing for economic cooperation between Turkey and Korea” (Businessman/Male/55). An office worker also noted, “I think that it will be a great plus factor for future Turkish-Korean economic cooperation” (Office worker/Male/44). In addition, a government official expressed his positive opinion of Turkish-Korean economic relations:

It seems that it will take time for the agreement to be expanded from commodity agreement to investment in services and the effect to be appeared. Nevertheless, I prospect that the FTA would be beneficial for both countries (Government official/Female/33).

In the same vein, a diplomat remarked, “[i]t will be momentum for an increase in trade and investment” (Diplomat/Male/51). Moreover, a soldier stated, “[a]s time goes by, positive effects will be come out” (soldier/Male/37). Similarly, a Taekwondo instructor observed, “[u]pon this opportunity, I expect that there will be more active economic cooperation [between the two countries]” (Taekwondo instructor/Male/46).

On the other hand, some people give a skeptical response to the Free Trade Agreement signed between Turkey and Korea. One of the graduate students noted, “[l]ooking at Korean industrial products in Turkey,



it is still difficult to feel the effect of the effectuation of the FTA” (Student/Male/33). In addition, one journalist commented, “[s]ince it is very positive for Korea, the FTA is an opportunity for more products to be exported to Turkey. However, from the point of view of Turkey, it can cause more trade imbalance” (Journalist/Female/51). Moreover, an office worker stated, “[t]here can be some effects such as an increase in exports in some enterprises. However, I don’t consider that it is significant from a macro perspective” (Office worker/Male/54). Likewise, a professor doubted the effect of the FTA:

It must be the customs union and I wonder how much they would be willingly opened in terms of education and medicine. I don’t think that there will be much difference in trade. Because of the geographical hindrance, I doubt if it would be carried out even to the extent of overcoming the distance. In regards to medicine and education, since both sides are exclusive, I doubt if there would be much effect [of the FTA] (Professor/Female/54).

Moreover, a businessman commented, “[s]till, because of the partial opening, quota, dumping and so on, there are obstacles in important parts” (Businessman/Male/58). Likewise, another businessman noted, “[e]ven though acceleration in the economic cooperation of both countries is anticipated, Anti-Dumping duties have continued to be the obstacle” (Businessman/Male/42).

In sum, Koreans generally have positive perceptions of the Turkish economy due to its potential to grow. Nevertheless, Turkish brands are hardly known among Koreans. Many Koreans have negative perceptions toward Turkish brands due to its lack of awareness in global market. In addition, in terms of Turkish-Korean economic relations, the majority of Koreans have positive views and prospects about it. However many also express concerns regarding the imbalance of trade and insufficient trade volume between Turkey and Korea. Therefore, some Koreans have positive expectations for the effectuation of the FTA between Turkey and Korea. On the other hand, others still show concerns about the existing restrictions and the small possibility of change.

## **5.2 Turkish Perception on the Korean Economy**

This chapter will discuss Turkish people's perceptions on the Korean economy. It is categorized into four different parts: the Korean economy, Korean brands, Turkish-Korean cooperation in economic relations, and the FTA between Turkey and Korea. The first part will be covering Turkish people's perceptions about the Korean economy, Korea's fast economic development, Korea's economy compared to that of neighboring countries such as China and Japan, powers that are leading the Korean economy, hindrances and obstacles for the Korean economy, and the anticipation for the future of the Korean economy. The second part will generally be covering the Turkish people's views on Korean brands and companies. In the third part, the Turkish people's perceptions about the rate of trade between the two countries, hindrance and obstacles for the economic cooperation and potentials of Turkish-Korean economic cooperation will be discussed. Lastly, the fourth part will focus on the recently effectuated FTA between Turkey and Korea.

### **5.2.1 Turkish Perceptions on the Korean Economy**

Turkish people's perceptions about the Korean economy are mostly positive. Many people view the Korean economy as successful because of its place in the world economy and its fast growth after the war. Especially, people of certain professions whose works are influenced by the economic situation of Korea have more knowledge of the recent flow of the Korean economy. Therefore, their perceptions seem to be based on statistical data such as: the world economic rankings or the background knowledge on the Korean economic history including the industrialization process. One government official visited Korea for the economic cooperation between Turkey and Korea stated the condition of the Korean economy:

For the last 30 years, Korea has developed very fast. Per capita national income is very high. I remember it is \$27000. The economic growth rate was 3.2 and it is quite a good rate among the level of developed countries. The welfare level of people grew very fast and still

continues growing by virtue of the electronic and automobile sector (Government official/Female/38).

Since the economic growth rate of developed countries tends to be low in general, Turkish people showed positive amazement at the economic growth rate of Korea. This also shows that Turkish people consider Korea as a country with an advanced economy because of its high national income. In addition, a diplomat mentioned the balance between exports and imports, and the volume of trade as indicators of the success:

I think that Korean economy is very successful. I think that it is more balanced than being successful. The balance between exports and imports is very good. Even Korea has a large economy it is still growing. This is also one of the signs of success. Regarding the volume of trade, Korea has the number 6<sup>th</sup> economy in the world. In terms of the overall statistics, Korea is 13<sup>th</sup> economy in the world. Therefore, it is very successful. It is successful than Turkey. Turkey is 17<sup>th</sup> (Diplomat/Male/39).

Likewise, the Turkish people who keep track on economic conditions perceive that the Korean economy is good because of its balance in export and import and its advanced economic ranking in the world. Moreover, a professor who wrote his dissertation on Korean industrialization commented on the fast development of the Korean economic history through the industrialization:

I see Korea as the most successful country in the world during the 1960s and 1990s. Korea was a successful country along with Singapore, Taiwan and Hong Kong. Korea became one of the leading countries that succeeded in industrialization. High technology provided a huge progress in Korea. Of course there was a considerable contribution of Chaebols. The Korean economy was leaning on large companies. However in the 1990s with the Asia crisis, the Korean economy was shaken. Until 2002-3, the Korean economy experienced a serious decline. It has just gotten over it now and the Korean economy is getting better. ... I see Korean companies as very successful companies in the field of the world economy. I appreciate the achievement of Samsung, LG, Hyundai, Kia and Daewoo. Nevertheless the hardship they went through during the crisis, is why I believe that the Korean economy is successful (Professor/Male/35).

That is to say that several high-educated Turkish people have positive impression on the fast economic development of Korea and they are aware of the contribution of Chaebols, the large companies of Korea, to its fast growth. An academician who researched Korean history in relations with the East Asian region paid attention to Korea's development and economic growth in the time of crisis:

I think the Korean economy is doing well both in its own region and the world as well in general. Especially after the recent crisis, Korea was one of the few countries that skipped the crisis in terms of development and economic growth. ... Therefore, the Korean economy in terms of industry became one of the leading economies in the world. Korea will have a more important role in East Asia and the world in general (Academician/Male/31).

Because of its success in averting the crisis, some Turkish academicians have very positive views on the Korean economy and value its possible role in its surrounding regions. Furthermore, the investment in research and development made some Turks perceive the Korean economy positively. An attorney having a part in the business relations between Turkey and Korea remarked, "[i]n my perspective, nowadays the Korean economy is going very well. ... I see it positively that the Department of Research and Development has been opened in many universities and companies" (Attorney/Male/32).

Meanwhile, unlike the people who have a background knowledge of the Korean economy, other people's positive perceptions on the Korean economy tend to be formed from what they have learned through education and what they have observed and experienced. One soldier remarked, "Korea has experienced enormous improvement after the war and now it is among the top ten economies in the world. I really appreciate it" (Soldier/Male/31). One student also said, "Korea has a developed economy. Especially after the Korean War, it has developed so much" (Student/Male/24). Likewise, many students mentioned that Korea achieved fast development after the Korea War since at least they have learned from the classes or read from articles about the fast development of Korea. Another student who visited Korea by the support of the Korean

government stated, “[t]he Korean economy has developed in the very short period of time after the war and Korean brands succeeded to become one of the world’s top brands. This gives a hope to us” (Student/Female/22). As she mentioned, it is found that the Korean brands known as global brands plays a considerable role in creating positive perceptions about the Korean economy. In addition, one of the students who had a great interest in Korea expressed her positive views about the Korean economy which were generally formed through what she watched and researched:

Korea is a developing country that recovered itself very well after the war period. As I know, there are new buildings everywhere. I watched at *Ayna Program*<sup>67</sup>; there were very big buildings and they were very huge. Because of that, I think that Korea is a country with a developing economy. ... and it is understood by the cars that Korea is developed. They are very nice. Especially, the car in *City Hunter*<sup>68</sup> was really nice (Student/Female/19).

As quoted above, the student considers the Korean economy to be developed by what is shown on the TV program and drama such as: huge buildings and nice cars. It is obvious that the media and dramas are very influential in forming the perceptions of Korea including economic aspects. It is found that many Turkish students learn and think about Korea from the movies and dramas they watch. Moreover, the TV programs that introduce different countries such as *Ayna Program* have played a great role in forming the image of Korea to Turkish people. Moreover, another student who studies the Korean language shared her perceptions that were formed by her background knowledge and experiences:

Even though Korea is a small country and the agricultural sector is small, I think that it is very developed in technological sector.

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<sup>67</sup> *Ayna Program* is the one of the TV series of Turkey. It has been producing documentary films about foreign countries. So far, the Ayna program has covered nearly 100 countries in the world. The program mainly focuses on the cultural and traditional lives, customs, touristic sites, beautiful spots and daily lives of countries. It has broadcasted about South Korea in 2010, 2011, and 2013.

<sup>68</sup> *City Hunter* is a South Korean television drama series premiered in Korea from May to July 2011. It is the live-action series about the story which a city hunter remedies social evils.

The stationery is much better quality than the Turkish. As I see it, the companies such as: Samsung, Hyundai, and LG, seem to be very developed in the area of technology (Student/Female/23).

Her experience of using Korean stationery made her to consider that Korean office materials have a higher quality. The better quality of goods served to the Turks allows them to perceive that the Korean economy is developed. Mostly the advanced technology of Korea and the good image of its global brands such as: Samsung, Hyundai and LG help Turks perceive the Korean economy positively. A businessman also stated, “I think the Korean economy is at a good status. They have many brands known and used worldwide” (Businessman/Female/38). Likewise, a civil engineer noted, “I know their technology is very well-developed and advanced. It seems that Korea has a good economy. Korea has a more advanced economy than ours” (Civil engineer/Male/29).

When it comes to the fast development of Korean economy, many people appreciated Korea. One of the professors remarked, “I think the rapid development of the Korean economy during the last four decades is a miracle” (Professor/Male/40). The Turkish people consider the people, state and Chaebols as the factors that brought the rapid economic development of Korea. One soldier noted, “[i]n the hand of the hardworking and upright people, Korea experienced a significant progress. I think that the whole world needs to have respect for this success” (Soldier/Male/30). Similarly, a teacher stated, “I think that the fast development was able to happen completely due to the disciplined, determination, openness to progress, and dynamic global awareness of the Koreans. Moreover, the successful overall quality works can be another factor” (Teacher/Female/31). In addition, a government official pointed out the diligence, nationalism, and emphasis on education as the driving force of this rapid economic growth:

I think that it is very impressive. In terms of the reason of their fast growth, I don't think that Korea would have developed this fast only with the support of America and other countries, but also I think the diligence of Korean people really made a fast growth record. I think that the nationalistic feelings of the Koreans really helped it a lot. They worked so hard, produced and used their own production such as

Hyundai automobile. ... I think that it is a very good measurement of nationalism. In addition, I think the emphasis on education is an investment in humans. ...The investment in people really brought very good results. In every field they made a quick developed record. They made fast progress especially in the field of electronics. The fast growth of Korea really impressed us a lot and pleased us as well (Government official/Female/38).

In the same vein, one student commented, “[t]he biggest factor of the fast development that the Korean economy has shown was the Koreans being planned and working very hard. This development is completely from the success of Korea and is a hope for other countries” (Student/Female/19). Another student added, “Koreans are very ambitious. They develop themselves so much. They deserve the results of the ambitiously working hard” (Student/Female/19). In addition, a professor stated, “[t]his is the miracle of Koreans” (Professor/Male/45).

Unlike the people who consider the fast economic growth of Korea as an attribution to positive Korean characteristics, others think that the state and Chaebol were the driving forces behind the rapid development. One attorney observed, “[l]ooking at history, indeed the Korean political leaders have especially paid attention to the economy and took good care of the economy. They turned Korea into a country dependent on export. ... it developed very fast” (Attorney/Male/32). In addition, an academician commented on the Chaebol and the support of the state for the Chaebol as follows:

...Korean companies, the Chaebol, also were influential in this rapid development. They were especially the leading power of Korean development. Also the state structure and state’s support for the Chaebol was the main power behind the development of the Korean economy; especially the regulations of state for the growth of certain Chaebol in certain areas was the main driving force ... (Academician/Male/31).

Moreover, a diplomat remarked on the government’s policy and the leadership of the President Park, which led Korean companies to bring economic development:

Even though it was forced, the direction was well-aimed. I think that the Saemaul Movement (New Village Movement)<sup>69</sup> in the '70s and the influence of President Park were very impactful. Even though he was a soldier, he guided the directions of numerous companies very well. I think he guided the Korean economy very successfully although it was by force. He developed huge companies such as: Samsung, LG, and Hyundai. They became Chaebols. Those companies worked hard and have led the Korean economy very successfully. ...but I think he aimed the direction well and walked the right way. I think it was very successful development (Diplomat/Male/39).

In comparison with the neighboring countries, Turkish people have positive and negative views on the Korean economy. The positive perceptions are due to Korea's advancements in technology, and good brand images of Korea's big companies. One attorney highly praised the development of Korea to the extent of competing with China and Japan:

China and Japan are the two countries that surely proved themselves in the world. China has surpassed the world records each year and has been growing every year. Japan already has become a big state. In my opinion, Korea being in between these two developed countries, especially the fact that it has developed itself next to a country like China, is a very marvelous thing, a very wonderful thing, a very good thing. I mean, thinking of Korea's big companies, it proves itself. If there were only small companies, Korea might have not demonstrated itself. However, companies like: Samsung, Hyundai, LG, and SK can run parallel with these two countries (Attorney/Male/32).

In addition, an academician has positive perceptions on Korea because of its potential to grow compared to Japan and its being advanced in technology and a better brand image compared to China:

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<sup>69</sup> Saemaul Movement (New Village Movement) was a political and economic initiative launched by the President Park Chung Hee for the purpose of the modernization of the rural Korean economy. The idea has its root from the Korean traditional communalism called Hyang-yak and Doorae, which provided the rules for self-governing and cooperation in Korean traditional communities. The slogan "Diligence, self-help and collaboration" was used to encourage community members to participate in the movement. It was aimed to modernize the rural communities, balanced development of region, and reform of consciousness. The Saemaul Movement achieved a great success in reducing poverty and improving living conditions in rural areas. It contributed to the enhancement in agricultural competitiveness, and promoted the restoration of the community spirit and voluntary participation through the participation of the people.



I find that the Korean economy is healthier than the Japanese economy in terms of its potential to growth. Compared to China, their growth might be smaller and slower but still Korean companies invest in technology and they have much more to gain from their brand marks, trademarks, such as: Samsung, LG, Kia, Hyundai, they give much more trust to their clients than the Chinese companies do. The Chinese are lacking in terms of becoming trademarks or brand marks. In this respect, Koreans are much more advantageous and the images of Korean brands are better than Chinese brands. So they have an advantage over Japan and China (Academician/Male/31).

On the other hand, some have negative perceptions on the Korean economy in regards to a comparison to its neighboring countries because of its vulnerability due to its dependence on foreign capital. One diplomat mentioned the self-sustainability of China to explain Korea's fragile economy:

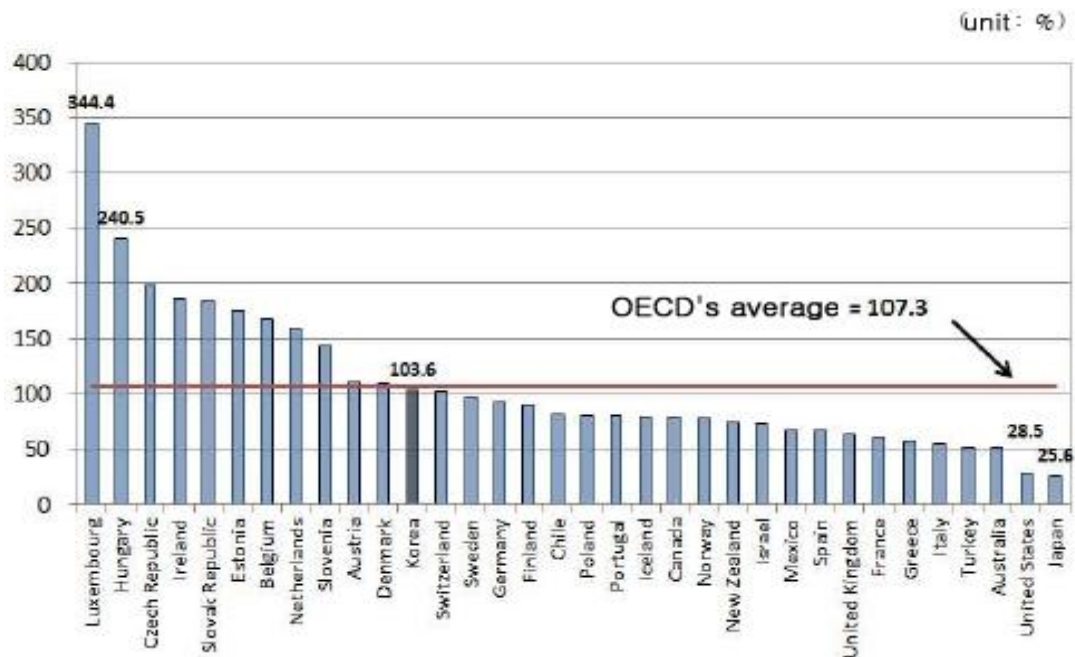
The Korean economy is the sandwich economy between the Chinese and Japanese economies. Compared to the Japanese economy, the Korean economy is more fragile. Second, also compared to China, China is a self-sustaining country. Even though they don't sell any goods to other countries or even get any help from others, it is a country that can be maintained by itself. The Korean economy is vulnerable. External factors influence the Korean economy a lot. Other economies affect the Korean economy very much. Thus, the Korean economy is very vulnerable. The economic independence rate is low (Diplomat/Male/39).

Similar to the diplomat's comment, according to the OECD report, the foreign dependence of Korea is higher than China and Japan. However, it may not be so vulnerable to be called very vulnerable, and the economic independence rate may not be as low to the extent that it would be considered fragile. In fact, Korea's foreign dependence rate is not at an extremely high level compared to OECD countries. According to the KERI (Korea Economic Research Institute) <sup>70</sup> Korea should focus more on increasing competitiveness in exports to maintain the volume of trade, and boosting domestic demand rather than reducing its foreign dependence

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<sup>70</sup> Choi Nam-suk, "Korean economy's foreign dependence is average level of the OECD countries", KERI Facts, 6 September 6, 2012.

because the Korean economy's foreign dependence is almost the average of OECD countries.<sup>71</sup>



**Figure 5.1 Foreign Dependence of OECD Countries  
(the average of 2006-2010)**

(Source: OECD)

Meanwhile, Turkish people commented on the power that is leading the Korean economy. A majority of Turkish people consider the Chaebols and the people as the driving force of the Korean economy. One of the professors said that “the Chaebols such as Hyundai, Samsung, and LG lead the Korean economy with innovation” (Professor/Male/40). One student also agreed, “[l]arge companies, powerful companies are the powers leading the Korean economy” (Student/Female/23). Moreover, an academician commented on the influences of the Chaebols in the Korean economy:

I think the Chaebols are the dominant power in the Korean economy today. They are also formative. The areas that they invest and develop in, and the areas that they do not invest and do not develop in are clear: Therefore, they are both formative and dominant in this

<sup>71</sup> The average of Korea's foreign dependence between 2005 and 2010, which is around global financial crisis, is 103.6% which is lower than OECD countries' average 107.4%.

respect. They are more dominant than the government now, especially after the 1970s (Academician/Male/31).

Likewise, an attorney also noted, “[a]bsolutely, it is the companies. The state cannot be. The state is poor” (Attorney/Male/32). In addition to this, some people consider the education and the efforts of the people as leaders of the Korean economy. One government official especially paid attention to the education of Korea and the results of it:

When I think of the sectors, I think that the automobile sector is essential for the Korean economy. Of course there are people who developed the automobile sector: The people are the fruit of education. Koreans are very educated, disciplined, and hardworking (Government official/Female/38).

It shows that Turkish people recognize the economic success of Korea as being the result of Korea’s disciplined education, which puts importance on diligence. Likewise, a diplomat also pointed out the characters of Korea being diligent as the result of education:

Innovation, high-technology, the diligence of the Korean people, education and competition; ...Korea has very high levels of education. They produce a well-educated professional population. If you are not educated, you can’t do research and development. If the education is not good, you can’t do innovation. If there is no high-technology and internet, it is impossible to do all these things. In addition, I told this as a disadvantage beforehand, but this is very important in the Korean economy, which is the fact that the Korean economy is an export-oriented economy. Since you have to work continuously, you must work hard. If not, the Korean economy will die. Korea cannot do “fiesta siesta” because there are no resources that they own. Therefore it can be a disadvantage but at the same time it sustains the Korean economy (Diplomat/Male/39).

According to what he stated, it is interesting that the importance on education and the export-oriented economy made people more industrious and hardworking since their economy could hardly be maintained if they did not work hard. That is to say, the Korean culture giving significance to education and the economic structure of Korea as the result of the lack of

natural resources, have formed characteristics in Koreans and has become the power that leads the Korean economy.

With regards to the hindrances and obstacles on the development of the Korean economy, Turkish people pointed out several hindrances and obstacles from Korea's economic development. They consider the small national market size, lack of natural resources, an economy based on innovation and high-technology, warm relations between the government and private companies, and political problems as the hindrances for the development of the Korean economy. The political relations and questions with North Korea was a major problem considered by the Turks in lieu of Korean development.

One government official considered the limited market size and the threat from North Korea as obstacles to the Korean economy. She stated, "[t]he area is very small. ...Moreover, there is a military threat from the North. Since the area is small, the development could be restrained" (Government official/Female/38). In addition, a diplomat pointed out the absent of underground resources and the economy dependent upon the innovations as hindrances of the Korean economy:

First, Korea is a country that does not posses underground resources, such as natural resources and petroleum, and agriculture that could maintain itself.... There is nothing in Korea.... Korea has very small land with forest. There is no land for agriculture, no stock farming, no underground resources in Korea. ... Second, the Korean economy is relied upon innovation and high-technology.... If an economic crisis such as the one in 2008 occurs, the world demand will decrease. If the demand decreases, then export will be decreased too. ... Korea is lacking in self-sustainability.... The other is that innovation is good but innovation or Blue Ocean is not something that is very difficult to bring up. If the areas of innovations become too narrow, Korea will die as well. ... If there are a few difficulties in research and development or hardships in innovation, the Korean economy will crumble (Diplomat/Male/39).

On the other hand, a professor thinks that the back-scratching alliance of government and the businesses is a major problem that hinders the development of the Korean economy:

As much as I know, the most fundamental problem in Korea is with regards to transparency. Regarding to the transparency, the relations between the government, bureaucrats, politics, and private companies, especially Chaebols, are seriously intertwined. I think that these deeply intertwined relations are seriously threatening the Korean economy. I think that the Korean economy would be more stable if it is more transparent, less fed by the government and politics, and more independent. Moreover, the fact that wealth, prosperity, and exportation are all in the hands of Chaebols is another big problem. Banks, bureaucrats, exporters, and importers are all controlled by Chaebols. All these have to be distributed for a stable economy... However, at the same time, if a large company faces a crisis, the whole Korean economy will be crumbled. It is crucial trouble for the Korean economy (Professor/Male/35).

The Chaebols taking a large part of the Korean economy and the state supporting the Chaebols can hinder the development in every sector, and this may cause an economic crisis in the Korean economy if one large company goes into bankruptcy. Besides the political problems related to economic sectors, some perceive that the political problems within the government and the diplomatic conflicts with neighboring countries are obstacles for economic development. An academician commented on the political problems with North Korea, Japan and China:

First of all, there are the political reasons. There are problems with North Korea, Japan and China. Especially the problems with North Korea and China are the main causes that prevent the development of the Korean economy. As long as North Korea stays as an aggressive neighbor, Korea will have to pay a huge amount of money to its military instead of its development. Secondly, problems with China and Japan, concerning its maritime border such as the Dokdo issues will also contribute its needs for investment in its military instead of economic areas and will hinder the development of the Korean economy. Thirdly, it is again politics, but this time inner-politics. The domestic concerns of politicians in some cases prevent the economic development of Korea within the political turmoil it created (Academician/Male/31).

It can be said that economic investments in the military due to conflicts with neighboring countries may prevent Korea to focus fully on its economic development because of its limited finances.

Nevertheless, some think that there is no hindrance in the Korean economy since it is growing continuously. One attorney questioned, “[c]ould

there be any hindrances in the presently developed economy?” He added, “I think it is strange that there would be any obstacles in such a developing economy” (Attorney/Male/32). That is to say that some people think that since the Korean economy is developed there can be no hindrances in its economy.

In respect for the future, Turkish people expressed positive and negative anticipations about the Korean economy. The majority of Turkish people had positive perceptions about future prospects of Korea’s economic development. However some expressed negative anticipation about the future of the Korean economy. The majority of people who have a positive anticipation for it believe that the Korean economy will continue to grow. One teacher stated, “Korea will be the one of the countries that has a voice in the Asian economies” (Teacher/Female/31). Similarly, a student noted, “I think that it will develop more. When I think of Samsung, they immediately make a new thing. I can see that technology does not stay but continues to develop. I think that they will continue to develop and create new things” (Student/Female/23). Moreover, one of the professors remarked, “[i]t would maintain its economic dynamism” (Professor/Male/40). In addition, an academician expressed the positive prospects about the Korean economy by comparing it with other countries with developed economies, and furthermore, mentioned the possible economic outlook of the unification with North Korea:

I think that the Korean economy will develop more within the two decades that we will witness. ... it will probably probably surpass Japan as I said and become one of the top five economies in the world. It might even surpass Great Britain and Brazil of course. And, if it will be able to unite with north Korea, ... but in the long run, both countries, both North and South Koreas will also benefit from such a union (Academician/Male/31).

In the same vein, a student observed, “[i]f it goes like this, if the United States does not obstruct, and if North Korea does not interfere, the Korean economy can be one of the most developed economies in the world” (Student/Male/24).

Meanwhile, some recognized that the Korean economy will continue to grow, however the growth rate will gradually decrease. One government official remarked,

I think that the Korean economy will continue to grow. I don't think that there will be a huge mushroom growth because Korea is already in the line of developed countries and there are some economic crises continuing in the world. However I think Korean economy will continue to grow with stability. This is how I observed it (Government official/Female/38).

Likewise, a diplomat commented on the future Korean economy by explaining the economic life cycle of a country:

It will continue to grow but go down. ... There will be a continual economic growth but the economic growth rate will drop. It does not mean that the economy will not grow. It will grow but a little later it will stop growing. Every mature economy is like this. Korea has grown till now but soon it will stop. There is a point called saturation. The Korean economy will be at maturity. It will become a mature economy. Korea is not a developing economy anymore. Now it will be a developed economy. When it becomes a developed economy, it will not grow anymore. For example, the American economy is a huge economy. It reached its saturation, so it does not grow anymore. Korean economy will arrive in its saturation very soon. Turkey is still a young economy. So Turkey will continue to grow. Turkey is expected to grow for the next 10-15 years and on up to 5 percent more. Korea is not in the same case. Korea will drop to 2 percent because Korea will become like Japan. Japan already reached its maturity level. Korea will become a mature economy as well. ... The economy life cycle is like that (Diplomat/Male/39).

It can be said that some think that the Korean economy has almost reached to the point that it is impossible for Korea to have continuous economic development since it has arrived in the maximum limit.

On the other hand, a small number of people have negative prospects on the future of the Korean economy because of its structural fragility and the absence of its ability for self-sustaining growth. An attorney pointed out the vulnerable economic structure of Korea that completely relies upon the large companies:

I don't have good thoughts about the future of the Korean economy because of the fact that these companies are big. If one of the companies, may God protect, goes bankrupt, I think that the whole Korean economy would crash. I mean, the Korean economy is like a thin thread (Attorney/Male/32).

In other words, the Korean economy can be seen as unstable due to its dependence on Korea's leading companies. Moreover, the Korean economic structure of being export-oriented may be considered vulnerable due to its variability and the lack of sustainability.

### **5.2.2 Turkish Perceptions on Korean Brands**

When it comes to Korean brands, the majority of Turks have positive perceptions. Thanks to Korea's leading companies, Turkish people have positive impressions of Korean brands because of its brand recognitions. Many people mentioned Samsung, LG, and Hyundai. One of the students said, "I think that both Samsung and LG became stand-up global brands. They are known more and more" (Student/Female/22). In addition, another student noted, "Samsung is quite good in the area of cell phone production. Hyundai is recognized in the automobile field. Korea has globally known brands" (Student/Male/24). One professor commented on the recognition of Korean brands to the extent that global Korean brands represent Korea:

Samsung reminds me of Korea. Hyundai reminds me of Korea. Daewoo reminds me of Korea. LG reminds me of Korea. These Korean brands are the representatives of Korea and global brands. They have their factories in Turkey and made investments in Turkey. They are excellent brands not only in Turkey but also globally (Professor/Male/35).

Likewise, an attorney stated, "[w]hen I think of today, Korea has reached today by their brands. Samsung, Hyundai, LG, SK, these are global brands and the brands which have carried Korea to the world" (Attorney/Male/32). Moreover, several people noted that the Korean brands are preferred by most people. One journalist stated, "[l]ike Samsung, Kia, and Hyundai, these are very well-known in the world. Many people preferred Samsung



because it is long-lasting” (Journalist/Female/26). In addition, a soldier said, “Samsung and Hyundai are the most significant as I know. They have much demand in Turkey. My cell-phone is also a S-3 Mini” (Soldier/Male/30). Likewise, a civil engineer noted, “I want to buy a car and I want to have a Hyundai car” (Civil engineer/Male/29). In the same vein, one of the government officials explained how much she prefers Korean products:

My cell phone is Samsung. My computer is Samsung. My camera is Samsung. They are very good products. They made themselves to be approved by the whole world. Hyundai is one of the most used cars in Turkey. We purchase Samsung’s products a lot such as: computers and cell-phones (Government official/Female/38).

I was able to find many people who enjoy using Korean products and are pleased with them. For example, a housewife notified, “Samsung is my favorite” (Housewife/Female/26). Moreover, Turkish people commented on the quality and the credibility of Korean brands. One student stated, “I think that they are very high quality. They are much more higher in quality than Nokia or Apple” (Student/Female/23). Likewise, a diplomat specified the good quality of Korean brands by giving an example of the success in their own professional field:

I think Korean brands are very good in quality. There are Korean brands at the same level with, or even higher level than global brands. There are world famous Korean brands. Not only the brands known in the world such as: Samsung and LG but there are also famous brands in their own specific fields such as POSCO and STX. The electric brands are more famous in the world but there are also world-recognized brands in their specific areas. For me, Hyosung is a brand now. Even though they are not recognized to the world, they are very successful in their own professional fields. I am not saying only electric brands such as: Samsung or LG. Hyundai is famous in automobile fields now. Everyone knows Hyundai (Diplomat/Male/39).

One of the professors remarked that Korean brands are considered trustworthy by the customer and they put lots of efforts into gaining credibility:

...Korean brands and Korean goods are very trustworthy from the consumers' point of view. At least they gained trust as much as the Western companies. For example, cell-phones and computers of Samsung stay in step with the world best companies such as IBM or iPhone. I think that the Korean brands put considerable amounts of investment to gain credibility from the consumers. In addition, Korean brands build a good model for Turkish brands. We see that Korean brands supply very good display devices in the Olympics and many important events (Professor/Male/35).

Nevertheless, a small number of people have negative views mostly because of the lack of brand awareness inside Turkey. It showed that Korean brands are well-known to some people but not to every people in Turkey. One teacher said, "I didn't see any Korean brands here. We usually have Chinese goods and German goods" (Teacher/Female/23). Moreover, a student remarked,

I think no one knows that those brands are Korean brands because I also learned afterwards. Korea is hardly known in this way. If you ask whose brands these are, they say different countries. No one knows that they are Korean even though people use them a lot in Turkey. There are many sellers of them (Student/Female/19).

Similarly, one professor also pointed out, "[s]ome of the Korean brands are known as Japanese or German in Turkey. In order to avoid this misunderstanding, advertisement tools should be used more efficiently" (Professor/Male/45). Therefore, it can be assumed that even though Korean brands are widely used in Turkey, some people are just not aware that these products that they are using are Korean brands.

### **5.2.3 Turkish Perceptions on Turkish-Korean Cooperation in Economic Relations<sup>72</sup>**

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<sup>72</sup> Turkey is the 29<sup>th</sup> country among the 100 countries that Korea has exported the most for the past 20 years. For 20 years, the Korea's average amount of exports to Turkey was 1,452,732,000 dollars from 1990 to 2009. Choi Nam-suk, *Korea's Foreign Trade Index*, Policy Research 2010-14, KERI, 2010, p.23.

With regards to Turkish-Korean economic relations, the majority of Turkish people have negative views about the volume of trade between Turkey and Korea. A large number of people agreed that the volume of trade between the two countries is both insufficient and imbalanced. One businessman said, “[t]he relations can be improved more and the volume of trade can be increased” (Businessman/Female/38). The economic cooperation between the two countries is expected to increase in terms of the volume of trade. However, it is evaluated to be lacking in general. A soldier remarked, “[t]he volume of trade has increased gradually but it should go up to a higher level” (Soldier/Male/30). In addition, one professor noted, “[t]he volume of trade between Korea and Turkey is under capacity” (Professor/Male/40). Moreover, another professor also stated, “[t]he balance should be settled down in order to establish the ‘real’ win-win policy” (Professor/Male/45). One diplomat specified the imbalance of trade between Turkey and Korea and explained the disadvantage for both countries:

I don't think the volume of trade between Turkey and Korea is enough. The trade between the two countries is around \$6 billion. But \$5.5 billion is exported from Korea, and \$5 hundred million is exported from Turkey. The ration is 1:10. It is very imbalanced. As I know, Korea's most imbalanced trade is with Turkey. Is it good for Korea? No. Korea also wants to keep a balance in trade with other countries. It is imbalanced for Korea. In terms of Turkey, it is very imbalanced. Even in aspect of whole trade, it is very lacking. It should be at least 2-3 times as of now. It should be \$12-15 billion (Diplomat/Male/39).

Furthermore, an attorney remarked, “[f]or now, I don't have very positive thinking about the balance of trade between Turkey and Korea because there is a really huge gap. While Korea has so many exports to Turkey, it is sad to have no imports from Turkey” (Attorney/Male/32). In addition to this, he continued to add on the reasons of the imbalance in trade between Turkey and Korea:

I think that the reasons for the imbalance of trade are very important. In my opinion, the first reason is that the two countries are very distant from one another. When there is one product, it takes around 33 days for the product to arrive in Korea. This is a crucial factor. One of the biggest reasons why Turkish investors are not

coming to Korea anymore is that the land is very expensive. That is to say that the land for the company, place for the shop, these are too expensive. For example, I can tell you one incident. One company from Turkey came here. This textile company had a thought to open a shop here. I met with them and then we did research here. Would it be possible to open a store here? However, the result was like this. Instead of opening a store here, he could have opened stores in 8 different countries. I think that because of the investment being extremely expensive, it is impossible for Turkey to invest here. Therefore, the long distance and the expensive investments can be the reasons for these hindrances (Attorney/Male/32).

On the other hand, a government official who visited the Korean-Turkish Businessman Association in Korea had more positive views about the Turkish-Korean economic cooperation. She expressed her positive expectation on increase in trades between the two countries:

I think the volume of trade will be increased quickly because in May, the FTA went into effect. When we went to Korea we also visited the Korean-Turkish Businessman Association. According to the meeting with the directors and managers, the volume of trade will be increased fast. Since Koreans had the FTA with the European Union, Korea could export to Turkey without tax. Now I suppose that deficient part would be covered as the volume of trade increases. We also discussed good expectation for trade between two countries. They said that they will visit everywhere in Turkey and present and give information about the agreement. We hope that there will be more trade between the two countries by virtue of the FTA (Government Official/Female/38).

That is to say that the majority of people who see the current economic relations between Turkey and Korea have negative perceptions since they think that the volume of trade is very small. However, a few people who keep track of these changes in economic flow between the two countries, and participate in the Turkish-Korean economic cooperation meetings have more positive perceptions because of the good expectations due to the FTA effectuated between the two countries.

In terms of hindrances and obstacles for the economic cooperation between Turkey and Korea, Turkish people pointed out the geographical distance, lack of human interchange, structural differences, lack of advertisement, national interests, and political problems as the hindrances and obstacles for economic cooperation. The majority of Turkish people

consider the biggest hindrance to be the geographical distance between Turkey and Korea. One government official who visited Korea for the Turkish-Korean economic cooperation remarked, “[t]he biggest hindrance is the distance. The distance between the two countries is very far. There are nearer factors such as China” (Government official/Female/38). Similarly, an academican specified that neighboring countries can be obstacles for the Turkish-Korean economic cooperation:

First of all, there is a geographical distance. They are very geographically distant to each other. Therefore they have much more closer ties to their neighbors. Therefore, Korea concentrates on its trade with China and Japan rather than Turkey, and Turkey concentrates on the Middle East and Europe rather than Korea or East Asia in general. So this is the main problem i think that hinders the increase of trade between Korea and Turkey (Academician/Male/31).

Likewise, a professor who studied geographical economics commented on the geographical distance between Turkey and Korea:

I think the first hindrance is the geographical distance between the two countries. This distance makes critical blindness. According to geographical economics, there are more frequent relations with neighboring countries than other distant countries. We could have more economic relations if we were closer in distance, but the reason why the relations between Korean and Turkey is restricted, in my opinion, is the geographical distance (Professor/Male/35).

In addition, several people recognized that the lack of human interchange between the two countries also hinders the economic cooperation of Turkey and Korea. One diplomat stated, “[t]he businessmen and decision makers such as politicians and bureaucrats from the two countries barely know each other” (Diplomat/Male/39). Moreover, one of the teachers noted, “[t]he mutual communication is insufficient... if the businessmen and the politicians of these two countries work on this, there can be huge progresses” (Teacher/Female/31). Moreover, some people pointed out the imbalance of profits compared to investments, as the obstacle for Turks to invest in Korea. One attorney observed, “[t]he expensive investments such as expensive land labor in Korea are the big

hindrances” (Attorney/Male/32). Furthermore, a professor commented on the differences in the industrial structure of the two countries that make it difficult for companies of both countries to cooperate:

...the structural differences in industry sectors could be a possible factor that weakens economic relations. The Turkish economy is predominated by small and medium-sized companies rather than a few large companies. On the other hand, large major companies are dominant in the Korean economy. This could be a possible obstacle to build relations for the companies of these two countries (Professor/Male/35).

Meanwhile, Turkish people shared their thoughts about the potentiality of Turkish-Korean relations. Most of the people had positive perceptions on the potentials of Turkish-Korean economic cooperation. They showed a positive outlook for the future of economic cooperation between Turkey and Korea. One diplomat said, “[i]f we combine Turkey and Korea together, it becomes the 7<sup>th</sup> economy in the world. This is very important. If Turkey and Korea use their potentials together, they can become the world’s 7<sup>th</sup> contries” (Diplomat/Male/39). In addition, an academician noted that the probable role of these relations would be as a bridge and hub to reach out to other countries:

I think there is a great potential for such trade between Korea and Turkey. Turkey can provide, first of all, services for Korean companies that want to operate in the Middle East and Central Asia. Also it can serve as a hub for Korean companies to trade in Asia and Europe, Russia, and the Middle East, also, North Africa due to its geographical, cultural, and political proximity to these regions (Academician/Male/31).

Moreover, a diplomat commented on the lopsided trade of Korea regarding imports:

...the various goods that Korea imports from the other countries can be imported from Turkey. There is no diversification in Korea in aspect of import. Korea could do it more easily with Turkey. For example, goods to Korea imported from South America are also available in Turkey too. There are many things Korea can get from Turkey but are getting from other countries now. In aspects of price and quality, goods from Turkey

are proper and competitive. Korea should examine this well. In terms of Turkey, Turkey is already importing too much goods from Korea. I think it is enough. There is nothing more to import from Korea. In my opinion, the first thing is that Korea can import various goods from Turkey (Diplomat/Male/39).

Several people mentioned probable areas for economic cooperation. The possible areas suggested by Turks for economic cooperation are electronic goods and automotive products from Korea, and agricultural products, textile, and tourism from Turkey. One soldier stated, “[b]oth countries can mutually benefit from agriculture of Turkey and the automotive area of Korea” (Soldier/Male/30). Likewise, an academician remarked, “Turkey can sell much more of its products to Korea and also can benefit from tourism and selling textiles and other goods that Turkey produces. So it can be mutually beneficial for both countries if the volume of trade between the two countries enlarge” (Academician/Male/31). Similarly, a government official suggested the probability of food products from Turkey to Korea however, unlike others, she expressed less hope for the textile area because of Korea’s proximity to China:

I think that we could increase more importation from Korea in electronic goods. I hope that the advanced technology of Samsung’s electronic products can be reflected here. In terms of Turkey, we could export food products to Korea such as wheat and flours or biscuits. Turkish textiles are very good in quality but since Korea is located closer to China I don’t have any hope for it. Moreover textiles have gotten cheaper these days. If we could find some way to hinder Chinese textiles into Korea, then I think we can start some exports to Korea in this field too (Government official/Female/38).

Furthermore, some people remarked on the collaboration in the third countries. For instance, one professor noted, “Turkey and Korea can do joint ventures around the world” (Professor/Male/40). A diplomat specified the collaboration in the area of construction in the third country:

Turkey and Korea can collaborate in the third countries as well. I think that construction companies from both countries can do several projects in Central Asia or Africa. They are not doing this right now. For instance, Turkish construction companies are very strong. Korea has know-hows in the energy generating industry. If we cooperate

together it becomes the EPC, which means Engineering Procurement Construction. Turkey and Korea can do a lot of projects in the area of the EPC. Then, relations in the defense industry could be increased 10 times as of now (Diplomat/Male/39).

On the other hand, some expressed negative views for the potential of Turkish-Korean economic relations due to the favorable trade imbalance for Koreans in terms of opportunities. One attorney commented on the lack of opportunity in Korea for the Turks, whereas there was much probability in Turkey for Koreans.

The potential for economic cooperation between Turkey and Korea exists for Korea but not for Turkey. The Korean investors can go to Turkey and invest there. They can open a company and work there. However, for Turks, it is very hard to come to Korea and invest. It is really hard for Turks to start a business here. As I said before, the reasons for this difficulty are the high costs of land and labor. These are crucial factors since these are much cheaper in Turkey and even more, they are cheaper in other countries around Turkey. Of course, these factors affect the success of cooperation (Attorney/Male/32).

It can be said that there are many positive outlooks for Turkish-Korean economic relations although there are some concerns regarding imbalance in opportunities due to certain conditions. However, joint ventures in the third countries seem to be probable and are expected to bring mutual benefits to both countries.

#### **5.2.4 Turkish perceptions on the FTA between Turkey and Korea**

One May 1<sup>st</sup>, 2013 the Free Trade Agreement between Turkey and Korea came into effect. Turkish people mostly have positive and some negative perceptions about the prospect of the FTA. The majority of people expressed a positive outlook for the economic relations between Turkey and Korea due to the FTA. One professor stated, “[t]he FTA will be more beneficiary for both sides” (Professor/Male/45). Likewise, a soldier noted that the FTA settled the favorable conditions for both countries’ businessmen. He remarked, “[t]hrough this agreement, tax and customs are removed and the volume of trade has started to increase” (Soldier/Male/30).



Another professor specified that the FTA will bring an increase in the volume of trade and correct the imbalance of trade between Turkey and Korea, and foster the mutual investments in both countries:

I see the agreement between two countries very positively. First, I think the FTA will bring a huge increase in the volume of international trade. Especially for Turkey, I think the exportation amount will increase a lot since the volume of trade between Korea and Turkey was out of balance. Korea exports to Turkey a lot but Turkey rarely exports to Korea. I think this FTA will help Turkey to export more goods to Korea. Second, I think the FTA will increase mutual investment in both countries. There are some investments of Korean brands in Turkey, but there is little amount of investment of Turkish brands in Korea. Therefore I think the FTA will both increase mutual investment in the two countries and protect the investments as well. I think this will bring a big progress and I value this FTA as the right direction (Professor/Male/35).

Some people expressed hope for some goods from Korea to become cheaper. One of the students said, “[i]t seems that the economic relations between the two countries got enlarged and increased the trade probability. I hope that the electronic and technological products would get cheaper in Turkey” (Student/Female/23). In addition, several people have a good anticipation about the results of the FTA between the two countries. One government official remarked that she had very positive prospects about the results of the FTA and even expressed wistfulness that the FTA had been delayed and came into effect late:

I see it very positively and I even think that it is late. It would have been great if we had this agreement earlier. As the State Supply Office, I think that it will be reflected on our selling too. Of course, it will affect Korean-Turkish relations. I expect it to influence relations very positively. I’m looking forward to see its fruits very soon (Government official/Female/38).

Likewise, many Turkish people think that the FTA will solidify relations between Turkey and Korea due to the increase in exchanges between the two countries, which the FTA would bring. Similarly, one diplomat observed that it will be beneficial for both countries even though it will take time to see the fruits:

FTA between Turkey and Korea is a task done very well. We have to wait a little more to see the effects of it. It will take time to see the visible effect. We might not be able to see the visible results short-term. However, it will be very helpful in the long-term. It is a win-win case. It is beneficial for both Turkey and Korea. For Turkey, for example, we have natural resources and food. Turkey can increase exports. For Korea, you can export not through Europe but directly to Turkey. We will be able to see the effects at least in the next 5 years. I think in 7-10 years, there will be a balance in trade between the two countries (Diplomat/Male/39).

Unlike the positive outlooks for Turkish-Korean economic relations due to the FTA, there are some negative attitudes toward the FTA between Turkey and Korea. The people who have negative perspective about the FTA pointed out that the FTA is only advantageous for Korea. For example, one attorney expressed dissatisfaction with the FTA between the two countries:

It is the agreement that completely militated in favor of Korea. It is not so militated in favor of Turkey. Turkey just tried to offset the loss coming from customs even though it is a minimum amount. For Turkey, it only lessened the damage a little bit. However, in general, the condition created by the FTA is favorable for Korea (Attorney/Male/32).

It seems that the transient result of the FTA may be considered to be less. However the long-term prospects of Turkish-Korean relations are expected to be bright with the effectuation of the FTA between the two countries.

In sum, Turkish people have positive perceptions on the Korean economy in general. Especially, they express amazement at the rapid development of the Korean economy after the war. Compared to its neighboring countries like China and Japan, some have a positive evaluation for Korea due to its global brands and advanced high-technology but others show negative views on the Korean economy due to its dependence on foreign capital. With regard to the future of the Korean economy, some consider positively that it will continue to grow, but others think that the growth rate will decrease because Korea's economy has almost reached its saturation state. A few people have a negative prospect

on the future of the Korean economy because of its structural fragility and the absent of the ability for self-sustaining growth. In terms of Korean brands and companies, the majority of Turks have positive impressions of them due to its global name value and satisfied consumers who have been using Korean products. When it comes to Turkish-Korean economic relations, many people have negative perceptions about it because of the insufficient volume of trade and imbalance of trade between Turkey and Korea. Therefore, the effectuation of the FTA between Turkey and Korea is viewed positively by Turkish people in general. A majority of people consider the FTA as the first step to foster economic cooperation between Turkey and Korea and will increase the volume of trade which has been lacked in the past.

## CHAPTER 6

### MUTUAL PERCEPTIONS ON TURKISH-KOREAN CULTURE AND EDUCATION

#### 6.1 Korean Perceptions on Turkish Culture and Education

Korean people have positive and negative perceptions on Turkish culture because of its cultural characteristics, similarities and differences with Korean culture. When it comes to Turkish culture, many Koreans immediately think of Islam, Turkish Muslim culture, a mixture of the West and East, and historical past of the Selcuk, Byzantine, and Ottoman traditions. In addition, Kebab, tourism and Turkish traditional music and dance come to Koreans' mind. One businessman said, "[m]osques, which are everywhere in Turkey, spring to mind. I can see that Islamic colors are still there in food and religious culture" (Businessman/Male/55). At the same time, a diplomat remarked, "Hagia Sophia is the symbol of the mixture of the West and Islam" (Diplomat/Male/61). In addition, a soldier noted, "[a]s an Islamic country, although Islamic culture is inherent in foundation, Turkey is more opened and liberal. There are many western customs" (Soldier/Male/39). Although Turkey is a republic, it is known that some Koreans think that Turkey is an Islamic country. Otherwise, they are confused of the concept of Islamic country and Muslim country. Since majority of population in Turkey is officially Muslim, Turkey can be considered a Muslim country. In general, many people who have more personal interactions with the ordinary people realized that Turkish culture include both Islamic and Western cultures or Asian and Western traditions. A Taekwondo instructor stated, "[i]t has East and West in their culture. Every kind of culture exists in Turkish society" (Taekwondo instructor/Male/46). Likewise, one of the students said, "Turkish culture is mixed. They look like Western people but their behaviors are not like them. ... Turkish people have an Asian mindset" (Student/Female/26). Meanwhile,

majority of soldiers and some professors mentioned about the imperial culture of Ottoman Empire. One of the soldiers stated, “I think that splendid culture of the Ottoman Empire still remains” (Soldier/Male/37). Another soldier noted, “Selcuk and Ottoman cultures come to mind. I think since the country was strong in those periods, culture seems to be developed and spread out as well” (Soldier/Male/37). In addition, a professor remarked, “[t]he Ottoman Turks recorded one page in the world history” (Professor/Male/62). Moreover, a number of students were reminded of Turkish traditional music and dance since they observed that Turkish students still love them. Some people are immediately reminded of Kebab since it is the most famous Turkish food.

While most of the Turkish people consider that there are many cultural similarities between Turkey and Korea, half of the Koreans think that cultural similarities between the two countries are few. Nevertheless, the other half of the people recognized that there are many cultural similarities between Turkey and Korea. Most of them feel closer to Turkish people due to its cultural similarities such as language, family-based culture, communal spirit, respect to elders, and intimate relationship between people.

A majority of Koreans have positive impressions of the Turkish language because it is similar to Korean language, since both Turkish and Korean languages are Altaic languages. Most of the Koreans who learned Turkish recognized that Turkish language has the same word order and grammar with Korean language. One of the students said, “[l]earning Turkish was easy because the word order of Korean and Turkish is the same” (Student/Female/26). Another student noted, “[s]ince the grammar is same, it was easy to learn even though I have no basic knowledge” (Student/Male/33). Likewise, a diplomat stated, “[s]ince the grammar is same with Korean language, it seems easy to learn” (Diplomat/Male/61). In addition, an office worker observed, “[s]ince both Turkish and Korean are from the same language family, the order is similar and exception is very few” (Office worker/Female/29).

Korean people also noticed that family-oriented culture and

communal spirit of the Turks are similar to Korean society. One soldier said, “[f]amily and relation-oriented culture are similar between Turkish and Korean culture” (Soldier/Male/37). One office worker noted, “Turkish culture is also family-oriented and patriarchal” (Office worker/Male/54). Several people recognized that Turkish culture gives importance to community and relationship. They pointed out how Turkish culture is communal and not individual. One Taekwondo instructor remarked, “Turkish culture is emotionally similar to the Korean culture; respect to elders, interaction between neighbors, communal spirit, children’s play and so on” (Taekwondo instructor/Male/46). Likewise, a soldier noted, “[i]n terms of national characteristics, Turkish people have cultural similarities such as solidarity and zest. There is no individualism of Western Europe” (Soldier/Male/37). It was obvious that Koreans have positive perceptions about communal culture of Turkey. One of the students compared Turkish culture helping neighbors to Korean traditional culture, which also has communal sharing of labor:

For example, I think it was very similar to Korean culture, like communal sharing of labor, which neighbor mothers help each other when they have big events in the household. ...This aspect of Turkish culture is very similar to our country rather than western individualism. ... (Student/Female/22).

On the other hand, many Koreans consider that the cultural differences make them feel foreign. The cultural differences that Koreans feel are values and mindset, which generally have its root from Islamic culture. One diplomat noted, “[t]he people’s values are different due to the influences from Confucianism and Islam, and the Mediterranean culture” (Diplomat/Male/51). Similarly, a businessman stated, “Turkey has a deep Islamic culture. Korea has been deeply affected by Confucianism. The two societies can hardly have general similarities” (Businessman/Male/55). In addition, an office worker observed, “[t]here are big differences in food, lifestyle and way of thinking” (Office worker/Female/33). One student remarked, “I think the most cultural difference is that they don’t eat pork

and the girls wear headscarves by own willingness” (Student/Female/22). Moreover, several students pointed out differences in mindset and attitude. One soldier who is doing graduate studies in Turkey remarked, “[t]here is a difference in way of thinking. Even though a professor say something, Turkish students keep continue to say what they want to say rather than complying with professor. However, they have no logical development but mostly emotional” (Soldier/Male/37). Furthermore, one student gave a specific example to explain the Turkish people’s behavior due to different mindset from that of Koreans:

Turkish people express their emotions exaggeratedly even it is something insignificant. In addition, they seem conservative outwardly since they are Muslim. However they show physical affection in public places. The time concept is also different. They don’t think that they should act on time. They come one or two hours later (Student/Female/26).

Likewise, Koreans have negative perceptions such as foreignness and awkwardness due to some cultural differences, which stemmed from differences in values and religion. On the other hand, Koreans have positive perceptions toward Turkish culture due to its cultural similarities such as same word order in language, family-oriented culture, solidarity in community and respect to elder. In this chapter, the Korean people’s perceptions on Turkish traditional culture, food, music, movies and dramas, and Turkish education will be discussed in more detail.

### **6.1.1 Korean Perceptions on Turkish Traditional Culture**

Korean people’s perceptions about the Turkish traditional culture are mostly positive. Many people consider that Turkish traditional culture is very unique and indigenous which cannot be found in Korea. Most of them agree that Turkish culture embraces both East and West so that it is more unique. They recognize that diverse civilizations coexist in Turkish culture. One student stated, “[t]here is uniqueness in Turkish dance, music and food, which cannot be seen in Korean culture. The West, Arab and Asia

all appear in Turkish music and arts” (Student/Male/32). Likewise, a journalist noted, “Turkish culture is mixed and it is under Islamic Kulturkreise. Nevertheless, Turkey has developed their own indigenous culture as well” (Journalist/Female/51). Meanwhile, one exchange student shared her positive views of Turkish culture:

Turkish culture is very unique and indigenous. In general, it is said to be the mixture of western and eastern cultures but I think it is closer to Islamic culture. All the popular songs in Turkey had a strong Arabic and Islamic mood, and regional dances had eastern color. It was very unique because the East and West mingle together in Turkish culture. ... Turkish people love all of their own cultures ... I hope future generations would maintain its unique culture in which East and West coexist. I think that the most beautiful thing is that loving own culture (Student/Female/22).

Likewise, several people were amazed at how the young generation still loved their traditional songs and dance. Another student noted, “Turkish culture is very unique and distinctive even they tend to be westernized since young generation still love their own traditional music and dance so much” (Student/Male/33). The Koreans view positively that the Turkish young generation accepts western culture, but at the same time they also love and keep their traditional culture.

With regard to historical architectures, many Korean people have a lack of knowledge about Turkish traditional houses and buildings. Turkish traditional houses remained protected in certain cities of Turkey and if Koreans had not been able to visit these towns,



**Figure 6.1 Turkish traditional houses**

they would have hardly seen the houses. Most of the traditional houses in Turkey are rarely used, but nowadays they have been utilized for touristic purpose. The Korean people who have seen the Turkish traditional houses and buildings have mostly positive impressions about them. One of the



students said, “I couldn’t visit many traditional houses but the houses in Safranbolu are pretty and they are in harmony with nature” (Student/Female/22). Similarly, another student noted, “[i]t is beautiful” (Student/Male/24). Likewise, most of the people who have seen the Turkish traditional houses and buildings consider that they are beautiful and good. A soldier stated, “[i]t is very unique” (Soldier/Male/37). Additionally, a student remarked, “[t]he traditional houses seem clean and neat” (Student/Male/33). Meanwhile, several Koreans recognized that the Turkish traditional houses have mixtures of several cultures. One student



**Figure 6.2 inside of a Turkish house**

compared them to Korean traditional houses and western styles. She observed, “[s]imilar to Korean traditional houses, they divided men and women’s rooms. At the same time, it has something similar to balcony of the West” (Student/Female/26). In addition, a Taekwondo instructor noted, “Arab and European cultures are mixed in Turkish traditional houses” (Taekwondo instructor/ Male/46).

When it comes to the Turkish traditional dress, most of the Korean people have positive impressions on them. Many Koreans said that it is very unique and beautiful. One diplomat noted, “[i]t is very fancy and beautiful” (Diplomat/Male/51). A soldier stated, “[i]t is unique” (Soldier/Male/37). In addition, majority of Koreans who saw Turkish traditional dress perceive that Turkish traditional dress has the attributes of diverse cultures. They compare the Turkish traditional dress with various kinds of other traditional dresses. One exchange student said, “[i]t is pretty. The traditional dress seems a little bit similar to the Northern Russian dresses” (Student/Female/22). One graduate student noted, “Turkish traditional dress seems like a modified style of Central Asian dress” (Student/Male/33). Likewise, another student observed, “[a]s I know, Turkish traditional dresses vary in different regions. It seems like Turkish traditional dress

carries not only one tradition but also traditions of several nations, which are mingled in them” (Student/Male/32). Similarly, a journalist remarked, “[r]egional characteristics are found in Turkish traditional dress” (Journalist/Female/51). In addition, a student noted, “Turkish traditional dress shows uniqueness of Turkey very well. It differs by regions. It is baggy and has lots of ornaments. It has showy patterns and embroidered with gold thread” (Student/Female /26). Turkish traditional dress is seen showy to Koreans because of its ornaments and the design embroidered with diverse colorful thread.



**Figure 6.3 Turkish traditional dress**

Several Koreans who learned or experienced Turkish ritual or ceremonies have positive perceptions about it. In the view of Koreans, a Turkish wedding seems interesting and different. Many people commented on the wedding and religious ceremonies that they participated in. Most of them recognized that family is very important for Turkish people and they have intimate relations with their relatives as well. One of the students commented, “I have been to weddings, Seker Bayram<sup>73</sup> and Kurban Bayram<sup>74</sup>. They were all very interesting experiences. I think Turkish people really value spending time with their families; not just immediate family

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<sup>73</sup> Seker Bayram means Sugar Feast. Seker Bayram is an important religious holiday celebrated by Muslims in Turkey at the end of Ramadan. It is a public holiday which all schools and government offices are generally closed for the entire three-day period of celebrations. During Seker Bayram, people visit relatives, neighbors and friends. Young people honor elders by kissing their right hand and placing it on their forehead to wish bayram greeting. It is also tradition for young children to go around their neighborhood and wish everyone ‘Happy Bayram’ and they receive candy, chocolates, traditional sweets such as Baklava or Lokum (Turkish delight), or money.

<sup>74</sup> Kurban Bayram means Feast of the Sacrifice. Kurban Bayram commemorates Abraham’s willingness to sacrifice his son in obedience of a command from God. Kurban Bayram is religious holiday celebrated for 4.5 days in Turkey. Kurban Bayram takes place about 70 days after the end of Ramadan. The people slaughter a goat, sheep, or cow and the meat is given to the poor and shared among family members and neighbors.

members but all of their family members” (Student/Male/23). Likewise, one diplomat observed, “I went to several weddings and also experienced religious holidays, too. Through wedding and religious holidays, I realized that family and relatives have close bonds and Turkish people have a charitable and sharing culture” (Diplomat/Male/51). In addition, many people who experienced religious holiday and its ritual ceremonies consider that religion is very important part of the Turkish people’s life. One student noted, “I saw how they keep the religious holidays and felt that religion is very important for Turkish people” (Student/Male/32). Moreover, another student expressed amazement at how Turkish people follow the religious rituals:

... In terms of religious holidays, I know Ramadan Bayram<sup>75</sup>. I was really surprised at how they really pray and forget hunger, and spend one month to understand the poor people who barely eat. I think it is very amazing how they live with religion ... (Student/Female/22)

On the other hand, one professor expressed a negative view on the ritual ceremony that kills animals:

I saw how they kill a cow and sheep. I think it is good sharing with each other. I understand Turkish culture, which they were nomad, however, it doesn’t seem good that ritual ceremony involves killing animals. No matter what the meaning is, killing itself cannot be beautiful (Professor/Female/49).

Meanwhile, a Taekwondo instructor shows a positive impression on Kurban Bayram by pointing out that it is simple, short, and not burdening. He noted, “[i]t is good because it is simple and short. It is not burdening. There is almost no work to do. We can just play and rest. On the holiday, which kills the sheep, I received lots of meat from neighbors and we ate barbeque

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<sup>75</sup> Ramadan Bayram is the 30 days of Islamic holy month for fasting. Ramadan means scorching heat or dryness. Ramadan is one of the Five Pillars of Islam. During the month of Ramadan people are commanded to not eat, drink, smoke and have sexual relations from sunrise to sunset. During Ramadan, people gather together in the evening for ‘Iftar yemegi’ which is the food to break the fast after the sunset. At Iftar, special dishes for Ramadan are served including dates, olives, cheese, pastirma, sujuk, Turkish Pide bread, borek and traditional sweets.

together. Everyone was happy” (Taekwondo instructor/Male/46).

### 6.1.2 Korean Perceptions on Turkish Food

The majority of Koreans have positive impressions of Turkish food. Due to the popularity of Kebab in the world, almost every Korean mentioned Kebab when it came to Turkish food. One of the students noted, “Doner and Kebab comes to mind when I think of



**Figure 6.4 Kebab**

Turkish food” (Student/Male/23). In addition, most Koreans noticed that Turkish food is rich in oil but delicious. In general Koreans are rarely fond of oily food, however when it comes to the Turkish food, it was found that they still like it. One student said, “[i]t is oily but delicious” (Student/Female/22). Another student remarked, “I have studied in Turkey for a year, so I had to eat it every day. I can’t really think of any Turkish food I did not like” (Student/Male/23). Similarly, several Koreans said that there is no Turkish food that they don’t like. The most favored Turkish food by Koreans is various kinds of Kebab, especially Iskender Kebab. In addition, many Koreans also love Pide. Interestingly, Koreans even like some Turkish foods that some Turks avoid eating, such as Kokorec and Midye. Many Koreans who tried Kokorec said that they like it. One student stated, “[i]t was salty but spicy and delicious” (Student/Female/22). One of businessmen commented, “[i]t is a recommendable snack after drinking” (Businessman/Male/42). One student noted, “[i]t is very good. I like the sandwich the most” (Student/Male/23). Since there is Korean food that is also made of tripe, many Koreans have no repulsion about Kokorec, and some of them even like it very much. However, a small number of people said that it is greasy and smells bad. One cleric stated, “[i]t is too greasy” (Cleric/Male/52). A journalist said, “[t]he smell was not good” (Journalist/Female/51). When it comes to Midye, almost every person who ate it said they liked it. Since there are many different kinds of seafood in

Korean food culture, Koreans are used to eating mussel. One businessman remarked, “[i]t is my favorite food” (Businessman/Male/58). A soldier said, “I enjoy eating it and I often eat it after I tried a few times” (Soldier/Male/48). However, one government official expressed her disappointment in terms of hygiene during cooking. She noted, “[i]t was delicious but I was disappointed from watching the news on how Midye was made in unhygienic conditions” (Government official/Female/33). When it comes to Ayran, majority of Koreans said that they disliked it in the beginning, however later when they get used to it they started to like it. One student noted, “I didn’t like it in the beginning because it was salty yogurt. Somehow before I knew it, I started to look for Ayran whenever I ate a meal” (Student/Female/22). One diplomat said, “It tastes good and it gives impression that it would be good for health” (Diplomat/Male/51). Similarly, a businessman also commented, “I recommend drinking it every day. It is good for intestine” (Businessman/Male/42). One soldier stated, “[a]fter I drank a couple of times, I started to like it” (Soldier/Male/48). Another soldier noted, “[m]y child and I really like it” (Soldier/Male/37). Likewise, a journalist remarked, “It is very good to get rid of the heat” (Journalist/Female/51). It can be considered that many Koreans like Ayran not because of its taste but also because they think that it is good for the health.

With regard to the Turkish food culture, Korean people recognized that bread is eaten in every meal and it is very important for Turkish people. Korean people realized that Turkish people eat bread in every meal such as how Koreans eat rice in every meal. Turkish people are surprised at how Koreans eat rice in every meal, whereas it seems different to Koreans that Turks eat bread with their meal because bread is not considered as a main food dish and never eaten with a meal in Korean traditional food culture. Therefore, Koreans look for rice even when there is bread, which can be seen as something that may replace rice. It is easy to find that a Korean saying, “I don’t feel like I finished a meal without rice. I feel like something is insufficient. I need rice.” Similarly, there are Turkish people who can hardly eat food without bread. One student who studied in Turkey for a

year commented that what comes to his attention the most in everyday culture in Turkey was consumption of bread. He noted, “I got used to this after living in Turkey for a year but one thing that caught my attention in the beginning was their consumption of bread. Every meal includes new loaves of bread” (Student/Male/24).

When it comes to the Turkish alcohol and drinking culture, Koreans have positive and negative perceptions. Several people who tried Turkish alcohol generally drank Turkish Raki, Beer and Wine. The most preferred Turkish alcohols by the Koreans were Turkish traditional drink Raki and wine. One diplomat said, “I tried Raki and Wine. I like the Turkish wine the most” (Diplomat/Male/61). One businessman noted, “I tried Raki, Wine and Beer. I like Raki” (Businessman/Male/42). Most soldiers like Raki the most. Most of them were even able to name the brands of Raki. The most loved Raki by the Korean soldiers is Yeni Raki and Tekirdag. One soldier said, “I tried all kinds of Turkish alcohol. I like Tekirdag Raki the most” (Soldier/Male/37). Another soldier remarked, “I like Yeni Raki” (Soldier/Male/39). Meanwhile, the Korean people commented on the drinking culture of Turks. Koreans have positive and negative perceptions on Turkish drinking culture. Most of them pointed out the differences from the Korean drinking culture. Many of them recognized that the Turkish drinking table is to talk while Korean drinking table is to drink. The people who have positive impression on the drinking culture of the Turks like it mainly because they do not force anyone to drink and can enjoy it even they drink very little. One government official stated, “[t]he Turkish people enjoy it naturally. They get excited even if they don’t drink a lot” (Government official/Female/33). One soldier noted, “[t]hey drink a little and no one suggests drinking. I like that they talk a lot even they don’t drink a great deal” (Soldier/Male/39). In addition, a businessman remarked, “[t]here is not much difference from the Korean drinking culture. However they enjoy it more with family members. I like that they drink, dance, and talk together” (Businessman/Male/42). Moreover, a Taekwondo instructor commented, “Turkish drinking culture is very different from that of Korea. It is sound, quiet and gentle” (Taekwondo instructor/Male/46). However,

some have negative impressions on Turkish drinking culture because it hardly seems that the reason they gathered was to drink. The people who have negative perceptions about Turkish drinking culture are mainly soldiers. One of them said, “[i]t was not the setting to get drunk. I didn’t like it that much because it was so still (Soldier/Male/37).” Another soldier added, “[t]he difference from Korean drinking table is that it is simple. I don’t really like it because it is just like having meal together” (Soldier/Male/37). It shows that Korean drinking culture is more uproarious and people tend to get drunk a lot more compared to a Turkish drinking setting. It may be said that Koreans like to get drunk and the purpose of drinking may be to get drunk. It can be said that Koreans think that they can enjoy when they get drunk. However, the young generation commented that the drinking culture of Turkey and Korea is similar. They agree that it is noisy and they enjoy drinking altogether. One student noted, “Turkish drinking culture is not very different from ours. It is very intense” (Student/Male/24). Another student also said, “It doesn’t seem much different. Everyone enjoys themselves while drinking” (Student/Female/22). Likewise, an office worker stated, “[t]hey are noisier than Koreans when they drink” (Office worker/Female/29). It can be considered that the drinking culture of the young generation is similar in both countries while the drinking culture of older generation is more quiet and gentle in Turkey compared to that of Korea. In addition, it can be said that the middle-aged Korean people like the Turkish drinking culture because they consider they can still enjoy it without getting drunk, while the Koreans in their thirties hardly like it due to its silence and passive atmosphere. It may be different due to the ages or it may be due to their profession which has tendencies to drink a lot and get drunk.

### **6.1.3 Korean Perceptions on Turkish Music and Dance**

The Korean people have a mostly negative perception of Turkish music. The majority of them agree that the Turkish taste is different from that of Koreans. Many Koreans consider that Turkish music is similar to

Teuroteu music of Korea, which was very popular in Korea during 1950-60s. Many Koreans are surprised that Turks of all the ages enjoy with same music. Since Teuroteu is mainly loved by middle or older aged people in Korea, it was surprising to Koreans to see Turks of all ages can love the same music which is considered to be similar to the music genre of old ages in Korea. One student stated, “[w]hen I think of Turkish music, Teuroteu immediately comes to mind. All generations can enjoy this music in Turkey. However for us, customers have all different preferences depending on music style and genre. Everyone can enjoy together in Turkey” (Student/Female/26). When it comes to Turkish music, many Koreans immediately think Arabic music, a mellow melody; Turkish traditional instruments including Saz, distinctive rhythm and Türkü, the Turkish folk songs. One of the students remarked, “I think the Turkish music is very different and unique. I guess one thing that sticks out the most in their music is that the general tone is very minor” (Student/Male/23). However most Koreans rarely like Turkish music because they have different taste. One office worker noted, “Turkish music is similar to Arabic music. It is not my taste” (Office worker/Male/54). One soldier said, “[i]t is similar to our Teuroteu. I don’t really like that kind of music” (Soldier/Male/37). Likewise, a student stated, “[i]t doesn’t fit Korean preference” (Student/Female/26). Unlike the attitude toward the music, Koreans have more positive perceptions regarding Turkish dance. Most of them recognized that it is easy to learn and they learned how to dance. One student said, “Turkish dance is very easy because it is simple and repetitive” (Student/Male/24). Another student also noted, “It is very simple and easy to follow” (Student/Male/33). Likewise, a soldier stated, “[t]he dance is easy to follow. The motion is active” (Soldier/Male/37). A Taekwondo instructor remarked, “I learned how to dance Halay. It is easy” (Taekwondo instructor/Male/46). In terms of musician, many Koreans know the Turkish singer Tarkan because of his popularity in Turkey.

When it comes to the Turkish traditional music, Koreans recognized that Turkish people like their traditional music and even among the young generation it is popular to learn and play Turkish traditional instruments.



One student noted, “[t]he Turkish traditional instrument seems similar to guitar. Young people also learn and play it a lot. It is not that expensive as Geomungo and Gayageum. It is good that everyone can learn it if they want to” (Student/Female/26). Since it is very expensive in Korea to buy and learn traditional instruments, the person who can play the Korean traditional instruments is rare as well. However, compared to Korea, traditional instruments are more popular and common among ordinary people in Turkey and it is cheaper to get. Therefore, it is easy to find people who play it. Several people commented on Turkish traditional instruments. One student noted, “[i]t is similar to the instruments which are popularly used in the Middle East. The sounds are not heavy and generally light. The melody changes very fast. There is many repetitive rhythm” (Student/Male/32). In regard to its sounds, several Koreans have positive perceptions on it. One student commented, “[i]t is intriguing. I think the biggest characteristic of Turkish traditional music is minor chords” (Student/Male/24). In addition, some Koreans perceive that Turkish traditional music is plaintive. One soldier remarked, “[t]he Turkish traditional music is doleful” (Soldier/Male/37). One student said, “[i]t sounds like crying. It gives similar feeling that Ezan (Islamic prayer call) gives. It is very sad” (Student/Female/26).

#### **6.1.4 Korean Perceptions on Turkish Movies and Dramas**

Relatively speaking, Turkish movies and dramas are hardly popular among Koreans, considering the fact that Korean movies and dramas are quite popular among certain people group in Turkey. In general, Koreans express little interest in Turkish movies and dramas compared to other areas of Turkish culture. In addition, the Koreans who watched Turkish dramas or movies rarely have positive views about them. According to the Koreans who have watched Turkish movies or dramas, Turkish movies and dramas tend to exaggerate the conflicts and affairs. In addition, a number of people consider that the most distinctive characteristics of Turkish movies is violence. One student remarked, “[a] gun comes out for sure.

Especially, dramas always cover the story of threatening plots” (Student/Female/37). A journalist also stated, “[t]here are lots of violent parts in Turkish movies and dramas” (Journalist/Female/51). Moreover, the Koreans also consider that Turkish movies and dramas are mostly suggestive. One of the students commented, “[t]here were so many sensual scenes to the extent that it made me wonder, ‘is this islamic culture?’” (Student/Female/22). On the same note, a housewife remarked, “[n]ew affairs or accidents always happen in every episode. Moreover, the scenarios are focused on conflicts between people. Therefore, violent and suggestive contents are covered too much” (Housewife/Female/33). Similarly, a student also recognized, “Turkish dramas generally covers conflicts within family and conflicts between men and women” (Student/Male/32). It is shown that Turkish dramas and movies tend to focus on expressing the outward conflicts between the people, whereas Korean dramas and movies put importance on expressing the inner and emotional conflicts between the people. This tendency may also show the cultural differences between two society. As it is expressed through movies and dramas, external behavior may be considered more important in Turkey while inner emotion and intention may be consider more important in Korea. Therefore, for example, when Turks watch Korean drama, they wonder how the two men and women started to fall in love each other all of sudden, since they hardly see any represented behavior that two of them love each other. On the other hand, a Korean thinks that why they are too much overexpressing their emotion through action, and sometimes it seems funny since Koreans consider that it is unnecessary to show their emotional change through that much exaggerated actions. Furthermore, other student noted, “[t]he most distictive attribute of Turkish dramas which caught my attention was gossiping” (Student/Female/26). Interestingly, many Koreans who have frequent interactions with ordinary people mostly agree that Turkish people gossip a lot. The gossiping can also be considered as one of the characteristics of Turkish culture. Gossiping is expressed so strongly in Turkish movies and dramas that Koreans can recognize it simply by watching the movies and dramas.

When it comes to the running time, Turkish dramas seem to be very long compared to Korean dramas. One housewife noted, “Korean dramas are mostly within 70 minutes and the episodes are between 16 to 20. However, Turkish dramas’ running time of one episode is longer than 90 minutes and the episodes never ends” (Housewife/Female/33). In addition to this, because of the long running time and episode, the story also tends to move slowly. Likewise, one student also stated, “the development of the story tends to be very slow” (Student/Male/33). With regard to the background music of movies and dramas, the majority of Koreans noticed that it is very different from that of Korean in terms of purpose and function. One student noted, “[i]t seems to be that there is no OST (Original Sound Track) culture. They usually use Turkish music for its background” (Student/Female/26). In addition, a housewife compared the focus of background music appeared in Turkish and Korean movies and dramas:

Korean dramas’ background music has lyrics and rhythm that carries the main characters’ personality and themes of each scene. Turkish dramas seem to be focused more on maximizing the tension of the situation and the dramatic effect (Housewife/Female/33).

Moreover, a student remarked, “[i]t is extremely exaggerated and tends to be noisy” (Student/Male/32). In regards to the actors and actresses, several people consider that they lack the acting ability. One student stated, “[t]he actors and actresses lack acting ability except a few people” (Student/Male/33). Similarly, a soldier said, “[t]here are only few actors who are famous for their acting” (Soldier/Male/48). In addition to this, a journalist observed, “[t]here is no international Turkish actor” (Journalist/Female/51). A considerable number of Koreans consider Turkish actresses tend to be showy. A soldier said, “[t]he actresses are generally showy. They seem to be prefer a lot of jewelry” (Soldier/Male/39). Moreover, a housewife stated, “In general, actresses’ make-up and dresses are immoderate. They have tendency to show themselves instead of the characters of the movie” (Housewife/Female/33).

There is no common famous Turkish movie that Koreans like the

most. In terms of dramas, several Koreans have watched *Yalan Dünya* and *Muhtesem Yüzyıl*. Cem Yılmaz is one of the Turkish actors that Koreans like.

#### **6.1.5 Korean Perceptions on Turkish Education**

The Korean people have positive and negative perceptions on Turkish education. Many students, professors, government officials, and diplomats commented on education in Turkey. Most of them have positive impressions about compulsory educational system, free educational system, scholarship support, college entrance exam, various and wide options to apply for universities and exchange student programs. Many people agree that the compulsory education until high school is a very good educational system. One student commented, “[b]asically, compulsory educational system is equipped” (Student/Male/33). In addition, majority of Koreans are amazed at the free higher education in Turkey<sup>76</sup>. One student said, “[i]n case of higher education, accessibility is high due to its low cost” (Student/Male/32). Considering that higher education is expensive in Korea, the free higher education system in Turkey is very positively evaluated by Koreans. One of the problems and concerns for education in Korea is the tuition fee. A considerable number of students have to work to pay their school tuition in Korea. In addition, majority of students in Korea apply for student loans and it piles until graduation. It becomes one of the biggest burdens for the students since they have to work a lot to pay back all their loans. Moreover, there are many students who give up going the school of their choice because of the high tuition. Therefore, they end up going to a lower level school to receive scholarship. Furthermore, there are many smart and talented students who give up going to a university because they have to work and support their family. For these students, it is impossible to go to a university for study because of its financial burden

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<sup>76</sup> Indeed, the Turkish higher education is not tuition-free. There are various tuition fees for specific disciplines. However, the tuition fees are very low comparing the Korean universities, and most of the time the Higher Education Dormitories Institute pays the tuition fees and the students pay it back when they find jobs after graduation.

due to the high tuition fee. One exchange student commented on the strong points of the Turkish educational system:

I think that it is a very good advantage that the Turkish educational system supports full tuition fee for college students, and the students receiving higher level of education do not need to worry about financial concerns but focus only on their studies (Student/Female/22).

Therefore, the free higher education system in Turkey allows more students to have an opportunity to study and help students to focus on their studies without financial difficulty compared to the students in Korea who are restricted to have a chance to study due to its high tuition. Similarly, Koreans also realized that Turkey has a very good scholarship support for students. One student noted, “[f]inancial support for students is very good in Turkey” (Student/Male/33). Majority of Korean students who study in Turkey noticed that Turkey has a better financial support system for students. One exchange student remarked, “[a]fter you enter a college, there are many good scholarship system and your tuition is paid in full by the government. For these reasons, I think that Turkey has a much better educational condition for students to study” (Student/Female/22). In fact, many Turkish students receive financial support from the government and other organizations. Therefore, Turkish students have less financial burden during their educational period compared to the students in Korea. One student commented, “[t]here are many different kinds of scholarship given to Turkish students such as the Ministry of Education and the Scientific and Technological Research Council of Turkey (Tubitak). They even send students to study abroad for their Phd program” (Student/Female/26). It shows that the Ministry of Education and other academic institutes in Turkey put a considerable amount of investment in students to train young, talented, competent people. Meanwhile, Korean students consider the university entrance exam system of Turkey is to be better than Korea. Many people commented that the Turkish college entrance exam lessens the burden of students and can evaluate the ability of students more accurately

by taking the exam two times rather than once. One student shared her positive views on the Turkish college entrance exam system:

I heard that Turkish high school students could take of the exam two times unlike the college entrance exam in Korea, which only takes place once a year. I think that it is not a good way to evaluate a student's ability from one exam and it is better to evaluate it with two. It can also lessen the burden of students ... (Student/Female/22)

Likewise, another student also noted, “[i]n Turkey they have college entrance exams twice a year. We only have it once a year. It is so burdening for the students in Korea. It is difficult to live as a student in Korea” (Student/Female/26). Since a college entrance exam in Korea takes place once a year, if a student is in bad condition or sick on the the day of the exam, the student has to go a lower level of college than his or her actual ability, or the student has to wait and study one more year for the next exam. Therefore, most Korean students consider the Turkish college entrance system to be far better and less burdening for students. Moreover, some Koreans recognized that the Turkish students have more major and university options to choose from compared to Korea. A couple of diplomats commented that it is good that diverse and wider options are given to students. One diplomat stated, “Turkish college entrance exam system is better than Korea because they offer more options for students to apply for schools and majors” (Diplomat/Male/61). In addition, another diplomat noted, “[i]n Turkey, when students choose which universities to apply to, they can do so to more than 10 universities and majors. Therefore, the Turkish students are offered a wide choice of options than the students in Korea” (Diplomat/Male/51). On the other hand, Korean students can apply for only three different schools and they cannot apply for two different majors in the same school. Therefore, the choice of university and majors in Korea is more narrow and limited compared to the system of Turkey. In addition to this, some students pointed out that the student exchange program is well equipped in Turkey. Therefore students have various opportunities to study abroad. One student noted, “Erasmus program is

signed with European countries. Therefore, it is easier for Turkish students to have the opportunity to go to Europe. It is good that they can expand their experience” (Student/Female/26).

Despite of the good educational system that support and offer wide opportunities to students, a large number of Koreans noticed that the zeal for education is very low and the students rarely make the most of the given opportunity. From the Koreans’ point of view, Turkish people general desire for the better education is very low. It is easy to find many Turkish young students having no desire to go to college. In addition, the parents hardly push their children to go to college. One of the exchange students was very surprised at a teen’s attitude and the parents’ reaction about education. She said, “[o]ne of my friends’ younger sister is a middle school student. However, I was very shocked that she wanted to stop going to school and get married. Her parents were hardly opposing to stop her either” (Student/Female/22). In addition, another student also commented on what she had observed and experienced in Turkey:

... the passion for education differs so much by the people’s level. It is very natural in Turkey that people not go to school because they don’t want to study. There are many students who leave school halfway through. Their parents also let them be as they are. At least, in Korea, parents force their children to graduate college. In here, however, only some people who go to private schools are considered as investing in education. In Korea, everyone must at least graduate from a university. There are many young people just staying at home. They don’t consider education as something that is required (Student/Female/26).

Since the general social atmosphere in Korea is that parents strictly push children to go to a university no matter how rarely they want to study, it is natural for Koreans to be surprised at the different reactions of people. Although the parents are not high-educated people, everyone in Korea thinks ‘at least you should go to college.’ Therefore, Turkish people’s relatively low passion for education seems very surprising to Koreans. Moreover, many Koreans recognized that even university students’ educational enthusiasm is very low. One student said, “[s]tudent’s are hardly taking an active part in their studies” (Student/Male/33). Likewise,

another student note, “[e]veryone is receiving an education but I was hardly able to feel fervor for education, which one could easily recognize in Korea” (Student/Male/32). In addition, one of the students shared her observation on Turkish students:

Even though they have a class in the morning, they just sleep and don’t wake up to go to class. They think it is okay to skip the class. Moreover, sometimes they just don’t go to class just because they don’t want to go and do nothing but stay in the dorm. Even during an exam period, they don’t study at all. Sometime they don’t go to take the test at all. It is very surprising so many students are taking a make-up test because they all failed the exam (Student/Female/27).

Similarly, another student commented on the attitude of the students upon receiving their grades. He noted, “[o]ne difference of mindset between Turkish and Korean students is that Korean students put more effort to get better grades, while Turkish students tend to be pleased just with passing the exam” (Student/Male/32).

Moreover, a considerable number of Koreans realized that the gap between rich and high-educated people and the others is extreme. Several Koreans pointed out that the passion for education differs by financial conditions of the people. One soldier who is doing graduate school in Turkey stated, “[t]he zeal for education differs so much according to the economic level of people. Many people consider education as spending rather than investment” (Soldier/Male/37). Another soldier who also studies in Turkey added, “[t]he gap between the people is very extreme. Some people receive expensive private lessons whereas other children beg for coins in the street” (Soldier/Male/37). In addition, a diplomat remarked, “[t]he gap between urban and rural areas is too big” (Diplomat/Male/61).

Meanwhile, some Koreans have negative perceptions on the Turkish educational system in terms of vulnerable public education and insufficient and cumbersome administrative system. Some people pointed out that the educational system changes so frequently. One Taekwondo instructor stated, “[p]eople are very confused because the educational system changes so often” (Taekwondo instructor/Male/46). In addition, several people



express concerns on the newly applied education system called '4+4+4'. One of the graduate students said, "[t]he newly changed educational system has not settled yet. I think it is still unstable. There were several problems revealed during the process to equip this new system" (Student/Male/37). Moreover, One soldier who does graduate school in Turkey noted, "[s]imilar to Korea, Turkey also need to reinforce public education. Private lessons and private schools are more active and influential than public education" (Soldier/Male/37). In Korea private lessons and private institutions are very common and popular from kindergarten children to college students and office worker. Many students take extra courses at a private institution after school to cover the lack of public education. It seems to be similar in Turkey as well. One Taekwondo instructor remarked, "[a] number of private institutions have actively opened during the past five years. The education focused on high school and college entrance exam is offered there" (Taekwondo instructor/Male/46). This kind of phenomenon can only be explained by that which public education alone, students have rarely achieved desired result that the parents have started to desperately send their children to the place where their children can make better results. It shows that the public education may not provide enough education for students to be qualified for good universities. Furthermore, a graduate student commented on an insufficient educational system in the teaching method based on her experiences. She observed, "[t]here are some similarities with Korea as well. We learn by rote. It is same in Turkey. They teach by rote. I wondered if it was a graduate school class". (Student/Female/26). In fact, both Turkish and Korean education methods are criticized by both societies' educated people due to its teaching by rote. Some quality universities lead classes with discussion and presentation, however it may be rarely seen in general.

In regard to the aspects of educational administrative system, the majority of Koreans agree that it is very inconvenient and slow in Turkey. One student stated, "[t]he education system changes very often and I think the administrative system is very insufficient. For example, the internet course registration process is very cumbersome and inconvenient compared

to Korea” (Student/Female/26). Since convenience and speed are important values in Korean culture, the education administrative system is also made to be convenient and fast. One of the example is that students in Korea do not need to get the approval from a professor for a course registration, while students in Turkey have to meet with the professor to get approved for the classes which they added on the system. In addition, adding or dropping courses are much easier and simple in Korea compared to Turkey.

When it comes to the educational level of Turkey, the majority of Korean people have negative perceptions. Many people pointed out the big difference in educational level according to the region. One diplomat noted, “due to the gap in educational level between regions, the educational level of a rural area is rarely high” (Diplomat/Male/51). Another diplomat added, “[t]here are rural areas that still do not offer education to children” (Diplomat/Male/61). On the same note, a soldier stated, “[t]he educational level extremely differs according to their economic level” (Soldier/Male/37). Likewise, a Taekwondo instructor explained his observation in comparison to Korea in the 1960s, giving example of the lack of education:

The gap between rich and poor applies to the educational level as well. There are many good private schools that provide the best education; unfortunately, at the same time, there are still a considerable number of schools that are in a similar condition to Korea in 1960s. ... It is almost impossible to see any general public schools that provide arts and physical education (Taekwondo instructor/Male/46).

Likewise, a student remarked, “[t]he disparity between the educated and uneducated people is very wide and there is no middle. The uneducated people’s actions frequently go against common sense. It seems like education is important in personality development” (Student/Female/26). Meanwhile, some commented on that English level of Turkish students is low. One student who studied in Turkey for a year commented on the English level of the students according to his experience:

One thing I realized was that many of college students in Turkey are incapable of communicating in English with foreigners,

except for those who study English literature. ... Considering that most of them start learning English early on in their education, their English seems to be too incompetent (Student/Male/23).

This shows that the Korean students who visit and meet with Turkish students have an expectation that they would communicate in English with them. In addition, there is an expectation that they should speak English if they were college students. It can be considered that, for Koreans, English ability is one of the important measurements to evaluate the educational level. One of the diplomats gave a possible explanation of the reason why Turkish students' English level may be low. He stated, "[t]he examination subjects for the college entrance exam are very few. For example, for the applicants to natural sciences, English is not a required subject. Therefore, the level of students can be low" (Diplomat/Male/51). Since the college entrance exam is the important standard that evaluates the students' ability, students may spend most of their study time on working on the subjects in the exam. Therefore, it can be assumed that if English is excluded from the exam subject, students may rarely put extra hours to review their English study even though they cover English class in school.

In sum, it is found that the Koreans have positive perceptions on Turkish education because of its educational system providing compulsory education, free higher education, scholarship supports from the various government departments, opportunity to study abroad through student exchange program and having a better college entrance exam system compared to Korea. Nevertheless, Koreans have negative views on the lack of passion for education, disparity in educational level between urban and rural, rich and poor, instability and the lack of quality in public education, insufficient administrative system and lack of emphasis on English education.

## **6.2 Turkish Perceptions on Korean Culture and Education**

Turkish people's general impressions on Korean culture were mostly positive mainly due to its similarities to Turkish culture. Because of the similarities between the two cultures, Turkish people feel close to Koreans. One of the Turkish students who studies in Korea remarked, "[t]hey are very close to our culture. Especially if we consider that Korea is a foreign country, it is surprising that there are so many similarities" (Student/Male/22). In addition, the similar cultures in a far away country with a different ethnic group may seem more appealing to Turkish people. Moreover, one teacher also added, "I think that Korean culture is close to Turkish culture and I don't think that any Turk would feel excluded" (Teacher/Female/31).

The cultural similarities considered by Turks are respect to elders, ethical standards, hospitality to guests, loyalty to family, family culture and so on. One of the students who studied in Korea through a student exchange program said, "[t]he similarities are characteristic such as: respect to elders, living with parents until they get married, not wearing shoes inside the house, and hospitality" (Student/Female/23). Likewise, one government official who visited Korea stated, "Korean traditions are similar to ours. They give importance to family. They are hospitable to guests, very respectful to elders, warmhearted, and kind. Korean culture is very polite and gentle" (Government official/Female/38). Among these similarities, the most common feature mentioned by Turks was respect, especially to elders. For example, a student noted, "I think the cultural similarities are visiting one another on holidays and bowing to elders to show respect. We also kiss elder's hands to show respect" (Student/Female/23). Similarly, a teacher also observed, "[t]here are lots of similarities such as waiting until the elders to eat during meal time to show respect" (Teacher/Female/23). In addition to respect, many pointed out that ethical standards in the two societies are similar. One student studying in Korea remarked, "respect to elders and eating habits, and general ethical standards of society are similar" (Student/Male/22).

Likewise, a diplomat stated, “using the honorific, respect to elders, teachers, and parents, friendship between friends, and ethical standards are similar in both societies” (Diplomat/Male/39).

In addition, the Turkish people who learned the Korean language commented on the similarities between the two languages. They pointed out that both Korean and Turkish have their roots in the Altay language family. Therefore, their grammar structures are similar to one another. Moreover both Korean and Turkish are read as it is written. For these reasons, many of the Turks who learned the language agree that it is easy to learn because of the similarities in grammar. One other student who studied the Korean language for eight months remarked, “[i]t is easy to learn because the grammar is similar to Turkish. ... It is easier to understand if I know the meaning of the word. If I know the word I can immediately translate it into Turkish since the grammatical order is same” (Student/Female/23).

Although there are many similarities, Turkish people recognize the differences between the two cultures as well. One student thinks that Korean culture is attractive because of the differences. She remarked, “Korean culture is very attractive. I think that it is appealing to us because some parts are very different and some parts are similar to Turkish culture.” Likewise, if there were only similarities, Turkish people would find Korean culture less attractive. In contrast, if there were only differences, Turkish people might hardly have an affinity for it. She added, “I think that the differences stem from differences in language, food and religion” (Student/Female/23). Meanwhile, many people pointed out religion and food as the most different aspects in the two cultures. One government official who visited Korea noted, “[d]ifferences emerge in the religious sphere. Religion is more important for us than it is to Koreans” (Government official/Female/38). One of the students who did an internship in Korea stated, “[t]he only difference is religious belief” (Student/Female/23). Some people think religious differences in both countries are the main factor in differences in food and other cultural aspects. One teacher commented on the differences in Turkish and Korean cultures as follows:

...there are differences in food originated from religious beliefs. Turks use salt a lot but Koreans use a little. Turks eat bread a lot but Koreans eat little. Koreans rarely marry with foreigners but Turks do a lot. When two people meet, Turks are more outspoken and sociable but Koreans are more shy and introverted (Teacher/Female/31).

As mentioned above, the majority of Turkish people have positive perceptions on Korean culture due to its similarities and differences with their own cultures. In this chapter, the Turkish people's perceptions on Korean traditional culture, Korean food, Korean music, Korean movies and dramas, and Korean education will be discussed in more detail.

### **6.2.1 Turkish Perceptions on Korean Traditional Culture**

Turkish people's perceptions about Korean traditional culture are mostly positive. Many people express that it is very different from Turkish traditional culture but it is appealing. One of the students who enjoy watching Korean historical dramas and movies said, "[i]t seems very different. It intrigues me a lot. For example, they sit and sleep on the floor. The hairstyles and dress of the women are different" (Student/Female/28). In addition, a diplomat commented on the Korean traditional performance by comparing it with the imperial culture of the Turks:

It is jolly and touching. It is low in quality because of poverty however I perceive it as intimate and sincere. Turkey has the culture of an empire which is very rich. There is an Ottoman military band. Korea doesn't have it. Korea has too shallow of a history to see the thousand years of culture. I feel sincerity in Samulnori<sup>77</sup>. It is small, narrow and poor. It has a small number of instruments but there is sincerity (Diplomat/Male/39).

It is true that Korean traditional cultures carry deep sorrow and regret

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<sup>77</sup> Samulnori is a Korean traditional percussion music which means four percussion instruments playing. It is played by the four Korean traditional percussion instruments called KKwaengwari, Jing, Jangu and Buk. Samulnori has its roots in Pungmulnori, a Korean folk music, folk dance, and rituals, which was traditionally performed in rice farming villages in order to ensure and celebrate good harvests.

called ‘Han’<sup>78</sup> which has formed because of Korean history with its many sufferings and poverty. Several Korean traditional music and ceremonies have its root in Korean Shamanism, which have religious rituals for blessing. Therefore, it is natural that the Turks distinguish Korean traditional culture from their own traditional culture which has its roots in the Ottoman imperial culture.

With regard to historical architectures, several Turkish people have positive impressions on Korean traditional houses and buildings. One student studies in Korea said, “[i]t is really impressive and fascinating” (Student/Male/22). In addition,



**Figure 6.5 Korean traditional houses**

a government official commented on Korea’s historical palaces. He noted, “the artistic patterns and designs are elegant and beautiful” (Government official/Male/39). Moreover, one of the Korean Language Department students who studied in Korea as an exchange student remarked, “[i]t reflects the history of Korea” (Student/Male/23). Meanwhile, some people compare Korean traditional houses to Turkish ones. One student observed, “[i]t seems from the outside that they are built according to the geographical features like our houses in villages” (Student/Female/28). Likewise several people think that Korean traditional houses resemble Turkish traditional houses. On the other hand, some think that Korean traditional houses were advanced in the aspects of architecture. One student remarked, “I think that the Korean traditional houses are more advanced than Turkish ones in

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<sup>78</sup> Han (한) is a concept in Korean traditional culture which symbolizes Koreans’ emotions and feelings. Han implies collective feelings under oppressions. Han connotes feelings of lament and unavenged injustice. It has developed throughout the Korean historical experiences of having been invaded by other neighboring nations, such as Han China, the Khitans, the Manchu, the Mongols, and the Japanese. In addition, it also includes the feelings of the low-class people against the high-class elite coming from the distinction between the elite called Yanban class and the peasants. It has been expressed through various kinds of arts such as music, theater, movie, literature, dance and so on.

terms of architecture, especially considering the features and designs of the traditional houses” (Student/Female/23).

At the same time, most Turkish people have positive impressions on the Korean traditional dress, the Hanbok. Many people said that they like it and it is appealing. One of the students who wore a Hanbok before said, “I think that the Hanbok is pretty and lovely” (Student/Female/23). A Korean Language Department student who went to Korea as an exchange student noted, “[i]t is colorful and very pretty” (Student/Female/22). A teacher



**Figure 6.6 Hanbok**

remarked, “[t]he traditional dresses are with vivid colors and embroidered. A Hanbok is a dress I like very much” (Teacher/Female/31). A government official who visited Korea commented, “[w]hen I saw it I compared them to Japanese traditional dress. I think the Korean traditional dress is more beautiful and authentic. It is very pretty and cute” (Government official/Female/38). Moreover, a diplomat observed, “[i]t is modest and genuine. I like the Hanbok. It covers the body a lot so it complies with the religion” (Diplomat/Male/39). It may be pleasing to religious Turkish people because the Hanbok has long-sleeves with a long dress that covers the whole body. In addition to this, several people said that they like it because it has a unique and beautiful design. One engineer stated, “I really like them. They are very beautiful. Korean traditional clothing has idiosyncratic characteristics. It make differences” (Engineer/Male/29). Moreover, many people recognized that Korean people still wear it on special days. A majority of women expressed positive views on it. One teacher remarked, “I really like their long dresses. I think it is very good that they still wear them on their traditional holidays or ceremonies” (Teacher/Female/23). Likewise, a government official commented that Koreans know how to wear their traditional dress in modern times:

... I appreciated that Koreans are still wearing them in their special



days and traditional holidays. During these days, we live so differently and wear things differently. But you still use them and you know very well how to commonly present them. I heard that Koreans wear the traditional dress at weddings (Government official/Female/38).

Likewise, a student compared Turks and Koreans' responses with regards to wearing a traditional dress in important events:

They are very loyal to their cultures and I think it is a very good thing. They go to weddings with their traditional dress. I really like this. Nevertheless, if we do so, it is generally considered as being behind the times (Student/Female/19).

It seems like that the fact that mothers wearing Korean traditional dresses in weddings caught her eyes since the Turks rarely wear traditional dresses in weddings. Moreover, the general response among the Turks about wearing the traditional dress is considering old-fashioned, the fact that Koreans wear the traditional dress is seen as an act of keeping their own traditional culture.

Several Turkish people who learned or experienced Korean traditional rituals or ceremonies have positive impressions about it. One of the students who participated in Seollal<sup>79</sup> (The New Year Holiday) festival said, “[i]t was fun and I was able to learn a Korean tradition” (Student/Female/23). Likewise, a student who went to a Korean wedding remarked, “[t]he wedding ceremony was very appealing. I can say that it reminds me of Kına Gecesi<sup>80</sup> of the Turkish culture” (Student/Female/22). Several people agreed that they learned a lot about Korean traditional cultures from dramas. One teacher said, “[a]t weddings, they bow down to

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<sup>79</sup> Seollal (Lunar New Year) is the first day of the Korean lunar calendar. It is one of the most significant traditional Korean holidays. At the same time, it is one of the most celebrated national holidays in Korea.

<sup>80</sup> Kına gecesi (Henna Night) is the Islamic and traditional Turkish entertainment held in the day before the wedding. Kına gecesi generally takes place in the night before the wedding ceremony. The close friends and female relatives of the bride attend, and men are excluded. Henna is applied to the hands of the bride and the all female guests. The melancholy traditional songs for the Kına gecesi are played since it is the last night for the bride to spend in her parents' home.

their parents. I learned it from one of the dramas” (Teacher/Female/23). In the same vein, another teacher who has interests in Korean dramas noted, “[a]t weddings, the bride and bridegroom wear traditional clothes. They take a gift when they are invited to someone’s house, and they drink Soju (a Korean spirit) at the company dinner after work” (Teacher/Female/31). At this point, it can be considered that Korean dramas play a considerable role in introducing Korean culture to the Turks.

Meanwhile, a number of Turkish people noted that Koreans preserve their own culture well. Turkish people mostly had positive perceptions about it. Many people mentioned that Koreans have accepted the Western culture but at the same time they have protected their own culture well. For example, one government official who visited Korea pointed out the Korean culture maintained in everyday life by giving an example of the signboards written in Korean:

...They continue their tradition. They are very nationalistic. I very much admired that Koreans are nationalists. Koreans apply some advanced and modern cultures from developed countries but at the same time they protect their own traditional cultures. It attracted me a lot. Even though Korea is supported by America, names of most of the shops on the streets were written in Korean. It really drew my attention. .... That really caught my eyes (Government official/Female/38).

Since she thinks that language is a very important part of the culture, she considered that Koreans keep their own culture because she saw that signboards were written in Hangul, the Korean letters, instead of English. Moreover, she perceived that Koreans have protected their own culture because they are nationalists. In addition, a professor who conducted research in Korea recognized that Koreans put an importance on keeping their traditional culture through traditional music, dance, plays, theater, and traditional ceremonies:

... I felt that they protect their tradition very well. I see that they never lose their own tradition. I participated in their traditional wedding. I watched their traditional plays and dances. Even though they have a very large young population, Koreans keep their tradition really well. ... they carefully protect and continue their own culture, history,

traditions, and values through traditional music, dance, plays, theater and other traditional ceremonies. I see Korea as a society that altogether possesses traditional, global and regional culture. They never abandon their roots. They are very tied with their own values, traditions, and culture from their ancestors. I think that this is very good and positive thing (Professor/Male/35).

It can be said that Turkish people have good impressions about the fact that Koreans put efforts to maintain their own culture even under the condition of the spreading inflow of Western culture into Korea.

When it comes to Korean culture, a considerable number of Turkish people mentioned the entertainment culture of Korea. Many of them recognized that entertainment is considered very important in Korea. One professor who studied in Korea remarked, “I think nightlife and entertainment are really important for Koreans” (Professor/Male/35). Moreover, Turkish people realized that Koreans tend to enjoy the evening even after working all day long. One of the students who went to Korea through the student exchange program explained her observations on the entertainment in Korea:

It is incredibly widespread in Korea. Students, office workers, middle-aged women and men, youth and elders, ... Everyone set apart their time in the evening to enjoy with their friends, even after spending a whole day working. There are famous districts for this. Many people get together at these places to have fun (Student/Female/23).

This kind of entertainment culture of Koreans can be seen very strange to Turkish people since it is not common in Turkey. Turkish people’s perceptions on Korean entertainment culture can be divided into positive and negative views. The young students who love to have fun generally have very positive perceptions about it. One of the exchange students from the Korean Language Department remarked, “[i]t is very good. They work until evening and enjoy until morning. It is almost like they work to enjoy” (Student/Male/23). Similarly, a government official who visited Korea and saw the night streets of Korea considered that the reason why it is not common in Turkey might be the influence of religion:

It was one of the interesting things that attracted my attention. They think, “We worked a lot! Let’s enjoy now!” They are qualified for both and they do both very well. They work so well and enjoy so well. They enjoy like crazy. We are not that much comfortable with enjoying maybe because of the religious pressure. However in Korea, people feel free enjoying and hanging around on the streets late at night. It was very interesting. We also have a nightlife in Istanbul but the streets are not like that much of Korea. I think that it is because of the effect of religion (Government official/Female/38).

It might be true that the religious pressure in Turkey is stronger than Korea since most of the population believes in one religion in Turkey while there is no dominant religion in Korea. Because of this, religion can hardly influence or control life in Korea while it has considerable effects in Turkey. Therefore, it can be considered as natural that Koreans feel freer to enjoy things than Turks in general. Moreover, such a mindset brought the entertainment culture widespread in Korea to the extent that it is easily recognized by the Turks.

However, some people consider Korean entertainment culture as one of the factors that can cause social problems. They think that the entertainment culture of Korea is dangerous. One student who studies in Korea expressed his worries about it. He commented, “Koreans are cheerful people. They are good at having fun. But nightlife is too common and widespread. I think that it is dangerous sociologically” (Student/Male/22). Moreover, a diplomat who has strong religious inclinations thinks that the entertainment culture in Korea gives rise to many social problems such as divorce, suicide, and overspending:

The entertainment culture is very lively in Korea. I don’t think that it is good. There are many clubs, bars, and singing rooms. I don’t like it that much. It kills family culture. It promotes divorce rate, suicide rate, and consumption. It damages the economy and psychologically debilitates so that increases suicide rate. ... (Diplomat/Male/39)

He thinks that the entertainment culture in Korea degenerates the relationships among family member because they all spend their evening

time having fun with their friends instead of being with family. Therefore, he considers that the entertainment culture causes family problems and later develops into social problems such as divorce and suicide.

In addition to the entertainment culture in Korea, the workplace culture of Koreans caught the Turks' attention. The Turkish people who have experienced and witnessed the Korean workplace culture mostly have negative perceptions about it especially because of the overtime working at night, and the strict work discipline in jobs as if it was military. Several people whose occupations are related to businesses shared their observations and feelings about the Korean workplace culture. Several people have negative views on the hierarchical company culture of Koreans. One attorney who has experienced many Korean businessmen and companies noted, "[t]here is only one thing, which is a hierarchic structure. It is bad. ... I can see that Korean company culture is completely the Confucian culture" (Attorney/Male/32). Moreover, a diplomat remarked, "[h]ierarchy is very strong. They work in a hurry and they make a decision very fast; they do not give importance to individual thinking. Team spirit is very strong. Social pressure is overwhelming" (Diplomat/Male/39). In the same vein, Turkish people commented on the relations between the workers and bosses. A government official commented on the workers' attitude toward the boss. She observed, "[i]t really caught my eyes. They are very quite in front of their boss. They never speak in front of the boss. They just speak when they are asked to or if it is their professional fields" (Government official/Female/38). Similarly, a diplomat stated, "[i]t is like an army. They can't say no and have to follow it" (Diplomat/Male/39). Moreover, he compared the workers' attitude toward the boss with that of a Turkish company:

...They can't shout and they can't say their opinions and just do as they are told to do. ... In Turkey they say things against their boss even if they take a risk. But Korean people can't say it. They don't take a risk or it is because of social pressure. It is culture. In Korean company life there is no culture like you shout against your boss or act against him. There are no customs like this. People cannot act which they don't have in their cultural background. They never saw it and

never experienced it. So they are just following the system. ...Hierarchy is very strong in Korean society. As I said before, it is very similar to the army (Diplomat/Male/39).

Likewise, they also compare the boss' attitude toward workers to the army system. One of them compares the boss of the workplace to military commanders (Attorney/Male/32). The other also remarked, "[t]hey act like they are president. It is like the army system" (Government official/Male/39). The hierarchic structure of the Korean company is viewed negatively because comparatively Turkish companies have more equality in regards to the relations between the employer and employees.

A majority of them recognized that Koreans work systematically and inflexibly. One diplomat stated, "[t]heir attitude in the workplace is systematic but strict" (Diplomat/Male/39). This can be perceived negatively by the Turks since flexibility is a significant value in Turkish culture. One government official who visited Korea observed, "[d]iscipline is very important in Korea. In Turkey, however, flexibility is more important. I think this is a cultural difference" (Government official/Female/38). It shows that the difference in cultural values influences where people put priority at work. A diplomat commented on the Korean company culture and compared it to the army:

It is like an army. Korean companies are working not in individual talent but in organization talent. ... They work as a team. ... Also Korean companies follow mass-behavior in Korean society. Individualism is not very strong in this country. ... Turkey is totally the opposite. ...I never saw anyone in Korea say, "I'm so comfortable. Company life is so easy." Mostly they are having a hard time because of this. Since they have to be interfered by team and they have to do role play, it is not easy at all. They have to work within a certain system so they are not free...The work satisfaction is very low in Korea. Yet, the satisfaction of Turkish people are high even though their companies are small and not successful (Diplomat/Male/39).

He considers that the workplace satisfaction of Koreans is low because of inflexity and teamwork that the individual can hardly stand out. Moreover, he thinks that Turkish people's work satisfaction is high due to the flexibility and the individualistic culture at the workplace.

In addition, Turkish people commented on the overtime work of Korean companies. One government official who works for business cooperation of the two countries noted, “I know that they work very long hours until very late. I heard that they take a yearly holiday and it is very short. I heard that it was only five days per year” (Government official/Female/38). Moreover, an attorney expressed sadness to the overtime work of Koreans. He said, “[t]here is no one who keeps their working hours because everyone works more and more. It makes me sad that the people hardly keep their working hours” (Attorney/Male/32). Furthermore, he considers that overtime work can cause family and health problems because they can hardly spend time with their family and for themselves:

In my opinion, overtime working is not a good thing at all. I can say that it is a reason for sickness. I mean, working too much can be a factor for illness because I know people who sleep at the workplace. It is not good at all. Actually, it can be a reason for family disruption. Since the wife and husband hardly see each other, it can be a reason for family destruction. I think that it is necessary to set apart their time to families and themselves instead of working excessively. After one point, you see that the people’s health gets worse. If you consider the fact that the social insurance condition is very bad in Korea, I can say that the money they earned goes back to their health. ... (Attorney/Male/32).

### **6.2.2 Turkish Perceptions on Korean Food**

A number of Turkish people commented on Korean food and food culture. They have positive and negative perceptions about them. Many people have positive attitudes on Korean food because there are many spicy food and various side



**Figure 6.7 Korean meal table**

dishes. One of the students who studied in Korea as an exchange student said, “[t]here are lots of spicy foods that are similar to Turkish and I was pleased with this” (Student/Female/23). In addition, another student who

did an internship in Korea noted, “[t]he Korean meal is a satisfying and delicious meal with plenty of side dishes. Korean food is hot and spicy. I like spicy food” (Student/Female/23). Similarly, a professor stated, “I like Korean food because I like spicy and hot food” (Professor/Male/45). According to the comments given by numbers of people, it shows that many Turkish people like hot and spicy food.

Therefore, it can be said that Korean hot and spicy food is to Turkish people’s tastes. The most favored spicy Korean food by the Turks are Kimchi and Ramen. Several Turkish people commented that they like Kimchi because it tastes similar to Turkish Tursu. In



**Figure 6.8 Kimchi**

In addition, some sweet meat foods are also loved by the Turks such as: Bulgogi, Galbi and Jjimdak. The meat food is generally preferred by the Turks since they have abundant meat food in Turkey.

Although the Turkish people who have tasted and liked the Korean spicy and hot food and the sweet meat food, at the same time, they also have negative perceptions about some Korean food such as seafood and pork. One of the professor stated, “[e]specially with regards to the seafood, the smell was too heavy. So I couldn’t eat it. I couldn’t eat raw fish. In Turkey we cook a lot, but in Korea they eat more uncooked or a little cooked” (Professor/Male/35). It might be hard for the Turks to get used to Korean seafood since they are not used eating them in Turkey. Even though they eat fish and mussels in Turkey, the seafood in Turkey is not varied as much as in Korea. Since the fishing industry has largely developed in Korea, a great variety of seafood is very widespread in Korea. In Korea, there are various kinds of seafood including: seaweed, crab, octopus, and shellfish. One of the teachers noted, “I like Korean food but not the boneless living creature” (Teacher/Female/31). It can be seen as very strange to Turkish people that octopus, crab and clams are food since they have hardly considered them as something edible. This can be due to the fact that seafood has rarely developed that much in Turkey because of their cultural characteristics, which enjoy abundant meats, flours and vegetables. In



addition, one diplomat remarked, “I dislike pork and alcohol because of religious reasons” (Diplomat/Male/39). Many Turkish people have negative views on pork because of their religious and cultural background. In the Islamic perspective, which most of the Turkish people believe in, pork is considered a dirty animal. Therefore, it is a sin to eat pork. One of the professors explained his perception about pork:

I tried pork but I was not aware of it. In our cultural perspective, I don't accept eating pork. But with regard to the taste, it was really good. In our culture, not only in aspect of religion but also from our childhood, pork is considered as “dirty” and “bad.” Because of this biased feeling, I've always avoided eating pork (Professor/Male/35).

It can be assumed that even though they would not be that religious, the Turks might have negative views on eating pork because of what they have heard since their childhood. Therefore, Turkish people's negative perceptions on pork might have been formed by education and childhood background, which made them think that a pig is a dirty and bad animal. This is why Turkish people may have a tendency to avoid eating pork in general. In addition, besides the seafood and pork, foods made with tofu (soybean curd) are also disliked by the Turks since they are not used to the flavor.

With regard to the Korean food culture, some Turkish people who lived in Korea noted that it takes time for a Turk to adjust to Korean food because it is completely different from Turkish food. In addition, men have more of a hard time getting used to it compared to women. It seems like men have more of a conservative inclination than women in terms of palate and different foods. One professor shared his first experience in Korea regarding food:

There are many similarities between Korea and Turkey, but when it comes to food, it is so different. The palates are very different. For this reason, I had hard times in regards to food. I tell everyone who is going to Korea, “[e]verything in Korea is very good except food.” Of course, there are some food we can eat. However, there is no breakfast. There is no Ekmek (Turkish bread they have in every meal). There is no olive and cheese that are easily found in here. The food culture is so

different. Honestly, there are some foods that I was thinking, “is it edible?” ... There is no oil, salt and sugar in Korean food. There is no considerable sweets that we have here. Therefore, I suffered much when I was in Korea (Professor/Male/35).

In the same vein, an exchange student also mentioned about Kahvalti, the Turkish breakfast, which is very important to Turks. She said, “[t]he most fundamental difference from Turkey is the morning breakfast. They have meals in Korea” (Student/Female/23). It is easy to recognize that Turkish people set their breakfast apart from other meals, only even looking at the language. Turkish people call breakfast, lunch and dinner as “under coffee”, “noon meal”, and “evening meal.” It shows that Turkish people barely consider breakfast a meal. They express surprise at the fact that Korean people have a meal in the morning breakfast, which is generally rice. Since Turkish style breakfast is rarely found in Korea and they have to go to the foreign markets to get different types of olive and cheese they have in Turkey, it may be hard for Turks to live in Korea until they get used to Korean food. Even though there are several Turkish restaurants and they are able to find ingredients for Turkish food, it might be hard to taste the same as in Turkey. Likewise, an engineer noted, “[o]ur tastes are different. We eat oily and floury food. Also we eat food on top of another such as: sweets, fruits, and tea after regular meals” (Engineer/Male/29). It is frequently seen that Turkish people say, “there is no sweets in Korea” because they hardly find sugary sweets in Korea which are easily found in Turkey. That is to say that even there are sweets in Korea, it may hardly satisfy Turkish appetite because the sweets in Korea are not as sweet as in Turkey. In addition, a student who studies in Korea remarked, “[t]he Korean food is very healthy and it hardly makes you gain weight. Moreover, Koreans rarely eat excessively. However, it takes some times for a Turk to adjust because Korean food makes us search for and miss Turkish food” (Student/Male/22). The Korean food is lighter than the Turkish food in terms of calories since the amount of the vegetables and seafood is bigger than the meat and flours. Since Turkish food is salty, buttery, floury, and based on meat in general, it is natural for Turks to miss their own food

because Korean food might not be able to give the same satisfaction they can feel from Turkish food.

When it comes to the Korean alcohol and drinking culture, the Turkish people who tried and have been to Korean drinking setting generally have positive perceptions. Several people who tried Korean alcohol referred to the Korean alcohol they like the most. The most loved Korean alcohol by the Turks were Soju (Korean distilled liquor) and Makgeolli (Korean traditional rice wine). One of the professors noted, “[o]f course, I tried Korean alcohol. Soju is similar to our raki. My favorite was Makgeolli. It was really good” (Professor/Male/35). In addition, another professor said, “I tried Soju, Makgeolli and Dongdongju. I like Soju the most” (Professor/Male/45). One exchange student stated, “I drank Soju, Beer, SoMaek, and Makgeolli among the Korean alcohol. My favorite was Makgeolli” (Student/Male/23). The word ‘SoMaek’ can be explained by the Korean drinking culture. ‘SoMaek’ is the abbreviation of Soju and Maekju (it means beer in Korean). Korean people mix a certain amount of Soju and beer to drink because it makes them get drunk quickly than just drinking Soju. This way of drinking culture is widespread among Koreans, especially the young generation. This kind of “bomb shot” is called “Poktanju” in Korean and it is easy to see people drinking Poktanju in many bars in Korea. Since students get along with their age group, it seems like that they learned and tried SoMaek, one of the Poktanjus, while they are hanging out and drinking with Korean students.

Meanwhile, Turkish people commented on the drinking culture of Koreans. Some of them mentioned about the Korean drinking manner. One student stated, “[t]here is a drinking manner when they drink together. When you drink with someone who is in a higher position than you such as boss, you have to turn 45 degrees away and then drink” (Student/Female/23). To show respect to the person older than oneself or in a higher position than oneself, the person must turn and drink so that he would not show his front face directly to the person drinking with him. Showing the drinking face straightly to the person who is needed to be respect is considered rude in Korean culture since drinking face-to-face

means equality between the two person. In addition, some recognized that drinking is obligatory at the drinking table in Korea. One professor noted that drinking altogether is substantial in Korean drinking culture:

The drinking culture is very different from Turkey. The difference is that Koreans don't accept "I'm not gonna drink". You must drink no matter what. You have to drink until you get drunk. Koreans drink a lot more than Turkish. It is considered really disrespectful to sit down there but not drinking at all. If you sit down together you have to eat and then drink all together. If you don't drink, you are considered as disregarding the people there and breaking the atmosphere (Professor/Male/35).

Since collectivism is dominant in the Korean culture, it is unacceptable to not drink when you sit with everyone who is there to drink together. It can be said that community the spirit is stronger in Korean society and that an individualistic mindset is generally considered disrespectful.

The fact that they hardly disturb others when they are drunk caught the Turkish people attention. One of the students who said that he likes the Korean drinking culture noted, "[t]hey drink very comfortably. There is no harm to anybody. There are no attacks or fights" (Student/Male/23). Likewise, an attorney who works in Korea stated, "Koreans restrain themselves more when they drink" (Attorney/Male/32). A professor also compared the behaviors of the Turks and Koreans when they get drunk:

...I see that the possibility of the act of violence is very low in Korea. ... When they get drunk, they get drunk seriously but never fight with someone or behave aggressively. In this sense, Korea is a very safe country. In Korea, a man and woman can walk around at 2am or 4am and they can go back home safely without any worries even late at night. However it is not like that in Turkey. It is extremely dangerous to walk around at night. They run wild, fight with anybody, and act aggressively. But I think Koreans are more civilized in this aspect. Our people are more inclined to fight with others and act violently when they get drunk, but Koreans are not like that (Professor/Male/35).

Moreover, another professor pointed out, "I like the Korean drinking culture

because the dialogue becomes more interesting and funny. All Koreans break the social walls while drinking” (Professor/Male/45). It is true that many Korean people go to drink together to break the wall or awkwardness between them. Therefore, when there are newcomers, community members take them to drink together. It can be commonly seen in college culture and company culture.

### **6.2.3 Turkish Perceptions on Korean Music**

Turkish people have mostly positive perceptions about Korean music. Especially the university students who went to Korea or have a high interest in Korean culture have very good impressions on Korean music. The Korean Language Department students who went to Korea as exchange students said in one voice that they started to like all sorts of Korean music after coming to Korea. One of them said, “I love them so much. I came to like it after I went to Korea. I love club music, Pansori<sup>81</sup>, K-pop and the songs played in the buses and taxis, and Psy’s songs” (Student/Male/22). Korean music is loved among young Turkish students. Likewise, another student noted, “I have one Turkish song in my phone and the others are all Korean songs. I also like K-pop” (Student/Female/23). Many of them were reminded of K-pop and the Korean traditional music. One student who enjoys listening to Korean pop music noted, “when I think of Korean music, K-pop and the traditional music of Korea come to mind. I generally listen to K-pop and it pleases me so much” (Student/Female/19). In addition, due to the recent hit of the famous Korean singer Psy, a considerable number of people mentioned him. One of the students stated, “I like Psy. I like his

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<sup>81</sup> Pansori is one of the art forms that represent Korean traditional vocal music. Pansori is a genre of musical storytelling performed by a vocalist and a drummer, embracing both elite and folk culture. Pansori is a musical drama in which a solo singer, holding a fan in one hand, delivers a long story by the means of sari (song), aniri (narration) and ballim (mimetic gestures). Pansori encompasses literature, music and drama. Pansori was designated a National Intangible Cultural Property in 1964. Lately, Pansori has started to widely known to the international community, attracting people’s attention in famous European carnival. Pansori is proclaimed as a Masterpiece of Oral Tradition and Intangible Cultural Heritage of Humanity by UNESCO in 2003.

songs” (Student/Male/24). In addition, a journalist commented, “Psy and *Gangnam Style* come to mind when I think of the Korean music. It was a very big event. Psy was supported by the government. He is a promotion of the country” (Journalist/Female/26). In fact, according to the YouTube hits of *Gangnam Style*, Turkey was number four in the world following first place by the U.S.A., the second place by Thailand, and the third place by Korea. Psy’s *Gangnam Style* was widespreadly loved by the Turks everywhere in Turkey. During 2012’s summer, it was easy to hear the song *Gangnam Style* on the streets and the shops all over Turkey.

However, the people who have deeper concerns and intimate feelings toward Korean culture showed more interest in K-pop group singers or Korean traditional music including the song *Arirang* which represents Korea, carrying the theme of Han. Many of the young generation like Korean pop music, which is so-called K-pop. A student who visited Korea with the Korean government scholarship program said, “Korean pop music comes to mind ....I can say that Korean music stimulate creativity. The music and video clips make people watch them over and over again, and they never make me to get tired of them” (Student/Female/22). Not only the music but also the music videos of K-pop songs are famous among Turkish young women. It can be said that the styles of K-pop music and the visuals of music videos attract Turkish young women’s attention. In addition, one teacher stated, “[w]hen it comes to Korean music, group singers come to mind” (Teacher/Female/23). It shows that mostly K-pop music with group singers are popular among Turkish young women. One of the students noted, “[i]n Turkish music, the singers rarely sing and dance. In Turkey, the singers sing mostly as a single, so they hardly dance at all. I know that in Korea, they are trained so hard in dance and in English” (Student/Female/23). It shows that the K-pop music preferred by the Turkish young generation is mostly sung by group singers with active dance performances. On the other hand, a male diplomat had negative views about this phenomenon of Korean music;

I don’t like them. They are not good. ... It doesn't give good

influences to the young generation. ... They don't train solo singers anymore. Only the performance has increased. The music should be good just by listening without watching. The sound is important in music. However it is not remained anymore. There is a show and performance. It is tended to put more importance on quality visual and dance performances (Diplomat/Male/39).

He criticized the tendency of Korean music giving more efforts on the performances including the dance rather than the quality of the music itself. He also expressed his preference for solo singers which is contrary to the preference of the young generation. Similarly, a professor noted, "I like the '80s pop music and traditional music" (Professor/Male/45). These show the differences in preference on Korean music between different generations.

When it comes to Korean traditional music, in general, both generations have positive perceptions on it. Most people who heard Korean traditional music commented that it is very calming, restful, and relaxing. One teacher noted, "Korean traditional music make me relaxed. I think the characteristic of Korean traditional music is providing peace to the listeners" (Teacher/Female/31). Similarly, a government official who visited Korea stated, "[t]he traditional music was relaxing and calming" (Government official/Female/38). Likewise, a student who is studying the Korean language remarked, "I listened in Korean language class and saw it in a drama. I really liked Gayageum and its sound. It is really comforting. I think that Korean traditional music instruments sound very calming and restful" (Student/Female/19). In addition, several people said that the sounds of Korean traditional music instruments are similar to Turkish traditional instruments. One of the students who visited Korea observed, "I think that they are similar to the Turkish music instruments. For this reason, the music and the instruments sound very familiar to us. In the same vein, an engineer resembled the Korean traditional instruments to the Saz, Baglama and Davul of the Turks:

They are similar to the Saz and Baglama, which are traditional Turkish instruments. There is also an instrument that resembles the sound of Davul, ... The sounds are very mystic and different. Some of them have a calming effect to the listener. It is very similar to our

traditional instruments, making it feel more familiar (Engineer/Male/29).

Moreover, some of them said that Korean traditional music is meaningful and emotional and it reflects its own history. One housewife said, “I was very impressed when I heard that they are oriented to make sounds of nature” (Housewife/Female/26). In addition, a student who said that she often listens to *Arirang*, the Korean popular traditional song remarked, “I think that Korean traditional music is very calming and good. I like their sounds. ... They are also upbeat but more emotional and slow. Turkish music is more cheerful” (Student/Female/23). Since most of Korean traditional culture carries the theme of Han, even though some may be cheerful and funny, many of them are generally tended to caricature the negative emotions into cheerful atmospheres to forget bad feelings through the actions of expressing in music. In the same vein, a professor commented, “[w]hen someone knows about Korean history, Korean traditional music becomes more meaningful since you can feel and breath the history through the music” (Professor/Male/45). It is easy to understand and feel the meaning of Korean traditional music if someone has knowledge of Korean history, since most of Korean traditional music reflects the feelings of the people in their sorrowful historical experiences.

#### **6.2.4 Turkish Perceptions on Korean Dramas and Movies**

The majority of Turkish people have positive perceptions on Korean dramas and movies. A number of people recognized that the quality of Korean dramas and movies is good. One of the government officials who works in Korea remarked, “I worked in media sector for five years. The level of Korean movies and dramas are high. It is high quality” (Government official/Male/39). In the same vein, a student who visited Korea noted, “[t]hey shoot very successful action scenes. In the same way, fantastic movies are very successful too. Korean dramas are more loved since they choose very good actors. Since they don’t use the same actors in different



dramas, the audience hardly get bored” (Student/Female/22). One journalist pointed out that the high quality of Korean movies and dramas stem from the considerable investment in the drama and movie sector. She noted, “[s]ince Korean dramas are widely loved abroad, they invest a lot in movies and dramas because of its popularity abroad, which is called the Korean Wave” (Journalist/Female/26).

In addition many Turkish people mentioned that the performance of the Korean actors is good. One student who enjoys watching Korean dramas recognized, “[t]he actors and actresses are very good. I like Hyun Bin, Lee Min-ho, So Ji-sub, Lee Yo-won, and Park Shin-hae. They are very good actors and actresses. They enter into their roles very well. They express the emotions very well” (Student/Female/19). Another student who has watched more than 40 Korean dramas remarked, “[t]he actors are awesome. They act very well and naturally. I like Song Joong-ki because he is good at acting. He is very lovely. He is a good actor. I search and watch the dramas which Song Joong-ki plays in” (Student/Female/23). Similarly, a housewife noted, “I like Gong Yoo because his face expressions are very realistic” (Housewife/Female/26). Interestingly, a considerable number of female students love the Korean actors because they seem very handsome to them. One student who participated in an internship in Korea stated, “I like Jang Geun-suk because he is very handsome and he has a lively characteristic” (Student/Female/23).

A majority of the people who watched Korean dramas and movies agreed that the scenarios are fluent and very intriguing. One student who watched Korean action movies said, “[t]hey are good. I liked them. The flow of the story was good. There was nothing absurd” (Student/Male/24). Likewise, another student who studies in Korea noted, “[t]he Korean dramas and movies are very creative and authentic” (Student/Male/22). Similarly, a student who has watched more than 40 Korean dramas and more than 100 Korean movies observed, “[i]n general, the actors are very good and the scenarios are riveting and intriguing. I like the film director Kim Ki-duk because he has a different angle towards the events, and scenarios and wording explaining the episodes are extraordinary”

(Student/Female/19).

Moreover, several people pointed out that Korean dramas promote and introduce Korean culture very well. One student stated, “I like to watch Korean historical dramas and movies because they show Korean culture very well. I think that movie is the most thing that shows the culture well” (Student/Female/28). In addition, many people who watched Korean dramas but have not visited Korea yet agree that Korean dramas make them curious about Korean food and places in Korea. One student noted,

Korean traditional food comes out in dramas a lot. ... When I watch them, it makes me want to eat them too. Koreans really love eating food. Ramen is used in Korean dramas very frequently. They use Ramen and Kimchi to show the everyday life of the people. ... (Student/Female/23).

One teacher stated, “[t]hey eat it so deliciously, it makes me want to eat it as well. They present and introduce their foods really well” (Teacher/Female/23). Similarly, one student who studies the Korean language because she likes Korean dramas remarked, “[t]he foods shown in Korean dramas make me very curious about Korean food. ... Because they eat so deliciously in drama, it makes me want to eat too” (Student/Female/19). Similarly, a teacher noted that Korean dramas promote Korea so well that it makes her want to visit there:

They chose the places really well and the shots are taken well. Because the settings look good and are so beautiful, it makes the audience want to visit there. I was watching *Running Man*, and it introduces Korea very well and presents many good places in Korea. Even in dramas, Korea is introduced very well. They go to parks in the dramas, and the parks are very beautiful (Teacher/Female/23).

Since Korean dramas take place in Korea and they show many different scenes in Korea, the Turkish audience thinks that Korean dramas introduce and advertise these places in Korea. In fact, there are several students who visited Korea because they became curious after watching Korean dramas.

Many people realized that they learn about Korea and Korean

culture by watching Korean dramas and movies. One engineer said that he learned about ‘Aekyo’ of Koreans after watching a few Korean dramas:

As we watch Korean dramas, we found that there is something called “Aekyo” in Korea, which is acting lovely to gain something they want. When we first saw in *Playful Kiss*, we thought it was just to make it funny since it was a comedy. But later it showed up in other dramas, so we became curious and looked it up on the internet. We put “relation” in the search box. There were several other videos that show Korean cultures such as offering things to others first before eating. We found stuff about “Aekyo” and were finally able to know what it meant (Engineer/Male/29).

Moreover, Turkish people noticed that they learn how everyday culture in Korea looks like through Korean dramas and movies such as how they wear, how their house looks like, what are considered important in Korea. One teacher shared what she realized about Korea by watching the dramas:

The mobile phones really grabbed my attention. In every drama, they show huge mobile phones. They use mobile phones a lot. Also they sit on the ground a lot rather than sitting on chairs or sofas. Also the furniture doesn’t really stand out. We usually have lots of furniture, but in a Korean house, there isn’t that much. It seems more spacious with little furniture (Teacher/Female/23).

Several people commented on Korean fashion as they observed in Korean dramas and movies. One student observed, “Korean fashion is held in current trends and styles. As I have watched, I recognized that wearing something nice is very important for Koreans and Korean fashion changes and renews continuously” (Student/Female/19). In addition, another students stated, “Korean clothes are very pretty. If we wear short dress or shorts, it would offend the people’s eyes in Turkey. But it is not like that in Korea. They wear really nice things. They use various vivid colors. It makes me want to wear things like that too” (Student/Female/23). Likewise, one engineer noted, “[t]heir hairstyles look good on them. Turkish guys do not dye their hairs since it does not look good on them. But for Korean guys, it fits them very well. If guys dye their hair in Turkey people would make fun of them” (Engineer/Male/29).

Furthermore, it is found that the Turkish people like and continue to watch Korean dramas because they can feel empathy for the Korean people's emotions and characteristics reflected in dramas. Several people commented that they realized that Koreans have very similar characteristics to Turks. One of the engineers said that it was his father who first started to watch Korean dramas in his family. He explained that his father was surprised at the similarities between the Turks and Koreans:

My father watched *Dong Yi*. ... My father doesn't like TV series but he was interested in the Korean drama because it explains the history. As he continued to watch he said that it really resembles Turkey and the sincerity of the main character is similar to Turkish people (Engineer/Male/29).

The people's reactions and feelings reflected in Korean dramas are empathized by Turks since they can feel the same emotions while they are watching them. Many Turkish people who watched Korean dramas noted that Koreans have similar characteristics to Turks. This can be one of the factors as to why Turkish people might have positive perceptions about Korean dramas.

#### **6.2.5 Turkish Perceptions on Korean Education**

Turkish people have positive and negative perceptions on Korean education. The Turkish people who have positive views about the education in Korea are tended to put much significance on education. Many of them noticed that Koreans give considerable importance to education. The factors that follow Turkish people to perceive Korea as a country puts a lot of significance on education: disciplined and strict education, early childhood education, long study hours, classes on Saturday, popularity in graduate studies, emphasis on English education, high quality education, good facilities, etc. One of the high school students who want to study in Korea said that the biggest advantage of education in Korea is the great emphasis on education (Student/Female/16). One university student, studying the Korean language to continue her graduate school in Korea observed that

“[a]ll of the Korean students in my university study so hard and I can always see them in the library. Even in Korean dramas I can easily find people walking on the street with books on their hands” (Student/Female/19).

A professor whose field is the Korean language pointed out that “[t]he desire for education among Korean families is very high” (Professor/Male/45). A government official who visited Korea for work was very surprised and shared her impression of Korean people about education:

Koreans put so much importance to education. ....Now because of my work relations. I had an opportunity to meet Korean people. I saw most of them have PhD degrees and Master’s degrees. Also when we were in Korea. I saw that there were little students on the street. I asked people what they were doing so late in the evening like 10:30 and 11:00 pm. They replied that they were taking additional courses. They were still wearing school uniforms. They said it is usual and very common in Korea that students take courses after school. And it impressed me a lot (Government official/Female/38).

A majority of people pointed out that Koreans put a lot of effort in learning foreign languages. A government official who had been in Korea for two and a half years commented, “[w]hen it comes to the education system in Korea, foreign language studies are very good and well-developed to advanced levels” (Government official/Female/38). Especially, Koreans put a lot of importance in English. A young journalist was aware of the fact that young people speak English well, often pursuing further education in the United States. She noted, “[t]here is a very special relationship between the United States and Korea, just like that of Turkey and Korea. Naturally there is a big interest for the English language” (Journalist/Female/26). From academics and bureaucrats, and even to Korea-fans, one of the first things they mentioned about Korea’s education is the emphasis on an English education.

In addition, Turkish people perceived that most Korean people have a high level of education. A university student said that as she sees everyone doing graduate school in Korea, she considers the education system in Korea as well-constructed than Turkey. She remarked, “[i]n

Turkey, everyone can find a good job with a bachelor's degree but not in Korea" (Student/Female/23). A government official who had visited Korea said that she was surprised by the fact that everyone she met had a Phd or Master's degree (Government official/Female/38).

HDI rank	EDUCATIONAL ATTAINMENT		GROSS ENROLMENT RATIO		
	Adult literacy rate	Population with at least secondary education	Primary	Secondary	Tertiary
	(% ages 15 and older)	(% ages 25 and older)	(% )		
	2005–2010 <sup>d</sup>	2010	2002–2011 <sup>d</sup>	2002–2011 <sup>e</sup>	2002–2011
<b>VERY HIGH HUMAN DEVELOPMENT</b>					
1 Norway	...	95.2	99.0	110.0	73.8
2 Australia	...	92.2	104.0	129.0	75.9
3 United States	...	94.5	102.0	96.0	94.8
4 Netherlands	...	88.9	108.0	120.0	62.7
5 Germany	...	96.5	102.0	103.0	...
6 New Zealand	...	83.7	101.0	119.0	82.6
7 Ireland	...	73.9	108.0	117.0	61.0
7 Sweden	...	85.0	100.0	100.0	70.8
9 Switzerland	...	95.8	102.0	95.0	51.5
10 Japan	...	81.1 <sup>f</sup>	103.0	102.0	59.0
11 Canada	...	100.0	99.0	101.0	60.0
12 Korea, Republic of	...	85.4 <sup>f</sup>	104.0	97.0	103.9
13 Hong Kong, China (SAR)	...	72.3	102.0	83.0	59.7

**Figure 6.9 Human Development Ranking by Education Index**  
(Source: United Nations Human Development Report 2013)

In fact, according to the United Nations Human Development Report, Korea ranked 12<sup>th</sup> in the world in terms of education and Korea represents the highest gross enrolment ratio in tertiary education with the index of 103.9%.<sup>82</sup> Moreover, one of the professors who received the Korean government scholarship for his research in Korea strongly recommended the graduate programs in Korea because he considers American educational system as a good model and what he observed and experienced is that Korea is following the American educational system of graduate studies:

At least the graduate school system in Korea is the positive

<sup>82</sup> UN, *United Nation Human Development Report 2013*, Table 8 Education, p.171.

aspect of Korea's education system. I think they adopted the Western educational system very well. I think American educational systems of graduate studies were applied in Korean educational systems. Therefore the master and doctorate students there were all keeping track of the books, materials and resources used in American universities. For these reasons, I can say that the Korean educational system is pretty equivalent to the world universities (Professor/Male/35).

On the other hand, a number of people have negative views on Korean education mainly due to the strict and demanding educational system, long-hour studies, and teaching by rote. Most of the Korea-experienced Turkish people spoke with one voice that the education system of Korea is so strict and demanding. The Turkish people that had been to Korea were aware of the fact that on top of the normal five-day week, there is also school on Saturday for half a day. The new female President has proposed cancelling Saturday so that children can actually have more free time. One journalist who had been to Korea commented on the Korean President's new policy on education, saying that "[t]he female president's decision will be a very good one. I think it will work, because during the weekdays children are already working too much. So it will be good if they spend Saturday with activities rather than studying" (Journalist/Female/26).

Some people displayed negative views to the fact that Koreans put in hours of extra studying even after school, filling their schedules with extra courses. One journalist stated that the education system in South Korea is very strict, and went on explaining that "[i]t should be a little bit more relaxed, giving time for young people to have fun when they are young, also giving children an opportunity to have fun" (Journalist/Female/26). One university student planning to go to Korea for her graduate studies compared the two countries' education systems in terms of severity:

Compared to Turkey's education system, Korea's education system is harder and strict. There are more burdens for students. The education for elementary, middle, and high schools are very difficult and tight. It is much more demanding and students study until late at night (Student/Female/23).

In the same vein, a government official who had been in Korea for two and a half years even commented that childhood education may be needless:

The education system is good but I think it suffocates the students. The students are required to study hard like crazy until they get into a university. ...I feel all the education they received since childhood is sometimes unnecessary (Government official/Female/38).

Some people expressed negative perspectives on long study hours of Korea's education. One university student commented that spending most of the day in the school could be a disadvantage in terms of socialization (Student/Female/26). One of the bureaucrats who had worked in Korea noticed that students are loaded with too much work. She said, "I remember that children saw their teacher more than their mothers, spending large amounts of time at school" (Government official/Female/38). A high school student perceived that the education in Korea may be boring and assumed that it would bring a negative impact because of its long study hours:

Korean students rarely have free time because of school, private educational institute, and private lessons. Therefore, of course, it gives negative effects on socialization. I think they have to shorten their study hours because long and boring study hour is a disadvantage (Student/Female/16).

It is easily recognizable that Turkish people perceive that long study hours in Korea would hinder children's socialization and students are too loaded with studies without any time to relax. Moreover, a professor whose field is Korea also commented, "[t]he education desire among Korean families is very high but on the other hand this may cause some negative effects on family ties and on individuals" (Professor/Male/45).

Furthermore, a large number of people considered the university entrance exam of Korea as one of the reasons why Korea's education is too demanding and restricting to develop students' own talents. One academic who does research on Korea commented on the university entrance exam of



Korea:

...Korean students work too hard for the university entrance exams and it becomes the center of their lives during their developmental ages of 15 to 18, only studying for the exam. ... It would be better if they could participate in sports, artistic activities, and build relationships with friends. As far as I know, ... Korean students work all the time for the university entrance exams (Academician/Male/30).

Likewise, a government official thought that the university entrance exam restricts students' social relations and social activities:

One should stop all social activities, close all door to the outer world, minimize family relations during the university preparation period. Namely, in order to be successful at the university entrance exam the young generation must act like a race horse during their most energetic and fruitful period (Government official/Female/38).

Meanwhile, an academician who researches Korean history purported that this social phenomenon in Korea is due to the historical background of Korea. He noted, "[i]n Korea, historically, you could either become a soldier or a state official in order to succeed. Everyone had to go through one exam that decided everything, and the mentality of educational success was always prevalent" (Academician/Male/30).

When it comes to the educational level, the majority of people have positive perceptions on Korean education. Almost every Turkish person who has knowledge of Korea agreed that the education level of Korea is quite high with advanced instructions in their teachings. Most high school students considered Korea to have a high level of education because they perceive Korea as one of the most developed countries in the world. A large number of university students considered Korea a country with a high level of education because they saw that many Korean people continue graduate studies after their graduation from college. In addition to this, many of them pointed out the high literacy rate of Korea. A Turkish teacher noted, "Korean people put a considerable value on education, and the literacy rate of Korea is much higher than Turkey" (Teacher/Female/31). In addition, a medical student who participated in 10 weeks of an internship in Korea

found that a majority of people over the age of 30 has a college or higher level of education (Student/Female/23). Likewise, a Korean Language Department student who studied at a university in Korea for a student exchange program stated, “[t]he education level of Korea is very high with a highly disciplined education system. There were many presentation classes and they teach in Korean and English” (Student/Male/23).

One student who wants to continue graduate studies in Korea commented on the world university rankings. She said that she had looked up world university rankings, and while Turkey has only one university that is in the top 250, Korea has four. She mentioned Asian university rankings as well where Middle East Technical University, one of the top universities in Turkey was ranked 22nd, but three Korean universities were ranked higher, stating that this is evidence proving that the education level of Korea is much higher (Student/Female/23). In addition, another student who has been doing his undergraduate studies in Korea for three and a half year said, “[t]he level of education in Korea is pretty good. I recommend anyone who can talk about social issues to study in Korea” (Student/Male/22). It can be said that most Turkish students have positive perceptions on the Korean educational level and quality.

In the same vein, the general perception of academics and professors was that Korea has a good education at a high level. A professor who studied and worked in Korea for three years noted, “[t]he education level in Korea is very qualified and extremely competitive” (Professor/Male/45). Similarly, another professor who had been in Korea for his PhD research applauded education in Korea for its professional scholars, 24-hour-open library, exchange professor system, globalized education, and good facilities:

I think their education level is pretty good. They have good universities such as Seoul National University, Yonsei University, and several good technical universities, Goryeo University, and good research institutes as well. They are world-class universities. I took some doctoral classes in Seoul National University. The professors there were world renowned and important scholars in our field. ...The libraries are open till morning and the students study very hard. I

think their educational level is quite high. ... They put significance on education. The university facilities are really good. English is spoken widespread. In addition, universities and libraries are in use very well. Exchange professor programs are well developed and professors are highly educated. Most of them studied abroad. I saw that the educational system of Korea is more globalized compared to that of Turkey (Professor/Male/35).

In general, it can be considered that most of the Turkish people who have an interest in Korea or have been to Korea have positive perception about the Korean educational level and quality mainly due to the high ratio of a highly educated population, the world university ranking, and their experiences and observations in Korea. In terms of the educational system in Korea, some people have positive perceptions because Koreans put a considerable importance on education. On the other hand, those who have negative perceptions about Korean education generally defend their position by saying that Korean education is so demanding and strict to the extent that it will cause social problems and disrupt family-ties and socialization.

## **CHAPTER 7**

### **CONCLUSION**

The relations between Turkey and Korea have officially started with the Turkish soldiers' participation in the Korean War and have gradually solidified as the areas of cooperation and exchange increase in the field of politics, military, economy, culture and education. Not only have the interchanges in high-level dignitaries between the two countries increased, but also person-to-person exchanges have increased at the social level in the field of culture and education.

As relations develop and widen, it becomes more crucial to study mutual understanding of the Turkish and Korean societies on each other. As much as Turkey and Korea understand each other, the more probability for the further relations in various spheres can begin. At this point, it is important to know mutual perceptions of Turkish and Korean societies on each other for the further development.

However, previous studies regarding mutual perceptions of the two societies were limited in certain areas such as literature or recognized areas. In addition, such studies were only restricted to understand the level of recognition in both societies. Therefore, this study aims at presenting a whole picture of the mutual perceptions of Turkey and Korea on each other through the in-depth interviews with the people of many different occupations and ages. This research focuses on understanding actual perceptions of the people by one-on-one in-depth interviews rather than depending only on what is presented in the official textbooks or press. To have a more comprehensive picture of the perceptions on a society, interview questions consist of the subjects regarding politics, military, economy, culture and education, which might reflect the perceptions of the major parts of both societies. The interviews were conducted to both 35 Turks and 34 Koreans who have knowledge of, have been to Korea or Turkey, or have acquaintance with the Koreans and the Turks. The

interviews were carried out in almost a year span, from May 2013 to March 2014.

The data regarding mutual perceptions of Korean and Turkish societies were gathered throughout the interviews and they were analyzed under the major subjects which are general impressions, politics, military, economy, culture and education. Most of the results were generally categorized into two parts; positive and negative perceptions. The results of the research can be summarized as follows:

First of all, Korean general impressions of Turks are hardly negative. According to the in-depth interviews conducted to the Koreans in various occupations, 44 percent of the Koreans have positive impressions of Turks and the other half of the Koreans' attitudes toward Turks are neutral. The Turkish people's characteristics recognized by Koreans are as follows: kind and helpful (91%), relation-based (88%), emotional (88%), warmhearted (85%), subjective (82%), unsystematic (76%), conservative (73%), family-tied (71%), and biased (71%). On the other hand, Turkish general impressions of Koreans are very positive. According to the in-depth interviews conducted to the Turks in diverse professions, 90 percent of the Turks have positive impressions of Koreans. The Turkish people perceive Koreans as the people of the following characteristics: successful (90%), warmhearted (88%), hard-working (86%), systematic (84%), trustworthy (84%), hasty and fast (81%), helpful and beneficent (80%), altruistic (79%), well-mannered (77%), honest (74%), creative (74%), loyal and faithful (69%) and family-tied (67%). Therefore, mutual perceptions of Turks and Koreans are mostly positive. The research's basic finding of both societies' positive perceptions of the other is the main area for the further development of mutual relations in both countries. I believe, in no other country, such a positive attitude to another society might occur especially in the crisis ridden 21<sup>st</sup> century.

With regards to the mutual perceptions on politics of Korea and Turkey, both Koreans and Turks generally have negative perceptions on the politics of each other's country. Korean perceptions on democracy in Turkey are mostly negative. The Koreans' negative perceptions on Turkish democracy are mainly due to the government's armed pressure on the

people during the Gezi Park Affairs in 2013. In addition, Koreans consider that Turks are generally lack of awareness about democracy. Moreover, the majority of the Koreans consider that the freedom of speech is suppressed in Turkey because the ruling party is controlling press and media and objective reports were hardly provided about the Gezi Park demonstrations.

In addition, most of the Koreans recognized that religion considerably influences Turkish politics and they have negative views about this. Among the Turkish presidents and prime ministers, many Koreans are interested in Recep Tayyip Erdogan, Mustafa Kemal Ataturk, and Halil Turgut Ozal. The Koreans have negative views on the Prime Minister Recep Tayyip Erdogan while they have positive perceptions toward the first President Mustafa Kemal Ataturk and the former President and Prime Minister Halil Turgut Ozal. When it comes to Kurdish question, most of the Koreans were aware of the conflicts between the Turkish government and the Kurdish community and their political/military organizations. The majority of them consider that the Kurdish question can be resolved through political approach.

When it comes to the Turkish military, Koreans perceive that the position of the army is high within Turkey because of the foundation of Turkey by Ataturk who was a soldier. At the same time, many Koreans recognized that the status of the army has fallen by the political and legal activities of the present government led by AKP. Meanwhile, most of the Koreans have positive perception about the fact that the army intervened in the Turkish politics in the past because they think that it was necessary considering the situations of the times and it brought better conditions for Turkey. In addition, Koreans have positive perception about the military power of Turkey. The majority of Koreans consider that the military power of Turkey is strong. In terms of the participation of the Turkish soldiers in the Korean War, almost every Koreans have positive perception about it. Most of them consider that it made Korea and Turkey to become brother countries and contributed to Korean-Turkish relations most.

It is found generally that soldiers have a tendency to avoid the questions that they feel uncomfortable to answer. They hardly answered or

answered very vaguely on the questions regarding politics. On the other hand, unexpectedly the diplomats and government officials rather shared more explicitly about their opinions on the Turkish politics. In addition to this, female office workers mostly said that they do not know much about politics and military areas. Moreover, it was shown that interests and knowledge about the politics and military differ by the profession.

In terms of Turkish perceptions on Korean politics, Turkish people have both positive and negative perceptions about democracy in Korea. The people who have positive views consider that Korea is developed in democratic organizations, rights and liberties. However the people who evaluate democracy in Korea as immature have higher expectation as for the standards of a proper democracy. With regard to the participation in politics, most of the professors and academicians consider that Koreans are very interested and mostly participating in politics. However some people recognized that Koreans are not much participating as much as they were before. They consider that Koreans are not interested in politics because they rarely talk about politics in everyday conversations. In addition, the majority of Turkish people view that Korea has a better freedom of speech.

When it comes to the Korean government, the Turkish people who have positive views on the Korean political organizations evaluate the integrity of the Korean government officials highly. On the other hand, the people who have lived and worked in Korea a longer period consider the Korean government officials corrupted as they watch the news and hear what the people say such as irregularities and bribes among the government officials.

Meanwhile, the Turkish people who stayed longer time in Korea consider that there is not much influence of religions in Korean politics. On the other hand, the Turkish people who have shorter experience in Korea consider religions are influential in Korea.

In terms of relations between South and North Korea, the majority of Turkish people have positive prospects about a war between South and North Korea. The Turkish people consider that the possibility of a war is very low because South Korea does not want war and North Korea also

knows that they cannot win such a war. Almost every Turks who have acquaintance with Korea expressed their hope for unification and peaceful settlement between South and North Korea.

When it comes to the Korean military, Turkish people's perception on Korean military power is positive in general. On the other hand, with regard to the army's intervention into the Korean politics in the past, the Turkish people mostly have strong negative views about it. In terms of the participation of the Turkish soldiers' in the Korean War, most of the Turkish people have still positive impressions of it. A large number of people are proud of themselves and they consider that it established an intimate relation between Turkey and Korea. This is especially true for the Korean war veterans in Turkey.

In terms of mutual perceptions on economy of Korea and Turkey, both Koreans and Turks generally have positive perceptions about it. Yet, many believe that the economic relations between the two countries must be developed more. Korean people's perceptions about Turkish economy are mostly positive. Many Koreans perceive that Turkish economy has been growing and it has a lot of potential to grow more. Especially, the people of the certain professions such as businessmen, government officials, and professors have more background knowledge of the Turkish economy. Therefore, their perceptions seem to be based on actual statistical data or significant events concerning the economic development of Turkey. Others' positive perceptions on Turkish economy tend to be formed from what they have seen and heard from the people and news. However, the Koreans who have more frequent interactions with the ordinary people pay more attention to actual internal economic situation of the people rather than the overall performance of the Turkish economy which is evaluated from the outside. They point out the gap between rich and poor in Turkey. Although Koreans recognized that the Turkish economy is stable and developing, at the same time, they also have negative perceptions about the poor economic condition of ordinary people. In addition, most of the Koreans have positive perceptions about the prospects of the future Turkish economy. They consider that Turkish economy will continue to grow.



With regard to Turkish brands, the majority of Koreans have negative perceptions mostly due to the lack of brand awareness. Moreover, some of them hardly know any of Turkish brands. However, many Korean businessmen have positive perceptions on Turkish brands, focusing more on the potential of the companies. They are aware of the Turkish brands' recognition in its neighboring countries.

The majority of Koreans have positive perceptions in terms of economic cooperation between Korea and Turkey. Many Koreans recognized that the Turkish-Korean economic cooperation has been increasing. On the other hand, a large number of Koreans have negative views in terms of trade imbalance and insufficient volume of trade between Turkish Korean economic relations. In addition, most of the Koreans have positive perceptions on the potential of Turkish-Korean economic cooperation, showing positive outlook for the future economic relations between Turkey and Korea. With regard to the FTA come into effect on May 1<sup>st</sup> 2013, Koreans have positive perceptions because they expect that the amount of trade and investment will increase. However, some have negative views because they hardly think that it will bring much difference due to the still-existing restrictions in important areas such as Anti-Dumping duties.

Meanwhile, Turkish people generally have positive perceptions on Korean economy because of its place in the world economy and its fast economic growth after the war. In addition, several high-educated Turkish people are aware of the contribution of Chaebols to its fast growth. Comparing with neighboring countries like China and Japan, some have positive evaluation for Korea due to its global brands and advanced high-technology but others show negative views on Korean economy due to its dependence on foreign capital. With regard to the future of the Korean economy, some consider positively that it will continue to grow but others think that the growth rate will decrease because Korean economy has almost reached to the saturation state. A few people have negative prospect on the future of Korean economy because of its structural fragility and the absent of the self-sustainability.

In terms of Korean brands and companies, the majority of the Turks have positive perceptions about them because of its global name values and the Turkish people who have been using the Korean products are pleased with them.

It is Turkish-Korean economic relations, about which many Turkish people have negative perceptions, because of the insufficient volume of trade and imbalance of trade between Turkey and Korea. Therefore, the Turkish people generally have positive views on the effectuation of FTA between Turkey and Korea. The majority of Turkish people consider that the FTA was a good decision and it will increase mutual investment and the volume of trade which has been lacked.

When it comes to the mutual perceptions on the cultures of Turkey and Korea, Turkish and Korean people have positive and negative perceptions due to its similarities and differences with their own culture. While most of the Turkish people consider that there are many cultural similarities between Turkey and Korea, half of the Koreans think that the cultural similarities are few. Nonetheless, the other half of the Koreans feel closer to Turkish people due to its cultural similarities such as language, family-based culture, communal spirit, respect to elders and intimate relationship between people. Majority of Koreans have positive impressions on Turkish language due to its similarities such as sentence order and grammar, which have its roots in Altaic language family. These cultural similarities in the two societies help Koreans to have positive perceptions about Turkish culture.

However, at the same time, Koreans have some negative perceptions such as foreignness due to cultural differences which generally stem from differences in values and religion. Korean people's perceptions about the Turkish traditional culture are mostly positive. A large number of Koreans perceive Turkish traditional culture as very unique and indigenous culture which encompasses both East and West. In terms of Turkish traditional architecture and dress, most of the Koreans who have seen them have positive impression. Although Turkish traditional houses are rarely seen by

the Koreans, the people who have seen them consider that they are beautiful. As for the Turkish traditional dress, several Koreans consider that it represents diverse cultures with showy pattern embroidered with various colorful threads. In addition, Korean people have positive perceptions about Turkish traditional rituals or ceremonies because through them, Koreans realized that family is very important for Turkish people and religion is very important part in their lives.

When it comes to food, the majority of Koreans have positive impressions of Turkish food. Most of the Koreans consider that Turkish food is rich in oil but delicious. The most favored Turkish food by Koreans is Kebab. In addition, the most preferred Turkish alcohols by the Koreans are Turkish traditional drink Raki and Wine. With regard to drinking culture, many Koreans recognized that Turkish drinking table is to talk while Korean drinking table is to drink. Some people have positive impression on the drinking culture of the Turks mainly because they do not force to drink and enjoy even they drink a little. The young generation considers that the drinking culture of Turkey and Korea is almost similar. It seems like the drinking culture of young generation is similar in both countries while the drinking culture of older generation is more quiet and gentle in Turkey compared to that of Korea.

As for the Turkish music, Koreans mostly have negative perceptions about it. The majority of them agree that Turks' taste in music is different from that of Koreans. Many Koreans consider Turkish music to be similar to Teuroteu music of Korea, which was popular during 1950-60s, and they are surprised at how all the ages of Turks can enjoy with the same music since Teuroteu is mainly loved by the middle or older aged people in Korea. On the other hand, Koreans have more positive perceptions regarding Turkish dance. Most of them recognized that it is easy to learn and many of them already learned how to dance.

On the other hand, the Turkish people's general impressions on the Korean culture were mostly positive mainly due to its similarities to the Turkish culture. The cultural similarities considered by the Turks are respect to elders, ethical standards, hospitality to guests, loyalty to family,

and family culture. The majority of Turkish people consider religion and food as the most different aspects in the two cultures. At the same time, most of the Turkish people have positive impressions on the Korean traditional dress, Hanbok, because it is appealing and beautiful.

Meanwhile, a number of Turkish people mostly have positive perception about Koreans' maintaining their own culture well. Many Turkish people mentioned that Koreans have accepted the western culture but at the same time they have protected their own culture well. In addition, Turkish people have positive and negative perceptions on entertainment culture of Koreans. The young generations who love to have fun generally have very positive views about it.

With regards to Korean foods, Turkish people have negative and positive perceptions about them. Many people have positive attitudes on Korean foods because there are many spicy foods and various side dishes. The most favored spicy Korean food by the Turks is Kimchi because it tastes similar to Turkish Turşu. In addition, Ramen and some sweet meat foods are also loved by the Turks such as Bulgogi, Galbi and Jjimdak. On the other hand, Turkish people generally have negative perceptions about some Korean food such as seafood and pork due to their religious and cultural background. According to the Islamic perspective, pork is considered dirty, and in nomadic culture, the people are hardly exposed to seafood. In terms of the Korean food culture, it takes time for a Turk to adjust to the Korean food because it is completely different from the Turkish food.

In terms of Korean music, Turkish people have mostly positive perceptions. The Turkish people who have interest in the Korean culture showed more interest in the K-pop group singers or Korean traditional music. Especially, K-pop is largely loved by the young generation. Regarding the Korean traditional music, most of the Turkish people consider that it is very calming, restful and relaxing. When it comes to Korean dramas and movies, the majority of the Turkish people have positive perceptions on the Korean dramas and movies because of its good quality, good performance of actors, and fluent and intriguing scenarios. In

addition, many people who watched Korean dramas and movies recognized that they learn about Korea and Korean culture by watching them.

When it comes to mutual perceptions of education in Turkey and Korea, Turkish and Korean people have positive and negative perceptions. Koreans have positive perceptions on Turkish education because of its educational system offering compulsory education, free higher education, scholarship supports from the various government departments, opportunity to study abroad through exchange student program and better college entrance exam system compared to Korea. Nevertheless, Koreans have negative views on the Turkish people's lack of passion for education, disparity in educational level between urban and rural, and rich and poor, instability and lack of quality in public education, insufficient administrative system and lack of emphasis on English education.

With regards to Korean education, most of the Turkish people who have interested in Korea or have been to Korea have positive perception in Korean educational level and quality mainly due to the high ratio of high-educated population, the world university ranking, and their experiences and observation in Korea. In terms of the educational system in Korea, some people have positive perceptions because Koreans puts considerable importance on education. On the other hand, some people have negative perceptions about Korean education because of its demanding and strict education and they consider that it will cause social problems concerning family-ties and socialization.

On the whole, mutual perceptions on Turks and Koreans are mostly positive except politics especially regarding democracy. Turks' perception on democracy and Koreans' perception on democracy are shown as different. This seems to be due to their experiences on military regimes in the past. It seems like their experiences of the military regimes make them to perceive each other as an undemocratic country. It is true that according to standards of western democracy, the military regime is considered as undemocratic in any case. This kind of western perspective and perception have universalized not only among Koreans but also among the Turks. Therefore, it can be evaluated that this tendency of perception has reflected

in mutual perceptions as well. However, mutual different perceptions on democracy hardly seem to give any negative impact on mutual relations of Turkey and Korea.

It can be explained by the strong ties between Turkey and Korea which have been solidified throughout their historical relations which gained momentum with the Korean War. The emotional intimacy and brotherhood as the fruit of the participation of the Turkish soldiers in the Korean War formed the foundation of the Turkish-Korean relationship. Therefore, diplomatic and economic relations could begin upon this foundation. As the mutual exchanges and cooperation increase, the two societies were able to realize more cultural similarities between the two nations. As they emphasize with each other more and more due to the cultural similarities, positive mutual perceptions between Turks and Koreans have increased. Upon the mutual positive perceptions, cultural exchanges and cooperation have enlarged and increased to various cultural sectors though many different events.

It is found that while the perceptions on politics, military and economy are generally formed based on the international criteria such as world rankings, international norms and level, the perceptions on culture change according to the indigenous and regional standards. That is to say, the perceptions on culture such as religion, food, drinking culture, love, expressing one's feeling are shown to be different according to their own regional criteria. Therefore, this study will be beneficial for anyone who is involved in Turkish-Korean relations since it provides understanding of the positive and negative perceptions of each party. Those who are involved can develop and invest more on areas that have positive perceptions, and improve areas which the negative perceptions are prevalent, for a better development of Turkish-Korean relationship.

Upon a whole picture of mutual perceptions on Turkish and Korean societies, I would like to suggest prospects for the development of relations between Turkey and Korea in terms of politics, economic, and cultural fields.

Traditionally, political relations between Turkey and Korea have

been very positive because of the Turkish participation on the Korean War in the early 1950s. As an emerging leader of the Middle East, Turkey will be more and more attractive to Korea as a partner in the arena of international politics.

Military cooperation between Turkey and Korea began in the Korean War and has continued so far under the umbrella of US leadership and strategy. As rapid globalization process, I am sure, mutual military cooperation between Turkey and Korea will be more required and developed on the foundation of traditional close friendship and brotherhood.

With regards to the economic relations of the two countries, in 1974 The Korea Trade Center was established for the development of the economic cooperation between Turkey and Korea. In December 1977 the Trade Promotion and Economic and Technical Cooperation Agreement, and in June 1979 Aeronautical Agreement were signed and came into effect between Turkey and Korea. In 1981 as an economic cooperation at the governmental level, the first Korea-Turkey Joint Economic Committee meeting was held in Ankara.

However, in spite of all these efforts, economic relations of the two countries had not been improved so much because of geographical distance and insufficient trade powers of Turkey and Korea. There were very few items to exchange until the 1990s. During Turgut Ozal's regime, the economy of Turkey began to vitalize, and since the AKP party come into power with the leadership of Recep Tayyip Erdogan, the economy of Turkey has been surprisingly developed to be a member of G 20. On the other hand, economy of Korea was highly developed during the last two decade due to both of strategic globalization policy by the Korean government to boost three strategic trade items such as electronic (Samsung, LG), automobile (Hyundai, Daewoo) and shipbuilding (Hyundai, Daewoo) industries. Along with these main items, construction industry was also rapidly developed due to the Middle East market during 1980s-1990s.

Eventually, FTA between Turkey and Korea came into effect on May 2013. Since the effectuation of FTA, economic relations of the two countries highly expected to develop on the foundation of traditional mutual

brotherhood.

The cultural exchange and cooperation is anticipated to be the most promising area for the cooperative relations between Turkey and Korea. Both Turks and Koreans have very positive mutual perceptions and understandings toward each other. Both are very surprised at the cultural similarities despite their religious differences. These similarities stemmed from very long traditional cultural heritages. As being of the Altaic people group, both Turkey and Korea still have common cultural heritages which originally come from Mongolia and Central Asia.

In August 2013, the Cultural Agreement signed and “Istanbul-Gyeongju World Culture Expo” was held successfully from August 31<sup>st</sup> to September 1<sup>st</sup> 2013. Through this, cultural exchanges have made a new great leap forward. Both countries’ citizens realized it again from the cultural festival that the strong mutual understandings and the cultural and emotional bondage exist between Turkey and Korea. One of the fruits of the Culture EXPO was the Korean-Turkish major photographer exhibition held in Seoul and Daegu, Korea during March and April of 2013 under the slogan of ‘Blooming Silk Road’ as a Post Istanbul-Gyeongju World Culture Expo. Moreover, ‘Istanbul in Gyeongju’ is planned to be hosted in Gyeongju, Korea during September 2014. As one of the Post Istanbul-Gyeongju World Culture Expo 2013 events, it aims for the celebration of the successful host of ‘Istanbul-Gyeongju World Culture Expo 2013’ and to suggest a new cultural exchange model of a win-win for both countries. The prospects of the mutual cultural relations between Turkey and Korea is anticipated to be very positive and promising since the mutual cultural relations have been accelerating and being enlarged into various cultural spheres on the foundation of intimate feeling formed by the cultural similarities and attraction and uniqueness come from the cultural differences.

Mutual cooperation between Turkey and Korea will enhance the global competitiveness of both countries in the international ground in the era of the endless competition in 21<sup>st</sup> century global community in various aspects. As exchanges and cooperation advance, I anticipate, mutual



perceptions of Turks and Koreans will become deeper and partnership and brotherhood between the two nations will be more strengthened because of cultural similarities as well as creative synergies which come from the cultural differences of the two societies.

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## APPENDICES

### APPENDIX A: INTERVIEWEES' INFORMATION

#### Turkish Interviewees

- ♡ Total 35 interviewees: 3 soldiers including 2 Korean War veterans, 3 government officials including 1 diplomat, 1 businessman, 1 attorney, 1 journalist, 3 professors, 2 academicians, 2 teachers, 1 civil engineer, 1 housewife and 17 students including 2 never been to Korea nor have any acquaintance with any Korean but heavily into Korean cultures.
- ♡ Among 35 interviewees, 19 visited or stayed in Korea, 13 have acquaintances with Koreans, and 3 never been to Korea but highly involved in Korean cultural activities.
- ♡ Last 7 of the list are group of people called Korean Fans which are highly interested in Korean cultures including Korean music, dramas, films, food, fashion, brands, celebrities and etc. These groups of people gain information about Korea by researching and participating on Korean cultural activities. Turkey was reported as having more than 100,000 Korean Fans.<sup>83</sup>

no	Occupation	Gender	Age	Education	Stay or visit or acquaintance with Koreans	specialty
1	Soldier	Male	90	Military school graduate	16 months during the war Visit at 2010	Korean War veteran
2		Male	84	Military school graduate	7 months during the war Visit at 2002,2007,2010	Korean War veteran
3		Male	30	Graduate student	Acquaintance with Korean	
4	Diplomat	Male	39	Master's degree	17 years	Studied and Working in Korea
5	Government official	Female	38	Doctorate degree	2.5 years Acquaintance with Koreans for 14 years	Studied and worked in Korea

<sup>83</sup> "K-pop fan base continues to grow", KOREA.net., accessed March 9, 2014.  
<http://www.korea.net/NewsFocus/Culture/view?articleId=104412>.

6		Female	38	Bachelor's degree	Visit for work	Delegation for COPHEX 2013
7	Businessman	Female	38	Bachelor's degree	Acquaintance with Korean	
8	Attorney	Male	30	Graduate student	3 years	Son of Korean War veteran Working and studying in Korea
9	Journalist	Female	26	Graduate student	Visited for 8 days	
10	Professor	Male	35	Doctorate degree	1 year	Korean government research scholarship student
11		Male	40	Doctorate degree	3 years	
12		Male	45	Doctorate degree	More than 3 years Acquaintance with Korean for 28 years	professor of Korean language department
13	Academician	Male	31	Phd student	Visit several times Acquaintance with Korean	Studying related to Korean history
14		Male	30	Master's degree	2 months	Major in Korean language
15	Teacher	Female	31	Bachelor's degree	Acquaintance with Korean for 3 years	
16		Female	23	Bachelor's degree	Acquaintance with Korean for a year	Interested in Korean cultures
17	Civil Engineer	Male	29	Bachelor's degree	Acquaintance with Korean for a year	Interested in Korean cultures
18	Student	Male	24	Undergraduate student	Acquaintance with Koreans for 2 years	
19		Female	19	Undergraduate student	Acquaintance with Korean for a year	Highly interested with Korean cultures and

						learning Korean language
20		Male	23	Undergraduate student	10 months	Exchange student to Korea Major Korean language
21		Female	25	Undergraduate student	7 months	Exchange student to Korea Major Korean language
22		Female	22	Undergraduate student	10 months	Exchange student to Korea Major Korean language
23		Female	23	Undergraduate student	Acquaintance with Koreans for years	Highly involved in Korean cultural activity and learning Korean language
24		Female	28	Undergraduate student	Acquaintance with Koreans for 3 years	
25		Female	23	Undergraduate student	10 weeks stay Acquaintance with Koreans for 4 years	Internship in Korea Highly interested in Korean cultures
26		Male	22	Undergraduate student	3.5 years	Studying in Korea
27		Female	23	Undergraduate student	1 year stay Acquaintance with Koreans for 3 years	Exchange student to Korea

28		Female	22	Undergraduate student	1 month	Received Korean government cultural scholarship to Korea
29	Housewife	Female	26	High school graduate		Highly Interested in Korean cultures
30	student	Female	19	Undergraduate student	Acquaintance with Korean	Highly Interested in Korean cultures
31		Female	19	Undergraduate student	Acquaintance with Korean	Highly Interested in Korean cultures
32		Female	20	Undergraduate student		
33		Female	19	Undergraduate student	Acquaintance with Korean	Family member married to Korean
34		Female	15	High school student	Acquaintance with Korean	Family member married to Korean
35		Female	16	High school student		Highly interested in Korean cultures

## Korean interviewees

- ♡ Total 34 interviewees : 5 soldiers, 5 government officials including 2 diplomats, 3 businessmen, 6 office workers including 2 never visited but working at a Turkey-related company in Korea, 1 journalist married to Turk, 1 Taekwondo instructor, 5 professors including 3 visiting professors, and 6 students.
- ♡ Among 34 interviewees, 32 visited or stayed in Turkey and 2 never visited but working in Turkey-related company

no	Occupation	Gender	Age	Education	Stay or visit or acquaintance with Turks	specialty
1	Soldier	Male	39	Graduate student	Total 3.5 years	Doing graduate school in Turkey
2		Male	37	Graduate student	2 years stay Acquaintance with Turk for 3 years	Doing graduate school in Turkey
3		Male	37	Graduate student	2 years	Doing graduate school in Turkey
4		Male	48	Master's degree	More than 3 years	Working in embassy
5		Male	37	Graduate student	2 years	Doing military education in Turkey
6	Government official	Female	33	Bachelor's degree	1.5 years	Working in Turkey
7		Male	40	Bachelor's degree	More than 2.6 years	Studied in Turkey
8		Male	43	Doctorate degree	?	Working in Turkey
9	Diplomat	Male	61	Master's degree	More than 20 years	Studied and worked in Turkey
10		Male	51	Doctorate degree	More than 10 years	Studied and working in Turkey
11	Businessman	Male	51	Bachelor's degree	20 years	Working in Turkey
12		Male	42	Bachelor's degree	5 years	Working in Turkey

13		Male	59	Bachelor's degree	23 years	Majored Turkish Language in Korea and working in Turkey
14		Male	55	Bachelor's degree	2 week visits twice for business	
15	Office worker	Male	54	Bachelor's degree	15 months	Working in Turkey
16		Male	44	Master's degree	2 years	Working in Turkey
17		Female	29	Bachelor's degree	1.5 years	Exchange student in Turkey and working in Turkey-related company
18		Female	32	College graduate	acquaintance with Turks	working in Turkey-related company
19		Female	34	Graduate student	acquaintance with Turks	working in Turkey-related company
20		Female	47	Bachelor's degree	Visit twice	Visited twice for business and tourism and working in Turkey-related company
21	Journalist	Female	51	Master's degree	12 years	Married Turk and President of association of Korean residents in Istanbul
22	Cleric	Male	52	Master's degree	13 years	Working in Turkey
23	Taekwondo Instructor	Male	46	Master's degree	14 years	Working in Turkey
24	Professor	Female	49	doctorate degree	10 month	Working in Turkey
25		Male	62	doctorate degree	1 year	Worked in Turkey
26		Male	57	doctorate degree	3 month stay	Research professor

					Acquaintance with Turks for a year	
27		Female	54	doctorate degree	10 years	Worked in Turkey
28		Male	59	doctorate degree	10 years	Worked in Turkey
29	Student	Male	33	Graduate student	3 years	Studying in Turkey
30		Male	32	Graduate student	3 years	Studying in Turkey
31		Female	27	Graduate student	3 years	Studying in Turkey
32		Female	22	undergraduate student	5 month	Exchange student for Turkey
33		Male	24	Bachelor's degree	1 year	Took Turkish language course in Turkey
34		Male	23	Graduate student	1 year	Took Turkish language course in Turkey



## APPENDIX B: IN-DEPTH INTERVIEW QUESTIONS

### General Questions

1. Gender
2. Age
3. Education
4. Occupation
5. How did you learn about Korea?
6. Have you ever been to Korea before?
  - a. If yes, how long, where, and for what purpose did you visit?
7. Have you met Koreans before?
  - a. If yes,
    - i. Where and how long?
    - ii. Were there any impressions of Koreans that were formed through knowing that particular person(s)?
8. What is the first thing that comes to mind when you think of Korea?
  - a. Why?
9. What do you think about the relationship between Korea and Turkey?
  - a. Ally
  - b. Enemy
  - c. Neutral
  - d. Close relations
10. What is your normal impression of the national characteristics of Koreans?
  - a. (1) good (2) bad (3) normal (4) I don't know
  - b. (1) fast (2) slow (3) normal (4) I don't know
  - c. (1) honest (2) dishonest (3) normal (4) I don't know
  - d. (1) hard-working (2) lazy (3) normal (4) I don't know
  - e. (1) cultured (2) non-cultured (3) normal (4) I don't know
  - f. (1) opportunistic (2) loyal and faithful (3) normal (4) I don't know
  - g. (1) beneficent (2) indifferent (3) normal (4) I don't know
  - h. (1) Selfish (2) altruistic (3) Self-sacrificing (4) I don't know
  - i. (1) warmhearted (2) cold-hearted (3) normal (4) I don't know
  - j. (1) rational (2) emotional (3) I don't know
  - k. (1) relation-oriented (2) task-oriented (3) I don't know
  - l. (1) successful (2) exerting (3) normal (4) failing (5) I don't know
  - m. (1) progressive (2) neutral (3) conservative (4) I don't know
  - n. (1) creative (2) unimaginative (3) imitative (4) I don't know
  - o. (1) subjective (2) objective (3) I don't know
  - p. (1) systematic (2) unsystematic (3) I don't know
  - q. (1) accurate (2) inaccurate (3) I don't know

- r. (1) extrovert (2) introvert (3) I don't know
- s. (1) future-oriented (2) present-oriented (3) past-oriented
- t. (1) family-tied (2) community-tied (3) individualistic
- u. (1) trustworthy (2) untrustworthy (3) I don't know
- v. (1) aggressive (2) passive (3) submissive (4) I don't know
- w. (1) fair (2) unfair (3) I don't know
- x. (1) biased (2) unbiased (3) I don't know
- y. Others ( )

## **Culture**

### **Social and Cultural**

1. What is your impression of Korean culture in general?
2. Are there any similarities between Korean and Turkish Culture?  
And what do you think is a unique characteristic of Korean culture that distinguishes it from Turkish culture?
3. What is your impression of Korean food?
4. What do you think are the national characteristics of Koreans that were showcased in the 2002 World Cup?
5. What part of everyday culture brings you the most attention?
6. What do you think of Korea's entertainment scene?
7. What do you think of courtesy/etiquette culture of Korea?
8. What do you think of Korea's college scene?
9. What do you think of Korea's movies, dramas, and music?
10. What do you think of Korea's traditional folk culture?
11. What do you think of Korea's traditional clothing and houses?
12. Did you learn about Korean traditions: Wedding, religious celebrations...  
a. What impression you have about them?
13. Did you go to any traditional cultural activities?  
a. If yes, what kind of activities were them and how was it?

### **Music and Dance**

1. What comes to mind when you think of Korean music?
2. Do you like Korean music?  
a. If yes, what kind?
3. Do you know about traditional Korean music or instruments?  
a. If yes,  
i. What do you think about it?  
ii. What do you think is the biggest characteristic of Korean traditional music?
4. Do you know the Korean national anthem?  
a. If yes, how much of it do you know?
5. Is there any Korean musician do you know?

### **Food**

1. What comes to mind when you think of Korean food?

2. Have you ever eaten Korean food before?
  - a. If yes, what food have you tried?
  - b. If you liked it, why?
  - c. If you disliked it, why?
3. When and how did you try Korean food?
4. Which Korean food did you dislike the most?
5. Do you know how to cook Korean food?
  - a. If yes, which foods?
  - b. If yes, was it easy or hard?
  - c. If yes, do you cook it at home regularly?
6. Have you tried pork?
  - a. If yes, how was it?
  - b. If yes, which dish did you like the most?
7. Have you tried seaweed?
  - a. If yes, how was it?
8. Have you tried Korean liquor?
  - a. If yes, what kind?
  - b. If yes, which kind did you like the most?
9. Have you been to a setting where people drink?
  - a. If yes, how was it different from that of Turkey?
  - b. If yes, how was the drinking culture of Korea?
    - i. If you liked it, why?
    - ii. If you disliked it, why?

## Language

1. Do you know Korean language?
  - a. If yes,
    - i. How long, where, and how did you learn it?
      1. What were the pros and cons of your method?
    - ii. Was it difficult to learn?
      1. If easy, why? What was the easiest?
      2. If hard, why? What was the most difficult?
      3. How were the speaking, grammar, reading, listening, writing and pronunciation of Korean language?
    - iii. Were the dictionaries or textbooks sufficient?
    - iv. How good is your Korean? (Everyday speech, drama, news, newspapers, etc)
2. If no, what is your impression of Korean when you hear it?
  - i. Do you want to learn Korean?
    1. If yes, why?
    2. If no, why?
  - ii. Have you seen Korean writing before?
    1. If yes, what is your impression?
      - a. Appearance
      - b. Does it seem hard?
3. Are you aware of what language family Turkish and Korean is in?

### **Movies and Drama**

1. What movies/dramas have you watched before?
2. Which ones were you particularly fond of?
  - a. If yes, why?
3. Is there a certain director that you like?
  - a. If yes, why?
4. What did you think of the background music used in Korean movies/dramas?
5. What did you think of the backdrop settings used in Korean movies/dramas?
6. What did you think of the props used in Korean movies/dramas?
7. What do you think is the biggest characteristics of Korean culture that is shown in Korean movies/dramas?

### **Education**

1. What are your opinions about the educational level of Korea?
2. What do you think of the education system of Korea? What are its advantages and disadvantages?
  - A. For the disadvantages, how do you think they could be addressed?
3. Compared to Turkey, how do you find the relationship between the teachers and students concerning hierarchy, and personal attitudes?
4. What are your impressions about the Korean professors?
5. What are your impressions concerning the Korean students?
6. What do you think should be done to improve Turkish-Korean relations in aspect of education?
7. What kinds of benefit the mutual educational relations could provide to both countries in terms of culture, economy, politics and military?

### **Economy**

1. What are your thoughts about the Korean economy?
2. How do you view the Korean brands?
3. What do you think are the factors that hinder the development of the Korean economy?
4. How do you find the Korean economy compared to China and Japan?
5. What do you think are the reasons that hinder the Turkish-Korean economic cooperation?
6. What do you think is the dominant and formative power within the Korean economy? (State, Chaebols etc.)
7. What are your thoughts about the future of the Korean Economy?
8. How do you find the volume of trade between Korea and Turkey?
9. Do you have any knowledge about the free trade agreement signed between Turkey and Korea? If you do, what do you think about it?

10. In your view, what is the potential of economic cooperation between Korea and Turkey? What can Korea and Turkey contribute to each other?
11. In your view, what should be done to develop the Turkish-Korean economic relations?

**To businessmen:**

1. What do you think about the Korea companies?
2. What is your general impression of Korean businessmen?
3. What do you think about the work attitude of Koreans in general?
4. What do you think about the work hours in Korea?
5. What do you think about the overtime hours of Korean workers?
6. What do you think about Koreans' attitude toward their superiors?
7. What do you think about the attitude of Korean superiors to their workers?
8. What do you think about Korea's company culture?
9. What do you think about Korea's after-work dinner culture?
10. Are Koreans hard to work with? Are they cooperative or not?
11. How would you react if a Korean asked you to be a business partner?

**Politics and Military**

1. What do you think about the capacity of the Korean democracy?
2. What do you think about the participation and interest of the Korean people in politics?
3. What do you think about Korean presidents (including ex-presidents)?
  - a. Is there anyone you are/were interested in? If so, why?
  - b. Is there anything you want to share about your opinion on any Korean president?
4. What do you think about the probability of a war between South and North Korea?
5. How do you foresee the relation between South and North Korea?
6. In which way do you think it is possible for South Korea and North Korea to unite? Politics, economic reasons or war?
7. How do you view the party politics of Korea?
8. In your point of view, how much freedom of speech does the Korean public opinion have?
9. What do you think of the integrity of government officials of Korea?
10. What do you think about the influence of religion on politics in Korea?
11. What do you think is the most influential factor/value/power in decision-making of the government and national assembly of Korea?
12. How do you find the position of the army within the politics in Korea? Do you think they are still strong?
13. What do you think about the intervention of the army into the politics in the past?
14. What do you think about the military power of Korea?
15. What do you think about the participation of the Turkish soldiers in the Korean War?

## APPENDIX C: TURKISH SUMMARY

Bu tez, Türk ve Kore toplumunun birbirine olan algılarını karşılaştırmayı ve bu algıların, iki ülke arasındaki ilişkiler ve bu ilişkilerin gelişimi üzerindeki muhtemel etkilerini anlamayı amaçlamaktadır. Bu bağlamda, bu tezde, Türk ve Kore toplumunun, eğitim, kültür, ekonomi, politika ve askeri alanda birbirleri hakkındaki görüşleri, Türkler ve Korelilerle yapılan derinlemesine mülakatlarla incelenmiştir. Araştırmada ayrıca iki ülkenin basın ve medya organlarından da faydalanılmıştır. Türk ve Kore toplumunun karşılıklı algılarını anlatmak için tanımlayıcı ve analitik yöntem kullanılmıştır. Çalışma; politika, askeri, ekonomi, kültür ve eğitim olmak üzere beş alanı kapsamaktadır. Türk ve Kore toplumunun birbirleri üzerindeki algılarının incelendiği bu beş alan, Türkiye ve Kore ilişkilerini en iyi açıklayabilecek alanlar olduğu için seçilmiştir. İki toplum arasındaki karşılıklı algılar genel olarak; gelenekler, Kore Savaşı, Kore'nin son yıllardaki hızlı ekonomik kalkınması, Hallyu olarak adlandırılan Kore Dalgasının etkileri ve iki ülkenin kültürel benzerliklerinden doğan etkileşimler üzerindeki görüşleri içermektedir.

Bu çerçevede; çalışma, Türkler ve Koreliler arasındaki karşılıklı yaygın algıların, Türk ve Kore ilişkilerinin gelişimi üzerindeki yerini anlatmayı ve iki ülke arasındaki ilişkilerin geleceği hakkında önerilerde bulunmayı amaçlamaktadır.

Türkiye ve Kore arasındaki ilişkiler, resmi olarak Türk askerlerinin Kore savaşına katılmasıyla başlamıştır ve politika, askeri, kültür ve eğitim alanlarındaki işbirliği ve etkileşimlerle aşamalı olarak pekişmiştir. Bu etkileşimler sadece iki ülkenin yüksek mevkileri arasında değil; eğitim ve kültürel alanlarındaki sosyal iletişimlerle, kişiler arası düzeyde de artmıştır.

Türkiye ve Kore arasındaki ilişkiler geliştikçe ve genişledikçe, iki toplum arasındaki karşılıklı görüş ve bakış açılarının incelenmesi daha da büyük önem taşımaktadır. Türkiye ve Kore birbirini ne kadar anlarsa; ilişkilerin daha farklı alanlarda artma ve gelişme ihtimali de artar. Bu bağlamda, Türk ve Kore toplumunun birbirleri üzerindeki karşılıklı algılarını algılamak, ilişkilerin gelecekteki konumu ve gelişmesi üzerinde büyük önem taşımaktadır.

Bu çalışma, Türkiye ve Kore'nin birbiri hakkındaki karşılıklı algılarını çeşitli yaş ve mevkilerden insanlarla derinlemesine mülakat tekniğiyle, bütünsel olarak sergilemeyi amaçlamaktadır. Bu araştırma, sadece ders kitaplarında ve medyada anlatılanlara bağlı kalmaksızın, derinlemesine mülakat yöntemiyle asıl algılara odaklanmaya çalışmaktadır. Mülakat soruları, iki toplumun birbiri hakkındaki algılarını daha kapsamlı yansıtmak için politika, askeri, ekonomi, kültür ve eğitim alanlarında sorular içermektedir.

Mülakatlar, Kore ve Türkiye hakkında bilgi sahibi olan veya Koreli ve Türk yakınları olan 35 Türk ve 34 Koreli ile yapılmıştır. Mülakatlar Mayıs 2013'te başlayıp Mart 2014'e kadar devam etmiştir.

Kore ve Türk toplumunun karşılıklı algılarını açıklayabilmek için mülakatlarla elde edilen veriler kullanılmıştır. Mülakat verileri, genel izlenimler, politika, askeri alan, kültür ve eğitim alt başlıkları altında incelenmiştir. Sonuçlar genel, olarak olumlu ve olumsuz bakış açıları olmak üzere iki ana başlık altında anlatılmıştır.

Çalışmanın sonuçları aşağıda anlatıldığı gibi özetlenebilir:

İlk olarak, Korelilerin Türkler hakkında olumsuz bir yaklaşıma sahip olmadığı gözlenmiştir. Korelilerle yapılan derinlemesine mülakatlara göre, Korelilerin yüzde 44'ü Türkler hakkında olumlu izlenime sahipken, Korelilerin diğer yarısı da Türkler hakkında tarafsız bir yaklaşıma sahiptirler. Türk insanının genel özellikleri, Koreliler tarafından şu şekilde sıralanmıştır: nazik ve yardımsever (%91), ilişki odaklı (%88), duygusal (%88), sıcakkanlı (%85), öznel (%82), sistematik olmayan (%76), muhafazakâr (%73), aileye bağlı (%71), ön yargılı (%71). Öte yandan, Türklerin de Koreliler hakkındaki genel bakış açısı oldukça olumludur. Derinlemesine mülakatların sonuçlarına bakıldığında, Türklerin %90'ı Koreliler hakkında olumlu bir izlenime sahiptir. Türklerin Koreliler hakkındaki genel izlenimleri şu şekilde sıralanabilir: başarılı (%90), sıcakkanlı (%88), çalışkan (%86), sistematik (%84), güvenilir (%84), aceleci ve hızlı (% 81), yardımsever ve iyiliksever (%80), alturistik (%79), iyi huylu (% 77), dürüst (% 74), yaratıcı (%74), sadık ve vefalı (% 69) ve ailesine bağlı (% 67). Sonuç olarak, Türkler ve Korelilerin birbirlerine olan izlenimlerinin genel olarak olumlu olduğu söylenebilir. Her iki toplumun da birbirine olan olumlu yaklaşımının ve algılarının; iki ülkenin mevcut ve gelecekteki ilişkilerinin temelini oluşturması, bu çalışmanın en temel sonucudur. 21. yüzyılda yaşanan krizler ve çatışmalar da göz önünde bulundurulduğunda, iki toplum arasındaki bu olumlu yaklaşım ender görünen türdendir. Ancak, Türklerin ve Korelilerin karşılıklı olarak ülkelerinin politikaları hakkındaki görüşleri incelendiğinde; hem Türkler hem de Korelilerin diğer ülkenin politikası hakkında olumsuz bakış açısına sahip olduğu görülmektedir. Korelilerin, Türkiye'nin demokratik yapısına bakış açısı büyük oranda olumsuzdur. Korelilerin bu olumsuz bakış açısının temel sebebi hükümetin Gezi Parkı olaylarında gösterdiği silahlı baskıdır. Buna ek olarak Koreliler genel olarak Türklerin demokratik bilincinin eksik olduğunu düşünmektedir. Aynı zamanda, Korelilerin çoğunluğu Türkiye'deki düşünce özgürlüğünün sınırlı olduğunu ve iktidar partisinin Türkiye'de medyayı kontrol ettiğini ve Gezi Parkı gösterileri esnasındaki muhalif haberleri baskıladığını düşünmektedir.

Tüm bunların yanı sıra, Korelilerin çoğu dinin Türkiye'nin siyasetinde büyük etkisi olduğunu düşünmektedir ve bu konuda olumsuz izlenimlere sahiptirler. Koreliler, Türkiye'nin başbakan ve cumhurbaşkanları arasında en çok Mustafa Kemal Atatürk, Recep Tayyip Erdoğan ve Turgut Özal'a ilgi

duymaktadır. Koreliler Recep Tayyip Erdoğan hakkında olumsuz görüşlere sahipken, ilk cumhurbaşkanı Mustafa Kemal Atatürk ve eski Cumhurbaşkanı ve başbakan Turgut Özal hakkında olumlu görüşlere sahiptir. Kürt sorunu hakkında ise, çoğu Koreli, Türk hükümeti ve Kürt topluluğu arasında anlaşmazlığın ve Kürtlerin politik ve askeri oluşumlarından haberdardır ve çoğu Koreli anlaşmazlığın politik bir yaklaşımla çözülebileceğini düşünmektedir.

Türkiye'nin askeri yapısı hakkında ise, çoğu Koreli, Türk ordusunun Türkiye'deki konumunun güçlü olduğunu ve bunun temel nedeninin Türkiye'nin Kurucusu olan Mustafa Kemal Atatürk'ün de bir asker olmasından kaynaklandığını ileri sürmektedir. Korelilerin çoğu, geçmiş yıllarda ordunun Türkiye politikasına müdahalesi hakkında olumlu görüşlere sahiptir ve müdahaleleri, yapıldığı dönemin koşullarında gerekli görmektedirler ve iyi sonuçlar doğurduğunu ileri sürmektedirler.

Koreli katılımcıların neredeyse hepsi, Türk askerlerinin Kore savaşında görev alması konusunda olumlu görüşlere sahiptir, bu işbirliğinin Türkiye ve Kore ilişkisini güçlendirdiğini ve iki ülkeyi kardeş ülkeler pozisyonuna getirdiğini ifade etmektedir.

Türklerin Kore'nin politikası hakkındaki görüşleri incelendiğinde, Türklerin, Kore'nin demokratik düzeni hakkında hem olumlu, hem de olumsuz görüşlere sahip olduğu görülür. Olumlu görüşlere sahip kişiler genel olarak, Kore'nin demokratik organizasyonlar, hak ve özgürlüklere sahip olduğunu düşünmektedir. Öte yandan Kore'nin demokratik yapısı hakkında olumsuz algıya sahip olan Türkler; Korelileri, demokratik standartlar açısından olgun olmayan, yüksek beklentili olarak tanımlamaktadır. Siyasete katılım hakkındaki görüşler incelendiğinde, çoğu akademisyen ve profesörün politikaya katılımına bakılarak Korelilerin politikaya ilgi duyduğu söylenebilir, fakat insanların bir kısmı, Korelilerin günlük konuşmalarında politikaya çok az yer vermeleri nedeniyle, Korelilerin politikaya olan ilgilerinin azaldığını düşünmektedir. Buna ek olarak çoğu Türk, Korelilerin düşünce özgürlüğüne sahip olduğunu düşünmektedir.

Güney ve Kuzey Kore'nin ilişkileri göz önünde bulundurulduğunda, Türklerin çoğunun, Güney ve Kuzey Kore arsasındaki olası savaş hakkında olumlu beklentiler içinde olduğu gözlenmektedir. Güney Kore'nin savaş istemeyen yaklaşımı ve Kuzey Kore'nin de bu tarzda bir savaş kazanamayacağını bilmesi nedeniyle, Türkler iki ülke arasındaki savaş olasılığının çok düşük olduğunu düşünmektedirler. Hemen hemen her Türk, Güney ve Kuzey Kore'nin birleşmesi ve barışın sağlanması için umutlarını ve beklentilerini dile getirmiştir.

Kore'nin askeri yapısına gelince, Türkler genel olarak Kore'nin askeri gücüne olumlu bir bakış açısıyla bakmaktadır. Öte yandan, ordunun geçmişteki, politikaya müdahalesi, Türkler tarafından olumsuz karşılanmaktadır. Türklerin çoğu Türk askerinin Kore savaşında görev almasıyla ilgili hala olumlu görüşlere sahiptir. Çok sayıda Türk bu konuda kendini gururlu hissetmekte ve bunun Koreliler ve Türkler arasındaki



ilişkiyi yakınlaştırdığını belirtmektedir. Bu durum savaş gazileri için de geçerlidir.

Korelilerin çoğunluğu, Türkiye ve Kore arasındaki ekonomik ilişkiler hakkında olumlu bir yaklaşıma sahiptir. Korelilerin büyük bir kısmı iki ülke arasındaki ekonomik işbirliğinin giderek artacağını öngörmektedir. Öte yandan, Korelilerin büyük bir kısmı, Kore ve Türkiye arasındaki ticari ilişkilerin yetersiz olması ve iki ülke arasındaki ticaret hacminin çok düşük olması hakkında olumsuz görüşlere sahiptir. Buna ek olarak, Korelilerin çoğu, Kore ve Türkiye arasındaki ekonomik işbirliğinin potansiyeli hakkında olumlu izlenimlere sahiptirler. 1 Mayıs 2013 tarihinde yürürlüğe giren Serbest Ticaret Anlaşması (STA) ile birlikte, ticaretin ve yatırımın artması beklendiği için Koreliler, iki ülkenin ekonomik ilişkilerinin geleceği hakkında olumlu beklentilere sahiptirler. Fakat hala geçerli olan sınırlamalar ve anti-damping faaliyetleri nedeniyle, STA'nın çok fazla değişim yaratmayacağını söyleyerek olumsuz yaklaşımlara sahip olan Koreliler de vardır. Türkler ise; Kore ekonomisi hakkında genel olarak olumlu bir tutum içerisindedirler. Bunun nedenlerini genel olarak, Kore'nin dünya ekonomisindeki yerine ve Kore'nin savaştan sonraki hızla devam eden ekonomik kalkınmasına bağlamaktadırlar. Türk katılımcılar arasındaki görece yüksek eğitimliler, Chaebol'un Kore'nin son yıllardaki ekonomik kalkınmasındaki etkisinin bilincindedir. Türkler, Kore ekonomisinin, Çin ve Japonya gibi, Kore'ye komşu ekonomilerle karşılaştırılması konusunda hem olumlu hem olumsuz görüşlere sahiptirler. Kore'nin dünyaca ünlü markaları ve sahip olduğu ileri teknolojiyi öne sürerek olumlu yorumlar yapan Türklerin yanı sıra, Kore'nin yabancı sermayeye bağımlılığını öne sürerek, olumsuz yaklaşanlar da vardır. Türkler, Kore ekonomisinin gelecekteki performansı hakkında çeşitli görüşlere sahiptirler. Türklerin bir kısmı, Kore ekonomisinin büyümeye devam edeceğini ileri sürerek olumlu beklentilere sahipken, bir kısmı, Kore ekonomisinin kırılganlığı ve Kore ekonomisinin sürdürülebilir olmayan yapısı nedeniyle, Kore ekonomisinin gelecekteki büyümesi hakkında olumsuz bir yaklaşıma sahiptir. Türk katılımcılar arasında, Kore ekonomisinin doyum noktasına ulaşması nedeniyle, Kore'nin ekonomik büyümesinin duracağını öne sürenler de bulunmaktadır. Türklerin çoğu, kullandıkları Kore ürünlerinden memnun kalmaları ve Kore'nin dünyaca ünlü markalara sahip olması nedeniyle, Kore'nin markaları ve şirketleri hakkında olumlu görüşlere sahiptir.

Konu Kore ve Türkiye arasındaki ekonomik ilişkilere geldiğinde, birçok Türk bu konuda olumsuz bir yaklaşım göstermiştir. Türkler, Kore ve Türkiye arasındaki ekonomik ilişkiler hakkındaki olumsuz görüşlerinin temel sebebi olarak, iki ülke arasında yetersiz ticaret hacmi ve orantısız ticari alışveriş olarak göstermişlerdir. Türkler, Kore ve Türkiye arasındaki ticareti yetersiz bulmaları nedeniyle STA'nın doğru ve gerekli bir karar olduğunu düşünmektedirler ve STA'nın iki ülke arasındaki ticaret hacmini ve yatırımları arttıracığını öne sürmektedirler.

Türkiye ve Kore arasında kültürel algılara gelince, Koreliler ve Türkler aralarındaki kültürel benzerlikler ve farklılıklar nedeniyle çeşitli olumlu ve olumsuz yaklaşımlar mevcuttur. Türklerin çoğu iki ülke arasındaki kültürel benzerliklerin çok fazla olduğunu düşünmesine rağmen, Korelilerin yarısı benzerliklerin az miktarda olduğunu düşünmektedir. Öte yandan Korelilerin bir diğer yarısı da Türklerle olan dilsel, aile odaklı kültür, topluluk ruhu, büyüklere saygı, yakın ilişkiler, gibi benzerlikler nedeniyle, Türkleri, kendilerine çok yakın hissetmektedir. Korelilerin büyük bir kısmı, Türkçenin Korece ile olan benzerliği nedeniyle Türkçeye karşı olumlu izlenimlere sahiptir. Bu benzerlikler iki dilin de Altay ailesinden gelmesine dayandırılabilir. Benzerliklere örnek olarak, iki dilin benzer gramer yapıları, cümle sıralamaları gösterilebilir. Tüm bu kültürel benzerlikler, Korelilerin Türkler hakkında pozitif izlenimler edinmesine katkıda bulunmaktadır.

Bunun yanı sıra, Kore ve Türkiye arasındaki dinsel ve bazı manevi değerlerdeki farklılıkların yol açtığı kültürel farklılıklar Korelilerde, Türklerle karşı yabancılaşma hissetmeleri gibi olumsuz duygulara neden olabilmektedir. Korelilerin çoğu Türk geleneklerine ve kültürüne olumlu bir yaklaşım sergilemektedir. Çoğu sayıda Koreli, Türklerin kültürel yapısını, eşsiz, farklı, doğuyu ve batıyı sentezleyen bir şekilde tanımlamaktadır.

Türkler de kültürel benzerlikler nedeniyle Kore kültürüne olumlu bir tavırla yaklaşmaktadır. Bu benzerlikler büyüklere saygı, etik standartlar, misafirperverlik, aileye bağlılık, aile kültürü gibi özelliklerdir. Türklerin büyük bir kısmı din ve yemekler söz konusu olduğunda, iki ülkenin kültürünün çok farklı olduğunu düşünmektedir.

Türkler Kore'nin müziğine karşı çoğunlukla olumlu yaklaşımlara sahiptir. Kore kültürüne ilgi duyan Türkler, çoğunlukla K-pop gruplarına ve Kore'nin geleneksel müziklerine ilgi duymaktadır. K-pop daha çok genç kuşak tarafından sevilmektedir. Türkler, Kore geleneksel müziğini rahatlatıcı, dinlendirici ve sakin bulmaktadır. Türkler, Kore dizi ve filmlerini kaliteli, performansı yüksek, akıcı ve merak uyandırıcı buldukları için, Kore dizi ve filmleri hakkında pozitif bakış açısına sahiplerdir. Ayrıca çoğu Türk, Kore dizi ve filmlerini izleyerek, Kore kültürünü öğrendiğini ve daha iyi tanıma olanağı bulduğunu ifade etmiştir.

Eğitim hakkındaki karşılıklı algılar konusunda, Türkler ve Koreliler hem olumlu hem de olumsuz görüşlere sahiptirler. Türk eğitim sisteminin zorunlu olması, ücretsiz yüksek öğrenim sağlaması yabancı öğrencilere çeşitli devlet birimlerince burslar sağlaması ve üniversiteye giriş sisteminin görece iyi olması, Korelilerde Türk eğitim sistemi için olumlu bir bakış açısı oluştururken, Türk eğitim yapısının, Korelilerde olumsuz izlenimler oluşturan özellikleri de vardır. Bunlar, Türklerin eğitime yeterli ilgiyi göstermemesi, insanlar arası eğitim seviyesindeki farklar, kamu eğitimindeki istikrarsızlık ve kalitesizlik, yetersiz yönetim ve İngilizce eğitime yeterli önemin verilmemesidir.

Türklerin Kore eğitimine bakış açısı sorgulandığında, Kore'nin yüksek öğrenim görmüş nüfus oranının yüksek olması, dünya çapında üniversitelere

sahip olması nedeniyle Türklerin Kore eğitimine olumlu baktığı gözlenmiştir. Türklerin bir kısmı Kore'nin eğitime büyük önem verdiğini belirterek olumlu bir bakış açısı sergilemektedir. Öte yandan Kore eğitiminin, talepkar ve katı yapısı ve bunun aile bağları ve sosyalleşme gibi alanlarda sosyal problemlere yol açma olasılığı, Türklerde Kore eğitim sistemi hakkında olumsuz izlenimler oluşmasına yol açmaktadır.

Bütünsel olarak bakıldığında, Türk ve Kore insanının genel olarak birbirlerine karşı olumlu algıya sahip oldukları ancak bu durumun ülkelerin siyasetleri için geçerli olmadığı gözlenmiştir. Özellikle her iki toplumun da bir diğerinin demokratik yapısı için olumsuz bir izlenime sahip olduğu söylenebilir. Türklerin ve Korelilerin demokrasiye bakış açılarının farklı olduğu görülmektedir. Bu durumun iki ülkenin tarihlerindeki ve askeri deneyimlerindeki farklılıklardan kaynaklandığı söylenebilir. Batının standartlarında bakıldığında askeri rejimin, ülkelerin demokratik yapısını zedelediği görülmektedir. Bu tarzdaki düşünce yapısı hem Korelilerde hem de Türklerde yaygındır. Bu bakış açısının iki ülkenin karşılıklı algılarını etkilediği görülmüştür. Fakat bu karşılıklı olumsuz algılar, iki ülkenin ilişkilerinde herhangi bir olumsuz etkiye neden olmamıştır.

Türkiye ve Kore arasındaki sağlam ilişki, Türkiye'nin Kore savaşına katılımıyla güçlenen, iki ülke arasındaki tarihi bağlarla açıklanabilir. Türk askerlerinin Kore savaşına katılımı, iki ülke arasında duygusal yakınlık ve kardeşlik bağı oluşması olarak meyvesini vermiştir ve Kore-Türk ilişkilerinin oluşumunda büyük önem göstermiştir. Bu bağların oluşmasıyla birlikte, Türkiye ve Kore arasındaki diplomatik ve ekonomik ilişkiler de başlamış oldu. Aralarındaki alışveriş ve işbirliği arttıkça iki ülke birbirleri arasındaki benzerlikleri daha çok fark etmiştir. Bu benzerliklerin daha çok vurgulanması ve fark edilmesi iki ülke arasındaki karşılıklı algıların daha da olumlu yönde oluşumunu sağladı. İki ülke arasındaki tüm bu olumlu algılar ve yaklaşımlar, iki ülke arasındaki kültürel değişim ve işbirliğinin gün geçtikçe farklı alanlara yayılmasını ve farklı etkinliklerle devam etmesini sağladı.

Çalışmada, askeri, ekonomik ve politik alanlardaki görüş ve algıların daha çok dünya sıralamaları, uluslar arası norm ve kriterlere göre şekillendiği gözlemlenirken, kültürel yaklaşım ve algıların daha çok yerel standartlara ve özelliklere göre şekillendiği görülmüştür. Bu bağlamda, damak tadı, sanat, manevi ve ahlaki değerler ve diğer kültürel öğelere karşı yaklaşımların ve izlenimlerin daha çok bölgesel kriterlere bağlı olarak, toplumlara göre farklılık gösterdiği söylenebilir. Bu durum göz önünde bulundurulduğunda, bu çalışmanın; Kore ve Türkiye arasındaki kültürel farklılıklar ve bezenliklerden doğan algıları anlamak ve iki kültürü karşılaştırmak isteyenler için önemi büyüktür. Bir başka deyişle, kültürel farklılıkları ve yaklaşımları, ekonomi politika gibi alanlardaki nesnel kriterlerle analiz etmek mümkün olmadığı için, kültürel karşılaştırmalar için, bu araştırmada yapıldığı gibi daha derinlemesine algı çalışmaları gereklidir. Ayrıca, bu çalışma, iki toplum arasındaki karşılıklı olumsuz

algıların nedenlerinin anlaşılması ve bu algıların düzeltilmesi için büyük katkı sağlayacaktır.

Kore ve Türk toplumunun birbirine karşı, çeşitli alanlardaki algılarını inceledikten ve sergilendikten sonra, Kore ve Türkiye'nin gelecekteki kültürel, ekonomik ve politik alanlardaki ilişkilerinde yaşanması muhtemel gelişmelerden ve bu konudaki beklentilerden de söz etmek gerekir.

Türkiye'nin 1950'de Kore savaşına katılmasından sonra iki ülke arasındaki politik ilişkiler oldukça olumlu devam etmiştir. Türkiye'nin Ortadoğu'daki gelişen ve giderek önem kazanan stratejik konumu, Türkiye'nin, Kore için, politik açıdan gittikçe önemli hale gelmesine neden olmaktadır.

Türkiye ve Kore arasındaki askeri işbirliği, Kore savaşı ile başlamış olup, Amerika Birleşik Devletleri'nin de liderliği ve stratejisiyle devam etmiştir. Günümüzde var olan, hızlı küreselleşme döneminin de devam etmesiyle birlikte, Kore ve Türkiye arasındaki ilişkilerin, aralarındaki kardeşliğin ve ortaklığın temelinde, daha da gelişeceği ve gerekli hale geleceği beklenilebilir.

İki ülke arasındaki, ekonomik ilişkilere bakıldığında, 1974'te Kore Ticaret Merkezinin kurulmasıyla iki ülke arasındaki ekonomik işbirliği ve ilişkiler başlamış oldu ve zamanla gelişmeye devam etti. 1977 Aralık ayında *Türkiye ile Güney Kore Arasındaki Ticaretin Geliştirilmesi ve Ekonomik ve Teknik İşbirliği Hakkında Anlaşma* imzalandı. 1979 Haziran ayında havacılık sözleşmesi imzalandı ve yürürlüğe girdi. 1981 yılında Ankara'da ilk defa Kore-Türkiye ekonomik heyet toplantısı düzenlendi.

Tüm bu uğraşlara rağmen coğrafi uzaklık ve iki ülke arasındaki ticari gücün az olması nedeniyle ekonomik ilişki yeterince gelişemedi ve 90'lı yıllara kadar iki ülke arasında çok az sayıda ürünün ticareti yapılabildi. Turgut Özal rejimiyle birlikte, Türkiye'nin ekonomisi canlanmaya başladı ve AKP döneminde, Türkiye'nin ekonomisi G-20'ye üye olacak şekilde sürpriz bir gelişme yaşadı. Kore ekonomisi ise son 20 yılda, dış ticaretindeki stratejik atılımlar sayesinde ciddi bir kalkınma yaşadı. Kore'nin dış ticaretinin gelişmesinde üç temel sektörün önemi büyüktür. Bu sektörler: elektronik (Samsung, LG), otomobil (Hyundai, Daewoo) ve gemi yapımıdır (Hyundai, Daewoo). Bu üç temel sektörün yanı sıra, 1980-1990 periyodunda, Ortadoğu marketi sayesinde, Kore, inşaat sektöründe de hızlı bir gelişme yaşadı.

Son olarak, 2013 Mayıs ayında Türkiye ve Kore arasında bir Serbest Ticaret Anlaşması (STA) yürürlüğe girdi. STA' nın yürürlüğe girmesi ile birlikte, iki ülkenin süregelen kardeşliği ve ortaklığının da yardımıyla ekonomik ilişkilerinin de gelişmesi ve ilerlemesi öngörülmektedir.

İki ülke arasındaki kültürel değişim ve işbirliğinin en umut vaat edici alan olduğu öngörülmektedir. Hem Türkler hem de Koreliler, birbirleri hakkında oldukça olumlu görüşlere sahiptirler ve birbirlerine karşı oldukça anlayışlı

bir tutum taşımaktadırlar. İki toplum arasındaki dinsel farklılıklara rağmen, sahip oldukları çok sayıda kültürel benzerlik, iki toplumu da şaşırtmaktadır. İki ülke arasındaki benzerlik, iki toplum arasındaki ortak tarihsel akrabalıktan kaynaklanmaktadır. İki ülkenin de Moğolistan'dan ve Orta Asya'dan gelmesi ve Altay ailesi ortaklığı, iki ülkenin ortak tarihi köklere ve mirasa sahip olmasına neden olmuştur.

2013 Ağustos ayında Türkiye ve Kore arasında kültür anlaşması imzalanmış ve 31 Ağustostan 22 Eylül 2013 tarihine kadar İstanbul-Gyeongju Dünya Kültür Fuarı düzenlenmiştir. İki ülke arasındaki ilişki, bu anlaşma ve etkinlik sayesinde büyük bir ilerleme kaydetmiştir. İki ülkenin vatandaşları da bu kültürel etkinlik sayesinde, aralarındaki kültürel ve duygusal bağın tekrar farkına varmışlardır. İstanbul'da yapılan bu kültürel etkinliğin 2014' ün Eylül ayında Kore'nin Gyeongju kentinde de yapılmasına karar verilmiştir. İki ülke arasındaki karşılıklı kültürel alışverişi desteklemek ve arttırmak için tekrar yapılan bu etkinlikte, 'İstanbul-Gyeongju Dünya Kültür Fuarı' nın başarılı bir şekilde tamamlanması da kutlanmış olacaktır. Türkiye ve Kore arasındaki kültürel benzerliklerden doğan samimi etkileşim ve kültürel farklılıkların yarattığı cazibenin etkisi, iki ülke arasındaki etkileşimin hız kazanması ve daha çeşitli kültürel alanlara yayılmasıyla birlikte, iki ülke arasındaki kültürel ilişkilerin gelecek için oldukça umut vaat edici olduğu söylenebilir.

Yaşadığımız, bitmek bilmeyen rekabet çağında, Kore ve Türkiye arasındaki işbirliğinin artması, birçok konuda iki ülkenin de uluslar arası arenadaki yerini güçlendirecektir. İki ülke arasındaki işbirliği geliştikçe, aralarındaki kültürel farklılıklardan doğan yaratıcı sinerji ve kültürel benzerliklerin de katkısıyla, Korelilerin ve Türklerin ortaklığı ve kardeşliği dolayısıyla birbirlerine olan algıları daha da derinleşecek ve güçlenecektir.

## APPENDIX D: TEZ FOTOKOPİSİ İZİN FORMU

### ENSTİTÜ

Fen Bilimleri Enstitüsü	<input type="checkbox"/>
Sosyal Bilimler Enstitüsü	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Uygulamalı Matematik Enstitüsü	<input type="checkbox"/>
Enformatik Enstitüsü	<input type="checkbox"/>
Deniz Bilimleri Enstitüsü	<input type="checkbox"/>

### YAZARIN

Soyadı : CHOI  
Adı : HYERIM  
Bölümü : MIDDLE EAST STUDIES

**TEZİN ADI** : MUTUAL PERCEPTIONS OF KOREAN AND TURKISH SOCIETIES: PROSPECTS FOR DEVELOPMENT OF POLITICAL, ECONOMIC AND CULTURAL RELATIONS

**TEZİN TÜRÜ** : Yüksek Lisans ☒ Doktora ☐

1. Tezimin tamamından kaynak gösterilmek şartıyla fotokopi alınabilir. ☐
2. Tezimin içindekiler sayfası, özet, indeks sayfalarından ve/veya bir bölümünden kaynak gösterilmek şartıyla fotokopi alınabilir. ☐
3. Tezimden bir (1) yıl süreyle fotokopi alınamaz. ☒

**TEZİN KÜTÜPHANEYE TESLİM TARİHİ:**