In this paper, I investigate the semantic and syntactic behavior of stative verbs in Turkish. Basically, I will contrast two studies; i.e. Maienborn (2003, 2005, 2008) and Rothmayr (2009), as to Turkish data. On the one hand, Maienborn (2003) proposes that there are two types of states: Kimian states vs Davidsonian states, as shown in (1) and (2) respectively (K-states and D-states henceforth).

(1) Film iki saat sür-uyor.
   Film two hour last-IMPF
   'The film lasts two hours.'

(2) Anne-m koltuk-ta otur-uyor.
   Mother-1SG.POSS armchair-LOC sit-IMPF.3SG
   'My mother is sitting in the armchair.'

On the other hand, Rothmayr (2009) offers a detailed stative verb classification and claims that all stative verbs are K-states and there is no D-state. Instead, all the other aspectual classes, including D-states of Maienborn (2003), are argued to be Davidsonian events.

By using tests incorporating Turkish constructions such as -(y)Adur and -(y)A….-(y)A, I propose that stative verbs in Turkish maintain the division as K-states vs D-states as Maienborn (2003) suggested. Evidence for this proposal comes from the fact that the sub-classes which seem to behave as K-states are incompatible with -(y)Adur and -(y)A….-(y)A constructions, as illustrated in (3a) and (3b) respectively. However, the ones which seem to behave as D-states do are compatible with these constructions, as seen in (4a) and (4b) respectively.

(3) a. *Film iki saat sür-e-dur-sun, biz de gidip alacaklarımızı halledelim.
    last-CONV DESCV-PF-3P
    'Let the film last two hours and let’s go and handle the things that we will buy.'

b. *Pazar çantası on iki kilo gel-e gel-e yerden kalkmadı.
   come-CONV come-CONV
   'Weighing twelve kilos continually/repeatedly, the carrier bag could not be carried.' (lit. the carrier bag did not lift off.)

    wait-CONV-DESCV-IMPER-2P
    'I have left my umbrella in the office. Keep waiting here, and I go and get it at once.'

b. Adam köşede bekle-ye bekle-ye yoruldu.
   wait-CONV wait-CONV
   'Waiting on the corner continually, the man got tired.'

Thus, this study introduces two new diagnostic tools for the division as K-states vs D-states.

Selected References

