A sociolinguistic analysis of the language variety taken up by 'facebook' users in Turkey as a speech community

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'Languages have developed a wide varieties for handling the different kinds and levels of relationship which identify the social structure of a community' states Crystal (1997, 42) and sets the theoretical departure point for this very study. In monolingual communities, the diversity of social groups is reflected within the linguistic attitudes they took up to reflect their social identity. And it has been observed that 'facebook' users depict a kind of such community within a larger community. The aim of this study is to explore the properties which make the facebook variety what it is as a variety of Standard Turkish. In this respect, a qualitative sociolinguistic approach has been taken up. Methodologically, a corpus of selected wall-posts, photo comments and captions has been gathered. Then the data is analyzed under four topics – namely, *lexicon of the facebook variety, syntactic features, phonology and orthography,* and *spoken versus written language.* Finally, the descriptive properties are briefly stated to reflect the sociolinguistic features of the so-called 'facebook community'.