

Comparative Analysis of the Concept of Death in Turkish and Japanese Proverbs

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[Doi: 10.19044/esipreprint.1.2024.p188](https://doi.org/10.19044/esipreprint.1.2024.p188)

Approved: 08 January 2024

Posted: 10 January 2024

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Cite As:

Dogan G. (2024). *Comparative Analysis of the Concept of Death in Turkish and Japanese Proverbs*. ESI Preprints. <https://doi.org/10.19044/esipreprint.1.2024.p188>

Abstract

Death constitutes the last part of the life cycle. Although being born and living are welcomed with joy by human beings, death brings pain and eternal unhappiness. This study aims to reveal how the concept of death, which contains deep sadness, is handled in Turkish and Japanese proverbs. Proverbs are stereotypes passed from one generation to another and are very important in reflecting the lifestyles and ways of thinking of the societies to which they belong. Proverbs are essential in transferring cultural knowledge because our ancestors created them with the accumulation and experience of many years.

Keywords: Death, Turkish, Japanese, Proverb, Comparative Analysis

Introduction

No matter how normal it is to be born and live, the concept of “death” is considered a bad situation due to the end of life. It is a concept that is avoided in conversation. This study will discuss and analyze the concept of death in Turkish and Japanese proverbs. As a result of the analysis, is planned to reveal the perspectives and beliefs of Turks and Japanese on the concept of death. Both societies have different belief systems and cultures, also reflected in the proverbs.

Proverbs give information about the way of thinking, living, and beliefs of the society to which they belong. Therefore, research on proverbs also has a vital place in understanding the socio-cultural structure of society.

Many studies on proverbs have been done to date. Proverbs vary in subject in these studies because they are written about almost every field, starting from daily life. Thus, this variety increases the number of studies on proverbs. The word “*proverb*” corresponds to “*atasözü*” in Turkish. It is defined in the TDK Dictionary¹ as “*a word of an advising nature that has been said based on long trials and observations and has become a public figure.*” A proverb is defined in the Cambridge Dictionary as “*1. a famous phrase or sentence that gives you advice, 2. a well-known saying that gives good advice or expresses a supposed truth.*” The word proverb corresponds to 諺/ことわざ (*kotowaza*) in Japanese. It is defined in スーパー大辞林² (*Sūpādaijirin*) dictionary as “*Simple words that people have favored since ancient times with satire, lessons, knowledge, interests, etc.*”.

As mentioned in the definitions above, proverbs are stereotyped expressions that are the product of many years of experience. These formulaic expressions are sarcastic and instructive and cannot be changed. Proverbs are widely used in communication worldwide because they are memorable and scholarly. Proverbs fulfill the human need to summarize experiences and observations into nuggets of wisdom that provide ready-made comments on personal relationships and social affairs (Mieder, 2004, p.1).

In the present study, the subject discussed in proverbs is death. Various definitions are given below.

In the TDK³ Dictionary, “*death*” is “*The complete and final end of a human life; Journey to the hereafter, end, eternal sleep, last journey, etc.*” In The Cambridge Dictionary, the word “*death*” is defined as “*to lose life; to stop living and become dead.*”

デジタル大辞泉⁴ (*Dejitaru Daijisen*) defines it as “*Extinction of life. The act of dying. Also, the absence of life.*” It is seen that death is expressed in the same way in all definitions.

Many studies on proverbs have been conducted. The attitude of Turkish society towards the concept of death and how this attitude is reflected in proverbs is analyzed in “*Death in Turkish Proverbs.*” In addition, as a result of the changes in the perception of death of the Turks in the historical process, it has been tried to determine the meanings attributed to the concept of death, which emerged as a result of the expression of emotion in a more concrete way in parallel with the development of artistic discourse (Duman, 2012). “*Turks and the Concept of Death: An Analytical*

¹ *Türk Dil Kurumu.*

² 三省堂, スーパー大辞林3.0 (Electronic dictionary)

³ <https://sozluk.gov.tr/> (09.20.2023)

⁴ <https://ejje.weblio.jp/> (09.20.2023)

Survey Among Turkish Proverbs” Is a study aimed at identifying, analyzing, and systematizing ideas on death in Turkish culture and determining how they reflect customs, traditions, and rituals from past to present (Ufuk, 2016).

Another study is titled *Death in the Traditional World view of Kazan-Tatar Turks with examples from proverbs*. The beliefs and practices related to the meaning of death and its features, before death, near death, and after death in Kazan-Tatar Turks, have been analyzed (Tekin, 2021a). In the traditional worldview of the Turkish nation, the phenomenon of death, the meaning of death, its characteristics, and the beliefs and practices of the before, during, and after death processes have been determined from proverbs by Tekin (2021b).

The study, *An Overview of the Concept of Death in Turkish and Russian Proverbs* (Ramazanova, 2022), questions the fundamentals of semantic differences in the expression “death” in proverbs. In addition, with the changes in the perception of death of Turks and Russians throughout history and the development of artistic discourse over the centuries, the emotionally expressed forms of the concept of death are revealed.

Additionally, the concept of life and death is analyzed in Japanese and Chinese proverbs. This study explores the characteristics of the Japanese and Chinese views on life and death and compares the two cultures (Lena, 2003).

This study will be a comparative analysis of Turkish and Japanese proverbs on death. Words related to death in Turkish and Japanese proverbs were compiled and analyzed. The words that correspond to the word death in both languages are listed below.

	Death (noun)	Die (verb)	
Japanese	死(<i>shi</i>)	死ぬ (<i>shinu</i>) 死す (<i>shisu</i>)	死者 (<i>shisha</i>) 死人(<i>shinin</i>)
Turkish	ölüm/ ecel	ölmek/gebermek	ölü

The word “**ecel**” will also be used in this study as it means death. TDK defines it. In this study, idiomatic expressions expressing death are not included. Proverbs dealing with death but not containing the word dead were excluded. For example, in Turkish, göçmek (to migrate), ayrılmak (to leave), gitmek (to go)” are related to *life as a journey* metaphor and mean “to die.”

In Japanese and Turkish usage of rhyme, prosody has been ignored to preserve meaning and translated as close to the original proverbs as possible. Aksoy (2020) Atasözleri Sözlüğü and TDK Atasözleri ve Deyimler Sözlüğü (online dictionary) are used in this study as a Turkish material dictionary.

Kaneko (1986) 日本のことわざ (上・中・上)) (*Nihon no Kotowaza (jou-chuu-ge)*), Hinata (2001)ことわざ新辞典(*Kotowaza*

Shinjiten), Yonetsu (1997) *ことわざ辞典* (Kotowaza Jiten) and (online-*ことわざ辞典*⁵ (*kotowaza jiten*) dictionaries are used as a Japanese material of dictionary.

This study aims to answer the questions below.

- How is the concept of death grouped in proverbs?
- How is the concept of death handled in Turkish proverbs?
- How is the concept of death handled in Japanese proverbs?
- What are the similarities and differences in both languages related to death?

Methods

This study uses the content analysis method to examine how the concept of death is handled in Turkish and Japanese proverbs. Content analysis requires a closer examination of the data obtained and reaching the concepts and themes that explain these data (Yıldırım & Şimşek, 2013: 97). The content analysis method is a frequently used research method in social sciences. In this study, proverbs with the word death were scanned, and a total of 127 proverbs, including 80 Turkish proverbs and 47 Japanese proverbs, were examined. These proverbs are grouped according to their subjects.

Discussion

In this section, the concept of death seen in proverbs is grouped. Turkish and Japanese proverbs that relate to the topic are placed in each group.

Death as an inevitable end

Death is seen as an inevitable end that all people accept. God determines life and death and can not be controlled by human power. All living experience death, and there is no cure or remedy.

Turkish Proverbs	English Translation
Dünya ölümlü, gün akşamı. (Aksoy, 2020, p.250)	The world is mortal; the day has evening.
Gelin girmedi ev olur, ölüm girmedi ev olmaz. (Aksoy, 2020, p.284)	There can be a home a bride hasn't entered, but there is no home death doesn't enter.
Ecele (ölüme) çare bulunmaz. (Aksoy, 2020, p.254)	There is no cure for death.
Ölüme çare bulunmaz. (Aksoy, 2020, p.405)	There is no cure for death.
Olaakla öleceğe çare bulunmaz. (Aksoy, 2020, p.398)	There is no remedy for what will happen and who will die.
Ölüm dirim (kalım) bizim için. (Aksoy,	Death and life are for us.

⁵ <https://kotowaza.jitenon.jp/> (09.28.2023)

2020,p.405)	
Ölüm var, dirim (kalım) var. (Aksoy, 2020, p.406)	There is death; there is life.
Ölüm hak, miras helal. (Aksoy, 2020, p.406)	Death is right; inheritance is halal.⁶
Ölüm bir kara devedir ki herkesin kapısına çöker. (TDK)	Death is a black camel that descends on everyone's doorstep.
Korkunun ecele faydası yoktur. (Aksoy, 2020:367)	Fear is useless for death.

Japanese Proverbs	English Translation
生き身は死に身 (<i>Iki mi wa shini mi</i>)	Living is dying. Meaning: All living people/things are dying.
生ある者は死あり (<i>Sei aru mono wa shi ari</i>)	The living has death.
生は死の始はじめ (<i>Sei wa shi no hajime</i>)	Life is the beginning of death.
死生命あり (<i>Shisei mei ari</i>)	Life and death have a fate. Meaning: The life and death of a person cannot be changed by human power.
災難なら畳の上で死ぬ (<i>Sainan nara tatami no uedemo shinu</i>)	If disaster comes, one could die on the tatami⁷ mats. Meaning: It is difficult to know when and where disaster will occur. Even on the safety of tatami mats, one can slip and fall, which will be the cause of death.

Death has causes

There are many causes of death seen in proverbs. In Turkish proverbs, *illness, headache, moaning, no authority, fury, not liking himself/herself, being lower class, upstart, fidelity,*

In Japanese proverbs, *peaceful death and alcohol are seen as causes of death.*

Turkish Proverbs	English Translation
Ecel geldi cihane, baş ağrısı bahane. (Aksoy, 2020, p.54)	Death came to people, headache is the excuse. (illness)
Bahanesiz ölüm olmaz. (Aksoy, 2020, p.174)	There is no death without excuses.
Ölüm gelmiş bu cane, baş ağrısı bahane. (Aksoy, 2020, p. 406)	Death has come to people, headache is the excuse. (illness)
Eden bulur, inleyen ölür. (Aksoy, 2020, p. 255)	People cause bad things, pay the penalty, and the suffering patients die. (illness)

⁶ *Halal* is defined in Oxford Learner's Dictionary as "acceptable according to Islamic law."

⁷ *Tatami* is defined in Oxford Learner's Dictionary as "a traditional Japanese mat made from dried rushes and used to cover a floor."

Etme bulursun, inleme (inleye inleye) ölürsün. (Aksoy, 2020, p.275)	Don't do bad things; you can pay the penalty and die moaning. (illness)
Evden bir ölü çıkacak demişler, herkes hizmetçinin yüzüne bakmış. (Aksoy, 2020,p.276)	It is told that one person in the house will die; everybody looks at the servant's face. (being lower-class)
Görmemiş görmüş, gülmeden (güle güle) ölmüş. (Aksoy, 2020, p.290)	A vulgar person become successful; he died of laughing.(upstart)
Hasta ol benim için, öleyim senin için. (Aksoy, 2020, p.301)	Be sick for me; I would die for you. (fidelity)
İki karılı bittten, iki analı süttten ölür. (Aksoy, 2020,p.320)	A man with two wives dies due to lice; a baby with two mother dies because of milk. (no authority)
Kuduz ölür ama daladığı da ölür. (Aksoy, 2020,p.374)	A person who has rabies dies but the person who has bitten dies too. (fury)
İnsan kendini beğenmezse çatlar. (ölür)	If a person does not like himself, he cracks. (dies)
Rakip ölsün de ne yüzden ölürse ölsün. (Aksoy, 2020,p.413)	I wish the rival dies, no matter what the cause.
Aç ölmez, gözü kararır; susuz ölmez, benzi sararır. (Aksoy, 2020,p.111)	The hungry one doesn't die; he feels dizzy; the thirsty one doesn't die; his face turns pale.
Tamah varken müflis acından ölmez. (Aksoy, 2020,p.439)	As long as greed exists, the bankrupt will not perish by hunger.
Ananın bastığı yavru (civciv) incinmez (ölmez). (Aksoy, 2020, p.145)	The cub (chick) stepped on by the mother does not hurt (die).

Japanese Proverbs	English Translation
千金の子は市に死せず (<i>Senkin no ko wa ichi ni shi sezu</i>) (Hinata, 2001, p.164)	The child of a wealthy man (thousand money holder) does not die in the city. Meaning: The rich man's son does not die in the city. Even if a rich child commits an evil deed, he escapes punishment by the power of money, and his corpse is not exposed to the prison in the city.
泳ぎ上手は川で死ぬ (<i>Oyogi jōzu wa kawa de shinu</i>) (Kaneko, 1986a, p.274)	A good swimmer dies in the river. Meaning: When you're good at something, you tend to let your guard down or be overconfident about it, so you have to be careful.
餓えて死ぬは一人、飲んで死ぬは千人 (<i>Katsuite shinu wa hitori, nonde shinu wa sennin</i>)	Dying from starvation is one person; dying from drinking (alcohol) is a thousand people.
畳の上で死ぬ (<i>Tatami no ue de shinu</i>)	Dying on the tatami mat. Meaning: It is not an accidental death or a strange death, but a peaceful death in one's own home on the tatami mat.

Death has a time to occur

There is a time for each living person decided by God for death. Turkish and Japanese proverbs emphasize that death is unpredictable and has a time to occur. Even if it is desirable to die, it cannot happen.

Turkish Proverbs	English Translation
Her inleyen ölmez. (Aksoy, 2020,p.306)	Not every moaner dies.
Hasta yatan ölmez, eceli yeten ölür. (Aksoy, 2020,p.301)	The patient who is in a sick bed does not die; the one whose death comes dies.
Kırk yıl ecel yağsa, eceli gelen ölür.	If death rains for forty years, the one dies who death comes.
Kırk yılda bir ölet olur, eceli gelen ölür. (Kırk yıl kıran olmuş, eceli gelen ölmüş.) (Aksoy, 2020, p.358)	Once in forty years, there is a lethal epidemic, and the person whose time has come dies.
Vasiyet ölüm getirmez. (Aksoy,2020,p.458)	A will/probate doesn't bring death.

Japanese Proverbs	English Translation
死ぬ死ぬというものに死んだ例(ためし)がない (Shinu shinu to iu mono ni shinda tameshi ga nai)	There is no example of death in who says, 'I am dying.'
朝に道を聞かば夕べに死すとも可なり (Ashita ni michi wo kikaba yūbe ni shi sutomo ka nari) (Hinata, 2001,p. 11)	If you ask for directions in the morning, you can die in the evening.
江戸と背中が見て死にたい (Edo to senaka ga mite shinitai) (Kaneko, 1986a,p.203)	I want to die after seeing Edo and my back. Meaning: One can see one's back in the mirror but can not see his/her own back directly. Edo ⁸ can also be seen through pictures and stories, but it is unlikely that a poor person from a distant countryside will be able to go to see Edo.
死なば (Shinaba shi hachi gatsu)	If it could be possible to die; it is the month of April and August.

Death is not welcomed

Death is considered a cold thing and is not welcomed by people. Even during the dying, seeking life is essential.

Turkish Proverb:	English Translation
Ölümün yüzü soğuktur.	The face of death is cold.
Japanese Proverb	English Translation
にむ (Shichuu ni katsu wo motomu)	We are seeking life in death.
死にたいと麦飯食いたいほど大きな嘘はない (Shinitai to mugimeshi kuitai hodo ooki na uso wa nai.)	There's no lie so big that you want to die and eat barley.

⁸ Edo is the old name of Tokyo and the capital city.

Death as a bad situation

Death is accepted as an undesirable and dire situation.

Turkish Proverbs	English Translation
Ölme bayılmaya benzemez. (Aksoy, 2020, p.405)	Death isn't like being unconscious.
Uyku ölümün (küçük) kardeşidir. (Aksoy, 2020, p.452)	Sleep is the younger sibling of death.
Yerinden oynayan yetmiş kazaya uğrar; en küçüğü ölüm	Displaced people suffers seventy accidents; the least is death.
Adama dayanma ölür, ağaca dayanma kurur. (Aksoy, 2020, p.113)	Don't rely on the man he dies; don't rely the tree it dries.
Anamın (babamın) öleceğini bilseydim kulağı dolu darıya satardım (Aksoy, 2020, p.145)	If I had known that my mother (my father) was going to die, I would have sold my ears for a bit of money.
Hısım hısımın ne öldüğünü ister, ne onduğunu. (Aksoy, 2020:313)	The relatives want their relatives to die or not die.
Ölüm ile oç alınmaz. (Aksoy, 2020:406)	Can't be taken revenge with death.

Japanese Proverbs	English Translation
垢で死んだ者はない (Aka de shinda mono wa nai).	No one died from dirt.
往に跡へ行くとも死に跡へ行くな (I ni ato e ikutomo shi ni ato e ikuna) (Kaneko, 1986a,p.)	Go after whose ex-wife has left home, but don't go after whose ex-wife died.
九死に一生を得る (Kyuushi ni isshou wo eru.) (Hinata, 2001,p.97)	Get a lifetime to nine deaths. (to have a narrow escape from death).

Death as an unknown end

Death is seen as an unknown end. There is uncertainty about after death. No one could come back and tell us what the afterlife is like.

Turkish Proverbs	English Translation
Ölümden öte(-ye) köy yoktur. (Aksoy, 2020, p.405)	There is no village ahead to death.

Japanese Proverbs	English Translation
死んだ先を見たものはない (Shinda saki wo mita mono wa nai)	No one saw the after-death.

Grief for death

Death- and grief-related proverbs are listed below. One cannot die with the lost one. Feeling grief about loss is a normal thing in life, but it is also essential to continue life.

Turkish Proverbs	English Translation
Ölenle (birlikte) ölünmez. (Aksoy, 2020, p.405)	You can't die (with) the dead.
Dün öleni dün gömerler. (TDK)	The one who died yesterday, they buried yesterday.

Death occurs one time

It is stated that death is the last point reached in human life, and it is a road of no return. It occurs just once in life.

Turkish Proverbs	English Translation
İnsan iki kere ölmez.	People don't die twice.

Japanese Proverbs	English Translation
一度死ねば二度死なぬ (<i>Ichi do shineba ni do shinanu</i>)	If you die once, you won't die twice.

Understanding the value of things and people after death

Some proverbs are related to the fact that things or people with no value while living become valuable after death, or their value is understood too late.

Turkish proverbs	English Translation
Ölü ölür ballanır.	The dead, after death, become honey.
Ölü ölünce tatlanır.	The dead, after death, become sweet.
Ölmüş sığır sütü olur.	Dead cattle become milky.
Ölen inek sütü olur.	The dead cow becomes milky.
Kör ölür badem gözlü olur, kel ölür sırma saçlı olur. (Aksoy, 2020,p.355)	The blind dead become almond eyes; the bald dead become glazed hair.

Japanese Proverbs	English Translation
死んだ子は賢い (<i>Shinda ko wa kashikoi</i>) (Kaneko, 1986b, p.182)	The dead child is bright.
死んだ子には悪い子はない (<i>Shinda ko ni wa warui ko wa nai</i>)	There is no bad child in a dead child.
死んだら褒められる (<i>Shindara homerareru</i>) (Kaneko, 1986b, p.185)	When you die, you will be praised.

In the Japanese proverbs above, it is stated that the dead child is bright, and although he has bad traits while alive, he is not bad after death. It is also mentioned that people are praised when they die.

Death and animal

It has also been established that proverbs about death are related to animals. Animals seen in Turkish proverbs are horses, dogs, roosters, camels, goats, donkeys, and sheep. The animals seen in Japanese proverbs are horses, dogs, tigers, and rabbits.

Turkish Proverbs	English Translation
Atın ölümü arpadan olsun. (Aksoy, 2020, p.160)	Let the death of the horse be from barley.
At ölür, itlere bayram olur. (Aksoy,2020,p.161)	When the horse dies, the dogs enjoy it.

Eceli (ölümü) gelen (yaklaşan) it cami (mescit) duvarına (avlusuna) siyer (işer). (Aksoy, 2020,p.254)	The dog, whose death is approaching, pees on the wall of the mosque.
At ölür meydan (nalı) kalır, yiğit ölür şanı (namı) kalır. (Aksoy, 2020:161)	When the horse dies, the horseshoe remains; when the valiant dies, his glory remains.
Gem almayan atın ölümü yakındır. (Aksoy, 2020, p.284)	Death is close to the horse that doesn't take the bit.
Horoz ölür, gözü çöplükte kalır. (Aksoy, 2020, p.314)	When the rooster dies, his eye looks to the garbage.
Ölüm bir kara devedir ki herkesin kapısına çöker. (TDK)	Death is a black camel that descends on everyone's doorstep.
Eşeğin ölümü köpeğe düğündür. (Aksoy, 2020,p.271)	The death of the donkey is a wedding to the dog.
Hıyar akçesiyle alınan eşeğin ölümü sudan olur. (Aksoy, 2020:313)	The death of the donkey taken with the little money dies from trivial things.
Karpuz kabuğuyla büyüyen (beslenen) eşeğin ölümü sudan olur. (Aksoy, 2020:345)	The donkey that grows (feeds) on watermelon peel dies from trivial things.
Ölmüş koyun (eşek) kurttan korkmaz. (Aksoy, 2020,p.405)	The dead sheep (donkey) is not afraid of the wolf.
Her zaman eşek ölmez, on köfte on paraya olmaz. (Aksoy, 2020,p.312)	Not always the donkey dies, ten köfte (meatballs)⁹ do not cost ten coins.
Keçi geberse de kuyruğunu indirmez. (Aksoy, 2020:351)	Even if the goat dies it does not lower its tail.
İti (köpeği) öldürene sürütürler. (Aksoy, 2020:331)	They drive the dog to the one who kills it.

Japanese Proverbs	English Translation
死馬の骨を買う (<i>Shiba no hone wo kau</i>) (Hinata, 2001, p.140)	Buy the death horse's bones. Meaning: A parable of giving preferential treatment to even boring people to attract excellent human resources
死に馬に鍼刺す (<i>Shiniuma ni hari wo sasu</i>) (Hinata, 2001, p.140)	Acupuncture on a dying horse. Meaning: It is useless to do something in a state where it can no longer be expected to be effective.
死馬に蹴られる (<i>Shiniuma ni kerareru</i>)	Kicked by a dead horse. Meaning: A parable of receiving great pain from an opponent who is in a state where recovery cannot be expected.
生きている犬は死んだライオンに勝る (<i>Ikiteiru inu wa shinda raion ni masaru</i>)	A living dog beats the dead lion.
虎は死して皮を留める人は死して名を残す (<i>Tora wa shi shite kawa wo todomeru hito wa shi shite na wo nokosu</i>) (Hinata, 2001,p.216)	The tiger dies; the skin is fastened, and the man dies and leaves a name.

⁹ Köfte is a Turkish traditional dish which is made from lamb or beef meatballs.

狡兎死して走狗烹らる (Kōtō shi shite souku niraru) (Hinata, 2001, p.116)	Because a great rabbit is caught, the hound becomes useless and is boiled in a pot.
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After death, there is no meaning.

Death is considered the end of life. Things that are meaningful while alive lose their meaning after death.

Turkish Proverbs	English Translation
Ölü aşı neylesin, türbe taşı neylesin. (Aksoy, 2020:405)	What can a dead person do with food? What can a tomb do with a stone?

Japanese Proverbs	English Translation
死んだ子の年を数える (Hinata, 2001,p.153)	Counting the years of a dead child.
死児の齢を数える (Shiji no yowai wo kazoeru) (Yonetsu,1997:204)	Counting the age of the dead child.
死んで花実が咲くものか (Shinde hanami ga saku mono ka) (Hinata, 2001, p.153)	Does the dried tree bloom?
死人に口なし (Shinin ni kuchi nashi) (Hinata, 2001, p.140)	No mouth to the dead. Meaning: Even if the dead are accused of being innocent, they cannot be given any explanation.
生きての恨み死しての嘆き (Ikite no urami shi shite no nageki)	Grieving for the living and mourning for the dying.

Comparing the wrong things with death

Death is an undesirable thing in our lives. For this reason, it shows us how to compare unpleasant, bad events in our lives with death.

Turkish Proverbs	English Translation
Aç gezmekten tok ölmek yeğdir. (Aksoy, 2020, p. 108)	It is better to die full than to walk hungry.
Ağlama ölü için, ağla deli (diri) için. (Aksoy, 2020,p.120)	Don't cry for the dead, cry for the mad (living).
Ölüsü olan bir gün ağlar, delisi olan her gün ağlar. (TDK)	The one who is a relative of the dead cries one day, and the one who is a relative of the mad cries every day.
Borcun iyisi vermek, derdin iyisi ölmek. (TDK)	The best of debt is to give, the best of your problem is to die.
Ölüm ölüm de, hırlamaya ne borcum var? (TDK)	Death is death but what do I owe to suffer?
Ölümü gören hastalığa razı olur. (Aksoy, 2020,p.406)	The person who sees death consents to illness.
Ölüme giden gelmiş, paraya giden gelmemiş. (Aksoy, 2020,p.406)	The one who went to death came, the one who went to the money did not

Japanese Proverbs	English Translation
死せる孔明、生ける仲達を走らす (<i>Shiseru koumei ikeru chuutatsu wo hashirasu</i>)(Hinata, 2001,p.137)	Dead Koumei, make run the living companions.
親が死んでも食休み (<i>Oya ga shindemo jiki yasumi</i>)	Even if parents die, have a lunch break.
死別れより生別れ (<i>Shiwakare yori iki wakare</i>)	Farewell to living people rather than farewell to the dead.
運を待つは死を待つに等し (<i>Un wo matsu wa shi wo matsu ni hitoshi</i>)	Waiting for luck is like waiting for death.
死んでの長者より生きての貧乏 (<i>Shinde no chousha yori ikite no binbō</i>)	Poor living is better than a dead rich person.
人の子の死んだより我が子の転けた (<i>Hito no ko no shinda yori, waga ko no koketa</i>)	It is worse felling down of my son than dead children of others.
焼けたあとは立つが死んだあとは立たぬ (<i>Yaketa ato wa tatsu ga shinda ato wa tatanu.</i>)	One can stand after burning but can't stand after death.

Death relates to funerals and religious rituals.

In Islam, when a person dies, he/she is washed and shrouded and buried as soon as possible. It is considered not good to make the dead people wait, “*If you wash too much the corpse, he will deform.*” This proverb means being washed as a funeral ritual. “*The one who died yesterday, they buried yesterday.*” This proverb means the corpse is being buried the same day. Yesterday is considered as past, so it should be forgotten, and we should not be upset about dead people. “*Everyone cries for their own dead.*” This proverb means the relatives or families of the dead cry for their loss.

Turkish Proverbs	English Translation
Ölüyü çok yursan sıçağan olur. (Aksoy, 2020, p.407)	If you wash the corpse too much, he will deform.
Ölüyü örtkekorlar (örtekomuşlar), deliğe dürtekorlar (dürtekomuşlar). (Aksoy, 2020, p.407)	They covered the funeral, put him in the grave, and left.
Dün öleni dün gömerler.	The one who died yesterday, they buried yesterday.
Hayıf ölene olur. (Aksoy, 2020:302)	The sorrow is to the dead person.
Herkes kendi ölüsü için ağlar.(Aksoy, 2020, p.309)	Everyone cries for their own dead.
Deli deliden hoşlanır, imam ölüden. (TDK)	The madman likes the madman; the Imam¹⁰ likes the dead.

¹⁰ The *imam* is defined in The Oxford Learner's Dictionaries as “(in Islam) a religious man who leads the prayers in a mosque). A person likes what is similar or what he can benefit from.

İmam evinden aş, ölü gözünden yaş çıkmaz. (Aksoy, 2020, p.321)	From the house of the <i>Imam</i> there will be no food, there will be no tears in the eyes of the dead.
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Japanese Proverbs	English Translation
病め医者死ね坊主 (<i>Yame isha shine bouzu</i>) (Kaneko, 1986c, p.276)	If you are sick go to the doctor; If you die go to the Monk.
阿闍梨死して事欠けず (<i>Ajari shishite koto kakezu</i>)	Even a great Monk dies, and work goes on.

It is the doctor who cures people's illnesses, and the monks are supposed to save people from suffering, but the doctor wishes for people to get sick, and the monks wish for the death of people. A parable that everyone wants their business to prosper.阿闍梨 (*Ajari*) is a monk of high status who should be a role model.

Contradict Proverbs

Proverbs are stereotyped expressions obtained as a result of experience. There are proverbs written on various subjects. These proverbs do not always reflect the same point of view. In some proverbs, the subject mentioned is treated as opposites.

Turkish Proverbs	English Translation
Ölümlle misafir ansızın gelir.	Death and guests come suddenly.
Ölüm bağıra bağıra gelmez.	Death doesn't come screaming.

死ぬ死ぬというものに死んだ例(ためし)がない (<i>Shinu shinu to iu mono ni shinda tameshi ga nai</i>)	There is no example of death in he who says, 'I am dying.'
病上手に死下手 (<i>Yamai jouzu ni shinibeta</i>) (Kaneko, 1986, p.269)	Get sick easily; die hard.
生は難く死は易し (Hinata, 2001, p.161)	Life is hard; death is easy.

It is stated that it is easy to get sick but not easy to die. People who are frequently infected with disease live a long life.

Death is a relief and escape.

In these proverbs, "death" means purifying those who lived shameful lives.

Turkish Proverbs	English Translation
Ölüm yüz aklı(-dır). (Aksoy, 2020, p. 406)	Death is a glory.
Can çekişmektense ölmek yeğdir. (TDK)	It is better to die than to suffer badly.
Japanese Proverbs	English Translation

死すべき時に死せざれば死にまさる あり (<i>Shisubeki toki ni shisezareba shi ni masaru haji ari</i>)	If you have to die at mortal time, you are better than death.
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Conclusion

As a result of the analysis of the perception of death in Turkish and Japanese proverbs, it has been revealed that there is diversity in the perception of death.

In the proverbs in both languages, death is accepted as an inevitable end. It is believed that everyone will die one day. Although it is hard to live in the world, dying is difficult.

Death has an excuse, and something will be a reason for it. Death has a time to occur; one can not die if one wants to die. Death is the last journey of life with no return and occurs once only.

Understanding the value of things and people after death is seen in both Turkish and Japanese proverbs. It is also seen that grief for death is unnecessary. After death, there is no meaning; it is too late.

It is seen that proverbs are related to funerals and religious rituals. Turkish proverbs are related to Islam, and Japanese proverbs include motifs related to Buddhism. People do not welcome death, and they are afraid of dying. Death is seen as a negative situation and is compared with other negative things in life. Death is sometimes seen as a relief and escape from being in a worse situation and is acceptable.

Death is an unknown ending. There is uncertainty about the afterlife.

Death-related proverbs include not only human beings. They also include animals. In Turkish proverbs, death-related animals are horses, donkeys, roosters, goats, mice, cats, and sheep. In Japanese, proverbs related to death and animals are horses, tigers, dogs, and lions.

There are contradictory proverbs related to death. In some proverbs, the subject mentioned is treated as opposites in another proverb.

In conclusion, Turkish and Japanese people have different cultural backgrounds, but they have similar expressions and share similar cultural values related to death.

Funding Statement: The authors did not obtain any funding for this research.

Data Availability: All the data are included in the content of the paper.

Conflict of Interest: The authors reported no conflict of interest.

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