BOSNIAN

# International Mother Tongue Day, February 21st

“The yearning for the mother tongue is not limited to speaking but sometimes you just want to listen to it.

**Kemal Zorlak**

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Mother tongue is the first language that we learn, or rather that we learn “automatically”. It is really hard to say anything and especially talk on the mother tongue. I was able to learn a second language (Turkish), which I mostly use in my daily life.

I live in Turkey for almost six years and of course I speak Turkish. I keep my ties with my mother tongue (Bosnian) mostly while reading or chatting with my family and friends via phone or internet. During these six years in Turkey, I mostly miss my mother tongue. The yearning is not limited to speaking but sometimes you just want to listen to it.

Although I speak Turkish very well, it is a ‘foreign’ language for me after all. As I said above, you miss listening to it rather than speaking because no one speaks it where I live and you just want to hear it.

In such instances you realize that the language is not just a mean for communication but also represents a culture, a life style. A child learns his mother tongue when he is very young but it is not just learning a language; it is the progress of adopting to life, learning life.

Similarly, when one interacts with another culture, he thinks that it would suffice to learn the grammar of the spoken language; yat, this is a process, it is the process of adopting to the culture and traditions of that society. You slowly get use to a new life and eventually your mindset changes – just like the way a baby learns. To get to know different people, see different cultures and learn different languages are wonderful, but the mother tongue is the one and the only.