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## Galatat-ı meşhure

**Galatat-ı meşhure** (*Ghalaṭāt-ı meşhūre*, “well-known errors”) is the name given to a word or group of words that are commonly used in Turkish although they are incorrect, but whose use is acceptable. The word *galat* (*ghalat*, “error, corruption of a word”), as an infinitive in Arabic (“to be mistaken, to err”), is given various meanings in Arabic dictionaries, such as “error,” “mistake,” or even “a slip.” It is also possible to describe *galat* as an incompatibility that occurs between what is expressed and what the speaker actually desires to express, without any element of intent. In Turkish dictionaries *galat* is defined as “a word or group of words that come into a language from other languages and in so doing undergo a change in form and meaning.” The plural of the word is *galatat* (*ghalaṭāt*). Authoritative texts written on the subject describe sub-groups in the form of *imla galatı* (*imlā*, “orthography”), *telaffüz galatı* (*telāffüz*, “pronunciation”), and *mana galatı* (*ma'nā*, “meaning”).

Besides *galatat-ı meşhure*, which are acceptable to use, there are also those words whose use is never acceptable,

referred to as *galatat-ı fahişe* (*ghalaṭāt-ı fāhişe*, “excessively bad errors”). Many authors agree that forms which are considered *galat-ı meşhur* cannot easily be abandoned because they have become established in the language. It is in this context that the Turkish expression “*Galat-ı meşhūr, lügat-ı fasihten evladır/yeğdir*” (“a commonly accepted error is better than an overly correct tongue”) is used.

The main types of *galatat-ı meşhure* are as follows:

- Words which, although plural in Arabic, are given the Turkish plural suffix, too, such as *ahbap* (*aḥbāb*) > *ahbaplar* (“acquaintances, friends”); *eşya* (*eşyā*) > *eşyalar* (“things, goods”); and *fukara* (*fuqarā*) > *fukaralar* (“poor people”).
- Words in which a Persian and a Turkish suffix with the same function are used together, such as *buhur-dan-lık* (*bukhūr-dān-lıq*, “a censer”) and *çay-dan-lık* (*çay-dān-lıq*, “a teapot”).
- Words which, although they are plural in Arabic, are used as singular, such as *evlat* (*evlād*) < *veled* (“a child, progeny”); *aza* (*a'dā*) < *uḍv* (“a member; a limb”); *talebe* (*talebe*) < *ṭālib* (“a student”).