

## **BIOGRAPHY**

Prof. Dr. Bülent Okay

Has was born in the Yahyalı village, Akyazi district in the city of Sakarya in 1951 (02/04/1951). He completed his primary and secondary education in Ankara. In 1971, he entered in the Department of Sinology at the Faculty of Humanity (Faculty of Linguistics, History and Geography) the Ankara University and graduated in 1975.

In 1976 he went into the army and completed his compulsory military service under the command of the Naval Forces of Turkey. After being discharged in 1977, he went to Taiwan by taking advantage of scholarship.

He successfully completed the language course at the Educational Center of Chinese Language of Taiwan National Normal University and got certificate (1977-1978).

In 1978, he registered in the “Postgraduate Program of the Department of Chinese Language and Literature” of the National Cheng Chi University. He made studies on Chinese language, philosophy, history, literature and culture for three years. He deserved to get a Postgraduate diploma with his thesis on “The Comparison of Old Turkish and Chinese Legends”. He took “Chinese Art of Calligraphy” and “Chinese Work of Art” lessons the expert teachers during his stay in Taiwan.

In 1981 he returned to Turkey and worked as a “Chinese Translator–Announcer” at the “Voice of the Turkey” Chinese Desk; Department of Foreign Broadcasting, Radio-Television Institution of Turkey for one year.

In 1982 he began working as a Research Assistant at the Branch of Sinology Main Science of the Faculty of Linguistics and History-Geography of the Ankara University.

In 1983 he began his doctorate studies at the Branch of Eastern Languages and Literatures Main Science Institute of Social Science Ankara University. He got the title of “Doctor of Literature” with his thesis on “Central Asian-origin people and their contribution to Chinese Culture during the Era of Sui-T’ang dynasties.”

In 1989 he deserved to get the title of Assistant Associate Professor.

In 1989 he went to Taiwan as an invited guest of National Institution of Science of Taiwan and taught ‘Turkish Speaking’, ‘Turkish Cultural History’ and ‘Present Turkey’ for one year as a guest associate at the Department of Turkology, National University of Cheng-Chi.

In 1993 he was invited to Korea by the Korean Foundation. He did research on Korean culture and shamanism for four months and a half.

In 1993 he went to People’s Republic of China. He did source research and held meetings with the Chinese scientists during his stay at the Beijing University of Language and Culture.

In 1995 he deserved to get the title ‘Associate Professor’

In 1996 he was elected to the Administrative Committee of the faculty. During the same year he was appointed as the Vice-President of the Department of Eastern Languages and Literatures.

In 1998 he was invited to Taiwan by the Center of Sinology Research. He made studies on Chinese history, philosophy and culture for three months. Particularly, he worked on determining the documents concerning Turks in the official dynastic historical books of China named as “25 History”.

He held a conference on “The Chronicle of Sinology Studies in Turkey” at the Central Library of Taiwan.

In 1998 he established the Branch of Chinese Language and Literature under the structure of College of Science and Literature Erciyes University. The Branch of Main Science which started educating 27 students in 1999; produced its first graduates in 2003-2004.

In 1998, at the official visit to People’s Republic of China under the presidency of deputy prime minister, Mr. Bülent Ecevit, he took part as a representative of the Ankara University.

In 1999, he set up the Branch of Korean Language and Literature Main Science under the structure of College of Science-Literature at the Erciyes University.

At the Prime Minister’s of People’s Republic of China’s visit to Turkey, he functioned as the official translator of the Turkish Government.

He opened five personal art exhibitions in which he gave examples from the Traditional Chinese work of art.

On 19 October 2004, he deserved to get the title of ‘Professor’.

He still continues to teach at the Branch of Sinology Main Science, the Faculty of Linguistics and History-Geography. He is married with two children. He speaks Chinese and English.