The number of the information sources and the amount of information that exist on electronic environments and the Web are increasing steadily. Users cater for their information needs related to their topics of interest on these resources using some technologies like search engines. However, such technologies may fall short due to being general purpose, not tailored to a particular domain, and making use of natural language processing methods in a very restricted manner.

In this project, a question answering system that meets the information needs (questions) of students using reliable resources, that provides the students to use resources in foreign languages, and that presents the results in the form of a combined and coherent summary was developed. The theoretical aspect of the project is formed of natural language processing, question answering, text summarization, and machine translation formalisms. The system developed consists of the phases of asking questions by the students in natural language (Turkish), analysis of the questions using natural language processing techniques, identifying resources to answer the questions, translating the foreign resources to Turkish, and analysis, combination and summarization of the related resources oriented towards the requested information need. In this respect, the project aimed at providing the students to access question-based, accurate and reliable information using an environment specialized for answering the students’ information needs.

Keywords: Natural language processing, Question answering, Question analysis, Document summarization, Machine translation, Information retrieval