Araştırma Makalesi Research Article

# Legal text classification in Turkey: A machine learning approach to divorce and zoning decisions

Türkiye'de hukuki metin sınıflandırması: Boşanma ve imar kararlarına makine öğrenmesi yaklaşımı

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**Abstract:** The increasing volume of legal data in recent years requires integrating artificial intelligence (AI) techniques for efficient management and use. Critical challenges include classifying legal texts into specific fields or topics. This is crucial to advancing legal research and practice. This article aims to categorically classify Turkish court decisions, an area that has yet to be adequately researched before, compared to classification studies in international law texts. The study aims to contribute significantly to developing artificial intelligence-supported solutions to guide Turkish legal decisions by dividing legal texts into specific areas, thus increasing the efficiency and accessibility of the legal system. The study first created a data set consisting of divorce and zoning cases. Then, basic models were established with K-Nearest Neighbor (KNN), Support Vector Machines (SVM), Decision Trees (DT), and Random Forests (RF) algorithms to determine the algorithm that would classify the cases most effectively. Hyperparameter optimization was performed for each model to increase the Base Model performances. This process was supported by the 10-fold cross-validation method. Improved models were established with the hyperparameter values obtained as a result of optimization. As a result of comparative analysis, the SVM model had an impressive 90% accuracy rate in classifying legal texts. This result will significantly contribute to the development of intelligent legal systems by achieving significant success in classifying legal texts in Turkey.

**Keywords:** Legal Text Classification, Turkish Court Decisions, Machine Learning Algorithms, Hyperparameter Optimization, SVM

Özet: Son yıllarda artan hukuki veri hacmi, verimli yönetim ve kullanım için Yapay Zeka (AI) tekniklerinin entegrasyonunu gerektirmektedir. Kritik zorluklar arasında hukuki metinlerin belirli alanlara veya konulara göre sınıflandırılması yer almaktadır; bu, hukuki araştırma ve uygulamanın ilerletilmesi açısından çok önemlidir. Bu makale, uluslararası hukuk metinlerindeki sınıflandırma çalışmalarına kıyasla daha önce yeterince araştırılmamış bir alan olan Türk mahkeme kararlarını kategorik olarak sınıflandırmayı amaçlamaktadır. Çalışma, hukuki metinleri belirli alanlara ayırarak, Türk hukuki kararlarında yönlendirmeye yönelik yapay zeka destekli çözümlerin geliştirilmesine önemli ölçüde katkıda bulunmayı ve böylece hukuk sisteminin verimliliğini ve erişilebilirliğini artırmayı amaçlamaktadır. Çalışmada ilk olarak boşanma ve imar davalarından oluşan bir veri seti oluşturulmuştur. Daha sonra davaları en etkin şekilde sınıflandıracak algoritmayı belirlemek için K-En Yakın Komşu (KNN), Destek Vektör Makineleri (SVM), Karar Ağaçları (DT) ve Rastgele Ormanlar (RF) algoritmaları ile temel modeller kurulmuştur. Temel Model performanslarını arttırmak için her bir model için hiperparametre optimizasyonu gerçekleştirilmiştir. Bu süreç, 10 katlı çapraz doğrulama yöntemi ile desteklenmiştir. Optimizasyon sonucunda elde edilen hiperparametre değerleri ile iyileştirilmiş modeller kurulmuştur. Karşılaştırmalı analiz sonucunda, SVM modeli hukuki metinlerin sınıflandırılmasında %90 gibi etkileyici bir doğruluk oranına sahip olmuştur. Bu sonuç, Türkiye'deki hukuki metinlerin sınıflandırılmasında önemli bir başarıyı elde ederek, akılı hukuk sistemlerinin gelişimine önemli katkılar sağlayacaktır.

Anahtar kelimeler: Hukuki Metin Sınıflandırması, Türk Mahkeme Kararları, Makine Öğrenmesi Algoritmaları, Hiperparametre Optimizasyonu, SVM

# 1. Introduction

Legal text classification is a critical process in legal informatics. It aims to systematically classify legal documents into predefined classes or categories according to their content and thematic relevance (Boella et al., 2011). This process facilitates the effective management, access, and analysis of legal texts, thereby increasing the accessibility of legal information and supporting legal research and decision-making processes. Legal text classification leverages advances in Natural Language Processing (NLP) and Machine Learning (ML) to automate the analysis of complex legal language and document structures (Li et. al., 2020).

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Studies in the literature have focused primarily on legal texts from various jurisdictions and languages, reflecting the global interest in legal informatics and the universal challenges posed by legal text classification. Much research has been conducted on English-language legal texts focusing on courts' decisions in the United States, the United Kingdom, and international tribunals such as the European Court of Human Rights (ECtHR). Aletras et al. (2016) have established a precedent for predictive legal analytics using NLP and ML by predicting the outcomes of ECHR cases by analyzing case texts. Chalkidis, Androutsopoulos, et al. (2019) focused on predicting the legal verdict on ECHR cases. Chen et al. (2022) focused on text classification for US legal texts and used pre-trained word embedding-based deep learning algorithms. Studies of Chinese legal texts have analyzed decisions from various levels of the Chinese judiciary, highlighting the challenges and strategies specific to the Chinese legal language. In their study called IFlyLegal, Wang et al. (2019) introduced an integrated system that performs legal document analysis by using deep contextual representations and various attention mechanism techniques. Lei et al. (2017) automatically classified Chinese decision documents using machine learning algorithms. Their study stated that they created a vector space model using TF-IDF after segmenting the words. Zhang et al. (2022) proposed a Chinese legal element identification method based on BERT's contextual relationship capture mechanism to identify elements by measuring the similarity between legal elements and case descriptions. In their study, Benedetto et al. (2023) focused on Italian legal document classification. Their study used the BERT pretrained Language model for legal document classification. Tagarelli and Simeri (2022) used Italian BERT pre-trained on the Italian civil code or its sections for the classification task. Nineesha and Deepalakshmi (2022) used Indian legal documents to classify legal texts in their study. In their research, they compared the performance of deep learning techniques. Kalia et al. (2022) developed models with a Support Vector Machine, Naive Bayes, K-Nearest Neighbor, and Decision Tree to classify case events of the Central Information Commission of India.

In the Republic of Turkey, which has a rich legal heritage, applying artificial intelligence techniques in legal text

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classification is essential and valuable. Despite growing research on the classification of legal texts in various jurisdictions, studies focusing on the Turkish legal system are scarce (Sert et. al., 2022; Aydemir, 2023; Görentaş et. al., 2023; Turan et. al., 2023). This article aims to fill this gap by developing a methodology for automatically classifying Turkish court decisions, focusing on two common cases (zoning and divorce). For this purpose, a data set containing divorce and zoning cases was first created in the study. The data set was put through natural language processing processes. After the DDI steps, the data set was divided into 80% training and 20% test sets using the holdout method. Then, basic models were established using KNN, SVM, DT, and RF machine learning algorithms. Hyperparameter optimization was performed to increase the performance of the models. This process was supported by the 10-fold cross-validation method. As a result, the SVM model achieved an impressive 90% accuracy rate in classifying legal texts.

This study aims to contribute to the development of intelligent legal systems by providing a concrete methodology and application example for studies in the field of legal text classification in Turkey. In addition, it will serve as an essential reference point for developing classification models appropriate to the characteristics of local legal systems.

# 2. Materials and Methods

## 2.1. Dataset

In order to develop natural language processing applications in the field of law, it is important to first examine the online decision sharing of these courts and determine in which court field the study data set will be created. Table 1 shows online decision sharing information of the courts of the Republic of Turkey.

In sharing the decision contents, the first instance court decisions of the Judicial Judiciary and Administrative Jurisdiction were examined. The first point that draws attention in these reviews is that there needs to be a platform where the state shares decisions. As a result, commercial web pages sharing legal decisions were searched and decision examples were accessed on the Lexpera

Table 1. Online decision pages of the courts of the Republic of Turkey (Turan, 2023)					
	Court	Link			
	First Instance Courts	https://www.lexpera.com.tr/			
Judiciary	Regional Courts of Justice	https://emsal.uyap.gov.tr/ https://www.lexpera.com.tr/			
	Supreme Court	https://karararama.yargitay.gov.tr/			
	First Instance Courts	https://www.lexpera.com.tr/			
Administrative jurisdiction	Regional Administrative Courts	https://emsal.uyap.gov.tr/ https://www.lexpera.com.tr/			
	Council of state	https://karararama.danistay.gov.tr/			
Constitutional Judiciary	Constitutional Court	https://www.anayasa.gov.tr/tr/kararlar-bilgi-bankasi/			

website. A data set was created by downloading the first instance court decisions, including zoning and divorce case decisions, from the relevant page to be used in the study. The representation of the most frequently encountered words in the texts of zoning and divorce decisions in the data set is given in Figure 1.



Figure 1. Display of the most frequently encountered words in the court texts included

## 2.2. Natural Language Processing

NLP is a subfield of artificial intelligence (AI) and linguistics that focuses on the interaction between computers and human (natural) languages. It aims to enable computers to understand, interpret, and produce human language in a valuable and meaningful way. NLP combines computational linguistics (rule-based modeling of human language) with statistical, machine learning, and deep learning models. These technologies allow computers to process human language in the form of text or audio data and 'understand' the whole meaning of the



Figure 2. Classification of legal texts into divorce and zoning cases using Natural Language Processing

speaker or writer, together with their intent and feelings (Hirschberg and Manning, 2015).

NLP is crucial to data analytics; It enables automatic analysis of large volumes of text data to gain insight, identify trends, and detect sentiment. This is particularly relevant in marketing, customer service, healthcare, and legal informatics, where understanding human communication can provide a competitive advantage and operational efficiency (Zhong et.al., 2020). In law, NLP facilitates the analysis of legal documents, case law, and legislation, helping legal professionals quickly find relevant information and make more informed decisions (Ashley and Brüninghaus, 2009; Alarie et. al., 2018). Figure 2 shows the classification of legal texts into divorce and zoning cases using natural language processing.

## 2.3. Classification Algorithms

## **K-Nearest Neighbor**

The KNN algorithm is a simple yet powerful non-parametric method for classification. It operates on a very intuitive principle: an object is classified by a majority vote of its neighbors, with the object being assigned to the class most common among its k nearest neighbors (k is a positive integer, typically small). If k=1, then the object is assigned to the class of its nearest neighbor (Laaksonen and Oja, 1996; Mucherino et. al., 2009).

In the basic equation, the distance between two points (e.g., x and y) is typically calculated using the Euclidean distance, though other distances (Manhattan, Minkowski, etc.) can be used depending on the context:

$$d(x,y) = \sqrt{\sum_{i}^{n} (x_i - y_i)^2}$$
(1)

where n is the number of dimensions (features) and  $x_i$ ,  $y_i$  are the values of the ith feature for points x and y, respectively.

#### Support Vector Machines

SVM is a set of supervised learning methods used for classification, regression, and outliers detection. The basic idea behind SVM is to find the hyperplane that best divides a dataset into two classes. The hyperplane's equation can be written as follows (Gunn, 1998; Hearst et.al., 1998; Awad et.al., 2015):

$$w.x - b = 0 \tag{2}$$

where *w* represents the weight vector, *x* is the input features, and *b* is the bias. The weight vector *w* determines the orientation of the hyperplane, while the bias *b* determines the distance of the hyperplane from the origin. Together, they define the decision boundary: points for which  $w \cdot x - b > 0$  fall into one class, while those for which  $w \cdot x - b < 0$  fall into the other. SVMs aim to maximize the margin between the classes, which is inversely proportional to the norm of *w*.

#### **Decision Trees**

DT is a nonparametric supervised learning method used for classification and regression. A decision tree builds classification or regression models in the form of a tree structure, breaking down a dataset into smaller subsets while simultaneously developing an associated decision tree incrementally. The final result is a tree with decision nodes and leaf nodes (Gupta et.al., 2017; Patel and Prajapati, 2018; Charbuty and Abdulazeez, 2021).

The decision at each node is made based on the feature  $x_i$  that maximizes or minimizes a certain criterion, such as the Gini impurity or the information gain. The information gain is calculated as follows:

$$IG(D_p, x_i) = I(D_p) - \sum_{j=N_p}^{m} \frac{N_j}{N_p} I(D_j)$$
(3)

where IG(Dp,xi) is the information gain of parent dataset Dp split on feature xi, I is the impurity measure (e.g., entropy for information gain), Np is the number of samples in the parent dataset, Nj is the number of samples in the *j*th child dataset, and *m* is the number of child datasets. The equation calculates the reduction in impurity or "entropy" achieved by splitting the parent dataset Dp on feature xi. The goal is to maximize this reduction, thereby making the data subsets as pure as possible at each step of the tree.

#### **Random Forests**

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RF is an ensemble learning method for classification, regression, and other tasks. It operates by constructing a multitude of decision trees at training time and outputting the class, that is, the mode of the classes (classification) or mean prediction (regression) of the individual trees (Breiman, 2001; Cutler et.al., 2007; Ali et.al., 2012).

Random Forests do not have a simple equation like the algorithms mentioned above, as they are based on the aggregation of the results of multiple decision trees. However, the general principle of operation can be described as:

$$RF(x) = \frac{1}{B} \sum_{b=1}^{B} T_b(x)$$
(4)

where RF(x) is the prediction of the Random Forest for input *B* is the number of trees in the forest, and Tb(x)is the prediction of the *b*th decision tree. This formula represents the aggregation process in Random Forests, where the outputs of multiple decision trees are combined to produce a final result. For classification tasks, this typically involves selecting the most frequent prediction (mode) among all trees in the forest.

## 2.4. Hyperparameter Optimization with GridSearchCv

Optimizing machine learning algorithms is a critical step in the model development, ensuring that models achieve the best possible performance on given tasks (Feurer and Hutter, 2019; Yang and Shami, 2020). This process involves setting the model's hyperparameters, the configuration settings used to configure machine learning models. GridSearchCV is a hyperparameter tuning technique that comprehensively searches a specific subset of hyperparameters, evaluating and comparing the performance of models trained with each combination through cross-validation (Kartini et.al., 2021; Alhakeem et.al., 2022). The goal is to find the optimal set of hyperparameters that results in the best model performance.

The equation of GridSearchCV for selecting the optimal hyperparameter set (H\*) can be abstractly formulated as:

$$H^* = \arg_H \max CV_k(M(H, D_{train}), D_{val}$$
(5)

- H\* is the optimal set of hyperparameters.
- *H* ranges over the grid of possible hyperparameter combinations.
- CVk represents the K-fold cross-validation process.
- *M*(*H*,*Dtrain*) is the model trained with hyperparameters *H* on the training dataset *Dtrain*.
- *Dval* is the validation dataset used in cross-validation.

## 2.5. Evaluation metrics

Evaluation metrics are crucial for evaluating the performance of classification models and provide information about how well a model's predictions match actual observed results. These measurements help understand the strengths and weaknesses of the model, guiding improvements and adjustments (Hossin and Sulaiman, 2015; Vujović, 2021). Some evaluation metrics commonly used in classification: Accuracy, Precision, Recall (Sensitivity), F1 Score, Area Under the ROC Curve (AUC-ROC), and Confusion Matrix (Fatourechi et.al. 2008; Liu et.al., 2014).

Accuracy is one of the most straightforward metrics used in evaluating classification models. It measures the proportion of correct predictions (both true positives and true negatives) among the total number of cases examined.

The accuracy of a model is calculated as:

$$Accuracy = \frac{TP + TN}{TP + TN + FP + FN}$$
(6)

where:

- *TP* (True Positives) is the number of correct positive predictions,
- *TN* (True Negatives) is the number of correct negative predictions,
- *FP* (False Positives) is the number of incorrect positive predictions, and
- FN (False Negatives) is the number of incorrect negative predictions.

# 3. Experiments

This study consists of six main chapters focusing on classifying Turkish legal texts. First, the Turkish legal dataset was pre-processed by applying natural language processing (NLP) techniques. This pre-processing phase involves making the texts ready for analysis. Secondly, a weighting process was applied to determine the importance of each term in the vector space model using the Term Frequency Inverse Document Frequency (tf-idf) method. This method assigns importance to words in the text based on their distribution in the document collection. In the third section, four different classification models based on supervised learning were developed with KNN, SVM, DT, and RF. These models are designed to be used to classify Turkish legal texts. In the fourth stage, hyperparameter optimization was performed to improve the performance of these classification models. This optimization helped determine the necessary model parameters to ensure the best performance. The fifth part includes the installation of tuned models after optimization processes. This phase involves creating final versions of the developed classification models by integrating the optimization process results. In the last section, the classification performances of the developed models were compared using the accuracy evaluation metric. This evaluation reveals the effectiveness and reliability of the models in the legal text classification task. The study's methodology is visualized with the system diagram presented in Figure 3.

Firstly, legal experts were interviewed to analyze the divorce and zoning decision texts to be used in the study. As a result of these interviews, information not necessary for the research, such as the subject of the application and the application process, was removed from the decision texts. Figure 4 shows the sample structure of the decision text, and Figure 5 shows the sample structure obtained after the data preprocessing process.

The court decision texts were later added to the Excel





work file. In the study, decisions regarding "zoning" are defined as "1," and decisions regarding "divorce" are defined as "0" in the Excel file. Figure 6 shows the Excel data set's first 20 decision texts and class information.

In this research, the classification study of Turkish legal texts begins with applying natural language processing techniques. First, a comprehensive data preprocessing process was applied to make the legal texts suitable for analysis. This process involves converting texts into a standard form and cleaning out elements unnecessary for analysis. The data preprocessing steps performed on the data in the study are shown in Figure 7.

Figure 8 shows the data's appearance before and after applying stopwords, noisy entity removal, and lowercase operations, which are data pre-processing steps. After these processes, frequently recurring words and noisy data were removed from the data, and uppercase letters were converted to lowercase letters.

The study used the Term Frequency - Inverse Document Frequency (TF-IDF) method for vector representation and classification of Turkish legal texts. TF-IDF calculates the importance of a word in a document by evaluating the frequency of that word in the document (TF) and the rarity of the word in the entire document collection (IDF) (Yun-tao at.al., 2005; Bafna et.al., 2016). This is a practical feature extraction method frequently used in text mining and natural language processing. The TF-IDF method used in classifying Turkish legal texts is a powerful tool to reveal semantic differences between documents and represent texts. This method allows the creation of high-quality features necessary for training classification models.

When calculating the *tf* text frequency value, the ratio of the number of terms in the sentence to the total number of words in the sentence is considered. The calculation method is shown in Equation 7.

$$tf(t,d) = \frac{f_{t,d}}{\sum t'\epsilon \, d \, ft',d} \tag{7}$$

The *idf* importance value is the base two logarithms of the ratio of the total number of sentences to the total number of the selected term in all sentences. The calculation method is shown in Equation 8.

$$idf = (t, D) = \log \frac{N}{|\{d \in D : t \in d\}|}$$
(8)

After calculating the tf and idf values, the tf-idf value of each word is obtained by multiplying the two values. The calculation method is shown in Equation 9.

$$tfidf = (t,d,D) = tf(t,d).idf(t,D)$$
<sup>(9)</sup>

In the study, tf-idf vector calculations were made for all words in the data set. Figure 9 shows an example of the calculated tf-idf values of words.

In the third part of the research, models were developed

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#### Figure 4. Decision text example structure

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Mahkememizde görülmekte olan davanın yapılan açık yargılaması sonunda, Davası ... Metraj Analiz Limited Şirketi vekili 12.01.2017 harç tarihli dava dilekçesiyle; müvekkilinin, Izmir ili, Karabağlar ilçısı, ... Mahallesi, ... ada, ... oğuparısıfin maliki davalı ... arasında 00.03.2015 tarihlinde ilmar plant değiştime ve bu değiştiliği İLB. Ye onaşlattırma konulu bir sözleşme yapıldığını, bu sözleşmeni onaşlasmasından sonra müvekbili şiket üzerine düşen şiş gerçekleştirme kişin şehir plancısı ... ile anlışdığını, davalı ... öş şehir plancısı ... 'a bu şieri takiş etmesi için veklet verdiğini, ada, ... parele lişkin başvırunun kirabağlar Beledeyisi'nin 01.02.2016 tarih. ...şışık karanı ile uşun bulunduğunu, İzmir Böyükşehir Belediye Meclisinin 12.07.2016 tarih 0.5.695 sayık karanı ile alay \_\_parteer ingen bayonulain karatagaa reenveytein mut 2,2016 taim: 06,805 sayk karan ile onsytamidjini, Karabagaa Heedingeni Que Proje Middinidigi tarahnadan 04.10.2016 taim: 06,805 sayk karan ile onsytamidjini, Karabagaa Heedingeni Que Proje Middinidigi tarahnadan 04.10.2016 taim: 06,805 sayk karan ile onsytamidjini, Karabagaa Heedingeni Que Proje Middinidigi tarahnadan 04.10.2016 taim: 06,805 sayk karan ile projekti taika sayka sinteinia sonunda kesintestegikini, mitoveksimi tareine mitoveksilinia davabaya teli deliminj olmasan angimen ödeme yapanaynca timi 22.1 kra Middinidiginini \_\_ casa sayk donyusi ile takite geritkerini, ancak davalami titar erefere takite ile urdundijami, titcara yarvis ve haska olduking sottakan angimen ödeme yapataka ileminen masraflarının möveksiki tarahnan karylanasağı, socka bav ba olguşaşamaların olumlu sonuçlarıması halinde davalının toplami 360,000,00 Ti. döemeyi tahabit ettiğini, Belediyeve bayavarak inar plasman değiştirilməsinin bitendiğini, davalının tu bipente belediğinden daha faralı kar de ettiğini, bisan şikaseliğinin 2,110 m 'em serbeste taylarının yapan kadar böyle bir erviyoyon çağanasının mümkin olmadiğını, bu nedenle boras ve false kiranın versi adıdayanı, dömenlerin de tarahheimi birilemini johanan ardığını döraylanın tatığı kaya taylanı ettiştik 12.12.016 tarihinde dokenmesi geriteştiki, davayaya yapatını hatarda ğiştiki kive ervitmesi edenşiye baska taylanın adıştık ve 2 zaları tayla kasana rağının demelle beleriye başayını yapası kadar böyle bir erviyoyon çağınasının mümkin olmadığını, bu nedenle boras ve false kiranın versi adıdayanı, dömenleri de tarahheimi birilemini yolmayatının tarabaş göndik kive ervitmesi edenşiyedi baska dava başayayatını taylaşı aşayının hatardaş göndik kira veritmesi edenşiye baskarını sonu ala 06.11.2016 tarihinde si baseniş sona erdiğini, olu selin kira terkinden Ribaren fa bashatadığını, yapatayata başayatadı kira yapatanın taylaşı şaşayatının başayatagı şaşıştışdış beletiren şişaş baştaştıştaştıştıştıştıştıştıştıştıştıştıştaştı LEXPERA<sup>®</sup> Savfa 1/13

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verdiğini, yine bu belgede de BL-4 (4 kat), 0.40/1,60 nizamlı olarak konut yapısının korunduğunun belirtildiğini, ayrıca 1/5000 ölçekli nazım imar planı doğrultusunda o bölgede yer alan tüm

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using KNN, SVM, DT, and RF algorithms. To improve the performance of these models, a comprehensive hyperparameter optimization process was conducted using the GridSearchCV object of the scikit-learn library. In GridSearchCV, separate models were built for each of the determined hyperparameter values, and the hyperparameter combination that provided the highest accuracy rate was determined. Figure 10 shows the accuracy rates of each model depending on parameter changes. Table 2 shows the hyperparameter values that provide the most successful results.

After the hyperparameter optimization process was completed, the performances of the final models were analyzed using the accuracy evaluation criterion. According to these evaluation results, the Support Vector

1	Cases 🔽	Class 💌
2	müşterek çocuğun yurt dışında bulunan mutat meskenine iade edilmesine kar	0
3	aile mahkemesi tarafından verilen tedbir kararında geçen ifadeler nedeniyle n	0
4	taşınmazın planda önce kamu hizmeti alanına ayrılması sonra da ticari rekrea	1
5	belediyenin dere yatağını imara açmasından kaynaklı çarpık yapılaşma ve DSİ	1
5	aile birliğinin temelden sarsılması nedenine dayalı olarak karar verildi	0
7	taşınmazın koruma amaçlı uygulama planda doğal sit alanı olarak belirlenme	1
3	aile hayatına saygı hakkının ihlal edildiğine ilişkin iddianın açıkça dayanaktan y	0
9	kişinin maddi ve manevi varlığını koruma ve geliştirme hakkının ihlal edildiğine	0
0	şiddete maruz kalan kadının koruyucu tedbirler kapsamında işyeri değişikliği t	0
1	taşınmazın orman olduğu olgusuna ve orman niteliğindeki taşınmazların zilyet	1
2	üzerinde aile konutu şerhi bulunan taşınmazla ilgili olarak ortaklığın satış yoluy	1
3	taraflar arasında görülen nafaka davasının yapılan muhakemesi sonunda mah	0
4	mülkiyet hakkının ihlalinin sonuçlarının ortadan kaldırılması için yeniden yargıl	1
5	belediyece uygulamaya geçirilen planının kanunda öngörülen şekil şartlarına ı	1
6	park ve dinlenme alanı olarak belirlenmesi yönündeki müdahalenin kamu yara	1
7	başvurucu ve eşinin dava konusunda anlaştıklarını tespit ederek tarafların ma	0
8	şeref ve itibar hakkının ihlal edildiğine ilişkin iddianın açıkça dayanaktan yoksu	0
9	özel mülkiyette bulunan taşınmazların kamu hizmeti alanı olarak ayrılmasında	1
0	müşterek çocuğun velayetinin annesi yerine babasına verilmesi nedeniyle ebe	0
1	özel parselasyon sonucu yol olarak terk edilen taşınmaza kamulaştırma işlem	1

Figure 6. Excel representation of data set content



#### Figure 7. Data preprocessing steps performed in the study

Betore Data Preprocessing		Data Preprocessing			After Data Preprocessing
Tür	Konu	nltk.download('stopwords') from nltk.cornus import stopwords		Tür	Kon
0 ve müşterek çocuğun yurt dışında buluna	in mutat	<pre>sw = set(stopwords.words('turkish'))</pre>	0	0	müşterek çocuğun yurt dışında bulunan mutat me.
1 0 aile mahkemesi tarafından verilen ted	bir karar	<pre>[nltk_data] Downloading package stopwords to [nltk_data] C:\Users\Administrator\AppData\Roaming\nltk_data</pre>	1	0	aile mahkemesi tarafından verilen tedbir karar
2 1 taşınmazın planda önce kamu hizmeti ala	anına ay	[nltk_data] Package stopwords is already up-to-date!	2	1	taşınmazın planda önce kamu hizmeti alanına ay
3 1 belediyenin dere yatağını imara açmasın	dan kay	SW	3	1	belediyenin dere yatağını imara açmasından kay
4 0 aile birliğinin temelden sarsılması nec	lenine d	'nede', 'nede',	4	0	aile birliğinin temelden sarsılması nedenine o
		<pre>nerode ,</pre>			

Figure 8. Data appearance before and after applying data preprocessing

Machines model was determined to have the highest performance, with an average accuracy value of 90%. The performance results of all models included in the study are shown in Figure 11.

These findings comparatively evaluate the effectiveness of these classification models on the legal text classification task and show that the SVM model achieves a significantly higher accuracy rate than other models in this particular context. These results underline that using the SVM model in classifying legal texts can produce high-performance results under specific hyperparameter settings.

## 4. Results and Discussion

This research addresses how Artificial Intelligence (AI) techniques can effectively classify legal texts in the face of increasing volumes of legal data. In particular, a study was conducted to classify court decisions in Turkey categorically. In this context, a data set containing divorce and zoning situations was created, and basic classification models were developed using K-nearest neighbors (KNN), Support Vector Machines (SVM), Decision Trees (DT), and Random Forests (RF) algorithms. Hyperparameter optimization was performed to increase the performance of the models, and improved models were created as a result of this process, which was supported by the 10-fold cross-validation method. The main finding of the research is that the SVM model performs best after hyperparameter optimization with an impressive average accuracy rate of 90%. This result shows that the SVM model is superior to other traditional classification methods in the legal text classification task, especially under specific hyperparameter settings.

Table 2. Hyperparameter results of models						
Models	HyperParameters	Value				
K Nopert Neighborg Model	n_neighbors	8				
K-Medest Neighbors Model	p(metric)	Euclidean				
Support Voctor Machines Madel	С	1				
Support vector machines model	kernel	linear				
Dandom Forget Madal	max_features	8				
Random Forest Model	n_estimators	1000				
Decision Tree Model	criterion	gini				
	max_depth	2				
	min_samples_split	3				

<pre>from sklearn.feature_extraction.text import TfidfVectorizer tf=TfidfVectorizer() text_tf= tf.fit_transform(df['Konu']) print(text_tf)</pre>						
(0, 652)	0.33707466117274276					
(0, 360)	0.2221086378643965					
(0, 190)	0.33707466117274276					
(0, 284)	0.33707466117274276					
(0, 439)	0.33707466117274276					
(0, 447)	0.3156044606996708					

Figure 9. Example of calculated TF-IDF values for words in the dataset.

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Figure 10. Accuracy rates of models depending on parameter changes





The research revealed how natural language processing and machine learning techniques can effectively classify Turkish legal texts. This work also provided valuable insights into optimizing the hyperparameters of specific machine-learning models. This optimization process is a critical step that significantly improves the model's performance. Additionally, this study has significantly contributed to legal technology applications by revealing the applicability of machine learning models in legal text classification.

This study fills a significant gap compared to the existing literature by focusing on the classification of Turkish court decisions, which is an under-researched area according to international law texts. Previous studies have mainly focused on legal documents from other jurisdictions, such as European (Kaur and Bozic, 2019; Cui et. al., 2023) and American (LI et. al., 2019; Eliot, 2020) case law. The focus of this study on Turkish legal texts brings a new dimension to the field of legal informatics. It reveals the applicability and effectiveness of artificial intelligence in a different legal system.

The originality of this research lies in its application of

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artificial intelligence techniques to classify Turkish legal texts that are unique in terms of their linguistic and legal characteristics, especially divorce and zoning cases. This study highlights the potential of machine learning in improving the efficiency and accuracy of legal document classification, especially by achieving a high accuracy rate with the SVM model. In addition to contributing to legal informatics, this research also provides a practical tool for lawyers in Turkey.

Future research should focus on expanding the types of legal documents analyzed and increasing the dataset size to increase the robustness and generalizability of the models. Additionally, integrating pre-trained language models such as BERT and GPT-4 can further improve classification accuracy and provide deeper insights into the semantic structures of legal texts. These advances can significantly benefit legal technology practices and assist legal professionals in their research and decision-making processes.

As a result, this research has made significant contributions to developing effective machine learning models for Turkish legal text classification. The findings obtained may guide future studies on model selection and hyperparameter optimization. In addition, this study will contribute to the development of legal technology applications by providing a solid basis for legal text analysis and classification research. Finally, for future research to proceed successfully and expand the applications of artificial intelligence in the field of law, case texts in the Republic of Turkey need to be made more widely available online. This will expand the scope of legal text classification studies and allow more effective use of artificial intelligence technologies in legal research and applications.

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