

An Outline of Turkish Syntax

Elvan Göçmen, Onur Şehitoğlu, Cem Bozşahin

March 1995

Contents

1	Overview	1
1.1	Head position	1
1.2	Pro-Drop	1
1.3	Complement drop	2
1.4	Concordance	2
1.4.1	Subject-verb agreement	2
1.4.2	Possessor-possessed agreement	3
1.5	Case marking	3
1.6	Scrambling	5
2	Noun group	7
2.1	Specifier segment	8
2.1.1	Quantifiers	9
2.1.2	Article	10
2.1.3	Demonstrative adjectives	10
2.1.4	Genitive nouns	11
2.1.5	Classifier nouns	12
2.1.6	Relativized nouns	12
2.1.7	Relative clauses	13
2.2	Modifier segment	16
2.2.1	Qualitative and quantitative adjectives	16
2.2.2	Unit nouns	17
2.3	The head	18
2.3.1	Pronoun	19
2.3.2	Proper noun	19
3	Postposition group	19
3.1	Postpositions	20
3.1.1	Postpositions with the nominative case	20
3.1.2	Postpositions with the accusative case	20
3.1.3	Postpositions with the nominative/genitive case	20
3.1.4	Postpositions with the dative case	21
3.1.5	Postpositions with the ablative case	21
3.2	Case-marked nouns versus postpositions	21
3.3	Postposition attachment	23
4	Adjective group	23
4.1	Comparative adjectives	24
4.2	Superlative adjectives	24

5	Adverb group	24
5.1	Reduplications	24
5.2	Case-marked place adverbs	25
5.3	Temporal adverb groups	26
5.4	Verb groups with adverbial use	26
6	Verb group	28
6.1	Predicate types	28
6.2	Subcategorization	29
6.3	Auxiliary verbs	30
6.4	Existential predicates	32
6.5	Infinitive form of the verbs	32
6.6	Gerundive forms of the verbs	33
6.7	Syntax of causative verbs	33

This document describes Turkish syntax. We tried to be non-committal to a particular linguistic theory in this description, but occasional theory-specific terminology might creep in at certain parts.

1 Overview

Turkish syntax is characterized by certain distinctive properties. In this section, we give a brief summary of the basic principles and mechanisms.

1.1 Head position

Turkish is head-final; modifiers/specifiers always precede the modified/specified. For example:

- (1) a. uzun sıcak bir yaz
long hot a summer
‘a long hot summer’
- b. babasının arabasının altında
father-PERS-GEN car-PERS-POSS-GEN under
‘under (his/her) father’s car’
- c. epey yavaşça geçti
fairly slowly pass-TENSE
‘passed fairly slowly’

Head-final feature is also reflected in the unmarked word order S-O-V where the main constituent (the verb) is positioned at the end:

- (2) Zengin adam araba sattı.
rich man car sell-TENSE
‘rich man sold a car.’

1.2 Pro-Drop

Turkish is a Pro-Drop language. If the subject is a pronoun, it may be omitted

- (3) a. Ben elmaları aldım.
I apples buy-TENSE-PERS
'I bought the apples.'
- b. Elmaları aldım.
- c. Onlar seni özledi.
they you miss-TENSE
'They missed you.'
- d. Seni özlediler.
you miss-TENSE-PERS
'(They) missed you.'

Subject pronouns may be retained for emphatic (4a) or contrastive (4b) purposes as well [7]:

- (4) a. Seni ben yetiştirdim.
you-ACC I bring up-TENSE-PERS
'I brought you up.'
- b. Sen yapabilirsin, onlar yapamaz.
you do-MOD-PERS they do-MOD-NEG
'You may do it, but they cannot.'

Pronominal possessors of possessive nouns may also be omitted:

- (5) a. Benim kalemim
I-GEN pen-POSS
'My pen'
- b. Kalemim
- c. Senin mavi kaplı kitabın
You-GEN blue cover-ADJ book-POSS
'Your blue-covered book'
- c. Mavi kaplı kitabın

1.3 Complement drop

Turkish is also a complement-drop language. That is, a sentence may consist of a verb group only.

- (6) a. Sen kitabı hızlı okudun
You book-ACC fast read-TENSE-PERS
'You read the book fast.'
- b. Kitabı hızlı okudun.
- c. Hızlı okudun.

1.4 Concordance

1.4.1 Subject-verb agreement

The subject and the verb agree in person and number by overt markings. In case of third person, they may be omitted from the verb if they can be inferred from the subject, as in (3c). If the subject pronoun is dropped, the number and the person have to be carried by the verb, as in (3d).

1.4.2 Possessor-possessed agreement

In a genitive noun group, the pronominal possessor and the possessed noun agree in person and number:

- (7) a. Bizim evimiz
We-GEN(Per1Plu) house-POSS(Per1Plu)
'Our house'
- b. *Bizim eviniz
We-GEN house-POSS(Per2Plu)
- c. *Bizim evim
We-GEN house-POSS(Per1Sing)

If the possessor is not a pronoun, the possessed noun group is marked in third person.

1.5 Case marking

Turkish relies on overt case marking more heavily than a positional language such as English. There are seven cases ¹:

case	suffix	examples
nominative		ev, kapı
accusative	-(y)H	evi, kapıyı
dative/allative	-(y)A	çocuğa, eve, kapıya
locative	-dA	evde, kapıda
ablative	-dAn	evden, kapıdan
genitive	-(n)Hn	evin, kapının
comitative/instrumental	(y)lA	çocukla, evle, kapıyla

Nominative case is used for marking subjects (8a) and indefinite/nonreferential objects (8b):

- (8) a. Adam kapıyı açtı.
man door-ACC open-TENSE
'The man opened the door.'

¹Banguoğlu also considers **-cA**, **-İ**, **-sız**, (equative, munitive and privative, respectively) as cases; see ([1]:329–331).

- b. Çocuklar kedi kovaladı.
 child-PLU cat chase-TENSE
 ‘The children chased a cat.’

Accusative case is used for marking definite objects². Proper nouns and pronouns take the suffix obligatorily when used as objects:

- (9) a. Çocuk kitabı okumamış.
 child book-ACC read-NEG-TENSE
 ‘The child hasn’t read the book.’
- b. Köpek Ayşe’yi ısırıldı.
 dog Ayşe-ACC bite-TENSE
 ‘The dog bit Ayşe.’
- c. Herkes onu suçluyor.
 everyone he/she-ACC blame-TENSE
 Everyone blames him/her.’

-(y)**A** case suffix (a) serves the functions of prepositions ‘to’ and ‘for’ in English (10a–b), (b) marks the indirect object (10c), (c) marks the oblique object in some intransitive verbs that subcategorize for nouns in the dative case (cf., 10d and 10e). Semantically, it marks the dative (10b–d), or the allative (10a) cases.

- (10) a. Çocukları Ankara’ya gönderdik.
 child-PLU-ACC Ankara-DAT send-TENSE-PERS
 ‘(We) sent the children to Ankara.’
- b. Çiçekleri sana aldım.
 flower-PLU-ACC you-DAT buy-TENSE-PERS
 ‘(I) bought the flowers for you.’
- c. Mehmet ekmeği adama verdi.
 Mehmet bread-ACC man-DAT give-TENSE
 ‘Mehmet gave the man the bread.’
- d. Kadın bahçeye baktı.
 woman garden-DAT look-TENSE
 ‘The woman looked at the garden.’
- e. Kadın kızgınca baktı.
 woman angrily watch-TENSE
 ‘The woman looked angrily.’

The locative case corresponds to ‘at’, ‘in’ and ‘on’ in English when the noun indicates the location of an action or an object.

- (11) a. Filmi evde seyrettik.
 movie-ACC house-LOC watch-TENSE-PERS
 ‘(We) watched the movie at home.’

²for a detailed discussion of Turkish accusative and genitive cases, see [4]

- b. Kitapları arabada bıraktım.
book-PLU-ACC car-LOC leave-TENSE-PERS
'(I) left the books in the car.'
- c. Tepedeki ev çok güzeldir.
hill-LOC-REL house very beautiful-AUX
'The house on the hill is very beautiful.'

The ablative case corresponds to the English preposition 'from' when the noun indicates the source of an action or an object.

- (12) a. Peyniri dükkandan aldım.
cheese-ACC shop-ABL get-TENSE-PERS
'(I) got the cheese from the store.'
- b. İstanbul'dan İzmir'e gittiler.
İstanbul-ABL İzmir-DAT go-TENSE-PERS
'(They) went from İstanbul to İzmir.'
- c. Peynir süttten yapılır.
cheese milk-ABL make-PASS-TENSE'
'The cheese is made from milk.'

The genitive case marks the possessor in the possessor-possessed relationships. It roughly corresponds to the English preposition 'of'.

- (13) a. Mehmet'in arabası bozulmuş.
Mehmet-GEN car-POSS break-TENSE
'Mehmet's car broke down.'
- b. Bu kasabanın halkı erken yatar.
This town-GEN people-POSS early sleep-TENSE
'The people of this town go to bed early.'

The comitative/instrumental case evolved from the postposition *ile*. It marks the comitative (14a) or instrumental (14b–c) relationships.

- (14) a. İstanbul'a Mehmet'le gittim.
İstanbul-DAT Mehmet-COM go-TENSE-PERS
'(I) went to İstanbul with Mehmet.'
- b. İstanbul'a arabayla gittim.
İstanbul-DAT car-INST go-TENSE-PERS
'(I) went to İstanbul by car.'
- c. Ekmeği bıçakla kestim.
bread-ACC knife-INST cut-TENSE-PERS
'(I) cut the bread with a knife.'

Table 1: Percentage of different word orders (500 adult, 100 child utterances)

Order	Children	Adult Speech
SOV	46%	48%
OSV	7%	8%
SVO	17%	25%
OVS	20%	13%
VSO	10%	6%
VOS	0%	0%

1.6 Scrambling

Usage statistics [5] for different word orders are given in Table 1. Sentence-initial position marks the topic, pre-verbal constituent is the emphasis, and post-verbal position is for the background—or ”afterthought”—information [2]. Because the order is pragmatically controlled, one would get a different reading for each variation in the order:

- (15) a. Ben kalemi adamdan aldım.
 I pen-ACC man-ABL get-TENSE-PERS
 ‘I got the pen from the man.’
- b. Ben adamdan kalemi aldım.
 ‘It is the pen that I got from the man.’
- c. Kalemi ben aldım adamdan.
 ‘It is I who got the pen from the man.’
- d. Aldım kalemi ben adamdan.
 ‘I did get the pen from the man.’

If the subject or the object noun group is nonreferential (i.e., no case marking or qualifier), it must come right before the verb:

- (16) a. Kitap masada duruyor.
 book table-DAT stay-TENSE
 ‘The book is on the table.’
- b. Masada kitap duruyor.
 table-DAT book stay-TENSE
 ‘A book is on the table.’
- c. Kütüphanede kitap okunur.
 library-DAT book read-TENSE
 ‘One reads books in the library.’

In cases where both the subject and the object are nonreferential, the object occupies the pre-verbal position.

- (17) a. Çocuklar ders çalışıyor.
 child-PLU lesson study-TENSE
 ‘Children are studying (their) lessons.’
- b. *Ders çocuklar çalışıyor.

Sentential adjuncts and adverbials can scramble freely. This allows for discontinuous constituents:

- (18) a. Bunu yapmamasını adama önceden söylemişim.
 This-ACC do-INF-NEG-POSS man-DAT before-ABL say-TENSE-AUX-PERS
 ‘(I) told the man before not to do this.’
- b. Bunu yapmamasını önceden adama söylemişim.

Word order variation is also possible in embedded sentences³ (e.g., relative clauses, gerunds, complements):

- (19) a. Mehmet Ahmet’in sigarayı bıraktığını söyledi.
 Mehmet Ahmet-GEN cigarette-ACC quit-REL(comp)-ACC say-TENSE
 ‘Mehmet said that Ahmet quit smoking.’
- b. Sigarayı Ahmet’in bıraktığını Mehmet söyledi.

2 Noun group

By noun group, we mean any constituent whose head is a nominal element. In Turkish, head noun is the last element of the noun group. Noun groups may have different functions within a sentence:

Subject of a Clause:

Tören bitti
 ceremony finish-PAST
 ‘The ceremony is over’

Object of a Clause:

Son *kitabını* sevmedim
 latest book-POSS like-NEG-PAST-PERS
 ‘I didn’t like (his/her/your) latest book’

Complement of a Clause:

Çocukları *sinemaya* götürdüm
 child-PLU-ACC cinema-DAT accompany-PAST-PERS
 ‘I accompanied the children to the cinema’

Object of a Postposition:

Odadaki *düzene* göre masayı yerleştirdim
 room-LOC-REL arrangement-DAT according table-ACC arrange-PAST-PERS
 ‘I fit the table in accordance with the room’s arrangement’

Specifier for Possessive:

³see [2] for scrambling constraints on each type of embedded sentence

Segments	Alternatives	Examples
Specifier	Quantifier	her, bazı, biraz, kimi, herbir, birçok
	Article	bir
	Demonstrative Adjective	bu, şu, o, diğer, ilk, sonuncu
	Genitive noun	bahçenin
	Classifier noun	<i>mutfak</i> dolabı
	Relativized noun	evdeki, akşamki
	Relative clause	postadan çıkan, yolda gördüğüm
Modifier	Quantitative Adjective	dört, yarım, ikişer, üçlü
	Qualitative Adjective	güzel, zor
	Unit noun	bardak, salkım, tane
Head	Common noun	ev, kitap
	Proper noun	Deniz, Ankara
	Pronoun	ben, sen, onlar

Table 2: Segments of a noun group.

Bahçe kapısının boyasını yeniliyorum
garden door-POSS-GEN paint-POSS-ACC renew-TENSE-PERS
‘I am renewing the paint of the garden gate’

Modifier of a noun group (izafet):

İyi aile babası tavrıyla herkesi etkiledi
good family father-POSS attitude-POSS-INS everybody-ACC impress-PAST
‘He impressed everybody with his good family man attitude’

General structure of a noun group can be viewed as a sequence of segments, head noun being the last one. These segments are listed in Table 2.

Specifier and modifier segments are optional:

(20) a. bahçenin kapısı
garden-GEN gate-POSS
‘the gate of the garden’

b. şu kız
that girl
‘that girl’

c. Ankara

The order of the specifier and modifier segments is not fixed.

(21) a. Her kırmızı çiçek
every red flower
‘every red flower’
b. kırmızı her çiçek
red every flower
‘every flower that is red’
c. güzel bir kız
beautiful a girl
‘a beautiful girl’
d. bir güzel kız
a beautiful girl
‘one beautiful girl’

Each segment of the noun group are elaborated below.

2.1 Specifier segment

Specifiers pick out noun(s) out of a set of possible nouns. In Turkish, specifier segment position is filled by a specifier that can be a *quantifier* (22a), an *article* (22b), a *demonstrative adjective* (22c), a *genitive noun* (22d), a *classifier noun* (22e), a *relativized noun* (22f) or a *relative clause* (22g).

- (22) a. Yazdıklarımız *bazı* insanları rahatsız edecek.
write-PART-POSS some people-ACC disturbed make-TENSE
'What we have written will disturb some people.'
- b. Yolda *bir* kalem buldum.
road-LOC a pencil find-PAST-PERS
'I found a pencil on the street.'
- c. *İlk* sınavımı geçtim.
first exam-POSS pass-PAST-PERS
'I passed my first exam.'
- d. *yazarın* her kitabı
author-GEN every book-POSS
'every book of the author'
- e. Onur'un bulduğu *iki caz* plağı
Onur-POSS find-PART-POSS two jazz record-POSS
'two jazz records that Onur found'
- f. *çekmecedeki* defter
drawer-LOC-REL notebook
'the notebook in the drawer'
- g. Elvan'ın aradığı *Poe'nun ABD'de basılmış* iki eski kitabı
Elvan-POSS look-PART Poe-POSS USA-LOC pressed-PART two old book-POSS
'two old books of Poe that were published in USA and that Elvan looks for'

2.1.1 Quantifiers

A quantifier cannot be used together with demonstrative adjectives or articles.

More than one quantifier is not allowed within a noun group.

- (23) a. *her çoğu kitap
every most book
- b. *birçok kimi öğrenciler
many some student-PLU
- c.

* her bu kitap
 Quant. Dem. Adj. -
 every this book

d.

* kim bir insan
 Quant. Art. -
 some a person

2.1.2 Article

The use of the article with demonstrative adjectives and quantifiers depends on some selectional restrictions.

- (24) a. *ilk bir kitap
 first a book
- b. ilk bir kitap
 a first book
- c. bir üçüncü kitap
 a third book
 ‘yet a third book’
- d. *sonuncu bir kitap
 last a book
- e. bir şu kitap
 a that book
 ‘only that book’
- f. şu bir kitap
 that one book
 ‘that single book’
- g. diğer bir kitap
 other a book
 ‘another book’

There are some points to be underlined here, about the different meanings of “bir” and about some exceptions:

The sequence depicted in (24b) has a limited usage referring to the first book of an author. In (24c), “bir” is an adverb meaning “yet” or “another”. In (24e), “bir” is an adverb with a meaning “only”. In (24f), “bir” is not an article but a cardinal number (a modifier). In (24g), “diğer” acts as an adverb.

2.1.3 Demonstrative adjectives

Concerning the demonstrative adjectives, there are two subgroups:

- i) bu, şu, o
- ii) ilk, sonuncu, ordinal numbers, diğer

Only one element from each group can be used within a noun group. The elements of the first group can sometimes be used in front of the elements of the second group for emphasizing the demonstration.

- (25) a. Bu ikinci kitabı pek beğenmedim
this second book-ACC much like-NEG-PAST-PERS
'I didn't like the second book much'
- b. Şu diğer valiz benimki
that other suitcase mine
'The other suitcase is mine'
- c. *diğer sonuncu kız
other last girl

2.1.4 Genitive nouns

Nouns or noun groups with genitive marking also function as specifiers within a noun group. Genitive nouns can be used in combination with other specifiers:

- (26) a. yazarın bir kitabı
author-GEN a book-POSS
'a book of the author'
- b. kitabın bu sayfası
book-GEN this page-POSS
'this page of the book'
- c. seminerin ilk konuşmacısı
seminar-GEN first speaker-POSS
'the first speaker of the seminar'
- d. mahallenin kimi sakinleri
quarter-GEN some habitant-PLU-POSS
'some habitants of the quarter'

When a sequence of genitive nouns is used in specifier position, each genitive-marked noun requires a possessive marked noun to follow.

- (27) a. evin kapısı
house-GEN door-POSS
'the door of the house'
- b. evin kapısının kolu
house-GEN door-POSS-GEN handle-POSS
'the handle of the door of the house'
- c. evin kapısının kolunun vidası
house-GEN door-POSS-GEN handle-POSS-GEN screw-POSS
'the screw of the handle of the door of the house'

2.1.5 Classifier nouns

Classifier nouns resemble genitive nouns in that they require a possessive-marked noun group modified by the classifier noun. However, classifier nouns take no genitive suffix.⁴ The difference between a genitive noun and a classifier noun is that the former provides a definite reading where the latter provides an indefinite or nonreferential one.

- (28) a. duvar boyası
wall paint-POSS
'wall paint'
- b. duvarın boyası
wall-GEN paint-POSS
'paint of the wall'

Classifier noun groups can act as specifiers of other classifier nouns:

- (29) kredi kartı faiz yüzdesi
credit card-POSS interest percentage-POSS
'credit card interest rate'

A classifier noun is the immediate predecessor of the head noun. Hence, other specifiers and modifiers precede it.

- (30) a. her çocuk arabası
every child car-POSS
'every stroller'
- b. o dere yatağı
that stream bed-POSS
'that river bed'
- c. *çocuk her arabası
- d. *dere o yatağı
- e. *ev bir kapısı

⁴These noun groups are called **izafet** by Lewis [3]

- f. *duvar evin boyası
- g. evin duvar boyası
home wall paint-POSS
'wall paint of the house'

2.1.6 Relativized nouns

If the head noun is specified by a relativized noun, all other modifiers and specifiers of the head come after the relativized noun:

- (31) çantamdaki üç küçük anahtar
handbag-POSS-LOC-REL three small key
'three small keys in my handbag'

Any modifier preceding a relativized noun modifies the relativized noun rather than the head (32a). If however, a specifier precedes it, there may be ambiguities as to whether the relativized noun or the head noun is specified (32b).

- (32) a. küçük çantamdaki üç anahtar
small handbag-POSS-LOC-REL three key
'three keys in my small handbag'
- b. benim evdeki bilgisayarım
my house-LOC-REL computer-POSS
'the computer at my house'
'my computer at home'

If the head noun is specified by a genitive noun, then a similar argument of scoping applies:

- (33) a. evin eski sahibi
house-GEN old owner-POSS
'previous owner of the house'
- b. eski evin sahibi
old house-GEN owner-POSS
'owner of the old house'

2.1.7 Relative clauses

Noun groups can also be specified by relative clauses. In Turkish, the noun on which the relativization is performed is placed at the final position of the relative clause.

- (34) a. Ağabeyim Ankara'da çalışıyor.
brother-POSS Ankara-LOC work-TENSE
'My elder-brother works in Ankara.'
- b. Ankara'da çalışan ağabeyim
Ankara-LOC work-PART brother-POSS
'My elder-brother who works in Ankara'

As seen above, the main verb of the relative clause is used in participle form. The example depicts the suffix **-en** (phonological realization of **-(y)An** after morphophonemic processes) which is used in producing subject participle (in present). Other subject suffixes are given below:

Suffix	Tense
-mHş (olan)	past
-(y)AcAk (olan)	future

The word *olan* (“being”) can optionally be used with past and future participles, but not with present participle.

- (35) a. Ankara’da çalışmış olan ağabeyim
 Ankara-POSS work-PART be-PART elder-brother-POSS
 ‘my elder brother who have worked in Ankara’
- b. Ankara’da çalışacak olan ağabeyim
 Ankara-POSS work-PART be-PART elder-brother-POSS
 ‘my elder brother who will work in Ankara’
- c. * Ankara’da çalışan olan ağabeyim

Olan can also be used in forming participle form of the copula.

- (36) a. Arkadaşımın annesi hasta.
 friend-POSS-GEN mother-POSS ill
 ‘My friend’s mother is ill.’
- annesi hasta olan arkadaşım
 mother-POSS ill be-PART friend-POSS
 ‘my friend whose mother is ill’
- b. Evin pencereleri geniş.
 house-GEN window-PLU-POSS wide
 ‘Windows of the house are wide.’
- pencereleri geniş olan bir ev
 window-PLU-POSS large be-PART a house
 ‘a house which has large windows’

Olan is optional in this usage too. When *olan* is omitted, the preceding word group becomes an adjectival phrase:

- (37) pencereleri geniş bir ev
 QUALITATIVE ADJ. DET. NOUN

If subject participle is in past tense, an alternative to *olan* is *bulunan* (“already been”)

- (38) çağrılmış bulunan arkadaşlar
 invite-PAST-PART already-be-PART friend-PLU
 ‘the friends who have already been invited’

An ambiguity may arise with the suffix $-(y)An$. Because, it may also have a past tense reading although there exists a particular suffix $-mHş$.

- (39) Konuşan kadını tanıyor musun?
 speak-PART woman-ACC know-TENSE-QUES-PERS
 ‘Do you know the woman who is speaking?’
 ‘Do you know the woman who spoke?’

This ambiguity can be resolved by additional discourse information. Apart from the subject participle form, the verb of a relative clause may take *complement participle* form, which is obtained by attachment of either $-DHk$ or $-yAcAk$ suffixes. $-DHk$ suffix, as itself, produces adjectives from verbs, although it is not productive:

- (40)
- bilmek → bildik
 ‘to know’ ‘known’
- umulmamak → umulmadık
 ‘to be not expected’ ‘unexpected’

When used in complement participles, $-DHk$ is always followed by a possessive and participle suffix group becomes $DHğ-POSS$. The tense of this participle can be past or present, as examples 41 and 42 depicts, respectively.

- (41) Kitabı kıza geri verdim.
 book-ACC girl-DAT back give-PAST-PERS
 ‘I gave back the book to the girl.’
- a. kıza geri verdiğim kitap
 girl-DAT back give-PART-PERS book-ACC
 ‘The book that I gave back to the girl.’
- b. kitabı geri verdiğim kız
 book-ACC back give-PART-PERS girl
 ‘The girl to whom I gave back the book.’

If there is an overt subject noun in the clause, it is marked with the genitive suffix:

- (42) Öğrenci sınıfta şarkı söylüyor.
 student class-LOC song sing-TENSE
 ‘The student is singing a song in the classroom.’
- a. öğrencinin sınıfta söylediği şarkı
 student-GEN class-LOC sing-PART-POSS song
 ‘the song that the student is singing in the classroom’

- b. öğrencinin şarkıyı söylediği sınıf
 student-GEN song-ACC sing-PART-POSS class
 ‘the classroom in which the student is singing the song’

The tense of -DHk participle can be present or past. Actual tense is usually determined from the discourse.

- (43) annemin anlattığı öykü
 mother-POSS-GEN narrate-PART-POSS story
 ‘the story that my mother narrated’
 ‘the story that my mother narrates’

Complement participles in future tense are formed by attaching -(y)AcAk suffix to verb stem. Just like -DHk suffix, -(y)AcAk combines with a possessive suffix to produce -(y)AcAğ-POSS as the future complement participle.

- (44) a. öğrencinin söyleyeceği şarkı
 student-GEN sing-PART-POSS song
 ‘the song that the student will sing’
 b. kitabı geri vereceğim kız
 book-ACC back give-PART-PERS girl
 ‘the girl to whom I will give back the book’

Relative clauses can be embedded as adnominals:

- (45) köyde yaşayan kızın yetiştirdiği ineğin öldüğü yer
 village-LOC live-PART girl-GEN breed-PART-POSS cow-GEN die-PART-POSS place
 ‘the place at which the cow that was bred by the girl who lives in the village died’

2.2 Modifier segment

Modifiers provide information about the properties of the entity or its relations with other entities. A modifier is either an adjective group, or a noun group. More than one modifier may exist within a noun group.

- (46) güzel mavi eteğin
 beautiful blue skirt-POSS
 ‘your beautiful blue skirt’

As a general rule, “whatever precedes modifies” in Turkish. Hence, if a modifier itself is a noun group or a clause containing a noun, any preceding modifier modifies the first of the succeeding nouns.

For example, in the phrase below, the modifier “yaşlı” modifies “adam” rather than the head noun “kadın”.

- (47) yaşlı adamın konuştuğu kadın
 old man-GEN talk-PART-POSS woman
 ‘the woman to which the old man talked/talks’

Certain restrictions apply to the combinations of modifiers.

2.2.1 Qualitative and quantitative adjectives

When a noun is modified by both a qualitative and a quantitative adjective, order of the adjectives may vary but the quantitative adjective usually precedes the qualitative one.

- (48) a. üç kırmızı kalem
 three red pencil
 ‘three red pencils’
- b. hassas ikili ilişkiler
 sensitive dual relationship-PLU
 ‘sensitive dual relationships’
- c. ikişer kalın battaniye
 by-two thick blanket
 ‘two thick blankets for each’
- d. rahat üçlü kanepeler
 comfortable triple sofa
 ‘a comfortable triple sofa’
- e. yarım çürük elma
 half rotten apple
 ‘a half rotten apple’
- f. çürük yarım elma
 rotten half apple
 ‘a half rotten apple’

2.2.2 Unit nouns

When used as modifiers, unit nouns are preceded by a cardinal number (49a), a fractional number (49b), or a distributive adjective (49c):

- (49) a. iki bardak süt
 two glass milk
 ‘two glasses of milk’
- b. yarım somun ekmekek
 half loaf bread
 ‘half loaf of bread’
- c. birer dilim pasta
 by-one slice cake
 ‘a slice of cake (for each)’

When the unit noun denotes a container, the word *dolusu* (“full”-POSS) may optionally be inserted between the unit noun and the head.

- (50) üç kaşık dolusu şeker
three spoon full-POSS sugar
'three spoonful of sugar'

Turkish has two special unit names that differ others in some respects: *tane* and *el*. *Tane* (“single” item, “piece”) is used with countable nouns, other than unit nouns, either to emphasize the quantity or for avoiding repeated use of the noun in questions/answers.

- (51) a. beş tane domates
five 'tane' tomatoes
'five tomatoes'
- b. Kaç tabure gerekiyor? (How many stools are needed?)
Altı tane (six)
- c. Ekmek alır mısın? (Would you buy some bread?)
Kaç tane alayım? (How many should I buy?)

El (“hand”) is used in a similar manner, however the set of nouns that it modifies is rather limited. Generally, it is used for firearm shots or games.

- (52) a. Birkaç el tavla oynadık.
some hand backgammon play-PAST-PERS
'We played some hands of backgammon.'
- b. Üç el silah sesi duyduk.
three hand firearm sound-POSS hear-PAST-PERS
'We heard three firearm shots.'

These two unit nouns (*tane* and *el*) differ from others in that they are *not* used in noun groups which are definite.

- (53) a. İki paket çikolata yedim.
two packet chocolate eat-PAST-PERS
'I ate two bars of chocolate.'
- b. İki paket çikolatay_ı yedim.
two packet chocolate eat-PAST-PERS
'I ate the two bars of chocolate.'
- c. İki tane çikolata yedim.
two 'tane' chocolate eat-PAST-PERS
'I ate two chocolates.'
- d. * İki tane çikolatay_ı yedim.
- e. * Birkaç el tavlay_ı oynadık.
- f. * Üç el silah sesini duyduk.

2.3 The head

The last segment of the noun group is the head, and this position is filled either by a common noun (54a), a proper noun (54b) or a pronoun (54c).

- (54) a. küçük bir elma
small a apple
'a small apple'
- b. güzel Ayşe
beautiful Ayşe
'beautiful Ayşe'
- c. unutkanlığıyla bilinen sen
forgetful as know-PAST-PART you
'you who are known as forgetful'

2.3.1 Pronoun

When the head is a pronoun, no determiner or modifier segments are allowed:

- (55) *bazı sen
some you
- *sarışın ben
blond I

2.3.2 Proper noun

When it is used as the head, a proper noun imposes certain restrictions on the selection of the preceding segments. For example, particular determiners can be used in front of a proper noun, while others are not applicable.

- (56) a. *Bu İstanbul* nasıl düzeler?
this İstanbul how get-better-TENSE
'How could this İstanbul get better?'
- b. Nerede kaldı *şu Hasan*?
where left that Hasan
'Where on the earth is Hasan?'
- c. Trakya'da *birkaç Yeşilköy'e* rastladım
Thrace'-LOC several Yeşilköy'-DAT come-across-PAST
'I came across more than one Yeşilköy in Thrace'
- d. Ailemizdeki *diğer/ikinci Mehmet* dedemdir.
family-POSS-LOC-REL other/second Mehmet grandfather-POSS-COP
'The other/second Mehmet in our family is my grandfather'

3 Postposition group

By postposition group, we mean a group of elements whose head is a proposition. Postposition group consists of a head and an optional complement noun group. The former always occupies the final position.

3.1 Postpositions

Postpositions form a closed class of words. They can be viewed in subgroups, with respect to the case of the complement they subcategorize for. ([3], pp. 85-89)

3.1.1 Postpositions with the nominative case

“üzere” subcategorize for a complement that is not case marked. Its argument is either a noun or an infinitive.

- (57) gelmek üzere
 ‘for the purpose of coming’
 mütat üzere
 ‘in accordance with the the custom’

“boyunca” also subcategorizes for nominative case.

- (58) tatil boyunca
 holiday along-its-length
 ‘throughout the holiday’
 bahçe duvarı boyunca
 garden wall-POSS along-its-length
 ‘along the garden wall’

3.1.2 Postpositions with the accusative case

The only postposition of this type is “müteakip” (following).

- (59) Sınavı müteakip yemeğe gittik
 exam-ACC following lunch-DAT go-PAST-PERS
 ‘We went to lunch after the examination.’

3.1.3 Postpositions with the nominative/genitive case

Postpositions of this type (e.g., *gibi*:‘like’, *ile*:‘with’, *için*:‘for’, *kadar*:‘as much as’) require nominative marked complements. Personal and demonstrative pronouns without plural suffix **-1Ar** take genitive form.

- (60) a. benim gibi
I-GEN like
‘like me’
- b. alışveriş için
shopping for
‘for shopping’
- c. sizler kadar
you-PLU as-much-as
‘as much as you’

3.1.4 Postpositions with the dative case

The following postpositions look for a dative noun on their left:

göre, nazaran	according to	doğru	towards
karşı	against	kadar, dek, değin	as far as, until
dair	concerning	rağmen, karşın	in spite of
inat	in despite of	nispeten	in proportion to

- (61) a. inanışa göre
belief-DAT according-to
‘according to the belief’
- b. şimdiye dek
now-DAT until
‘until now’

3.1.5 Postpositions with the ablative case

The postpositions of this type are listed below:

evvel, önce	before	sonra	after
beri	since, this side of	bu yana	since
yana	on the side of	içeri	inside
dolayı, ötürü	because of	başka	besides, apart from
itibaren	with effect from		

- (62) a. Dünden beri uyumadım.
yesterday-ABL since sleep-NEG-PAST-PERS
‘I didn’t sleep since yesterday.’
- b. senden başka
you-ABL apart-from
‘except you’

3.2 Case-marked nouns versus postpositions

Case-marked noun groups (in dative, locative or ablative) roughly correspond to English prepositions but they are not true postposition groups because their heads are not postpositions. We provide here the traditional analysis of these case marked noun groups for the sake of completeness [3]

Dative, locative and ablative case suffixes produce postposition groups from noun groups the head noun of which they attach to. Case marked nouns can be grouped with respect to the restrictions apply on their markings.

Group-1:

The nouns in this group can take any case and personal suffixes.

alt	underside	ara	interval, space between
arka, art	back	baş	immediate vicinity
dış, hariç	exterior	etraf, çevre	surroundings
iç, dahil	interior	karşı	opposite side
orta	middle	ön	front
peş	space behind	üst, üzer	top

Note: ‘peş’ and ‘üzer’ should always take possessive suffix.

- (63)
- | | | | |
|----|---|----|--|
| a. | çevremizden
surroundings-POSS-ABL
‘from our surroundings’ | d. | masanın üzerinde
table-GEN top-POSS-LOC
‘on top of the table’ |
| b. | arkana
back-POSS-DAT
‘to your back’ | e. | masanın üzerinden
table-GEN top-POSS-ABL
‘from top of the table’ |
| c. | yanımda
side-POSS
‘next to me/with me’ | f. | masanın üzerine
table-GEN top-POSS-DAT
‘on top of the table’ |

When used with noun groups instead of a single noun, case suffix follow the possessive marker (63d-f.). In such cases, the existance of the genitive marker makes the clause definite:

- (64)
- | | | |
|----|---|--------|
| a. | Köpeği kapı dışında
dog-ACC door exterior-POSS-LOC
‘Feed the dog outside.’ | besle. |
| b. | Köpeği kapının dışında
dog-ACC door-GEN exterior-POSS-LOC
‘Feed the dog out of the door.’ | besle. |

Group-2:

The nouns in this group can only be used with cases indicated in the table below. There is no such restriction on the personal suffixes.

hakkında	concerning, about	tarafından	by, through the agency of
yüzünden	because of	bakımından	from the point of view of
namına, adına	in the way of, on behalf of	esnasında	in the course of
sırasında	in the course of	zarfında	during
sayesinde	thanks to	uğruna, uğruna	for the sake of
yerine	instead of		

- (65) a. gecikme yüzünden
 delay cause-POSS-ABL
 ‘because of the delay’
- b. bizim yüzümüzden
 we-GEN cause-POSS-ABL
 ‘because of us’
- c. Benim adıma konuşma
 I-GEN name-POSS-DAT talk-NEG
 ‘Don’t talk on behalf of me.’
- d. yoculuk sırasında
 travel row-POSS-LOC
 ‘in the course of the travel’
- e. başarı uğruna
 success luck-POSS-DAT
 ‘for the sake of success’

3.3 Postposition attachment

Attachment of a sequence of postpositions is determined without ambiguity by morphosyntactic cues (e.g., relative suffixes and case marks) and positional cues (head-final structure). However, if a sentence involves relative clauses and postpositions, ambiguities may arise (66a).⁵ In “ I read the newspaper on the couch”, if *on the couch* were an adnominal, it would be relativized in Turkish (cf.,66b-c). Chained postposition groups are not ambiguous because the predecessor modifies the successor.

- (66) a. Bu bilgilere göre yazdığımız rapor değişmeyecek.
 this data-PLU-DAT according write-PART-PERS report change-NEG-TENSE
 ‘The report that we wrote according to these data will not change.’
 ‘According to these data, the report that we wrote will not change’
- b. Kanepedeki gazeteyi okudum.
 couch-LOC-REL newspaper-ACC read-TENSE-PERS
 ‘I read [the newspaper on the couch].’
- c. Kanepede gazeteyi okudum.
 couch-LOC newspaper-ACC read-TENSE-PERS
 ‘I read the newspaper [on the couch].’

⁵In writing, it this may be disambiguated by seperating the sentential complement with a coma (before **yazdığımız** in 66a).

4 Adjective group

Adjective group is a sequence of words last of which is an adjective. Adjective groups are typically formed by comparative and superlative adjectives.

4.1 Comparative adjectives

The head of a comparative adjective group is a qualitative adjective. Three comparatives can precede the head: “daha”, “az” and “çok” meaning “more”, “less” and “very”, respectively.

- (67) a. Elvan daha büyük bir eve taşındı.
Elvan more big a house-DAT move-in-PAST
'Elvan moved in to a bigger house.'
- b. Az şekerli kahve içerdi.
less sweet coffee drink-TENSE
'(S)he used to drink coffee with a little sugar.'
- c. Çok hızlı arabalardan hoşlanmıyorum.
very fast car-PLU-ABL like-NEG-TENSE-PERS
'I don't like very fast cars.'
- d. Annem benden çok daha iyi yemek yapar.
mother-POSS I-ABL very more good dish make-TENSE
'My mother cooks much better than I do.'

4.2 Superlative adjectives

The head adjective is qualitative for this group, too. Superlative form is obtained by preceding the head with “en” (“most”).

- (68) Sınıfın en çalışkan öğrencisi Ali'ydi.
class-GEN most hardworking student-POSS Ali-COP
'Ali was the most hardworking student of the class.'

5 Adverb group

An adverb group is a segment which has an adverb as its head. Modifiers of an adverbial head may be adverb or adjective groups, including the comparative *daha* and the superlative *en*. Adverbial heads may be classified as manner (*alelacele*), temporal (*sonra, önce*), position (*aşağı, beri, ileri*), repetition (*gene, yeniden, tekrar*), sentential (*besbelli, asla, kuşkusuz*), frequency (*seyrek, sık*), possibility (*herhalde, belki*), definiteness (*katiyen, muhakkak*), and question (*nasıl, hani*) adverbs. Basic types of adverb groups are described below.

5.1 Reduplications

Nouns and adjectives can be reduplicated to form an adverb group.

- (69) a. Yemeğimizi çabuk çabuk yedik.
meal-POSS-ACC quick quick eat-PAST-PERS
'We ate our meal quickly.'
- b. Akşam akşam canımızı sıktı.
evening evening soul-POSS-ACC bother-PAST
'It bothered us at this time of the evening.'
- c. Geçen yaz bu sahilleri koy koy dolaştık.
last summer this shore-PLU-ACC cove cove go-around-PAST-PERS
'We visited each and every cove of this shore last summer.'

Some of the reduplicated adverbs are onomatopoeic words:

- (70) Şırıl şırıl akan derenin sesini dinledim.
'splashing' flow-PART stream-GEN sound-POSS-ACC
'I listened to the sound of the stream that flows gently.'

Distributive adjectives, when used as adverbs, are reduplicated:

- (71) Merdivenleri üçer üçer çıktık.
stairs-PLU-ACC three-DIST three-DIST go-up-PAST-PERS
'We went upstairs three steps by three steps.'

Adverbs or adjectives can be intensified by phonological reduplication to produce adverbs as well:

çabuk	quick	çarçabuk	very quickly
hızlı	fast	hıphızlı	very fast

5.2 Case-marked place adverbs

Adverbs of place act as the head of an adverb group either by themselves or by taking a case suffix.

içeri	inside	dışarı	outside
yukarı	up	aşağı	down
ileri	forward	geri	backward
öte	yonder	beri	hitter
ön	front	arka	behind
karşı	opposite		

- (72) a. Evden dışarı çıkmadım.
house-ABL outside go-out-NEG-PAST-PERS
'I didn't go out from the house.'

- b. Yolun ilerisi görülüyor.
road-GEN forward-POSS see-PASS-NEG
'The forward part of the road is not visible.'
- c. Nehirden öteye nasıl geçilir?
river-ABL yonder-DAT how pass-PASS-TENSE
'How can one go beyond the river?'

5.3 Temporal adverb groups

“sonra” (“after”) and “önce” (“before”) succeed noun groups denoting a time period or a point in time, and form adverb groups.

- (73) a. Dört gün sonra yola çıkacağız.
four day after road go-out-TENSE-PERS
'We'll set out on a journey in four days.'
- b. Umarım Perşembeden önce burada olmaz.
hope-TENS-PERS Thursday-ABL before here be-NEG
'I hope he/she won't be here before Thursday.'

Another type of adverb group denoting time is the one that uses special temporal nouns in head position. These temporal nouns are some time units (**gün**: “day”, **hafta**: “week”, **ay**: “month”, **mevsim**: “season”, **yıl**: “year”, **yüzyıl**: “century”, **dönem**: “semester, age”, **çağ**: “era, epoch”), days of week, months and year. In such adverb groups, however, the set of words that may modify the head is rather limited: **önceki** (“previous”, “before”), **ertesi** (“following”, “after”), **geçen** (“last”), **gelecek** (“next”), **bu** (“this”), **o** (“that”).

- (74) a. Ertesi gün eski bir arkadaşşıma rastladım.
following day old a friend-POSS-DAT come-across-PAST-PERS
'The following day, I came across with an old friend of mine.'
- b. Gelecek yaz Paris'e gideceğim.
next summer Paris-DAT go-TENSE-PERS
'I will go to Paris next summer.'

5.4 Verb groups with adverbial use

Verb stems may function as adverbs with the addition of certain suffixes. These suffixes are discussed below.

-(y)A suffix denotes a repeated action that takes place at the same time with the main verb. Verb groups in this gerundive form consist of two gerunds (either of the same verb or different verbs).

- (75) a. Ağacı budaya budaya biçimlendirdi.
tree-ACC prune prune shape-TENSE
'He/she shaped the tree pruning.'

- b. Çocuk düşe kalka büyür.
 child fall rise grow-TENSE
 ‘A child grows falling and rising.’

-(y)ArAk suffix denotes a continuous action or a point action which takes place either at the same time with the main verb or just before it.

- (76) a. Öpüşerek ayrıldılar.
 kiss-RECIP leave-TENSE-PERS
 ‘They kissed each other as they said goodbye.’
- b. Koşarak karşıya geçtik.
 run opposite-DAT pass-TENSE-PERS
 ‘We crossed the street running.’

-(y)Hp suffix is attached to the first of consecutive verb stem pairs and provides a connection (e.g., temporal sequence) between these stems.

- (77) a. Şemsiyemi işyerinde unutup gelmişim.
 umbrella-POSS-ACC office-LOC forget come-TENSE-PERS
 ‘I came, having forgotten my umbrella at the office’
- b. Oturup konuşalım
 sit-down talk-SUBJ-PERS
 ‘Let’s sit down and talk.’

-(y)HncA suffix marks its stem as the temporal predecessor of the main verb.

- (78) a. Eve varınca seni ararım.
 house-DAT arrive you-ACC call-TENSE-PERS
 ‘I’ll call you when I arrive home.’
- b. Haberleri dinleyince yolculuğumu erteledim.
 news-ACC listen travel-POSS-ACC postpone-TENSE-PERS
 ‘I postponed my travel when I listened to the news.’

-DHkça suffix is a composite one which combines participle suffix -DHk with ça. This composite suffix has the meaning “so long as” or “the more”.

- (79) a. Çalışmadıkça başarılı olamazsın.
 study-NEG successful be-NEG-TENSE-PERS
 ‘So long as you don’t study, you cannot be successful.’
- b. Ankara’ya geldikçe bize uğrar.
 Ankara-DAT come we-DAT visit-TENSE
 ‘Every time he/she comes to Ankara, he/she visits us.’
- c. İp atladıkça susuyorum.
 rope skip be-thirsty-TENSE-PERS
 ‘The more I skip, the more I get thirsty.’

The suffix sequence **-(H)r··mAz** attach to the same verb stem to produce a verb group that can be used like an adverb. This construction has a meaning similar to “as soon as”.

- (80) a. İbibikler öter ötmez oradayım.
 hoopoe-PLU sing sing-NEG there-LOC-PERS
 ‘I will be there as soon as the hoopoes sing.’
- b. Otobüsten iner inmez onu gördüm.
 bus-ABL get-off get-off-NEG he/she/it see-TENSE-PERS
 ‘I saw her/him/it as soon as I got off the bus.’

-(y)ken suffix is the last one that is to be discussed in this section. It can be translated to English as “as”. This suffix differs from the previous ones as it attaches not to a verb stem, but usually to third person singular inflection of the verb in aorist. It may also attach to narrative past, present and future tense forms for third person singular. The suffix does not harmonize with the vowels of the verb stem.

- (81) a. Çayımı içerken gazete başlıklarına göz atarım
 tea-POSS-ACC drink-AS newspaper headline-PLU-DAT eye throw-TENSE-PERS
 ‘I glance through newspaper headlines as I drink my tea’
- b. Düşümde dövüşmekteyken yanımda yatam tekmelemişim.
 dream-POSS-LOC fight-AS side-POSS-LOC lie-down-PART-ACC kick-TENSE-PERS
 ‘I had kicked the one lying next to me as I was fighting in my dream.’
- c. Buraya kadar gelmişken geri dönmek olmaz
 here-DAT upto come-AS back turn-INF be-NEG-TENSE
 ‘It’s impossible to go back now that we came up to here.’

6 Verb group

6.1 Predicate types

Predicates in Turkish can be verbal (82a), nominal with an attached auxiliary suffix (82b), nominal with a copula (82c–d), or existential(82e–f).

- (82) a. Adam topa sert vurdu.
 man ball-DAT hard hit-TENSE
 ‘The man hit the ball hard.’
- b. Kitabın arabadaydı.
 book-POSS car-LOC-AUX
 ‘(Your) book was in the car.’
- c. Benimki en hızlı arabadır.
 I-GEN-REL most fast car-COP
 ‘Mine(my car) is the fastest car.’
- d. Gökyüzü hep mavidir.
 sky always blue-COP
 ‘The sky is always blue.’

- e. Ayşe'nin iki çocuğu var.
Ayşe-GEN two child-ACC exist
'Ayşe has two children (there exist two children of Ayşe).'
- f. Sokakta kimse yok.
street-LOC nobody not-exist
'There is (there exists) no one on the street.'

6.2 Subcategorization

Every verb—except the intransitives—subcategorize for a noun group or a set of noun groups. These noun groups may be in accusative (83a), dative (83b), locative (83c), ablative (83d) or instrumental/commitative case (83e).

- (83) a. Raporu henüz bitirmedik.
report-ACC yet finish-NEG-TENSE-PERS
'We haven't finished the report yet.'
- b. Yarın sinemaya gidelim.
tomorrow cinema-DAT go-SUBJ-PERS
'Let's go to the cinema tomorrow.'
- c. Buzdolabında hiçbir şey kalmamıştı.
refrigerator-LOC no-at-all thing remain-NEG-TENSE
'Nothing was left at all in the refrigerator.'
- d. Atakule'den dönerken Evrim'i gördüm.
Atakule-ABL return-AS Evrim-ACC see-TENSE-PERS
'I saw Evrim as I was coming back from Atakule.'
- e. Çocuklar oyuncaklarıyla oynuyorlar.
child-PLU toy-PLU-POSS-INS play-TENSE-PERS
'The children are playing with their toys.'
- Ufuk bir arkadaşıyla çalışacak.
Ufuk a friend-POSS-COM work-TENSE
'Ufuk will work with a friend of his.'

The number of required noun groups depend on the valency of the verb.

Transitive verb: Kitap okuyordu.
book read-TENSE-PERS
'He/she was reading a book.'

Ditransitive verb: Mehmet'e gitarımı verdim.
Mehmet-DAT guitar-POSS give-TENSE-PERS
'I gave my guitar to Mehmet.'

More noun groups may be provided to increase the amount of information provided; they act as complements.

- (84) Sandıkları İzmir'den Samsun'a gemiyle yolladık
chest-PLU-ACC İzmir-ABL Samsun-DAT ship-INS send-PAST-PERS
'We sent the chests from İzmir to Samsun by ship.'

Some verbs subcategorize for a complement clause:

söylemek: “to say”, **söz vermek**: “to promise”, **iddia etmek**: “to claim”, **inanmak**: “to believe”, **zannetmek**: “to assume”, **tahmin etmek**: “to guess”, **sanmak**: “to suppose”, **ispat etmek**: “to prove”, **inkar etmek**: “to deny”, **yemin etmek**: “to swear”, **düşünmek**: “to think”, **emin olmak**: “to be sure”, **kuşkulananmak**: “to suspect” etc.

- (85) a. Dosyayı bulacağına söz vermiştin.
 file-ACC find-PART-PERS promise-TENSE-PERS
 ‘You had promised that you would find the file.’
- b. Randevumuzu unuttuğumu iddia ediyor.
 Appointment-POSS-ACC forget-PART-PERS-ACC claim-TENSE
 ‘She/he claims that I forgot our appointment.’

Some verbs (**yeğlemek**: “to prefer”, **kabul etmek**: “to accept”, **çalışmak**: “to try”, **çabalamak**: “to struggle”, **alışmak**: “to get accustomed to”, **özenmek**: “to desire”, **karar vermek**: “to decide”, **niyetlenmek**: “to intend”, **bahsetmek**: “to mention”, **vazgeçmek**: “to give up”, **anlamak**: “to understand” etc.) subcategorize for an infinitive form of the verb.

- (86) a. Bu işi bitirmeye söz verdik.
 this job-ACC finish-INF-DAT promise-TENSE-PERS
 ‘We promised to finish this job.’
- b. Bugün alışveriş yapmaktan vazgeçtik.
 today shopping make-INF-ABL give-up-TENSE-PERS
 ‘We gave up (the idea of) shopping today.’

6.3 Auxiliary verbs

In Turkish, some verbs are composed of a noun and an auxiliary verb. The auxiliary verbs used in such constructions are **etmek**: “to do” and **yapmak**: “to make”, the former being more frequent.

- (87) a. alay → alay etmek
 ‘mockery’ ‘to mock’
- b. kabul → kabul etmek
 ‘acceptance’ ‘to accept’
- c. alışveriş → alışveriş yapmak
 ‘shopping’ ‘to shop/to do shopping’

There is another auxiliary which attaches to nouns to form nominal predicates: **olmak** (“to be”). This auxiliary differs from **etmek** and **yapmak** in two respects. First, it does not appear as a separate word, but rather a morpheme when the sentence is in past or present tense. Second, its inflection does not resemble to that of a verb but the copula.

- (88) a. Babam geçen ay yurtdışındaydı.
 father-POSS last month abroad-LOC-AUX
 ‘My father was abroad last month.’
- b. Üç gündür çok uykusuzdum.
 three day very sleepless-AUX
 ‘I have been very sleepless for three days.’
- c. Kitaplar masanın üstündeymiş.
 book-PLU table-GEN top-POSS-LOC-AUX
 ‘The books were on the table.’

This auxiliary is not present for third person form if the sentence is in the present tense.

- (89) Bardaklar rafta.
 glass-PLU shelf-LOC
 ‘The glasses are on the shelf.’

For future tense as well as conditional and necessitative forms, **olmak** succeeds the noun as a separate word.

- (90) a. Babam geçen ay yurtdışında olmasaydı...
 father-POSS last month abroad-LOC be-NEG-COND-AUX
 ‘If my father weren’t abroad last month...’
- b. Kitaplar masanın üzerinde olacak.
 book-PLU table-GEN top-POSS-LOC be-FUTURE
 ‘The books will be on the table.’

Another point to be emphasized about this auxiliary is that it has a different negative form than the other verbs when the sentence is in past or present tense. Negativization is performed by introducing the word **değil** (“not”) just after the nominal. The tense marker, if exists, attaches to **değil**.

- (91) Cem evde değildi.
 Cem house-LOC not-PAST
 ‘Cem wasn’t at home.’

An ambiguity may arise with negative questions of predicates. This ambiguity is resolved by stress in speech and by a comma preceding **değil** in writing.

- (92) Kedi bahçede değil mi?
 cat garden-LOC not QUES
 ‘The cat is in the garden, isn’t it?’
 ‘Isn’t the cat in the garden?’

6.4 Existential predicates

Existential predicates are formed using **var** (“existent”) and **yok** (“non-existent”).

- (93) a. Odada dört koltuk vardı.
room-LOC four armchair exist-AUX
‘There were four armchairs in the room.’
- b. Burada kimse yok.
here anybody non-existent
‘There isn’t anybody here.’
- c. Arabası yokmuş.
car-POSS non-existent
‘She/he doesn’t have a car.’

var and **yok** cannot be used in future, conditional or necessitative forms. For these cases, **olmak** replaces **var** and **yok**.

- (94) a. Odada dört koltuk olmalı
room-LOC four armchair be-AUX
‘There should be four armchairs in the room.’
- b. Burada kimse olmayacak.
here nobody be-FUTURE
‘There won’t be anybody here.’

6.5 Infinitive form of the verbs

Infinitive form of a verb is formed with suffix **-mAk** attached to the stem.

- (95) Fransa’ya gitmek çok para ister.
France-DAT go-INF much money require-TENSE
‘Going to France costs much’

Infinitive suffix cannot be followed by genitive or possessive suffixes. However case suffixes are allowed.

- (96) a. Koşmaktan yoruldum.
run-INF-ABL tire-PASS-PAST-PERS
‘I got tired of running.’
- b. Kızmakta haklısın.
get-angry-INF-LOC right-AUX
‘You are right to be angry.’

6.6 Gerundive forms of the verbs

There are a couple of suffixes for producing gerundive forms of a verb: **-mA** and **-(y)Hş**. **-mA** is used for referring to the action or its result. Genitive and possessive suffixes can be attached to **-mA**.

- (97) a. Onunla görüşmenin bana faydası olmaz.
he/she-GEN-COM meet-GER-POSS me use be-NEG-TENSE
'Meeting with him/her is of no use to me.'
- b. Okuması düzeliyor.
read-GER-POSS improve-TENSE
'His/her reading is improving.'

-(y)Hş produces a gerundive which emphasizes the manner the action is performed. This suffix can also be succeeded by genitive and possessive suffixes.

- (98) Gülüşünü hatırlıyorum.
smile-GER-POSS remember-TENSE-PERS
'I remember the way you/(s)he smile/s.'

6.7 Syntax of causative verbs

In Turkish, verbs are causativized by attaching the causative suffixes **-D Hr**, **-Hr**, **-t**, **-Ht** and **-Ar** to the stem. Using these suffixes, one can obtain a causative verb almost from any verb, including the causatives themselves.

- (99) a. inanmak → inandırmak
'to believe' 'to persuade'
- b. doğmak → doğurtmak
'to be born' 'to give birth to'
- c. oturmak → oturtmak
'to sit' 'to seat'
- d. korkmak → korkutmak
'to fear' 'to frighten'
- e. çıkmak → çıkartmak
'to go out/to go up' 'to remove/to raise'

Appropriate combinations of causative suffixes allow production of multiple causatives:

- (100) ölmek → öldürmek → öldürtmek
'to die' 'to kill' 'to have someone killed'

From syntactical point of view, causativization process has two important results: increase in the valency of the verb, and the changes in the grammatical functions of the noun groups.

Any verb form of valency n will require $n + 1$ noun groups after causativization:

Intransitive verb: uyumak → uyutmak

‘to sleep’ ‘to send to sleep’

Transitive verb: bir şeyi okumak → birine birşeyi okutmak

‘to read something’ ‘to make someone read something’

Ditransitive verb: bir şeyi bir yere koymak → birine birşeyi bir yere koydurtmak

‘to put something to somewhere’ ‘to make someone put something to somewhere’

Another effect of causativization is that the noun groups of the original clause change their grammatical functions:

Causativization of an Intransitive Verb: The subject of the intransitive verb becomes the direct object (accusative-marked noun group) in the causative clause. A new noun group is introduced for subject position of the causative clause.

- (101) Yiğitcan güldü → Işık Yiğitcan'ı güldürdü
 NOM NOM ACC
 ‘Yiğitcan laughed’ ‘Işık caused Yiğitcan to laugh’

Causativization of a Transitive Verb: The subject of the transitive verb becomes the dative-marked indirect object in the causative clause, whereas the direct object (e.g., *şiiir* in 102)) preserves its grammatical function in the causative clause. Also, a new noun group is introduced for subject position.

- (102) Arzu şiiir okudu → Öğretmen Arzu'ya şiiir okuttu
 NOM NOM NOM DAT NOM
 ‘Arzu read a poem’ ‘The teacher made Arzu read a poem’

The indirect object of the causative clause may sometimes be omitted:

- (103) Öğretmen şiiir okuttu.
 teacher poem read-CAUS-PAST
 ‘The teacher caused a poem to be read.’

If the main verb subcategorizes for a dative noun group, this noun group remains unaltered in the causative clause. In such a case, the subject of the main verb is marked as accusative and becomes the direct object of the causative clause.

- (104) Çocuk okula başladı → Çocuğu okula başlattık
 NOM DAT ACC NOM
 ‘The child started school’ ‘We made the child start school’

Causativization of a Ditransitive Verb: The subject of the ditransitive verb becomes the dative-marked indirect object in the causative clause, whereas the accusative-marked direct object and the dative-marked object of the main verb preserve their grammatical functions in the causative clause. Subject position is again filled by a new noun group.

- (105) Hakan kitabı masaya koydu → Ali Hakan'a kitabı masaya koydurdu
 NOM ACC DAT NOM DAT ACC DAT
 ‘Hakan put the book on the table’ ‘Ali made Hakan put the book on the table’

Just as for the transitive verb, the subject of the main verb may be omitted:

- (106) Ali kitabı masaya koydurdu.
Ali book-ACC table-DAT put-CAUS-PAST

References

- [1] T. Banguoğlu, *Türkçenin Grameri [Turkish Grammar]*, Türk Tarih Kurumu, Ankara, 1986.
- [2] E.E. Erguvanlı, *The Function of Word Order in Turkish Grammar*, PhD Thesis, UCLA, 1979.
- [3] G.L. Lewis, *Turkish Grammar*, Oxford University Press, 1967 (reprinted with corrections, 1991).
- [4] B. Nilsson, *Case Marking Semantics in Turkish*, PhD Thesis, University of Stockholm, 1985.
- [5] D. Slobin, "Universal and particular in the acquisition of language", Workshop on Language Acquisition, University of Pennsylvania, May 1978.
- [6] R. Underhill, *Turkish Grammar*, MIT Press, Cambridge, 1976.
- [7] R. Underhill, "Turkish", in *Studies in Turkish Linguistics*, D. Slobin, K. Zimmer (Eds.), John Benjamins, Amsterdam, 1986.