

## FUNCTIONAL NOTIONS OF TURKISH VERBAL ADJECTIVES IN ADJECTIVE CONSTRUCTIONS

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The key to understanding the use of adjectives in Turkish syntax is that whatever precedes, qualifies. As a large group of words which are called "adjectives" can come before a noun and modify it, yet some other groups of words which are made up of verbs may come before a noun and modify it. These "adjectives" do not lose their verbal functions in an adjective construction, though they function as adjectives modifying a noun. In reality these are full verbs as their roots indicate. Yet, some function as real adjectives when they allow adjective comparisons. Another interesting point in the use of these verbal adjectives is that they may function as nouns, because they allow case suffixes at the end, and they, themselves, may stand for a noun. In this case, one might agree with Kononov, Grönbech and A.C. Emre's ideas on adjectives thinking that adjectives may stand for nouns when the Subject NP is deleted in the deep structure (Aksan, p.68).

As this is the case, one may have a sort of sub-classification of Turkish Verbal Adjectives according to their peculiarities in an adjective construction. In the first criterion, it would be sufficient to begin with the testing of the verbal adjectives to check whether or not they have verbal peculiarities in an adjective construction.

If the verbal adjectives do come from verbs, in origin, then, they must have tense characteristics, which are peculiar functions of verbs in general.

Generally speaking, Turkish verbal adjectives show *FIVE* characteristics of tenses in their participial usages: (See: Kreider, 1964 and Lewis, 1967)

**Past: (-dik) and the negative counterpart (-medik):**

*Sevdiğim arkadaş.*  
*Kestiğim ekmeç.*  
*Yazdığı mektup.*  
*Gördükleri bahçe.*  
*Tanımadığım adam.*  
*Olmadık şey.*  
*Yapılmadık iş.*

**Present Participle: (-en) and the negative counterpart (-meyen):**

*Gelen misafir.*  
*Ağlayan hasta.*  
*Sallanan dallar.*  
*Bekleyen analar.*  
*Açılan fabrika.*  
*Çalışmayan öğrenciler.*

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**Perfect Participle: (-miş) and the negative counterpart (-mamış):**

*Solmuş* renkler.  
*Doğmuş* çocuk.  
*Şişmiş* omuz.  
*Okumamış* adam.  
*Artmış* fiat.  
*Haşlanmamış* yumurta.

**Future:**

**a- (-cak) and the negative counterpart (-meyecek):**

*Büyüyecek* çocuk.  
*Yatacak* misafir.  
*Anlamayacak* öğrenci.  
*Gelmeyecek* mektup.  
*Binmeyecekleri* tren.

**b- (-esi) and the negative (-meyesi):**

*Kör olası* herif.  
*Çanı çıkmayası* kadın.  
*Adı batası* kâfir.

**Aorist Participle: (-ar) and the negative (-maz):**

*Çalar* saat.  
*Akar* su.  
*Çıkar* yol.  
*Çıkamaz* sokak.  
*Döner* kebab.  
*Kırılmaz* cam.  
*Paslanmaz* çelik.  
*Güler* yüz.  
*Çekmez* kumaş.

This kind of constructions function as V+N compounds, although the first elements in the construction function as adjectives of verbal origin.

After having observed the constructions like the ones above, it is seen that verbal adjectives in Turkish precede other adjectives in an adjective construction. When the adjectives are replaced in the construction and their places are changed, incorrect constructions, if not ungrammatical ones, appear. The following are incorrect in the sense that they are having adverb peculiarities, not adjective characteristics:

Bir bütün Anadolu'yu *dolaşmış* öğretmen.  
 Eski *sattığım* araba.  
 Kaygısız *inecek* yolcular.  
 Büyük *açılacak* sergi.  
 Genç, güzel, dinamik *çalışan* kadın.

Note that these are acceptable if and only if the elements preceding the verbals

function as adverbs, not as adjectives. Therefore, the semantic meanings of the constructions are different from those of adjective constructions.

Thus, a general rule for verbal adjectives may come out saying that the verbal adjectives which have clausal meanings must come at the beginning of the whole adjective construction. Otherwise, other adjectives in the construction denoting and qualifying the verbal become adverbs, they are not adjectives anymore:

Kaygısız incek yolcular. "*How will the passengers get off?*"  
Dinamik çalışan kadın. "*How is the woman working?*"

The two examples above prove that Turkish verbal adjectives still have their verbal characteristics in the adjective construction, because they allow adverbs to modify themselves. The same is true when adverbs are applied to the whole five groups of verbal adjectives:

**Past:**

*Çok sevdiğim arkadaş.*  
*Dün kestğim karpuz.*  
*Bugün beğendiğiniz kumaş.*  
*Londra'da gördükleri bahçe.*

**Present Participle:**

*Bugün gelen misafir.*  
*Hastanede yatan hasta.*  
  
*Yağmurda bekleyen analar.*  
*Çiftlikte oturan kız.*

**Perfect Participle:**

*Yeni doğmuş çocuk.*  
*Hep okumuş adam.*  
*Artık düşmüş kadın.*  
*Çabuk haşlanmış yumurta.*

**Future:**

- a- (-cak)
- İleride büyüyecek çocuk.*  
*Bu gece yatacak misafir.*  
*Hiç anlamayacak öğrenci.*  
*İstasyonda binecekleri tren.*
- b- (-esi)
- \* *Yarın adı batası kâfir.*  
\* *Bugün kör olası herif.*  
\* *Haftaya canı çıkası karı.*

The ones above have been chosen from among those which have idiomatic meanings. However, the following constructions are of current use and grammatical

*Bugün yapılması gereken iş.  
Yarın gönderilmesi gereken mektuplar.  
İki saat sonra gelmesi gereken haber.*

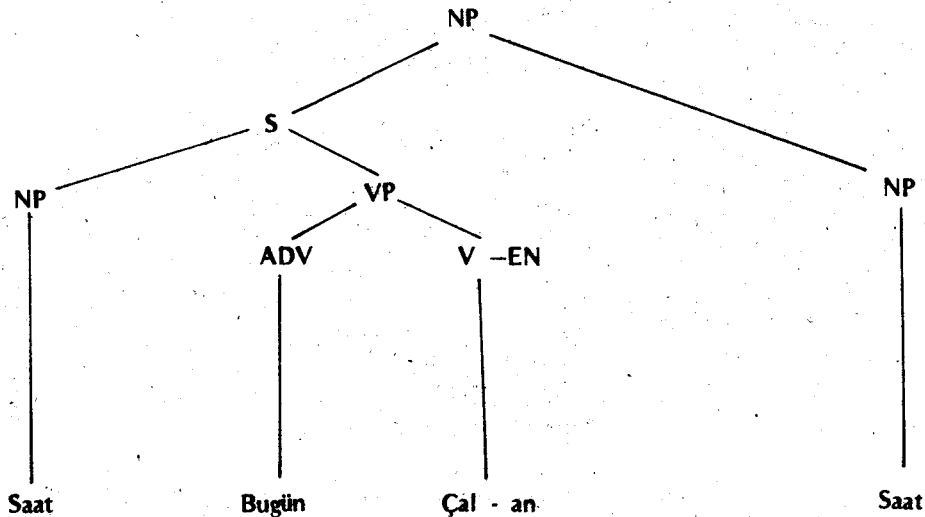
The constructions chosen from idiomatic groups have the kind of verbs not having verbal peculiarities because of their indication of cursing someone.

**Aorist Participle:**

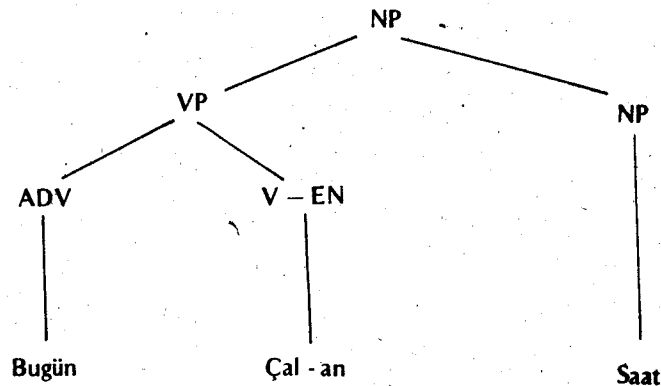
- \* *Bugün çalar saat.*
- \* *Yavaş yavaş akar su.*
- \* *Ekseri yatar koltuk.*
- \* *Şimdi döner kebap.*
- \* *Yarın kırılmaz cam.*

As it is seen above, when adverbs are added, the construction becomes ungrammatical though the verbals modify the nouns and they are thought that they must allow adverbs. Whereas they do not. In this case, it is thought that the kind of V+N constructions in the form of Aorist Participles must form a special semantico-syntactic construction in which they function as neither verbs nor adjectives.

When the (-en) suffix is put to the end of some of the verbs mentioned above, the construction becomes grammatical and acceptable, because in the deep structure the verbal adjectives show their verbal characteristics by permitting adverbs to modify themselves:



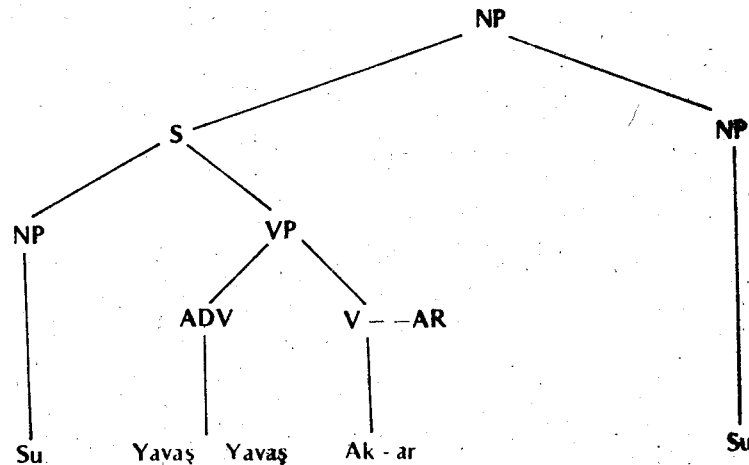
when the first NP is deleted, the following structure appears:



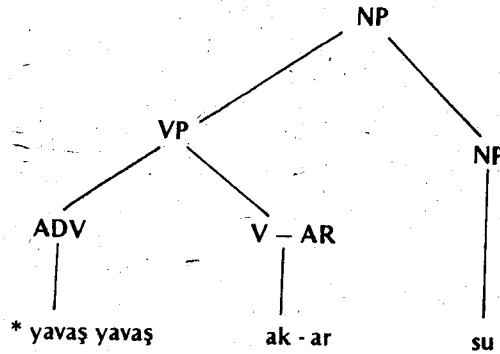
If the same process is applied to the other constructions taking *(-en)* suffixes, the following constructions come out:

Yavaş yavaş akan su.  
 Ekseri yatan koltuk.  
 Şimdi atan damar., etc.

The same process can not be applied to the verbals taking *(-ar)* suffixes. The deep structure of the mentioned verbal adjectives is shown in the diagramme below. The NP taking *(-ar)* or *(-mez)* suffix does not accept an adverb in the deep structure:



Similarly, if the first NP is deleted, an incorrect structure results in the adjective construction. But they are grammatical and correct if they are thought inverted sentences.



As it is seen in the digramme above, the so-called verbal adjectives taking (-ar) and/or (-mez) suffixes seem to lose their verbal characteristics and functions by not allowing adverb modification in an adjective construction.

Now there comes to appear a very interesting case with the Aorist Participles, which are adjectives. The so-called verbals taking (-ar) suffix in Turkish always come just before the noun head in an adjective construction. If one puts any other adjectives between the verbal adjective and the noun head, an incorrect order of adjectives in the construction appears as in the following:

- Temiz, berrak akar su.* But:  
 \* *Akar, temiz, berrak su.*  
*Büyük atar damar.* But:  
 \* *Atar, büyük damar.*  
*Yaşlı, bakar kör.* But:  
 \* *Bakar, yaşlı kör.*  
*Küçük, çalar saat.* But:  
 \* *Çalar, küçük saat.*  
*Kırmızı, yatar koltuk.* But:  
 \* *Yatar, kırmızı koltuk.*

In Turkish when the same order is applied to the Aorist Participles with (-mez) suffixes, the same results are obtained:

- Yeşil tükenmez kalem.* But:  
 \* *Tükenmez yeşil kalem.*

So, it is concluded that there seems to be some sort of either morphologic or semantic connection between the (-ar) and (-mez) suffixes and the noun they modify. The constructions of this sort seem to serve as compounds, in other words. There must be something which makes them inseparable from the noun as it is in the case of place adjectives in the following constructions:

Güzel alt geçit. But not: \* Alt güzel geçit.  
 Yuvarlak üst kapak. But not: \* Üst yuvarlak kapak.  
 Mavi yan kapı. But not: \* Yan mavi kapı.

This kind of analysis and speculation may take one to the arguments in semantics between name and sense. As Bloomfield put forward in his often quoted Formula, a word is a minimum free form. In this case, in the constructions:

Çalar saat.  
 Akar su.  
 Kırılmaz cam.  
 Döner kebab.  
 Çekmez kumaş.

apart from *saat, su, cam, kebab* and *kumaş, çal-ar, ak-ar, kır-il-maz, dön-er* and *çek-mez* should be assumed as minimum free forms. On the other hand, the verbal adjectives in these compounds seem to convey a general and different sense other than their own meanings. So, one may get to the idea that Ullmann put forward years ago: Bloomfield's idea may be regarded as the borderline case between words and phrases, as compounds form an exceptional case for Bloomfield's Formula. In the case of the English word *breakfast*, for instance, there is no evidence of the verb *break* and the noun *fast* as minimum meaningful free forms. The same might be true for the Turkish constructions mentioned above.

The second criterion may lead one to a point where one can test the adjectival characteristics of the Turkish verbal adjectives. If they function like adjectives in their modification of a noun, then they must allow adjective comparisons. Generally, in Turkish, comparison is made by the use of other words modifying the adjectives. Also, generally speaking, in Turkish, Qualificative Adjectives allow comparison most of the time. These adjectives have the noun quality of size, age, shape, attitude, colour and place. These qualities may vary in degrees so as to make comparisons. When a verbal adjective qualifies a noun in an adjective construction, it may be possible to make comparisons if the verbal element has a sort of action which allows comparison. At this point it is necessary for an observer not to complicate adjective comparison with adverb comparison, as adverbs, too, can allow comparisons in the same way. In Turkish, comparative forms are made by the use of *DAHA*, and superlative forms by the use of *EN* in front of adjectives. Taking this criterion in hand, the following verbal adjectives in their comparative and superlative forms can be examined:

Past:

*Daha sevdiğim* arkadaş.  
 \* *En kestiğim* ekmek.  
 \* *Daha yazdığı* mektup.  
*Daha beğendiğiniz* kumaş.  
 \* *En gördükleri* bahçe.

**Present Participle:**

- \* *Daha gelen* misafir.
- \* *En olmayan* hasta.
- \* *En cepte bulunan* çakı.
- \* *Daha inek sağan* kız.

**Perfect Participle:**

- \* *En doğmuş* çocuk.
- En şişmiş omuz.
- Daha solmuş renkler.
- Daha artmış fiat.
- En okumuş adam.
- Daha düşmüş kadın.
- En haşlanmış yumurta.

It is observed that the constructions without asterisks are not ungrammatical, and they are used with comparative and superlative degrees, but in this kind of constructions, adjectives function as adverbs though they modify the noun.

**Future: (-cak):**

- Daha büyüyecek* çocuk.
- \* *Daha anlamayacak* öğrenci.
- \* *En binmeyecekleri* tren.
- \* *Daha yatacak* misafir.

**(-esi):**

- \* *Daha canı çıkası* herif.
- \* *En yere batası* kadın.
- \* *Daha kör olası* kâfir.

**Aorist Participle:**

- \* *Daha çalar* saat.
- \* *En çalar* saat.
- Daha çıkar* yol.
- En çıkar* yol.
- \* *Daha çıkmaz* sokak.
- \* *Daha döner* kebab.
- \* *En kırılmaz* cam.
- \* *En paslanmaz* çelik.

After examining the examples above, one may get to a sort of conclusion on the use of verbal adjectives allowing degree comparisons as other classes of adjectives. One can gather this kind of verbal adjectives in *THREE* main sub-categories and these allow degree comparisons:

a- Those verbal adjectives which are made up of verbs of process:

- Daha değişen* dünya.
- Daha büyümüş* fidanlar.



b- Those verbal adjectives which are made up of verbs of inert cognition:

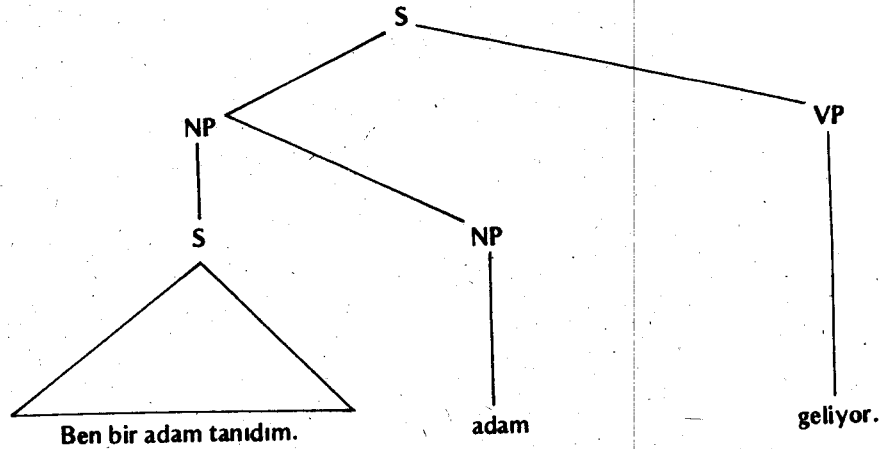
Daha inanmış adam.  
En bilmiş adam.

c- Those verbal adjectives which are made up of verbs of adjective origins; and this group covers a large number of verbals:

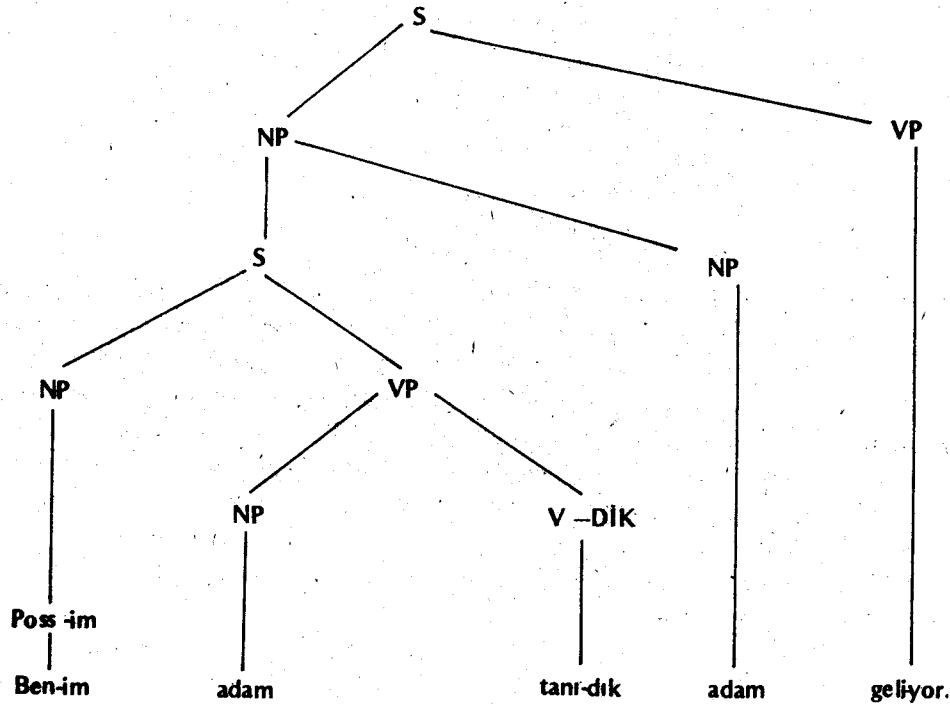
Zayıflayan çocuk.  
Kuvvetlenen adam.  
Sertleşen peynir.  
Yumuşamış pasta.  
Derinleşen yara.  
Daralan yol.  
Aydınlanmış bina.  
Geşeyecek kemer.  
Çabuklaşan adımlar.  
Beyazlaşan çamaşırlar., etc.

As it has been seen in the first criterion, Turkish verbal adjectives might form some sort of compounds with the nouns, which bring only one sense to the hearer's mind. In fact, Kononov, Grönbech and A.C. Emre and some other Turkologists had long ago concluded saying that adjectives may stand for nouns if they are not used with the nouns they modify. It will be seen below that all verbal adjectives may stand for nouns. On the surface it may not be easy to see this kind of development. When a sentence like:

(Benim tanıdığım adam geliyor.) is taken, and when it is diagrammed:



In the diagramme above it may be difficult to see the underlying strings of the embedded sentence. But when the underlying components are shown more clearly, the following diagramme comes out:



In this diagramme, for the verbal adjective to be used as the noun, the following developments are seen:

- 1 - Relativization has been applied.
- 2 - Object of the VP has been deleted.
- 3 - *-DİK* participle is used.
- 4 - Since *S* remains, possessive agrees with the Subject.
- 5 - In most cases in Turkish, the Subject NP may also be deleted, so the sentence: "*Tanıdığım geliyor.*" comes out on the surface structure.

In this case one may conclude that Turkish verbal adjectives, like other adjectives in the lexicon, may stand for nouns and they allow case suffixes at their final syllables. This fact can be observed in the following examples:

**Past:**

*Bildiğim var.*  
*Tandığım geliyor.*  
*Dediklerimi yaz,*

**Present Participle:**

*Gelenleri karşıla.*  
*Olmayanları listeden çıkar.*  
*Bekleyenler gelsin.*  
*Cebinde bulunanları ver.*

**Perfect Participle:**

*Solmamışını bulamadım.*  
*Hiç haşlanmış var mı?*  
*Artmamışı var mı?*

**Future:**

a- (-cak):

*Yiyecekler geliyor. (In the sense that persons are coming.)*  
*Çekeceğim var.*

b- (-esi):

*Kör olası mı yaptı bunu?*  
*Canı çıkasınca geliyor.*  
*Adı batasıcayı bu işe karıştırma.*

**Aorist Participle:**

*Yazar geldi mi?*  
*Düşünürler ne demiş?*  
*Laf anlamazlarla uğraşma.*

The functional notions of the Turkish verbal adjectives clarify the point that in a construction the adjectives seem to function more like adverbials and nouns rather than adjectives. More fruitful studies may give satisfactory results which would enlighten many dark points in the syntactic and semantic structures of Turkish language.

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