

ADVANCED CONVERBS: -MAKSIZIN AND -MIŞÇASINA

by Seda Sürel

INTRODUCTION

1. Function

This lesson covers two structures that let a speaker describe an action's absence or an assumed appearance with precision.

-mAksIzIn means "without doing X." It marks that an action did not accompany another action, or that something happened despite a missing step.

-mIşÇAsInA means "as if X had happened" or "as though X were the case." It presents something as resembling a completed event, without claiming that event actually occurred.

Both can occur outside formal contexts, especially in narrative and descriptive language. -mIşÇAsInA is more characteristic of written, literary, or elevated Turkish than everyday conversation.

2. Forms

-mAksIzIn

Verb stem + -mAksIzIn

Meaning: "without doing X"

Örnek: Hiç durmaksızın çalıştı.

— He worked without stopping at all.

-mIşÇAsInA

Verb stem + -mIşÇAsInA / -mIşÇesIne / -muşÇAsInA / -müşÇesIne

Meaning: "as if X had happened"

Örnek: Yıllardır tanışıyormuşÇAsInA konuştular.

— They talked as if they'd known each other for years.

3. Morphology

-mAksIzIn

Verb stem + -mAk (verbal noun) + -sIz (without) + -In (adverbial marker)

The structure builds on -mAk, the same infinitive form used in "yapmak," "gitmek." -sIz then adds "without," the same way it does on nouns (tuzsuz, "without salt"). -In closes the form as an adverb describing how the main action was carried out.

-mIşÇAsInA

Verb stem + -mIş + ÇAsInA (simulative, "as if")

Vowel and consonant harmony:

Verb Stem + -mIşÇAsInA / -mIşÇesIne / -muşÇAsInA / -müşÇesIne

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(The suffix follows four-way vowel harmony through -mış. The "ç" stays voiceless because it follows the voiceless "ş" at the end of -mış, the same devoicing pattern seen in suffixes like -ta/-de.)

-mışÇAsInA works as a single, fused unit meaning "as if X had happened." It's best learned as a fixed simulative suffix rather than broken down piece by piece for meaning.

Note: -mışÇAsInA can also combine with the present continuous base, giving forms like -(l)yormuşçasına ("as if X were happening"), seen in examples like "tanışıyormuşçasına" (as if they were getting to know each other). This lesson focuses on the core perfective form; the continuous variant follows the same logic, shifted to an ongoing rather than completed appearance.

4. Structural Guide

-mAkSlzIn pattern:

[Primary action] + [omitted action with -mAkSlzIn] → the primary action is described as happening without the second one.

Örnek: Kimseye danışmaksızın karar verdi.

— He decided without consulting anyone.

-mIşÇAsInA pattern:

[Observed or described situation] + [assumed resemblance with -mIşÇAsInA] → the situation is presented as resembling a specific completed event, without asserting it as fact.

Örnek: Yağmur hiç yağmamışçasına güneş açtı.

— The sun came out as if it had never rained.

5. Usage

Everyday and narrative use:

Both structures appear in ordinary storytelling and description.

Örnek: Hiçbir şey olmamışçasına gülümsedi.

— She smiled as if nothing had happened.

Örnek: İzin almaksızın odaya girdi.

— He walked into the room without asking permission.

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Formal and analytical use:

In reports, journalism, and academic or professional writing, both structures let a writer describe an omission or an appearance with more precision than a simpler alternative would allow.

Örnek: Süreci aksatmaksızın denetimlerin sürdürülmesi, raporlama takviminin revize edilmesi gereğini ortadan kaldırmaktadır.

— By continuing the audits without disrupting the process, the need to revise the reporting schedule is eliminated.

Örnek: Kriz aşılmışçasına piyasalara hakim olan iyimserlik, yapısal riskleri gözden kaçırabilir.

— The optimism dominating the markets, as if the crisis had already been overcome, may obscure structural risks.

This formal register is one natural home for these structures, not their defining domain.

Examples

A) Everyday

Hiç yorulmaksızın koştu.

— He ran without getting tired at all.

B) Everyday

Beni tanımamışçasına baktı.

— He looked at me as if he hadn't recognized me.

C) Formal

Operasyonel maliyetler artırılmaksızın dijital dönüşüm sürecinin sürdürülmesi hedeflenmektedir.

— The goal is to continue the digital transformation process without increasing operational costs.

D) Formal, both structures combined

Likidite koşulları iyileşmişçesine şekillenen piyasa algısı, maliyetleri artırmaksızın sürdürülen politikaların etkisini gölgeleyebilir.

— Market perception, shaped as if liquidity conditions had improved, may overshadow the effect of policies maintained without raising costs.

Notes

- -mAkslzIn vs -mAdAn: Both mean "without doing X." -mAdAn is the everyday, neutral choice and is far more common in speech. -mAkslzIn is more formal and more common in writing; it doesn't carry a different meaning, just a different register. In casual conversation, -mAdAn is almost always the natural choice.
- -mIşçAsInA vs -mIş gibi: Both mean "as if X had happened," and they're largely interchangeable. -mIş gibi is more common in everyday speech and slightly more flexible in word order. -mIşçAsInA is a single fused suffix, more common in writing, and tends to sound more literary or formal. Neither is inherently more "analytical" than the other; the difference is mainly stylistic and register-based, not functional.

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Notes

- -mAdAn performs simple negation: an action did not occur.
- -mAksIzIn performs strategic exclusion: an action is deliberately avoided to preserve systemic integrity.
- -mIş gibi is descriptive and often personal, reflecting surface resemblance.
- -mIşçAsInA is analytical and institutional, signaling that the appearance itself is being evaluated as a data point, not as lived observation.

Pro-Tip (Delivery):

In formal oral delivery, **-mAksIzIn** is pronounced with even, level stress, reinforcing its unemotional, procedural character and avoiding any impression of justification or defensiveness.

These distinctions define how institutions speak responsibly under uncertainty.

These structures allow the speaker to navigate sensitive domains by articulating what is not there as a managed variable.