

DIRECTIONAL MOTION FORMS

by Seda Sürel

INTRODUCTION

1. Motion Toward (Dative –(y)A)

The dative expresses movement toward a goal or endpoint.

Examples:

- Eve gittik. — We went to the house.
- Okula koşuyor. — He/She is running to school.
- Şehre döndüler. — They returned to the city.
- Masaya oturdu. — He/She sat down at the table.

2. Motion Away From (Ablative –DAn)

The ablative marks departure from a source, point of origin, or route away from a place.

Examples:

- Evden çıktım. — I left the house.
- Ormandan geçtiler. — They passed through the forest.
- Masadan kalktı. — He/She stood up from the table.
- Yoldan geldim. — I came by way of the road.

3. Motion Within a Location (Locative –DA)

The locative expresses movement occurring inside, on, or within the boundaries of a place. It indicates location, not directional “throughness.”

Examples:

- Parkta yürüdük. — We walked in the park.
- Sokakta koştular. — They ran in the street.
- Denizde yüzüyorlar. — They are swimming in the sea.
- Evde dolaşıyor. — He/She is walking around inside the house.

Note: The locative does not inherently encode “through” or “via.” It describes the setting of the motion, not a path traversed.

4. Directional Adverbs (inherent directional meaning)

Adverbs such as içeri, dışarı, yukarı, aşağı encode motion toward a direction even in bare form, without case markers. Their lexical meaning already contains a directional component equivalent to a dative interpretation (“to inward/outward/upward/downward”).

Examples (Bare Form = Direction Toward):

- İçeri girdi. — He/She went in.
- Dışarı çıktı. — He/She went out.
- Yukarı koştu. — He/She ran up.
- Aşağı indi. — He/She went down.

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These bare forms may optionally take –(y)A for explicit marking, producing surface equivalents:

- İçeriye girdi.
- Dışarıya çıktı.
- Yukarıya koştu.
- Aşağıya indi.

Both forms are attested; the bare form is highly frequent.

5. Directional Compounds + Case

Directional adverbs combine with case suffixes to encode explicit motion paths.

5.1. Toward (Dative –(y)A)

- içeriye girdi — He/She went inside.
- dışarıya çıktı — He/She went outside.
- yukarıya çıktı — He/She climbed upward.
- aşağıya indi — He/She went downward.

5.2. Away From (Ablative –DAn)

- içeriden geldi — He/She came from inside.
- dışarıdan ses geliyor — A sound is coming from outside.
- yukarıdan baktı — He/She looked from above.
- aşağıdan bağırdı — He/She shouted from below.

5.3. Location (Locative –DA)

- içeride bekliyor — He/She is waiting inside.
- dışarıda kaldık — We stayed outside.
- yukarıda buluştuk — We met upstairs.
- aşağıda oturuyor — He/She lives downstairs.

6. Path Expressions (Ablative vs. Locative)

6.1. Path Through / Via (Ablative –DAn)

Ablative expresses motion through, along, or by way of a place.

Examples:

- Ormandan geçtik. — We passed through the forest.
- Tünelden geçiyorlar. — They are going through the tunnel.
- Yoldan gidiyoruz. — We are taking the road (as a route).
- Sahneden çıkıyor. — He/She exits by way of the stage.

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6.2. Motion in a Location (Locative –DA)

Locative expresses motion occurring within a place, not a path from one end to the other.

Examples:

- Parkta dolaştık. — We walked around in the park.
- Sokakta gezindi. — He/She strolled in the street.

This distinction aligns with standard syntactic analyses:

–DAn = path; –DA = location of activity.

7. Summary of Directional Encoding

- Toward: Dative –(y)A or directional adverbs
- Away from: Ablative –DAn
- Through/via: Ablative –DAn
- Within a location: Locative –DA
- Directional adverbs (içeri, dışarı, yukarı, aşağı) inherently encode motion toward even in bare form

Examples

- Eve koştum. — I ran to the house.
- Evden koştum. — I ran from the house.
- İçeri girdik. — We went inside.
- Dışarıdan geldiler. — They came from outside.
- Yukarı çıktım. — I went upstairs.
- Aşağıdaki odada bekliyor. — He/She is waiting in the room downstairs.
- Ormandan geçtiler. — They passed through the forest.
- Parkta yürüdük. — We walked in the park.
- Dışarıya baktım. — I looked outward.

Notes

- Direction may be encoded by case morphology, lexical adverbs, or both together.
- Bare directional adverbs inherently contain a motion-toward interpretation.
- Ablative –DAn expresses path; locative –DA expresses location.
- Only attested combinations and standard usages are included.