

# ADVERBS OF FREQUENCY

by Seda Sürel

## INTRODUCTION

Frequency adverbs specify the recurrence or habitual nature of an action. They integrate into the predicate domain and modify the temporal distribution of events without inflection.

### 1. Function

Frequency adverbs indicate how often an action occurs. They contribute aspectual interpretation by marking repeated or habitual events in time.

### 2. Lexical Inventory (Systematic Ordering)

Turkish uses a set of lexicalized frequency adverbs. In order of decreasing frequency:

#### Always (highest frequency)

- her zaman, daima (always)

#### Usually / Mostly

- genellikle, çoğunlukla, çoğu zaman (generally, mostly, most of the time)

#### Frequently

- sık sık (frequently)

#### Sometimes / Occasionally

- bazen, ara sıra (sometimes, occasionally)

#### Rarely / Hardly Ever

- nadiren, pek az (rarely, hardly ever)

#### Never (with negation)

- hiç, asla (never)

These forms constitute the primary frequency system and are not derived through productive morphology.

### 3. Syntactic Position

Frequency adverbs typically precede the verb within the predicate.

Canonical order:

**Subject + Frequency Adverb + Verb Phrase**

Fronting is possible for emphasis but marked.

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## 4. Interaction With Tense and Aspect

Frequency adverbs combine with all tense–aspect forms.

The adverb encodes recurrence; verbal morphology determines temporal anchoring.

## 5. Negation

Negation applies to the verb.

Hiç and asla require a negative predicate.

## 6. Multiple Adverbs

More than one frequency element may co-occur.

Ordering follows semantic scope: broader frequency precedes narrower frequency.

## Examples

- Her zaman erken uyanırım. (I always wake up early.)
- Genellikle evde çalışır. (He/She generally works at home.)
- Sık sık dışarı çıkarız. (We frequently go out.)
- Çoğu zaman geç döner. (He/She returns late most of the time.)
- Bazen yürüyerek giderim. (Sometimes I go on foot.)
- Ara sıra kitap okurlar. (They occasionally read books.)
- Nadiren kahve içerim. (I rarely drink coffee.)
- Asla geç kalmam. (I never arrive late.)
- Hiç dışarı çıkmaz. (He/She never goes outside.)
- Daima doğruyu söyler. (He/She always tells the truth.)

## Notes

- Frequency adverbs are invariable.
- Hiç and asla must be paired with negative verb forms.
- Frequency meaning arises from the adverbic element, not from verbal morphology.