

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.

ADVERBS OF FREQUENCY

by Seda Sürel

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 doğrulu söyle. (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.