NOMINALIZED CLAUSES INSIDE NOUN PHRASES

by Seda Sürel

INTRODUCTION

1. Function

Nominalized clauses inside noun phrases allow Turkish to compress actions, processes, and outcomes into compact noun units.

When an action enters a noun phrase, the structure shifts from a static label to a process-bearing unit, enabling dense information packaging in everyday speech, professional writing, and academic analysis.

2. Forms

A) Action Nominalization with –mA

Form:
Verb + (Voice) + -mA + Possessive

This structure turns an action into a noun that can function as the possessed element in a noun phrase.

Examples:
- strateji planlama-sı
- veri analiz yapıl-ma-sı

The possessive suffix is obligatory and signals nominal status.

B) Possessive-Based Modifiers with –DIK / –(y)AcAK
Relative nominalizations behave like possessive-based modifiers, not simple adjectives.

Form:
Owner (Genitive) + Verb-DIK / -(y)AcAK + Possessive

Example:
- hükümet-in al-dığ-ı kararlar

This structure refers to the outcome of an action, not to a descriptive quality.

3. Morphology

A) Possessive Control
Nominalized verbs must carry a possessive suffix to enter noun phrases.
Without possessive marking, the structure is incomplete.

B) Pronominal –n– (Structural Joint)
The pronominal -n- is not a simple buffer consonant.
It is a structural joint that connects possessive-marked units to case markers.
It appears after possessive suffixes and before any case marker, regardless of whether the case suffix begins with a vowel or a consonant.

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Examples:
- planlama-sı-n-dan
- politika-sı-n-da
- yapıl-ma-sı-n-ı

C) Negative Nominalization with –mAmA
Negative processes are most naturally expressed through double nominalization, not through –sIz.

Examples:
- proje-nin onaylan-ma-ma-sı
- veri-ler-in paylaşıl-ma-ma-sı

These forms encode the absence of an action as a process and integrate smoothly into noun phrase structures.

4. Structural Guide

A) Chain Integration with Nominalized Actions
Nominalized clauses can occupy the final position in complex possessive chains.

Natural structure:
- evin tadilatının yapılmasını bekliyoruz

Hierarchical analysis:
- ev-in (Owner)
- tadilat-ı (Owned 1)
- -n-ın (Genitive bridge)
- yapıl-ma-sı-n-ı (Final owned action, Accusative)

Micro-morphology of yapılmasını:
- yap- (verb root)
- -ıl- (passive)
- -ma- (nominalizer)
- -sı (possessive)
- -n- (pronominal joint)
- -ı (accusative / specific object marker)

B) Visual Hierarchy (Matruşka Logic)
Meaning is decoded from right to left, while modification accumulates from left to right.

Example:
- [[şirket-in uyguladığ-ı] sistem]-in sonuçları

The inner unit must be interpreted as a complete block before attaching to the outer noun.

5. Usage
Nominalized clauses inside noun phrases are used to:

- Report processes without full subordinate clauses
- Maintain formal or neutral tone
- Organize complex information efficiently
- Reflect both spoken reasoning and written analysis

These structures are common in professional language and everyday explanations alike.

Examples

A) Everyday Use

Natural Form:
- Ödeme yapılmasını bekliyoruz.

Morphological Form:
- ödeme yapıl-ma-sı-n-ı bekliyor-uz

English:
- We are waiting for the payment to be made.

B) Professional Context

Natural Form:
- Projenin onaylanmaması süreci uzattı.

Morphological Form:
- proje-nin onaylan-ma-ma-sı süreç-i uzat-tı

English:
- The non-approval of the project prolonged the process.

C) Advanced B2+ Stacking

Natural Form:
- Stratejik hedeflerin belirlenmesinin önemi büyüktür.

Morphological Form:
- stratejik hedef-ler-in belir-le-n-me-si-n-in önem-i büyük-tür

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Micro-morphology of belirlenmesinin:
- belir- (root)
- -le- (verb-making)
- -n- (passive)
- -me- (nominalizer)
- -si (possessive)
- -n- (pronominal joint)
- -in (genitive)

English:
- The importance of the setting of strategic goals.

Notes
- The -mAk infinitive cannot take possessive suffixes and therefore cannot participate in possessive noun phrase chains.
- Only -mA nominalizations function as fully integrated noun phrase elements.
- The pronominal -n- is mandatory wherever possessive morphology meets case marking.