

# NOMINALIZED CLAUSES

by Seda Sürel

## INTRODUCTION

Nominalized clauses formed with –mA function as noun phrases within sentence structure.

These clauses serve as subjects or objects and participate in clause syntax through possessive and case marking.

### 1. Function

Nominalized clauses allow an event or state to be treated as a referential unit. They occupy subject or object positions in the clause structure, functioning as core arguments of the main predicate.

### 2. Forms

Nominalized clauses are formed with:

- –mA verbal noun formation,
- possessive suffixes marking the subject of the nominalized clause,
- case suffixes marking the syntactic role of the nominalized clause in the main clause.

### 3. Morphology

The nominalized clause is built as follows:

Verb stem → –mA → possessive suffix → case suffix (if required)

#### Suffix shape:

- –mA → ma / me

#### Case suffix shapes:

- –(y)l → l / i / u / ü
- –(y)A → a / e
- –DA → da / de / ta / te
- –DAn → dan / den / tan / ten

Negation is formed inside the nominalized clause. When negation and nominalization both use –mA, the sequence appears consecutively.

### 4. Structural Formation of Nominalized Clauses

Nominalized clauses follow a fixed and ordered morphological structure. Suffixes are added in a strict sequence that cannot be altered.

#### Obligatory order:

Verb stem → –mA → possessive suffix → case suffix

#### Suffix Placement Rules

- 1.–mA nominalizes the verb and creates a verbal noun.
- 2.Possessive suffixes mark the subject of the nominalized clause.
- 3.Case suffixes mark the syntactic role of the entire nominalized clause within the main clause

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No suffix may intervene between these elements.

## Structural Examples

- gel-me-n
- (come + -mA + 2nd person singular possessive)
- gel-me-ni
- (come + -mA + possessive + Accusative)
- gel-me-si
- (come + -mA + 3rd person singular possessive)
- gel-me-si-ne
- (come + -mA + possessive + Dative)
- gel-me-me-si
- (come + negation + -mA + possessive)
- gel-me-me-si-ni
- (come + negation + -mA + possessive + Accusative)

## Negation and Suffix Order

Negation precedes nominalization.

**Verb stem → negation -mA → nominalization -mA → possessive → case**

This produces consecutive -mA sequences without fusion or omission.

## Structural Constraints

- Possessive suffixes are obligatory in nominalized clauses.
- Case suffixes are optional and depend on syntactic function.
- Case marking applies to the entire nominalized clause, not to the verb stem alone.

## 5. Syntax

The nominalized clause behaves as a noun phrase.

It may appear with or without an overt genitive-marked subject phrase (e.g., "senin", "onun"); in all cases, the subject of the nominalized clause is encoded by the possessive suffix.

Case marking attaches to the end of the nominalized clause, after -mA and the possessive suffix.

## 6. Usage

Nominalized clauses commonly occur with predicates expressing:

- volition, preference, and expectation,
- evaluation,
- necessity, possibility, and similar stance relations.

The syntactic role of the nominalized clause is determined by the main predicate and marked by case when required.

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## Examples

- Senin gelmen beni sevindirdi.
- (Your coming made me happy.)
- Onun gelmesi sürpriz oldu.
- (His/Her coming was a surprise.)
- Gelmen önemli.
- (Your coming is important.)
- Gelmeni istiyorum.
- (I want you to come.)
- Burada kalmanı bekliyorum.
- (I am expecting you to stay here.)
- Erken çıkmamızı önerdi.
- (He/She suggested that we leave early.)
- Gelmemesi sorun değil.
- (His/Her not coming is not a problem.)
- Onların konuşmaması daha iyi.
- (It is better that they do not speak.)

## Notes

- The subject of the nominalized clause is expressed through possessive suffixes.
- Case suffixes attach after the possessive suffix, marking the role of the entire nominalized clause.
- Negation occurs inside the nominalized clause and may yield consecutive –mA sequences.