

GENITIVE SUPPRESSION & IMPLICIT RELATIONS

by Seda Sürel

INTRODUCTION

1. Function

This lesson explains how Turkish omits the genitive (tamlayan) in certain contexts while preserving meaning through implicit ownership and structural markers. The focus is on how ownership and reference are maintained across sentences, not only inside fixed noun compounds.

2. Forms

Genitive suppression occurs when:

- The owner is already known from context
- Repetition is stylistically avoided
- The focus shifts from the owner to the process or object
- Institutional or professional tone requires abstraction

The possessed noun retains its possessive marking, and when case marking follows, the pronominal **-n-** appears as a structural connector.

3. Morphology

A) Possessive Retention without Genitive

Even when the genitive noun is omitted, the possessed noun keeps its possessive suffix.

- politika-sı
- onaylan-ma-sı
- tamamlan-ma-sı

This signals that an owner exists, even if it is not stated.

B) Pronominal **-n-** as Structural Evidence

When a possessed form takes a case marker, the pronominal **-n-** appears even if the genitive is suppressed.

- politika-sı-n-da
- onaylan-ma-sı-n-ı
- tamamlan-ma-sı-n-in

The **-n-** functions as a structural marker, proving an implicit genitive relationship.

C) Agency Suppression

Passive nominalization and genitive suppression work together to remove the agent.

This is a deliberate strategy in professional Turkish to maintain a neutral, evidence-based distance, shifting focus from who did something to what process occurred.

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4. Structural Guide

A) Cross-Sentence Implicit Ownership

Genitive suppression often operates across sentences, not within a single noun phrase.
The second (and following) sentences rely on a previously introduced owner, now implicit.

B) Matruşka Logic (Nested Reference)

[[rapor-un içeriği] incelendi]. [onaylanma-sı-n-ı] bekliyoruz.
The outer structure depends on an inner, already established unit.
Ownership is not repeated, but nested.

C) Visual Hierarchy with Suppressed Genitive

[(Şirket)] politika-sı-n-da değişiklik yapıldı.
The omitted genitive is still encoded morphologically.

5. Usage

Genitive suppression is common in:

- Reports
- Meeting minutes
- Academic writing
- Institutional announcements
- Legal and administrative texts

It prevents redundancy while maintaining precision.

Examples

A)

Natural Form:

Raporun içeriği incelendi. Onaylanması bekliyoruz.

Morphological Form:

Rapor-un içer-ik-i ince-len-di.
(onay-la-n-ma-sı-n-ı) bekli-yor-uz.

English:

The content of the report was reviewed. We are waiting for its approval.

B)

Natural Form:

Politikası-n-da önemli değişiklikler yapıldı.

Morphological Form:

(şirket) politika-sı-n-da önemli değişimler yap-il-di.

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English:

Important changes were made to its policy.

C)

Natural Form:

Tamamlanmasının ardından süreç hızlandı.

Morphological Form (Micro-Morphology):

- tamam- (root / adj: complete)
- -la- (verb-maker)
- -n- (passive)
- -ma- (nominalizer)
- -sı (possessive)
- -n- (pronominal joint)
- -ın (genitive bridge)

→ tamam-la-ma-sı-n-ın

English:

After its completion, the process was accelerated.

D) Paragraph-Level Analysis (Implicit Chain)

Natural Form:

Yeni proje onaylandı. Hazırlanmasına hemen başlandı. Tamamlanmasının ardından sunumuna geçilecek.

Structural Analysis:

- proje → explicitly introduced owner
- hazırlan-ma-sı-n-a → preparation of the project
- tamamlan-ma-sı-n-ın → completion of the same project
- sunum-u-n-a → presentation of the same project

Each sentence omits the genitive noun, but the possessive suffix + pronominal -n- preserves continuity. Ownership is tracked discursively, not lexically.

English:

The new project was approved. Its preparation was started immediately. After its completion, the presentation will begin.

Notes

- Genitive suppression does not remove ownership; it removes lexical repetition
- The possessive suffix signals an implicit owner
- The pronominal -n- is a structural joint, not optional
- Suppressed genitives are common in professional discourse
- Passive nominalization supports agency suppression
- Meaning is reconstructed through discourse context, not isolated words