

REPORTED SPEECH

by Seda Sürel

INTRODUCTION

Reported speech in Turkish is formed through nominalized clauses instead of direct quotation.

The reported content functions as a noun phrase created through verbal nominalization and possessive suffixes.

1. Function

Reported speech encodes statements, thoughts, knowledge, or perceptions without direct quotation.

The reported clause behaves syntactically as a noun and occupies argument positions of the main verb, such as subject or object.

2. Forms

Reported clauses are formed with:

- –DİK for non-future reference.
- –AcAK for future reference.

Both forms require possessive suffixes that mark the subject of the reported clause.

Consonant Softening with –DİK and –AcAK

When the nominalizers –DİK or –AcAK are followed by vowel-initial possessive or case suffixes, the final consonant k must soften to ğ. This is a mandatory rule in Turkish phonology.

Consonant Softening Examples (–DİK / –AcAK)

- geldiğini
- (from geldiğ- + Accusative –I)
- geleceğini
- (from geleceğ- + Accusative –I)
- yaptığına
- (from yaptığı- + Dative –A)
- kalacağımızı
- (from kalacağımız- + Accusative –I)

3. Morphology

The verb stem is nominalized and followed by possessive suffixes.

Suffix shapes:

- –DİK → dık / dik / duk / dük
- –AcAK → acak / ecek

Possessive suffixes (illustrative forms):

- geldiğim
- geldiğin
- geldiği
- geleceğimiz

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Nominalized clauses may take case suffixes according to their syntactic function.

4. Syntax

The nominalized clause may precede or follow the main verb depending on sentence structure.

The clause functions as a subject or object within the sentence.

Case marking applies to the end of the nominalized clause, after the –DİK / –AcAK and possessive suffixes, not to the verb stem alone.

5. Usage

- –DİK is used when the reported event is Past or Present relative to the reporting moment.
- –AcAK is used when the reported event is Future relative to the reporting moment.

Reported speech does not require quotation markers.

Examples

- Onun geldiğini söyledi.
- (He/She said that he/she came.)
- Toplantının bittiğini biliyorum.
- (I know that the meeting is over.)
- Yarın geleceğini düşündüm.
- (I thought that he/she would come tomorrow.)
- Burada kalacağımızı açıkladı.
- (He/She announced that we would stay here.)
- Ne yaptığını sordular.
- (They asked what he/she was doing.)
- Seni aradığımı hatırlıyor.
- (He/She remembers that I called you.)

Notes

- Reported clauses are obligatorily nominalized.
- Possessive suffixes mark the subject of the reported clause.
- Temporal reference is encoded through –DİK and –AcAK rather than finite tense marking.