

RELATIVE CLAUSES VS NOUN-BASED STRUCTURES

by Seda Sürel

INTRODUCTION

1. Function

This lesson focuses on the strategic choice between Relative Clauses (identification) and Noun-Based Structures (analysis). The goal is to choose the structure that fits the context: objects vs. processes, or inventory vs. reporting.

Relative Clauses: Used to identify or describe a specific noun (The which question).

Noun-Based Structures: Used to analyze an event or process as a factual block (The what question).

2. Forms

A) Relative Clauses (Adjectival Structures)

- **Pattern:** [Verb Stem (+ Passive Suffix)] + [Participle] + Noun
- **Function:** Identify or specify an item.
- **Example:** Onaylanan proje (The approved project).

B) Noun-Based Structures (Nominal Structures)

- **Pattern:** [Verb Stem] + [Nominalizer] + [Possessive]
- **Function:** Present the action as a fact or process.
- **Example:** Projenin onaylanması (The approval of the project).

3. Morphology

A) Relative Clause Morphology (The Participles)

This suffix turns a verb into an adjective.

The Modifier Logic (Relative Clause): The verb is now an adjective. It cannot stand alone; it must "hug" the noun: [[Onaylanan] bütçe] -> (Which budget? The approved one.)

- -An / -en: Describes the "doer" or (if passive) the "receiver" of the action.

Active: Geciken rapor (The report that is late).

Passive Integration: [Verb] + [Passive -I / -n] + [-An]

Example: Onay-la-n-an proje (The project that is approved).

- -DIK / -tık: Describes a noun that is the object of a completed action.

Example: Hazır-la-dığ-ımız sunum (The presentation that we prepared).

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B) Nominal Structures and the Pronominal -n-

This suffix turns a verb into a noun/concept.

The Block Logic (Noun-Based Structure): The entire phrase is a "Nominal Block." It functions like a single heavy noun: [[Bütçenin onaylanması]] -> (What happened? The approving of the budget.)

- mA / -me: Turns the verb into a concept/fact.
- The -n- Linker: When a case marker follows the 3rd person possessive, the pronominal -n- is mandatory.

Example: onay-lan-ma-sı-n-dan, gecik-me-si-n-i.

C) Agency Suppression

- Noun-based structures deliberately suppress the agent to maintain a neutral, evidence-based distance. Focus shifts from who did it to what happened.

4. Structural Guide

A) Identification vs. Fact

- Relative Clause: Which report? → Geciken rapor.
- Noun-Based: What happened? → Raporun gecikmesi.

B) Block Movement & Visualization

A noun-based structure behaves as one movable "Nominal Block":

- Subject:** [[Projenin onaylanması]] sevindirici.
- Object:** [[Projenin onaylanması-n-ı]] bekliyoruz.

Relative: [onaylanan [proje]]

Noun-based: [[projenin onaylanma-sı]-n-ı]

5. Usage (Strategic Choice)

- Relative Clauses** → Identification, listing, inventory-style writing.
- Noun-Based Structures** → Analysis, impact, cause-effect reporting.
- Professional Flow:** Identify first (Relative) → Analyze later (Noun-Based).

Examples

A) Basic Contrast

- Relative:** Geciken rapor yönetimi kızdırdı. (The delayed report upset the management.)
- Noun-Based:** Raporun gecikmesi yönetimi kızdırdı. (The delay of the report upset the management.)

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B) Professional Variety (Mirrored Sets)

- **Relative:** Tamamlanan iş yeniden değerlendirildi. (The completed work was re-evaluated.)
- **Noun-Based:** İşin tamamlanması yeniden değerlendirildi. (The completion of the work was re-evaluated.)
- **Relative:** Revize edilen bütçe sunuldu. (The revised budget was presented.)
- **Noun-Based:** Bütçenin revize edilmesi sunuldu. (The revision of the budget was presented.)
- **Relative:** Hazırlanan sunum paylaşıldı. (The prepared presentation was shared.)
- **Noun-Based:** Sunumun hazırlanması paylaşıldı. (The preparation of the presentation was shared.)
- **Relative:** Değiştirilen strateji uygulamaya alındı. (The changed strategy was implemented.)
- **Noun-Based:** Stratejinin değiştirilmesi uygulamaya alındı. (The changing of the strategy was implemented.)

C) Case Marking and Pronominal -n-

- Onaylanma-sı-n-dan sonra süreç hızlandı. (The process accelerated after its approval.)
- Gecikme-si-n-i dikkate aldık. (We took its delay into consideration.)

D) Context Chain (Professional Flow)

- **Clause chain:** Veriler toplandı. Analiz yapıldı. Karar verildi. (Data was collected. Analysis was done. A decision was made.)
- **Compressed (Clause → Phrase):** Verilerin toplanma-sı-n-dan sonra analiz yapılma-sı-n-a geçildi; kararın verilmesi süreci tamamladı. (After the collection of the data, the conducting of the analysis was started; the giving of the decision completed the process.)

F) Contextual Contrast — The Professional Choice

- **Scenario:** A manager is reporting a project delay.
- **Option 1 — Inventory Style (Relative Dominant):**
 - [[Geciken] proje raporu] tamamlandı. (The [delayed] project report was completed.)
 - [[Onaylanan] bütçe] revize edildi. (The [approved] budget was revised.)
 - (Focus: Items themselves; list-like tone.)
- **Option 2 — Analytical Style (Noun-Based Dominant):**
 - [[Proje raporunun gecikme-si-n-in]] süreci aksattığı görüldü. (It was observed that [the delay of the project report] hindered the process.)
 - [[Bütçenin onaylanma-sı-n-ın]] operasyonu hızlandıracağı öngörülüyor. (It is predicted that [the approval of the budget] will accelerate the operation.)
 - (Focus: Facts and impacts; analytical report tone.)

Strategic Insight:

Use Relative Clauses to identify or specify objects; use Noun-Based Structures to analyze causes, effects, and institutional outcomes.

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Notes

- Relative clauses are identification-oriented and stay close to the noun.
- Noun-based structures present actions as facts, allowing for complex analysis.
- Analytical writing favors noun-based structures for objectivity.
- The pronominal -n- is the structural glue in complex professional chains.
- For identifying the receiver of an action, the passive suffix (-n/-l) is mandatory before the participle (e.g., Onaylanan).