ADVERBIAL CLAUSES

by Seda Sürel

INTRODUCTION

Future-in-the-past forms in Turkish are compound tense structures used to express events that were located in the future relative to a past reference point.

These forms combine a future-oriented verb form with the past copula –DI, shifting the temporal viewpoint from present to past.

1. Function
Future-in-the-past structures are used to express:

- intentions or plans that existed in the past,
- future events viewed from a past moment,
- expectations or predictions held at a past time,
- actions that were going to happen but may not have occurred.

The structure encodes future meaning from a past perspective.

2. Forms
Future-in-the-past is formed by combining:

- a future-oriented verb form,
- the past copula –DI,
- personal endings.

The two structural patterns covered here are:

- –AcAK + –DI
- –(I)r + –DI

3. Morphology
The past copula derives from imek and appears as –DI, following vowel harmony and consonant assimilation.

Suffix shapes
- –DI → dı / di / du / dü
- –TI → tı / ti / tu / tü (after voiceless consonants)

Consonant Assimilation
When the past copula follows a voiceless consonant

(p, ç, t, k, f, s, ş, h), –DI surfaces as –TI.

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Structure:
Verb stem → –erek / –arak → main clause

Suffix shapes:
–erek / –arak

If the verb stem ends in a vowel, –y– is added.

yürü- → yürüyerek
başla- → başlayarak
oku- → okuyarak
gül- → gülerek
koş- → koşarak

c. –ip (sequence)

Meaning:
"and then … / after doing …"

Structure:
Verb stem → –ip → main clause

Suffix shapes:
–ip / –ıp / –up / –üp

If the verb stem ends in a vowel, –y– is added.

ye- → yeyip
oku- → okuyup
söyle- → söyleyip
gel- → gelip
al- → alıp

4. Syntax
Adverbial clauses:

- do not take personal endings
- appear before the main verb
- modify the main clause as adverbs

The subject is shared with the main clause unless stated otherwise.

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5. Usage

–dikçe
Used for repeated situations or gradual change.

–erek / –arak
Used to show how an action is performed.

–ip
Used to show a sequence of actions.

Examples

–dikçe
Zaman geçtikçe her şey değişiyor.
(The more time passes, everything changes.)

Çalıştıkça daha iyi anlıyorum.
(The more I study, the better I understand.)

–erek / –arak
Gülerek konuştu.
(He spoke while smiling.)

Yavaşça yürüyerek eve gitti.
(She went home by walking slowly.)

–ip
Kapıyı açıp içeri girdi.
(He opened the door and went inside.)

Çay yapıp masaya koydu.
(She made tea and put it on the table.)

Notes
- These suffixes do not mark tense or person.
- The main verb carries tense and person information.
- –dikçe follows consonant assimilation (D → T).
- –erek / –ip require –y– after vowel-final stems.
- These structures are extremely common in spoken and written Turkish.