

# FROM CLAUSE TO PHRASE

by Seda Sürel

## INTRODUCTION

### 1. Function

This lesson explains a syntactic transformation, not a morphological one. A full clause does not disappear when it becomes a phrase. It is repackaged as a single nominal block that can move freely inside another sentence.

The architectural shift is clear:

- from asserting an action
- to treating the action as an object

This allows Turkish to compress information without losing meaning.

### 2. Forms

#### A) Clause (Finite Structure)

A clause functions as a complete statement.

- It has tense
- It has agreement
- It occupies the whole sentence

**Pattern:**

Subject + Verb (+ Object)

#### B) Phrase (Nominal Block)

A phrase functions as a single unit inside another sentence.

- No tense
- No agreement
- Behaves like a noun

**Pattern:**

[Nominalized Action] + Case / Predicate

### 3. Morphology (Functional Reminder)

Morphology is not the focus of this lesson.

It is the mechanism that enables syntactic movement.

Once a clause is nominalized:

- It stops behaving like a sentence
- It becomes a movable block
- It can occupy subject or object position

The block is syntactically indivisible.

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## 4. Structural Guide (The Block Logic)

### A) One Clause → One Block

**Compare:**

- Kurul projeyi onayladı.
- Kurulun projeyi onaylaması

The second structure is no longer a statement.  
It is a unit.

### B) Block Movement (Core Insight)

The same block can move inside the sentence without internal change.

• **Subject position:**

Kurulun projeyi onaylaması sevindirici.

• **Object position:**

Kurulun projeyi onaylamasını bekliyoruz.

This confirms that the structure functions like a module, not a clause.

**Visual hierarchy (Matruşka):**

[[Kurul-un projeyi onayla-ma-sı]]

The entire structure moves as one piece.

## 5. Usage (Professional Motivation)

Clause-to-phrase conversion allows Turkish to:

- Pack multiple events into one sentence
- Control focus and distance
- Reduce repetition
- Maintain institutional tone

This is a strategy of professional efficiency, not simplification.

**Examples**

### A) Role Shift Inside One Sentence

**Clause sequence:**

Kurul projeyi onayladı.

Bu bizi rahatlattı.

**Compressed structure:**

Kurulun projeyi onaylaması bizi rahatlattı.

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## Reason:

This structure shifts focus from the decision-maker to the decision itself, creating a neutral institutional tone.

## B) Object Control

### Clause:

Kurul projeyi onaylayacak.

### Phrase-based sentence:

Kurulun projeyi onaylamasını bekliyoruz.

## Reason:

This compression allows the action to be treated as an expected outcome rather than a prediction.

## C) Context Chain (Professional Workflow)

### Separate clauses:

Veriler toplandı.

Analiz yapıldı.

### Compressed structure:

Verilerin toplanmasının ardından analiz yapılması geçildi.

## Reason:

This structure accelerates cause–effect flow in reports by eliminating full clauses.

## D) Multi-Sentence Process Compression

### Original sequence:

Yeni proje onaylandı.

Hazırlanmaya başlandı.

Tamamlandı.

Sunuldu.

### Compressed professional version:

Yeni projenin onaylanmasıyla hazırlanmasına başlandı, tamamlanmasının sonrasında sunumuna geçildi.

## Reason:

This compression allows long procedural sequences to be presented as a single controlled process.

## Notes

- This lesson focuses on syntax, not suffix mechanics
- Nominalized clauses behave as single blocks
- The same block can function as subject or object
- Clause compression increases textual density
- This structure is central to professional Turkish
- Morphology enables the shift, syntax controls movement