

CASE MARKING ON NOMINALIZED STRUCTURES

by Seda Sürel

INTRODUCTION

1. Function

Nominalized structures allow actions and processes to function as noun phrases.

When these structures take case markers, they enter sentence grammar as objects, goals, locations, or sources, according to verb valency.

2. Forms

Nominalized structures that take case markers are formed with:

A) -mA + Possessive

B) -DIK + Possessive

Case markers attach to these structures through the pronominal joint –n–.

3. Morphology

A) Core Morphological Pattern

Nominalized Base + Possessive + Pronominal –n– + Case Marker

Examples:

yapıl-ma-sı-n-ı

başlaması-n-a

gecikmesi-n-den

The pronominal –n– functions as a morphological joint, enabling the transition from possessive structure to the case system.

B) Case Markers Used with Nominalized Structures

1. Accusative (-n-ı / -n-i)
2. Marks a definite object required by the main verb.
3. Dative (-n-a / -n-e)
4. Marks goal, direction, or decision target.
5. Locative (-n-da / -n-de)
6. Marks a state or condition.
7. Ablative (-n-dan / -n-den)
8. Marks source, cause, or reason.
9. Genitive (-n-in / -n-in)
10. Functions as a case marker and as a structural bridge in possessive chains.

C) Voice and Meaning (Agency Suppression)

Passive nominalization is preferred in Turkish professional and academic language to suppress agency and foreground the process.

CASE MARKING ON NOMINALIZED STRUCTURES

by Seda Sürel

Examples:

belirlen-me-si
tamamlan-ma-sı
onaylan-ma-ma-sı

This is a deliberate strategy in professional Turkish to maintain a neutral, evidence-based distance.

D) Derivational Transparency

Derivational layers must remain visible before voice and nominalization.

A) belir- (verb root: to appear) + -le- (verb-maker: to determine)

B) tamam- (adj/noun root: complete) + -la- (verb-maker: to complete)

These derivations precede passive, nominalization, and possessive layers.

4. Structural Guide

A) Chain Analysis (Preserved Hierarchy)

ev-in tadilat-ı-n-in yapıl-ma-sı-n-ı
ev-in → owner (genitive)
tadilat-ı → owned noun
-n-in → genitive bridge
yapıl-ma-sı → final nominalized action
-n-ı → accusative (specific object)

Micro-morphology of “yapılmasını”:

yap- (verb root)
-ıl- (passive)
-ma- (nominalizer)
-sı (possessive)
-n- (pronominal joint)
-ı (accusative case)

B) Visual Hierarchy (Matruşka Structure)

[[şirket-in uyguladığ-ı] sistem]-in sonuçları

The inner block functions as a complete unit before entering a new possessive chain.

C) Genitive as Structural Bridge

The genitive case connects nominalized units to higher layers.

Example:

tamamlan-ma-sı-n-in etkisi

Here, -in functions as a genitive case marker and as a structural bridge.

CASE MARKING ON NOMINALIZED STRUCTURES

by Seda Sürel

5. Usage

Case selection depends on the requirements of the main verb.

Examples:

istemek → accusative

karar vermek → dative

dolayı / yüzünden → ablative

Nominalized structures obey the same syntactic rules as standard noun phrases.

Examples

A) Accusative (Object Position)

Natural Form:

Ödeme yapılmasını bekliyoruz.

Morphological Form:

ödeme yapıl-ma-sı-n-ı bekliyoruz

English:

We are waiting for the payment to be made.

B) Dative (Goal / Direction)

Natural Form:

Hazırlanmasına karar verildi.

Morphological Form:

hazır-la-n-ma-sı-n-a karar verildi

English:

A decision was made for it to be prepared.

C) Advanced Stacking (Genitive Chain)

Natural Form:

Stratejik hedeflerin belirlenmesinin önemi büyüktür.

Morphological Form:

stratejik hedef-ler-in belir-le-n-me-si-n-in önemi büyüktür

CASE MARKING ON NOMINALIZED STRUCTURES

by Seda Sürel

Micro-morphology of “belirlenmesinin”:

belir- (verb root: to appear)
-le- (verb-maker: to determine)
-n- (passive)
-me- (nominalizer)
-si (possessive)
-n- (pronominal joint)
-in (genitive case)

English:

The importance of determining strategic goals is significant.

D) Causative + Passive Nominalization

Natural Form:

Sürecin hızlandırılmasına karar verildi.

Morphological Form:

süreç-in hız-lan-dır-ıl-ma-sı-n-a karar verildi

Micro-morphology of “hızlandırılmasına”:

hız- (noun root)
-lan- (verb-maker)
-dır- (causative)
-ıl- (passive)
-ma- (nominalizer)
-sı (possessive)
-n- (pronominal joint)
-a (dative case)

English:

A decision was made to accelerate the process.

Notes

- The -mAk form cannot take possessive or case markers and cannot enter nominal chains.
- Passive nominalization is standard in Turkish professional discourse to foreground process over agency.
- The pronominal -n- is obligatory before all case markers, including the genitive.