

ADVANCED CONVERBS: PROPORTIONAL CHANGE WITH -DIKÇA

by Seda Sürel

INTRODUCTION

1. Function

-dikça is used to express correlated change between two things. It shows how one process evolves in proportion to another, not as a single cause producing a single effect, but as a continuous relationship: as one thing moves, the other moves with it.

This structure allows a speaker to:

- describe gradual, ongoing reactions rather than one-time events
- express escalation and attenuation (something increasing or decreasing over time)
- present outcomes as measured responses to a changing condition, rather than as fixed facts

This is not simple cause and effect. It is language for describing a relationship that keeps developing.

2. Forms

Positive Proportionality

X arttıkça, Y değişmektedir.

As X increases, Y changes accordingly.

Negative Proportionality (Scalar Decrease)

X azaldıkça, Y düşmektedir.

As X decreases, Y drops accordingly.

This is still a scalar relationship: both variables move together, gradually, along a continuum.

Strict Condition / Requirement (-mAdlkça)

X sağlanmadıkça, Y mümkün görülmemektedir.

Unless X is met, Y is not considered possible.

-mAdlkça works differently from the scalar examples above. It does not describe a gradual decrease. It states a binary requirement: as long as X remains unmet, Y does not happen at all. Nothing in between is described. This is closer in logic to "unless" than to "the less X, the less Y."

3. Morphology

Proportional meaning is often reinforced with words that describe direction and pace of change.

- arttıkça / azaldıkça — mark directional change, signaling a gradual and measurable shift rather than a sudden one.
- giderek — adds a sense of accumulation, emphasizing that the change is building up over time rather than happening all at once.

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-dikça itself follows regular vowel harmony and consonant devoicing, giving eight surface forms:

Voiced stems: -dikça / -dikçe / -dukça / -dükçe

Voiceless-final stems: -tıkça / -tikçe / -tukça / -tükçe

(Vowel choice follows the stem's last vowel; the d/t choice follows the same devoicing rule as -dl and -Dlr.)

Together, these elements let a sentence show that the change is still ongoing, that its effect builds up rather than appearing instantly, and that the outcome depends on this ongoing movement, not on a single moment.

4. Structural Guide

A proportional sentence is usually built by linking a changing condition to its consequence through connecting words:

- Trigger Variable, introduced by -dikça or -mAdikça
- Reactive Process, describing how something responds or adjusts
- Consequence, describing the resulting effect
- Closing Statement, summarizing the overall assessment

Useful connectors:

- buna bağlı olarak — marks a direct consequence
- dolayısıyla — marks a logical inference from what came before
- bu doğrultuda — signals alignment with an established trend
- nitekim — (note: unlike the other three, nitekim is not a mid-sentence proportional linker. It starts a new sentence and confirms or reinforces the point just made. Don't use it to connect clauses within the same sentence.)

Logical flow: Trigger Variable → Reactive Process → Consequence → Closing Statement

5. Usage

Proportional sentences often close with verbs that frame the statement as an assessment rather than a flat assertion:

- gözlemlenmektedir — based on ongoing observation
- öngörülmektedir — a projection based on current indicators
- değerlendirilmektedir — a judgment reached after weighing the evidence
- saptanmıştır — a finding that has been established
- tespit edilmiştir — a determination that has been recorded

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A few further closing verbs, useful in careful or formal writing:

- atıfta bulunmaktadır — pointing to an outside source or frame
- kayda geçmektedir — noting something for the record
- temellendirilmektedir — grounding a claim in evidence
- vurgulanmaktadır — placing emphasis without over-personalizing the claim
- yansıtılmaktadır — presenting something as a reflection of the data
- işaret edilmektedir — pointing toward a conclusion without asserting it outright

These verbs let a speaker calibrate exactly how confident or tentative their statement sounds.

Examples

A) Core Example

Küresel piyasalardaki belirsizlik arttıkça, yatırımcı davranışlarının daha kısa vadeli kazançlara yöneldiği değerlendirilmektedir.

— As uncertainty in global markets increases, it is assessed that investor behavior shifts toward short-term gains.

B) Extended Example

Merkez bankalarının para politikası araçlarının etkinliği azaldıkça, finansal istikrarın giderek makro-ihtiyati düzenlemelere bağımlı hale geldiği, bu doğrultuda geleneksel faiz koridoru stratejilerinin tek başına yeterli görülmediği vurgulanmaktadır.

— As the effectiveness of central banks' monetary policy instruments decreases, it is emphasized that financial stability increasingly becomes dependent on macroprudential regulations, and that traditional interest rate corridor strategies are no longer considered sufficient on their own.

C) Breaking the Sentence Down

- Proportional Trigger — merkez bankalarının para politikası araçlarının etkinliği azaldıkça — sets up the declining variable.
- Momentum Marker — giderek — signals that the effect is accumulating over time.
- Primary Reaction — finansal istikrarın makro-ihtiyati düzenlemelere bağımlı hale geldiği — describes the resulting shift.
- Directional Connector — bu doğrultuda — links this shift to what follows.
- Secondary Consequence — geleneksel faiz koridoru stratejilerinin tek başına yeterli görülmediği — states a further limitation.
- Closing Verb — vurgulanmaktadır — frames the whole statement as a considered emphasis, not a personal claim.

The sentence builds step by step, and the closing verb settles how the whole thing should be read.

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Notes

- dlkÇA describes ongoing, parallel change: as one thing moves, so does the other.
- -dlğİ sürece describes a fixed condition: something holds true only as long as another condition remains in place. The logic is binary, either the condition holds or it doesn't.
- -dlkÇA, by contrast, works on a continuum, which makes it especially useful for describing trends, gradual shifts, and developing situations.
- -mAdlkÇA behaves more like -dlğİ sürece than like scalar -dlkÇA: it states a requirement, not a gradual decrease. It shows up often in rules, requirements, and formal warnings.

-dlkÇA in everyday speech:

This structure is not only for formal or analytical writing. It's just as common in casual conversation:

- Onunla konuştuğça daha çok seviyorum. — The more I talk to him, the more I like him.
- Zaman geçtikçe unutursun. — As time passes, you'll forget.
- Giderek alışıyorum buraya. — I'm gradually getting used to it here. (giderek comes from git- + -ArAk, "going along," not from -dlkÇA — but it reinforces proportional change the same way arttıkça/azaldıkça do.)

In practice, proportional structures don't just state what happened. They show how one thing is tracking another, step by step, as both keep changing.