

# NECESSITY

by Seda Sürel

## INTRODUCTION

The suffix -meli / -malı expresses necessity, obligation, or strong expectation. It derives modal predicates that indicate what is required, advisable, or logically necessary in a given situation.

### 1. Function

The suffix encodes necessity modality, marking an action or state as obligatory, expected, or required.

Interpretation depends on context and may range from strong advice to logical necessity.

### 2. Forms

The suffix has two allomorphs determined by two-way vowel harmony:

Back vowels (a, ı, o, u) → -malı

Front vowels (e, i, ö, ü) → -meli

#### Examples:

- bak → bakmalı
- yaz → yazmalı
- gel → gelmeli
- düşün → düşünmeli
- gör → görmeli

### 3. Morphology

#### 3.1. Vowel Harmony

Final vowel back → -malı

Final vowel front → -meli

The suffix attaches directly to the verb stem without internal alternation.

#### 3.2. Person Marking

Since -meli / -malı ends in a vowel, 1st singular and 1st plural forms require the buffer consonant y.

Personal endings follow the nominal predication pattern:

1sg → -yim

2sg → -sin

3sg → ∅

1pl → -yiz

2pl → -siniz

3pl → -ler / -lar (optional)

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## Examples:

- Gitmeliyim. (I must go.)
- Dinlemelisin. (You must listen.)
- Hazır olmalı. (He/She must be ready.)
- Başlamalıyız. (We must start.)
- Gitmelisiniz. (You must go.)
- Gelmeliler / Gelmeli. (They must come.)

## 4. Syntax

The necessity suffix forms the main predicate:

Verb stem + -meli / -malı + person marker

## Examples:

- Erken yatmalısın. (You must go to bed early.)
- Daha dikkatli olmalıyız. (We must be more careful.)

The construction does not combine with tense or aspect marking; the modal meaning overrides them.

## 5. Distribution and Interpretation

The suffix expresses:

- obligation
- responsibility
- strong recommendation
- normative expectation
- logical necessity

## Examples:

- Bu konuda konuşmalıyız. (We must talk about this.)
- Daha fazla çalışmalısın. (You must study more.)
- Dikkatli olunmalı. (One must be careful.)

Impersonal uses are frequent in general statements.

## 6. Negation

Negation precedes the modal suffix:

verb + -ma / -me + -malı / -meli + person

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## Examples:

- Gitmemeliyim. (I must not go.)
- Yapmamalısın. (You must not do it.)
- Devam etmemeli. (He/She must not continue.)
- Geç kalmamalıyız. (We must not be late.)

## Examples

- Çalışmalıyım. (I must work.)
- Erken uyanmalısın. (You must wake up early.)
- Toplantı başlamalı. (The meeting must start.)
- Daha dikkatli olmalıyız. (We must be more careful.)
- Sağlıklı beslenmelisiniz. (You must eat healthily.)
- Kimse geç kalmamalı. (No one must be late.)

## Notes

- The suffix derives modal predicates expressing necessity.
- Person marking follows the nominal predicate system and uses buffer y where required.
- Negation attaches before the modal suffix.
- The form does not combine with tense or aspect morphology.