

Obligatory Adjuncts within Turkish Impersonals

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Introduction

- ▶ What is an adjunct?
- ▶ What does it do different than complements?
- ▶ What is the test?

(1) Oğl-um-u (harp-te) vur-du-lar.
son-POSS-ACC war-LOC shot-PST-3PL
“They shot my son in the war.”

- ▶ Is it always as clear as in Example 1?

Where Things Go South

- ▶ Passivizing Example 1 will create a strange picture.

(2) Oğl-um (harp-te) vur-ul-du.
son-POSS war-LOC shot-PASS-PST
“My son is shot in the war.”

- ▶ How about impersonal voice as in Example 3?

(3) Harp-te vur-ul-un-ur.
war-LOC shot-PASS-IMPV-AOR
“One was shot in the war.”

Özkaragöz, 1986

Any Other Example?

(4) Bu yalan-la yaşa-n-maz.
this lie-COM live-IMPV-NEG.AOR
“One cannot live with a lie like this.”

(5) Çukur-a düş-ül-ür.
hole-DAT fall-IMPV-AOR
“One falls to a hole.”

(6) Çukur-a düş-ül-dü.
hole-DAT fall-IMPV-AOR
“One fell to a hole.”

- ▶ We can infer that it is not the type of adjunct, time-aspect of the verb, or case of the adjunct.

Is adjunct lexically determined?

- (7) * Dans ed-il-ir.
dance do-IMPV-AOR
“One dances.”
- (8) Parti-de dans ed-il-ir.
party-LOC dance do-IMPV-AOR
“One dances at a party.”
- (9) Bu şarkı-ya dans ed-il-ir.
this song-DAT dance do-IMPV-AOR
“One usually dances to this song.”
- (10) Her sabah dans ed-il-ir.
every morning dance do-IMPV-AOR
“One dances every morning.”
- (11) Neyseki dans ed-il-di.
luckily dance do-IMPV-PST
“Luckily, there was dancing.”

Is it Locative Inversion?

(12) Into the room walked my brother Jack. Stowell, 1981

(13) Parti-de dans ed-il-ir.
party-LOC dance do-IMPV-AOR
“One dances in a party.”

(14) * Hızlı dans ed-il-ir.
fast dance do-IMPV-AOR
“One dances fast.”

- ▶ If it is an adjunct inversion, it should apply to every adjunct, which is not the case.

Is it Semantics?

- ▶ Impersonal Passives brings the non-agent reading.

THEN, EITHER

- ▶ Generic operator introduces “Some People” reading.

OR

- ▶ Past tense introduces “Referential/We” reading (Nakipoğlu-Demiralp, 2001).
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- ▶ In any case, there is no indication of adjunct being lift up to a complement level.

Is it Event Structure?

It can select any type of verb independent of their structure unlike English obligatory adjuncts.

(15) *This house was built.

(16) This house was built yesterday / with great difficulty / in a bad part of town / on a solid foundation.

Grimshaw and Vikner, 1993

What is it then?

- ▶ We propose that with impersonal voice, there is too many possible events that both speaker and addressee can entertain.
- ▶ Öztürk (2005) says that Tense in Turkish anchors events in reality. However, this is not enough in this situation. We need more information.
- ▶ Adjuncts to the rescue!
- ▶ Following Goldberg and Ackerman (2001), with no focal information, clausal prediction is infelicitous and adjuncts can bring focal information as in English mediopassives or middles.

What we have not entertained?

- ▶ EXH Operator
 - ▶ Impersonal being a sort of APPLICATIVE
 - ▶ Presupposition implemented in Impersonal Voice in compositional semantics.
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- ▶ However, none of them explain why this happens. They answer possible “get-aways.”

Selected References

Thank you!

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