



glottothèque
languages of Anatolia, Caucasus, Iran, Mesopotamia



Turkic in the LACIM area

Syntax II

Complex sentences and alternative strategies of clause combining ('loan syntax')

Christiane Bulut
University of Cyprus

Nicosia, March 14, 2022

visit glottothèque at: <https://spw.uni-goettingen.de/projects/lacim/>

contents

- (1) Simple sentences
- (2) Complex sentences
- (3) Alternative or copied strategies of clause combining
(‘loan syntax’)

(2) Complex Sentences

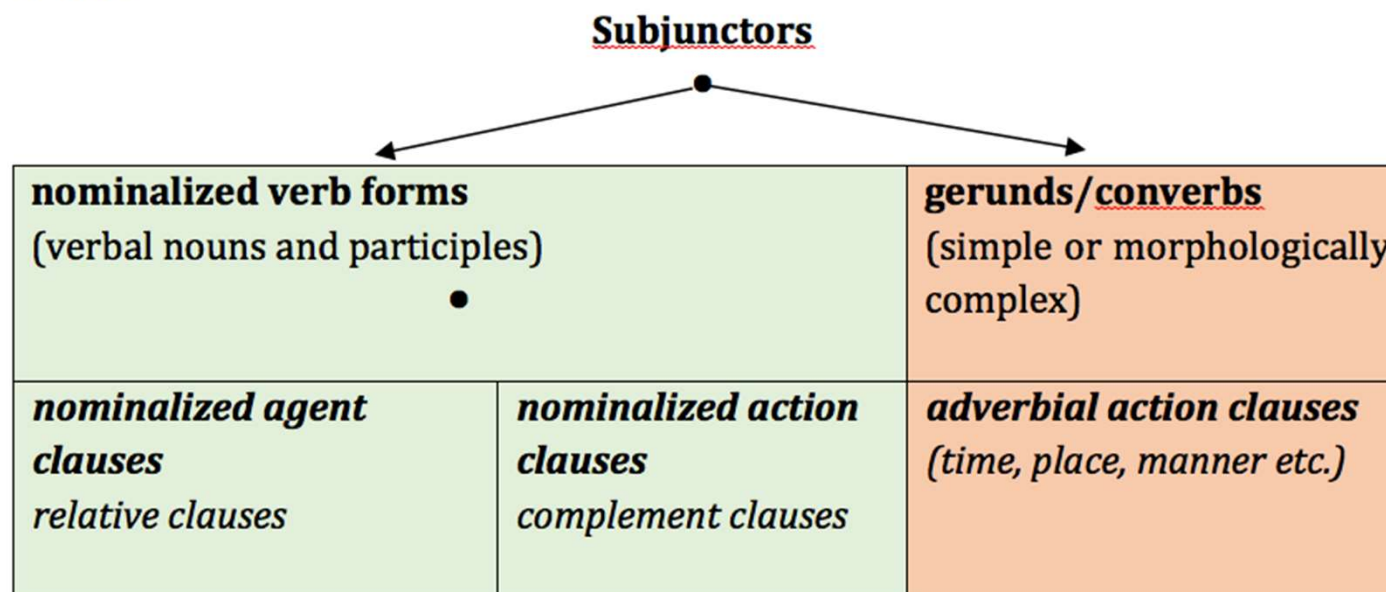
Complex sentences are constructions containing more than one verb.

- In contrast to e.g. Indo-European or Semitic languages, Turkic complex sentences contain **just one *finite* verb**.
 - According to this definition, Turkic has **no subordinated clauses based on finite verb forms**.
 - The Turkic equivalent to Indo-European (or Semitic) **subordinated clauses** are structures based on ***non-finite* verb forms** (= subjunctors), such as verbal nouns and gerunds.
 - These non-finite verb forms cannot occur independently, as they rely on the finite verb for necessary informations concerning time/mood, or agent. On their own, they would be untranslatable.
-

Non-finite verb forms

The basic principle of Turkic syntax: INFINITIZATION,
NOMINALIZATION of subordinated or dependent clauses

Non-finite verb forms ('subjunctors') forming subordinated or dependent clauses



Nominalized action clauses: *Complement clauses*

(after *verbae sentiendi et dicendi* or modal verbs)

The CC below is based on the verbal noun in {-DIK}; syntactically the VN is in the position of a complement (in this case: ACC object) of the finite verb ‘you said’.

- (1a) Bekle-diğ-i-ni → → → söyledin.
wait:VN.POSS3SG.ACC → say:PST2SG
‘You said that (s)he is/was waiting.’

An agent of the CC can be introduced as a genitive to the VN, as in ex. (1b):

- (1b) (Arkadaş-ım-ın) → → bekle-diğ-i-ni → → → söyledin.
friend:POSS1SG.GEN → wait:VN.POSS3SG.ACC say:PST2SG
‘You said that (my friend)/(s)he is/was waiting.’

A similar construction based on the verbal noun in {-mE} yields a modal CC

- (2) → Arkadaş-ım-ın → → → bekle-me-si-ni → → → söyledin.
friend:POSS1SG.GEN → wait:VN.POSS3SG.ACC → say:PST2SG
‘You said that my friend should wait.’
-

(3) Alternative subordination strategies in Turkic CCs

Many older and present day Turkic languages also may apply Indo-European patterns to form CCs. These alternative constructions are still used in Standard Turkish, see ex. (3.a) and (3.b) below:

Turkic type

(3.a) → *İş-iniz-e* → → → → *yara-yacağ-ı-nı* → → → → → → → *umar-ım.* → →
→ → → work:POSS2PL.DAT → to be useful:VN-PROSP.POSS3SG.ACC → hope:AOR1SG

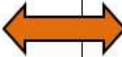
→ → → ‘I hope it will be useful to you.’

Alternative Indo-European type

(3.b) → *Um-ar-ım* → → (*ki*) → → *iş-iniz-e* → → → → *yar-ar.* →
→ → → hope:AOR1SG → (CONJ) → work:POSS2PL.DAT → to be useful:AOR3SG

Turkic vs. Indo-European strategies in CCs

some characteristic differences

Turkic type CC		Indo-European (Iranian) CC
pre-positive (precedes the MC)/ left-branching		post-positive (follows the MC) or right-branching
non-finite verb form (VN, PART)		finite verb form
no <u>conjunctors</u>		(<u>conjunctors</u> <i>ki</i> is possible, but rarely used)

After modal verbs or impersonal modal expressions, CCs are based

- on a modal VN, such as {-mAK, -mA, -(y)EcEK} (**Turkic type**),
 - or a modal finite verb form in the aorist, prospective, optative, voluntative, imperative etc. (**Indo-European type**).
-

Models of CCs after *iste* 'to want' in the MC: 'I want to go.'

In the Turkic construction below, the dependent verb is nominalized. The modal/non-factive VN in {-mAk} is in the position of an unmarked direct object of the modal verb 'to want'.

In the LACIM areal, most CCs reflect the Indo-European type:

<i>Turkic type:</i>	<i>Indoeuropean type:</i>
Turkish of Turkey	Modern Persian
<i><u>Gitmek</u></i> <i><u>istiyorum</u></i> go:VN want:PRS1SG	<i><u>Mixwâham</u></i> <i><u>beravam</u></i> DUR-want:PRS1SG <u>go</u> :SUB1SG
	Iran/Iraq-Turkic
	<i><u>İstiräm</u></i> <i><u>gidäm</u></i> want:PRS1SG <u>go</u> :OPT1SG
	<u>Urum</u>
	<i><u>ist-i:r-im</u></i> <i><u>gid-äm</u></i> want:PRS1SG <u>go</u> :OPT1SG

The Indo-European model language

The example from Cypriot Turkic could go back to an older Iranian model. It could also owe its existence to more recent contacts with Cypriot Greek.

? Cypriot Turkish

İste-me-z git-sin okul-a.
want:NEG.AOR3SG go:VOL3SG school:DAT
'He/she doesn't want to go to school.'

Compare the Greek model:

Δεν θέλει να πάει (στο) σχολείο.
not want:PRS3SG that go:SUBJ3SG (PREP.ART) school

Relative constructions

Turkic type relative constructions

The choice of the non-finite subjunctor of the RC

In Turkic non-finite relative clauses, the choice of the non-finite verb form/subjunctor (= verbal nouns and participles) depends on the relation between the head and its correlate in the relative clause.

Relativization of the nominative; same first agent in MC and RC:

(1a) (Beni) bekle-yen adam öğretmen(-dir).
me wait:PART man teacher:is

‘The man **who** is/was waiting (for me) is a teacher.’

The participle in {-(y)An} also appears if the head is the possessor of the agent of the RC (relativization of the genitive); the new agent is marked with a possessive suffix, as in:

(1b) Kızı (beni) bekle-yen adam öğretmen(-dir).
daughter:POSS3SG (me) wait: PART man teacher:is

‘The man **whose daughter** is/was waiting (for me) is a teacher.’

Relative constructions

Relativization of other cases, such as the accusative, dative, locative or ablative, is based on the VNs in {-DIK}, or the prospective ('future') participle in {-(y)EcEk} etc. Example no (2a) below illustrates coreference of the head of the relative clause with the direct object of the relative clause, or, in other words, the position relativized is the accusative. The first agent of the RC is encoded in a possessive suffix on the VN:

- (2) Gördüğüm adam çok çalışıyor.
see:VN.POSS1SG man much work:PRS3SG
'The man (whom) I saw/see works very hard.'
-

Relative constructions imitating Indo-European models

- (3a) *o gelin ki al-di-η hiş yara-ma-z.* (Cypriot Turkic¹)
DEM bride CONJ take:PST2SG nothing to be useful:AOR.NEG3SG

‘The bride (whom) you took is not worth anything/is of no use.’

- (3b) *Al-diğ-in gelin hiç (işe) yaramaz.* (Standard Turkish)
take:VN.POSS2SG bride nothing:DAT to be useful:AOR.NEG3SG

The new element, the conjunct *ki*, is a global copy of the Iranian/Persian conjunct *ke*. Its material shape points to the language which, at some point, must have served as a model for this type of relative construction. A translation into Modern Persian reveals more structural similarities:

- (3a) *o gelin ki al-di-η hiş yara-ma-z.* (Cypriot Turkic)
(3c) *In ‘aruze ke gerefti hiç be dard namixwore.* (Modern Persian)
DEM bride CONJ take:PST2SG nothing to be useful:PRS.NEG3SG
-

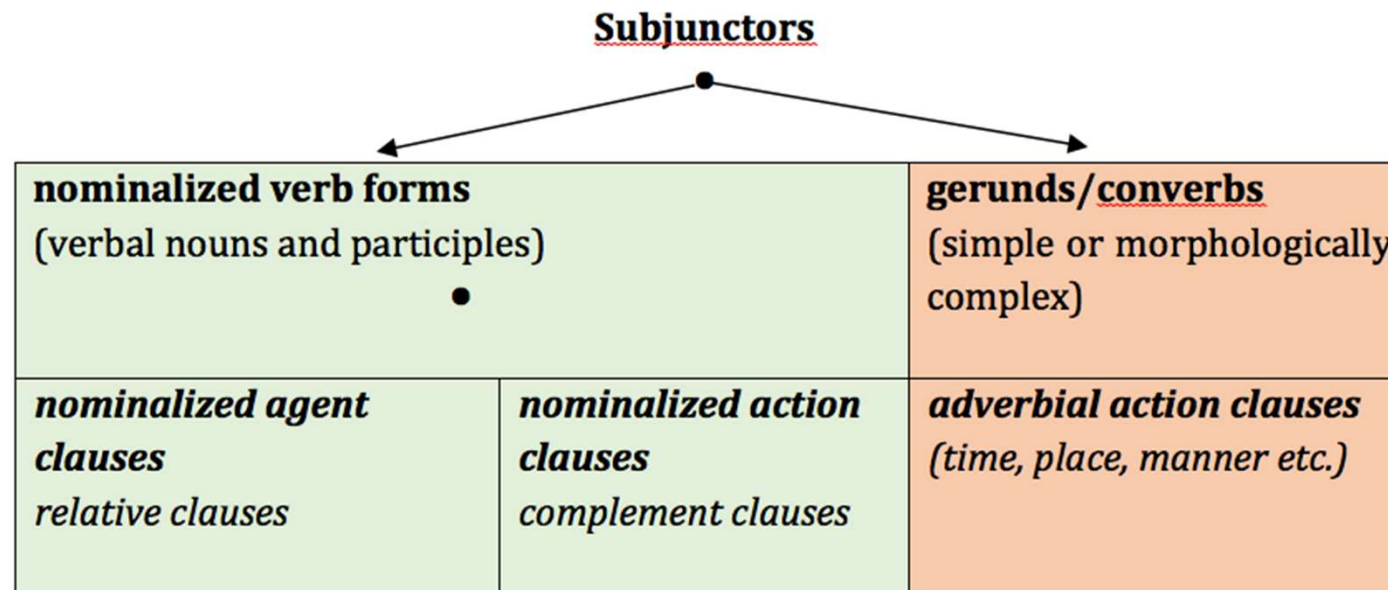
Turkic vs. Indo-European/Iranian strategies of relativization

Turkic type RC	Indo-European (Iranian) RC
pre-positive (precedes the head)/ left-branching	post-positive (follows the head) or right-branching
non-finite verb form (VN, PART)	finite verb form
no <u>conjunct</u> or	RC introduced by <u>conjunct</u> or <i>ki</i>

Adverbial clauses

The basic principle of Turkic syntax: INFINITIZATION,
NOMINALIZATION of subordinated or dependent clauses

Non-finite verb forms ('subjunctors') forming subordinated or dependent clauses



Adverbial clauses

Turkic adverbial clauses are based on **non-finite verb forms** called converbs or gerunds. As a rule, gerunds are not independently marked for tense/mood/aspect; they adopt this information from the finite verb. Gerunds may express a time relation to the main verb, such as duration and anteriority, simultaneity, or posteriority. The temporal gerund in {-(y)E²II⁴} in the example indicates ‘since, as long as’.

(4a) *Yad veräli* → → → *čirax dasti* → var.

remember:GER → → lantern → → → exist →

‘As long as one remembers, there have been lanterns ...’

Theoretically, agent marking by an analytic pronoun is also possible:

(4b) **(Biz) yad veräli* → → → *čirax dasti* → var.

we → remember:GER → → lantern → → → exist →

‘As long as we remember, there have been lanterns ...’

Alternative adverbial clauses

Across the areal, temporal clauses often imitate Iranian models; see *o væx ke bız yâ:d verärde:k^h* ‘ever since we can remember’ in ex. (4c) below. The Iranian-type temporal clause is actually a relative clause to the basic segment/head (*vaxt* ‘time’). It is based on a finite verb form *verärde:k* in the habitual past.

(4c) *o → væx’ → ke → bız → yâ:d verärde:k^h,*
that → time → CONJ → we → remember:AOR.PST1PL

e:l → gælä:rdə → → → bızım → bu → dāylaræ: →
tribe → come:AOR.PST3SG → our → → DEM mountain:PL.DAT →

‘Ever since we can remember, nomads used to come to our mountains, ...’

Summary

- Turkic complex sentences contain just one single finite verb form. Dependent clauses rely on non-finite verb forms, such as verbal nouns and converbs/gerunds; see the examples of CCs, RCs, and ADV clauses above.
 - Across the varieties of the LACIM areal, the Turkic principle of forming dependent clauses via nominalization and infinitization of verbs may be replaced by alternative Indo-European strategies of combining 2 or more clauses based on finite verb forms.
-

this lecture

is part of the series *Glottothèque: Languages of the Anatolia, Caucasus, Iran, Mesopotamia; grammatical snippets online*, ed. by. C. Bulut, A. Donabédian-Demopoulos, G. Haig, G. Khan, P. Samvelian, S. Skopeteas, N. Sumbatova. Bamberg/Cambridge/Göttingen/Moskow/Nicosia/Paris: LACIM network.

A banner for the LACIM glottothèque project. It features a dark blue background with a faint image of the Earth. The word "LACIM" is written in large, semi-transparent blue capital letters at the top. Below it, the word "glottothèque" is written in a white, elegant serif font. On the left side, there is white text providing information about related lectures and a website URL. On the right side, the project's title is repeated in a white, monospaced font.

You may find related lectures and further information at the Glottothèque website at:
<https://spw.uni-goettingen.de/projects/lacim/>

Anatolia, Caucasus, Iran, Mesopotamia
grammatical snippets online