

## Affix Ordering in Turkish and Kazakh

Turkish and Kazakh are two widely spoken Turkic languages of Altaic family. While Turkish belongs to the Oghuz sub-group of the family, Kazakh is one of the Kipchak languages similar to Kirgiz, Tatar and other varieties in the northern part of the Turkic world (Johanson, 1998).

The aim of this paper is to compare and contrast the two Turkic languages in terms of the affix ordering and available affix slots on the verbal base. We work on the verbal sentences where various tense, aspect and modal (TAM) notions are expressed by the verbal affixes. It is shown that Turkish and Kazakh differ from each other in terms of the word structure: while Turkish verbs have two slots for the TAM markers, Kazakh verbs have only one slot. It is argued that this morphological difference does not reflect on the clausal architecture given that both languages have a nominal AspectP below the TenseP.

In Turkish example (1) the progressive aspect and past tense are expressed by the suffixes (-*yor* and -*du*) attached to the verbal root (*oku-*). These two suffixes are followed by a third one, expressing the agreement with the subject of the sentence (-*m*). In Kazakh example (2), the perfect aspect is expressed by the auxiliary head *şıq-* 'go.out' and the past tense is expressed by the suffix (-*tı*) that is attached to the auxiliary. Note that the past tense suffix is followed the agreement marker (-*m*). Note also that the verbal root *oqı-* 'read' and the auxiliary head *şıq-* 'go.out' are connected by a participle morpheme -*ıp*.

We observe that while Turkish allows two TAM markers on a verbal stem (3), Kazakh allows only one TAM marker, namely the tense marker (4). The aspectual notion is expressed by the auxiliary head which hosts the tense and agreement morphology. It is also observed that in Turkish the verb root followed by the three suffixes form a single phonological unit (Verb+TAM1+TAM2+AGR) in terms of vowel harmony (but not in terms of stress) (5). Note that this is not the case in Kazakh where the verbal complex occurs as two phonological domains, Verb+Participle is one domain and Auxiliary+TAM+AGR as the second one (6).

Despite the morphological differences between the two languages, their clausal architecture seems to be similar in terms of morphosyntactic projections. In other words, the morphological discrepancy between Turkish and Kazakh does not seem to be reflected on the syntactic structure. We propose that Turkish clausal architecture has an aspectual complex which includes the verbal root + the first TAM marker, Verb+TAM1 and this aspectual complex is nominal in nature (Kelepir, 2001). Similar to Turkish, Kazakh has an aspectual complex formed by the combination of the verbal root and the participle suffix -*ıp*. This aspectual complex is selected by the auxiliary head which hosts the tense and agreement morphology.

### Examples:

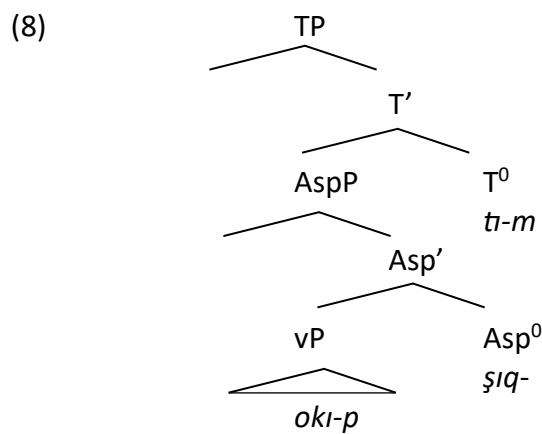
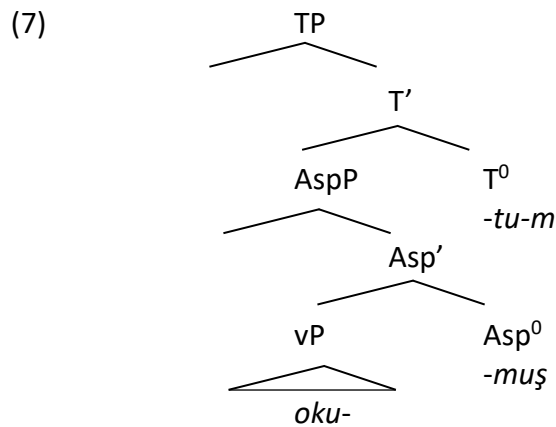
#### (1) Turkish

Ben kitab-ı oku-muş-tu-m.  
I-NOM book-ACC read-PERF-PAST-AGR.1SG  
"I had read the book."

#### (2) Kazakh

Men kitap-tı oqı-p şıq-tı-m.  
I-NOM book-ACC read-IP şıq-PAST-AGR.1SG  
I had read the book.

- (3) Verb root-TAM1-TAM2-AGR
- (4) Verb root-PARTICIPLE ... AUX-TAM-AGR
- (5) [ Phonological Domain 1 Root-TAM1-TAM2-Agr ]
- (6) [ Phonological Domain 1 Root-PARTICIPLE ]  
 [ Phonological Domain 2 AUX-TAM-AGR ]



### Selected References

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