Decomposing Augmentative Suffix in Turkish

Hidden Due to Blind Review

Abstract

The present paper deals with the augmentative and diminutive morpheme *-cIk* in Turkish. In the previous discussions, the suffix has been a peripheral to the main topic, solely pointing out to unpredictable nature of stress assignment (Zimmer, 1970; Sezer, 1981; Göksel & Kerslake, 2005, among others). This paper argues for a predictable augmentative formation as a spell-out of a group of interpretable features for scale and gradability. Following Fábregas (2016) and Uygun (2009), I posit that adjective is not a natural category in Turkish, and the configurational structure for adjectives must include MinP and ScaleP in order to be targeted by the diminutive interfix *-cI-*. This analysis posits that Turkish adjectives are decompositional, and strict hierarchy is necessitated with the use of evaluative morphemes, which is seen in examples below.

(1) küçük ev
small home
'A small home'

(2) küçücük ev
small.AUG home
'A very small home'

(3) derin göl
deep lake
'A deep lake'

(4) *derin-cik göl
deep-AUG lake
'A very deep lake'

(5) derin-ce göl
deep-DIM lake
'A deepish lake'

(6) derin-ce-cik göl
deep-DIM-AUG lake
'A not-so-deep lake'

In the nanosyntactic model I posit following Starke (2010), Caha (2009), and Pantcheva (2011), the Turkish augmentative interfix *-cI-* only targets adjectival formations that projects to MinP (example 2) or with a diminutive suffix (example 6), which are scalable projections that are located at the lower part of the scale, unlike example (4), which projects to MaxP. The ungrammaticality of example (4) is a result of mismatching sub-morphemic features, which requires an initial boundary and the information of scale in other cases and which spells-out as *-k* or *-cA*. This analysis puts forward an entirely predictable nature of augmentative process and decomposition of previously attested *-cIk* suffix, which spell-outs as [Min] and [Scale] features in the trees below.
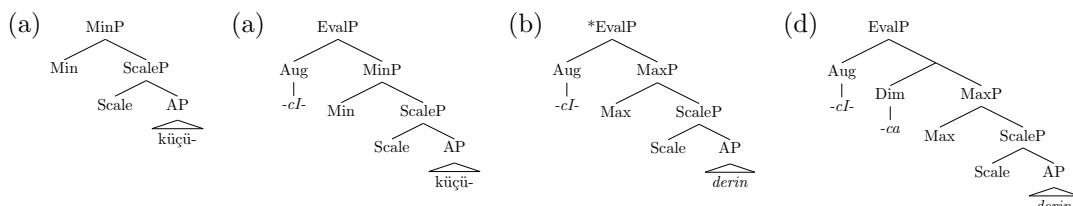

Figure 1: The items above show nanosyntactic derivation trees for (a) *sıcak*, (b) *sıcacık*, (c) **derincik* and (d) *derincecik* (translated as small, very small, *quite deep, and not-so-deep lake). The spell out of final [k] is the combination of MIN and SCALE. The linearization is handled with the spell-out movements and ignored here.

Keywords— Turkish, diminutive, nanosyntax, interfix, adjective

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