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A web-driven semantico-syntactic analysis of the Turkish polysemous posposition *kadar*

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1. The issue

Researchers generally agree that polysemy constitutes an essential aspect of word knowledge (Carter, 1998; Nation, 2001) since the most frequently used words tend to have multiple senses, namely, the most polysemous. And Laufer (1997) notes that words with multiple meanings are deceptively transparent words that look as if they provide clues to their meaning but actually mislead learners from finding out the correct meaning. Similarly, as Nagy (2001) argued, some language-specific or irregular polysemous items contribute to the pervasive phenomenon of a lack of one-to-one mapping between words in two languages.

Because the meaning of a word represents conceptual information, L2 learners often make use of their L1 conceptual system to acquire the meaning of L2 words (Jiang, 2002). Due to the fact that any two languages do not always make the same lexical distinctions, L1 polysemous words are likely to cause difficulties for L2 learners as some of the senses of a given word in L1 do not overlap with those of the one in L2 and is represented by different lexical items. One of such highly polysemous words in Turkish is the postposition *kadar*, originally an Arabic word which means 'amount' (Lewis, 2001). *kadar* has multiple syntactic and semantic functions in various combinations ranging from those formed with subordinating suffixes, wh-words, demonstratives to non-case or dative/genitive case marked noun phrases (Göksel & Kerslake, 2005).

2. Aim

The present study, *exploratory and descriptive in nature,* aims to quantify the syntactic and semantic representations of *kadar* through a web-based analysis. More specifically, the study aims to find answers to the following research questions:

a. Which collocates does *kadar* most commonly co-occur with?
b. What are the most common patterned uses of *kadar?*
c. What are the most common senses associated with *kadar*?
d. Which uses and senses of *kadar* might potentially be problematic for Turkish learners of English?

3. Corpus

The instances of *kadar* were pooled from a corpus that 18 Turkish newspapers constituted using the WebCorp linguistic engine (Table 1). WebCorp, in contrast to the existing Web search engines which retrieves information, is a search tool designed to extract all occurrences of the user-specified word or phrase from the Web in a form suitable for linguistic analysis (Kehoe & Renouf, 2002).

Table 1. Newspapers from which occurrences of *kadar* were compiled (retrieved on 12 Temmuz 2008 based on a list of *newspapers* in Turkey by largest reported weekly circulation from http://www.netgazete.com)

NEWSPAPERS	NO: WEBPAGE	NO: CONCORDANCE LINES
ZAMAN	200	1182
POSTA	200	75
HURRIYET	106	813
SABAH	196	1082
TAKVIM	200	621
MILLIYET	33	207
GUNEŞ	200	982
STAR	69	383
YENI ŞAFAK	190	378
CUMHURİYET	19	50
ŞOK	200	550
YENİÇAĞ	200	1075
MİLLİ GAZETE	200	235
RADİKAL	200	820
BUGUN	196	976
DÜNYA	196	405
TARAF	126	555
TERCUMAN	200	311
TOTAL	2931	10889

Table 2 below displays the number of tokens and types and the concordance lines generated from the corpus. Out of 2931 web pages, 10,762 concordances amounting to 10,889 instances of *kadar* were collected.

Table 2. Data mined from the Web using WebCorp

	Tokens	*Types*	*Concordance*	*No of kadar*
WEBCORP DATA	144,073	36,875	10,792	10,889

4. Analysis

A two-level processing was performed on the data. Since WebCorp also generates repetitions of similar usages, the data were scanned manually and automatically using DupliFind 4.11 for duplicate lines. Later, the data were semi-automatically coded using Concord 3.2. The instances of *kadar* were syntactically and semantically classified according to the scheme proposed by Göksel and Kerslake (2005) and Kornfilt (1997)

5. Investigating the uses of *kadar*

Table 3 presents the top ten most common collocates of 10,889 occurrences of *kadar* in. As is clearly seen, the top three left collocates of *kadar* indicate that the combinations with demonstrative pronouns are the most common (2091) of all the uses. The second most frequent use of *kadar* (1783) as an interrogative determiner in combination with the collocate *ne* (*ne kadar*-how much/many) refers to either an interrogative clause or an adverbial clause or a nominal clause. And the following collocates *bu/o* forms combinatory constructions of degree adverbs (so much) or quantifier pronouns (this/that much/many). Of the remaining 7 left collocates, 6 except for *ol-duğ-u* (be-VN-3SG.POSS) occur with temporal nouns and compose a class of collocates referring to a temporal relation, suggesting the sense of *till.* This use amounts to slightly more than 10 per cent of the overall uses (1378) of *kadar.*

Table 3. The top 10 most common left collocates of *kadar* occurring one word to the left

Left Collocate	*No*
Ne	1783
Bu	1123
O	968
Sonuna	406
Bugüne	338
Yıla	222
Ana	162
Şimdiye	132
Olduğu	119
Güne	118

(1) Ciddi ol-duğ-u kadar da tehlikeli.
serious be-VN-3SG as much as also dangerous.
'He is also as dangerous as he is serious.'

Table 4 illustrates the distribution of *kadar* according to its syntactic functions. *Postpositional Phrases* are seen to be the most common combinations that *kadar* forms. This use amounts to more than 70 % of all instances of *kadar* in the corpus. The nearest competitor, *Adverbial Clauses*, is the next most frequent category. *Noun Clauses* and *Interrogative/Exclamation Clauses* are the last two categories with far fewer instances.

Table 4. Distribution of kadar according to its syntactic functions

Syntactic Category	*No*
Postpositional Phrase	7890
Adverbial Clause	2043
Noun Clause	464
Interrogative/ Exclamation	483
Total	10889

Table 5 exclusively illustrates the *Postpositional Phrase* category, which is separated into its functions with dative or non-case /genitive case marked complements. Dative case marked constructions occur twice as many and make up more than two thirds of the postpositional phrases in the corpus when compared with the non-case /genitive case complements.

Table 5. Breakdown of syntactic category postpositional phrase

Category	*No*
Dative Case	5007
Noncase/Genitive Case	2883
Total	7890

The one word left collocates of *kadar* in dative-case marked phrases are displayed in Table 6. It is immediately clear that the use referring to temporal frame is the most common sense.

Table 6. One word left collocates of *kadar* with dative-marked complements

One Word Left Collocate	*Collocate*	*No*
Sonuna	[by/till/to the end]	406
Bugüne	[up to this day (so far)]	339
Yıla	[till/by .... year]	222
Ana	[till...moment]	162
Şimdiye	[up to the present]	132
Güne	[till/by...day]	117
Yılına	[till/by...year]	114
Sabaha	[till...morning]	71
Yaşına	[by ... the age]	69
Ytl'ye	[up to ... Ytl]	60

Table 7 illustrates different syntactic functions of *kadar* with non-case/genitive-case marked complements. The phrases that *kadar* constitutes with its complements modifying adjectives emerge as the most frequent type. These constructions make up clauses with *as ..... as,* which signifies comparison in relation to the same degree. The nearest competitor is *bu kadar (this much=so/such) + adj.* It is twice as frequent as the next structure *o kadar (that much=so/such) + adj.* These are the structures which modify either a noun phrase or an adjective. Both function as degree adverbs to intensify the meaning of adjectives. The phrases that *kadar* forms with such determiners as *bu* and *o* comprises about 50 % of all the combinations realized with non-case/genitive case marked complements. All these structures except for those modifying nouns function as degree adverbs, intensifying the meaning of the following verb, adjective and adverbs. Other constructions *kadar + adj/adv/verb/noun* make up equative structures. Structures constructed with the complement *yeteri (enough) + kadar*, which suggests degree of sufficiency do not occur so frequently as the other structures

Table 7. Breakdown of syntactic category
Non-case/Genitive-case

NON-CASE/GENITIVE-CASE CONSTRUCTIONS	*TOTAL*
~ ADJ	614
BU ~ ADJ	576
O ~ ADJ	218
BU ~ (NOUN)	238
~ VERB	226
BU ~ VERB	171
~ NOUN	127
BU~ADV	96
O ~ VERB	48
O ~ (NOUN)	37
O ~ADV	36
Yeteri ~VERB	22
~ ADV	10
Yeteri ~NOUN	17
Yeteri ~ ADJ	2
TOTAL	2834

(2) Carrefour kadar büyük, ancak çok daha sakin insan-ı
Carrefour as much as big, however very more quiet man-ACC
hiç yor-ma-yan bir yer.
at.all yor-NEG-PART one place.
'It is as big as Carrefour, however much quieter a place which does not tire a person at all.'

(3) Her kadın biz-im kadar şanslı değil.
every woman we-GEN as much as lucky not
'Every woman is not as lucky as we are.'

(4) Türkiye-de siyaset o kadar irrasyonal bir şey ki...
Turkey.LOC politics that much irrational some thing that...
'The politics in Turkey is such an irrational thing that...'

(5) Sadece medya değil-di bu kadar acımasız ol-an.
only media NOT-P.COP so much merciless be-PART
'It was not only the press which was so merciless.'

Table 8 shows the frequency distribution of *kadar* in adverbial clauses. The breakdown of adverbial clause category reveals that *-(y)IncAyA/-(y)AnA kadar* construction which conveys the meaning of duration and end point is the most frequent use of the adverbial clauses.

(6) AB-ye 'Kapı-nız-ı kır-ıncaya kadar çal-acağ-ız,'... de-di.
EU-DAT 'door-2PL.POSS-ACC break-CV till knock-FUT-1PL'... say-PF
'We will knock on your door till we break it'...said he to the EU

-(y)IncAyA/-(y)AnA kadar construction along with other structures formed with subordinating suffixes *(–(y)AcAk* (degree of sufficiency),*–dIğI* (degree of amount/duration), *-(y)AcAğI* (impossibility), *-(y)AnA* (substitution) comprise almost two third of all the adverbial clauses. Another most common use separated out is *ne kadar ... o kadar* construction, which functions as correlative indicating gradual increase or decrease.

Table 8. Breakdown of syntactic category
Adverbial Clauses

ADVERBIAL CLAUSES	*TOTAL*
-(Y)IncAyA ~ /-(y)AnA ~	581
(y)Acak ~	366
NE ~ ... O ~	354
-DığI ~	203
~ . . . dA	144
O ~ ... ki	142
NE ~ . . . dA	119
-(y)AcAğı ~	52
O ~ ki	8
-(y)AnA ~	4
TOTAL	1974

(7) Güneş koruma faktörü ne kadar yüksek i-se-Ø etkinlik
sun protection factor howmuch high COP-COND-3.SG effectiveness
o kadar art-ar.
that much increase-AOR
'The higher the sun protection factor is, the more effective it is.'

The other type of adverbial clauses are those formed with *kadar ... dA* (correlative constructions), *o kadar ....ki* (result clauses), *ne ... dA* (concession clauses);

(8) Övgü-ler kadar eleştiri-ler-e de hazırlıklı ol-sun-lar.
praise-PL as much as criticism-PL-DAT also ready BE-IMP-3PL
'They must be ready for not only the criticisms but also the praises.'

(9) Dünya hızlan-dı o kadar hızlan-dı ki bun-u yakala-mak
world gain speed-PF, so much gain speed-PF that this-ACC catch-VN
gerek-iyor.
be.necessary-IMPF
'The world has gained speed, it has gained so much speed that one should catch up with it.'

The last type of adverbial clause is the clauses with *o kadar ki* (degree)

(10) O kadar ki, din medeni toplum-lar için vazgeçilmez bir kurum
so much so that, religion modern society-PL for indispensible one institution
olarak kabul ed-il-mekte-dir.
as accept AUX-PASS-IMPF-GM
'So much so that, religion is regarded as an indispensable institution for modern societies.'

Table 9 shows the distribution of noun clauses formed with *ne kadar* meaning *how much/many/long* across the corpus. The occurrence of noun clauses formed with *kadar* in the overall data is far fewer in comparison to the adverbial clauses.

Table 9. Breakdown of syntactic category *Noun Clauses*

Noun Clause	*Total*
Ne ~	464

(11) Bu açıklama-lar sen-in ne kadar asil ol-duğ-un-u göster-iyor
these statement-PL you-GEN how much noble be-VN-3SG.POSS-ACC show-IMPF
'These statements show how noble you are'

Table 10 displays the distribution of Interrogative and Exclamation Clauses across the corpus. These constructions, totaling 48, occur with the interrogative words *ne* and *nereye* .

(12) Ne kadar silahlı militan-ı var?
how many armed militant-3SG.POSS existent?
'How many armed militants does he have?'

Table 10. Breakdown of interrogative and exclamation clauses

Interrogative/ Exclamation	*Total*
Ne ~	417
Nereye ~	66
Total	483

6. Conclusion

The present study has attempted to illustrate how corpus-based techniques could be revealing when studying linguistic features at different levels. It has found that the temporal sense of *kadar* is by far the most frequent than the other uses. Since both the temporal (till/by) and spatial (to/as far as) meanings are represented with only one word *kadar* in Turkish, the unmarked temporal sense might lead the Turkish learners of English to incorrect usages in contexts where spatial meaning is required. *kadar* functioning as adverb of equality in *as ... as* clause constitutes half of all the uses with non-case/genitive-case marked complements. Of the clause types, adverbial clauses are by far the most frequent constructions which *kadar* is formed with. Noun clauses has been found to be far less common as opposed to adverbial clauses. To sum up, *kadar* has quite complex and systematic patterns. And documenting such patterns of language might be informative and helpful for material development and language instruction for not only Turkish learners of English but also foreigners learning Turkish.

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