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CONVERBS IN OLD ANATOLIAN TURKISH: A MORPHO-SYNTACTIC APPROACH

Converbs are deverbal forms that function as adverbs in the sentence. They modify the verb and create adverbial clauses in complex sentences. Each converbial suffix has its own special use and functions, and converbs are formed by adding the converbial suffixes to the verbal stem. The converbial suffixes stand singly at the end of the verb and do not take another suffix after themselves.¹ They do not indicate person, tense and mood. Converbs explain the main verb in terms of time and manner, and sometimes it connects one verb to another as a connective suffix as is the case with the converbial suffix *-p/up/üp*. When they create adverbial clauses of time they may take a subject different from the subject of the main verb. However when they create adverbial clauses of manner they share the subject of the main verb. The converbial suffixes are widely used to form compound verbs such as accelerative, continuative and potential verbs as well. In this work for the purpose of expounding the morpho-syntactic functions of the converbs in Old Anatolian Turkish, I analyze four major Old Anatolian Turkish prose works. These works are *al-Manzûma fi-l Hilâfiyyât* (M)², *Qâbûsnâme* (QN)³,

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¹ The converb *-madın/medin* rarely takes the ablative *+dan/den* in M. This is clearly an extension of the converbial suffix itself and the added ablative has no extra function here. The speaker thinks that the *-dın/din* in the converbial *-madın/medin* is an ablative suffix, and by analogy he adds another ablative for an emphatic meaning.

² Milan Adamović, „Die Rechtslehre des Imām an-Nasafī in türkischer Bearbeitung vom Jahre 1332" *Abhandlungen für die Kunde des Morgenlandes*, Band XLIX, 3., Franz Steiner, Stuttgart, 1990.

Kitāb-ıGunya (G)⁴ and *Marzubān-nāme* (MN)⁵. The converbials their syntactic functions in Old Anatolian Turkish as follows:

1. -(y)a/e/i/i/u/ü: These converbial suffixes are not very productive in Old Anatolian Turkish. They are used rarely and there is not a regular rule as to which verb takes which one of these suffixes. However it seems as a rule that the rounded vowels -u/ü most likely appear at the end of multi-syllabic verbs.

a. This converb explains the main verb in terms of manner in a sentence and, therefore creates adverbial clauses of manner in complex sentences: *Qaçan evine girse Öksürü, qığırı girmek gerek tā 'avrat örtine, yapına. G (81b-8) When he enters his house he should enter making a coughing sound or calling someone so that the woman [of the house] covers herself. Géri utanı kızarı ilan qapusına vardı. MN (54b-12) Again being ashamed he came to the door of the snake.*

b. The verb *dé-* (to say) with the converb -(y)ü „düyü” has the meaning „saying” and, is used to attach a dependent clause to the main clause: *Bilsey-idüm kim zamān qavmi benden sonra muşaddaq dutalar, ben yalancı olmayam, Şimdi ben da'vī éde-y-idüm kim hiç nesene bilmezim düyü. QN (25b-7, 8) If I knew that the people of next generation will believe me and will not consider me as liar I would claim now that I know nothing.*

c. These converbial suffixes form mostly compound verbs:⁶

The continuative verb: Continuative verbs denote that the action of verb happen continually. Bu vīrāndan géçe yürürken gördi bir ilan bir delükden başın çıkarmış тұrur. MN (54a-12) *While he was passing by this place of ruins, he saw a snake putting his head out of a hole. Eger yana durur iksü olsa, anı yığmaq revā olur. G (98a-4) It is all right if he gathers together the half-burnt wood if there were.*

The potential verb. The potential verbs indicate ability, capability and possibility in the meaning of the verb. *Eyleyü bilür. M (966) He can do that.*

³ Eleazar Birnbaum, *The Book of Advice by King Kay Ka'us ibn Iskander, The Earliest Old Ottoman Turkish Version of his Kābūs-nāme*, Sources of Oriental Languages and Literatures, Cambridge, 1981.

⁴ Muzaffer Akkuş, *Kitab-ı Gunya*, TDK Yay., Ankara, 1995.

⁵ Zeynep Korkmaz, *Sadru'd-dın Şeyhoğlu; Marzubān-nāme Tercümesi*, AÜDTCE Yay., Ankara, 1973.

⁶ For an extensive details on the relationships between converbials and compound verbs in Old Anatolian Turkish see my published Harvard doctoral dissertation: Fikret Turan. *Old Anatolian Turkish: Syntactic Structure*, UMI Company, Ann Arbor, 1996.

Ṭoğrıldı bilmez. QN (16a-3) He can not straighten it. Bulımazam. <Bulı umazam MN (20b-5) I can not find it.

The accelerative verb: Accelerative verbs indicate the action of verb happens in a speedy manner: *Eydi vér. QN (16a-5) Just say it., etc. Giderken bir qurd öñine çıqa geldi. MN (56a-13) While he was going suddenly a wolf came up.*

d. This converb by getting repeated twice denotes manner and qualifies the verb: *Sārubān güle güle gelüp deveyi тұrurđı. MN (47b-1) The leader of the caravan came laughing and had the camel stand up. Ol anuñ ile varu varu öğütlenür. QN (16a-10) He learn it by that gradually.*

2. -ıcaq/ıcek: This converb explains the main verb in terms of time. It denotes an activity contemporaneous with the main verb (simultaneity). This converb may be translated as „when”, „at a time when” or „as soon as” according to the context in English. This suffix creates adverbial clauses of time in complex sentences: *Öğrenmiş it ol olur kim geyige şalsañ varıcaq dutup yimese, kaçan oqısañ gele. G (103b-4) The trained dog is that when you let it go for a deer it would not eat the deer when it catches it and when you call, it would come back. Bir gişi bir loqmayı götüricek dağı bir qıl bile yapışdı. QN (41a-7) When a person took a morsel in [his hand] a hair stuck to that [morsel]. Şol güneş gibi kim zevālden geçicek yüz inmege dutar, varduqça eksilür tā varup tolanınca. QN (38b-13, 39a-1). It gets weaker like the Sun which descends and loses its power after noon until the next day.*

3. -uraq/ürek: This converbial suffix explains the main verb in terms of manner, so it creates adverbial clauses of manner in complex sentences. Only the positive form of this converb is encountered in my corpus. *Gendözünü sergerdān dutma, işlenürek dur. QN (33b-4) Do not live perplexed, live working.*

4. -(y)ınca/ince: This converb explains the main verb in terms of time. Although this converb often appears alone in a sentence it is sometimes used together with the interrogative *kaçan* (when) or the adverb *tā* (until). When it is used with „kaçan” it makes the action of the subordinate clause as contemporaneous with the main verb (simultaneity), and it denotes a certain extent of temporality between the time of the action of the subordinate clause and the time of the main verb (limitative) when it is used with the adverb *tā*. Therefore this suffix creates adverbial clauses of time in complex sentences:

a. When used alone it means „as long as” or „until” according to the context: *Gişi söylemeyince ma'lüm olmaz ne miqdarlu gişi-y-idügi. QN (29b-13) It is not possible to say what kind of person he is as long as that person does not speak. Tamām açup görmeyince hıyārı sākit olmaz Züfer qavlında. M (51a) According to Zufar, that option is not void as long as that person*

does not open [that fabric] and see it. Yazuğı dükenince qınaya ve andan soñra uçağa viribiye. G (3a-5) *He (God) will punish him until his sins are over, and then He will send him to the paradise.* Biri mizâc sağlığı, ikinci varup gelince ni'meti olmaq. QN (9a-13) *One of them is to have health and the second is to have livelihood until one completes that travel.*

b. When used together with the adverb *tâ* or *tâ kim* it denotes a limit or condition to a given time or action (until, unless): "Ol bulundan nesne almaq revâ olmaz *tâ üleşince*. G (136b-11) *It is not acceptable to take anything [as tax] from that booty until they share.* *Tâ kim* ol şuyı döküp ol qabı yumayınca ol qap yaramaz idi şu qoymağa. QN (28b-1) *That was not good enough to fill with water until they would empty the water in it and wash.*

c. When used together with the interrogative *qaçan* it denotes simultaneity in an adverbial clause: Ol şu murdâr olmaya qaçan murdârı bayıq bulmayınca ve bilmeyince. G (7a-15) *That water is not dirty when they do not actually find or know dirt to be in it.*

5. The converbial particle *iken* and its suffixized form *-ken*: The word *iken* functions as an adverbial particle. This particle is the remanant of Old Turkic „ir-ken.” As other variants of the verb *imek* this word is often suffixized and get attached to the verb in present tense third person singular. This converb explains the main verb in terms of time. It shows the secondary action contemporaneous with main verb (simultaneity). So it makes adverbial clauses of time in complex sentences: Eger 'âriyet tavarı qulına vërse issine iletilir dëyü, iltür *iken* yolda helâk olsa ödemek vâcib olmaz. G (110a-14) *If he gives the hired load animal to his servant to give it to the owner, and if the animal dies when the servant takes the animal to the owner then it is not necessary to pay for it.* Birgün bu élçi-y-ile oturur *iken* Qısri, Büzürmihr'e şorar: QN (25a-11) *One day when he was sitting with this [foreign] ambassador, Chosroes asked Büzürmihr...Gün toğarken ve zevâl vaqtinde ve gün batarken cenâze namâzın qılmayalar.* G (40a-15) *They should not perform the funeral prayer at the time of sunrise, noon or sunset.*

6. -p/up/üp: This converbial suffix is extensively used in my texts and is always written with the consonant *ba*. In a sentence, this converb functions as a connective suffix between the verbs performed by one subject. It may also shows the manner of the main verb in a complex sentence.

a. It functions as a connective suffix between the verbs: Eger sen Tañrı'ya *muñi' olmayup* bunlardan *muñi'lıq isteyüp* bunlara zaħmet vërür iseñ Tañrı'lıq da'vîsin étmiş olursın. QN (4b-7) *If you yourself do not obey God and ask these people for obedience [for you] and oppress them, then you are considered as someone pretending to be God.* Zamâne nice gelür ise şöyle sür,

ya'nî zamâne şâzılığına *sevinüp* yavuzluğına yérinme. QN (33b-10) *Live as you wish, do not be exited by the happy moments and do not feel unhappy for the problems of the life.*

b. It shows the manner of the main verb. Eger bu 'avratlar nâgâh *yañılup* ol yaşılca qurduçazları *basup* öldüresi olurlar ise başlarında ol su qabı yiyir idi. QN (28a-10) *If these women killed these greenish little worms by stepping on them by mistake the pitchers on their heads gave off a bad smell.* *Qığrılıp* gelen birile *qığrılmayup* gelenün hürmeti hiç yérde berâber olmaya. QN (9a-4) *The respect that an invited guest and an uninvited guest receive would not be the same.* Artuq zaħmet *çeküp* artuq tama' eyleme. QN (12b-9) *Do not suffer trouble too much being too greedy.*

c. This suffix is used also as the suffix of third person present perfect tense together with the copular *-dur* or *durur*: Ve anuñ hil'atı oldur kim Tañrı ta'âlâ *vërip* durur. MN (56b-1) *And it is his gift that God the exalted has given him.*

6. -madön/medin: This converb indicates an action in negative form which happens prior to the action mentioned by the main verb (negative anteriority). However it rarely denotes manner in complex sentences. In M, this converb, though, occasionally shows up together with the ablative *+dan/den* when it precedes the postposition „öñdin”; *-madından/ medinden*. This ablative suffix is used to make the meaning of this converb more emphatic.

a. This converb makes adverbial clauses of time denoting posteriority in an adverbial clause: Eger çetük ya tavuq quyuğa düşse ölse anı çıkaralar *tağılmadın*. G (7b-12) *If a cat or chicken fall into a well then they should pull it out before it becomes dissolved.* Eger qabz *eylemedin* ayrılalar ol ödemekligi bātıl olur Züfer qavlında. M (53a) *According to Zufar, his payment is void if they leave without taking possession.*

b. It makes adverbial clause of manner: Ve geleci var kim anı *bilmedin* söyleye. QN (29a-6) *There are words that they say unknowingly.*

c. When used together with the postposition *öñdin* this converb rarely takes the ablative *+dan/den*: Zeyd seferden *gelmedinden* öñdin bir talâq olğıl. M (39a) *Get divorced before Zayd comes back from traveling.*

8. The following derivatives of the participle *-duq/dük* create adverbial clause of time.

a. -duqça/dükçe: This converb is formed by the past participle suffix *-duq/dük* and the equative suffix *-ça/çe*. It creates adverbial clauses of time in simultaneity, which can be translated as „while, as long as”: Eger mālî yoğ ise pâyandâna véreler eline *girdükçe* ödeye. G (144b-15) *If he does not*

have money they should find a sponsor and he should pay the sponsor while he earns money.

b. -duqda/dükde: This converb is formed by the past participle *-duq/dük* and the locative suffix *-da/de*. This converbs creates adverbial clauses of time which can be translated as „when” in complex sentences: Evine *getürdükde* toquz yaşında-y-idi. G (66a-8) *She was nine years old when he brought her to home.*

c. -duğınlayın/düğınleyin: This converbial suffix is formed by the past participle suffix „duq/dük”, the possessive 3rd person *i/i*, the pronominal *n* and the equative suffix *-layın/leyin* (*-duk/dük +i/i+n +layın/leyin*). This converb though rarely creates adverbial clauses of time in simultaneity in complex sentences and can be translated as „when, while”: Qaçan gendüyi yığabilme ve *öpdüğınleyin* endāmından menī gelse çıqsa ol gün qazāsı aña vācib olur. G (48b-8) *If he can not stop himself and while he is kissing sperm comes out from his body then it is necessary that he should make up for that day.* This converb creates mostly adverbial clauses of comparison: Dağı öñdin *dédüğınleyin* gine eyide. G (14a-11) *He should say it again as he said before.*

Conclusion

Converbs are a morpho-syntactic class of verb that functions adverbially and qualify the verbs in sentences. Converbs in Old Anatolian Turkish explain the verb in terms of time and manner. Although the majority of converbial suffixes are simple suffixes, there are compound converbial suffixes which are the combinations of participle and case suffixes.

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