

INFINITIVAL CLAUSES IN PAZAR LAZ

The main concern of this study is to make a general survey of complementation patterns in Pazar Laz, with specific emphasis on the recently developed infinitival clause constructions.

There are three types of complementation patterns in Laz: finite embedded clauses (1), non-finite clauses with nominative subjects (2) and result nominal constructions (3a). The first two structures have a clausal architecture, where the predicative core can bear all its arguments and adverbial modification is possible. Result nominals, however, behave as real nominals as the predicative core cannot project its arguments (3b) and only adjectival modification is allowed (3a).

Laz does not have infinitival clauses in parallel to the ones in English (4) (Vamling, 1989; Holisky, 1991). Finite subjunctive clauses in Laz fulfill the task of infinitivals in English (1). However, the Pazar dialect of Laz has recently developed an infinitival clause structure. On the surface this structure looks quite similar to result nominals in Laz, as in both constructions subjects bear genitive case and the predicative core takes the masdar circumfix (*o-*)...-*u*. However, the infinitival structure, having a clausal architecture, differs from result nominals, as it requires adverbial modification (5) and the predicative core has full argument structure and bears possessive agreement, which is absent in result nominals.

The infinitival clause structure in Pazar Laz shows very similar characteristics to infinitival clauses in Turkish. Turkish infinitivals also require genitive case on the subject, allow adverbial modification and bear possessive agreement on the predicative core, which can have all its arguments (6). Therefore, we conclude Pazar Laz differing from other Laz dialects has developed an infinitival clause structure out of close contact with Turkish.

Examples:

- (1) Ma [Ahmedi-k Ayşe-s svara-∅ oc'ume (na) mec'as-ere] b-gor-um.
I Ahmet-erg Ayşe-dat book-nom tomorrow comp give-fut=3sg 1sg-want-imp
“Lit: I want that Ahmet will give the book to Ayşe tomorrow”
- (2) Ma [Ahmedi-∅ Ayşe-s svara-∅ zerbi mec'ar-eri] do-m-at'son-u.
I Ahmedi-nom Ayşe-dat book-nom fast give-eri preverb-1sg-think-past
“I thought that Ahmet gave the book to Ayşe fast.”
- (3) a. [Ahmedi-si oc'ume-*(neri) o-dit'sin-u] odit'sinoni ort'u.
Ahmedi-gen yesterday-adj nml-smile-nml funny be- past
“Lit: Ali's yesterday smile was funny.”
b. *[Ahmedi-si Ayşe-s svara-∅ mec'am-u] odit'sinoni ort'u.
Ahmedi-gen Ayşe-dat book-nom give-nml funny be- past
“Lit: Ahmet's giving the book to Ayşe was funny.”
- (4) I want Ahmet to give the book to Ayşe tomorrow.
- (5) Ma [Ali-si Ayşe-s svara-∅ oc'ume mec'am-u-musi] b-gor-um.
I Ali-gen Ayşe-dat book-nom tomorrow give-nml-3sg.poss 1sg-want-imp
“I want Ali to give a book to Ayşe tomorrow.”
- (6) Ben [Ali-nin Ayşe'ye yarin kitab-i ver-me-sin]-i isti-yor-um.
I Ali-gen Ayşe-dat tomorrow book-acc give-nml-3poss-acc want-prog-1sg
“I want Ali to give the book to Ayşe tomorrow”

References:

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- Vamling, K. (1989) *Complementation in Georgian*. Lund: Lund University Press.