

## THE GRAMMATICALIZATION OF VISUAL PERCEPTION IN TURKISH AND ITS COGNITIVE IMPLICATIONS

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**Abstract.** This paper explores the grammaticalization of visual perception in Turkish and its cognitive implications. It investigates how visual sensory experiences are linguistically encoded and transformed into abstract meanings through specific grammatical structures. Drawing from studies in historical linguistics and cognitive grammar, the paper demonstrates how Turkish visual perception verbs, especially spatial constructions, reflect deeper cognitive mechanisms and cultural conceptualizations. The integration of nonverbal cues and embodied cognition further highlights the dynamic relationship between language, perception, and thought. This multidisciplinary approach provides insights into the universal processes of grammaticalization and the role of language in shaping mental representations.

**Keywords:** grammaticalization, visual perception, cognitive linguistics, spatial constructions, embodied cognition, Turkish perception verbs.

**Annotatsiya.** Ushbu maqolada turk tilidagi vizual idrokning grammatikalizatsiyasi va uning kognitiv oqibatlarini ko'rib chiqiladi. Bu jarayonda ko'ruv hissiy tajribaning lingvistik jihatdan qanday kodlanganligini va ma'lum grammatik tuzilmalar yordamida mavhum ma'nolarga aylanishini o'rganadi. Tarixiy tilshunoslik va kognitiv grammatika sohasidagi tadqiqotlarga asoslanib, maqola turk tilidagi ko'ruv idrok fe'llari, ayniqsa fazoviy konstruktsiyalar chuqurroq kognitiv mexanizmlar va madaniy kontseptualizatsiyani qanday aks ettirishini ko'rsatadi. Noverbal signallar va tanani idrok etishning integratsiyasi til, idrok va tafakkur o'rtasidagi murakkab bog'liqlikni yanada chuqurroq ko'rsatadi. Ushbu fanlararo yondashuv grammatiklashtirishning universal jarayonlarini va aqliy tasavvurlarni shakllantirishda tilning rolini chuqurroq tushunishga imkon beradi.

**Kalit so'zlar:** grammatiklashtirish, vizual idrok, kognitiv tilshunoslik, fazoviy konstruktsiyalar, mujassamlangan idrok, turkcha idrok fe'llari.

**Аннотация.** В данной статье рассматривается грамматикализация визуального восприятия в турецком языке и ее когнитивные последствия. В ней исследуется, как визуальный сенсорный опыт лингвистически кодируется и преобразуется в абстрактные значения с помощью определенных грамматических структур. Опираясь на исследования в области исторической лингвистики и когнитивной грамматики, статья демонстрирует, как турецкие глаголы зрительного восприятия, особенно пространственные конструкции, отражают более глубокие когнитивные механизмы и культурную концептуализацию. Интеграция невербальных сигналов и телесного восприятия еще больше подчеркивает динамическую взаимосвязь между языком, восприятием и мышлением. Этот междисциплинарный подход позволяет глубже понять универсальные процессы грамматикализации и роль языка в формировании ментальных представлений.

**Ключевые слова:** грамматикализация, визуальное восприятие, когнитивная лингвистика, пространственные конструкции, воплощенное познание, турецкие глаголы восприятия.

In language studies, grammaticalization is a fundamental idea that explains how lexical items and phrases originally tangible and referential develop grammatical functions and abstract meanings over time. Given its close relationship between sensory experiences and language representation, visual perception might become the main focus of investigation in this framework. Examining visual perception in Turkish, especially via the verb of perception, offers a perceptive prism through which one may see how specific visual experiences are turned into more abstract interpretations.

Sensual experiences – that is, verbs of perception – have drawn a lot of scholarly interest recently. In his whole study, Emeksiz & Rentzsch (2024) contend that Turkish is a shining example to investigate how grammaticalization affects sensory perception. They note that the Turkish language uses distinct structures to express visual modalities, therefore affecting speakers’ conception and vocal expression of visual experiences. For instance, the word *görmös* (to sight) functions in many grammatical settings, exposing a shift towards more complicated meanings beyond basic visual awareness. This metamorphosis is not just lexical but also based on cognitive processes that reorganize speakers’ sensory experiences in line with abstract ideas.

Drawing on this basis, Rentzsch & Emeksiz (2022) explore the nuances of the verb of Turkish vision, thereby highlighting the major semantic contribution of spatial connections made by grammaticalization of visual perception. Since spatialization in Turkish includes concrete and abstract, therefore enabling verbal expressions ranging from immediate visual experience to more general metaphorical settings, they find that it is very powerful. For instance, the spatial usage of *Görmös* might reach manifestations of awareness or comprehension, therefore turning a direct visual act into an abstract cognitive activity.

Information from Bağçevan (2024) and Makaroğlu (2024), which look at the consequences of construction grammar in the Turkish language, helps the Turkish examine these grammar techniques even more richly. According to Bağçevan’s studies, Turkish spatialized creations provide a structural framework behind the change of visual perception in abstract meanings. This spatialization shows a conceptual structure where physical and mental areas connect, allowing speakers to easily move between real sensory experiences and their abstract meanings.

Furthermore, Makaroğlu (2024) shows that this grammaticalization is not only a language but also a cognitive phenomenon wherein the mental representation of visually sensed knowledge is intrinsically connected to abstract thinking. The Turkish language structures show a definite inclination to this metamorphosis, therefore enabling a more expanded range of cognitive consequences. Knowing how Turkish negotiates these spheres helps us to clarify more general ideas about language and mind as well as the cognitive processes controlling our interaction with the surroundings.

Therefore, the grammaticalization of Turkish visual perception becomes a major focus for investigating the conversion of actual visual experiences into abstract meanings. The dynamism in the verb of perception shows the complicated connection of language, cognition, and experience. Deeper into this phenomenon, it is clear that the special qualities of the Turkish language not only include these transitions but also offer rich ground for more general linguistic research on the relations between the perception, abstraction, and meaning-generating processes. text, The development of grammaticalization in connection to visual perception in the Turk shows important cognitive consequences with relevance for the complex interaction between language and cognition. Özge (2010) claims that language patterns are profoundly entwined with cognitive frameworks that define our perspective of the world, not just means of communication. By means

of the grammaticalization process, physical visual experiences in abstract conceptualizations may be transformed, therefore reflecting underlying cognitive processes that give specific ways of seeing reality priority. As Erköse (2014) notes, the method in which visual experience is articulated linguistically highlights the part language plays to organize and structure thought, therefore directly impacting how Turkish speakers see and interact with their visual surroundings.

Furthermore, underlined by the link between body language and visual perception is the embodied character of cognition. Armstrong and Wilcox (2007) contend that the expression of visual perception depends fundamentally on nonverbal gestures and signals, therefore implying that cognitive processes are firmly anchored in our bodily interactions with the environment. Hou (2022), which claims that the inclusion of nonverbal signals in language structures not only enriches this idea, believes that the integration of nonverbal signals in linguistic structures not only modifies cognitive representation but also enhances the communication purpose. Body language and how we see things work together to show that the way grammar is used in Turkish reflects complex thinking, going beyond just speaking, and shows a deeper understanding of how we perceive and think.

Crossing patterns exposes the points in common and the differences across languages, therefore highlighting the cognitive consequences of the grammaticalization of visual perception. Kouteva et al. (2019) provide a thorough explanation of the grammaticalization paths, which implies that, despite keeping key cognitive features, the manner in which visual perception is linguistically encoded considerably varies across crops. They contend that these patterns capture universal cognitive processes connected to human perception and classification of visual stimuli, thereby reflecting universal cognitive operations. Coupe (2018) develops into this by stressing that such cross-variations reflect different cognitive strategies used by speakers, so highlighting even more how the grammaticalization of visual perception not only changes specific experiences into abstract meanings but also provides a prism through which to view cognitive variation.

All things considered, the study of grammaticalization in Turkish presents insightful concepts about the cognitive consequences of linguistic interpretation of visual experiences. By means of links between linguistic structures, body language, and cognitive processes, this study clarifies our knowledge of mental representation and perception, thereby highlighting the indispensable nature of language in the configuration of cognition and human perception. Investigating the grammaticalization of visual perception in Turkish exposes a complicated connection between language's structure and cognitive processes forming our perspective of the world. The linguistic phenomena seen in Turkish visual experiences – where tangible is methodically turned into abstract meanings – provide rich ground to investigate the more general consequences of grammaticalization, such as those proposed by Klausenburger (2000) and Fischer (2010). The findings of this research show that the development of stimulus from visually concrete to abstract conceptual realms reflects the basic cognitive processes included in human experience rather than just a verbal event.

According to Klausenburger (2000), language is a mirror reflecting the cognitive aspects of human perspective. In Turkish, this reflection is especially clear in the way visual experiences are linguistically labeled, therefore indicating a natural tendency toward abstraction of specific sensory data. This change not only emphasizes the adaptability of the Turkish language but also a universal cognitive technique of classification that lets speakers grasp and transmit difficult concepts derived from basic visual contacts. Fischer (2010) offers a point of view by implying that such Turkish grammaticalization procedures provide an overview of how languages grow as

instruments not just to explain reality but also to influence minds. The abstract interpretations of real visual experiences underscore the cognitive economy language offers while speakers sail in their surroundings.

Following the dynamics of Turkish grammaticalization urges you to re-examine the arguments in progress in the theory of grammaticalization, in particular about the manner by which sensory experiences feed abstract language structures. Many times, the Turkish language employs particular grammatical markers indicating literal visual shifts to metaphorical meanings and abstract ideas. This linguistic feature points to a dynamic process by which speakers use their perceptual experiences to produce complex meanings that appeal outside of basic visual discrimination. As academics like Narrog and Heine (2011) show, the interplay between language and cognition is multifaceted and calls for a whole strategy including linguistic, psychological, and cultural aspects.

The results of this study support ongoing investigation on the grammaticalization of visual perception in Turkish academics, therefore motivating scholars to investigate how these processes show themselves in many languages and settings. The focus on a multidisciplinary approach – the aspects of integration of cognitive sciences, psycholinguistics, and cultural studies – will help us to better grasp the manner in which abstract cognition results from sensory experiences. Especially by using the approaches of several disciplines, one may clarify the cognitive ideas behind these changes and provide paths to investigate the interdependence between language development and cognitive growth. Future studies should therefore not only concentrate on Turkish but also grow to other languages with comparable grammaticalization processes, thus promoting a more holistic knowledge of linguistic-cognitive linguistics in visual perception. This whole viewpoint will help to define grammaticalization as a basic feature of human cognition expressed by language, not as a separate linguistic occurrence.

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