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Nominalization in Turkish: Noun Compounds

The aim of this study is to provide a formal account of noun compounds in Turkish along the lines of the Distributed Morphology approach (Harley 2009). Understood as "word-sized units containing two or more roots which are "acategorical", noun compounds are analyzed as incorporation structures where non-head nouns incorporate into the acategorical root of the head noun. The incorporating head is then incorporated into its category-defining n^0 head. Although this approach was initially based on English compounds, I argue that it can account for Turkish compounds as well. Since Lewis (1967) compounds in Turkish represent a morphosyntactic puzzle because they contain an additional compound marker which English compounds do not have. This marker has often been a challenge for syntactic analyses, but it can now be accounted for in Distributed Morphology. Unlike in English, Turkish noun compounds do not have a zero morpheme in the category-defining head, but the compound marker.