

# The semantics of the associative –lAr in Turkish

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### 1) INTRODUCTION

- 1) Ahmet-ler Ahmet-Pl 'Ahmets/Ahmet & his associate(s)'
- 2) a. *hala-lar-im* b. hala-m-lar aunt-PL-1SG.POSS aunt-1SG.POSS-PL 'my aunts' 'my aunt&her associate(s)'
- (1) is ambiguous between the additive and associative -lAr.
- The position of -lAr with respect to the possessive marker disambiguates the two readings as shown in (2) (Görgülü 2011).
- I will discuss my assumptions, observations and facts that lead to the analysis in the section 6.

# 2) PROPERTY I

### The two types of -lAr must have distinct structures.

- **Assumption I:** The morphological markers reflect the order of the syntactic operations as in Baker's Mirror Principle (Baker 1983)
- **Assumption II:** Proper names are *DP*s.
- Then, the associative -lAr has to be represented above the *DP* layer.
- If possessive constructions in Turkish are represented below the *DP* layer as proposed in Oztürk & Taylan (2016), then the additive plural must have a projection before the possessive operation applies immediately above the NP layer.
- The additive *–lAr* The associative *-lAr*

3) a. b. DPAssocP $Ben-im_i$ DP NumP NP Num POSS -lar

Öztürk & Taylan (2016) (Görgülü 2011) (Görgülü's representation will be slightly modified later)

### 3) PROPERTY II

- The associative -lAr takes individuals as its argument (arguments in De).
- Ahmet-ler 'Ahmet & his associate(s)'

4) AssocP  $\mathrm{DP}_e$ Assoc Ahmet

- If that is correct, formations such as hala-m 'my aunt' has to be type-shifted from <e,t> to e by the *i* operator at the *DP* layer.
- This is the case because the construction is incompatible with these nominals when they are used with quantifiers.
- 5) a. \*[*bir hala-m*]-lar a aunt-1SG.POSS-PL 'an aunt of mine & her associate(s)'
  - b. \*[her hala-m]-lar each aunt-1SG.POSS-PL 'each of my aunts & their associate(s)'
- Not all definite descriptions would work, though!!!

6) a. \*İstanbul-lar İstanbul-PL

 $\square$  See section (4).

b. \*öğretmen-im-ler teacher-1SG.POSS-PL

## 4) PROPERTY III

- The associative *-lAr* must have a humanness presupposition over the individuals (focal
- There is an interesting correlation between the type of relations that the associative plural can accommodate and the focal referents that it can take.
- 7) Ahmet-ler \*teacher, \*doctor etc.'
- 8) a. arkadaş-ım-lar 'my friend &her associate(s)' b. akraba-m-lar 'my kin & her associate(s)' c. komşu-m-lar 'my neighbour &her

- referents as described in Görgülü (2011)) that it takes as its argument. (from (6a) and the rest of the data)
- 'Ahmet & his friend(s), kin(s), neighbour(s),
- associate(s)'

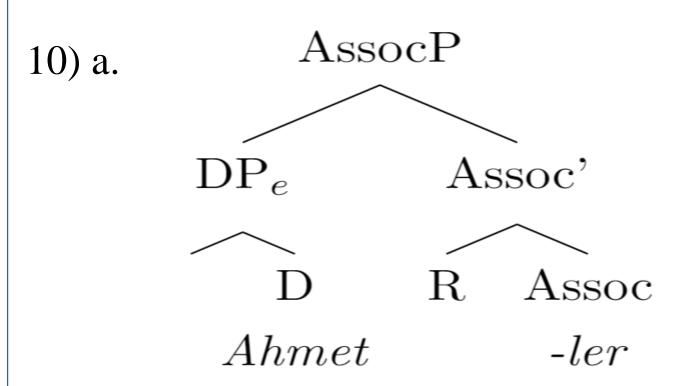
### 8) CONCLUSION

- The layer that the associative plural operates on is structurally different from the additive -lAr.
- It is used with proper nouns and the relations that are compatible with the construction in Turkish if those relations become definite descriptions by a type-shifting operator.
- It comes with an atomicity presupposition. Therefore, the focal referents of the construction have to be atomic in Turkish. However, the outcome is a non-atomic unique individual.
- This explains both collective and distributive readings one derives with the nominals having associative lAr.

### 5) PROPERTY IV

- The associative -lAr must have an atomicity presupposition over its focal referents
- 9) a. \*hala-lar-ım-lar aunt-PL-1SG.POSS-PL 'my aunts & their associate(s)'
  - b. \* [iki hala-m]-lar two aunt-1SG.POSS-PL 'my two aunts & their associate(s)'
- > The relations should be structurally represented since not all relations are available (compare with Görgülü 2011)

### 6) PROPOSAL



b.  $\lambda f. \lambda x: f \in \mathbb{R}:\{[[friend]], [[kin]], [[associate]], [[ass$ [neighbour] & x is atomic & x is human. iYs.t.  $x < Y \& \forall z [z < Y \& z \neq x \rightarrow f(x)(z) = 1]$ 

 $\{x+a+b...\}$ 

- Following Nakanishi & Tomioka (2004), the outcome of the associative plurals is definite, for the input is a definite description.
- The outcome of (10b) is a non-atomic individual. I expect it to be compatible with both collective and distributive predicates (contra Görgülü 2011).
- 11) a. Hala-m-**lar** uzun.boylu. Aunt-1SG.POSS-PL tall
  - 'My aunt & her associate(s) are tall'
  - b. Hala-m-lar toplan-dı. aunt-1SG.POSS-PL gather-PAST 'my aunt & her associate(s) gathered'
- What seems to be a totally different syntactic and semantic operation may not be that different after
- The associative plural takes a relation and an atomic individual and adds other individuals to the atomic individual through Link's sum operator (Link 1983). (Ahmet+a+b...).
- The additive plural marker takes a set of individuals and returns a set of individuals containing both atomicities and pluralities (Sağ 2018). This means that the atomic individuals in the initial set are combined through the sum operator as in (12).

12)  $[[-lAr]]({a,b,c}) = {a,b,c, a+b, b+c, a+c, a+b+c}.$ 

The relationship between the two uses can be highlighted by deriving one from the other. A potential entry can be represented as follows (presuppositions ignored):  $\lambda f. \lambda x. MAX([[-lAr]]_{add}$  $(\lambda y. y=x \text{ or } f(x)(y))$ 

# References