The Diversity Among the Reason and Purpose Denoting Wh-Adverbs in Turkish

Türkçede Sebep ve Amaç Bildiren Ne-belirteçlerinin Kullanım Farklılıkları

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doi   10.54316/dilarastirmalari.1467462

ABSTRACT

Çalışma tek sözcükten oluşan sebep ve amaç belirten ne-belirteçlerinin nispi olarak daha fazla tercih edildikleri bağlamları belirleme amacını taşımaktadır. Bahsi geçen ne-belirteçlerini *neden*, *niye* ve *niçin* oluşturmaktadır. Çalışmada, *niçin* ve *niye* belirteçlerinin hedef olayın ileride gerçekleşecek olan amacına nispeten daha fazla odaklandığı, *neden* belirtecinin kullanımının ise bahsi geçen olayın geçmişte gerçekleşmiş olan sebebi üzerine yoğunlaştığı savlanmaktadır. Ayrıca, *niçin* ve *niye* belirteçleri arasındaki tercihin de verilen bağlamla bağıntılı olduğu savunulmaktadır. "*Niyetiyle*", "*diye*" gibi belirteçlerin bağlam içerisindeki varlığı hedef ne-belirteçleri arasındaki kullanım sıklığını etkilediği ileri sürülmektedir. Çalışmanın savları bir boşluk doldurma testi (n-82; 49 kadın, 33 erkek; yaş ortalaması: 19.5) , bir ne-sorusu oluşturma testi (n-63; 42 kadın, 21 erkek, yaş ortalaması: 20,7) ve derlem temelli bir çözümleme (Türk Ulusal Derlemi, 1157 soru tümcesi) yoluyla test edilmiştir. Elde edilen veriler çalışmanın varsayımlarını desteklemektedir. Amaç belirtirken *niçin* ve *niye*, sebep belirtirken *neden* daha fazla tercih edilmektedir. Ayrıca *niçin* ve *niye* arasında da bağlamsal kullanım farklılıkları mevcuttur. Bağlam içerisinde yer alan diğer belirteçlerin varlığı hedef ne-belirteçleri üzerindeki tercih durumunu etkilemektedir.

Anahtar Kelimeler: Türkçe, Ne-belirteçleri, Sebep, Amaç, Bağlam.

ÖZ

The study was carried out to determine the contexts in which the single word reason and purpose denoting wh-adverbs in Turkish are used more frequently than one another. The target wh-adverbs

are *neden*, *niye* and *niçin*, all of which are translated into English as *why*. It is argued here that *niçin* and *niye* focus on the goal of the target event which will take place in the future while *neden* focuses on the cause of the target event that took place in the past. Another argument was that the preference over *niye* and *niçin* also varies in accordance with the given context. A gap filling task (n-82; 49 female, 33 male; age: 19.5), a wh-question formation task (n-63; 42 female, 21 male, age: 20,7) and a corpus based analysis (Turkish National Corpus, 1157 interrogative sentence) were carried out to test the arguments. The obtained results supported the hypotheses of the study. Niçin and niye are more prominent in denoting purpose while neden is more preferable in expressing reason. It was also observed that the frequencies for *niye* and *niçin* vary with the given contexts. The existence of the other adverbs in the target context influences the preference over them
Keywords: Turkish, Wh-adverbs, Reason, Purpose, Context.

0. Introduction

The wh-words are used in the sentences to form wh-questions. These function words introduce questions seeking for content information about people, objects, places or reasons. Their forms vary from pronouns, determiners to adverbs. The single word wh-phrases in Turkish are demonstrated in Table 1 (Çakır 2022: 3):

Table 1. The Single-word Wh-items in Turkish

Wh-Pronouns	Ne (what), Kim (who), Nere (where)
Wh-Determiners	Nasıl (how), Hangi (which) Kaç (how much/many)
Wh-Adverbs	Neden (why) / Niçin (why) / Niye (why), Nasıl (how)

While wh-pronouns mainly function as arguments, the wh-adverbs function as adjuncts in most cases. The wh-determiners, on the other hand occupy the specifier positions of the phrases in which they take part:

1. Mert   geçen   hafta sonu   kimi   ziyaret etti?
   Mert   last   weekend   who-ACC   visit-PAST
   'Who did Mert visit last weekend?'

2. Polis   binaya   nasıl   girdi?
   Police   building-DAT   how   enter-PAST
   'How did the police enter the building?'

3. Hangi   adam   parayı   çaldı?
   Which   man   money-ACC   steal-PAST
   'Which man stole the money?'

Wh-words in Turkish can be inflected with the person, the number and the case markers. For instance (adapted from Göksel and Kerslake 2011: 215-216):

4. Bu akşamki   toplantıya   kimleri   çağırdın?

This evening-Part   meeting-DAT   who-PL-ACC   invite-PAST-2SG
'Who have you invited to the meeting this evening?'

5. Bu hastanın   nesi   var?
   This patient-GEN   what-3P   exist
   'What is wrong with this patient?'

Some of the single-word wh-items given above are used together with certain phrases to construct new wh-phrases such as *ne zaman* (what time), *hangi niyetle (*which intention-COM) or *ne halde* (what condition-COM):

6. Serap   ne   zaman   İstanbul'a   gidecek?
   Serap   what   time   İstanbul-DAT   go-FUT
   'When will Serap go to İstanbul?'

7. Murat   hangi   niyetle   Almanya'ya   gitmiş?
   Murat   which   intention-COM   Germany-DAT   go-EVID
   'With what intention has Murat gone to Germany?'

8. Kemal   eve   ne   halde   geldi?
   Kemal   house-DAT   what   condition-COM   come-PAST
   'In what condition did Kemal come home?'

Within this context, along with the single word wh-items, there are two other groups of reason and purpose denoting adverbs in Turkish which are formed through the combination of the wh-words and other items: (1) wh-NP's: *hangi amaçla 'for what reason', hangi sebeple 'with what purpose'* and (2) wh-nominals within the post-positional phrases: *ne için* (*for what) ne diye (why ever).* The present study, however, focuses solely on the single-word adverbs: namely *neden (why), niye (why)* and *niçin (why).* These adverbs are historically related to the wh-word *ne (what).* Namely, *neden* (why) is formed through the addition of the ablative marker *-DAn* to the root word *ne (what).* Similarly, the dative marker (y)A seems to be added to the root word in *niye (why).* In this regard, another possibility is that *niye* is formed through the combination of *ne (what)* and the postposition *diye (so as to).* Finally, *ne (what) and için (for)* are combined in *niçin.*

In short, the three single word reason and purpose denoting adverbs in Turkish are etymologically related to the root word *ne (what).* Another similarity among them is that they are all translated into English as *why* and they are used in similar contexts. For these reasons, they are considered to be synonymous.

However, the concept of synonymy should be discussed herein. In the literature, it is frequently asserted that synonymy in the full sense is not possible in languages. The driving force behind such assertions is the observation that there are several contexts in which the concepts that are considered to be synonymous cannot be used interchangeably. Their semantic preferences and collocations often vary, which cause them to be used in different contexts. For instance, Aksan (1974: 7) states that there are slight or obvious meaning differences among the words that are considered to be synonymous; therefore, such pairs should be regarded near synonymous rather than fully synonymous. The same argument has been put forward by many other scholars, such as Hatipoğlu (1970: 13), Korkmaz

(1992: 112), Aksan (1996: 27), Vardar (1998: 6), Özden (2014: 160), Gündoğdu (2019: 40) and Somuncu (2020: 202) etc.

There are also some linguists who made classifications on synonymy. For example, Lyons (1983: 33) distinguishes two types of synonymy: complete and absolute. When the target pairs of words have the same expressive and social meaning, they are regarded as complete synonyms. On the other hand, when they are interchangeable in all contexts, they are considered to be absolute synonyms. Therefore, there are 4 groups of synonyms: (1) complete and absolute, (2) complete but not absolute, (3) absolute but not complete, (4) neither complete nor absolute. In this regard, in order for a pair to be fully synonymous, they should be in the first group. According to Lyons (1983: 33), however, there are so few pairs in languages which meet this requirement. Vardar (2002: 15) makes a similar assertion. As he argues, it is very difficult to find word pairs which can be used in the same contexts without causing any meaning difference.

Another linguist who classified synonyms is Cruse (2000: 42). According to him, there are three types of synonymy: absolute, propositional and near synonymy. With respect to the absolute synonymy, the pairs have the same senses in every context, which is observed very rarely. In the propositional synonymy, they have got the same senses, yet there exist dialectical and stylistic differences among them. In near synonymy, on the other hand, the target pairs share similarities in meaning, yet their senses do not fully match and they cannot be used interchangeably in every context.

0.1. The Purpose of the Study

The present study aims to determine the differences among the single word reason and purpose denoting wh-adverbs. Although these words are often used interchangeably in many contexts, there are also some cases where one of them is far more preferable than the others. Therefore, they cannot be regarded as absolute synonyms. In this respect, the wh-word *neden* appears to denote reason while *niçin and niye* mainly specify purpose. In other words, while *neden* focuses on the cause of the target event that took place in the past, *niçin* and *niye* focus on its goal which will take place in the future. Besides, there should be differences between *niye* and *niçin* as well. It is assumed here that depending on the given context, the language users may prefer either of them. Hence, the purpose of the present study is to collect data to investigate if these assertions are eligible.

It should also be noted that the "reason" and "purpose" phenomena may vary in accordance with the given contexts. That is to say, the existence of different expressions that contain the phrases such as *için (for), -DAn dolayı (owing to), amacıyla (on the purpose of), nedeniyle (by the reason of), sebebiyle (for the reason that)* or *niyetiyle (with the intention of)* or *maksadıyla (with the aim of)* in the same context with the target wh-words may influence the choice among three target wh-words. Therefore, the other goal of this study is to detect the contexts which influence the preferences of the language users among these interrogative items.

1. Methodology

The data of the study were obtained through both task based and corpus based analyses. In the task based analyses, a gap filling task and a wh-question formation task were given to 145 participants (91 female, 54 male; mean age: 20.3) in different sessions. They are all university students in Necmettin Erbakan University Department of Linguistics. The Gap Filling Task consists of 20 interrogative sentences all of which contain gaps which should be filled with one of the three target wh-items. In half of these sentences, the missing part denotes reason and in the other half it denotes purpose. They are formed as dialogues that take place between two people. The missing parts exist in the first sentence and the replies for them are also provided. The replies contain one of the following phrases: *için (for), -DAn dolayı (owing to), amacıyla (on the purpose of), nedeniyle (by the reason of), sebebiyle (for the reason that)* or *niyetiyle (with the intention of)* or *maksadıyla (with the aim of)*. That is to say, the participants were required to fill in the gaps by using one of the three target words by considering the replies provided for the sentences. The following test items exemplify this task:

Test Item 3.

Hakan: Serap   bu akşamki   yemeği   ____   ayarladı?
        Serap   this evening-PART   dinner-ACC   ____   organize-PAST
        '_____ did Serap organize the dinner tonight?'

Murat: En   iyi   arkadaşlarını   barıştırmak   niyetiyle
        Most   good   friend-PL-3SG-ACC   reconcile-INF   intention-COM
        'With the intention of reconciling her best friends'

Test Item 19.

Hakan: Rize-Artvin karayolu   ____   trafiğe   kapatılmış?
        Rize-Artvin main road   ____   traffic-DAT   close-PASS-EVID
        ' ____ was the Rize-Artvin main road closed to traffic?'

Murat: Heyelan   tehlikesinden   dolayı
        landslide   danger-3SG-ABL   due-to
        'Due to the danger of landslide'

The gap in Test Item 3 needs to be filled with a wh-word that denotes purpose rather than reason. To put it another way, the adverb should specify something that should take place in the future rather than anything related to the past. On the other hand, Test Item 19 involves a reverse case. The gap should be filled with a wh-word that denotes reason and it specifies a past activity rather than a future activity. The items in this task did not only vary with regard to specifying purpose or reason. The other variable tested in the task is the divergence in the reason and purpose denoting adverbials in the responses. It is hypothesized that the existence of different phrases may influence the choices of the participants on the target wh-words. The task was given to 82 subjects. (49 female, 33 male; mean age: 19.5)

The Wh-Question Formation Task had a similar lay-out to that of the Gap Filling Task. The main difference between the tasks was that the participants were required to form the whole wh-question themselves rather than filling a gap. To be more precise, the declarative versions of the target sentences were given to the participants and they were asked to set up a wh-question involving one of the target wh-words. The declarative sentences varied with regard to containing one of the purpose & reason denoting adverbs used in the Gap Filling Task. To exemplify:

Test item 1.

Kemal iş bulmak amacıyla yurtdışına gitmek istiyor.
Kemal job find-INF purpose-3SG-COM abroad go-INF want-PROG
'Kemal wants to go abroad to find a job.'
Question: _____?

Test item 2.

Cansu sınavdan zayıf not aldığı için çok üzgün.
Cansu exam-ABL poor grade get-FN-3SG for very upset
'Cansu is very upset because she got a poor grade in the exam.'
Question: _____?

In 1 and 2, the participants were required to set up purpose and reason denoting wh-questions, respectively. There were 12 test items in this task with similar lay-outs. The reason for applying this task was to determine if the participants would make different preferences when they were asked to set up the wh-question on their own rather than just filling up a given gap. To put it another way, producing a sentence in full sense may make a difference in word selection. This task was administered to 63 subjects (42 female, 21 male, mean age: 20,7) who had not taken part in the Gap Filling Task. The reason for giving the test to different participants was that the lay-out of the first task might have had an influence on the preferences of the participants in the second task. Since the tasks are structurally similar, administering them to different subjects could provide more reliable results.

A corpus based analysis was also carried out to find out the contexts in which the target wh-words got different frequencies. A total number of 1157 interrogative sentences containing the three target wh-words were determined through the Turkish National Corpus. While carrying out the search, only the drama/theatre section of the corpus was taken into account. The rationale behind this application was that the other sections provided little information about the usage of the target wh-words. That is to say, it was difficult to determine whether they were used to denote reason or purpose. The drama/ theatre section, on the other hand, provided the necessary information since the target wh-words were used in dialogues rather than plaintexts.

2. Data Analyses & Discussion

The results for the Gap Filling Task, the Wh-question Formation Task and the corpus based analysis are presented in this part separately.

2.1. The Overall Results for the Gap Filling Task

In this part, the findings for the Gap Filling Task are demonstrated. Figure 1 displays the overall results obtained in this task:

*Figure 1. The Overall Results for the Gap Filling Task*
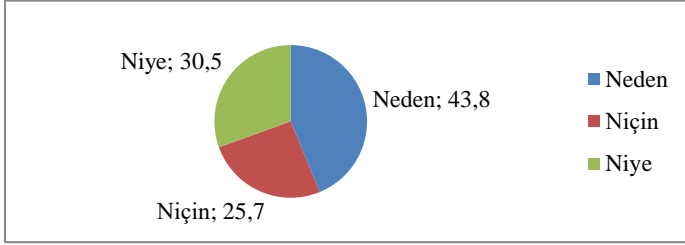
In the overall results, *neden* is more frequently preferred compared to the other reason and purpose denoting adverbs. Among the total 1624 responses, 712 of them involved the usage of this adverb, which corresponds to 43,8 per cent. This means that it remarkably steps forth in overall results. In order to understand the distribution of the responses better, however, the purpose and reason denoting cases should be analyzed separately.

2.1.1. The Results for the Purpose Denoting Cases in the Gap Filling Task

The Gap Filling Task contained 10 items which seek for information about the goal of the target event that will take place in the future. The results for these cases are demonstrated in Figure 2:

Figure 2. The Results for the Purpose Denoting Cases in the Gap Filling Task
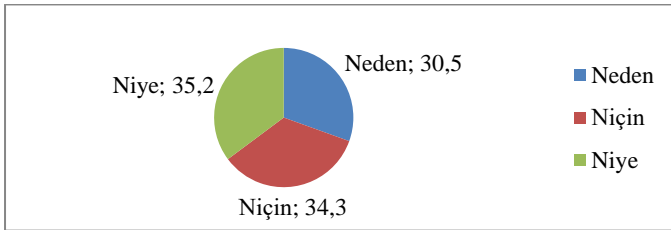
The percentages for the three target wh-adverbs appear to be rather close in Figure 2. However, in contrast to the overall responses, it is observed that *neden* is not the most preferable adverb in this case. On the contrary, it got relatively less responses compared to the target wh-words. This finding is consistent with the hypothesis of the study. In the case of denoting purpose, *niçin* and *niye* are more prominent compared to *neden*. That is to say, these two adverbs mainly deal with the activities that will take place in the future rather than the ones that happened in the past. This does not mean that they do not indicate reason at all, yet denoting

purpose seems to outweigh. The purpose denoting cases focused on in the study involve the expressions *niyetiyle (with the intention of)*, *amacıyla (on the purpose of)*, *maksadıyla (with the aim of)*, *diye (in case) and için (for)*. Figure 3 demonstrates the findings for the test items that involved any of these expressions:

Figure 3. The Results for the Purpose Denoting Expressions in the Gap Filling Task
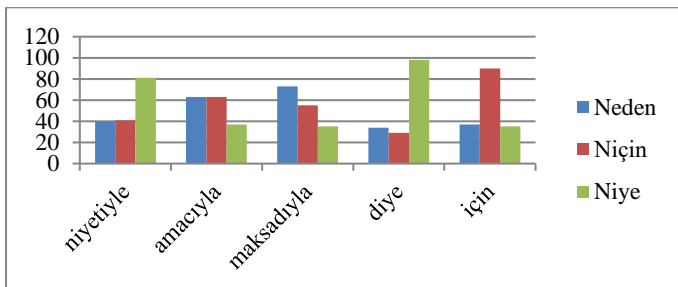

In the cases of *niyetiyle (with the intention of)* and *diye (in case),* the participants preferred the wh-adverb *niye* more often than the others. The reason for this situation might be that the target expressions feature this wh-adverb. All in all, these non-wh adverbs are phonologically closer to *niye* compared to the others. Besides, *niye* may be regarded as the reduced form of the wh-expression *ne diye (for what purpose).* Therefore, it seems reasonable for these expressions to make *niye* prominent. A similar argument may be set forth for the expression *için (for).* Since *niçin* is formed through the combination of the words *ne (what)* and *için (for),* it is foreseeable that this non-wh word features niçin relatively more than the other two target wh-words. As for *amacıyla (on the purpose of)* and *maksadıyla (with the aim of),* the percentages obtained for the target three wh-words are closer. *Neden* is preferred as frequently as *niye* and *niçin.* Hence, in certain contexts, it is also preferred by language users as much as if not more than the other wh-adverbs. These results indicate that the context has an influence over the choice of the wh-adverbs. The non-wh adverbs that exist in the same context seem to influence the choices.

2.1.2. The Results for the Reason Denoting Cases in The Gap Filling Task

The results obtained on the wh-questions that focus on the reason of the target event are demonstrated in Figure 4:

Figure 4. The Results for the Reason Denoting Cases in the Gap Filling Task
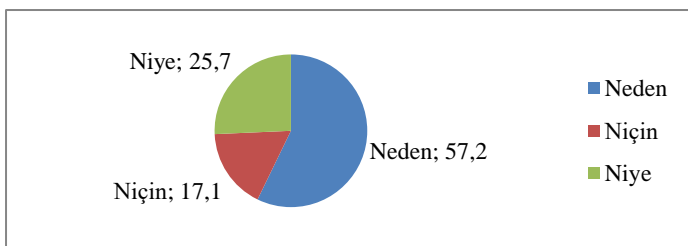
In contrast to the purpose denoting cases, the wh-word *neden* has remarkably higher rates than the other target wh-words. More than half of the responses indicated the use of this wh-adverb. In other words, even the total numbers for both *niye* and *niçin* cannot come closer to the ones obtained for *neden*. This finding is also consistent with the main argument of the study. *Neden* is the pre-eminent wh-adverb that denotes reason. It mainly focuses on a past activity that forms the reason of the target issue rather than a future activity which forms the aim of it. The reason denoting cases focused on in the study involve the expressions *sebebiyle (for the reason that), -DAn dolayı (owing to), nedeniyle (by the reason of) (with the intention of)*, *diye (in case)* and *için (for)*. Figure 5 demonstrates the findings for the test items that involved any of these expressions:

Figure 5. The Results for the Reason Denoting Expressions in the Gap Filling Task
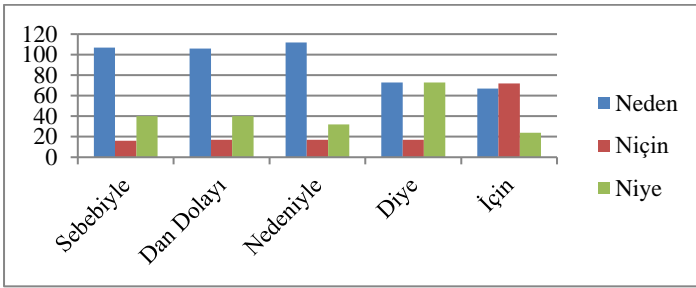

In Figure 5, *neden* outweighs the other target wh-adverbs in the test items that involve the expressions *sebebiyle (for the reason that), -DAn dolayı (owing to)* and *nedeniyle (by the reason of).* However, in the analyses of the ones that contain *diye (in case) and için (for),* it cannot step forth. In the test items that involve *diye (in case),* it gets equal ratings with *niye*. On the other hand, in the test items that contain *için (for)*, it gets lets ratings than *niçin*. These findings are consistent with the arguments of the study. The existence of the non-wh-words diye *(in case)* and *için (for)* features *niye* and *niçin* respectively. In other words, when these expressions are present in the given context, the language users prefer to use the wh-words that are related with them.

2.2. The Results for the Wh-Question Formation Task

In this part, the findings for the Wh-Question Formation Task are presented. Figure 6 demonstrates the overall findings obtained in this task:

*Figure 6. The Overall Results for the Wh-Question Formation Task*
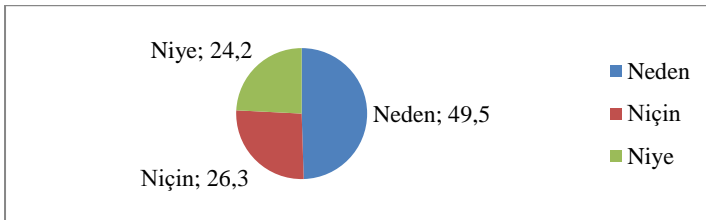
In the Wh-Question Formation Task, the participants were required to set up wh-questions from the declarative sentences that are provided for them. The overall results of this task are rather similar to the ones obtained in the previous task. *Neden* outweighs the other target wh-items in total numbers. As a matter of fact, the discrepancy among them is more explicit in this task. This result indicates that *neden* is by far the most frequently used single word purpose and reason denoting wh-adverb in Turkish.

2.2.1. The Results for the Purpose Denoting Cases in the Wh-Question Formation Task

The results obtained for the purpose denoting cases in this task are demonstrated in Figure 7:

Figure 7. The Results for the Purpose Denoting Cases in the Wh-Question Formation Task
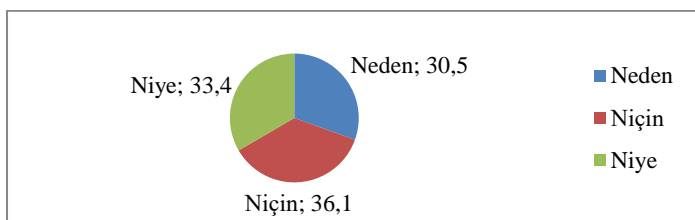
Similar to the Gap Filling Task, the ratings for the target wh-words are very close in this task. Although *neden* got relatively less ratings compared to *niçin* and *niye*, the gap is not remarkable. As this result indicates, although *neden* overweighs the other target wh-items while denoting reason, it is preferred almost as frequently as them while denoting purpose. That is why it occurs to be the most frequently used single word wh-word that denotes reason and purpose.

The purpose denoting cases focused on in this part involve the expressions *için (for). amacıyla (on the purpose of)* and *niyetiyle (with the intention of)*. Figure 8 demonstrates the findings for the test items that involved any of these expressions:

Figure 8. The Results for the Purpose Denoting Expressions in the Wh-Question Formation Task
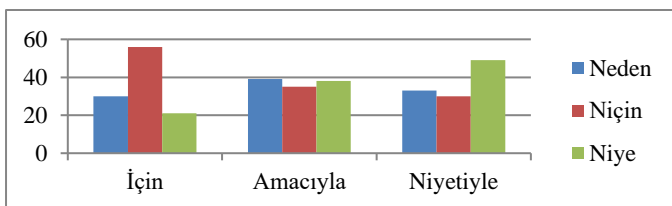

When the results for the three non-wh-words that exist within the declarative sentences provided for the participants are analyzed separately, it is observed that *için (for)* and *niyetiyle (with the intention of)* push on *niçin* and *niye* respectively. On the other hand, the ratings are rather close for the test items that involve the expression *amacıyla (on the purpose of)*. These findings are in parallel with the ones obtained in the first task, as well. When the language users are asked to

produce a wh-question from a declarative sentence, the existence of the expressions such as *için (for)* and *niyetiyle (with the intention of)* influences their choice of the wh-adverb.

2.2.2. The Results for the Reason Denoting Cases in the Wh-Question Formation Task

The results obtained in this task on the test items focusing on the reason of the target events are presented in Figure 9:

Figure 9. The Results for the Reason Denoting Cases in the Wh-Question Formation Task
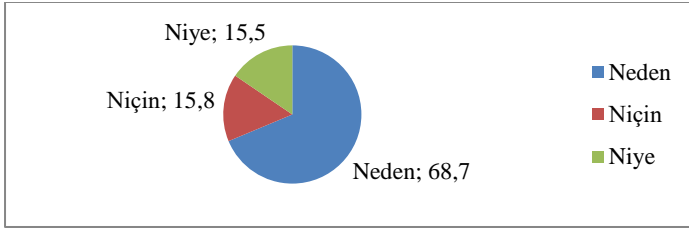
According to the results, while denoting reason, *neden* appears to be the most prominent single word wh-item in Turkish. 68.7 of the participants who took part in the study produced a wh-question by using *neden* to signify reason. This result is consistent with the one obtained in the first task as well. Hence, it is safe to conclude that there is a noteworthy discrepancy among the target wh-adverbs in denoting reason while the gap among them is far closer in denoting purpose.

The individual analysis of the non-wh expressions that are used within the given declarative sentences is presented in Figure 10:

Figure 10. The Results for the Reason denoting Expressions in the Wh-Question Formation Task
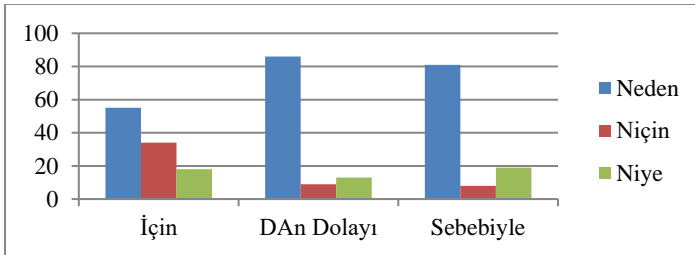

As Figure 10 indicates, in all types of test items used in this task, the wh-adverb *neden* outweighs the other two target wh-adverbs. In contrast to other analyses made in the study, the non-wh-expression *için (for)* does not seem to bring out the wh-adverb *niçin*. In other words, even the use of the word *için (for)* in the declarative sentences does not lead majority of the participants to make use of the wh-adverb niçin instead of *neden*.

2.3 The Results for the Corpus Based Analysis

The overall results for the corpus based analysis are demonstrated in Figure 11:

*Figure 11. The Overall Results for the Corpus Based Analysis*
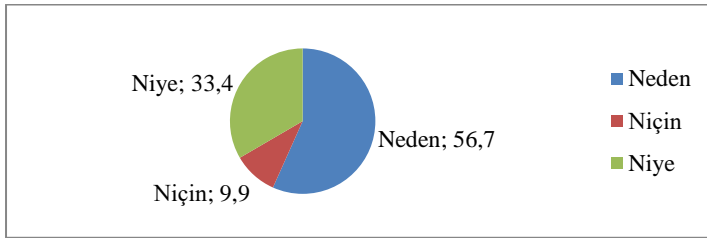
The overall results for the corpus based analysis display that *neden* is by far the most frequently used reason and purpose denoting wh-adverb. It was encountered in the corpus for 656 times, which constitutes the 56,7 per cent of the total usages. In contrast to the other target wh-words, it can be used in several non-interrogative cases such as *neden olmak* (cause) or *nedeniyle* (due to). Such usages are excluded from the data since the present study focuses solely on the interrogative usages of these wh-items. *Niye* was observed 386 times, which is equal to 33,4 per cent. *Niçin* appears to be the least preferred reason and purpose denoting wh-word: 115 times, which constitutes 9.9 per cent of the total numbers. It should be noted here once more that only the drama/ theatre section of the corpus have been analyzed in the study. The numbers for the target wh-items would have been far higher when the whole corpus was analyzed. Yet, in order to be able to get more relevant and useable data on the discrepancy between denoting reason or purpose, only a specific sub-part of the corpus has been analyzed.

2.3.1. The Results for the Purpose Denoting Cases in the Corpus Based Analysis

When the reason and purpose denoting cases are compared, reason outnumbers purpose: 71,6 per cent & 28,1 per cent, respectively. That is to say, language users tend to express the reason of an event more frequently than the purpose of it. In this part, the reason and purpose denoting cases are analyzed separately. Figure 12 displays the results for the purpose denoting cases:

Figure 12. The Results for the Purpose Denoting Cases in the Corpus Based Analysis
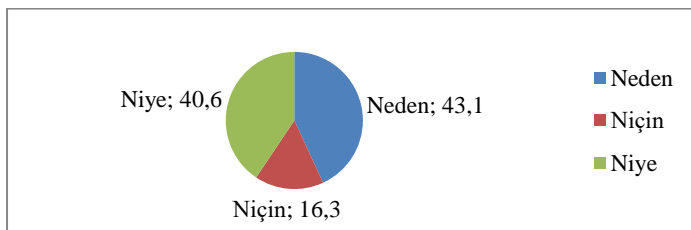
According to Figure 12, *neden* appears to be the most frequently used purpose denoting wh-word. It outnumbered the other target wh-words with % 43.1. On the other hand, *niye* and *niçin* are encountered 40,6% and 16,3% respectively. This finding is not consistent with the ones observed in the previous tasks. As a matter of fact, this finding may be considered as misleading. In contrast to the task based

analyses, the corpus based analysis did not contain equal number of purpose and reason denoting cases. If it were the case, it would be easier to determine if the target wh-words mainly denote reason or purpose. Yet, the corpus does not involve equal number of cases, which is rather natural, indeed. As indicated above, the reason denoting cases observed in the corpus constitute 71,6 % of the total cases while the purpose denoting cases form only 28.1%. Similar percentages are encountered in the individual analysis of the target wh-words as well. For instance, *neden* was observed in the corpus 656 times, 78,6 % of which denoted reason while 21,4 of which denoted purpose. Considering the fact that *neden* is far more frequently encountered in the corpus compared to the other target items, it is rather natural for it to outnumber the other wh-words in purpose denoting cases as well. When the numbers are interpreted in this perspective, it is safe to maintain that they are not inconsistent with the ones observed in the previous cases.

2.3.2. The Results for the Reason Denoting Cases in the Corpus Based Analysis

The results obtained from the corpus for the reason denoting cases are in parallel with the ones obtained in the task based analyses. Figure 13 demonstrates the findings for the reason denoting cases in the analysis of the corpus data:

Figure 13. Results for the Reason Denoting Cases in the Corpus Based Analysis
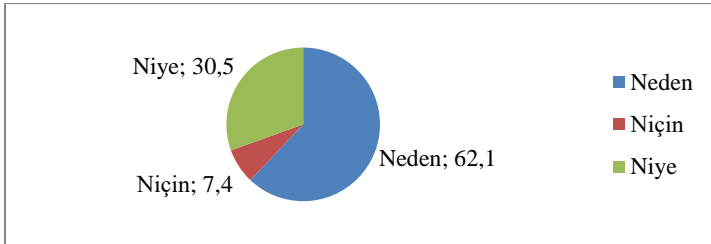
In the target corpus, *Neden* is encountered far more frequently than the other target wh-words with a percentage of 62,1% while *niye* and *niçin* constitute 30,5% and 7,4% of the total numbers respectively. It means that almost 2/3 of the total cases denoting reason involved *neden*. It should be re-emphasized here that 78,6 % of the total usages of this wh-word denote reason while only 21,4 % of them specify purpose. Hence, it is safe to conclude that *neden* mainly denotes reason rather than purpose.

3. Conclusion

The present study focuses on three single word reason and purpose denoting wh-items in Turkish. Although these wh- words are often used interchangeably in many contexts, there are also some cases where one of them is far more preferable than the others. For this reason, they cannot be regarded as absolute synonyms. It is hypothesized here that the wh-word *neden* denotes mainly reason while *niçin*

and niye mainly specify purpose. In other words, while *neden* focuses on the cause of the target event that took place in the past, *niçin* and *niye* focus on its goal which will take place in the future. It is further asserted here that there should be differences between *niye* and *niçin* as well. It is assumed here that depending on the given context, the language users may prefer either of them. Hence, the present study has collected data to investigate if these assertions are eligible.

The data of the study were obtained through both task based and corpus based analyses. In the task based analyses, a gap filling task and a wh-question formation task were given to 145 participants in different sessions. The corpus based analysis was carried out to find out the contexts in which the target wh-words are not used interchangeably. 1157 interrogative sentences containing the three target wh-words were determined through the Turkish National Corpus. Each wh-question was analyzed individually do determine whether it denotes reason or purpose.

The findings are consistent with the study hypotheses. It was observed that *niçin* and *niye* are more prominent compared to *neden* in the case of denoting purpose. That is to say, these two adverbs mainly deal with the activities that will take place in the future rather than the ones that happened in the past. In contrast to the purpose denoting cases, the wh-word *neden* has remarkably higher rates than the other target wh-words while signifying reason. More than half of the responses indicated the use of this wh-adverb. More specifically, even the total numbers for both *niye* and *niçin* cannot come closer to the ones obtained for *neden*. This finding is also consistent with the main argument of the study. *Neden* is the pre-eminent wh-adverb that denotes reason. It mainly focuses on a past activity that forms the reason of the target issue rather than a future activity which forms the aim of it.

In the analysis of non-wh adverbs that exist with the target wh-words, it was observed that the participants preferred the wh-adverb *niye* more often than the others in the cases of *niyetiyle (with the intention of)* and *diye (in case).* A similar argument may be set forth for the expression *için (for).* Since *niçin* is formed through the combination of the words *ne (what)* and *için (for)*, it is foreseeable that this non-wh word features niçin relatively more than the other two target wh-words. Hence, the existence of the non-wh-words *diye (in case)* and *için (for)* features *niye* and *niçin* respectively. When these expressions are present in the given context, the language users prefer to use the wh-words that are related with them.

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Appendices

Appendix 1. The Gap Filling Task

Aşağıdaki soru tümcelerinde bırakılan boşlukları NEDEN, NİYE ya da NİÇİN kullanarak doldurunuz. Birden fazla seçeneğin mümkün olduğunu düşünseniz bile içlerinden en uygun olduğunu düşündüğünüzle boşluğu doldurunuz. Bir başka deyişle, her boşluğu üç seçenekten en uygun olduğunu ön gördüğünüzü kullanınız.

1. Hakan: Zeynep _____ yeni kimlik başvurusunda bulundu?
   Murat: Cüzdanını kaybettiği için
2. Hakan: Konyaspor'a _____ seyircisiz oynama cezası verilmiş?
   Murat: Dünkü maçta yapılan kötü tezahüratlardan dolayı
3. Hakan: Serap bu akşamki yemeği _____ ayarladı?
   Murat: En iyi arkadaşlarını barıştırmak niyetiyle
4. Hakan: Kenan kamudaki görevinden _____ istifa etti?
   Murat: Milletvekili adayı olmak amacıyla
5. Hakan: Geçen hafta sonu yapılması planlanan piknik _____ iptal edildi?
   Murat: Yağmur nedeniyle
6. Hakan: Ali'nin babası deprem bölgesine _____ gitmiş?
   Murat: Kurtarma çalışmalarına yardım ederim diye
7. Hakan: Tüm yurtta okullar _____ 2 gün tatil edildi?
   Murat: Hava şartları kötü diye
8. Hakan: Eski Roma'da insanlar _____ çok fazla limon tüketiyormuş?
   Murat: Hastalıkları önlemek maksadıyla
9. Hakan: Tolga dün İzmir'e _____ gitmiş?
   Murat: Yeni bir araba satın almak amacıyla
10. Hakan: Mustafa arabayı _____ bu kadar hızlı sürüyor?
   Murat: İstanbul'a bir an önce varmak için
11. Hakan: Mesut _____ İstanbul'a taşınmak istiyor?
   Murat: İş bulmak niyetiyle
12. Hakan: Simge'nin kardeşi _____ sık sık diş problemleri yaşıyor?
   Murat: Kalsiyum eksikliği sebebiyle

13. Hakan: Betül bütün günü _____ kütüphanede çalışarak geçirdi?
   Murat: Ödevi zamanında bitirmek için
14. Hakan: Belediye başkanı _____ halktan özür diledi**?**
   Murat: Yol çalışmaları esnasında oluşan gürültü kirliliği sebebiyle
15. Hakan: Burcu bu bitki çayını her akşam _____ içiyor?
   Murat: Yorgunluğunu gidermek maksadıyla
16. Hakan: Harun Bey bu sabahki toplantıya _____ katılamadı?
   Murat: Rahatsızlığı nedeniyle
17. Hakan: Ayşegül'ün dedesi bu hayratı _____ yaptırmış?
   Murat: Sevap kazanırım diye
18. Hakan: Nazlı dün akşam _____acil servise gitti?
   Murat: Midesi bulandığı için
19. Hakan: Rize-Artvin karayolu _____ trafiğe kapatılmış?
   Murat: Heyelan tehlikesinden dolayı
20. Hakan: İstanbul –Kars uçağı _____ gecikmeli olarak gerçekleştirilmiş?
    Murat: Yoğun sis var diye

Appendix 2. Ne-Sorusu Üretme Testi

Aşağıda verilen tümcelerden lütfen ne soruları üretiniz. Ürettiğiniz tümcelerde NEDEN, NİÇİN ve NİYE soru belirteçlerinden en uygun olduğunu düşündüğünüzü kullanınız. Birden fazla ne-belirtecinin kullanılabileceğini düşünseniz bile içlerinden en uygun olanını seçiniz.

1. Kemal iş bulmak amacıyla yurt dışına gitmek istiyor.
_____

2. Cansu sınavdan zayıf not aldığı için çok üzgün.
_____

3. Elif gömlek satın almak için bugün alışveriş merkezine gitti.
_____

4. Ülke genelinde deprem felaketi sebebiyle 7 gün süreyle milli yas ilan edildi.
_____

5. Köydeki herkes fakirlere yardım etmek niyetiyle yardım kolisi hazırlıyor
_____

6. Ferdi dünkü maçta sakatlığı sebebiyle forma giymedi.
_____

7. Hakan ev almak niyetiyle arabasını satmış.
_____

8. Cenk patronundan toplantıya geç kaldığı için fırça yedi.
_____

9. Mert Kaybolan kardeşini bulmak amacıyla gazetelere ilan vermiş.
_____

10. Ayhan'ın dükkanına vergi borçlarından dolayı haciz gelmiş.
_____

11. Ebru misafirlerine ikram etmek için pasta yapıyor.
_____

12. Yeterli yağış alınamamasından dolayı buğday üretiminde son yıllarda büyük düşüş yaşanıyor.
_____