



A Corpus-Driven Study on the Turkish Focus Particle *Sırf* Türkçe Odak Parçacığı *Sırf* Üzerine Derlem-Çıkışlı Bir Çalışma

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ABSTRACT: This is a corpus-driven study based on the TNCv3.0 to determine the co-occurrence patterns of the focus particle *sırf* (only/just) in its scopes. The study revealed that *sırf*'s syntactic associates are largely phrases or clauses of purpose or reason. Over half of the 430 concordance lines analysed had various purpose or reason expressions as *sırf*'s focused constituents. The most frequent colligates in the exclusive operator's scopes are reason and purpose markers *diye* or *için*, ranking the first two in its collocation list. This very strong lexical priming suggests a pragmatic motivation. By choosing *sırf* rather than any other particles like *sadece* or *yalnızca*, the speaker not only marks the single reason or purpose for which something is done but also often reflects a negative attitude to reasons or purposes as being unjustifiable. The most unfavourable prosody was detected in the collocation *sırf* + noun + *olsun diye*, in which almost all the nouns in the 'noun' slot are *abstract*, most of which have *negative connotations*.

Keywords: Turkish focus particles, exclusive operators, corpus-driven, *sırf*

ÖZ: Bu çalışma, *sırf* odak parçacığının kapsam alanındaki eşdizim örüntülerini saptamaya yönelik TUDv3.0 derlemine dayanan derlem-çıkışlı bir çalışmadır. Çalışma, *sırf*'in odak kapsamını oluşturan sözdizimsel bileşenlerinin büyük ölçüde amaç veya neden öbekleri veya yantümceleri olduğunu ortaya koymuştur. İncelenen 430 bağımlı dizin satırının yarısından fazlasında *sırf*'in odak bileşenini çeşitli amaç veya neden ifadelerinin oluşturduğu görülmüştür. Bu sınırlayıcı odak işlemcisinin kapsam alanlarında en sık karşılaşılan sözcükler *sırf*'in eşdizim listesindeki ilk iki sırada yer alan amaç veya neden belirtecileri *diye* veya *içindir*. *Sırf* ile bu sözcükler arasındaki bu çok yüksek eşdizimsel çekim gücünün ardında edimbilimsel bir neden olduğu görülmüştür. Konuşmacı, *sadece* veya *yalnızca* gibi başka sınırlayıcı odak parçacıkları yerine *sırf*'i seçerek, sadece bir şeyin yapılmasının ardındaki tek nedeni veya amacı belirtmekle kalmamakta, aynı zamanda çoğu kez kendince yersiz amaçlara ve nedenlere yönelik olumsuz tutumunu da yansıtmaktadır. En olumsuz söylem eğilisi ise, ad boşluğunu dolduran neredeyse tüm adların *soyut* olduğu ve bunların çoğunun da *olumsuz çağrışımlara* sahip olduğu "*sırf* + ad + *olsun diye*" örüntüsünde görülmüştür.

Anahtar sözcükler: Türkçe odak parçacıkları, sınırlayıcı işlemciler, derlem-çıkışlı, *sırf*

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Introduction

Sırf is one of the exclusive adverbials used in Turkish along with *sadece*, *yalnızca*, *yalnız*, *salt*, *bir (tek)* to express something like *only* in English. Göksel and Kerslake (2005:212) prefer the terminology “exclusive adverbials,” while other researchers in the literature tend to use “focus particles” or “exclusive operators” (Topaloğlu & Nakipoğlu, 2017; Lee, 2005; Peterson et al., 2003; Sedivy, 2002 and Kim, 2011 to cite some linguists). In the present study we also use the phrase ‘focus particle’ or ‘exclusive operator’ to refer to the words with a restrictive or exclusive function such as *sırf*, *sadece*, *yalnızca* etc.

All exclusive operators share the same semantics and “restrict the applicability of what is being said to the focus constituent of a sentence” (Göksel & Kerslake, 2005:212). Unlike English, in which the exclusive operator *only* can occupy a preverbal syntactic position to take scope over the verb, direct object, indirect object or the whole verb phrase, the focus particles are placed just adjacent to the focussed constituent in Turkish. The Turkish focus particles normally quantify phrases rightward; that is, they take pre-scope positions in the syntagmatic progression of an utterance. Kim (2011: 6) suggests that focus particles frequently quantify nouns or nominal phrases as their colligational scopes. Speaking of Turkish, Göksel and Kerslake (2005: 212), however, state that the focussed constituent quantified by an exclusive operator is usually either a noun phrase or a circumstantial adverbial. The present study explores the strong colligational attraction between the focus particle *sırf* and certain phrases and circumstantial adverbials - those introducing purpose and reason, and pragmatic issues associated with those constituents in *sırf*'s scope.

The exclusive operator *sırf* has the Arabic origin *şırf*, which means *pure*. Like the other common Turkish focus particles - *sadece*, *yalnızca*, and *yalnız*, *sırf* basically corresponds to *only* in English. Nevertheless, it is a fact that no two words are absolutely the same, semantically or pragmatically (Cruse, 1986). Like any other synonym sets, focus items which belong to the same group (e.g. exclusive operators) are expected to behave differently (Kim, 2011: 6). The findings of our study on the potential synonym set of exclusive adverbials *sadece*, *yalnızca* and *yalnız* also corroborate that (Adıgüzel, 2019). *Sırf*, loaned from Arabic, is no exception. In fact, a brief observation of the corpus data to examine the contexts and co-texts of Turkish focus particles (*sadece*, *yalnızca*, etc) demonstrated that *sırf* would turn out to have a rather different profile in its colligational (scope) preferences and associated connotations. Born out of that curiosity, the research article deals with *sırf*'s co-occurrence patterns in terms of its syntactic associates rightward and pragmatic features involved.

Sadece, *yalnızca*, *yalnız* and *sırf* are exclusive operators used in Turkish which seem to be the same in their core meaning (i.e. *only*) but differ in their peripheral traits as expected from synonym sets (Cruse, 1986). About differentiation in the uses and meanings of synonym sets over time, Murphy (2003: 162) and Cruse (1986: 270) argue that languages resist having more than one word to express the same meaning and function. Instead, when a new synonym enters a language as in the case of *sırf*, the language is either expected to abandon it or seem more likely to invent differences among the synonym set

members. Semantic and pragmatic differentiation occurs and each near synonym gradually begins to express distinct shades of meaning. Murphy (2003: 166) states that “the more near-synonyms a language has, the more meanings it expresses lexically, and the more nuances it can communicate concisely.” Quite naturally, what makes *sırf* distinct from the other restrictive focus particles in Turkish will be our main focus of interest throughout this corpus-driven research.

As we examined the concordance lines of *sırf*, we soon felt that the focus particle has certain colligational tendencies in its scope and reflects pragmatic motivations of the speaker underlying those salient co-occurrence patterns. Therefore, we decided that the whole study was meant to explore and unearth from the Turkish National Corpus (TNCv3.0) outstandingly frequent co-occurrence patterns of *sırf* - those *colligational properties seen in its scopes*, and pragmatic concerns underlying its scope preferences.

Data and Method

The study draws upon concordance lines from the Turkish National Corpus [TNC v3.0 (<http://v3.tnc.org.tr>)], which consists of 50 million words. This is a *corpus-driven* study (Tognini-Bonelli, 2001) in which hypotheses are formed inductively based on a close examination of concordance lines of the node. A corpus-driven study involves a cyclical process of examining concordance lines to form hypotheses about the meanings and functions of a lexical item or a phrase (i.e. node). Just as the technique of collocation-via-concordance (McEnery and Hardie, 2012: 26) involves, we manually “examine(d) each line individually, identifying by eye the items and patterns which recur in proximity to the node word...” For this inductive work on *sırf* we followed Sinclair’s (2003) seven-step procedure which he suggested for evaluating corpus data: 1) initiate 2) interpret 3) consolidate 4) report 5) recycle 6) result 7) repeat. By means of this cyclical procedure, we scrutinised the concordance lines of *sırf* to form hypotheses about its behavioural patterns, especially its colligational tendencies and pragmatic motivation lying behind those tendencies in its scope selection. The concordance lines were examined and re-examined cyclically until no new discernible patterns were left.

The exclusive operator *sırf* occurs 2125 times in 989 different texts in the TNC v3.0. Over 400 concordance lines (exactly 430 lines) were evaluated and recurrent co-occurrence features were grouped to form hypotheses about the semantic/lexical priming (Hoey, 2005) between *sırf* and certain colligates in its scopes and pragmatic motivations underlying a Turkish speaker’s selection of *sırf* in quantifying particular phrases and clauses. Although the default inquiry span is a -5+5 one, we evaluated whole sentences including *sırf* because the grammatical categories that *sırf* often colligates with are circumstantial adverbials, which usually extend beyond a -5+5 word span. We provided the raw figures concerning *sırf*’s colligational patterns in its scope selections in order to give the reader clear insights into how special Arabic loan word *sırf* is as an exclusive operator.

Findings and Discussion

Our analysis of the concordance of *sırf* (*only/just*) demonstrated that this focus particle tends to take particular scopes a lot more than any others. In order to determine

sırf's colligational tendencies we looked at phrases and clauses quantified rightward by this exclusive operator in each concordance line. It is strikingly clear from its concordance that *sırf* has the conventionalised tendency to take scope over adverbial phrases or circumstantial clauses which express either *purpose* or *reason*. Whereas the other Turkish exclusive operators *sadece*, *yalnızca* and *yalnız* (Eng. *only*) commonly colligate with nominal phrases (Adigüzel, 2019), *sırf* co-occurs outstandingly more often with clauses or phrases of purpose or reason. Below we discuss semantic and pragmatic motivations underlying a Turkish speaker's choice of *sırf* to quantify such phrases and clauses.

***Sırf*'s Colligation with Phrases and Clauses of Purpose in its Scope**

Out of 430 randomly listed concordance lines analysed in the TNC v3.0, more than one third (150 lines) display *sırf* as taking scope over phrases or circumstantial clauses of purpose. Table 1 below shows purpose-related colligates of *sırf*.

Table 1. Colligational Features When the Focused Constituent of *Sırf* is a *Purpose* Phrase or Clause.

Colligate	Description	Number of cases out of the total 430 examples
- mAk için	Non-finite adverbial clause. It corresponds to English "in order to."	56
- mAk üzere	Non-finite adverbial clause. It is the formal expression used instead of -mAk için.	1
- mAk adına	Non-finite adverbial clause. It corresponds to English "in order to." Its use is much less common	5
... mAk amacıyla	It corresponds to "for the purpose of."	5
- mAk maksadıyla	It corresponds to "for the purpose of."	1
- mAk uğruna	It corresponds to "for the sake of"	4
... diye	<i>Diye</i> is a subordinator, which corresponds to "in order that / so that" when followed by the optative form of verbs in Turkish.	51
... için	Postposition which corresponds to English preposition "for".	27

As can be seen from the table, there is a strong colligational attraction between *sırf* and clauses or phrases ending with *için* and *diye* (134 cases of the total 150 cases in Table 1 about *sırf*'s quantification of purpose expressions in Turkish). This is also clear from the top collocation list of *sırf*, where *için* ranks the first and *diye* the second.

Sample Lines from the Corpus

(1) DYP, **SIRF** *Çiller'in dosyalarını temizleyebilmek için* bu hale geldi. [DYP (the True Path Party) has been in this bad situation **JUST to clear** *Çiller (party leader) of the files against her.*] (W-JD30D1B-2221-1610)¹

¹ In the sample concordance lines through the paper the focus particle/exclusive operator is in bold capital letters; colligational features are bold and the focus particle and its scope are in italics. The English rendition of the Turkish sample line is given in square brackets and the tag number of the line in TNCv3.0 is displayed in brackets.

- (2) İş hayatında, özel hayatında çok sıkılmış veya yorulmuş olan çoğu insan sadece merak amacıyla **SIRF** vakit geçirmek için çocuk pornosu sitelerine girebilmektedir. [Many people so bored or tired in their business or private life can enter websites of child porn only out of curiosity or **JUST to kill time.**] (W-TI45F1D-4704-877)

Non-finite purpose clauses marked with –mAk üzere, – mAk adına are marginally used; they occur only 6 times in the corpus. They can also be expressed with *in order to + infinitive* or simply *to infinitive* in English.

- (3) Amerikan Altıncı Filosu'nun **SIRF** gövde gösterisi yapmak ve mürettebatına kadın sağlamak üzere İstanbul limanına yaptığı ziyaretin tepkileri... [reactions to American Sixth Fleet's visit to İstanbul Harbour **JUST to make an appearance and to provide women for its crew...**] (W-FE09C3A-0417-948).

The purpose phrases –mAk amacıyla and –mAk maksadıyla correspond to the phrase *for the purpose of doing something* in English and they also seem to be marginally used in *sırf*'s scope with the latter being even more infrequent.

- (4) Naciye Abla'nın da tanıyıp sevdiği yakın bir arkadaşımın ziyaretinden sonra **SIRF** kıskırtmak amacıyla onun Edirneli bir Yahudi aileden geldiğini söylemiştim. [After a visit by a close friend who Naciye Abla (*Elder Sister*, a honorific expression) also knew and liked, I told her that Naciye came from a Jewish family from Edirne **ONLY for the purpose of provoking her.**] (W-TA16B2A-0325-1157).

Another purpose marker that rarely occurs in *sırf*'s scope is –mAk uğruna, which roughly amounts to the same meaning as *for the sake of doing something* in English. We came across four such examples, one of which is below:

- (5) Politikacılar da **SIRF** halk tarafından beğenilmek uğruna aktörlük yapmaktadırlar. [Politicians behave like actors **ONLY for the sake of being liked by the public.**] (W-ID02A3A-1302-1906)

After –mAk için, which introduces a non-finite adverbial clause of purpose in Turkish, *diye* is the second most frequent word observed in *sırf*'s scope. *Diye* is a subordinator in Turkish like “*so that*” in English to express purpose when it is preceded by the optative form of verbs. *Diye* proved to be the second most frequent collocate (rather a colligate as a grammatical category) in the top collocation list of *sırf* (see Appendix 2). In the English renditions of this type of Turkish sentences, we placed ‘*only*’ before ‘*so that*’ to translate the pattern ‘*sırfdiye*’ although the English focus particles *only* or *just* are rarely used before *so that* purpose clauses as can be seen in British National Corpus (<https://cqpweb.lancs.ac.uk/bncxmlweb/>).

- (6) Çantam ağır olmadığı halde, **SIRF** benimle yukarı gel-sin (OPT.3SG) diye Hasan'a taşıttım. [Although my bag was not heavy, I got Hasan to carry it ONLY so that he would come upstairs with me.] (W-SA16B4A-0063-595)
- (7) **SIRF** ben yaşa-yayım (OPT.1SG) diye insanların ölmesine göz yumamazdım. [I couldn't have turned a blind eye to people's death ONLY so that I would survive.] (W-NE39C0A-0215-317)

One of the reasons why the word *için* ranks the first in the top collocation list of *surf* is that *için* is not only used in the form *-mAk için* to introduce infinitival purpose clauses but it also occurs as a postposition in *surf* 's scope which corresponds to the preposition *for* in English. Out of the 430 sample lines examined, 27 cases had the postposition *için* as a colligate of *surf* in its scope. The expected pattern is quite normally *surf + NP + için* .

- (8) **SIRF** bedenleri için yaşayan canlı cenazelere bin yazık. [Shame on you, those living corpses, who live JUST for their bodies (physical needs)] (W-TI42E1B-2942-241)

Pragmatic Motivations Underlying *Surf* 's Frequent Co-occurrence with Purpose-related Phrases and Circumstantial Clauses

It is quite interesting that as opposed to the other exclusive operators in Turkish (*sadece, yalnızca, yalnız*) which seem to co-occur quite commonly with nominal phrases (Adıgüzel, 2019), it is *purpose* phrases and clauses that have proved to be highly frequent scopes quantified by *surf* . More than one third of the 430 concordance lines of *surf* which we analysed display *surf* colligating with purpose phrases or clauses. As we dug through the concordance lines, we concluded that there is a pragmatic motivation behind a speaker's choice of *surf* to quantify purpose phrases and clauses. "Purposes" in *surf* 's scopes tend to be *unjustifiable, selfish* or *foolish* on the part of the speaker. They reflect the speaker's criticism of or unfavourable attitude to them. The semantic schema of the sentences or utterances is usually such that something *big* expressed by the verb predicate in the main clause is carried out to fulfil a *small, trivial* purpose in the scope of *surf* from the perspective of the speaker/writer. In other words, purposes in the scopes quantified by the exclusive operator *surf* often sound underestimated or unjustified. We feel something like 'depreciatory' function of the English exclusive operator *just* as it is described as "the speaker intent to minimise the significance of the element being modified" (Lee, 1987: 379). It is felt that the speaker or writer has a reactionary attitude towards the performance of the action expressed by the main verb in the sentence simply to fulfil such a *simple, selfish, unjustifiable* or *foolish* purpose. *Surf* does not simply mean *only* in such sentences; the *single purpose* for which someone carries out the action denoted by the main verb (sometimes an important action) is criticised by the speaker/writer. Take the following sample lines:

- (9) ...İsrail'in Üçüncü İtifada'yı **SIRF** şiddet eylemlerini doğrulamak için teşvik ettiğini düşünüyorum. [...I think that Israel provokes the Third Intifada movement JUST to prove the presence of violent actions.] (W-UE36E1B-3356-1105)

- (10) ...bilmemkimin karısı olan biri, **SIRF kendi gibi senin de canın yansın (OPT.3SG) diye (SUB)**, kocanın bütün kirli çamaşırlarını döker ortaya işte o zaman ayılırsın, büyürsün. [...when the wife of whatshisname digs all the dirt on you **ONLY so that you get hurt like her**, you'll realise the facts and grow up] (W-TA16B4A-0342-1051)
- (11) Çünkü Mirsada, Nimeta'nın ve diğer arkadaşlarının ısrarına rağmen, **SIRF Petar'a daha yakın olmak için**, işinden istifa etmiş ve Petar'ın çalıştığı Sırp ajansına geçmişti. [..because Mirsada had resigned from her job and started to work in the Serbian agency where Petar worked **JUST to be closer to Petar** despite Nimeta and her other friends' insistence.] (W-LA16B4A-0298-1287)
- (12) **SIRF dikkatini daha çok çekmek için** suya atlamıştım. [I jumped into the water **JUST to get your attention more.**] (W-SA16B4A-0063-55)
- (13) Bir çocuğu ve genci en çok yıkan şey anne ve babasının güvenini yitirmektir. Bazen **SIRF onların güvenini kaybetmeyelim (OPT.1PL) diye (SUB)** yanlış adımlar atıyoruz. [What psychologically ruins a child and a youth most is losing the trust of their parents. Sometimes we take wrong steps **ONLY so that we should not lose their trust in us.**] (W-JI37C3A-0091-427)

All the examples above reflect something of a negative speaker attitude. In 9 Israel's purpose (ill-intention) quantified by *sırf* (only/just) is unjustified; in 10 we see a selfish, unjustified purpose in *sırf*'s scope; in 11 Nimeta's changing her job just to be close to her boyfriend deserves criticism; in 12 something is done for a foolish aim and in 13 the speaker feels that the purpose expressed in *sırf*'s scope is not a good, justified motive to take wrong steps.

The speaker's heaviest criticism of *the ONLY purpose* for which something is done is felt in instances in which we observe the collocation **SIRF + noun + OLSUN + DİYE [JUST/ONLY + noun + VOLITIONAL MODALITY.3SG + SUBORDINATOR]**. In English "olsun diye" in the pattern can be simply expressed with "for" (or "out of" in some examples) and therefore we used them in English renditions of the Turkish concordance lines below. The speaker's attitude to what is done by the subjects in the following sentences is extremely negative because of the expressed sole purposes which can prove to be highly provoking, annoying, astonishing, nonsensical or insincere.

- (14) ...on dört yaşındaki Bobbie Franks'i **SIRF eğlence olsun diye** öldürmüşlerdi. [...they had killed the 14-year-old Bobbie Franks **JUST for fun.**] (W-HE39E1B-2836-1441)
- (15) Sonunda bu mektupları **SIRF ibnelik olsun diye** caddedeki müzik evinin sahibi Özer'in postaladığı anlaşıldı. [It eventually turned out that it was Özer, the owner of the music house in the street, who had posted those letters **JUST out of/for malice.**] (W-OA16B4A-0061-618)
- (16) Bir keresinde, **SIRF muziplik olsun diye**, sürekli kaybeden bir arkadaşına 'Cebine elma kabuğu koy da, şansın değişsin,' demiştim. [**JUST for a prank**, I once said to a friend who always lost (in gambling): 'Put apple peelings in your pocket and your chance will change for the better'] (W-EI22C4A-0864-466)

- (17) ...**SIRF inat olsun diye** bir hafta boyunca yengemin yanında “Aşkım” diye birbirimize hitap etmeye başladık. [At the presence of my sister-in-law, we began to address each other saying “Love” for a week **JUST for persistence/obstinacy.**] (W-TI22C4A-0507-705)
- (18) Anlayın artık organizasyonla ne kadar alakasız insanlar **SIRF laf olsun diye** orada olmak istiyor. [You should already realise that people irrelevant to the cause of the organisation want to be with it **JUST for the sake of formality.**] (W-YI45F1C-5071-733)
- (19) O gün Akil Bey’in bir kaç adamını da **SIRF hava olsun diye** yanlarında götürmüştü Tilki. [That day Tilki took a few men of Mr Akil with them **JUST for show-off.**] (W-RI09C3A-0853-486)

We encountered the pattern “*sırf NP olsun diye*” in 20 of the 430 concordance lines that we analysed. What is striking about the pattern is that there is a semantic constraint on the *nouns* selected to fill this collocation: *almost all the nouns are abstract ones, most of which have negative connotations*. This observation led us to look at all such examples in the corpus; therefore, we queried the whole corpus specifically for this pattern, and found that there are 70 such examples. As mentioned above, almost all the nouns that fill the NP slot in the collocation are abstract. The nouns in the pattern **SIRF < NOUN > olsun diye** are: *eğlence (7), ibnelik (7), inat (5), muziplik (3), hava (3), laf (3), zevk, iş, günah, hoşluk, tartışma, heyecan, nostalji, bilim, şan, oportünizm, ritüel, latife, saygı, üfürük, yeşil alan, haber, fantezi, oyun, ilginçlik ve bilgiçlik, komiklik, temizlik, ukalalık, zarıflık, değişiklik, kalori, uyum, boşboğazlık, ceza, kıyak, mizah, macera, muhalefet, gıcık, fiyaka, sohbet, desen, ibret, özentî, gıcıklık, kolaylık, haset, kötülük, kıskançlık*. See Appendix 1 for the English renditions of these nouns.

In some instances, an utterance or sentence with *sırf* profiles an agent making a *big sacrifice* by doing something for a purpose (in *sırf*'s scope) that he or she considers important, even though it might sound so *simple* to the reader or listener.

- (20) Fikri Uçar o günün ulaştırma zorluklarına rağmen, bir ay sonra **SIRF duygularını anlatabilmek ve el öpme sözünü tutmak için** Hakkari'ye geldi. [Despite the difficulties involved in journeys those days, Fikri Uçar came to Hakkari one month later **JUST to express his feelings and to keep his promise to kiss hands (as a gesture of respect).**] (W-QD36C0A-0222-1605)
- (21) Yıllardır beklediği bu fırsatı **SIRF sen mutsuz olma diye** yitirecek. [She will miss the opportunity she has been expecting for years **ONLY so that you won't get upset.**] (W-JA16B2A-0859-479)
- (22) **SIRF ben yaşa-yayım (OPT.1SG) diye** insanların ölmesine göz yumamazdım. [I couldn't have turned a blind eye to people's death **ONLY so that I would survive.**] (W-NE39C0A-0215-317)

In all the concordance lines above the speaker/writer expresses a big sacrifice made by the agent just to do something that he/she thinks does not deserve such an effort or sacrifice.

Sırf's Colligation with Phrases and Clauses of Reason in its Scope

Out of the 430 concordance lines analysed, 110 cases have the focus particle *sırf* taking scope over phrases or clauses that express *reason*. This clearly demonstrates that there is also strong semantic priming between this exclusive operator and reason expressions in Turkish. Table 2 shows the clauses and phrases of reason which *sırf* often co-occurs with.

Table 2. *Sırf*'s Colligational Features in its Scope When the Focused Constituent is a Phrase or Clause of Reason.

Colligate	Description	Number of cases out of the total 430 examples
- DIĞI için	When added to a verb, it marks non-finite adverbial clause of reason (<i>because</i>)	43
... diye	Subordinator which marks finite clauses of reason (<i>because</i>)	25
Noun + (-Dan) dolayı	Ablative marked nouns followed by <i>dolayı</i> corresponds to <i>because of / due to + noun</i>	6
-DIĞIndAn dolayı	When added to a verb, it marks non-finite adverbial clause of reason (<i>because</i>)	1
Noun + DAn	Ablative marked nouns sometimes mean <i>because of noun</i>	6
Verb + Dan	Ablative marked verbs sometimes mean <i>because of doing</i>	6
-mAsI nedeniyle/sebebiyle	Added to a verb whose agent is possessive marked. <i>Nedeniyle / sebebiyle</i> are postpositions. These forms are marginal and mean <i>because/due to the fact that</i>	2
Bu yüzden	Discourse connective which means <i>therefore/for this reason</i> .	10
Bu nedenle	Discourse connective which means <i>for this reason</i> .	2
Bu nedenlerden, sebeplerle	These expressions correspond to <i>for these reasons</i> in English	3
...yüzünden	Postposition which means <i>because of</i> . It suggests undesirable results.	5
...saikiyle	Arabic origin word which means "motivated by" or "because of, due to"	1

Sample Lines

As can be noticed in Table 2 above, when *sırf* quantifies expressions of reason, we observe that the converbial marker *-DIĞI için* is added to verbs to form non-finite clauses, while the subordinator *diye* introduces finite clauses of reason. More than half of the clauses of reason turned out to have these two forms in our study.

- (23) Bir kadın bir yazarı, üstelik yıllarını paylaştığı bir yazarı, **SIRF** kendisini yazmış **diye** mahkemeye vermez. [A woman won't file a suit against a writer **JUST because he wrote about her**, especially if he is someone with whom she has spent years.] (W-SA16B2A-1394-1856)

- (24) **SIRF** Yaşar Nuri Öztürk orada olduğu için CHP'ye oy veren çok insan tanıyoruz. [We know many people who vote for CHP (party) **JUST because** Yaşar Nuri Öztürk is there.] (W-QD36C2A-0451-166)

The other forms in Table 2 are used more infrequently.

- (25) Filmi **SIRF bu ismin-DEN dolayı** seçmiş bulunmaktayım. [I have chosen the film **JUST due to this title of it.**] (W-SG37C4A-1392-1860)

In some cases the word “**dolayı**” is omitted when we get a reduced form of noun+**DAn dolayı**.

- (26) ...**SIRF bu mesele-DEN (problem.ABL)** bile başınız çok ağrır. [...you get terrible headaches **JUST because of this problem.**] (W-SI41C4A-1393-1859)

- (27) Bu hastalığın aynısı bende de var. **SIRF bu hastalık yüzünden** okula gidemiyorum. [I suffer from the same illness. I can't attend school **JUST because of this illness.**] (W-XI44F1D-5088-704)

In almost 10 % of the cases we observed *sırf* with the discourse connective **bu yüzden** (therefore/for this reason).

- (28) Özellikle de tıp alanında çok kıymetli çalışmalar yapılmış bu topraklarda. Belki de **SIRF bu yüzden**, Türk tıbbının sembolü olan çift yılan kabartması da Çankırı'ya kondurulmuş. [Significant studies were conducted in medicine around here (the Çankırı province). Perhaps **JUST for this reason**, a two-snake relief, which is a symbol of Turkish medicine, was placed in Çankırı.] (W-SI22E1B-2912-1362)

From the colligational features in the scopes of *sırf* when it quantifies clauses or phrases of reason, what is perfectly clear is that *sırf* most often co-occurs with the words *için* and *diye*, which are also used in purpose clauses. Since *için* and *diye* are the most frequent words both in purpose and reason scopes of *sırf* (202 cases (!) out of the total 430 cases analysed), it can be concluded that there is a very strong collocational attraction, in Stubbs' (2002) terms, between the exclusive operator *sırf* and these words.

Pragmatic Motivations Underlying *Sırf*'s Frequent Co-occurrence with Reason-related Phrases and Circumstantial clauses

We have discussed and exemplified how *sırf* suggests the speaker's negative attitude to purposes frequently encountered in its scope. It is often (though less often) the case with phrases and clauses of *reason* as well. That is, *sırf* frequently takes scope over phrases or clauses introducing *reasons* which the speaker/writer seems to evaluate as *unjustifiable*, *foolish* or *simple*. Of course, these negative evaluations of reasons for which the subject performs the action denoted by the main verb in the sentence only reflect 'speaker attitude', not the subject's attitude. In other words, the reasons quantified by the focus particle *sırf* may be personally significant enough for the subject of the sentence to do the action expressed by the main verb. Thus when a Turkish speaker chooses *sırf* (just/only) rather than other alternatives of restrictive focus particles (i.e. *sadece*, *yalnızca*, *yalnız*, *ancak*), *sırf* not only quantifies “the *only* reason” for which something is done, but it also suggests that the speaker has an unfavourable attitude to that reason. Take the sample concordance lines below:

- (29) Gücünün kat kat üstündeki işlerde, aylarca çalıştırılan kadınlara, **SIRF kadın oldukları için**, aynı işte çalışan bir erkekten daha az ücret verilmiştir. [Women who were forced to work in jobs rather beyond their power for months were paid less than men who worked in the same job **JUST because they were women.**] (W-SI42E1B-2941-1313)
- (30) Ben tamamen Türk işçisinin, Türk mühendisinin çalıştığı bir tesisten yapılan ihracatı **SIRF serbest bölgede olduğu için** ihracat sayılmamasını anlayamıyorum. [I cannot understand why any export from a facility where a Turkish worker or a Turkish engineer is employed should not be regarded as export **JUST because it is in the free zone.**] (W-RF25D1B-2162-1625)
- (31) **SIRF Çilli Mehmet'in tepesindeki çıplaklık yüzünden** "müstehcen yayın" davası açılabilir. [A case of "obscene broadcast" case can filed **JUST because of the nudity at the top of Çilli Mehmet's head.**] (W-JI22C3A-0861-22)
- (32) ... **SIRF yaşadığım Ludwigshafen kentinde geçiyor diye** Schlink'in Walter Popp ile birlikte yazdığı bir polisiye romanının ilk bölümünü Türkçeye çevirmeye kalkışmıştım. [I attempted to translate the first chapter of a detective novel by the co-writers Schlink and Walter Popp **JUST because it is set in Ludwigshafen, where I lived.**] (W-UG37C3A-0733-547)

In (29), women's getting smaller wages than men for the same job *just because they are women* is heavily criticised; the reason is regarded as unjustifiable. In (30) and (31) we see foolish and unjustifiable reasons in *sırf's* scope to which the speaker has an unfavourable attitude. Lastly in (32) *sırf* quantifies a clause of reason where the subject embarks on a hard job for a relatively simple reason.

Other Focused Constituents in *Sırf's* Scope

Out of the 430 sample lines from *sırf's* concordance, 260 lines (over half) have the exclusive operator *sırf* co-occurring with phrases or clauses of *reason* or *purpose* in its scope, often suggesting the speaker's negative attitude to them. This has been our focus of interest in the bulk of this research article. In the other concordance lines where *sırf* does not modify purpose or reason expressions, the prototypical ordinary exclusive adverbial *sadece*, which corresponds to *only* in English, can be easily substituted for *sırf*. We simply see its typical restrictive or exclusive function.

- (33) Lakin bu yolda ölen **SIRF Mehmet** miydi? [But was it **ONLY/JUST Mehmet** that died for this cause?] (W-LD02A0A-1700-1759)
- (34) **SIRF parasal açıdan** da bakmıyorum bu işe. [I don't consider this job **ONLY/JUST financially.**] (W-QD16C4A-0105-401)
- (35) ...bazen **SIRF düşünceleri değil**, düşünenleri **de** öldürüyoruz. [...sometimes we kill **not ONLY thoughts, but also** thinkers.] (Bold words correspond to the paired conjunction **not only ...but also...**) (W-CG37C4A-3365-1089)

Such ordinary uses of *sırf* as an exclusive operator must not sound so interesting for a linguistic research as our findings concerning *sırf's* outstandingly frequent modification

of expressions of purpose or cause and pragmatic motivations behind them. Last but not least, in other cases like the sentences above, the only worthwhile observation is that *sırf* hardly ever seems to modify numbers or quantifiers.

Conclusion

In Turkish we use the exclusive operators *sadece*, *yalnızca*, *yalnız*, *sırf*, and *ancak* in the general sense of *only*. Focussing on *sırf*, the present study has revealed that this Arabic-origin restrictive focus particle has a unique function of its own. We have unearthed through this corpus-driven work that *sırf* has an idiosyncratic tendency to take scope over phrases or clauses of *purpose* and *reason*. In more than half of the concordance lines it was observed that the syntactic associates of *sırf* are purpose or reason expressions that are usually in colligation with either *için* or *diye*, both of which are used as markers of reason or purpose with different verb forms. Although on the whole *sadece*, *yalnızca* and *sırf* correspond to *only* or *just* in English, the Turkish language seems more likely to assign the task of quantifying purpose or reason expressions to *sırf*.

The top collocates for *sadece*, *yalnızca* and *sırf* (see Appendices 2,3,4) demonstrate that although they are nearly overlapping for *sadece* and *yalnızca*, *sırf* is quite different, especially with its first and second most frequent collocates being *için* and *diye* – both reason and purpose markers. Distinct co-occurrence patterns are natural for near-synonyms because we often encounter expressive, collocative or colligational differences between near-synonyms (Edmonds and Hirst, 2002; Xiao and McEnery, 2006). Another significant observation about *sırf* is that in the majority of the cases in which this focus particle takes scope over purpose or reason expressions, it not only exclusively points to the *only* reason or purpose for which something is done but also hints at the speaker's negative attitude to that single purpose or reason for which the agent performs the action denoted by the main verb in the sentence/utterance. To put more clearly, there is a pragmatic motivation behind the speaker's selection of *sırf* to modify a phrase or clause of purpose or reason: they usually have an unfavourable attitude to these purposes or reasons as unjustifiable, simple, foolish or annoying. *Sırf* has the most unpleasant prosody and reflects the worst speaker attitude when it is part of the pattern *sırf* + *noun* + *olsun diye*. Nouns that fill the 'noun' slot in the pattern are also noteworthy. Almost all the nouns in this pattern have turned out to be *abstract* nouns, most of which have *negative connotations* (see Appendix 1 for the list of these nouns and their English matches).

What makes *sırf* survive in Turkish along with the other similar focus particles are most probably the idiosyncratic scope properties and pragmatic features surrounding *sırf*. As Cruse (1986:270) and Murphy (2003:161-2) argue persuasively, when a language has near synonyms like *sadece*, *yalnızca* and *sırf* or when a new near synonym is introduced into a language, like *sırf* from Arabic into Turkish, the language either dismisses it into disuse or differences begin to develop in its semantic or pragmatic properties. On the basis of the results and discussions of the present research, it would be right to argue that the Turkish language largely prefers *sırf* for the task of quantifying phrases and circumstantial clauses of *purpose* and *reason* with a negative speaker attitude to them. Apparently, this

has become embedded in the mental lexicon of the Turkish speech community now that the co-occurrence patterns recur in so many concordance lines from various texts.

Appendix 1. The List of Abstract Noun Collocates in the Collocation *Sırf + Noun + Olsun Diye*.²

NOUN	ENGLISH	NOUN	ENGLISH
Eğlence (7)	Fun	Komiklik	Humour
İbnelik (7)	(Literally, it means homosexuality) Too nasty behaviour; malice		
İnat (5)	Stubbornness	Temizlik	Cleanliness
Muziplik (3)	Teasing, mischievousness, prank	Ukalalık	Cockiness
Hava (3)	Show-off	Zariflik	Elegance
Laf (3)	Laf literally means conversation) The pattern <i>sırf laf olsun diye</i> amounts to “Just for the sake of formality”/ “Without any significant purpose or reason”	Değişiklik	Change
Zevk	Pleasure	Kalori	Calorie
İş (olsun diye)	(Just for) Fun or simply for doing something	Uyum	Harmony
Günah	Sin	Boşboğazlık	Babble
Hoşluk	Likeability, pleasantness	Ceza	Punishment
Tartışma	Argument	Kıyak	Flattery
Heyecan	Excitement	Mizah	Humour
Nostalji	Nostalgia	Macera	Adventure
Bilim	Science	Muhalefet	Opposition
Şan	Reputation	Gıcık	Teasing, annoyance
Oportünizm	Opportunism	Fiyaka	Show-off, pomposity
Ritüel	Ritual	Sohbet	chat
Latife	Quip	Desen	Design
Yeşil alan	Green space	İbret	Object lesson
Saygı	Respect	Özenti	Imitation
Üfürük	(It literally means puff) It is used to mean <i>frivolity</i> in our case	Gıcıklık	Teasing annoyance
Haber	News	Kolaylık	Convenience
Fantazi	Fantasy	Haset, kötülük, kıskançlık	Malice, Wickedness, Jealousy
Oyun	Trick	İlginçlik ve bilgiçlik	Being interesting and a smart alec

² The number in brackets show how many times the same noun recurs in this pattern in the corpus.

Appendix 2. Top Collocates List for Sırf (-5+5 span)

Collocates	Total number in written texts	Expected collocation frequency	Observed collocation	Log-likelihood value
için	284706	11,9437	674	4347,1335
diye	84753	3,5555	339	2476,489
bu	707750	29,6908	526	2159,7301
bir	1332821	55,9131	527	1538,9533
yüzden	12342	0,5178	97	827,4329
ve	1138984	47,7815	340	793,1713
olsun	24189	1,0148	104	762,5298
değil	81678	3,4265	127	677,993
de	398862	16,7327	202	652,6495
o	193061	8,0991	142	554,3385

Appendix 3. Top Collocates List for Sadece (-5+5 span)

Collocates	Total number in written texts	Expected collocation frequency	Observed collocation	Log-likelihood value
değil	81678	66,8597	5778	41344,8442
bir	1332821	1091,0164	12043	39309,7558
ve	1138984	932,3459	8830	25613,2044
bu	707750	579,3478	6835	22290,8678
için	284706	233,0537	3332	11801,6782
da	407420	333,5046	2974	7923,7522
olarak	219349	179,554	2181	7006,2955
sadece	41483	33,957	1244	6610,5577
o	193061	158,0353	1974	6434,9744
de	398862	326,4992	2602	6391,7754

Appendix 4. Top Collocates List for Yalnızca (-5+5 span)

Collocates	Total number in written texts	Expected collocation frequency	Observed collocation	Log-likelihood value
bir	1332821	355,6507	4352	15176,7923
değil	81678	21,795	1692	11636,8699
ve	1138984	303,9272	2746	7691,5434
bu	707750	188,8564	2229	7258,8675
için	284706	75,9711	1042	3599,4123
da	407420	108,7162	1019	2805,4131
olarak	219349	58,5312	728	2367,1685
de	398862	106,4326	886	2243,8345
o	193061	51,5165	659	2174,1159
yalnızca	13522	3,6082	294	2019,1989

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