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## Semantic and Pragmatic Analysis of a Turkish Sadness Verb Hüzünlen-
### Abstract

This study provides a semantic and pragmatic analysis of the Turkish verb "hüzünlen-" which conveys the meaning of sadness. Following a corpus-driven approach, query sequences from the Turkish National Corpus (TNC) were analysed according to the Extended Lexical Units model. In this context, 284 query sequences found in real spoken and written language samples were examined to determine the lexical profile of the verb "hüzünlen-." The aim of the study is to reveal the semantic and pragmatic usage differences of the verb "hüzünlen-" comparedæ to other verbs expressing sadness. In this regard, the syntactic features, collocational tendencies, and context-dependent semantic and pragmatic characteristics of the verb "hüzünlen-" were thoroughly investigated. As a corpus-driven study, this research is the result of an inductive examination. The study demonstrated that the lexical framework of the verb "hüzünlen-" implies a sudden, intense sadness often related to past events and circumstances. The findings contribute to a better understanding of the cultural and linguistic features of expressing sadness in Turkish, as well as to comprehending the cognitive aspects of the emotion of sadness. Furthermore, the results of the study offer significant insights into how expressions of sadness are shaped in linguistic and cultural contexts in Turkish, allowing for a broader perspective on the linguistic representation of sadness. This research suggests that the verb "hüzünlen-" should be examined not only in Turkish but also in comparison with similar emotional expressions in other languages. Thus, it can contribute to understanding the universal and culture-specific features of language and emotion.

**Keywords:** Sadness, Corpus linguistics, Corpus-driven, Lexical profile.

## Türkçe Üzüntü Eylemi Hüzünlen-'in Anlamsal ve Edimsel Analizi*
### Öz

Bu çalışmada, Türkçede üzüntü anlamı ifade eden "hüzünlen-" eyleminin anlamsal ve edimsel analizi yapılmıştır. Derlem çıkışlı (corpus-driven) bir yöntem takip edilerek, Türkçe Ulusal Derlemi'nden (TNC) alınan sorgu dizinleri Genişletilmiş Sözcük Birimleri modeline uygun olarak analiz edilmiştir. Buna göre gerçek sözlü ve yazılı dil örneklerinde geçen 284 adet sorgu dizini "hüzünlen-" eyleminin sözcük profilini belirlemek için incelenmiştir. Çalışmanın amacı, "hüzünlen-" fiilinin diğer üzüntü eylemlerinden ne gibi anlamsal ve edimsel kullanım farklılıklarına sahip olduğunu ortaya koymaktır. Bu bağlamda, "hüzünlen-" fiilinin söz dizimsel özellikleri, eşdizimlilik eğilimleri, bağlam bağımlı anlamsal ve edimsel nitelikleri detaylı bir şekilde incelenmiştir. Derlem çıkışlı bir çalışma olarak bu çalışma tümevarımsal bir incelemenin sonucudur. Çalışma, "hüzünlen-" eyleminin sözcüksel çerçevesinden yola çıkarak, ani gelişen, yoğun ve daha çok geçmişte kalmış olaylar ve olgularla ilgili bir üzüntüyü imlediğini göstermiştir. Elde edilen bulgular, Türkçede üzüntü ifadesinin kültürel ve dilsel özelliklerini daha iyi anlamamıza ve üzüntü duygusunun bilişsel özelliklerini kavramamıza katkı sağlamaktadır. Ayrıca, çalışmanın sonuçları, Türkçede üzüntü

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ifadelerinin dilsel ve kültürel bağlamda nasıl şekillendiğine dair önemli ipuçları sunmakta ve bu bağlamda üzüntü duygusunun dilsel temsilinin geniş bir perspektiften değerlendirilmesine olanak tanımaktadır. Bu araştırma, "hüzünlen" fiilinin yalnızca Türkçede değil, benzer duygusal ifadelerin diğer dillerdeki karşılıklarıyla da kıyaslanarak incelenmesi gerektiğini öne sürmektedir. Böylece, dil ve duygunun evrensel ve kültüre özgü özelliklerinin anlaşılmasına katkıda bulunabilir.

**Anahtar Kelimeler:** Üzüntü, Bütünce dilbilim, Derlem-çıkışlı, Sözcük profili.

## Introduction

The diversity of emotion words in any language reflects the complexity and richness of human emotional experience. Understanding the subtle semantic and pragmatic differences among these words can provide valuable insights into how emotions are conceptualized and expressed within a specific linguistic and cultural context. This study focuses on the Turkish verb "hüzünlen-" which denotes a sense of sadness and aims to explore its semantic and pragmatic nuances through a corpus-driven approach.

Emotion words often carry distinct connotations and usages, influenced by cultural norms and linguistic structures. By analysing these differences, researchers can uncover how emotions are not only experienced but also communicated differently across cultures. This knowledge is particularly useful in various fields such as psychology, linguistics, and cross-cultural communication, as it enhances our understanding of emotional expression and its implications in different contexts.

This paper originates from a doctoral dissertation that examined the lexical profiles of five Turkish sadness-related verbs using the Turkish National Corpus (TNC, n.d.). The dissertation provided a detailed analysis of these verbs' collocations, semantic preferences, and metaphorical profiles, offering a comprehensive view of how sadness is linguistically constructed in Turkish. One significant aspect of the dissertation was the metaphorical analysis of sadness in Turkish folk song lyrics, which highlighted the cultural specificity of emotional expression.

The current study narrows its focus to the verb "hüzünlen-" to delve deeper into its unique semantic and pragmatic features. This verb was selected based on its frequent and contextually rich usage in expressing a particular shade of sadness in Turkish. Unlike other sadness verbs, "hüzünlen-" embodies a more contemplative and reflective aspect of sadness, often associated with nostalgia and a profound sense of melancholy. By examining this verb in detail, the study aims to contribute to a more nuanced understanding of how sadness is articulated and perceived in Turkish.

In this research, concordance lines from the Turkish National Corpus were analysed following Stubbs' (2005) model of Extended Lexical Units. This approach allowed for a comprehensive examination of the typical colligates, collocates, semantic preferences, and semantic/discourse prosodies associated with "hüzünlen-." The findings from this analysis are expected to shed light on the specific ways in which this verb is used to convey sadness, thereby enriching our understanding of emotional language in Turkish.

## 1. Theoretical Framework

In conducting a semantic and pragmatic analysis of a verb, understanding the concepts of colligation, collocation, semantic preference, and semantic prosody is essential. These concepts provide a framework for exploring the intricate ways in which words are used and understood in context.

Colligation refers to the grammatical patterns that words tend to co-occur with (Sinclair, 1991). This concept emphasizes the syntactic behaviour of a word, which can reveal significant insights into its usage and meaning. For example, the verb "hüzünlen-" might frequently appear in specific syntactic constructions, providing clues about its typical functions and roles in sentences.

Collocation, on the other hand, involves the habitual co-occurrence of words within a particular span of text (Sinclair, 2004). It focuses on the lexical combinations that are statistically significant, often indicating a strong associative meaning. Analysing collocates of "hüzünlen-" can highlight common themes and contexts in which this verb is used, thereby enriching our understanding of its semantic properties.

Semantic Preference refers to the tendency of a word to occur with a set of words that share a common semantic feature. This concept helps in identifying the thematic or topical associations of a word. For "hüzünlen-," examining its semantic preferences can uncover the typical scenarios or emotions it is associated with (Partington, 2004).

Bednarek (2008) states that Semantic Prosody is the attitudinal or connotative meaning that a word acquires through its typical collocational environment. It reflects the overall evaluative meaning that arises from the recurring contexts in which a word appears. Understanding the semantic prosody of "hüzünlen-" involves analysing whether the verb generally conveys a positive, negative, or neutral connotation in its usages (McEnery & Hardie, 2012).

Incorporating these concepts into the analysis of "hüzünlen-" allows for a comprehensive examination of its semantic and pragmatic characteristics. Colligation reveals its grammatical behaviour, collocation uncovers its lexical partnerships, semantic preference highlights its thematic associations, and semantic prosody provides an evaluative perspective. This multi-faceted approach is crucial for a detailed understanding of how this verb functions within the Turkish language.

## 2. Method

This qualitative research employs a corpus-driven approach (Tognini-Bonelli, 2001) to conduct a lexical profiling of the Turkish sadness verb "hüzünlen-" in order to identify its semantic and pragmatic characteristics. This study utilizes the Turkish National Corpus (TNC) as the primary data source (TNC, n.d. hüzünlen*). The TNC is a publicly accessible resource for linguists and researchers, comprising 50 million words of authentic language samples (Aksan et al., 2012). To ensure the relevance and richness of the data, only written language samples from the corpus were filtered and collected for this analysis. The default settings of the tool, namely +-5-word span, were used for the research. When contextual information is needed, the tool enabled us to reach the whole text for further reading.

Initially, a query was conducted within the TNC to identify instances of the verb "hüzünlen-." This search yielded 794 usage examples from 448 different texts. However, to maintain the integrity and focus of the study, irrelevant data that did not align with the research objectives were meticulously excluded. After this refinement process, 284 concordance lines remained. These lines were then subjected to a detailed analysis following the model of Extended Lexical Units as proposed by Stubbs (2005) in a circular fashion. Tribble (2012) outlines this procedure as a seven-step process: 1) Initiate, 2) Interpret, 3) Consolidate, 4) Report, 5) Recycle, 6) Result, and 7) Repeat. This cyclical method requires the researcher to thoroughly analyse the concordance lines, continuing until no additional collocational patterns can be detected.

The Extended Lexical Units model facilitates a comprehensive examination of typical colligates, collocates, semantic preferences, and semantic/discourse prosodies associated with the target verb. This approach has been successfully applied in numerous linguistic studies to reveal intricate patterns of language use and meaning (e.g., Hunston & Francis, 2000; Stubbs, 2001).

By adopting this method, the study aims to uncover the nuanced semantic and pragmatic characteristics of "hüzünlen-," contributing to a deeper understanding of how this particular sadness verb functions within the Turkish language. The analysis involved systematically coding

and categorizing the concordance lines to identify recurring patterns and significant associations. In this regard, contextual representation encompasses all the syntactic, semantic, pragmatic, and stylistic information necessary for the appropriate use of a word (Miller & Charles, 1991).

In summary, this methodological approach, grounded in corpus linguistics, provides a robust framework for exploring the lexical and semantic properties of emotion verbs. The use of the TNC as a data source ensures the representativeness and authenticity of the language samples, while the Extended Lexical Units model offers a detailed analytical lens for examining the complexities of "hüzünlen-."

## 3. Findings and Discussion

Emotions are complex psychological states that encompass subjective experiences, physiological responses, and behavioural expressions. Cognitive theories of emotion, such as those proposed by Scherer (2000) and Ortony et al., (1990), suggest that emotions are structured around appraisal processes that evaluate the significance of events for an individual's well-being. Sadness is often associated with appraisals of loss, disappointment, or helplessness, leading to behaviours and expressions that communicate these feelings.

In linguistic terms, the expression of emotions, and sadness specifically, is deeply embedded in the cultural and social context of a language. The verb "hüzünlen-" in Turkish not only conveys a sense of sadness but also embodies cultural connotations of melancholy and reflection, often linked to nostalgia and a profound sense of longing. These emotional nuances are captured through the verb's typical grammatical patterns, lexical associations, and contextual usages.

By analysing the semantic and pragmatic properties of "hüzünlen-" through a corpus-driven approach, several significant patterns emerged. These patterns illuminate how this verb is employed to express specific facets of sadness within the Turkish linguistic and cultural framework. The findings are categorized based on the concepts of colligation, collocation, semantic preference, and semantic prosody, as they collectively provide a comprehensive picture of the verb's usage.

### 3.1. Colligational and Collocational Properties of "Hüzünlen-"

The verb "hüzünlen-" exhibits distinct grammatical behaviours, lexical partnerships, thematic associations, and evaluative meanings that set it apart from other sadness-related verbs in Turkish. These properties are critical in understanding how "hüzünlen-" functions as a linguistic tool for expressing sadness:

The Turkish verb "hüzünlen-" is defined in the Turkish Language Association (Türk Dil Kurumu [TDK], n.d.) dictionary as "to feel sadness" or "to become melancholy." It is a reflexive verb, indicating that the subject is both the doer and the receiver of the action, which in this case is experiencing the emotion of sadness. This reflexive nature underscores the internal, self-directed quality of the emotional state conveyed by "hüzünlen-."

Structurally, "hüzünlen-" is derived from the noun "hüzün," meaning "melancholy" or "sadness," with the addition of the reflexive suffix "-len," which is common in Turkish for forming verbs that indicate a state or condition affecting the subject (Göksel & Kerslake, 2005). This morphological formation highlights how the verb encapsulates the process of becoming imbued with sadness, emphasizing a gradual and enduring emotional shift.

The reflexive structure of "hüzünlen-" is pivotal in understanding its usage and connotations, as it reflects a deep, contemplative engagement with one's own emotions. This internal focus differentiates it from other sadness-related verbs that may imply external causes or more immediate reactions. As for its colligational properties, "Hüzünlen-" frequently appears in

specific syntactic constructions that highlight its reflective and enduring nature. It often co-occurs with aspectual markers and adverbial phrases (e.g. –(y)IncA, -dIğIndA, -dIğI zaman etc.) that denote duration and intensity. The frequent pairing of "hüzünlen-" with these suffixes suggests that the verb often describes an emotion that arises suddenly in response to an external auditory stimulus.

(1) "Muhafaza edilen eserler müzeye *götürüldüğünde* **hüzünlendi**." W-SF09C4A-0012-198 (Lit. He felt sad when the preserved artifacts were taken to the museum.)

(2) "Kitaplarından birisini *sattıkları zaman* **hüzünleniyorlardı**." W-GA16B2A-0460-587 (Lit. They were sad when they sold one of their books.)

(3) "Etkinliklere ara *verince* **hüzünleniyoruz** doğrusu" W-RE36E1B-3293-551 (Lit. We feel sad when we take a break for the activities.)

When "hüzünlen-" is used with the suffix -(y)Inca, it typically conveys that the emotion of sadness emerges immediately upon the occurrence of a specific event. Similarly, the suffix -dIğIndA implies that the sadness is triggered at the moment of experiencing or hearing something significant. This usage pattern highlights the instantaneous and reactive nature of the emotion, often linked to hearing news or receiving information.

(4) "Eski bir sesin yankılarını *duyunca* **hüzünlendi**" W-GE09C4A-0248-195 (Lit. He felt sad when he heard the echoes of an old voice.)

(5) "Caddebostan'daki Nostoni *kapanınca* önce bi **hüzünlendiydik**" W-XI45F1D-4809-515 (Lit. We would feel sad when Nostoni in Caddebostan was closed down. )

This reflexive and instantaneous emotional response can be seen in various contexts, underscoring the importance of auditory triggers in the experience of "hüzünlen-." The following examples illustrate how the verb "hüzünlen-" is used in sentences to express this sudden onset of sadness:

(6) "Mendil var mı? Sorusunu *duyunca* **hüzünlendi**." W-NE41C3A-1031-199 (Lit. He felt sad when he heard the question "Do you have a handkerchief?")

(7) "Türkiye'den Arjantin'e göçmesinin sebebini *sorunca* **hüzünleniyor**" W-HE39E1B-2836-554 (HE is feeling sad when somebody asks the reason why he migrated to Argentina from Turkey.)

Furthermore, the verb "hüzünlen-" also exhibits colligational patterns with conditional and future markers, indicating a relationship with future-oriented anxiety or concern. When used with the conditional suffix -(y)sA or the future tense marker -(y)AcAk with diye, as well as the converbial suffix –(y)ArAk "hüzünlen-" conveys a sense of anticipated sadness or worry about what might happen or what is expected to occur. This usage reflects a proactive emotional response, where the subject experiences sadness not only in reaction to immediate events but also in anticipation of future possibilities.

These constructions reveal a deeper layer of emotional complexity, where "hüzünlen-" expresses a blend of current melancholy and future anxiety. The conditional form often implies a hypothetical situation that could potentially lead to sadness, while the future tense highlights a sense of impending melancholy or concern.

(8) "Tanıdığı insanlar o *gidecek diye* **hüzünleniyordu**" W-HI09C4A-0481-584 (Lit. People he knows were feeling sad as he was going to go.)

(9) "Ama ne zaman sağ eline bir kuş *konsa* **hüzünlenir** Hasan Tahsin" W-NA16B2A-1241-650 (Lit. But whenever a bird lands on his right hand, Hasan Tahsin gets sad.)

(10) "Uzaklardaki çocuklarının ne yapacağını *düşünerek* **hüzünlenmişti**" W-RA16B4A-0885-620 (He was saddened by the thought of what his children would do far away.)

These examples, (8), (9), (10) demonstrate how "hüzünlen-" integrates future-oriented

elements into its semantic and pragmatic profile, enriching our understanding of how this verb encapsulates both immediate and anticipated emotional states.

Additionally, the verb "hüzünlen-" is frequently used with subordinating suffixes such as -dIkça, -(y) ArAk, and -(y) Ip, which indicate temporal and manner relationships in Turkish (Kornfilt, 2005). These constructions often suggest that the emotion of sadness arises from recalling past events or memories. The verbs "hatırlamak" (to remember) and "anımsamak" (to recall) are commonly associated with "hüzünlen-" in these contexts, highlighting the cognitive processes involved in the experience of this emotion.

(11) "O yana hiç geçmediğini *anımsayıp* **hüzünlenmekteydi**" W-RA16B3A-1134-29 (Lit. He remembered that he had never been that way and became sad.)

(12) "Hüküm süren erguvan saltanatını *hatırlayıp* **hüzünlenir**." W-LG37E1B-3040-640 (Lit. He remembers the reign of redbuds and becomes sad.)

When "hüzünlen-" is paired with the suffix -dIkça, it indicates that the sadness intensifies with repeated instances of remembering or recalling past events (13). Similarly, the suffix -(y) ArAk denotes the manner in which the action is carried out, often suggesting that the act of reminiscing itself brings about the feeling of sadness (14). The suffix -(y)Ip is used to connect sequential actions, implying that recalling or reflecting on past experiences leads directly to feeling sad.

(13) "O yıllara ait anıları *canlandıkça* **hüzünlenmektedir**" W-SG03A1B-3274-202 (Lit. He gets sad as his memories of those years come back to him.)

(14) "Ötekinden pek farklı olmadığını *düşünerek* **hüzünleniyordu**" W-RA16B3A-1134-586 (Lit. He was feeling sad considering that it was not very different from the other one.)

These colligational patterns reflect how "hüzünlen-" encapsulates a deep, reflective sadness that emerges from engaging with one's memories. The cognitive processes of remembering and recalling are intricately linked to this emotional response, illustrating the interplay between past experiences and present emotional states.

An additional noteworthy feature of the verb "hüzünlen-" is its infrequent use with the dative case marker -(y)A. This case marker typically indicates direction towards someone or something, and its rarity in conjunction with "hüzünlen-" suggests that the verb does not commonly express sadness directed at others or for external reasons. Instead, "hüzünlen-" predominantly signifies an internal, self-directed emotion characterized with "loneliness".

(15) "Yalnız kaldığımı *hissedince* **hüzünlenirim**" W-TD36E1B-2844-573 (Lit. I feel sad when I feel that I am alone.)

The lack of usage with the dative case highlights the introspective nature of the sadness conveyed by "hüzünlen-." This verb tends to describe a personal and internalized emotional state, reflecting the individual's own feelings rather than emotions influenced by or aimed at external entities or other people. Though, it is possible to find some examples with dative case.

(16) "O yaratmaktan *vazgeçenlere* **hüzünlenirdi**." W-UA16B2A-0884-16 (Lit. He used to feel sad for those who gave up creating.)

In contrast to verbs that might express sympathy, empathy, or concern for others, "hüzünlen-" encapsulates a form of sadness that is deeply introspective and reflective. This internal focus aligns with the verb's frequent association with cognitive processes like remembering and reflecting, as discussed earlier. The sadness expressed through "hüzünlen-" is thus more about the individual's internal emotional landscape rather than being an outwardly directed feeling.

(17) "Bu halini *görünce* içten içe **hüzünlendi**" W-TI22E1B-2913-194 (Lit. He felt inwardly sad when he saw his current position.)

In summary, the infrequent colligation of "hüzünlen-" with the dative case marker -(y)A underscores its primary role in depicting a self-contained, inward-looking sadness. This characteristic differentiates it from other emotional expressions that might involve external agents or reasons, further emphasizing its introspective and reflective nature.

Another significant observation regarding the verb "hüzünlen-" is the notable infrequency of its occurrence in the negative imperative form (hüzünlenme/hüzünlenmeyin) among its nodeinternal colligates. This rarity indicates that "hüzünlen-" is not commonly used to console or reassure others, as the negative imperative form would typically be employed to dissuade someone from feeling sad.

The limited usage of the negative imperative form suggests that "hüzünlen-" is rarely invoked in contexts where one might seek to comfort or calm another person. This contrasts with other emotional verbs that might frequently appear in negative imperative constructions to provide reassurance or to mitigate someone's distress.

Moreover, in the few instances where "hüzünlen-" does appear in the negative imperative form, it often lacks the presentation of positive arguments that would strengthen the consolatory intent. The verb does not effectively convey a message of reassurance or offer positive reasoning to alleviate sadness, further underscoring its primary role as an expression of internal, reflective sadness rather than a tool for comforting others.

(18) "Anneciğim yine **hüzünlenme** ne olur." W-VA14B1A-1632-513 (Lit. Mommy, please don't be sad again.)

This specific colligational pattern highlights a semantic distinction in how "hüzünlen-" functions compared to other sadness-related verbs. Its infrequent use in negative imperative contexts underscores its introspective nature and its limited role in social or interpersonal emotional regulation. Instead of serving to console others, "hüzünlen-" primarily reflects the individual's own engagement with their emotional state, often through personal reflection and memory.

The emotion of sadness conveyed by the verb "hüzünlen-" is frequently triggered by auditory stimuli. This is evident from its common collocates, which include verbs and nouns related to the sense of hearing. Verbs such as "duy-" (to hear) and "dinle-" (to listen) often appear in conjunction with "hüzünlen-," indicating that hearing or listening to something is a typical precursor to feeling sad.

(19) "Beyi _dinledikten_ sonra daha da **hüzünlendim**" W-GD03A0A-0256-524 (Lit. I became even sadder after I listened to Beg.)

(20) "Yıllar sonra o türküleri _duymak_ **hüzünlendirdi** babaannemi" W-VI19E1A-4052-69 (Lit. Hearing all those folk songs after many years made my granny sad.)

Moreover, "hüzünlen-" frequently co-occurs with words that denote auditory experiences and cultural artifacts that appeal to the sense of hearing. For instance, nouns like "şarkı" (song), "türkü" (folk song), "şiir" (poem), and "hüzzam" (a classical Turkish music mode known for its melancholic tone) are common collocates. These collocations highlight the significant role of auditory stimuli in evoking the emotion of sadness described by "hüzünlen-."

(21) "Kadınım' _şarkısını_ dinleyen Zeynep **hüzünlenmişti**" W-RA16B4A-1074-625 (Lit. Zeynep who listened to the song "Kadınım" would become sad.)

(22) "Yolun sonu görünüyor" _türküsünü_ dertli dertli mırıldanıp **hüzünlenirdi**" W-TA16B1A-0918-15 (Lit. He sadly whimpered the folk song "Yolun sonu görünüyor" miserably and became sad.)

(23) "Sana okuduğum _şiir_ içimi **hüzünlendirmişti**" W-SI22C3A-0559-36 (Lit. The poem that I read to you had made me sad.)

In addition to auditory stimuli, visual stimuli also play a significant role in triggering the emotion of sadness conveyed by the verb "hüzünlen-." This is evident from the frequent collocates that involve seeing and observing. Verbs such as "görmek" (to see), "izlemek" (to watch), and "bakmak" (to look) are often used in conjunction with "hüzünlen-," indicating that visual experiences can also lead to feelings of sadness.

The presence of these visual-related verbs suggests that "hüzünlen-" is used to express sadness not only through what is heard but also through what is seen. This expands the semantic range of the verb to include a variety of sensory experiences that can evoke melancholy.

For example, seeing an old photograph, watching a nostalgic movie, or looking at a significant place can all trigger the sadness described by "hüzünlen-." These visual cues, much like auditory ones, connect deeply with personal memories and emotions, leading to an internalized experience of sadness.

(24) "Ay yıldızı orada *görünce* gerçekten çok **hüzünlendim**" W-TD09C4A-0211-525 (Lit. I really felt sad when I saw the moon and the star there.)

(25) "Medyayı *izlemek* **hüzünlendiriyor** çünkü insanı" W-QE39C2A-1430-54 (Lit. Because watching the media makes the man sad.)

In addition to auditory and visual stimuli, cognitive stimuli also play a crucial role in triggering the emotion of sadness conveyed by the verb "hüzünlen-." Cognitive triggers are particularly evident in contexts involving recalling past events, memories, or thoughts. Verbs such as "anımsamak" (to recall), "hatırlamak" (to remember), and "düşünmek" (to think) frequently appear with "hüzünlen-," indicating that reflective and contemplative processes can lead to feelings of sadness.

These cognitive triggers often involve engaging with memories of past events, people, or experiences, highlighting how "hüzünlen-" is deeply connected to the inner workings of memory and thought. The process of reminiscing about past moments, whether joyful or sorrowful, can evoke a profound sense of melancholy, which is captured by "hüzünlen-."

For example, thinking about a loved one who has passed away, recalling a significant life event, or simply reflecting on bygone days can all trigger the sadness described by "hüzünlen-." These cognitive processes link past experiences with present emotions, underscoring the introspective and reflective nature of the verb.

(26) "Rahmetli babamı *düşündüm*, **hüzünlendim**." W-QA16B2A-1435-527 (Lit. I thought my deceased father and became sad.)

(27) "ODTÜ'nün kurucularından Kemal KURDAŞ'ı *anımsıyor* ve **hüzünleniyorum**" W-KB04A3A-1259-490 (Lit. I remember Kemal Kurdaş, one of the founders of ODTÜ and become sad.)

(28) "Neden *bitenler, yok olanlar, gidenler* beni **hüzünlendiriyordu**?" W-LI13C2A-1374-498 (Lit. Why was I saddened by those that end, disappear and are gone?)

In addition to auditory, visual, and cognitive stimuli, tactile stimuli also play a significant role in triggering the emotion of sadness conveyed by the verb "hüzünlen-." Tactile triggers often involve physical interactions with objects or people that hold sentimental value. These can include cherished belongings of loved ones or moments of physical affection, such as hugging a beloved person.

The interaction with items that have personal significance, like a favourite piece of clothing or a gift from a loved one, can evoke a profound sense of melancholy. Similarly, the physical act of hugging someone special, especially during reunions or goodbyes, can trigger a complex emotional response where sadness is intertwined with elements of happiness and affection.

These tactile experiences highlight how "hüzünlen-" can capture a bittersweet emotion, where sadness is accompanied by fond memories and a touch of joy. This duality reflects the nuanced nature of the verb, which can express both sorrow and a deep emotional connection to people and memories.

(29) "Ana-oğul şöyle bir *kucaklaştığı* zaman; pek **hüzünlenir**."  W-NA16B1A-0753-635 (Lit. He feels deeply sad when the mother and son hug one another.)

(30) "Onları camekânların ardında görmek ve *dokunamamak* biraz **hüzünlendirdi** beni." W-TI22E1B-2913 (Lit. Seeing them behing the glasses and not being able to touch them made me sad.)

The verb "hüzünlen-" is intricately linked with several profound concepts, including the passage of time, loneliness or solitude, and themes of separation or mourning. Each of these associations contributes to the rich emotional and semantic landscape of the verb.

Firstly, the passage of time is a recurring theme in the use of "hüzünlen-." This verb often appears in contexts where the speaker reflects on past events, changes over time, or the inevitability of aging. The sadness expressed by "hüzünlen-" is frequently tied to the realization of time passing, evoking a sense of nostalgia and melancholic reflection. For example:

(31) "Berin Hanım'la *yılların nasıl geçtiğini konuşurken* **hüzünlendi**" W-RE39C3A-0327-193 (Lit. While talking to Mrs. Berin about how the years had passed, she became sad.)

Secondly, "hüzünlen-" is closely associated with feelings of loneliness or solitude. The verb often describes an emotional state that arises from a sense of isolation, whether physical or emotional. This can include the absence of loved ones, the feeling of being alone despite being surrounded by others, or the introspective solitude one feels in quiet moments. Examples of this include:

(32) "Böyle zamanlarda *kimsesizliğini* hatırlar, **hüzünlenirdi**" W-QA16B3A-1131-19 (Lit. In such cases, he used to remember his orphanage and become sad.)

In addition to these, "hüzünlen-" is deeply connected to themes of separation and mourning. This verb captures the sadness experienced during times of parting from loved ones or dealing with loss. The sorrow of saying goodbye, the grief of losing someone, and the emotional pain of separation are all encapsulated by "hüzünlen-." Examples that illustrate this relationship include:

(33) "Adeta o da bu *ayrılıştan* **hüzünlenmişti**." W-RA16B1A-1211-624 (Lit. It was as if he too was saddened by this departure.)

(34) "Otuz yıl sonrasının *matemini* tutarmışçasına **hüzünlenirdim**" W-PG09C3A-0021-504 (Lit. I used to feel sad as if I had been mourning for the next thirty years.)

The verb "hüzünlen-" is often used in conjunction with concepts related to crying and tears, such as "ağlamak" (to cry) and "gözyaşı" (tear). These associations underscore the deep emotional impact of the verb, highlighting its role in expressing profound sadness that frequently leads to physical manifestations of grief.

The collocation of "hüzünlen-" with "ağlamak" and "gözyaşı" illustrates how the verb captures the intensity of sadness that can result in tears. In addition to its links with crying, "hüzünlen-" is commonly used with adverbs that indicate a sudden onset of deep sadness, such as "aniden" (suddenly) and "birdenbire" (suddenly). These adverbs emphasize the abrupt and overwhelming nature of the emotion, often triggered by a specific event or memory. This connection is evident in sentences like:

(35) "Birden içimden *ağlamak* geldi. **Hüzünlenmiştim**." W-TI22E1B-2913-479 (Lit. Sudenly I felt like crying. I was sad.)

(36) "Coşkuya kapılacağım sırada *birdenbire* **hüzünlendim**" W-KA16B4A-0886-516 (Lit.

Just when I was about to be ecstatic, I suddenly felt sad.)

The adverb "nedense" (for some reason) is often used in conjunction with the verb "hüzünlen-" to indicate that the person experiencing the emotion feels sad without a clear reason or explanation. This usage suggests a sense of puzzlement or confusion about the cause of the sadness, adding a layer of complexity to the emotional experience described by "hüzünlen-."

(37) "Severim bütün mevsimleri ama *nedense* **hüzünlenirim** sonbahara giderken" W-FA15B1A-1921-575 (Lit. I love all the seasons but for some reason I feel sad when I go to fall.)

(38) "Nedense en çok pazar günleri **hüzünleniyorum**" W-PA16B0A-0181-488 (Lit. For some reason, I feel sad most on Sundays.)

On the other hand, the collocates that appear in the +N position following the verb "hüzünlen-" in the corpus contribute significantly to the semantic structure of the verb. These collocates often reflect a sense of acceptance and resignation, aligning with themes of spiritual and philosophical contemplation.

In many instances, the person experiencing "hüzünlen-" is depicted as coming to terms with their sadness or the circumstances causing their sadness. This is reflected in phrases that suggest a sense of resignation or acceptance, often found in contexts related to spiritual or emotional surrender. These collocates (e.g. dua etmek 'pray') enhance the semantic depth of "hüzünlen-" by emphasizing the emotional journey from feeling sadness to accepting it. This acceptance often aligns with the principles of Islamic Sufism, where the concept of "tevekkül" (trust in God's plan) plays a crucial role. The act of experiencing sadness and then surrendering to a higher power or fate reflects a spiritual coping mechanism deeply rooted in Sufi traditions. For example:

(39) "Rahmetli babamı düşündüm, **hüzünlendim**, *ruhu için dua ettim.*" W-QA16B2A-1435-527 (Lit. I thought my deceased father, felt sad, and prayed for his soul.)

In addition to themes of acceptance and spiritual resignation, the verb "hüzünlen-" is also frequently followed by collocates that indicate a lack of physical response or a focus on mental anguish. These collocates emphasize the introspective and often paralyzing nature of the sadness expressed by "hüzünlen-."

In many instances, individuals experiencing "hüzünlen-" are depicted as not taking any outward action, reflecting a state of emotional inertia. This can include doing nothing or remaining passive in the face of their sadness, which underscores the deep, internalized nature of the emotion. Examples of this include:

(40) "Yalnız kaldığımı hissedince **hüzünlenirim** ve *hiçbir şey yapmak istemem.*" W-TD36E1B-2844-573 (Lit. I feel sad when I feel that I am alone.)

(41) "Ne zaman dinlesem Sevgili Koray'ın o hınzırca gülüşü aklıma gelir, **hüzünlenir**, *dalar giderim.*" W-PI09C2A-1187-651 (Lit. Whenever I listened to it, I remember Dear Koray's mischievous smile, I feel sad and daydream.)

Furthermore, "hüzünlen-" is also linked with experiences of mental anguish, where the emotional pain is deeply internalized and manifests as psychological distress. This can include collocates that suggest enduring mental suffering or contemplation of one's sorrow. Examples include (41) and (42):

(42) "Anıların bir süre sonra dışarı çıkacağını düşününce, insan ürkmekle kalmıyor, **hüzünlenip** *acı çekmeye başlıyor.*" W-PI22C1A-0209-541 (Lit. When one thinks that the memories will come out after a while, one is not only frightened, but also saddened and feeling pain. )

(43) "Hatırınızdan çıkarırsanız **hüzünlenirim**. *Kırılırım sonra.*" W-FE39E1B-3025-572 (Lit. If you forget about it, I become sad. I feel offended.)

These collocates highlight how "hüzünlen-" often involves a profound internal struggle,

where the person is consumed by their emotions to the point of inaction. This lack of physical response contrasts with the occasional natural reflex of crying, which is the primary physical manifestation of the sadness associated with "hüzünlen-." For instance:

> (44) "Kadınım" şarkısını dinleyen Zeynep **hüzünlenmişti** ve *eve gelene kadar ağladı*." W-RA16B4A-1074-625 (Lit. Zeynep who listened to the song "Kadınım" was sad and she cried till she arrived at home.)

> (45) "Neye seviniyorum böyle?" diye **hüzünlenip** *ağlamaya başlayacağım*." W-SE09C3A-0408-534 (Lit. I will become sad and start crying after thinking for what I am rejoicing.)
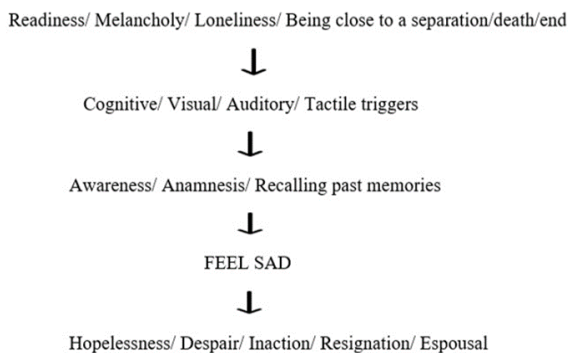
These collocates illustrate that "hüzünlen-" not only captures the initial feeling of sadness but also encompasses the subsequent mental and emotional struggles that accompany it. The verb, therefore, portrays a comprehensive picture of sadness that includes emotional paralysis, mental suffering, and occasional physical reactions like crying.

### 3.2. Semantic and Pragmatic Properties of Hüzünlen-

The semantic preference of the verb "hüzünlen-" can be effectively illustrated through a visual representation of the emotional process and the related lexical elements derived from corpus data. This figure captures the various stages of experiencing sadness, from the initial state of readiness through different types of stimuli, to the resulting mental state, and finally the cognitive and behavioural responses. Below is the visual representation that outlines this process:

**Figure 1**

*The Event Schema of Hüzünlen- and Semantic Domains Dictated by the Schema in Its Lexical Environment*

Readiness/ Melancholy/ Loneliness/ Being close to a separation/death/end
⊥
Cognitive/ Visual/ Auditory/ Tactile triggers
⊥
Awareness/ Anamnesis/ Recalling past memories
⊥
FEEL SAD
⊥
Hopelessness/ Despair/ Inaction/ Resignation/ Espousal

This figure outlines the emotional trajectory associated with the verb "hüzünlen-." It begins with the pre-emotional readiness state, followed by different types of stimuli (visual, auditory, cognitive, tactile) that trigger the emotion. These stimuli lead to a new mental state characterized by recollection and contemplation, culminating in the feeling of sadness itself. Finally, the figure illustrates the subsequent cognitive or behavioural responses, such as acceptance, resignation, crying, or inaction.

By examining these stages and the associated lexical elements, we gain a comprehensive understanding of how "hüzünlen-" operates semantically and pragmatically within the Turkish language. The verb not only conveys a deep sense of sadness but also encompasses the mental and emotional processes that accompany it, reflecting a complex and multifaceted emotional experience.

The analysis of "hüzünlen-" reveals that its semantic prosody is not straightforwardly negative. While sadness is often classified as a negative emotion (Wierzbicka, 1999), the sources of the feeling encapsulated by "hüzünlen-" are varied and complex. The verb does not exclusively draw on negative concepts such as death or separation. On the contrary, it frequently arises from

positive memories, cherished individuals, and reminiscences of happy times. This dual nature highlights that the emotion conveyed by "hüzünlen-" is multifaceted and cannot be narrowly defined as having a purely negative prosody.

This nuanced prosody is further illustrated by the grammatical structures and word choices that accompany "hüzünlen-." The verb often appears in contexts related to the past, such as recalling old memories or thinking about loved ones, indicating that the emotion is deeply rooted in personal reflection and nostalgia. For instance:

(46) "O günleri hem gülerek hem **hüzünlenerek** *hatırlarım.*" W-SE36E1B-3352-8 (Lit. I remember those days both by smiling and feeling sad.)

(47) "Hiç unutmam bir gün..." diye başlayan çocuklarla ilgili *anılar* kimi zaman kahkahalarla, kimi zaman da **hüzünlenerek** anlatılmaya başlanıyor." W-QD37C2A-0506-6 (Lit. Memories about children that starts with "I always remember, one day…" are sometimes told with laughter and sometimes by feeling sad.)

Such instances show that while the overarching emotion is one of sadness, it is intertwined with positive recollections, making the overall semantic prosody more complex.

Additionally, "hüzünlen-" is often reflexive, indicating that the sadness is primarily an internal experience rather than a response to external stimuli or others' situations. This introspective nature aligns with the verb's frequent association with personal memories and internal reflections rather than future anxieties or concerns for others. Thus, "hüzünlen-" predominantly describes an inner emotional state rather than outward-directed empathy or worry.

Moreover, the sudden onset of the emotion, often triggered by specific stimuli such as hearing a song or seeing a familiar place, emphasizes the immediate and spontaneous nature of the feeling. This spontaneity suggests that the semantic prosody of "hüzünlen-" can vary, encompassing positive, negative, or neutral connotations depending on the context.

In summary, "hüzünlen-" does not adhere strictly to a negative semantic prosody. Instead, it reflects a complex emotional state that blends elements of sadness with nostalgic and often positive memories, portraying a rich and layered emotional experience. The verb's reflexive nature and predominant association with the past further emphasize its unique semantic character, demonstrating that the emotion it conveys is both multifaceted and context dependent.

## Conclusion

In this study, we have conducted an in-depth semantic and pragmatic analysis of the verb "hüzünlen-" within the Turkish language, drawing on data from the TNC (n.d.). By employing Stubbs' (2005) model of Extended Lexical Units, we have uncovered the multifaceted nature of this verb and its unique semantic prosody.

Our findings reveal that "hüzünlen-" encapsulates a complex emotional experience that cannot be narrowly defined as purely negative. While sadness is often considered a negative emotion, "hüzünlen-" frequently arises from positive memories, cherished individuals, and nostalgic reflections. This dual nature highlights that the verb's semantic prosody is not straightforwardly negative but rather context-dependent, incorporating elements of both positive and negative emotions.

The verb is predominantly associated with past events and personal reflections, indicating a deeply introspective and reflexive emotional state. This is further evidenced by its frequent colligation with subordinating suffixes that indicate recollection and reminiscence, as well as its relatively rare association with future-oriented anxiety or empathy for others. Consequently, "hüzünlen-" primarily conveys an internal, self-reflective sadness rather than outward-directed concern.

Moreover, the sudden onset of the emotion, often triggered by auditory, visual, cognitive, or tactile stimuli, underscores the immediate and spontaneous nature of the feeling. These stimuli, ranging from hearing a song or seeing a familiar place to recalling a significant memory, contribute to the nuanced semantic prosody of "hüzünlen-," which can encompass positive, negative, or neutral connotations depending on the context.

Through this analysis, we have demonstrated that "hüzünlen-" is a verb that reflects a rich and layered emotional experience, deeply rooted in personal memories and reflections. Its reflexive nature and predominant association with the past highlight its unique semantic character, offering valuable insights into the linguistic representation of sadness in Turkish. This study not only contributes to our understanding of the semantic and pragmatic properties of "hüzünlen-" but also underscores the importance of considering context and cultural nuances in the analysis of emotion-related verbs.

Overall, the semantic and pragmatic intricacies of "hüzünlen-" provide a compelling case for the nuanced nature of emotional expressions in language. By examining such verbs through a corpus-driven approach, we can gain a deeper appreciation for the complexity and diversity of human emotions as reflected in linguistic usage.

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