



# Investigating Raising Structures in Turkish

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# Existing approaches

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(1) \_\_ [Sen kahve yapmış-sın] gibi görünüyor-∅ . (before raising)  
you coffee make-2ps like seem  
“It seems that you made some coffee.”

(2) Sen [Sen kahve yapmış-(sın)] gibi görünüyor-sun. (after raising)  
you coffee make-(2ps) like seem-2ps  
“You seem to have made some coffee.”

- Movement.
- Only one theta-role, from the embedded verb
- *gibi görün* does not assign any external theta roles

# The issue

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In Turkish, different subjects in embedded and the main clause is accepted with the predicate *gibi görünmek* 'seem'.

Context: John sees that there is nothing left in the fridge and makes a plan to go shopping after he comes back from work. He goes to work, and when he comes home, he sees that the fridge is full of groceries. He goes to his wife and says:

(3) **Buzdolabı** [ (**sen**) alışveriş yapmış-**sın**] gibi görünüyor-  $\emptyset$   
fridge            you   shopping do- 2ps            like seem-            3ps  
'The fridge seems like you have done the shopping.'

# Current study

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No systematic data was collected in the earlier studies. The researchers based their arguments on their own (and consultants') judgements.

Aims of the study:

- Provide reliable data about the issue by testing how commonly these sentences are accepted!
- Provide theoretical analyses to the sentences that are accepted in the language.
- Determine if there is a consistent dialectal difference, as Moore (1998) suggested.

# Current study

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Experiment Task: Contextual Felicity Task

- PsychoPy 3
- Pavlovia ([pavlovia.org](http://pavlovia.org))
- 48 participants
  - Native Turkish speakers
  - Aged btw. 18-35

Participants are given a context followed by a sentence. They are asked to rate the sentence in terms of acceptability on a 7-point Likert scale.

# Current study- A trial example

Context: Zeynep goes to the kitchen to make some coffee for herself. She sees her roommate Sibel in there and she notices that the kettle is steaming even though it is off. She thinks that her roommate made some coffee just before her. She says to her roommate:

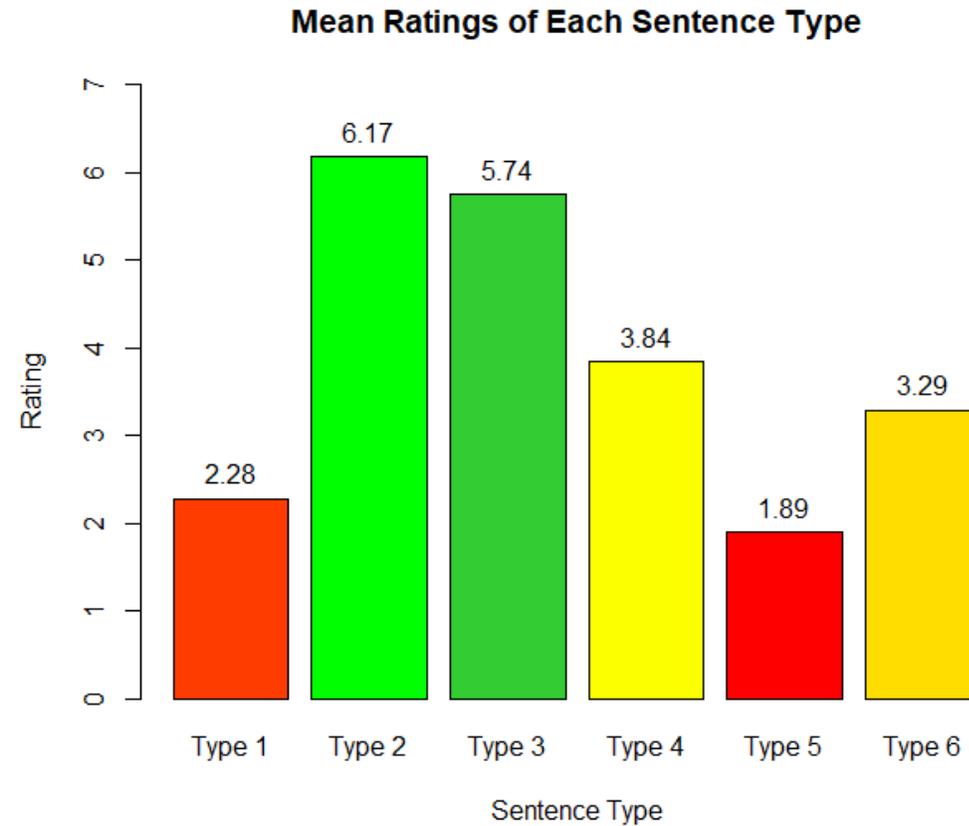
|  | <b>Emb. Agreement</b> | <b>Matrix Subject</b>        |
|--|-----------------------|------------------------------|
| <b>Type 1:</b> <i>pro</i> <sup>2nd</sup> kahve yapmış- Ø gibi görünüyor- Ø.                    | <i>No</i>             | <i>Null</i>                  |
| <b>Type 2:</b> <i>pro</i> <sup>2nd</sup> kahve yapmış- <b>sin</b> gibi görünüyor- Ø.           | <i>Second</i>         | <i>Null</i> (Pre-raising)    |
| <b>Type 3:</b> <i>pro</i> <sup>2nd</sup> kahve yapmış- Ø gibi görünüyor- <b>sun</b> .          | <i>No</i>             | <i>Second</i> (Post-raising) |
| <b>Type 4:</b> <i>pro</i> <sup>2nd</sup> kahve yapmış- <b>sin</b> gibi görünüyor- <b>sun</b> . | <i>Second</i>         | <i>Second</i> (Double Agr.)  |
| <b>Type 5:</b> Isıtıcı <i>pro</i> <sup>2nd</sup> kahve yapmış- Ø gibi görünüyor- Ø.            | <i>No</i>             | <i>Third</i>                 |
| <b>Type 6:</b> Isıtıcı <i>pro</i> <sup>2nd</sup> kahve yapmış- <b>sin</b> gibi görünüyor- Ø.   | <i>Second</i>         | <i>Third</i> (Two-Subject)   |

kettle you coffee make- 2S like seem- 3S

# Preliminary Results

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Mean ratings for each Type:



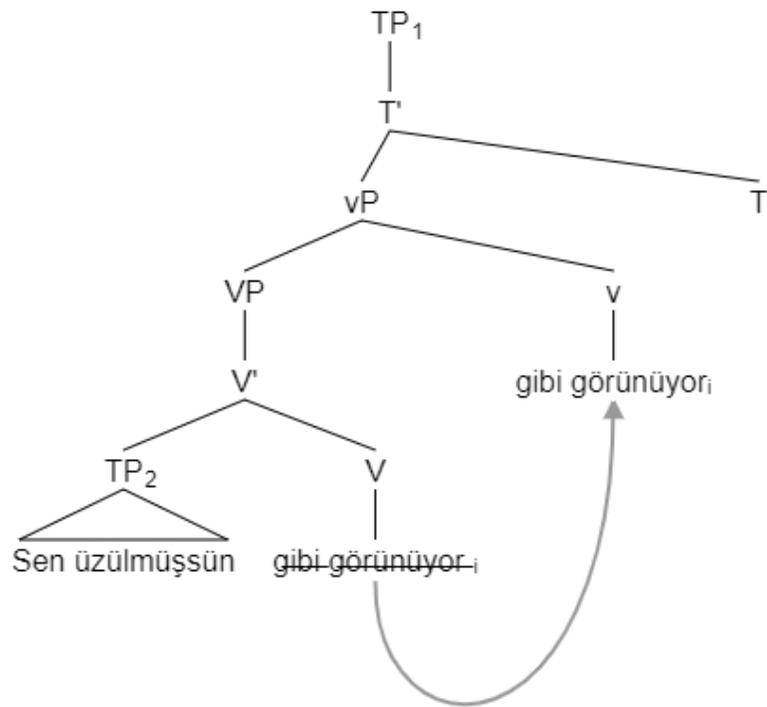
# Results- Participant groups

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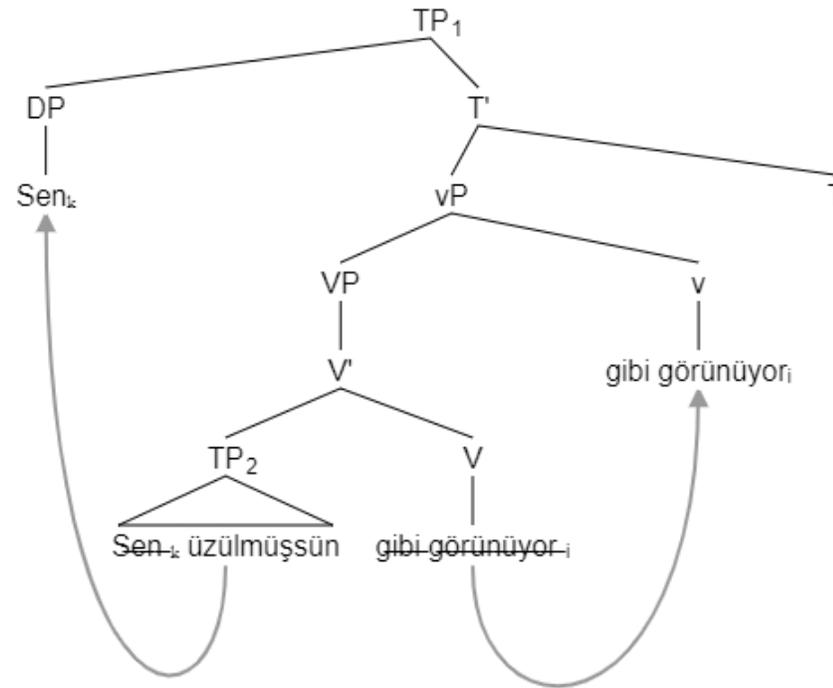
|                  | Group A        | Group B        | Group C      |
|------------------|----------------|----------------|--------------|
| Pre-raising      | acceptable ✓   | acceptable ✓   | acceptable ✓ |
| Post-raising     | acceptable ✓   | acceptable ✓   | acceptable ✓ |
| Double agreement | unacceptable ✗ | acceptable ✓   | acceptable ✓ |
| Two-Subject      | unacceptable ✗ | unacceptable ✗ | acceptable ✓ |

# Standard Raising in Turkish

Observed in Pre-raising vs Post-raising sentences.



Pre-raising



Post-Raising

# Copy-Raising of Landau

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Landau (2011) suggest that the null operator merges into the structure and turns the embedded clause in (4a) into a predicate. This allows “John” to merge directly and share the same theta role with “he”.

(4a) John<sub>i</sub> seems like he<sub>i</sub> is in a rush.

(4b) [John<sub>i</sub> seems [OP<sub>i</sub> like [<sub>CP</sub> he<sub>i</sub> is in a rush]]].

There is an important restriction about the null operator:

The null operator cannot merge with finite CPs. (Chomsky 1977, 1980; Browning 1987; Clark 1990, among others)

Exactly for this reason, preposition “like” is obligatory in the structure.

# Copy Raising- Landau (2011)

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Comparing (5a) to (5b) in English.

(5a) \***John** seems **he** likes pizza.

(5b) **John**<sub>i</sub> seems like **he**<sub>i</sub> likes pizza.

Preposition “like” merges with the embedded CP and creates a PP layer.

Then the OP merges with this PP and turns the embedded CP into a predicate.

# Turkish is a *pro* drop language

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Turkish seems to be a *pro* dropped version of Landau`s (2011) claim.

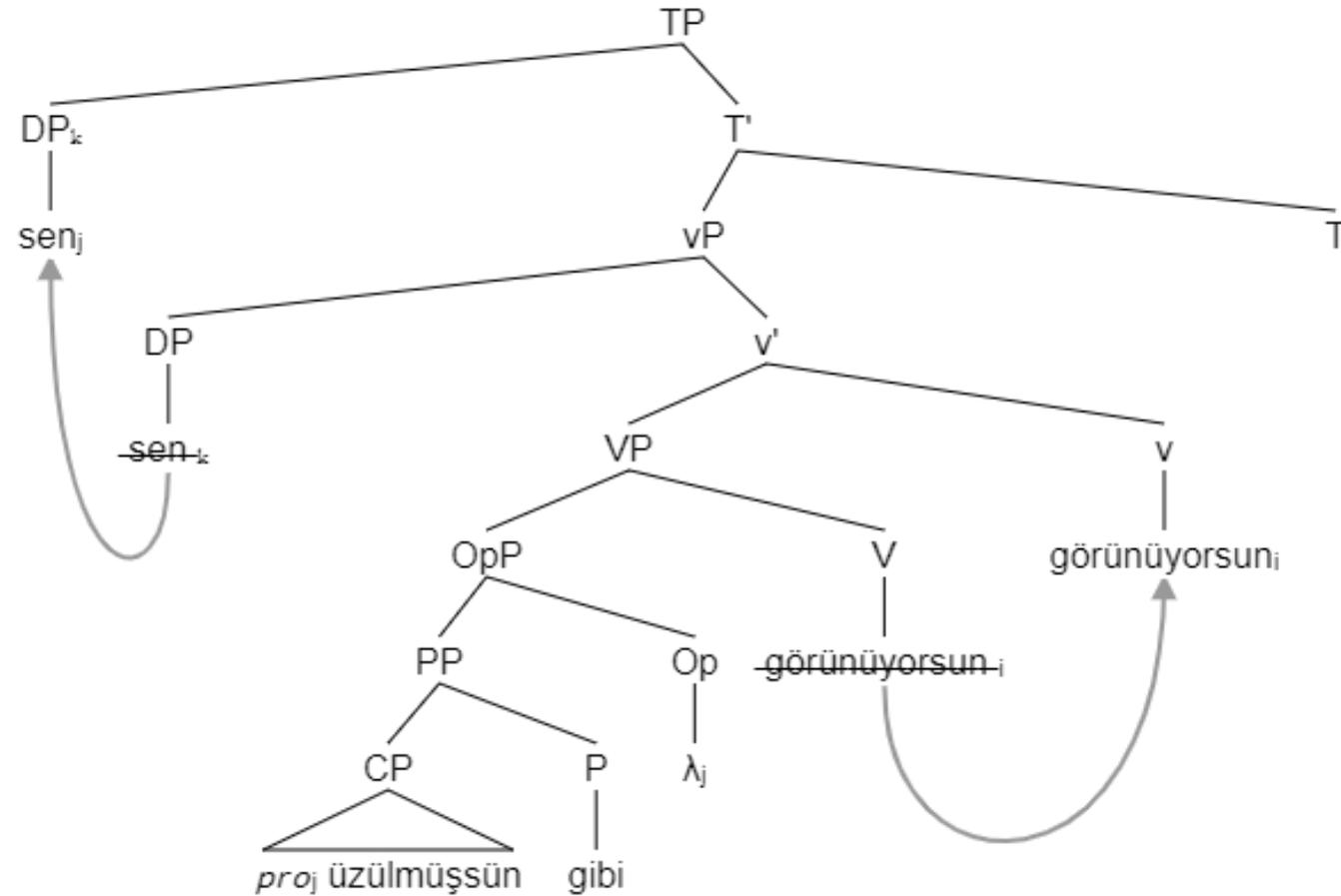
(6a) [ **Sen**<sub>i</sub> [**pro**<sub>i</sub> üzülmüş- **sün**] **gibi** görünüyor- **sun**.] (Double Agreement)  
you                  upset-                  2ps    like    seem-                  2ps  
'You seem like you got upset.'

(6b) [ **Sen**<sub>i</sub> [**SEN**<sub>i</sub> üzülmüş- **sün**] **gibi** görünüyor- **sun**.]  
you    you    upset-                  2ps    like    seem-                  2ps  
'**You** seem like **you** got upset. (not someone else)'

"*gibi* görün" = (*gibi* + *görün*)

**like** seem

# Structure of the Double Agreement sentences



# Possibility of assigning a theta role: P-source

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Context: I think of offering John, my roommate, to cook and eat together. While going to his room, I see that there are many dirty dishes and left-over food in the kitchen. I say:

(7a) **John<sub>i</sub>** seems like **he<sub>i</sub>** has already eaten. (No P-source)

(7b) *The kitchen* seems like *John* has already eaten. (The kitchen -> P-source)

P-source theta role! (“**The kitchen** *smells* like **you** burnt the cake!”)

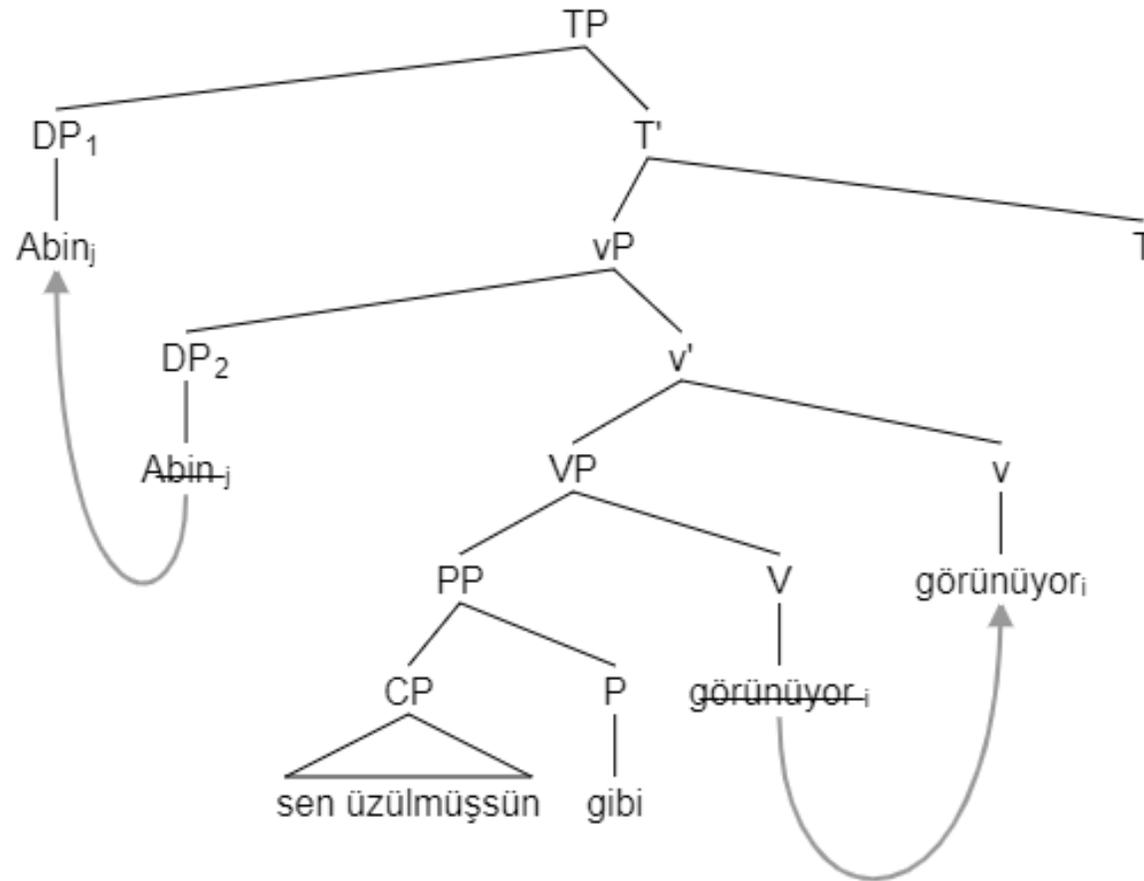
# Back to Turkish data (Two-Subject form)

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Context: John sees that there is nothing left in the fridge and makes a plan to go shopping after he comes back from work. He goes to work, and when he comes home, he sees that the fridge is full of groceries. He goes to his wife and says:

(8) **Buzdolabı** [ (**sen**) alışveriş yapmış-**sın**] gibi görünüyor-  $\emptyset$   
fridge          you    shopping do- 2ps          like seem-          3ps  
'The fridge seems like you have done the shopping.'

# Structure of the Two-Subject sentences



# Different structures in Copy-Raising

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Double Agreement sentences:

- *görün* selects for a complement with the OP
- cannot assign an external theta role

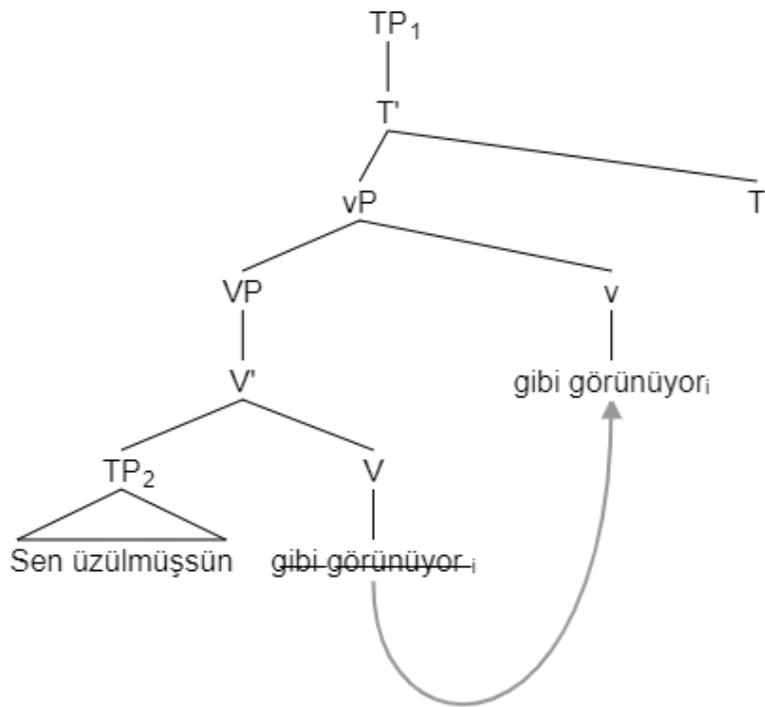
Two-Subject sentences:

- *görün* selects for a PP complement
- Assigns the P-source external theta role

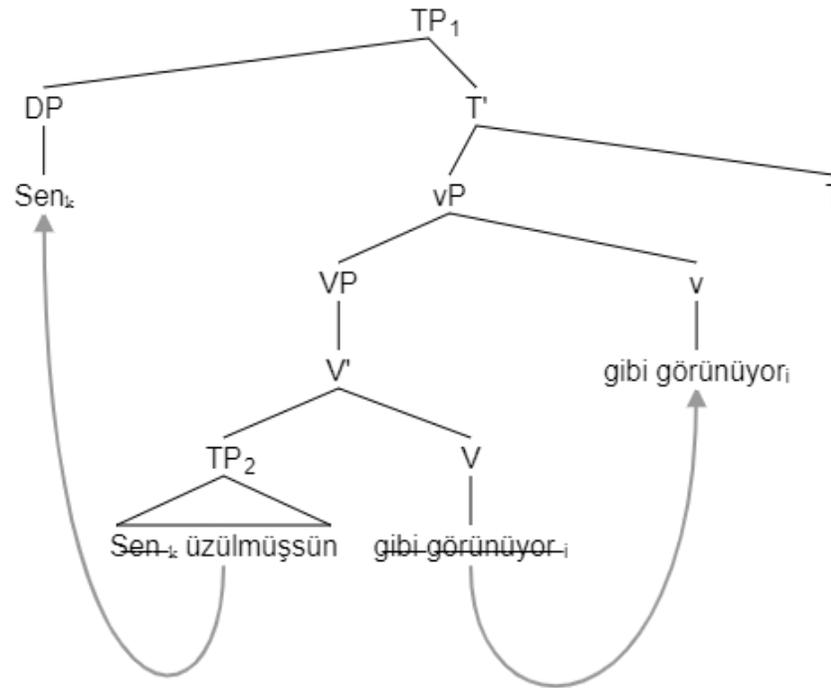
These two verbs are stored as two different lexical items (*görün<sub>1</sub>*, *görün<sub>2</sub>*), leading to two different sentence structures.

# Remembering the Standard Raising

Postposition *gibi* “like” does not play any roles, but it is lexicalized inside the verb as one unit.



Pre-raising



Post-Raising

# Standard Raising vs Copy-Raising complements

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**Pre-raising** and **Post-raising** sentences:

Type = Standard Raising  
Predicate = *gibi görün*  
Selects for = TP embedded clause

**Double Agreement** sentences:

Type = Copy-Raising  
Predicate = *görün<sub>1</sub>*  
Selects for = null operator CP embedded clause

**Two-Subject** sentences:

Type = Copy-Raising  
Predicate = *görün<sub>2</sub>*  
Selects for = PP

# Inter-speaker variation

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|  | Group A               | Group B   | Group C  |
|--|-----------------------|---|--|
| Pre-raising<br>( <i>gibi görün</i> )             | acceptable ✓          | acceptable ✓  | acceptable ✓   |
| Post-raising<br>( <i>gibi görün</i> )            | acceptable ✓          | acceptable ✓  | acceptable ✓   |
| Double agreement<br>( <i>görün<sub>1</sub></i> ) | unacceptable ✗        | acceptable ✓  | acceptable ✓   |
| Two-Subject<br>( <i>görün<sub>2</sub></i> )      | unacceptable ✗        | unacceptable ✗                                      | acceptable ✓   |
| LEXICON  | ( <i>gibi görün</i> ) | ( <i>gibi görün</i> ), ( <i>görün<sub>1</sub></i> ) | ( <i>gibi görün</i> ), ( <i>görün<sub>1</sub></i> ),<br>( <i>görün<sub>2</sub></i> ) |

# Conclusions

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- I report that Copy-Raising (of Landau) is observed in Turkish with **Double Agreement** and Two-Subject sentences.
- I report a variation among the native speakers of Turkish:  
**Conservative**= Only *Standard Raising* is allowed: **Pre-raising**, **Post-raising**  
**Semi-conservative**= *Standard Raising* + *Copy-Raising (limited)*: **Pre-raising**, **Post-raising**, **Double Agr**  
**Non-conservative**= *Standard Raising* + *Copy-Raising (full)*: **Pre-raising**, **Post-raising**, **Double Agr**, Two-Subject

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Thank you for participating!  
Any questions?

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