On extensive meanings of lazîm constructions in Cypriot Turkish

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Résumé. Il est bien connu que la notion de « nécessité » en turc chypriote est exprimée par le biais de l’unité lexicale *lazïm* « besoin/nécessaire » et des marqueurs volontaires ou optatifs, illustrés par <LAZIM+VOL/OPT>. Cette étude, présentant des données recueillies à partir de conversations spontanées, porte cependant un autre regard sur la formation en question. Il apparaît que l’utilisation de <LAZIM+VOL/OPT> est beaucoup plus étendue. En se concentrant sur les arrière-plans contextuels et émotionnels au sein desquels le locuteur du turc chypriote insère cette expression, l’étude classe les exemples selon des notions sémantiques comme « engagement », « avertissement », « léger reproche », etc.

Abstract. It is well documented that the notion ‘necessity’ in Cypriot Turkish is shaped by means of the lexical unit *lazïm* ‘need/necessary’ and both the voluntative markers as well as the optative marker, illustrated as <LAZIM+VOL/OPT>. The following paper, presenting collected data from natural conversations takes however, another look at the formation under discussion. It is attested that the use of <LAZIM+VOL/OPT> is far more extensive. Focusing on both contextual as well as emotional backgrounds in which the Cypriot Turkish speaker applies the formation, the paper classifies examples according to semantical notions as ‘commissive’, ‘admonitive’, ‘slight reproach’, etc.

Introduction

The verbal system of Cypriot Turkish offers several intriguing lexical-grammatic combinations. It is attested that the lexical units *lazïm/lüzum* ‘(it is) needed/necessary’ appears in combination with the voluntative markers and the optative marker, when expressing the meaning ‘it is needed/it is necessary’ (afterwards as <LAZIM+VOL/OPT>):

(1) Lüzum sana dön-eyim
need to you turn back-VOL1S
It is necessary (that) I return to you
I will return to you

The formation under discussion in Cypriot Turkish (afterwards also CT) has already received the attention of scholars.1 Moreover, diverging views and discussions on the origin of <LAZIM+VOL/OPT> in CT can be observed. An effect of Greek-Turkish language contacts is

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1 Demir 2002, Gulle 2011, Kappler 2008, Güven 2014, Sakhatova 2019a inter alia.
strongly presumed in the studies in which CT and Standard Turkish are compared. A polar viewpoint exists in a few of studies, referring to both the history of Turkish as well as to other Oghuz Turkic varieties. In fact, the set of \(<\text{LAZIM}+\text{VOL/OPT}>\) may be unique on the one hand, but not unusual on the other hand. A closer analysis of contextual/emotional backgrounds in which \(<\text{LAZIM}+\text{VOL/OPT}>\) is applied, have shown that alongside the necessity semantics it bears a variety of different modal meanings, indeed. Therefore, the following paper, based on the data collected by the author, aims to draw attention to the variety of semantics, when using the formation such as ‘I will do / I plan to do / I want to do / I promise’, ‘having strong intention, desire, willingness, admonition’, etc. Its lexical and morphological configuration creates a connection between the notion ‘necessity’, expressed by means of the lexical unit \(\text{lazïm}\), and the notion ‘willingness/wish’, expressed by the grammatical means of the voluntative markers and the optative marker for the second person singular. Further, in interrogative statements, especially in forms associated with yes-no types the formation under discussion encodes the meaning ‘shall/should I(s)h(e) realize an action/make an event happen?’. In addition, applying the formation \(<\text{LAZIM}+\text{OPT}>\) with the negation marker \(\text{dejil ‘not’}\), the CT speaker can also criticize someone’s actions.

The paper is mainly descriptive and organized as follows. Section 1 will briefly sketch the state of research on the \(\text{lazïm}\) constructions in CT. Section 2 lists the formal means in the formation \(<\text{LAZIM}+\text{VOL/OPT}>\). This is followed by the systematization of the data attested which will be specified according to different semantical notions and emotional contexts. Section 4 will contain properties observed and concluding remarks. Further, the term Cypriot Turkish is used as an umbrella term for various Turkic vernaculars and a city koine as spoken in Cyprus. I collected language data during field researches between 2014 and 2016. Examples are given according to the common Turcological orthography.

1. State of the research: a short overview

The formation \(<\text{LAZIM}+\text{VOL/OPT}>\) which is also attested in Turkic varieties spoken in Balkan, Iran, etc. is not a predominantly expression of necessity in Turkic languages. Scholars, analyzing this formation in Gagauz or in Balkan Turkish, claim however, language contact implications thereof. A similar view prevails also for the CT formation \(<\text{LAZIM}+\text{VOL/OPT}>\).
As will already be clear from the above, the controversies predominantly concern the origin of the formation <LAZIM+VOL/OPT>. The account that it is replicated after the Cypriot Greek model of necessity, is however, contrasted with two studies, arguing that the <LAZIM+VOL/OPT> can be already attested in both Old Anatolian Turkish and Ottoman texts as well as in other Turkic varieties such as in Azerbaijani. Güven, arguing that lazım constructions in CT have been shaped by both internal and external factors, views the contact-induced assumption as problematic since a similar complementizer such as na in Cypriot Greek is absent in Cypriot Turkish. She admits further, that “...it is rather unexpected for contact languages belonging to different language families [referring to language contacts of Gagauz and Turkish varieties in the Balkan with Macedonian and Albanian as well as with Russian and Bulgarian] to produce the same result.” Analyzing selected Old Anatolian Turkish and Ottoman texts, Güven concludes further, that lazım constructions were not initially introduced as a result of contact with Cypriot Greek. Referring to the word order in the formation under discussion, the author emphasizes however, that they reflect contact-induced changes. Further, Sakhatova, contrasting the formation <LAZIM+VOL/OPT> in CT with different lexical and grammatical means in Azerbaijani, expressing the notion 'necessity', observes similarities. It is attested that Azerbaijani, employing a set of various lexical and grammatical designs to express concepts 'necessity/obligation', possesses the formation <LAZIM+OPT>, too. Based on the foregoing analysis, the author concludes that the formation <LAZIM+VOL/OPT> in CT can not to be seen as a result of recent Cypriot Greek and Cypriot Turkish language contacts.

2. Formal properties

Before data attested and pertinent to each of the indications will be sketched in subchapters in turn, the grammatical and lexical means of the formation <LAZIM+VOL/OPT> are illustrated in the table below:

| Voluntative markers | Optative marker |
|---------------------|-----------------|
| 1) the speaker(s):  |                 |
| 1S -(y)AyIm         | 3) the addressee:|
| 1PL -(y)AlIm        | 2S -(y)AsIn       |
| 2) not participating in the act of communication but |
| 3S -sIn             |                 |
| 3PL -sInna(r)       |                 |
| -sIndI              |                 |
| -sInna(r)(dI)       |                 |

9 Kappler 2008.
10 Güven 2014.
11 Sakhatova 2019a.
12 Güven 2014, pp. 230-235, 240-244.
13 Sakhatova 2019a.
The volunterative markers indicate strong wish, request, command, advice or permission; the second person singular is marked by the optative marker, expressing here not only wish but also request and command. As for the optative markers, according to Johanson, they are sometimes referred to also as future markers <I will/shall act = I want myself to act>. Further, the CT language data contain examples in which the volunterative marker -sIn for the third person singular occurs as a complex marker -sIndI, consisting of the -(i)di past marker/copula which already in Old Turkic texts indicated irreal semantics. As far as for the lexical unit lazïm it should be noted that it often occurs as lazïmdïr marked by the marker -dIr, the generalizing modality marker, conversing alongside the epistemic content 'what is known / certainty / probably / expected to be / presumably'. In addition, there are also several examples in which the past copula -(i)di is attached on lazïm. The word order in examples below is left-branched, i.e. lazïm is on the head of the construction.

3. <LAZIM+VOL/OPT> in CT

The data collected are systematized according to the contexts in which the formation under discussion is used such as commissive, duty, directive-prohibitive-preventive, 'slight / polite critics / judgement / reproach', 'regret', 'disappointment', etc.

3.1. Commissive

The formation <LAZIM+VOL> encodes the speaker’s commitment to the realization of an action, in the sense ‘I will / shall act / I want to act / I would like to act / I promise’. The examples (2), (3) indicate a speaker-oriented strong intention in the sense of expressing the speaker’s own (higher) will which is double marked by means of the unit lüzum:

(2) Context: in a telephone conversation, the doctor’s assistant says that she will call the speaker back or return to the speaker later:

Lüzum sizi ar-ajïm sonra dedi
needed you call-VOL1S later said
I will/would call you back later, she said

(3) Context: The speaker sets the table for the breakfast; looking at the table, she says:

Lüzum gabira da getir-ejim
needed toast also bring-VOL1S
I also should / let me bring toast bread / I also will bring toast bread
Later on, at the same table she wants to call her friend to share some news:

(4) Lüzum, haberleri heman ona söyle-yim
nee-dee news immediately her tell-VOL1S
I have immediately to tell her the news
I want / would like to share news with her

Note that the examples can be understood also as an indirect promise to perform a future action.

3.2 Asking for instructions

In the following example, the lexical unit lazım occurs as lazımdır marked by the marker -dIr, the generalizing modality marker, conversing alongside the epistemic content ‘what is known / certainty / probably / expected to be / presumably’. CT speaker, asking for instructions wants to know ‘do you want me to act? / how should I act?’.

(5) Context: The daughter asks the mother who needs her medicine:

Lazımdır söyle-yim al-sı̇n oraştan getir-sın ilacını?
need-EST tell-VOL1S take-VOL3S from there bring-VOL3S medicine yours
Should I tell him he should take and bring your medicaments from there?

(6) mother: Evet, söyle ona, getir-sın
yes tell him bring-VOL3S
Yes, tell (him), he should bring

3.3 Foreign will / being forced

In the example below the speaker, referring to events in Cyprus in the seventies of the 20th century, talks about his family which was obliged to leave all their belongings behind:

(7) luzum git-sinner-di ne var ne jok brag-sinnar-di
obliged leave-VOL3PL-PAST belongings leave-VOL3PL-PAST
They were forced to leave and drop everything

3.4 Duty

In the examples below the lexical unit lazım is marked by the generalisation marker -dIr, intensifying the thoughts ‘the compulsory school attendance is a well-known fact/duty’ (8), ‘it is a legal requirement to fasten the seatbelt’ (9):
(8) Context: a speaker expresses his opinion on the issue of school education in poor countries:

Lazïm-dïr   çocuklar  okul-a   git-sinner
obligative-EST children school-to go-VOL3PL
(It is a matter of fact/it is obligatory) (that) children go to the school
Children must go to the school

(9) Context: the grandfather explains to his little grandson the reason why one has to fasten the seatbelt:

Lüzum-dïr   tak-alîm
obligative-EST fasten-VOL1PL

güvende hiss-edelim,   bilirmin?
in safety feal-VOL1PL you know

It is obligatory to fasten, so that we feel in safety, you know?

3.5 Directive-prohibitive-preventive, admonition

Prohibitive can be encoded in the formation <LAZIM+OPT> in which verbs such as ‘dikkat etmek / pay attention / be carefully’ often occur (10). Moreover, the speaker gives instructions and directives, for instance ‘how the second person has to act / should act’ which is equivalent to ‘I wish you will / would act according to my instructions / expectations’ (11-12). In the example (11) the meaning of directive ‘don’t act’ is connotated without using the imperative form and therefore is expressed as a polite instruction/an admonition.

(10) Context: the grandmother gives instructions to her grandson who will soon study abroad.

Lazïm-dïr   dikkat   ed-esiŋ,   sarfoş   dolï
needed-EST attention pay-OPT2S drunk people full
You should be carefully, (the world) is full with drunk people

(11) Goşgoca   bir  jer,   lazïm   temiz gişafetinle
duvaş-asiŋ,   a  place   needed   clean closes with
dolaş-asiŋ,   horoz  lalesi   gibi
walk around-OPT2S common poppi like

burişuk   bir   gişafetnan   čik-ma-jasiŋ
crumpled  a  closes with  go out-not-OPT2S

(It is) a huge place (city/university), you should be dressed clean, do not go out in crumpled dresses like a common poppi.

(12) Three neighbors are talking in the garden. A dog of a neighbor is missing. Two other neighbors talk about preventive measures she should have taken; they give the following instructions:

Lazïm-di   isbahoyî   dak-asîŋ,   yoksa
needed-PAST-COP leash pull-OPT2S otherwise
You should have pulled (the dog) on the leash, otherwise (the dog) remains unbound and will disappear.

3.6 Slight / polite critic / judgement / reproach

The language data bank includes two examples, when the speaker criticizes agent’s actions. In the example (13), by means of the negation marker dejil ‘not’ illustrated as <LAZIM dejil(di)+OPT>, the speaker expresses a reproach in the sense ‘I wish you would not / don’t realize an action’. Further, the example (14) contains the speaker’s signal to the second person singular ‘I do not like what you have done / are doing’.

(13) Context: The mother is dissatisfied with her daughter’s behavior; she says:

Lazïm dejil-di söyl-esiŋ gardešiŋe öyle
needed not-PAST-COP tell-OPT2S brother your so
nedir bu gurumlu hallerini?! Mudlak var bir şey
what this arrogance definitely there is something

You should not have said such a thing to your brother, what is this arrogance?!! There is definitely something.

(14) Context: The mother of a 14 year old teenager is angry with her son who just chats all the time; she is annoyed:

Lüzum-dir, bu saatta yüzler nan gonuš-asîŋ
necessary-EST at this hour hundreds talk-OPT2S
elinde samarella?!
in the hand pastirma
Otur da dinlen,
it down-IMPER2S and have a rest-IMPER2S
lüzûm bir kitaba odaklan-asîŋ
neeed a book focus-OPT2S

Is it necessary to talk to hundreds of people at this hour, with pastirma in the hand? Sit down and have a rest, you should focus on a book.

3.7 Regret, disappointment

Through the formation <LAZIM+-i)di + VOL+-i)di> can be expressed ‘regret’ as an emotional reaction to own actions, behavior, views and attitudes in the past. The examples below connotate ‘regret’ or ‘disappointment’ since the speaker has accepted a situation and not reacted adequately, or his / her expectations were not met, etc. A non-realised context is
coded through the past copula / marker -(i)di attached on the unit lazım or on the voluntative marker:

(15) Context: the speaker is angry with herself for not having made a complaint at the post office:

Jannîš-dî, lazîm-dî barabona, aletlerini
wrong-COP needed-PAST-COP complaint devices
fînda ed-ejîm-di
toss do-VOL1S-PAST-COP

That was wrong, I should have complained, tossed their gadgety

(16) Context: an affianced young woman is dissapointed:

Eji galpli bir adam-sa lûzum-dî
kind-hearted a man-COP-COND need-PAST-COP
beni jumušad-sîn
me soften up-VOL3S-PAST

If he is a kind-hearted man, he should have softened me up

(17) Her şeje rağmen iji bir insan olduğnî
everything despite good a person was/that
lûzum-dî ann-aýîm
need-COP understand-VOL1S

Despite all things, I should have understood that he was a good person.

4. Concluding remarks

The contextual backrounds in which the formation <LAZIM+VOL/OPT> in CT is used point toward the following properties. Alongside the denotation of ‘necessity / obligation’ it can express extensive semantics. This effect arises as a result of the interaction between its constituents, the unit lazîm ‘(it is) needed / necessary’ and grammatical markers of the mood notions ‘voluntative’ / ‘optative’. The role of the past copula/marker -(i)di as attached on the units lazîm, dejîl or the voluntative markers is particularly remarkable in this context.

However, having evidence from Cypriot Turkish in hand, further research will be needed to settle the interaction of the notions ‘mood’ and ‘modality’ in different Turkic languages and varieties.
Abbreviations

COND: conditional
CT: Cypriot Turkish
IMPER: imperative
OPT: optative
PAST-COP: past copula
PAST: past
VOL: voluntative
EST: estimated

1S: the 1st person singular
2S: the 2nd person singular
3S: the 3rd person singular
1PL: the 1st person plural
3PL: the 3rd person plural
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