1. INTRODUCTION

A notable feature of many languages are constructions that are basically clausal but also have certain nominal properties. For example, in English, the poss-ing construction is exemplified by the bracketed string in (1), in which the subject has the possessive marking characteristic of possessors within a nominal phrase.

(1) I heard about [his leaving early].

In Turkish, there are nominalized clauses, in which verbs have the same agreement and case morphology as nouns, and there is also a genitive (i.e., possessive) subject, illustrated in (2):

(2) Hasan [uşağı̇n odâ-yı temizle-di̇ğ-in-i̇]
    Hasan servant-GEN room-ACC clean-FACT-3SG-ACC
    söyle-di̇. (Turkish)
    say-PAST
    ‘Hasan said that the servant had cleaned the room.’
In Polish, as (3) illustrates, subordinate clauses can be introduced by what looks like a determiner.

(3) Jan oznajmił [to, że Maria zmienia pracę]. (Polish)
    ‘Jan announced that Mary is changing her job.’

In this chapter, we will develop an analysis of these constructions within a version of Principles and Parameters theory (P&P), which, following Grimshaw (1991), recognizes some functional categories as inherently verbal and others as inherently nominal. We will suggest that all such constructions involve what Grimshaw calls a “mixed extended projection,” a structure in which a verb is associated with one or more nominal functional categories. We will try to show that this proposal explains both which nominal properties occur and which do not.

The chapter is organized as follows. In section 2, we introduce our main proposal. Then, in section 3, we look at a variety of relevant constructions. In section 4, we consider whether there is any alternative to our analyses within P&P assumptions. Next, in section 5, we argue that our proposal correctly predicts that certain phenomena do not occur. In section 6, we will look briefly at some other analyses of some of the phenomena with which we are concerned, and in section 7, we consider a question that arises from our proposal. Finally, in section 8, we summarize the chapter.

2. A PROPOSAL

An important feature of work in P&P beginning with Chomsky (1986) is the distinction between lexical categories like N (noun), V (verb) and A (adjective), and functional categories like C (complementizer), I (inflection), and Det (determiner). Grimshaw (1991) argues that some functional categories, notably C and I, are inherently verbal, whereas others, notably Det, are inherently nominal. Building on this work, we want to propose the following:

(4) Clausal constructions with nominal properties are a consequence of the association of a verb with one or more nominal functional categories instead of or in addition to the normal verbal functional categories, appearing above any verbal functional categories.