

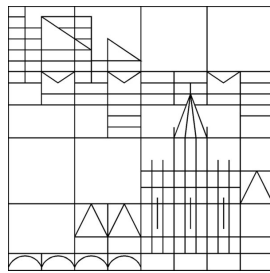
# Subcategorization Acquisition and Classes of Predication in Urdu

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Dedicated to *Abbaa Saeen* and *Ammaan Huzoor*

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Thanks to all!

# Transcription Scheme

Consonants//	Orthographic	Phonetic (IPA)	Transcription
ب	ب	b	b
پ	پ	p	p
ت	ت	t̪	t
ث	ث	t̪	t̪
س	س	θ	s
ج	ج	dʒ	j
چ	چ	tʃ	c
ح	ح	h	h
خ	خ	x	x
د	د	t̪	d
ذ	ذ	d̪	d̪
ز	ز	ð	z
ر	ر	r	r
ړ	ړ	ɽ	ɽ
ز	ز	z	z
ش	ش	ʒ	y
ص	ص	s	s
ش	ش	ʃ	ʃ
س	س	sʱ	s
ز	ز	dʱ	z
ت	ت	tʱ	t
ث	ث	ðʱ	z
ف	ف	f	ɑ
ق	ق	ɣ	ɣ
پ	پ	f	f
ک	ک	q	q
گ	گ	k	k
ل	ل	g	g
ل	ل	l	l
م	م	m	m
ن	ن	n	n
و	و	ʊ	v
ه	ه	h	h
ی	ی	j	y
ھ (Aspiration)	ھ (Aspiration)	- <sup>h</sup>	- <sup>h</sup>

Vowels//	Orthographic	Phonetic (IPA)	Transcription
	أَ	ə	ɑ
	إِ	ɪ	ɪ
	أُ	ʊ	ʊ
	ا	a:	a
	اِے	e	e
	اَے	æ	ɛ
	اِی	i:	i
	او	o	o
	اُو	ɔ	ɔ
	اُو	u:	u
	ن (Nasalization)	~	~

# Morphemic Glosses

Gloss	Meaning
1	first person
2	second person
3	third person
M	male
F	female
Neut	neutral
Sg	singular
Pl	plural
Pres	present tense
Past	past tense
Fut	future
Nom	nominative
Acc	accusative
Dat	dative
Erg	ergative
Gen	genitive
GenR	reflexive genitive
Refl	reflexive
Pron	pronoun
RelP	relative pronoun
Abl	ablative
Inst	instrumental
Loc	locative
Temp	temporal
Obl	oblique form
Dir	direct form
Inf	infinitive
Perf	perfect aspect
Imperf	imperfect aspect
Subjn	subjunctive
Prog	progressive
Caus	causative
Ez	<i>ezafe</i>
Emp	emphatic
Conj	conjunction

# Abbreviations

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NLP	Natural Language Processing
SCF	Subcategorization Frame
CLC	Case Clitic and Complementizer Combination
SASU	Subcategorization Acquisition System for Urdu
XLE	Xerox Linguistic Environment

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# Chapter 1

## Introduction

Syntactic structure in most recent syntactic theories is projected from the lexicon which provides access to subcategorization information for different predicators. Recording correct and comprehensive subcategorization information in the lexicon is essential for the development of a robust and accurate parser. In addition to parsing, subcategorization information is also useful in other natural language processing tasks. This thesis centers around the identification and exploration of different types of predicators and their subcategorization patterns in a South Asian language, Urdu. A broad-coverage robust grammar of Urdu language in Lexical Functional Grammar (LFG) framework is being developed in Urdu ParGram project (see section 1.5) at the University of Konstanz and efforts are being made to develop lexical resources for the Urdu language. The research presented in this thesis will ultimately help build a computational lexicon for the Urdu language.

In this introductory chapter, notions of predication and subcategorization are briefly described and it is argued why it is necessary to explore a language individually for subcategorization information.

### 1.1 Predication

Predication is saying or attributing something of something else. Sentences in a language are instances of predication. In traditional grammar, a sentence is assumed to be composed of a *subject* and a *predicate*. The subject is the entity about which some expression is uttered and the predicate, from a logical perspective, is an expression that can be true of something or from the perspective of traditional grammar, all that is said of the subject.

In contemporary linguistics, a sentence or a predication is semantically analyzed into a predicator and its arguments. Arguments can be entities (referential expres-

## 1. INTRODUCTION

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sions) or ideas which can be talked about for some property or some relation. In a simple declarative sentence, predicator is the word or group of words which does not belong to any of the referring expressions, however, it renders some property or some relation/process in which the referents of referential expressions are involved (Hurford & Heasley, 1983).

- (1) a. Ali            came.  
          Argument    Predicator
- b. Ali            pinched    an elephant.  
          Argument    Predicator    Argument
- c. Ali            gave            a book            to Nida.  
          Argument    Predicator    Argument    Argument

Some instances of verbal predication in English are given in (1). Degree or valency of the predicator is a number of arguments it has to have for a meaningful statement/expression. The verb *come* in (1a) is a one-place predicator as it takes a single argument; the *pinched* in (1b) and the verb *gave* in (1c) are a two-place predicator and a three-place predicator, respectively, because they take two and three arguments, respectively. Not only noun phrases (or pronouns) fill the positions of arguments but other constituents or even clauses can also act as arguments of the predicator in a sentence across languages. Two argument positions of the predicator *know* in (2a) are filled by two nouns and in (2b) one position is filled by a noun and other by a clause.

- (2) a. Nida            knows            Ali.  
          Argument    Predicator    Argument
- b. Nida            knows            that Ali came.  
          Argument    Predicator            Argument (clause)

Since a predicator shows the relation between arguments, and also between arguments and the real world, not only verbs but other parts of speech can also function as predicators. Nouns, adjectives and prepositions can also function as predicators in addition to (main) verbs, but conjunctions and articles cannot. Some examples of non-verbal predication in English are given in (3).

- (3) a. Nida            is beautiful.  
          Argument    Predicator
- b. Ali            is a genius.  
          Argument    Predicator

- c. Qum            is in            Iran.  
Argument      Predicate Argument

The adjective *beautiful* in (3a) is a predicate which relates *Nida* to the external world. This instance of predication predicates beauty (a property) of Nida. The noun *genius* in (3b) and the preposition *in* in (3c) also function as predicates. Prepositions like *in* are two-place predicates. The verb *is* in these examples does not function semantically, but is used grammatically to link the predicate with its first argument. In many other languages like Russian and Arabic (4) no such word is required, rather the predicate and its argument are simply juxtaposed.

- (4) a. Moskva gorod.  
Moscow city  
'Moscow is a city.' (Russian: Rapschinsky 1946:11)

- b. الرجل كريم  
al-raǧul            karīm.  
the-man.Nom generous.Nom  
'The man is generous.' (Arabic: Attia 2008)

Although the majority of nouns are one-place predicates, some also function as two-place predicates (5a). Inherently relational nouns (Hurford & Heasley, 1983) like *brother*, *neighbor*, act as two-place predicates in sentences. Some adjectives are also two place predicates, as in (5b).

- (5) a. Ali            is a genius            at story-writing.  
Argument          Predicate Argument
- b. Nida            is certain            of her success.  
Argument          Predicate Argument

It is worth mentioning here that the term *predicate* in contemporary linguistics is meant to be a word or a group of words in a language that potentially can act as a predicate. Predicate identifies the semantic role played by a particular word or words in a particular sentence whereas predicate identifies elements in a language

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independently of particular example sentences. In the sentence, *A tall, pretty woman entered the hotel*, only the word *entered* is the predicator and hence predicate too. However, the other words *tall, pretty, woman and hotel* are also predicates as they can function as predicators in other sentences (*She is tall, She is pretty, She is a woman, That building is a hotel*). From here onwards, I will use the terms predicator and predicate alternatively.

### 1.2 Subcategorization

Subcategorisation is concerned with the specification of arguments which are salient to the local context of a predicate i.e. they are semantically selected by the predicate. Syntactically diverse behavior of verbs is explained in terms of subcategorization. Consider, for example, the two verbs *eat* and *put* in (6) and (7).

- (6) a. Ali ate an apple.  
b. Ali ate.
- (7) a. Nida put the pen in the drawer.  
b. \* Nida put in the drawer.  
c. \* Nida put the pen.  
d. \* Nida put.

The verb *eat* in English is used either transitively taking an NP complement (6a) or it is used intransitively (6b). However, the verb *put* takes an NP-PP complement (7a) and it does not allow only a PP complement (7b) or only an NP complement (7c). It cannot be used intransitively (7d) in contrast with *eat*, rather it obligatorily requires three arguments: a subject, an object and an oblique argument.

Subcategorization information is characterized in terms of syntactic frames called subcategorization frames (SCF) that specify the number and type of arguments that a particular predicate requires. So, the set of arguments a predicate takes is called its subcategorization frame. It is possible, as we observed in (6), that a single predicate can take a variable set of arguments in different situations. In that case the predicate is said to have more than one subcategorization frame. Knowing about all possible frames of a predicate is very important for various natural language processing tasks. For example, Briscoe & Carroll (1993) parsed unseen test data on a parsing system utilizing

a lexicalist grammatical framework and noted that half of the parse failures were due to inaccurate subcategorization information. To project an accurate syntactic structure of any language, most of the grammar formalisms today require comprehensive lexicons having accurate information about the predicate subcategorization. Subcategorization information can also be integrated in dictionaries (Evans & Kilgarriff 1995; Gahl 1998). In psycholinguistic research this information is used for approximating lexical preferences (Lapata & Keller 1998; Lapata *et al.* 2001) and it can also provide the empirical basis for linguistic theory (Levin, 1993).

The participants involved in the event described by verbs constitute the subcategorization frames of verbs. Every participant has some semantic or thematic role in the event (Dowty, 1991; Fillmore, 1968; Gruber, 1976). The most frequently used thematic roles and their definitions are listed below.

- **Agent** The participant that performs or causes some event. It is often with volition.
- **Patient** The affected participant.
- **Theme** The participant whose position or state is changed.
- **Experiencer** The participant that experiences or becomes informed in the event.
- **Source/Goal/Location** The participant which entails the starting or ending positions of the event or merely the location.
- **Recipient/Beneficiary/Maleficiary** The participant that receives (recipient) or benefits/suffers from (beneficiary/maleficiary) from something in the event.
- **Instrument** The participant used as a means for doing something.

For example, the verb *come* would have only one theme argument in its subcategorization frame, the verb *cut* would have two arguments: agent and theme and the verb *give* would have three arguments: agent, theme and goal. However, every argument in the syntactic frame of a verb does not necessarily have some semantic role. Consider the example sentences in (8), adapted from Korhonen (2002).

- (8) a. **John** seems to drive a Ferrari.
- b. **It** seems to annoy Tim that John drives a Ferrari.
- c. **John** tries to drive a Ferrari.

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- d. \* **It** tries to annoy Tim that John drives a Ferrari.

The subject of the raising verb *seem* in (8a) is contentful and in (8b) it is the pleonastic. Syntactically the subject argument of raising verbs is not assigned a semantic role. The subject *John* in (8a) is actually the raised subject of the verb *drive* in the clausal argument of the main verb *seem* (Bresnan, 1982). The verb *seem* is considered to be a subject raising verb and takes only a clausal argument, hence is a one-place predicate semantically. There are some control verbs in English which do not take non-thematic arguments and are generally distinguished as equi verbs. All subcategorized dependents of equi verbs are assigned semantic roles on the other hand. The verb *try* is an example of an equi verb. Its subject is always contentful. The subject *John* in (8c) is the subject of both the verb *try* and the other verb *drive* of the clausal argument of the verb *try*. This is the reason that the equi verbs cannot have pleonastic subject (8d). The verb *try* is a two-place predicate semantically and syntactically. Mapping semantic arguments of verbs to syntactic arguments in theory is called ‘linking’ (Bresnan, 1982).

Subcategorization information of predicates collected for one language, say English, cannot be generalized for all languages as languages may differ in many respects. For one, semantically similar versions of verbs are not found in other languages. For example, the inchoative version of the transitive verb *cut* is not found in English but is found in Urdu. This is illustrated in (9)–(10).

- (9) a. Ali cut the apple.

- b. \* The apple cut.

- (10) a. علی نے سیب کاٹا.  
ali=ne seb kaṭ-a  
Ali.M.3Sg=Erg apple.M.3Sg cut-Perf.M.3Sg  
‘Ali cut the apple.’



b. سیب کٹا۔

seb                      kaṭ                      ga-ya  
 Apple.M.3Sg cut-Perf.M.3Sg  
 ‘The apple got cut.’

Secondly, an argument of a verb in a language can be implicitly included in the semantics of the verb in another language. For example, in the verb *stab* ‘pierce with a knife’ of English the semantics of the object *knife* is implicitly included in the verb. There is no equivalent verb in Urdu. Instead the verb *mar* ‘hit’ is used with the object argument *knife* (11).

(11) a. The robber stabbed Ali in the head.

b. ڈاکو نے علی کو سر میں چاقو مارا۔

ḍaku=ne                      ali=ko                      sar=mẽ                      caqu mar-a  
 robber.M.3Sg=Erg Ali.M.3Sg=Dat head.M.3Sg=Loc.in knife hit-Perf.M.3Sg  
 ‘The robber hit Ali in the head with a knife.’

Thirdly, verbs of similar semantics can take different types of arguments in different languages. Consider the verb *meet* and its corresponding verb *mil* in Urdu in (12). Although they denote the same semantics, in English an accusative object is needed whereas in Urdu a comitative object is required.

(12) a. Ali met Nida.

b. علی ندا سے ملا۔

ali                      nida=se                      mil-a  
 Ali.M.3Sg Nida.F.3Sg=Com meet-Perf.M.3Sg  
 ‘Ali met Nida.’

Fourthly, there could be the case that a verb is used in an additional sense in one language but not in another language. The arguments in the additional sense might not be the same. For example, consider again the verb *mil* in Urdu, which is also used in the sense of *get* and in that case a dative subject is required (13).

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(13) a. \* To Ali met the letter.

b. علی کو خط ملا۔

ali=ko                      xat                      mīl-a  
Ali.M.3Sg=Dat letter.M.3Sg meet-Perf.M.3Sg  
'Ali got the letter.

Fifthly, argument alternations found in one language for a given verb might not be found in another language. For example, for the verb *give* in English the second complement could be either in the form of a prepositional phrase or a dative. In Urdu, however, the indirect object of *de* 'give' is always dative (14).

(14) a. Ali gave a pen to Nida/Ali gave her a pen.

b. علی نے اس کو قلم دیا۔

ali=ne                      us=ko                      qalamt                      di-ya  
Ali.M.3Sg=Erg 3Sg=Dat pen.M.3Sg give-Perf.M.3Sg  
'Ali gave her a pen.

Due to these facts, the subcategorization lexicon of one language cannot be directly built by using the lexicon of some other language. Instead, each language must be investigated individually and a comprehensive subcategorization information for its lexicon must be acquired on a language by language basis.

### 1.3 Subcategorization in LFG

Lexical-Functional Grammar (LFG) is a lexicalist, constraint-based, non-transformational theory of grammar. Different kinds of linguistic information are modeled in different representations. Different representations are formally related by correspondence functions. There are mainly two kinds of representations (Austin, 2001; Dalrymple, 2001; Kaplan & Bresnan, 1995): (i) constituent-structure (c-structure) encodes the linear order and constituency in form of trees and (ii) functional-structure (f-structure) represents the grammatical functions of a proposition in form of an attribute-value matrix

(avm). F-structure represents a sentence in terms of subject, object as primitives. Languages may differ considerably at the c-structure level but the f-structure representations are generally very similar across languages (Butt *et al.*, 1999).

Linguistic theories differ with respect to the exact type of subcategorization information provided in the lexical entry of a predicate. For example, the control links of raising and equi verbs which are handled in terms of syntactic principles or rules in Government and Binding (GB) theory can be lexically specified in LFG.

The grammatical functions used in LFG are: SUBJect, OBJect, OBJect<sub>θ</sub>, OBLique<sub>θ</sub>, COMP, XCOMP, ADJUNCT, XADJUNCT. The core function are SUBJ and OBJ. OBJ<sub>θ</sub> and OBL<sub>θ</sub> are thematically restricted functions. OBJ<sub>θ</sub> corresponds to the secondary object with some specialized thematic role and OBL<sub>θ</sub> to adpositional phrase with some specialized thematic role. All functions are governable by the verb except ADJUNCT and XADJUNCT, which are adjuncts.

The clausal expressions which are controlled from within are assigned closed functions, COMP or ADJUNCT depending upon whether they are complement or adjunct of the main clause. Likewise the clausal expressions which are controlled from outside/externally are assigned open functions XCOMP or XADJUNCT. Examples of closed and open grammatical functions are give in (15)–(16), taken from (EAGLES, 1996).

(15) a. John believes [*that Bill is a genius*]<sub>COMP</sub>.

b. [*John being angry*]<sub>ADJUNCT</sub>, Mary left.

(16) a. John wants [*to be a genius*]<sub>XCOMP</sub>.

b. [*Being angry at John*]<sub>XADJUNCT</sub>, Mary left.

Grammatical functions are placed in correspondence with thematic roles to obtain the lexical form with syntactically subcategorized functions. As an example, the predicate-argument structure for the verb *break* and its lexical form is given in (17).

(17) a. predicate argument structure: ‘break<agent, theme>’

b. grammatical function assignment: ((SUBJ),(OBJ))

c. lexical form:	‘break<	agent	theme	>’
		SUBJect	OBJect	

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Grammatical functions in LFG are assigned as per traditional tenets of the grammatical theory. Every intransitive verb has a SUBJ function and a transitive verb has both SUBJ and OBJ functions. Syntactic subcategorization information is specified in the lexicon which has to appear in the f-structure. The feature ‘PRED’ is used for the semantic form. The lexical entries of some verbs of English are shown in the following:

- come: PRED ‘come < SUBJ >’
- cut: PRED ‘cut < SUBJ, OBJ >’
- eat: PRED ‘eat < SUBJ, (OBJ) >’
- give: PRED ‘give < SUBJ, OBJ, OBJ<sub>θ</sub> >’
- seem: PRED ‘seem < XCOMP > SUBJ’

The optional OBJ argument of the verb *eat* is shown in parenthesis and the SUBJ argument of the raising verb *seem* is written out of angular brackets because it is non-thematic. The f-structure representation of ‘Ali came yesterday’ is shown in Figure 1.1. At f-structure, values of attributes can be sets for unbounded number of elements, for example, adjuncts and elements in coordination. Due to this reason the ADJUNCT in Figure 1.1 is placed in curly brackets (Dalrymple, 2001).

PRED	‘come < SUBJ >’				
TENSE	Past				
SUBJ	<table> <tr> <td>PRED</td><td>‘Ali’</td></tr> <tr> <td>NUM</td><td>sg</td></tr> </table>	PRED	‘Ali’	NUM	sg
PRED	‘Ali’				
NUM	sg				
ADJUNCT	{ [PRED ‘yesterday’] }				

Figure 1.1: An f-structure representation

For the proper noun ‘Ali’ in the f-structure PRED and NUM are attributes and ‘Ali’ and ‘sg’ are corresponding values. LFG does not restrict a fixed number of features or values to be included in the f-structure, rather it is upto the choice of a grammar writer (Butt *et al.*, 1999). Attributes can share values. This feature helps handle the phenomenon of raising in LFG, as shown in Figure 1.2 where the SUBJ of main verb and that of XCOMP share a single value.

An f-structure in LFG is constrained by the following three conditions (Bresnan, 1982), the first two of which refer to subcategorization frames.

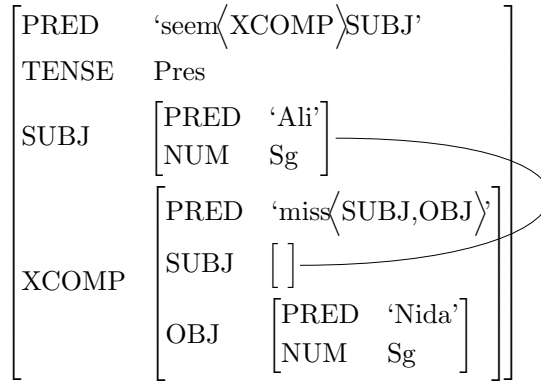


Figure 1.2: Illustration of XCOMP function

- Completeness
- Coherence
- Uniqueness

The **completeness** condition entails that all governable functions of a predicate mentioned in the lexical entry should be present in the f-structure.

(18) a. lift: PRED 'lift < SUBJ, OBJ >'

- b. Ali lifted the chair.
- c. \* Ali lifted.

The lexical entry for the verb *lift* is shown in (18a). This verb subcategorizes for SUBJ and OBJ arguments. The sentence in (18b) has both arguments, so its f-structure would be well formed. However, the sentence in (18c) would be ruled out by the grammar as it lacks the information specified in the lexical entry.

The **coherence** condition ensures that no argument should be part of f-structure which is not governed by the predicate i.e. is not mentioned in the lexical entry of the verb.

(19) a. arrive: PRED 'arrive< SUBJ >'

- b. Ali arrived.
- c. \* Ali arrived Nida.

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The verb *arrive* takes only SUBJ argument as is mentioned in the lexical entry (19a). The invalid sentence in (19c) would not be parsed as it has an argument which is not governed by the verb.

Finally, the **uniqueness** condition states that every attribute must have a single value. It makes it possible to meet agreement conditions for different features in the f-structure representation.

So, the LFG framework has formal notations for encoding subcategorization information of predicates in lexicon and while parsing, subject to different conditions on grammar rules, the sentences with incorrect subcategorization are ruled out.

### 1.4 ParGram

The Parallel Grammar (ParGram) project began in 1994, initially to develop grammars of three European languages: English, German and French using the LFG formalism (Butt *et al.*, 1999). Later on three other languages: Japanese, Norwegian and Urdu were also added (Butt *et al.*, 2002). At present grammars for Arabic, Chinese, Bahasa Indonesian, Malagasy, Turkish, Welsh and Murrinh-patha are also being developed in the LFG framework. The ParGram project uses the XLE parser and grammar development platform (Maxwell & Kaplan, 1993). The parallelism across languages is encoded at the f-structure level of abstraction within LFG. Language particular differences in linear word order, surface morphological vs. syntactic structures, and constituency are encoded at the c-structure.

As an example for the parallel analysis of language constructions (Butt *et al.*, 2002) consider the interrogative sentences from German and Urdu in (20)–(21).

- (20) Was hat John Maria gegeben?  
What has John Mary given.Perf?  
‘What did John give to Mary?’ (German)

- (21) a. جون نے میری کو کیا دیا؟  
jɔn=ne mɛri=ko kɪya dɪ-ya?  
John=Erg Mary=Dat what give-Perf.M.3Sg?  
‘What did John give to Mary?’.
- b. jɔn=ne kɪya mɛri=ko dɪ-ya?
- c. jɔn=ne mɛri=ko dɪ-ya kɪya?

In German, like in English, the interrogative word comes in the first position (20) with the finite verb in the second position. In Urdu, however, the interrogative word can appear in a number of positions in an interrogative sentence as is shown in (21a–c). Due to differences in word order the c-structures of the sentences will be different, however the f-structure representation for interrogatives of both languages would be identical as is shown in Figure 1.3.

PRED	‘give’ $\langle$ SUBJ, OBJ, OBL $\rangle$					
FOCUS-INT	<table> <tr> <td>PRED</td> <td>‘pro’</td> </tr> <tr> <td>PRON-TYPE</td> <td>‘int’</td> </tr> </table>	PRED	‘pro’	PRON-TYPE	‘int’	1
PRED	‘pro’					
PRON-TYPE	‘int’					
TENSE	‘past’					
SUBJ	<table> <tr> <td>PRED</td> <td>‘John’</td> </tr> <tr> <td>NUM</td> <td>‘Sg’</td> </tr> </table>	PRED	‘John’	NUM	‘Sg’	
PRED	‘John’					
NUM	‘Sg’					
OBJ	<table> <tr> <td></td> <td></td> </tr> </table>			1		
OBL	<table> <tr> <td>PRED</td> <td>‘Mary’</td> </tr> <tr> <td>NUM</td> <td>‘Sg’</td> </tr> </table>	PRED	‘Mary’	NUM	‘Sg’	
PRED	‘Mary’					
NUM	‘Sg’					
STMT-TYPE	int					

Figure 1.3: f-structure representation

The grammars for different languages are developed on different sites and are consolidated at project meetings held twice a year. In the meetings, analyses of sample sentences are compared and the justification for any differences is discussed. If there is more than one way to implement some analysis, then conceptual simplicity and computational efficiency are taken into account in choosing an analysis.

## 1.5 Subcategorization lexicons

Many lexicons have been developed either manually, automatically or semi-automatically for different languages. These lexicons differ with respect to the number of entries and

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the extent and the structure of information. Approaches to develop verb subcategorization lexicons are distinguished with respect to the following aspects:

- Theoretical basis of the lexicon
- Meeting some specific application
- Number of levels of linguistic description
- The model of the lexical entries
- Augmented information for subcategorization pattern, word sense and part of speech

Some lexicons are developed for a specific application and, sometimes, some linguistic theory is taken as a basis for the lexicon development. The number of arguments, syntactic category and functional role of arguments, lexical selection and morphosyntactic constraints are important aspects among others to be considered while developing a lexicon. For English, many subcategorization lexicons have been developed manually. Among them the largest one is VerbNet (Kipper-Schuler, 2005) which has been constructed on the basis of Levin (1993)'s verb classification. Many efforts have also been made in terms of the automatized building of such lexicons for English. These efforts comprise the acquisition from a raw English corpus (Brent, 1991, 1993) and from an annotated part of speech (POS) tagged corpus (Manning, 1993; Ushioda *et al.*, 1993) and from a corpus parsed partially or fully (Briscoe & Carrol, 1997; Kinyon & Prolo, 2002; O'Donovan *et al.*, 2005). Other major lexicons are listed in the following (EAGLES, 1996):

**ACQUILEX:** This multilingual (Dutch, English, Italian and Spanish) lexicon was developed within the Acquilex project (Sanfilippo, 1993). It was heavily based on Categorical Grammar model and a sign-based approach was used for lexical representation. Unification categorical grammar (UCG) is a radically lexical theory of grammar, so the maximum lexical information was put in the lexical entries. For other frameworks the information could be processed automatically. The predicate arity is logically specified as a conjunction of formulae whose main predicates are thematic relations.

**COMLEX:** This American English lexicon was built by the University of Pennsylvania for the Linguistic Data Consortium. A typed feature structure formalism was used (Rohsen Wolff *et al.*, 1994). A list of detailed definitions of subcategorization features are given in the dictionary. The verb frames are mentioned in terms of constituents such as NP, PP, ADJP, etc as well as in terms of grammatical relations; the



corresponding ones are linked with a common index followed by them. The number of arguments can be induced from the number of complements specified at the level of grammatical structure.

**EUROTA:** This was developed for generation and analysis in the Eurotra Machine Translation system (ten Hacken *et al.*, 1991). Four different levels of linguistic description are implied in this system: the morphological level, the configurational or constituent level, the relational syntactic level and the interface or semantic level. Each level has its own grammar and its own lexicon. The last three levels correspond to the issue of verbal subcategorisation. At both levels of relational and interface structure the number of obligatory arguments/complements are specified.

**GENELEX:** This full-scale application- and theory-independent lexicon was developed within the Genelex project (GENELEX, 1993). The architecture of the lexicon is conceptually based on the entity-relationship model. The theory independent lexical information can be derived from the lexicon. The positions and syntactic realizations of complements are specified with all sorts of restrictions. Complement patterns can be tailored by lexicographers to meet specific needs. There is some position in lexical entry to mention the number of arguments.

**ILCLEX:** This is an Italian lexicon. It was integrated with a robust wide-coverage corpus grammar, which collects information extracted from machine readable sources such as dictionaries and corpora (Vanocchi *et al.*, 1994). Lexical representations are theory-independent with three information levels: pattern rules, patterns and subcategorization frames. The grammatical contexts in which the verb can occur are mentioned at a third level. The number of arguments in some frame are specified by a feature which can take a numerical value.

**LDOCE:** The Longman Dictionary of Contemporary English (Procter, 1987), has been used for the construction of several computational lexicons (see, for example, Boguraev & Briscoe 1989). This dictionary describes subcategorization information in terms of types and number of complements in addition to part of speech information. Alternative subcategorizations are mentioned within the same entry.

**PLNLP:** This Italian lexicon was used by the PLNLP grammar originally developed for a style-checking application and was later used for different other computational tasks. It is a broad coverage lexicon consisting of a simple list of words and their featural information. In LODOCE and PLNLP, the subcategorization information is registered in terms of conventional grammatical codes, that is, T and I for transitive and intransitive verbs and the number of arguments that are inferred from such codes.

**IMSLex:** This is a German lexicon which covers valency information in addition to inflection and word formation of base forms. From this lexicon special lexical data

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can be derived to be used in information retrieval and information extraction and other applications.

No complete subcategorization lexicon for Urdu has been developed manually or automatically upto now. Many dictionaries of Urdu exist and recently, the Urdu Lughat Board in Pakistan has published twenty-one volumes of a large Urdu dictionary. However, all these dictionaries lack subcategorization information. In the Center for Research in Urdu Language Processing (CRULP) in Pakistan some efforts have already been made towards Urdu lexicon development (Ijaz & Hussain, 2007) without much focus on subcategorization information. It is very hard to develop a lexicon with subcategorization information manually in a reasonable amount of time. In this thesis, a method is therefore proposed to extract subcategorization information of verbs from a raw Urdu corpus.

### 1.6 Contribution of the thesis

The objective of this thesis is to identify and explore subcategorization patterns of different classes of predicators in Urdu. The thesis covers the following points:

- Are the existing subcategorization acquisition strategies for other languages applicable to acquire subcategorization frames of verbs in Urdu? If no, what challenges and problems are there?
- Identification of what types of arguments a predicator can take in Urdu
- Given the explored challenges, could a scheme be developed to extract subcategorization information of verbs automatically from a raw Urdu corpus?
- The devising of an algorithm; implementing and evaluating it and reporting the results

During this core research some interesting phenomena regarding predication and subcategorization have been observed and have been further explored. The subcategorization information which the developed system is unable to extract is empirically investigated. In this regard the following points are also crucially included in the thesis.

- Semantic realizations and syntactic behavior of the verb *ho* ‘be’ in Urdu
- The type of arguments deverbal elements can take in Urdu and their positions in the c-structure relative to their heads. The c-structure is discussed in the thesis after having found an unexpected order of arguments relative to their heads in noun phrases.

- Adpositions in Urdu play an important role in Urdu predication. This thesis analyses also different adpositions in Urdu, their origin, the arguments they take and their c-structure.

## 1.7 Outline of the thesis

The thesis aims at exploring the arguments of different types of predicators, that is, verbs, adjectives, nouns and adpositions in Urdu. Different types of lexical and syntactical predicators are also identified. A method is proposed to acquire subcategorization frames of verbs in Urdu from a raw Urdu corpus. A raw Urdu corpus is used for this purpose as we do not have refined resources e.g., a part of speech tagged corpus or an Urdu tree bank. In Chapter 2, different challenges to the subcategorization acquisition from a raw Urdu corpus are presented. Established structural cues for subcategorization acquisition cannot work for Urdu as it is fairly free word order language. The arguments of verbs can appear in different orders before the verb in a sentence. Participants of a verbs are usually marked for case in Urdu. I have therefore worked out a system of acquisition in which lexical cues of case clitics are used to find specific case phrases for a target verb and the syntactic frames of the verb are inferred indirectly from the case clitics combinations for the verb. The scheme developed for extracting frames of verbs will be presented in Chapter 3.

The verb *ho* ‘be’ in Urdu is explored for its subcategorization frames in Chapter 4. This verb shows diversified syntactic and semantic behavior. It is used both as an intransitive verb and a copular verb and can act both as a stative and as a dynamic verb. Syntactic tests for distinguishing its stative and dynamic uses are developed. The copular *ho* is also used to encode the notion of possession in Urdu. In addition to this, the same verb is used in the construction of participial adjectives. In different constructions in which the verb *ho* is used as a linking verb, the subject and predicate distinction is not straightforward. It is argued that the position of the participant matters for considering it as the subject or the predicate.

Arguments of deverbal adjectives and nouns are explored in Chapter 5. When the arguments of deverbal adjectives and deverbal nouns come together in noun phrases they can scramble within the NP before their heads. Due to this scrambling discontinuous constituents are generated in NPs. This phenomenon is evidenced by putting examples from news corpora. Its syntactic explanation and an implementation in LFG framework is presented. .

Verbs can take prepositional phrases as their arguments or adjuncts which are discussed in detail in Chapter 6. From the corpus-based exploration I present a variety

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of adpositions in Urdu. A model of spatial adpositions in general is posited in LFG by introducing lexical-semantic features. Classes of adpositions in Urdu based on their syntactic complements are explored and complex adpositions are analysed and modeled in the LFG framework.

The first half of the thesis (Chapters 1–3) thus presents a system for automatically acquiring subcategorization information of verbs in Urdu from a raw Urdu corpus. It was hard to extract the subcategorization information of the verb *ho* ‘be’ through the developed system because this verb exhibits diversified syntacto-semantic behavior. The subcategorization frames of this verb and other predicators like nouns and adpositions are therefore investigated empirically in the second part of the thesis (Chapters 4–6). Chapter 7 concludes the thesis.

## Chapter 2

# Urdu verbs and challenges for lexical acquisition

Urdu has a variety of verbal patterns. Major constituents entailing participants of a verb in a clause can be scrambled freely among each other. The verb itself usually comes last. The core arguments or complements of a verb are generally overtly marked for case (Butt & King, 2005). Adjuncts are either case marked phrases or adpositional phrases. In this chapter different types of verbs in Urdu are described and the challenges faced in extracting subcategorization information of verbs are explored.

### 2.1 Urdu verb types

Verbs in Urdu can basically be divided into three types i.e., simple predicates, complex predicates and even predicates. A brief description of such classes of verbs is given in the following subsections.

#### 2.1.1 Simple predicates

Simple predicates in Urdu comprise a single lexical element each. Different verb stems for intransitive, transitive, direct causative and indirect causative are often derived from the same base form. So, the number of such stems from a single base form can vary from one to four. Some of the base forms and different stems derived from them are listed in Table 2.1.

The phenomenon of causativization in Urdu/Hindi has been analyzed by many linguists (see, for example, Bhatt 2003; Butt 2005b; Kachru 1976; Rizvi 2008; Saxena 1982). Here, for causative stems, I mean those verbs involving an agent and one or two animated causees (intermediary agents). However, no animate causee is involved in intransitive and transitive verbs. For example, the verb *baha* ‘make something flow’

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Base Form	Intrans. Stem	Trans. Stem	Caus. Stem(s)
ʊkta	ʊkta ‘become bored’	-	-
ja	ja ‘go’	-	-
mʊrj <sup>h</sup> a	mʊrj <sup>h</sup> a ‘wither’	-	-
mʊskara	mʊskara ‘smile’	-	-
sasta	sasta ‘take rest’	-	-
kāp	kāp ‘shiever’	-	-
kʊrah	kʊrah ‘moan’	-	-
b <sup>h</sup> a	-	b <sup>h</sup> a ‘like’	-
pa	-	pa ‘find’	-
jan	-	jan ‘know’	-
pʊkar	-	pʊkar ‘call’	-
cah	-	cah ‘want’	-
xarid	-	xarid ‘buy’	-
alap	-	alap ‘tune up’	-
ga	ga ‘sing’	ga	-
bah	bah ‘flow’	baha	-
dəṛ	dəṛ ‘run’	-	dəṛa
bəṭ <sup>h</sup>	bəṭ <sup>h</sup> ‘sit’	-	bīṭ <sup>h</sup> a
caba	-	caba ‘chew’	cabva
k <sup>h</sup> a	-	k <sup>h</sup> a ‘eat’	k <sup>h</sup> līla/k <sup>h</sup> līva
pi	-	pi ‘drink’	pīla/pīva
paṛ <sup>h</sup>	-	paṛ <sup>h</sup> ‘read’	paṛ <sup>h</sup> a/paṛ <sup>h</sup> va
līk <sup>h</sup>	-	līk <sup>h</sup> ‘write’	līk <sup>h</sup> a/līk <sup>h</sup> va
pakar	-	pakar ‘hold	pakṛa/pakṛva
sun	-	sun ‘hear’	sunā/sunva
baj	baj ‘be rung’	baja	bajva
buj <sup>h</sup>	buj <sup>h</sup> ‘be put out’	buj <sup>h</sup> a	buj <sup>h</sup> va
pal	pal ‘be brought-up’	pal	palva
pīs	pīs ‘be crushed’	pīs	pīsva
piṭ	piṭ ‘be beaten’	piṭ	piṭva
dīk <sup>h</sup>	dīk <sup>h</sup> ‘be seen’	dek <sup>h</sup>	dīk <sup>h</sup> a/dīk <sup>h</sup> va
kaṭ	kaṭ ‘be cut’	kaṭ	kaṭa/kaṭva

Table 2.1: Base forms of some verbs and stems derived from them

cannot license any causee (intermediary agent), so it is a transitive stem rather than the causative stem.

### 2.1.1.1 Paradigms of base form derivation

Most of the base forms of simple predicates in Urdu are native roots. A very few stems of verbs have been taken from the present/past stems of Persian verbs. These are listed in Table 2.2.

Persian Infinitive	Persian Stems	Urdu Verb
azmudan ‘test’	azmud/azma	azma
baxfidan ‘grant’	baxfid/baxf	baxf
xaridan ‘purchase’	xarid/xar	xarid
farmidan ‘be shy’	farmid/farma	farma
farmudan ‘say’	farmud/farma	farma
gardanidan ‘regard as’	gardanid/gardan	gardan
guzaftan ‘pass (by)’	guzaft/guzar	guzar
guzaftan ‘make pass (by)’	guzaft/guzar	guzar
navaxtan ‘caress’	navaxt/navaz	navaz
tarafidan ‘scrape’	tarafid/taraf	taraf

Table 2.2: Urdu simple verbs derived from Persian verbs

Some of the Urdu verbs have been derived from adjectives and nouns. For example the verbs *garma* ‘make hot’ and *narma* ‘soften’ have been made by adding the suffix -a to the adjectives *garm* ‘hot’ and *narm* ‘soft’ respectively. Nominal verbs are derived in many ways. Some verbs are the result of zero-derivation, that is nouns in their bare form act as verbal stems, as shown in Table 2.3.

Some nouns act as verbal stems after adding some suffix, as shown in Table 2.4. Morphologists usually claim that a noun takes a zero suffix to make a verb and then a suffix is added to causativize it. However, some intransitive verbs listed in Table 2.4 are formed by adding a suffix and in no sense can be considered entailing causativization. For example, the verb *cakra* ‘feel giddy’ is derived from the noun *cakar* ‘circle’ and it does not entail causativization.

In addition to these patterns of derivation, there are a few verbs which have been derived ideosyncratically. For example, the verb *apna* ‘adopt’ has been derived from the reflexive pronoun *apna* and another verb *sat<sup>th</sup>ya* ‘become mad’ seems plausibly derived from the number *sat<sup>th</sup>* ‘sixty’. As at the age of sixty, senses of the majority of people weaken and they cannot think and react properly. This verb is used when someone even in the early age behaves like the people of sixty years age.

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alap ‘tuning up/to tune up’	b <sup>h</sup> ul ‘mistake/to forget’
pukar ‘shouting/to call’	p <sup>h</sup> aṭkar ‘curse/to curse’
p <sup>h</sup> al ‘fruit/to grow’	p <sup>h</sup> ul ‘flower/to flourish’
t <sup>h</sup> uk ‘saliva/to spit’	ṭ <sup>h</sup> ag ‘scoundrel/to deceive’
camak ‘shine/to shine’	cahak ‘chirping/to chirp’
cīg <sup>h</sup> aṛ ‘scream/to scream’	cix ‘cry/to cry’
xarc ‘expenditure/to expend’	day ‘spot/to spot’
damak ‘shine/to shine’	duk <sup>h</sup> ‘suffering/to suffer’
d <sup>h</sup> aṛ ‘cry/to cry’	d <sup>h</sup> uṭkar ‘disregard/to disregard’
ḍāt ‘scolding/to scold’	ḍar ‘fear/to fear’
ḍakar ‘/to devour’	rāg ‘colour/to colour’
samaj <sup>h</sup> ‘understanding/to understand’	k <sup>h</sup> oj ‘search/to search’
k <sup>h</sup> el ‘play/to play’	garaj ‘thunder/to thunder’
lalkar ‘shouting/to shout’	mahik ‘fragrance/to give fragrance’

Table 2.3: Lexemes in Urdu used both as nouns and verbs

Noun	Affix	Verbal Stem
baraf ‘ice’	a	barfa ‘to cool’
filam ‘film’	a	filma ‘to cast in a film’
lalac ‘greed’	a	lalca ‘to be greedy’
laj ‘pudency’	a	laja ‘to be shy’
dafan ‘burial’	a	dafna ‘to bury’
cakar ‘circle’	a	cakra ‘to feel giddy’
j <sup>h</sup> il mīl ‘twinkling’	a	j <sup>h</sup> ilmīla ‘to twinkle’
jag mag ‘twinkling’	a	jagmaga ‘to twinkle’
dag mag ‘swerving’	a	dagmaga ‘to swerve’
k <sup>h</sup> aṭ k <sup>h</sup> aṭ ‘sound of knocking’	a	k <sup>h</sup> aṭk <sup>h</sup> aṭa ‘to knock’
c <sup>h</sup> an c <sup>h</sup> an ‘sound of bangles’	a	c <sup>h</sup> anc <sup>h</sup> ana ‘to ring’
mīn mīn ‘sound of bleating’	a	mīnmīna ‘to bleat’
t <sup>h</sup> ar t <sup>h</sup> ar ‘oscillation’	a	t <sup>h</sup> art <sup>h</sup> ara ‘to oscillate’
ṭar ṭar ‘croaking’	a	ṭarṭara ‘to croak’
ṭīn ṭīn ‘ringing’	a	ṭīṭīna ‘to ring’
baṛ baṛ ‘grumbling’	a	baṛ baṛa ‘to grumble’
hīn hīn ‘neighing’	a	hīnhīna ‘to neigh’
hat <sup>h</sup> ‘hand’	ya	hat <sup>h</sup> ya ‘to grab’
j <sup>h</sup> uṭ ‘lie’	la	j <sup>h</sup> uṭla ‘to falsify’

Table 2.4: Urdu simple verbs derived from nouns by adding a suffix



### 2.1.1.2 Paradigms of stems' derivation

Verbal roots act either as intransitive or transitive stems. More stems from base form stems are derived usually by adding suffixes. I would call the stems derived from base form stems as higher stems. The higher stems can be transitive and causatives. In Urdu, there are usually two forms of causative stems (Mohan, 1994). One form is used when there is only one causee (1a) and the other form is used when two causees are involved (1b). Sometimes the same form is used in both cases.

- (1) a. علی نے ندا کو مسالہ چکھایا۔  
 ali=ne                      nda=ko                      masalah cak<sup>h</sup>-a-ya  
 Ali.M.3Sg=Erg Nida.F.3Sg=Dat spices.M taste-Caus-Perf.M.3Sg  
 'Ali made Nida taste spices.' (Direct causative)
- b. علی نے احمد سے ندا کو مسالہ چکھوایا۔  
 ali=ne                      ahmad=se                      nda=ko                      masalah  
 Ali.M.3Sg=Erg Ahmad.M.3Sg=Inst Nida.F.3Sg=Dat spices.M  
 cak<sup>h</sup>-va-ya  
 taste-Caus-Perf.M.3Sg  
 'Ali had Ahmad make Nida taste spices.' (Indirect causative)

The base form of a verb in Urdu itself acts as one stem and other stems are derived by the inflection of the base form in different ways. The different paradigms of inflecting a single syllable base form to derive other higher stems are described in the following. The organization of paradigms, I present is a little bit different from what is made in (Chakrabarti *et al.*, 2002).

**Paradigm 1:** In most of cases, higher stems from the base forms are made by just adding the suffixes *-a* and *-va* without changing the vowel of the base form. Examples are given in Table 2.5.

The pattern constant-vowel-consonant (CVC) of the base form in this paradigm changes to CVCV and CVCCV in higher stems. The general syllable structure for these patterns is shown in Figure 2.1, where O, N and C stands for onset, nucleus and coda respectively.

**Paradigm 2:** This paradigm of derivation involves vowel strengthening. To derive the first higher stem, the short vowel of the base form is changed to the long vowel (sometimes nasalized) and the suffix *-a* is added. However the second higher stem is made by just adding the suffix *-a* or *-va* to the base form. Examples are given in Table 2.6. It should be noted that here all vowels except *a*, *i* and *u* are considered long. The syllable structure for stems of this paradigm is shown in Figure 2.2.

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Base Form	Higher Stems	
Intransitive Stem	Higher Stem I	Higher Stem II
baɾ <sup>h</sup> ‘become big’	baɾ <sup>h</sup> -a	baɾ <sup>h</sup> -va
jal ‘burn’	jal-a	jal-va
cal ‘walk’	cal-a	cal-va
ɖar ‘fear’	ɖar-a	ɖar-va
k <sup>h</sup> ɪl ‘sprout’	k <sup>h</sup> ɪl-a	k <sup>h</sup> ɪl-va
gɪr ‘fall’	gɪr-a	gɪr-va
mɪɽ ‘be erased’	mɪɽ-a	mɪɽ-va
hɪl ‘shake’	hɪl-a	hɪl-va
j <sup>h</sup> ʊk ‘bend’	j <sup>h</sup> ʊk-a	j <sup>h</sup> ʊk-va
c <sup>h</sup> ʊp ‘hide’	c <sup>h</sup> ʊp-a	c <sup>h</sup> ʊp-va
dʊk <sup>h</sup> ‘suffer’	dʊk <sup>h</sup> -a	dʊk <sup>h</sup> -va
gʊm ‘lose’	gʊm-a	gʊm-va
Transitive Stem	Higher Stem I	Higher Stem II
paɾ <sup>h</sup> ‘read’	paɾ <sup>h</sup> -a	paɾ <sup>h</sup> -va
lɪk <sup>h</sup> ‘write’	lɪk <sup>h</sup> -a	lɪk <sup>h</sup> -va
sʊn ‘listen’	sʊn-a	sʊn-va

Table 2.5: First paradigm of higher stems derivation

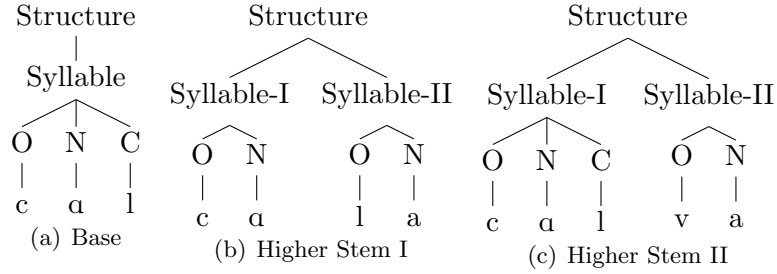


Figure 2.1: Syllable structure of Paradigm I stems

**Paradigm 3:** The long vowel of the base form is changed to the short vowel and the suffixes *-a* and *-va* are added. Examples are given in Table 2.7.

**Paradigm 4:** The long vowel of the base form is changed to the short vowel (not necessarily the corresponding one) and the suffixes *-la* and *-lva* are added. Examples are given in Table 2.8.

**Paradigm 5:** The coda is changed to the flap voiced retroflex. For the first stem, only the short vowel is changed to the long one and no affix is added. For the second stem, however, vowel is not changed and the suffix *-va* is added. Examples are given in Table 2.9.

Base Form	Higher Stems	
Intransitive Stem	Higher Stem I	Higher Stem II
baṭ ‘be divided’	bāṭ	baṭ-va
kaṭ ‘cut’	kaṭ	kaṭ-a/kaṭ-va
mar ‘die’	mar	mar-a/mar-va
piṭ ‘be beaten’	piṭ	piṭ-va
dik <sup>h</sup> ‘be seen’	dek <sup>h</sup>	dik <sup>h</sup> -a/dik <sup>h</sup> -va
k <sup>h</sup> ic ‘be stretched’	k <sup>h</sup> ēc	k <sup>h</sup> ic-va
k <sup>h</sup> ul ‘be opened’	k <sup>h</sup> ol	k <sup>h</sup> ul-va
mor ‘bend’	mor	mor-va
g <sup>h</sup> ul ‘melt’	g <sup>h</sup> ol	g <sup>h</sup> ul-va

Table 2.6: Second paradigm of higher stems derivation

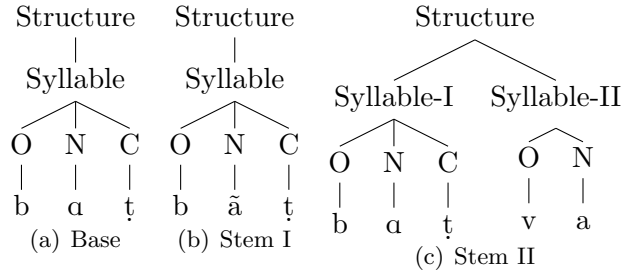


Figure 2.2: Syllable structure of Paradigm II stems

Base Form	Higher Stems	
Intransitive Stem	Higher Stem I	Higher Stem II
jag ‘be awake’	jag-a	jag-va
nac ‘dance’	nac-a	nac-va
beṭ <sup>h</sup> ‘sit’	biṭ <sup>h</sup> -a	biṭ <sup>h</sup> -va
leṭ ‘lie’	liṭ-a	liṭ-va
p <sup>h</sup> ul ‘expand’	p <sup>h</sup> ul-a	p <sup>h</sup> ul-va
suj ‘swell’	suj-a	suj-va
Transitive Stem	Higher Stem I	Higher Stem II
caṭ ‘lick’	caṭ-a	caṭ-va
jīṭ ‘win’	jīṭ-a	jīṭ-va
b <sup>h</sup> ul ‘forget’	b <sup>h</sup> ul-a	b <sup>h</sup> ul-va

Table 2.7: Third paradigm of higher stems derivation

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Base Form	Higher Stems	
Intransitive Stem	Higher Stem I	Higher Stem II
ji ‘live’	ji-la	ji-lva
ro ‘weep’	rū-la	rū-lva
so ‘sleep’	sū-la	sū-lva
Transitive Stem	Higher Stem I	Higher Stem II
k <sup>h</sup> a ‘eat’	k <sup>h</sup> i-la	k <sup>h</sup> i-lva
pi ‘drink’	pi-la	pi-lva
d <sup>h</sup> o ‘wash’	d <sup>h</sup> ū-la	d <sup>h</sup> ū-lva

Table 2.8: Fourth paradigm of higher stems derivation

Base Form	Higher Stems	
Intransitive Stem	Higher Stem I	Higher Stem II
p <sup>h</sup> aṭ ‘tear’	p <sup>h</sup> aṛ	p <sup>h</sup> aṛ-va
p <sup>h</sup> uṭ ‘breach’	p <sup>h</sup> oṛ	p <sup>h</sup> oṛ-va
ṭuṭ ‘break’	toṛ	toṛ-va

Table 2.9: Fifth paradigm of higher stems derivation

In addition to these paradigms, there are further irregular patterns of derivation in the sense that they are not productive. For example, the transitive stems *cub<sup>h</sup>o* ‘pinch’ and *dūbo* ‘drown’ have been derived irregularly from their base forms *cub<sup>h</sup>* and *dub*. Another example is the verb *bec* ‘sell’ which is the transitive version of the verb *bik* ‘be sold’.

In this section it was shown that different base form stems are inflected in different paradigms to derive higher stems in Urdu. Suffixes, usually *-a*, *-va*, are added to both intransitive and transitive base forms for generating other transitive and/or causative stems.

### 2.1.2 Complex predicates

A predicate consisting of more than one predicate but giving rise to only one clausal structure is called a complex predicate (Butt, 1995; Mohanan, 1994). Complex predicates are abundantly found in South Asian languages. The first predicate usually contributes for the core meaning of the predicate. This can be a noun, a verb, an adjective. The second predicate is usually called the light verb and inflects for tense, gender and number in a sentential clause (Butt *et al.*, 1999). The most frequent light

verbs in Urdu are *kar* ‘do’ *ho* ‘be/become’, *de* ‘give’, *le* ‘take’, *a* ‘come’ *ja* ‘go’. A variety of complex predicates found in Urdu are described in following subsections.

### 2.1.2.1 Verb-Verb predicates

In verb-verb complex predicates, two verbal stems are used. Only the second verbal stem inflects for agreement and the first verbal stem remains bare (2). Some examples are shown in Table 2.10.

Verb (Predicate I)	Verb (Predicate II)	Complex Predicate
caṛ <sup>h</sup> ‘climb’	dəṛ ‘run’	caṛ <sup>h</sup> dəṛ ‘attack’
kar ‘do’	guzar ‘pass’	kar guzar ‘do’
kar ‘do’	de ‘give’	kar de ‘do’
kar ‘do’	le ‘take’	kar le ‘do’
paṛ <sup>h</sup> ‘read’	le ‘take’	paṛ <sup>h</sup> le ‘read’
kaṭ ‘cut’	mar ‘die’	kaṭ mar ‘die’
mar ‘die’	miṭ ‘delete’	mar miṭ ‘die’
mar ‘die’	ja ‘go’	mar ja ‘die’
g <sup>h</sup> abra ‘become nervous’	ja ‘go’	g <sup>h</sup> abra ja ‘become nervous’

Table 2.10: Verb-Verb complex predicates in Urdu

(2) a. علی نے سبق پڑھا ہے۔

ali=ne sabaq paṛ<sup>h</sup>-a hε  
 Ali.M.3Sg=Erg lesson.M.3Sg read-Perf.M.3Sg be.Pres.Sg  
 ‘Ali has read the lesson.’

b. علی نے سبق پڑھ لیا ہے۔

ali=ne sabaq paṛ<sup>h</sup> li-ya hε  
 Ali.M.3Sg=Erg lesson.M.3Sg read take-Perf.M.3Sg be.Pres.Sg  
 ‘Ali has read the lesson.’

Sometimes English verbal stems are used with light verbs of Urdu to form complex predicates, for example, *edit kar* ‘edit’, *type kar* ‘type’, *allot kar* ‘allot’, *smuggle kar*

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‘smuggle’ etc. These cannot be called as N-V complex predicates as the first predicates are not used as nouns neither in English nor in Urdu. Likewise some Arabic verbal stems are also used in complex predication that otherwise are not used, for example *qata kar* ‘cut’, *mana kar* ‘forbid’, etc.

(3) a. علی نے ندا کو پھول مارا۔

ali=ne            nida=ko            p<sup>h</sup>ul            mar-a  
Ali.M.3Sg=Erg Nida.F.3Sg=Dat flower.M.3Sg hit-Perf.M.3Sg  
‘Ali hit Nida with a flower.’

b. علی نے ندا کو پھول مار دیا۔

ali=ne            nida=ko            p<sup>h</sup>ul            mar di-ya  
Ali.M.3Sg=Erg Nida.F.3Sg=Dat flower.M.3Sg hit give-Perf.M.3Sg  
‘Ali hit Nida with a flower.’

c. علی نے ندا کو پھول دے مارا۔

ali=ne            nida=ko            p<sup>h</sup>ul            de    mar-a  
Ali.M.3Sg=Erg Nida.F.3Sg=Dat flower.M.3Sg give hit-Perf.M.3Sg  
‘Ali hit Nida with a flower.’

In a very few verb-verb complex predicates, for example, the *mar de* ‘hit’, the order of two predicates can be reversed as in (3c). However, the verb at the second position always inflects for tense, number and gender. Poornima & Koenig (2008) have called patterns like in (3c) reverse complex predicates. Other verbal constructions in Urdu that have been analyzed as complex predicates are permissives (Butt, 1993) and some modal constructions.

(4) a. ایک پھول ندا کو سر پہ لگا۔

ek p<sup>h</sup>ul            nida=ko            sar=pih            lag-a  
one flower.M Nida.F=Dat head.M=Loc.on hit-Perf.M.3Sg  
‘A flower struck Nida on her head.’

b. ایک پھول ندا کو سر پہ آ لگا۔

ek p<sup>h</sup>ul nida=ko sar=p<sup>h</sup> a lag-a  
 one flower.M Nida.F=Dat head.M=Loc.on come hit-Perf.M.3Sg  
 ‘A flower came and struck Nida on her head.’

c. ایک پھول ندا کو سر پہ آ کر لگا۔

ek p<sup>h</sup>ul nida=ko sar=p<sup>h</sup> a kar lag-a  
 one flower.M Nida.F=Dat head.M=Loc.on come Conj hit-Perf.M.3Sg  
 ‘A flower came and struck Nida on her head.’

There are some verbal combinations used in Urdu that seem to encode sequential events in a single clause like *le ur* ‘take and fly’, *a lag* ‘come and hit’, *ja lag* ‘go and hit’ and *kaṭ k<sup>h</sup>a* ‘cut and eat’, etc. The subordinating conjunction *kar/ke* can optionally be put between two morphemes of such predicates. The example *a lag* is illustrated in (4) without *kar* (4b) and with *kar* (4c). The verbal combinations of the last type have not been discussed and claimed as complex predicates in the literature.

### 2.1.2.2 Adjective-Verb predicates

Many subjective and objective participles from Arabic are used as adjectives in Urdu. Many such adjectives with light verbs form complex predicates. Some examples are listed in Table 2.11.

Adjective (Predicate I)	Verb (Predicate II)	Complex Predicate
ajīz ‘humble’	kar ‘do’	ajīz kar ‘defeat’
hasīl ‘possessed’	kar ‘do’	hasīl kar ‘get’
famīl ‘included’	kar ‘do’	famīl kar ‘include’
raij ‘in effect’	kar ‘do’	raij kar ‘make in effect’
maīl ‘attracted’	kar ‘do’	maīl kar ‘attract’
maīfhur ‘famous’	kar ‘do’	maīfhur kar ‘make famous’
majbur ‘forced’	kar ‘do’	majbur kar ‘compel’
malum ‘known’	kar ‘do’	malum kar ‘get to know’
masrur ‘pleased’	kar ‘do’	masrur kar ‘please’

Table 2.11: Adjective-Verb complex predicates in Urdu

Some of the Arabic participles are only used in complex predicates in Urdu and not otherwise, for example, *ḡai* is used only in the complex predicates *ḡai kar* ‘publish’ and *ḡai ho* ‘be published’.

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### 2.1.2.3 Noun-Verb predicates

There are many ways of forming a noun-verb complex predicate in Urdu. One way is to take some verbal stems which are also used as nouns in Urdu to form complex predicates with light verbs. In another combination light verbs are added to some nouns already derived from verbal stems. Some non-verbal nouns are also used in noun-verb complex predication. Examples are given in Table 2.12.

The forms of the first four nouns *ḡaram* ‘shy’, *bīyah* ‘marriage’, *paḥcan* ‘recognition’ and *mībah* ‘compromise’ are also used as verbs. The nouns *ṣunai* ‘hearing’, *dīk<sup>h</sup>ai* ‘appearing’ and *caṛ<sup>h</sup>ai* ‘climbing’ are derived by adding the suffix *-ai* to verbal stems *ṣun* ‘listen’, *dīk<sup>h</sup>* ‘appear’ and *caṛ<sup>h</sup>* ‘climb’ respectively. The noun *mīlavaṭ* ‘mixing’ is derived from the verb *mīla* ‘mix’ by adding the suffix *-vaṭ* and the noun *bacao* ‘protection’ is derived from the verb *baca* ‘protect’. The noun *ḡuzarīḡ* ‘request’ is of Persian origin and is derived from the verb *ḡuzaḡtan* ‘pass’ and the noun *ḡijrat* ‘migration’ and *nazar* ‘sight’ are deverbal nouns taken from Arabic. The last three nouns *nazar* ‘sight’, *dard* ‘pain’, *b<sup>h</sup>arosah* ‘trust’ and *pīyar* ‘love’ are not derived from verbs.

Noun (Predicate I)	Verb (Predicate II)	Complex Predicate
ḡaram ‘shy’	a ‘come’	ḡaram a ‘to be shy’
bīyah ‘marriage’	kar ‘do’	bīyah kar ‘marry’
paḥcan ‘recognition’	kar ‘do’	paḥcan kar ‘recognize’
mībah ‘compromise’	kar ‘do’	mībah kar ‘compromise’
ṣunai ‘hearing’	de ‘give’	ṣunai de ‘hear’
dīk <sup>h</sup> ai ‘appearing’	de ‘give’	dīk <sup>h</sup> ai de ‘be-seen’
caṛ <sup>h</sup> ai ‘climbing’	kar ‘do’	caṛ <sup>h</sup> ai kar ‘compromise’
mīlavaṭ ‘mixing’	kar ‘do’	mīlavaṭ kar ‘mix’
bacao ‘protection’	kar ‘do’	bacao kar ‘protect’
ḡuzarīḡ ‘request’	kar ‘do’	ḡuzarīḡ kar ‘request’
ḡijrat ‘migration’	kar ‘do’	ḡijrat kar ‘migrate’
nazar ‘sight’	a ‘come’	nazar a ‘appear’
dard ‘pain’	kar ‘do’	dard kar ‘pain’
b <sup>h</sup> arosah ‘trust’	kar ‘do’	b <sup>h</sup> arosah kar ‘trust’
pīyar ‘love’	kar ‘do’	pīyar kar ‘love’

Table 2.12: Noun-Verb complex predicates in Urdu

Sometimes English deverbal nouns are also used in light verb constructions in daily conversation, e.g. *acting kar* ‘act’, *jogging kar* ‘jog’, *smoking kar* ‘smoke’, *swimming kar* ‘swim’, etc.



### 2.1.2.4 Compound-Verb predicates

There is also a huge variety of compound verb predicates in Urdu. Some compounds in such predicates are taken from verbal stems, some consist of a noun and a verbal stem. Perso-Arabic compounds made by either coordination of two nouns or by an *ezafe* construction are also used in light verb constructions. Examples are given in Table 2.13.

In addition to these patterns of light verb constructions in Urdu, there are still some other patterns. There are some adverbs in Urdu which are used with light verbs, for example, *vapas kar* ‘return’ and *samne a* ‘result’. Some case phrases are used with light verbs, for example, *samañh mē a* ‘understand’, *istemaal mē la* ‘use’, *jan par ban* ‘be in trouble’, etc. Sometimes Persian prepositional phrases are also used with light verbs as in *dar gor kar* ‘bury’, *zer e bahs la* ‘discuss’, etc.

The complex predicates with Arabic and Persian compounds are rarely used in Hindi. The Persian and Arabic vocabulary and some constructions in Urdu distinguish it from Hindi. The two functional morphemes of Persian: *ezafe* and *o* are used in compounds of the d- and e- parts of Table 2.13. These are briefly described in the following.

**Ezafe (e):** The *ezafe* vowel in Persian appears generally between any two items that have some sort of connection (Ghomeshi, 1997). There is not a unanimous opinion on the origin of *ezafe*. Some linguists believe that it was the predicative ‘is’ in old Persian (Windfuhr 1979:58) and others believe that originally it is a relative pronoun (Moyne, 1971).

In Urdu, the *ezafe* construction is sometimes used in noun phrases to connect adjectival and nominal modifiers to the head noun. However, this construction is used only with the Persian loan words. The orthographic form of *ezafe* in the Urdu script differs in different contexts. In contrast with the genitival modifiers in Urdu which appear usually in the prenominal position, the modifiers in the *ezafe* construction appear after the head (Bögel & Butt, to appear). It is illustrated in (5).

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Compound	Verb	Complex Predicate
a. Compounds made from two verbal stems		
ʊk <sup>h</sup> aɾ paç <sup>h</sup> aɾ ‘felling’	kar ‘do’	ʊk <sup>h</sup> aɾ paç <sup>h</sup> aɾ kar ‘fell’
ʊc <sup>h</sup> al kud ‘playing’	kar ‘do’	ʊc <sup>h</sup> al kud kar ‘play’
cir p <sup>h</sup> aɾ ‘tearing’	kar ‘do’	cir p <sup>h</sup> aɾ kar ‘tear’
qala qama ‘crushing’ (Arabic)	kar ‘do’	qala qama kar ‘crush’
taraf xaraɟ ‘sharpening’ (Persian)	kar ‘do’	taraf xaraɟ kar ‘sharpen’
b. Compounds made from a noun and an inflected verbal stem		
bix kani ‘uprooting’ (Persian)	kar ‘do’	bix kani kar ‘uproot’
caɟm poɟi ‘connivance’ (Persian)	kar ‘do’	caɟm poɟi kar ‘connive’
sɨgret noɟi ‘smoking’ (Persian)	kar ‘do’	sɨgret noɟi kar ‘smoke’
c. Compounds made from a noun and a verbal stem		
asar andaz ‘effective’ (Persian)	ho ‘be/become’	asar andaz ho ‘affect’
nazar andaz ‘ignored’ (Persian)	kar ‘do’	nazar andaz kar ‘ignore’
saf ara ‘being in lines’ (Persian)	ho ‘be/become’	saf ara ho ‘become ready’
d. Ezafe compounds (nouns)		
sarɟ e nazar ‘ignoring’ (Persian)	kar ‘do’	sarɟ e nazar kar ‘ignore’
nazr e karam ‘pity’ (Persian)	kar ‘do’	nazr e karam kar ‘pity’
yarq e ab ‘immersion’ (Persian)	ho ‘be/become’	yarq e ab ho ‘drown’
e. Coordination compounds (nouns)		
jid o juhd ‘effort’ (Arabic)	kar ‘do’	jid o juhd kar ‘make effort’
tag o do ‘effort’ (Persian)	kar ‘do’	tag o do kar ‘do’ ‘try’
qatl o yarət ‘massacre’ (Arabic)	kar ‘do’	qatl o yarət kar ‘massacre’
kuɟt o xun ‘massacre’ (Persian)	kar ‘do’	kuɟt o xun kar ‘massacre’
f. Other compounds (nouns)		
bat cit ‘conversation’	kar ‘do’	bat cit kar ‘talk’
ɟor ɟarabah ‘noise’	kar ‘do’	ɟor ɟarabah kar ‘scream’
kam kaj ‘work’	kar ‘do’	kam kaj kar ‘work’
tikkah boɟi ‘piece’	kar ‘do’	tikkah boɟi kar ‘cut’

Table 2.13: Compound-Verb complex predicates in Urdu

(5) a. پاکستان کی حکومت

pakistan=ki      hakumat  
Pakistan=Gen.F government.F  
‘Government of Pakistan’

b. حکومت پاکستان

hakumat e pakistan  
government.F Ez Paskistan  
'Government of Pakistan'

(6) a. دل میں ذوق وصل و یاد یار تک باقی نہیں

آگ اس گھر میں لگی ایسی کہ جو تھا جل گیا

dil=mẽ [zɔq e vasl] o [yad e yar] tak baqi nahĩ  
heart=in verve Ez union and memory Ez beloved even left not  
ag is g<sup>h</sup>ar=mẽ lag-i esi kɪh jo t<sup>h</sup>a jal ga-ya  
fire this house=in set-Perf such that what was burn go-Perf  
'There is not left the verve of the union and the memory of the beloved;  
such a fire set to this house that every thing burnt' (Asadullah Ghalib)

b. تیشے بغیر مر نہ سکا کوہکن اسد

سرگشتہ خمار رسوم و قیود تھا

tefe bayeɾ mar nah sak-a koh-kan asad  
adze.M without die not can-Perf.M mountain-digger Asad  
sargaftah e xumar e [rasum o quyud] t<sup>h</sup>a  
bewildered Ez wine-headache Ez tradition.3Pl and limit.3Pl be.Past  
'The mountain digger (Farhad) could not die without adze; he was  
bewildered of the headache of traditions and limits.' (Asadullah Ghalib)

**Conjunction o:** The form 'و' is used both in Arabic and in Persian as a coordinating conjunction in the meaning of 'and'. It is sometimes pronounced as *vao* and sometimes just as *o*. This conjunction form is used in compounds of the e-part of Table 2.13.

Like *ezafe*, the conjunction form *o* 'and' in Urdu is also used productively with Arabic and Persian loan words, but not with purely native words. In Urdu, the noun phrases in an *ezafe* construction can also be conjoined using this conjunction form (6a) and also the noun phrases involving this conjunction can be used in an *ezafe*

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construction (6b). This form, however, is never used to conjoin sentences in Urdu in contrast with Arabic and Persian. The equivalent native coordinating conjunction form of Urdu is *or* ‘and’ which is also used for conjoining clauses.

In complex predicates, two predicates are not always contiguous. For example, the negative element *nahĩ* ‘not’ can appear between the main verb and the light verb in a complex predicate.

### 2.1.3 Even predicates

In many Indo-Aryan languages, sometimes two semantically related verbs are used together in a more abstract meaning that might not be exactly the same as encoded by individual verbs. Such verbs, I call as even predicates. Typical examples are listed in Table 2.14.

Predicate I	Predicate II	Even Predicate
a ‘come’	ja ‘go’	a ja ‘keep visiting’
paṛḥ ‘read’	likḥ ‘write’	paṛḥ likḥ ‘get education’
pḥal ‘bear fruit’	pḥul ‘bear flowers’	pḥal pḥul ‘grow’
jāc ‘test’	parakḥ ‘test’	jāc parakḥ ‘test’
cal ‘walk’	pḥir ‘revolve’	cal pḥir ‘wander’
gḥum ‘rotate’	pḥir ‘revolve’	gḥum pḥir ‘wander’
cir ‘tear’	pḥaṛ ‘tear’	cir pḥaṛ ‘tear’
ro ‘weep’	dḥo ‘wash’	ro dḥo ‘weep’
laṛ ‘quarrel’	jḥagaṛ ‘quarrel’	laṛ jḥagaṛ ‘quarrel’
kḥa ‘eat’	pi ‘drink’	kḥa pi ‘eat and drink’
kḥel ‘play’	kud ‘jump’	kḥel kud ‘play’
ucḥal ‘jump’	kud ‘jump’	ucḥal kud ‘play’
mīl ‘meet’	jūl ‘meet’	mīl jūl ‘meet’
gḥul ‘melt’	mīl ‘meet’	gḥul mīl ‘become frank’
nac ‘dance’	ga ‘sing’	nac ga ‘make merry’
soc ‘think’	samajḥ ‘understand’	soc samajḥ ‘ponder’
dekḥ ‘see’	bḥal ‘see’	dekḥ bḥal ‘investigate’
laga ‘ignite’	bujḥa ‘put out’	laga bujḥa ‘infuriate’
paṛḥa ‘teach’	sikḥa ‘teach’	paṛḥa sikḥa ‘educate/train’
baṛḥa ‘increase’	carḥa ‘cover’	baṛḥa carḥa ‘exaggerate’

Table 2.14: Even predicates in Urdu

Both verbs in even predicates are inflected similarly for tense, number and gender as is shown in example sentences in (7). So, we cannot distinguish two verbs in

even predicates as the main verb and the light verb because the meanings of the even predicates are contributed by both verbs and both are inflected the same in a clause.

(7) a. سلسلے توڑ گیا وہ سبھی جاتے جاتے

اتنے تو مراسم تھے کہ آتے جاتے

sil̩sile tor ga-ya vuh sab<sup>hi</sup> ja-te ja-te  
chain.M.3Pl break go-Perf 3Sg all go-Imperf go-Imperf  
itne to marasim t<sup>he</sup> kih a-te ja-te  
such Emp relationship.M.3Pl be.3Pl.Past that come-Perf go-Perf

‘He broke all chains while leaving; there was at least such a relationship, that he should have keep visiting’ (Ahmad Faraz)

b. علی ندا کے ہاں آتا جاتا ہے۔

ali nida=ke hā a-ta ja-ta he  
Ali.M Nida.F=Gen side come-Imperf.M.3Sg go-Imperf.M.3Sg be.Pres.Sg  
‘Ali keeps visiting Nida.’

c. بچے تفریح میں خوب کھیلے کودے۔

bacce tafrih=mẽ xub k<sup>h</sup>el-e kud-e  
child.Pl recess.F=Loc.in well play-Perf.Pl jump-Perf.Pl  
‘The children played well in the recess.’

In (7a) the phrase *ja-te ja-te* is an alternate construction of *ja-te hu-e* which means ‘while leaving’ and the other phrase *a-te ja-te* ‘keep visiting’ due to bare imperfect aspect gives the subjunctive meaning entailing wish. Another simple example of this even predicate is given in (7b) and in (7c), the use of another even predicate *k<sup>h</sup>el kud* ‘play’ is illustrated.

### 2.1.4 Summary

In this section, different types of verbs in Urdu have been described. There are basically three types of verbs i.e. simple predicates, complex predicates and even predicates. In

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many of complex predicates, the main predicate is from Persian or Arabic vocabulary. To identify different types of complex predicates from the corpus automatically is not straightforward because the two parts of a complex predicate are not always contiguous to each other in a sentence. The scope of the work in this thesis is limited to acquire the subcategorization frames of simple predicates. A repository of simple predicates has been developed from different resources. The challenges faced with acquiring subcategorization information of simple predicates are reported in the next section.

### 2.2 Challenges for subcategorization acquisition

Like many other Indo-Aryan languages, Urdu is a case rich language. Different case forms mark actants of a clause for different cases. The oblique form of a noun is used when it is marked for case as it is shown in (8b) for the common noun *bacca* ‘baby’. In (8a), where this noun is unmarked, its direct form is used. In addition to proper nouns, many common nouns also have the same direct and oblique forms. The scope of case markers in Urdu extends to every noun of coordination (8c). Due to their phrasal scope, these are termed as case clitics (Butt & King, 2005).

- (8) a. بچہ بہت شرارتی ہے۔  
baccā                      bahut šarartī    he  
baby.Dir.Nom very    naughty be.Pres.3Sg  
‘The baby is very naughty.’
- b. ندا نے بچے کو ڈانٹا۔  
nida=ne            bace=ko            dāṭ-a  
Nida.F=Erg baby.Obl=Acc scold-Perf.M.3Sg  
‘Nida scolded the baby.’
- c. علی اور ندا نے بچے کو ڈانٹا۔  
[ali or    nida]=ne    bace=ko    dāṭ-a  
Ali and Nida.F=Erg baby=Acc scold-Perf.M.3Sg  
‘Ali and Nida scolded the baby.’

(9) a. ندا سیب کھاتی ہے۔

nida seb k<sup>h</sup>a-ti hε  
 Nida.F apple.M.3Sg eat-Imperf.F.3Sg be.Pres.3Sg  
 ‘Nida eats an apple.’

b. ندا نے سیب کھایا۔

nida=ne seb k<sup>h</sup>a-ya  
 Nida.F=Erg apple.M.3Sg eat-Perf.M.Sg  
 ‘Nida ate an apple.’

Urdu is considered to be a morphologically split-ergative language. The case on subjects of transitive clauses alternates between ergative and nominative (9). The ergative marker is sensitive to the perfective aspect (e.g., Anderson 1977, Mahajan 1990, Dixon 1994). In addition to ergative-nominative pattern for transitive verbs, this pattern also exists for some intransitive verbs in Urdu (Butt & King, 2005).

For Urdu, being a case-rich language, it apparently seems trivial to recognize arguments of predicates based on case clitic cues but the complexity of the case system and free word order nature of the language actually make the task very difficult. The following five issues present challenges for automatic acquisition of subcategorization frames of verbs in Urdu from a raw corpus.

### 2.2.1 Absence of unique case clitic forms

There are several different case clitic forms: *φ*, *ne*, *ko*, *se*, *mē*, *par*, *tak* in Urdu. The clitic form *φ* stands for the unmarked case. There is not always a one to one correspondence between case clitic form and case function.

#### 2.2.1.1 The case clitic *ko*

The same clitic form *ko* can mark nouns for different cases: accusative, dative, locative and temporal (Mohan, 1994). Consider the example sentences in (10).

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(10) a. علی نے ندا کو بلایا۔

ali=ne                  nda=ko                  bula-ya  
Ali.M.3Sg=Erg Nida.F.3Sg=Acc call-Perf.M.3Sg  
'Ali called Nida.'

b. علی نے ندا کو پھول دیا۔

ali=ne                  nda=ko                  p<sup>h</sup>ul                  dī-ya  
Ali.M.3Sg=Erg Nida.F.3Sg=Dat flower.M.3Sg give-Perf.M.3Sg  
'Ali gave a flower to Nida.'

c. علی رات کو آیا۔

ali                  rat=ko                  a-ya  
Ali.M.3Sg.Nom night.F.3Sg=Temp come-Perf.M.3Sg  
'Ali came at night.'

d. علی گھر کو گیا۔

ali                  g<sup>h</sup>ar=ko                  gā-ya  
Ali.M.3Sg.Nom home.M.3Sg=Loc go-Perf.M.3Sg  
'Ali went home.'

The direct object of a transitive verb *bula* 'call' in (10a) and the indirect object of ditransitive verb *de* 'give' in (10b) are marked accusative and dative respectively by the same case clitic form *ko*. Likewise the temporal and locative object in (10c-d) are marked by the same clitic form *ko*. Still more uses of the clitic *ko* (Ahmed, 2006) are given in (11)–(12).

(11) a. علی جائے کو ہے۔

ali                  ja-ne=ko                  hε  
Ali.M.3Sg go-Inf.Obl=for be.Pres.Sg  
'Ali is about to go.'

b. علی جائے والا ہے۔

ali                  ja-ne=vala                  hε  
Ali.M.3Sg go-Inf.Obl=VA be.Pres.Sg  
'Ali is about to go.'



(12) a. ندا کے پاس دینے کے لیے کچھ نہیں۔

nida=ke pas de-ne=ke liye kuch nahi  
Nida.F=Gen near give-Inf.Obl=Gen for something not  
'Nida has nothing for giving.'

b. ندا کے پاس دینے کو کچھ نہیں۔

nida=ke pas de-ne=ko kuch nahi  
Nida.F=Gen near give-Inf.Obl=KO something not  
'Nida has nothing for giving.'

c. دل کی خوشی کی خاطر چکھ ڈال مال و دھن کو

گر مرد ہے تو عاشق کوڑی نہ رکھ کفن کو

dil=ki xufi=ki xatir cakḥ ḍal mal o dḥan=ko  
heart=Gen.F joy.F for devour put property and wealth=Acc  
gar mard he tu aḥiq koṛi nah rakḥ kafan=ko  
if man be.3Sg.Pres you lover penny not put shroud=KO

'For the joy of heart, devour all of your property and wealth; If you really are a lover, leave not a penny for your shroud' (Nazir Akbar Abadi)

An immediate action clause can be constructed by adding the *ko* clitic to the oblique form of an infinitive followed by the verb *ho* 'be' as is shown in (11a). In another construction for encoding this notion, the clitic *vala* is used (11b) with the infinitive. Sometimes the purpose notion that usually is encoded by using the postposition *liye* 'for' (12a) is also encoded instead by using the clitic *ko* (12b–c).

### 2.2.1.2 The case clitic *se*

Like the clitic *ko*, the clitic *se* also has many functions (Ahmed, 2011; Mohanan, 1994), more than any other case clitic in Urdu. It is used with instrumental adjuncts as in (13a), for source expressions; humans, as in (13b), material, as in (13c), locatives, as in (13d) as well as for temporal expressions (13e).

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(13) a. علی نے چاقو سے سیب کاٹا۔

ali=ne                  caqu=se                  seb                  kat-a  
 Ali.M.3Sg=Erg knife.M.3Sg=Instr apple.M.3Sg cut-Perf.M.3Sg  
 ‘Ali cut the apple with a knife.’

b. علی نے ندا سے کتاب لی۔

ali=ne                  nda=se                  kitab                  l-i  
 Ali.M.3Sg=Erg Nida.F.3Sg=Abl book.F.3Sg get-Perf.F.Sg  
 ‘Nida got a book from Nida.’

c. ووڈکا عموماً چقندر سے بنتی ہے۔

vodka                  umuman cuqandar=se                  ban-ti                  he  
 vodka.F.Sg usually beet.M=Abl make-Imperf.F.Sg be.Pres.Sg  
 ‘Vodka is usually made from beets.’

d. علی ملتان سے آیا۔

ali                  multan=se                  a-ya  
 Ali.Nom.M.3Sg Multan=Loc come-Perf.M.3Sg  
 ‘Ali came from Multan.’

e. ندا کل سے بیمار ہے۔

nda                  kal=se                  bimar                  he  
 Nida.F.3Sg yesterday=Temp ill                  be.Pres.3Sg  
 ‘Nida is ill from yesterday.’

The clitic *se* is also used as a comitative case marker as in (14a) and to mark the causee in causative constructions as in (14b).

(14) a. علی نے ندا سے گفتگو کی۔

ali=ne                  nda=se                  guftugu                  ki  
 Ali.M.3Sg=Erg Nida.F.3Sg=Com conversation.F.3Sg make.Perf.F.Sg  
 ‘Ali made a conversation with Nida.’

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b. علی نے ندا سے چٹھی لکھوائی۔

ali=ne      nida=se      cɪt̪t̪ʰi      lkʰ-va-i  
Ali.M.3Sg=Erg Nida.F.3Sg=Abl letter.F.3Sg write-Caus-Perf.F.3Sg  
'Ali made Nida write the letter.'

The clitic *se* marks the logical subject (demoted agent) in the standard passive constructions (15a) as well as the subject in passives of disability (15b). The (dis)ability passive differs from the standard passives in that unlike the standard passives it is also possible with intransitives. Davison (1990) has called them peculiar passives, Butt (1997) has analyzed such constructions as complex predicates with dispositional semantics whereas Bhatt (1998) has analysed them in terms of negative polarity. The same clitic *se* is also used for comparative expressions (15c) and used with some nouns to give the adverbial meanings of manner or time (15d).

(15) a. چٹھی ندا سے لکھی گئی۔

cɪt̪t̪ʰi      nida=se      lkʰ-i      ga-i  
letter.F.3Sg Nida.F.3Sg=Abl write-Perf.F.3Sg go-Perf.F.3Sg  
'The letter was written by Nida.'

b. علی سے چلا نہیں گیا۔

ali=se      cal-a      nahĩ      ga-ya  
Ali.M.3Sg=Abl walk-Perf.M.3Sg not go-Perf.M.3Sg  
'Ali could not walk.'

c. ندا علی سے چھوٹی ہے۔

nida      ali=se      cʰoɽi      hɛ  
Nida.F.3Sg Ali.Nom.M.3Sg=Abl younger be.Pres.Sg  
'Nida is younger than Ali.'

d. علی گھر دیر سے آیا۔

ali      gʰar      der=se      a-ya  
Ali.M.3Sg home.M.3Sg late=Abl come-Perf.M.3Sg  
'Ali came home late.'

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(16) a. علی نے کار سے سفر کیا۔

ali=ne kar=se safar kī-ya  
Ali.M=Erg car.F=Abl travel.M do-Perf.M.Sg  
'Ali travelled by a car.'

b. علی نے سڑک سے سفر کیا۔

ali=ne sarāk=se safar kī-ya  
Ali.M=Erg car.F=Abl road.F do-Perf.M.Sg  
'Ali travelled by road.'

(17) a. مجرم گرفتاری کے ڈر سے چھپ گیا۔

mujrim giriftari=ke ḍar=se c<sup>h</sup>up ga-ya  
culprit.M arrest.F=Gen fear.M=Abl hide go-Perf.M.3Sg  
'The culprit hid himself due to the fear of arrest.'

b. افسوس بے شمار سخن ہائے گفتنی

خوف فساد خلق سے ناگفتہ رہ گئے

afsos be-ʃumar suxan-ha e guftani  
alas un-countable point-Pl Ez worth-to-be-mentioned  
xof e fasad e xalq=se na-guftah rah gae  
fear Ez violence Ez people=Abl unuttered remain go-Perf.Pl  
'Alas, many points worth to be mentioned remained unuttered due to the fear  
of violence of people' (Majid Amjad)

The marker *se* is also used to mark the means of traveling (Rizvi, 2007), as shown in (16). Sometimes the clitic *se* is used in the meaning of 'because of', as shown in (17). In addition to all above uses, the clitic *se* is also used for path (Ahmed, 2011) in Urdu as in *bay se* 'through the garden'.

### 2.2.2 Different marking of grammatical functions

We have seen in previous section that a single case form is used to mark for different case functions. Alongside this, the grammatical functions are also not marked uniquely

for case in Urdu (Butt & King, 2005; Mohanan, 1994). Different possibilities of marking subject and object are discussed in the following subsections.

### 2.2.2.1 Different marking of subject

The subject in Urdu is marked for many different cases in different constructions. Examples are given in (18).

- (18) a. ندا جا رہی ہے۔  
nida ja rah-i he  
Nida.F.3Sg go Prog-F.3Sg be.Pres.3Sg  
'Nida is leaving.'
- b. ندا نے کچھ نہیں کھایا۔  
nida=ne kuch nahĩ kʰa-ya  
Nida.F.3Sg=Erg something not eat-Perf.M.3Sg  
'Nida has eaten nothing.'
- c. ندا سے چلا نہیں جاتا۔  
nida=se cal-a nahĩ ja-ta  
Nida.F.3Sg=Inst walk not go-Imperf.M.3Sg  
'Nida cannot walk.'
- d. ندا کو گھر جانا ہے۔  
nida=ko gʰar ja-na he  
Nida.F.3Sg=Dat home.M go-Inf.M.3Sg be.Pres.3Sg  
'Nida has to go home.'
- e. ندا کی ایک بیٹی ہے۔  
nida=ki ek beti he  
Nida.F.3Sg=Gen one daughter.F.3Sg be.Pres.3Sg  
'Nida has one daughter.'

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f. ندا میں بڑی مامتا ہے۔

nida=mē                      bari mamta he  
Nida.F.3Sg=Loc.in much affection be.Pres.3Sg  
'Nida has much affection.'

g. ندا پر بیٹی کی پرورش کی ذمہ داری ہے۔

nida=par              beti=ki              parvarīf=ki              zimmah-dari he  
Nida.F=Loc.on daughter.F=Gen upbringing.F=Gen responsibility be.Pres  
'Nida has the responsibility of upbringing the daughter.'

h. بیٹی کو چوما گیا۔

beti=ko              cum-a              ga-ya  
daughter.F=Acc kiss-Perf.M.3Sg go-Perf.M.3Sg  
'The daughter was kissed.'

The case of the subject in (18a-g) is nominative, ergative, instrumental, dative, genitive, in-locative and on-locative respectively. The accusative case of grammatical subject is possible in passives of transitive verbs (18h).

### 2.2.2.2 Differential object marking

The direct object of a verb can be unmarked or accusative (Butt & King, 2005), for example, consider the following sentences:

(19) a. علی نے سیب کھایا۔

ali=ne              seb              k<sup>h</sup>a-ya  
Ali.M.3Sg=Erg apple.M.3Sg.Nom eat-Perf.M.3Sg  
'Ali ate an apple.'

b. علی نے سیب کو کھایا۔

ali=ne              seb=ko              k<sup>h</sup>a-ya  
Ali.M.3Sg=Erg apple.M.3Sg=Acc write-Perf.M.3Sg  
'Ali ate the apple.'

## 2.2 Challenges for subcategorization acquisition

- (20) a. علی نے ندا کو سوئے کا کہا۔  
 ali=ne      nida=ko      so-ne=ka      ka-ha  
 Ali.M.3Sg=Erg Nida.F.3Sg=Acc sleep-Inf=Gen ask-Perf.M.Sg  
 ‘Ali asked Nida to sleep.’
- b. علی نے ندا سے سوئے کا کہا۔  
 ali=ne      nida=se      so-ne=ka      ka-ha  
 Ali.M.3Sg=Erg Nida.F.3Sg=Com sleep-Inf=Gen ask-Perf.M.Sg  
 ‘Ali asked Nida to sleep.’

The direct object *seb* ‘apple’ in (19a) is null-marked for nominative case and it is *ko*-marked for accusative case in (19b). Specific direct objects in Urdu are marked accusative (Butt, 1993). The object of some verbs is either marked accusative (20a) or comitative (20b). In Table 2.15 clitics’ forms, cases and their associations with grammatical functions are listed. This table is a slightly modified version of what is given in Butt & King (2005).

Case clitic	Case feature	Grammatical function
$\phi$	Nominative	Subject, Direct object
	Locative	Locative object
	Temporal	Temporal object
ne	Ergative	Subject
ko	Accusative	Direct object
	Dative	Subject, Indirect object
	Temporal	Temporal object
	Locative	Locative object
se	Instrumental	Instrument
	Comitative	Object
	Ablative	Indirect object
	Locative	Locative object
	Ability	Subject
mẽ	Locative	Locative object
	Temporal	Temporal object
par	Locative	Locative object
	Temporal	Temporal object
tak	Locative	Locative object
	Temporal	Temporal object

Table 2.15: Case and grammatical functions

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### 2.2.3 Free word order

Fixed order in a language like English is useful in that the order itself provides cues for recognizing the arguments of a verb in the sentence. However, Urdu is a free word order language. The verb in a sentence usually (but not always) comes last and its arguments are put in any order before it. For example, the arguments of the verb *de* ‘to give’ in (10b) can be arranged in the different orders shown in (21). The truth-conditional meaning of the sentence remains the same, regardless of the order of the verb’s arguments.

(21) a. علی نے ندا کو پھول دیا۔

ali=ne                      nda=ko                      p<sup>h</sup>ul                      dī-ya  
Ali.M.3Sg=Erg Nida.F.3Sg=Dat flower.M.3Sg.Nom give-Perf.M.3Sg  
‘Ali gave a flower to Nida.’

b. علی نے پھول ندا کو دیا۔

ali=ne                      p<sup>h</sup>ul                      nda=ko                      dī-ya  
Ali.M.3Sg=Erg flower.M.3Sg.Nom Nida.F.3Sg=Dat give-Perf.M.3Sg

c. ندا کو علی نے پھول دیا۔

nda=ko                      ali=ne                      p<sup>h</sup>ul                      dī-ya  
Nida.F.3Sg=Dat Ali.M.3Sg=Erg flower.M.3Sg.Nom give-Perf.M.3Sg

d. ندا کو پھول علی نے دیا۔

nda=ko                      p<sup>h</sup>ul                      ali=ne                      dī-ya  
Nida.F.3Sg=Dat flower.M.3Sg.Nom Ali.M.3Sg=Erg give-Perf.M.3Sg

e. پھول علی نے ندا کو دیا۔

p<sup>h</sup>ul                      ali=ne                      nda=ko                      dī-ya  
flower.M.3Sg.Nom Ali.M.3Sg=Erg Nida.F.3Sg=Dat give-Perf.M.3Sg

f. پھول ندا کو علی نے دیا۔

p<sup>h</sup>ul                      nda=ko                      ali=ne                      dī-ya  
flower.M.3Sg.Nom Nida.F.3Sg=Dat Ali.M.3Sg=Erg give-Perf.M.3Sg



## 2.2 Challenges for subcategorization acquisition

Grammatical functions of nouns in a sentence in Urdu can be identified by case and animacy features of participants rather than their position in the sentence. The verb *de* ‘to give’ is a ditransitive verb and takes an ergative subject in (21). As already said, Urdu is a split ergative language. The ergative subject is taken by verbs with conditions of transitivity, tense/aspect, choice of light verb and volitionality (Butt, 2006). The subject in (21) will be marked nominative in case the aspect is not perfect (22).

(22) علی ندا کو پھول دیتا ہے۔

ali                      nda=ko                      p<sup>h</sup>ul                      de-ta                      he  
Ali.M.3Sg.Nom Nida.F.3Sg=Dat flower.M.3Sg.Nom give-Perf.M.3Sg be.3Sg.Pres  
‘Ali gives a flower to Nida.’

(23) مکان میں آگ لگ گئی۔

makan=mē                      ag lag ga-i  
house.M.3Sg=Loc.in fire set go-Perf.F.3Sg  
‘The house caught the fire.’

In (22), the two arguments of the predicate that is *ali* ‘Ali’ and *p<sup>h</sup>ul* ‘flower’ are nominative and the subject *ali* ‘Ali’ in such a case could be recognized due to its animacy feature. The *ko* marked argument can be identified as a dative marked argument only when the verb is tagged as a ditransitive verb. So, an Urdu corpus tagged for the case and animacy features of nouns and types of verbs could be helpful for the automatic recognition of the subject and other arguments of most of the verbs. However, it would be hard to distinguish arguments of those verbs which generally do not involve animate participants (23). The mere position of the argument in Urdu is not helpful for recognition of arguments in contrast with English and many other languages.

### 2.2.4 Multifunctionality of the complementizer *kīh*

Some verbs in Urdu take *that*-clause as their argument in a sentence. The complementizer form *kīh* is used to construct the complementizer clause as shown in (24).

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- (24) ندا نے کہا کہ وہ کل نہیں آئے گی۔  
 nıda=ne kah-a [kɪh vʊh kəl nəhĩ a-e-gi]  
 Nıda.F=Erg tell-Perf.3Sg that 3Sg.F tomorrow not come-Subjn-Fut.F  
 ‘Nıda told that she would not come the next day.’

To recognize the complementizer clause argument of a verb in Urdu by identifying complementizer form *kɪh* in a sentence is also not straightforward as the same complementizer form also has some other functions: relative pronoun, conjunction, temporal. Different uses of *kɪh* are illustrated in (25).

- (25) a. ہم نے مانا کہ تغافل نہ کرو گے۔  
 ham=ne man-a [kɪh tɑɣɑfʊl nəh kɑr-o-ge]  
 1.Pl=Erg agree-Perf that.Comp negligence.F.3Sg not do-Subjn.2-Fut.3Sg  
 ‘We agreed that you would not be negligent.’

- b. اچھا تھا کہ ندا آتی۔  
 ɑcʰɑ tʰɑ [kɪh nıda a-ti]  
 good be.3Sg.Past that Nıda.F come-Imperf.F.3Sg  
 ‘It would have been good if Nıda had come.’

- c. کتاب جو کہ میز پر پڑی ہے لاؤ۔  
 kɪtab jo kɪh mez=par pɑɾ-i hɛ, la-o  
 book.F.Nom that.RelP table.F=Loc lie-Perf.F be.Subjn bring-Imper  
 ‘Bring the book that is good.’

- d. علی اول آیا یا کہ ندا؟  
 ɑli ɑvɑl a-ya yɑ/kɪh nıda  
 Ali.M.3Sg.Nom first come-Perf.3Sg or Nıda.F.3Sg  
 ‘Ali stood first or Nıda?’

## 2.2 Challenges for subcategorization acquisition

e. علی گھر سے نکلا ہی تھا کہ بارش برسنے لگی۔

ali g<sup>h</sup>ar=se nikl-a hi t<sup>h</sup>-a  
 Ali.M.3Sg home.M.3Sg=Abl leave-Perf.3Sg Emp be.Past-3Sg  
 kih bar̃ʃ baras-ne lag-i  
 that rain.3Sg.F shower-Inf start-Perf.3Sg.F  
 ‘It started raining when Ali just left the house.’

f. خطا تو جب ہو کہ ہم حال دل کسی سے کہیں

کسی کو چاہتے رہنا کوئی خطا تو نہیں  
 xata to jab ho kih  
 offense=Gen Emp when be.Subjn that  
 ham hal e dil kisi=se kahē  
 1Sg.Pl condition Ez heart anyone=Abl say.Subjn.Pl  
 kisi=ko cah-te rah-na koi xata to nahĩ  
 anyone=Acc want-Imperf.Pl remain-Inf some offense.F Emp not  
 ‘Offense should only be considered if we say our condition of heart to someone;  
 merely to like someone is not an offense at all.’ (Sameer)

The form *kih* in sentence (25a) is used as a canonical complementizer, in (25b) it is used to construct an if-clause, in (25c) it is used as a relative pronoun, in (25d) as a conjunction and in (25e-f) as a temporal marker. The same form in Urdu poetry is sometimes also used in place of *balkih* ‘but’ (Khan, 2005) as in (26a) and sometimes *kyyākih* ‘because’ as in (26b). In addition to this, with the use of some adverbs like *itna* ‘this much’, *esa* ‘such’ the form *kih* can appear with any verb in Urdu (27).

(26) a. نہیں ملتی کوشش سے دنیا ہی تہا

کہ ارکان دیں بھی اسی پر ہیں برپا  
 nahĩ milti koʃʃ=se dūnya hi tanha  
 not be-got.Imperf.3Sg effort.3Sg=Abl world.F.3Sg Emp only  
 kih arkan-e dī b<sup>h</sup>i isi=par hē barpa  
 but unit.3Pl-Ez religion also this=Loc.on be.Pres.3Pl fixed  
 ‘Not only the worldly benefits we get from effort,  
 but the units of the religion are also fixed on it.’ (Altaf Hussain Hali)

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b. تیری خاک میں ہے گر شر تو خیال فقر و غنا نہ کر

کہ جہاں میں نان شعیر پر ہے مدار قوت حیدری

teri xak mē hε gar farar  
your.F origin.F Loc.in be.Cop if spark

to xayal e faqr o yma nah kar  
then consideration Ez poor-being and well-being not do.Imper

kīh jahā mē nan e fa'ir par  
that.Compl world Loc.in bread.M Ez barley Loc.on

hε madar e quvat e hedri  
be.Cop dependence.M Ez power.F Ez of-Haider

‘If there is a spark in your origin then do not think of poverty or richness;  
as a power the like of Haider depends only on barley bread.’ (Allama Iqbal)

(27) a. ندا اتنا روئی کہ اس کی آنکھیں سرخ ہو گئیں۔

nida itna ro-i

Nida.F.3Sg so much weep-Perf.F.3Sg

kīh us=ki āk<sup>h</sup>ē surx ho ga-ī

that 3Sg=Gen eye.F.3Pl red become go-Perf.F.3Pl

‘Nida wept so much that her eyes became red.’

b. لاغرا تا ہوں کہ گر تو بزم میں جا دے مجھے

میرا ذمہ دیکھ کر گر کوئی بتلا دے مجھے

layr itna hū kīh gar

feeble such be.Cop.1Sg that.Compl if

tu bazm mē ja de mūj<sup>h</sup>e

2Sg.Nom company.F Loc.in place.F give.Imper 1Sg.Acc

mera zimmah dek<sup>h</sup> kar gar

1Sg.Gen.M responsibility see Conj if

koi batla de mūj<sup>h</sup>e

any tell go.Subj 1Sg.Acc

‘I am so feeble that if you let me sit in your company; it is on me if  
someone could recognize me by looking around.’ (Asadullah Ghalib)

## 2.2 Challenges for subcategorization acquisition

Sometimes the complementizer form is coreferenced with the demonstrative phrase. In (28a) *is tarah* ‘this way’ is coreferenced with the complementizer clause, likewise demonstratives link with the complementizer clauses in (28b–c).

- (28) a. گیا تو اس طرح گیا کہ مدتوں نہیں ملا  
 गया to is tarah गया  
 go-Perf.M.3Sg then this way go-Perf.M.3Sg  
 کھ muddatō nahī ml-a  
 that period.F.3Pl not meet-Perf.M.3Sg  
 ‘He went in such a way that he has not met since long.’ (Munir Niazi)
- b. علی کا ندا کی ہر بات ماننا اس بات کا ثبوت ہے کہ وہ اس سے محبت کرتا ہے۔  
 ali=ka nida=ki har bat manna  
 Ali.M.3Sg=Gen Nida.F.3Sg=Gen every demand accept-Inf  
 is bat=ka sabut he kīh  
 this.Sg thing.F=Gen proof.M.3Sg be.Pres.M that  
 vūh us=se muhabbat kar-ta he  
 3Sg.Nom 3Sg=Abl love.F do-Imperf.M.3Sg be.Pres  
 ‘Ali’s accession to each of Nida’s demand is the proof that he loves her.’
- c. علی کی ندا سے محبت کا ثبوت یہ ہے کہ وہ اس کی ہر بات مانتا ہے۔  
 ali=ki nida=se muhabbat=ka sabut yīh he kīh  
 Ali.M=Gen Nida.F=Abl love.F=Gen proof.M this be.Pres that  
 vūh us=ki har bat man-ta he  
 3Sg.M 3Sg.F=Gen every demand.F accede-Imperf.M.3Sg be.Pres  
 ‘Proof of Ali’s love with Nida is that he accedes to each of her demands.’

Due to these so many uses of the same form *kīh*, it is very hard to automatically identify the canonical complementizer clause for verbs.

### 2.2.5 Argument attachment ambiguities

Syntactically not only do verbs subcategorize for arguments in Urdu, but nouns and adjectives do too, as in many other languages. These nouns and adjectives in Urdu

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usually are derived from verbal stems. So, an identified case phrase in a sentence might not be the argument of the verb. To automatically determine whether some case phrases actually are part of the noun or the adjective modifying the noun or the verb in a sentence of an unannotated corpus is not an easy task without incorporating a grammar.

(29) a. ندا نے زکام سے بچاؤ کی دوائی خریدی۔

nida=ne [[zūkām=se bacao]=ki davai] xarid-i  
 Nida=Erg [[flu=Abl protection=Gen.F medicine.F] buy-Perf.F  
 ‘Nida purchased medicine for protection from flu.’

b. ندا نے بازار سے زکام کی دوائی خریدی۔

nida=ne bazar=se [zūkām=ki davai] xarid-i  
 Nida=Erg bazar=Abl [flu=Gen.M medicine.F.Sg] buy-Perf.F  
 ‘Nida purchased medicine for flu from the market.’

In (29a), *davai* ‘medicine’ is the nominative argument of the verb *xarid* ‘to buy’. This noun has a genitive modifier *bacao* ‘protection’ that itself takes a *se*-marked argument. So, the case marked arguments found in a sentence are not always the arguments of the main verb in the sentence. In (29b), however, the *se*-marked noun is not part of any noun. Here it should be considered as an adjunct of the verb *xarid* ‘to buy’. Consider another example in (30) where a verb *mil* ‘get’ and a noun *c<sup>h</sup>uṭ* ‘exemption’ are used, both of which can take an ablative marked argument.

(30) a. ندا کو امی سے کافی رقم ملی۔

nida=ko ammi=se kafi raqam mil-i  
 Nida.F.Sg=Dat mother.F.Sg=Abl enough money.F.Sg get-Perf.F.Sg  
 ‘Nida got enough money from the mother.’

- b. ندا نے استانی کو زبانی امتحان سے چھوٹ کے لئے کہا۔  
 nida=ne                      ustani=ko                      zabani    imtihan=se  
 Nida.F.Sg=Erg   teacher.F.Sg=Acc   verbal   examination.M.Sg=Abl  
 c<sup>h</sup>uṭ=ke                      liye   kah-a  
 exemption.F.Sg=Gen   for   ask-Perf.M.Sg  
 ‘Nida asked the teacher for exemption from the verbal examination.’
- c. ندا کو زبانی امتحان سے چھوٹ مل گئی۔  
 nida=ko                      zabani    imtihan=se                      c<sup>h</sup>uṭ  
 Nida.F.Sg=Dat   verbal   examination.M.Sg=Abl   exemption.F.Sg  
 mil   ga-i  
 get   go-Perf.F.Sg  
 ‘Nida got exemption from the verbal examination.’
- d. صدر کو مقدمات سے استثنیٰ مل گیا۔  
 sadar=ko                      muqaddamat=se                      istisna  
 president.3Sg=Dat   court-case.3Pl=Abl   exemption.M.Sg  
 mil   ga-ya  
 get   go-Perf.M.Sg  
 ‘The president got [exemption from court-cases].’  
 ‘The president got [exemption] through court-cases.’

In (30a) the ablative marked argument is no doubt licensed by the verbal semantics attached with the verb and in (30b) it is attached with the noun *c<sup>h</sup>uṭ* ‘exemption’. In (30c), syntactically the attachment of an ablative marked argument is ambiguous. It can be attached to either the verb *mil* ‘get’ or the noun *c<sup>h</sup>uṭ* ‘exemption’. A more illustrative example with two readings is given in (30d). Other different types of attachment ambiguities in Urdu have been discussed in somewhat detail in Rizvi (2007).

## 2.3 Summary

In this chapter, different challenges faced by the acquisition of subcategorization information for verbs from a raw Urdu corpus have been explored. Due to a rich variety of

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verbs in Urdu, it is not straightforward to identify which combination in the sentence actually is acting as the main verb. The position of arguments in the sentences is not helpful as Urdu is a free word order language, although the verb usually appears last in the clause. The case clitics cannot be the direct cues for the arguments as a single clitic is used to mark many case functions and a grammatical function can bear different cases in different contexts and constructions. Argument attachment is also a challenge. With these problems and challenges at hand, an algorithm is developed to extract frames of verbs from a raw Urdu corpus. This is discussed in the next chapter.



## Chapter 3

# Automatic lexical acquisition

This chapter describes an approach to inferring syntactic frames for verbs in Urdu from an untagged raw corpus. As already shown in Chapter 2, there is not always a one to one correspondence between case clitic form and case, and case and grammatical function in Urdu. Case clitics, therefore, cannot serve as direct cues for extracting the syntactic frames of verbs. So, an indirect two-step approach has been devised and implemented. In a first step, all case clitic combinations for a verb are extracted and the unreliable ones are filtered out by applying inferential statistics. In a second step, the information of occurrences of case clitic forms in different combinations as a whole and on an individual level is processed to infer all possible syntactic frames of the verb.

The chapter is organized as follows: section 1 describes the selection of the corpus for automatic subcategorization acquisition, section 2 describes how to identify verbs in the corpus, section 3 introduces types of subcategorization frames (SCFs) to be extracted. The subcategorization acquisition system for Urdu (SASU) is detailed in section 4. Results and evaluations are provided in section 5. The usability of the SASU system is described in section 6 and its limitations are described in section 7. Section 8 concludes the chapter.

### 3.1 Corpus selection

#### 3.1.1 Corpora used in previous works

Corpus selection is the first necessary step in the automatic acquisition of SCFs. Acquisition results are influenced by many attributes of the selected corpus, like size, genre, annotation level, age of the corpus, etc. Size and annotation level of the corpus, however, matter much than other attributes.

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Roland & Jurafsky (2002) have investigated the influence of corpus choice on acquisition results. They acquired subcategorization frames from five different corpora; two were developed from psychological experiments in which participants were asked to produce sentences, two corpora were subparts of the Brown corpus and the Wall Street Journal corpus (Marcus *et al.*, 1993), and one corpus developed from telephone conversations. They reported differences among frequencies of different frame types. They noted two major sources of differences: (a) the discourse type, and (b) the semantic choices, i.e. the word senses presented in the corpora.

Better results are expected with a corpus of a sufficiently huge size comprising all genres. Hence, the computational utilities are usually run on the maximum available data. In the last two decades corpora of different sizes have been used for SCF acquisition. At the early stages of lexical acquisition for English language, Brent (1993) and Ushioda *et al.* (1993) both used the corpus of Wall Street Journal (WSJ) but of different sizes i.e. 2.6 million words and 600,000 words respectively. Manning (1993) used the corpus of the New York Times newswire of 4 million words and Briscoe & Carrol (1993) used 1.2 million words of the Susanne corpus, the corpus of spoken English (SEC), and the Lancaster-Oslo-Bergen Corpus (LOB). Researchers later on used corpora of much bigger sizes. For example, Carrol *et al.* (1998) used the whole British National Corpus (BNC) of 117 million words.

The corpora used for SCF acquisition also differ in the level of annotation. Brent (1993) used a raw English corpus for subcategorization acquisition. Annotated part of speech (POS) tagged corpora were used by Manning (1993) and Ushioda *et al.* (1993) and, later on, English corpora parsed partially or fully (Briscoe & Carrol 1997; Kinyon & Prolo 2002; O'Donovan *et al.* 2005) were used.

#### 3.1.2 Urdu corpus

Due to not having refined corpora of Urdu at hand, I have developed and used a raw Urdu corpus for extracting subcategorization information. This corpus was collected from Urdu websites, mainly from the Urdu newspaper *Roznama Jang* website and the BBC Urdu website. In a first step the corpus was cleaned to remove html tags and other spurious text not in the form of sentences.

There are some Urdu characters that were composed by two symbols in Unicode before. But now all single forms of Urdu alphabets have been assigned their own codes. These characters are shown in Table 3.1. Such differences of single form and composed form found in the corpus were normalized.

There are some Arabic-script characters that have almost same form in Arabic and Urdu but different encodings in Arabic and Urdu. These characters are listed in

### 3.1 Corpus selection

Nr.	Letter	Single Form	Composite Form
i.	Alif with madda above	ا [D8A2]	آ [D8A7 + D993]
ii.	Hey with hamza above	ه [DB82 ]	ه [DB81 + D9B4]
iii.	Vao with hamza above	و [D8A4]	و [D988 + D9B4]
iv.	Choti ye with hamza above	ي [DB80]	ي [DB8C + D9B4]
v.	Hamza connected bari ye	ے [DB93]	ے [D8A6 + DB92]

Table 3.1: Single and composite forms of characters

Table 3.2. Some Urdu characters with different encodings were found in the corpus and were changed to their corresponding Urdu encoding forms.

Nr.	Letter	Arabic Form	Urdu Form
i.	Tey marbuta	ة [D8A9]	ہ [DB83]
ii.	Kaf	ك [D983 ]	ک [DAA9]
iii.	Hey	ه [D987]	ہ [DB81]
iv.	Hey with hamza above	ه [DB80]	ہ [DB82]
v.	Yey	ي [D98A]	ی [DB8C]
vi.	Alif maksura	ي [D989]	ی [DB8C]

Table 3.2: Multi-encoding characters

In addition to this, different spellings of some key words used in the corpus were also unified. The corpus had many segmentation errors as well. The words at the end of most sentences where a verb is found were not properly separated. To make it possible to have a maximum possible candidate sentences for the target verb, the corpus was properly segmented automatically. In the segmenting module, an Urdu lexicon of more than 60,000 words developed by CRULP was used to identify correct words.

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The corpus that is used in our system after preprocessing has about 10 million words (276825 sentences). The size of this corpus, however, is not comparable to that of corpora that have recently been used in the subcategorization acquisition systems.

## 3.2 Identification of verbs

### 3.2.1 Different methods of identifying verbs

Subcategorization acquisition systems also differ in the identification of verbs. Brent (1993) recognized verbs in the corpus by finding those tokens that come with and without the suffix ‘-ing’. Tokens found in some specific lexical context, e.g. which directly follow a determiner, were filtered out. Ushioda *et al.* (1993) identified verbs from the part-of-speech tag and Manning (1993) recognized tokens used with auxiliaries by a finite state parser. In other approaches verbs were identified from the parses of sentences.

In our case, verbs are identified by comparing different conjugation forms of a verb with different tokens of sentences of the corpus. Most of the verbal stems in Urdu are conjugated in a regular pattern for tense, aspect, number and gender.

### 3.2.2 Urdu Verb Conjugator

Any regular stem can have upto 16 conjugation forms, among them three are for infinitives. For example, the conjugation forms of the four stems i.e. *dik<sup>h</sup>* ‘appear’, *dek<sup>h</sup>* ‘see’, *dik<sup>h</sup>a* ‘show’ and *dik<sup>h</sup>va* ‘make some one show’ derived from the root *dik<sup>h</sup>* in Urdu are listed alongside their glossed interpretation in Table 3.3. The table shows that all four stems are inflected similarly. The two versions of causative stems were already explained in section 2.1.1.2.

- (1) a. آج چاند نہیں دکھا۔  
aj cād nahī dik<sup>h</sup>-a  
today moon.M not appear-Perf.M.Sg  
‘The moon did not appear today.’

b. ندا کو جنگل میں ایک سانپ دکھا۔

nida=ko jāgal=mē ek sāp dīk<sup>h</sup>-a

Nida=Dat jungle.M=Loc.in one snake.M.3Sg appear-Perf.M.Sg

‘Nida saw a snake in a jungle.’

The base form stem *dīk<sup>h</sup>* ‘appear’ in Table 3.3 is listed as an intransitive stem (1a) which although with a dative subject can be considered as a two-place predicate (1b).

Nr.	Intrans.	Trans.	Caus. I	Caus. II	Gloss
i.	dīk <sup>h</sup> -na	dek <sup>h</sup> -na	dīk <sup>h</sup> -a-na	dīk <sup>h</sup> -va-na	Infin.M.3Sg.Dir
ii.	dīk <sup>h</sup> -ne	dek <sup>h</sup> -ne	dīk <sup>h</sup> -a-ne	dīk <sup>h</sup> -va-ne	Infin.M.3Sg.Obl Infin.M.3Pl
iii.	dīk <sup>h</sup> -ni	dek <sup>h</sup> -ni	dīk <sup>h</sup> -a-ni	dīk <sup>h</sup> -va-ni	Infin.F
iv.	dīk <sup>h</sup> -ta	dek <sup>h</sup> -ta	dīk <sup>h</sup> -a-ta	dīk <sup>h</sup> -va-ta	Imperf.M.Sg
v.	dīk <sup>h</sup> -te	dek <sup>h</sup> -te	dīk <sup>h</sup> -a-te	dīk <sup>h</sup> -va-te	Imperf.M.Pl
vi.	dīk <sup>h</sup> -ti	dek <sup>h</sup> -ti	dīk <sup>h</sup> -a-ti	dīk <sup>h</sup> -va-ti	Imperf.F.Sg
vii.	dīk <sup>h</sup> -tī	dek <sup>h</sup> -tī	dīk <sup>h</sup> -a-tī	dīk <sup>h</sup> -va-tī	Imperf.F.Pl
viii.	dīk <sup>h</sup> -a	dek <sup>h</sup> -a	dīk <sup>h</sup> -a-ya	dīk <sup>h</sup> -va-ya	Perf.M.Sg
ix.	dīk <sup>h</sup> -e	dek <sup>h</sup> -e	dīk <sup>h</sup> -a-e	dīk <sup>h</sup> -va-e	Perf.M.PL Subjn.3Sg
x.	dīk <sup>h</sup> -i	dek <sup>h</sup> -i	dīk <sup>h</sup> -a-i	dīk <sup>h</sup> -va-i	Perf.F.Sg
xi.	dīk <sup>h</sup> -ī	dek <sup>h</sup> -ī	dīk <sup>h</sup> -a-ī	dīk <sup>h</sup> -va-ī	Perf.F.PL
xii.	dīk <sup>h</sup> -ē	dek <sup>h</sup> -ē	dīk <sup>h</sup> -a-ē	dīk <sup>h</sup> -va-ē	Subjn.Pl
xiii.	dīk <sup>h</sup> -ye	dek <sup>h</sup> -īye	dīk <sup>h</sup> -a-īye	dīk <sup>h</sup> -va-īye	Subjn.Pl
xiv.	dīk <sup>h</sup> -yo	dek <sup>h</sup> -īyo	dīk <sup>h</sup> -a-īyo	dīk <sup>h</sup> -va-īyo	Subjn.Sg.Fam
xv.	dīk <sup>h</sup> -o	dek <sup>h</sup> -o	dīk <sup>h</sup> -a-o	dīk <sup>h</sup> -va-o	Subjn.Sg.Fam
xvi.	dīk <sup>h</sup>	dek <sup>h</sup>	dīk <sup>h</sup> -a	dīk <sup>h</sup> -va	Subjn.Sg.Frk
xvii.	dīk <sup>h</sup> -ū	dek <sup>h</sup> -ū	dīk <sup>h</sup> -a-ū	dīk <sup>h</sup> -va-ū	Subjn.1Sg

Table 3.3: Conjugations of different stems derived from the root *dīk<sup>h</sup>*

There are about 700 verbal roots in Urdu. Different verbal stems are derived from verbal roots and they are about 1200 in number. As a supplementary part of the SASU system, a verb conjugator module was developed to conjugate different stems. There are basically three paradigms of conjugations of a regular stem.

**Paradigm 1:** When a stem does not end in a vowel then just the affixes  $\emptyset$ , *-na*, *-ne*, *-ni*, *-ta*, *-te*, *-ti*, *-tī*, *-a*, *-e*, *-i*, *-ī*, *-ē*, *-ye*, *-yo*, *-o*, *-ū* are added to the stem to generate all forms of conjugations of the verb as is shown in Table 3.3.<sup>1</sup>

<sup>1</sup> The stem form itself acts as one form of conjugations. As in Urdu *ī* and *ē* are form identical due to the same middle shape of two *yes*, practically in Urdu script there are 16 conjugation forms of a regular stem; total 17 are listed in Table 3.3, (xi) and (xii) are form identical in Urdu script.

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**Paradigm 2:** When a stem ends in the vowels *-i* or *-e*, the first eleven conjugation forms are generated by adding affixes  $\emptyset$ , *-na*, *-ne*, *-ni*, *-ta*, *-te* *-ti*, *-tĩ*, *-a*, *-e*, *-~* to the stem. For the 12th conjugation form, *hamza* and the affix *ẽ* are added to the stem. Other conjugations are generated by adding affixes *-jye*, *-jyo*, *-o*, *ũ* to the stem form.<sup>2</sup>

**Paradigm 3:** If a stem ends in the vowels *-a*, *-o*, *-u*, the affixes  $\emptyset$ , *-na*, *-ne*, *-ni*, *-ta*, *-te* *-ti*, *-tĩ* are added to the stem to generate first eight forms of conjugations, and the 9th form is obtained by adding the affix *-a* and inserting the consonant *-y* in between.<sup>3</sup> The rest of conjugation forms are generated by adding affixes *-e* *-i*, *-ĩ*, *ẽ*, *-ye*, *-yo*, *-o*, *ũ* to the stem and inserting *hamza* in between.<sup>4</sup>

There are a very few verbs in Urdu whose conjugation forms, especially the perfect participles, are generated irregularly. Examples are *kar* ‘do’ and *ja* ‘go’.

The verb conjugator module has been developed to conjugate all regular and irregular stems. The conjugator has been implemented by encoding the rules for inflections of the verb stems of different inflectional paradigms as described above. To find candidate sentences of a target verb in the corpora, all conjugations of the verb are generated by the conjugator module and then these conjugation forms are compared with tokens of sentences in the corpus.

#### 3.3 Types of SCFs

Number and types of subcategorization frames are not always the same in different acquisition systems. Some systems extract frames at a higher level of abstraction, and others on a fine-grained level, e.g. making distinction between different types of clauses and different types of adpositional phrases. A distinction between arguments and adjuncts is also not considered in all systems. Some systems choose many subcategorization frames comprising both arguments and adjuncts while others choose only a subset of relevant frames which comprise only arguments for investigation. The flexible and non-restricted choice of subcategorization frames can be more useful in the sense to induce domain-independent and unforeseen information. Other approaches are good for theory-related and domain-specific subcategorization knowledge. The choice depends on the size and genre of the corpus, on the NLP task which will use the extracted lexicon and of course on individual decisions as well.

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<sup>2</sup> In Urdu script the vowel *-i* and the consonant *-y* form are identical, therefore the same form is pronounced either as consonant or as vowel.

<sup>3</sup> In some verbs, however, just the affix *-a* is added as in *hu-a* from *ho* ‘be’ and *c<sup>h</sup>u-a* from *c<sup>h</sup>u* ‘touch’.

<sup>4</sup> As in Urdu orthography two vowels cannot come together, therefore either the consonant *-y* or *hamza* are inserted between two vowels.

Existing approaches differ much in this respect. Brent (1993) acquired six types of frames for verbs in which direct objects, subcategorized clauses and infinitives were accommodated. Ushioda *et al.* (1993) also investigated six frame types considering a larger variety of complement types and making no distinction between adjuncts and arguments. Manning (1993) extracted information for 19 frame types without distinguishing between arguments and adjuncts. Briscoe & Carrol (1997) investigated 163 frame types with a fine-grained distinction of prepositional phrase types and arguments and adjuncts. Carrol *et al.* (1998) devised a grammar to extract all verb-adjacent constituents as frame types.

Arguments and adjuncts of a verb are treated differently in formal theories of syntax. Therefore, making a distinction between them is important while building a sophisticated lexicon of verbs. The following subsection gives a brief description of distinction between arguments and adjuncts.

#### 3.3.1 Distinction between arguments and adjuncts

Arguments and adjuncts have been distinguished by many linguists (see, for example, Grimshaw 1990; Meyers *et al.* 1996; Pollard & Sag 1987). The following points made by Grimshaw (1990) best describe the difference between arguments and adjuncts:

- i. Arguments can be selected and subcategorized, in the sense that their presence and the form they take are under the control of individual predicates.
- ii. Arguments must be licensed: they can occur only if they are theta-marked by a predicate as a function of the predicate's argument structure.
- iii. Adjuncts are not theta-marked and do not need to be licensed by relationship to an a-structure. They are not subcategorized. Hence, their form is free, and they are never required by a-structure.

A theta-marked argument is that participant of a clause which has some thematic role that is it is an agent or patient, etc. The set of theta-marked participants of a verb is called its argument structure (a-structure).

In a lexical entry, if some verb's adjunct is defined as an argument of the verb then the parser would generate a spurious parse or would not generate the parse at all of the valid input sentence. And if an argument of some verb is considered an adjunct and not listed in the lexical entry of the verb, then the parser may generate a spurious parse. Due to wrong lexical entries respecting subcategorization frames, the conditions of completeness and coherence could not be met in LFG framework and a valid sentence may not be parsed.

According to Meyers *et al.* (1996), argument/adjunct distinction for a parser of a natural language is important due to at least following four factors:

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- I Complements of a verb V occur with V more frequently than with other verbs, whereas adjuncts occur with equal frequency with a large variety of verbs;
- II Incorrectly classifying a complement as an adjunct may cause a parser to miss a parse;
- III Incorrectly classifying an adjunct as a complement may cause a parser to add a spurious parse;
- IV In an accurate representation of predicate argument structure, heads predicate of their complements, but adjuncts predicate of the heads they modify.

Sometimes, it becomes difficult to distinguish optional arguments from adjuncts. Meyers *et al.* (1996) reported different criteria for an XP in a verbal phrase to be a complement (argument) or an adjunct. They defined complements and adjuncts of a verb as follows:

**Complement:** Given a Verb Phrase which includes a head verb V, a phrase XP, XP is a complement if XP is an intrinsic part of the action, state, event, etc. described by the VP, i.e., the verb predicates of the XP.

**Adjunct:** Given a Verb Phrase VP which includes a head verb V, a phrase XP, XP is an adjunct if XP modifies V or VP. XP is not intrinsic to VP.

Based on above definitions, linguistic theory and empirical observations Meyers *et al.* devised sufficient criteria and some rules of thumb for recognizing arguments and adjuncts of a verb. These hints for arguments and adjuncts are listed in Tables 3.4 and 3.5 respectively. Many points of their criteria are valid cross linguistically.

With this distinction of arguments and adjuncts in general, now I move on to discuss different types of arguments and adjuncts in Urdu

#### 3.3.2 Arguments and adjuncts in Urdu

##### 3.3.2.1 Case marked NPs as arguments/adjuncts

Some typical examples of case marked arguments and adjuncts in Urdu are given in (2)–(6).



<b>Sufficient criteria for a complement</b>	
1. Obligatoriness	XP is obligatory for VP to be grammatical or for a particular sense of V to be possible.
2. Passive	XP can only be the subject of the passive if XP is a complement. Only complement PPs can be stranded by pseudo passive.
3. Theta roles	XP has an argument theta role: theme, source, goal, patient, recipient, experiencer, proposition, question, etc.
4. Implied meaning	XP is optional, but is implied if omitted.
5. Selection restrictions	If V imposes selection restrictions on XP, XP is a complement.
<b>Rules of thumb for a complement</b>	
6. Frequency	XP occurs with verb V with high relative frequency.
7. Typical complements	NPs, PPs headed by “to”, clauses (other than relative, “whether” and “if”)
8. Complement alternation	XPs which participate in alternations are usually complements. (Levin, 1993)
9. Linear order	An XP between a head and a complement is probably a complement.
10. Island constraints	Most Complements can violate “island constraints”

Table 3.4: Hints for complement-hood

<b>Criteria for an adjunct</b>	
1. Frequency	XP occurs with most verbs with roughly the same frequency and meaning
2. Typical adjuncts	Purpose clauses, PPs/AdvPs/Subordinate clauses headed by “before”, “after”, “while”, “because”, “although”, “if” or “by”; instrumental/concomitant “with” phrases, “by means of”, benefactive, place, manner and time AdvPs and PPs .
3. Selection restrictions	An adjunct imposes selection restrictions on the verb/VP
4. WH Words	AdvPs/PPs which can be questioned with “Why” or “How”
5. Fronting adjunct	PPs front more naturally than complement PPs
6. Island constraints	Adjuncts cannot usually violate “island constraints”

Table 3.5: Hints for adjunct-hood

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- (2) a. ندا آج نہیں آئی۔  
 nɪda aj nahĩ a-i  
 Nida.F.3Sg today not come-Perf.F.3Sg  
 ‘Nida did not come today.’
- b. علی دوپہر کو آیا۔  
 ʔali dopahr=ko a-ya  
 Ali.M.3Sg noon.Sg=Temp come-Perf.M.3Sg  
 ‘Ali came at noon.’
- c. ندا گھر کو گئی۔  
 nɪda g<sup>h</sup>ar=ko ga-i  
 Nida.F.3Sg home.M.Sg=Loc go-Perf.F.3Sg  
 ‘Nida went home.’

In (2a) the unmarked noun *nɪda* is the subject of the verb *a* ‘come’ and the unmarked noun *aj* is the adjunct in the clause. Temporal phrases can appear with almost all verbs; hence are treated as adjuncts. The *ko* marked participant in (2b) shows the time of the event and is an adjunct. In (2c), however, the *ko* marked participant is the destination/goal (thematic argument) of the verb *ja* ‘go’ and hence is considered as the complement of the verb rather than an adjunct.

- (3) a. علی نے لائبریری میں کتاب پڑھی۔  
 ʔali=ne laɪbreri=mẽ kitab paɾ<sup>h</sup>-i  
 Ali.M.3Sg=Erg library.F.3Sg=Loc.in book.F.3Sg read-Perf.F.3Sg  
 ‘Ali read a book in the library.’
- b. ندا نے غبارے میں ہوا بھری۔  
 nɪda=ne yubare=mẽ hava b<sup>h</sup>ar-i  
 Nida.F.3Sg=Erg balloon.M.3Sg=Loc.in air.F.3Sg fill-Perf.F  
 ‘Nida filled air in the balloon.’

The *mẽ* marked nouns in both instances of (3) are locations. In (3a) the location is an adjunct of the verb *paɾ<sup>h</sup>* ‘read’ and the sentence is grammatically valid without it. In

(3b), however, the sentence will become ungrammatical without the phrase *yubare=mẽ* ‘in the balloon’. Hence, here it is considered as an argument of the verb *b<sup>h</sup>ar* ‘fill’.

- (4) a. علی صبح سے پڑھ رہا ہے۔  
 ali            **subuh=se**            par<sup>h</sup>    rah-a            hε  
 Ali.M.3Sg morning.F.3Sg=Abl study Prog-Perf.F.3Sg be.3Sg.Pres  
 ‘Ali has been studying since morning.’

- b. ندا نے علی سے کتاب مانگی۔  
 nida=ne            **ali=se**            kitab            māg-i  
 Nida.F.3Sg=Erg Ali.M.3Sg=Abl book.F.3Sg ask-Perf.F  
 ‘Nida asked Ali for the book.’

Both examples in (4) contain *se* marked participants. The *se* marked noun in (4a) is temporal, hence is an adjunct. In (4b), the *se* marked noun is not optional and should be treated as an argument of the verb. Removing this participant would make the sentence of the verb *māg* ‘ask for’ ungrammatical.

- (5) a. علی نے کارڈ پر ندا کا نام لکھا۔  
 ali=ne            **kard=par**            nida=ka            nam            lk<sup>h</sup>-a  
 Ali.M=Erg card.M.Sg=Loc.on Nida.F=Gen name.M.Sg write-Perf.F.3Sg  
 ‘Ali wrote Nida’s name on the card.’

- b. ندا نے کارڈ میز پر رکھا۔  
 nida=ne            kard            **mez=par**            rak<sup>h</sup>-a  
 Nida.F.3Sg=Erg card.M.3Sg table.F.3Sg=Loc.on put-Perf.M.3Sg  
 ‘Nida put the card on the table.’

Locative marked nouns in Urdu are adjuncts for many verbs as in (5a). However some verbs require locative marked nouns obligatorily as in (5b). Without the case marked phrase *mez=par* ‘on the table’, the sentence will be not valid.

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(6) علی اور ندا دریا کے پل پر جا رہے ہیں۔

ali or nida darya=ke pul=par ja  
 Ali.M.3Sg and Nida.F.3Sg river.M.3Sg=Gen.Obl bridge.F.3Sg=Loc.on go  
 rah-e hē  
 Prog-Perf.M.Pl be.Pres.Pl  
 ‘Ali and Nida are going over the river’s bridge.’  
 ‘Ali and Nida are going to the river’s bridge.’

Sometimes, there is an ambiguous reading between an adjunct and an argument. For example, in (6), *pul* ‘bridge’ can be a location where Ali and Nida are going over or it can be a goal or destination which Ali and Nida are heading to. In the first case there would be an adjunct reading, but in the second case it would be a complement reading. So, two entries of *ja* ‘go’ should be added in the lexicon; one with and other without the *par* marked phrase as an argument otherwise the parser would generate only the one parse of the sentence with an adjunct reading as is the case with other intransitive verbs.

#### 3.3.2.2 Adposition marked NPs as arguments/adjuncts

Adpositional phrases can also act either as adjuncts or arguments in a clause. Consider two examples in (7). In (7a) the adpositional phrase *ali=ki tarah* ‘like Ali’ is an adjunct of the clause and in (7b) the adpositional phrase *nida=ki tarah* ‘like Nida’ is an argument of the verb *lag* ‘seem’.

(7) a. علی کی طرح ندا بھی محنت کرتی ہے۔

ali=ki tarah nida b̥hi mihnat kar-ti hē  
 Ali.M.3Sg=Gen like Nida.F.3Sg also work-hard do-Imperf.F be.3Sg.Pres  
 ‘Nida works hard like Ali.’

b. یہ لڑکی ندا کی طرح لگتی ہے۔

yih laṛki nida=ki tarah lag-ti hē  
 this girl.F.3Sg Nida.F.3Sg=Gen like seem-Imperf.F.3Sg be.3Sg.Pres  
 ‘This girl seems like Nida.’

- (8) a. ندا کے لیے ریاضی مشکل مضمون ہے۔

nida=ke      h̄ye r̄iyazi      muʃk̄il    mazmun h̄e  
Nida.F=Gen for mathematics difficult subject be.3Sg.Pres  
'Mathematics is a difficult subject for Nida.'

- b. علی ایک یورپی ٹی وی چینل کے لیے کام کرتا ہے۔

ali    ek    yorpi      ʈi-vi    c̄enal=ke      h̄ye kam    kar-ta      h̄e  
Ali.M one European TV channel=Gen for work do-Imperf.M be.3Sg.Pres  
'Ali works for an European TV channel.'

The adpositional phrase *nida=ke h̄ye* 'for Nida' in (7a) is an adjunct and the adpositional phrase *ek yorpi ʈi-vi c̄enal=ke h̄ye* 'for an European TV channel' is an argument. Adpositional arguments/adjuncts in Urdu are discussed in detail in Chapter 6.

### 3.3.2.3 Infinitival arguments/adjuncts

Now consider some examples of clauses involving infinitives in (9).

- (9) a. ندا کو کار چلانا پڑی۔

nida=ko      kar      c̄ala-na      par-i  
Nida.F.3Sg=Dat car.F.3Sg drive-Inf.M.3Sg fall-Perf.F.3Sg  
'Nida had to drive a car.'

- b. ندا نے کار چلانا چاہی۔

nida=ne      kar      c̄ala-na      cah-i  
Nida.F.3Sg=Erg car.F.3Sg drive-Inf.M.3Sg want-Perf.F.3Sg  
'Nida wanted to drive a car.'

- c. ندا نے کار چلانا سیکھی۔

nida=ne      kar      c̄ala-na      sik<sup>h</sup>-i  
Nida.F.3Sg=Erg car.F.3Sg drive-Inf.M.3Sg learn-Perf.F.3Sg  
'Nida learnt driving a car.'

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d. ندا کو کار چلانا آتی ہے۔

nida=ko      kar      cala-na      a-ti      he  
Nida.F.3Sg=Dat car.F.3Sg drive-Inf.M.3Sg come-Imperf.F.3Sg be.3Sg.Pres  
'Nida knows driving a car.'

e. ندا نے کار چلانا شروع کی۔

nida=ne      kar      cala-na      furu k-i  
Nida.F.3Sg=Erg car.F.3Sg drive-Inf.M.3Sg start do-Perf.F.3Sg  
'Nida started driving a car.'

f. ندا کار چلائے لگی۔

nida      kar      cala-ne      lag-i  
Nida.F.3Sg car.F.3Sg drive-Inf.Obl start-Perf.F.3Sg  
'Nida started driving a car.'

g. علی نے ندا کو کار چلانے دی۔

ali=ne      nida=ko      kar      cala-ne      d-i  
Ali.M.3Sg=Erg Nida.F.3Sg=Dat car.F.3Sg drive-Inf.Obl give-Perf.F.3Sg  
'Ali let Nida drive a car.'

All of the above instances are examples of long distance agreement (Bhatt, 2005; Davison, 1988; Mahajan, 1989). The matrix verb in them agrees with the object of the embedded infinitive. In some dialects the infinitive itself also agrees with its object.

Butt (1995) has analyzed verbal combinations in permissive constructions like in (9g) as complex predicates based on tests of agreement, anaphora and control. She argues that the verb *de* 'give' in such constructions agrees with the object of the embedded infinitive, hence the infinitive with the verb *de* 'give' acts as a complex predicate. This agreement test is also applicable to constructions in (9a-e). So, based on her analysis, verbal combinations in all examples of (9a-e) are instances of complex predicates in which the main verb is in infinitival form. In (9f) the unmarked higher argument is always the subject with which the aspectual verb *lag* 'start' agrees. So, constructions like in (9f) can be analyzed as of a simple predicate *lag* 'start' in which case it will be supposed to subcategorize for an infinitival argument.

In (9e) above, the verb *furu kar* ‘start’ is already a complex predicate and if the infinitive is also analyzed to form another complex predicate with it then the resulting complex predicate will be the combination of total three predicates. Consider the recursive embedding of infinitives in (10). In each instance of (10) the matrix verb embeds an infinitive which itself embeds another infinitive. The matrix verb agrees with the object of the inner most infinitive. Such constructions have not been investigated and analyzed yet and I am not sure whether these even can be analyzed as complex predicates.

- (10) a. ندا کو کار چلانا سیکھنا پڑی۔

nida=ko      kar      cula-na      sik<sup>h</sup>-na      par-i  
Nida.F.3Sg=Dat car.F.3Sg drive-Inf.M.3Sg learn-Inf.M.3Sg fall-Perf.F.3Sg  
‘Nida had to learn driving a car.’

- b. ندا نے کار چلانا سیکھنا چاہی۔

nida=ne      kar      cula-na      sik<sup>h</sup>-na      cah-i  
Nida.F.3Sg=Erg car.F.3Sg drive-Inf.M.3Sg learn-Inf.M.3Sg want-Perf.F.3Sg  
‘Nida wanted to learn driving a car.’

- c. علی نے ندا کو کار چلانا سیکھنے دی۔

ali=ne    nida=ko    kar      cula-na      sik<sup>h</sup>-ne      d-i  
Ali=Erg Nida=Dat car.F.3Sg drive-Inf.M.3Sg learn-Inf.M.3Sg give-Perf.F.3Sg  
‘Ali let Nida learn driving a car.’

- (11) a. ندا کو سکول جانا چاہیے۔

nida=ko    sakul    ja-na      cahiye  
Nida.F=Erg school.M go-Inf.M.3Sg must.3Sg  
‘Nida must go to school.’

- b. ندا کو سکول جانا ہے۔

nida=ko    sakul    ja-na      he  
Nida.F=Dat school.M go-Inf.M.3Sg be.3Sg.Pres  
‘Nida has to go to school.’

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c. ندا نے سکول جانا ہے۔

nida=ne sakul ja-na he  
Nida.F=Erg school.M go-Inf.M.3Sg be.3Sg.Pres  
'Nida is to go to school.'

d. (ندا!) کل سکول جلدی آنا۔

(nida) kal sakul jaldi a-na  
(Nida.F) tomorrow school.M early come-Inf.M.3Sg  
'(Nida!) come to school earlier tomorrow.'

The example sentence in (10a) is an instance of a modal construction where an infinitive is used. Some more examples of modal constructions where infinitives are used are given in (11).

The examples involving infinitives, I have put so far, can be analyzed as to forming constructions of complex predicates and modals in Urdu. Linguists may have different opinions on the argument/adjunct status of infinitival elements in these examples. Now I put some more examples where the argument/adjunct status of infinitival elements is clear. Consider first the purpose clauses in (12).

(12) a. ندا کتاب لوٹانے کے لیے لائبریری گئی۔

nida kitab laṭa-ne=(ke liye) laibreri ga-i  
Nida.F.3Sg book.F.3Sg return-Inf.Obl=Gen for library.F go-Perf.F.3Sg  
'Nida went to the library to return the book.'

b. ندا نے انعام جیتنے کے لیے محنت کی۔

nida=ne m'am jit-ne=ke liye mihnāt k-i  
Nida.F=Erg prize.M.3Sg win-Inf.Obl=Gen for hard-work.F do-Perf.F.3Sg  
'Nida worked hard to win the prize.'

The purpose clause in Urdu can be constructed by marking an infinitive with the postposition *liye* 'for' as in (12) and this clause always acts as an adjunct of the main clause.<sup>5</sup> When the matrix verb is a movement verb then the infinitive of the purpose clause can optionally be unmarked although in oblique form as in (12a).

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<sup>5</sup>Examples of adjunct clauses (gerundal or infinitival) in English given by Meyers *et al.* (1996) are following: i. He opened the door [to let the cat out]. ii. She lay [smiling at me].



Infinitival clauses in Urdu sometimes encode the theme argument of main verbs. In (13) some examples of two transitive verbs *kah* ‘say’ and *puc<sup>h</sup>* ‘enquire’ are given.

- (13) a. علی نے ندا سے سکول جانے کے لیے کہا۔  
 ali=ne            nida=se            sakul    ja-ne=ke            hye kah-a  
 Ali.M.3Sg=Erg Nida.F.3Sg=Com school go-Inf.Obl=Gen for say-Perf.M.3Sg  
 ‘Ali asked Nida to go to school.’
- b. علی نے ندا سے سکول جانے کو کہا۔  
 ali=ne            nida=se            sakul    ja-ne=ko            kah-a  
 Ali.M.3Sg=Erg Nida.F.3Sg=Com school go-Inf.Obl=Dat say-Perf.M.3Sg  
 ‘Ali asked Nida to go to school.’
- c. علی نے ندا سے سکول جانے کا کہا۔  
 ali=ne            nida=se            sakul    ja-ne=ka            kah-a  
 Ali.M.3Sg=Erg Nida.F.3Sg=Com school go-Inf.Obl=Gen say-Perf.M.3Sg  
 ‘Ali asked Nida to go to school.’
- d. علی نے ندا سے سکول جانے کا پوچھا۔  
 ali=ne            nida=se            sakul    ja-ne=ka            puc<sup>h</sup>-a  
 Ali.M.3Sg=Erg Nida.F.3Sg=Com school go-Inf.Obl=Gen enquire-Perf.M.3Sg  
 ‘Ali enquired Nida whether she would go to school.’
- (14) a. ندا نے کتاب پڑھنے کا سوچا۔  
 nida=ne            kitab            par<sup>h</sup>-ne=ka            so-ca  
 Nida.F.3Sg=Erg book.F.3Sg read-Inf.Obl=Gen think-Perf.M.3Sg  
 ‘Nida thought of reading the book.’
- b. علی نے ندا کے سکول جانے کا معلوم کیا۔  
 ali=ne            nida=ke            sakul    ja-ne=ka            ma’lum ki-ya  
 Ali.M=Erg Nida.F=Gen school go-Inf.Obl=Gen known do-Perf.M.3Sg  
 ‘Ali got to know whether Nida had gone to school.’

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The infinitive participant of the verb *kah* ‘say’ is either marked by the postposition *nye* (13a) or is marked for dative case (13b) or for genitive case (13c) and the infinitival participant of the verb *puc<sup>h</sup>* ‘enquire’ is usually marked for genitive case (13d). In these verbs, the infinitival clauses, in fact, encode the theme of the verbs and hence are arguments. Genitive marked infinitival arguments of two more verbs are given in (14).

#### 3.3.2.4 Clausal arguments/adjuncts

(15) a. ندا نے چاہا کہ وہ کار چلائے۔

nida=ne                      cah-a                      [kih vuh kar                      cda-e]  
Nida.F.3Sg=Erg want-Perf.M.3Sg that 3Sg.F car.F.3Sg drive-Subjn  
‘Nida wanted to drive the car.’

b. ندا نے سوچا کہ کتاب پڑھی جائے۔

nida=ne                      soc-a                      kih [kitab                      par<sup>h</sup>-i                      ja-e]  
Nida.F.3Sg=Erg think-Perf.M.3Sg that book.F.3Sg read-Perf.F go-Subjn  
‘Nida thought of reading the book.’

c. علی نے ندا سے کہا کہ وہ سکول جائے۔

ali=ne                      nida=se                      kah-a                      [kih vuh sakul ja-e]  
Ali.M.3Sg=Erg Nida.F.3Sg=Com say-Perf.M.3Sg that 3Sg.F school go-Subjn  
‘Ali asked Nida to go to school.’

In each instance of (15), the *kih* complementizer clause encodes the theme argument of the matrix verb. In (16) some examples are given which are equivalent to those of (12) in meanings. Both cases involve the purpose clauses. In (16), the *takih* complementizer clauses encode the purpose and is an adjunct clause.

(16) a. ندا لائبریری گئی تاکہ کتاب لوٹائے۔

nida                      laibreri                      ga-i                      takih kitab                      loṭa-e  
Nida.F.3Sg library.F.3Sg go-Perf.3Sg so-that book.F.3Sg return-Subjn  
‘Nida went to the library to return the book.’

b. ندا نے محنت کی تاکہ انعام جیتے۔

nida=ne mihnat ki takih in'am jit-e  
Nida.F.3Sg=Erg hard-work.F.3Sg do-Perf.3Sg so-that prize.M.3Sg win-Subjn  
'Nida worked hard to win the prize.'

(17) a. ندا نے مسکراتے ہوئے چائے پی۔

nida=ne [muskara-te hu-e] cae pi  
Nida.F=Erg smile-Imperf Conj.while tea.F drink-Perf.F.3Sg  
'Nida took tea while smiling.'

b. ندا چائے پی کر سو گئی۔

nida [cae pi kar] so ga-i  
Nida.F.3Sg tea.F.3Sg drink Conj.having sleep go-Perf.F.3Sg  
'Nida slept after having taken tea.'

c. علی کے آنے ہی ندا جاگ گئی۔

[ali=ke a-te hi] nida jag ga-i  
Ali.M=Gen come-Imperf Conj.when Nida.F awakw go-Perf.F.3Sg  
'Nida awaked just when Ali came.'

There are many conjunctions in Urdu used to conjoin two clauses. The conjoined clauses always act as adjuncts, as shown in (17).

### 3.3.3 Number and types of SCFs considered for Urdu verbs

The number and types of subcategorization frames is drawn from the number and types of arguments in a language in general. Types of arguments of predicates can be defined on many bases. In Urdu, for example, arguments can be characterized in three ways: (a) based on types of case, the arguments are marked with, i.e. nominative, accusative, ergative, dative, comitative, etc., (b) based on grammatical functions of the participants, i.e. subject, direct object, indirect object, etc., and (c) based on thematic roles the participants are contributing to in the predicate, i.e. agent, patient, theme, source, goal, etc.

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Consider some instantiations of the verb *likʰ* ‘write’ in Urdu in (18) with different numbers of arguments. Adjunct phrases are avoided in all these examples.

(18) a. علی نے خط لکھا۔

ali=ne                      xat                      lkʰ-a  
Ali.M.3Sg=Erg letter.M.Sg write-Perf.F.3Sg  
‘Ali wrote a letter.’

b. علی نے ندا کو خط لکھا۔

ali=ne                      nda=ko                      xat                      lkʰ-a  
Ali.M.3Sg=Erg Nida.F.3Sg=Dat letter.M.Sg write-Perf.F.3Sg  
‘Ali wrote a letter to Nida.’

c. علی نے اپنی بیماری بارے لکھا۔

ali=ne                      apni bimari                      bare                      lkʰ-a  
Ali.M.3Sg=Erg self illness.F.Sg about write-Perf.F.3Sg  
‘Ali wrote about his illness.’

d. علی نے ندا کو اپنی بیماری بارے لکھا۔

ali=ne                      nda=ko                      apni bimari                      bare                      lkʰ-a  
Ali.M.3Sg=Erg Nida.F.3Sg=Dat self illness.F.Sg about write-Perf.F.3Sg  
‘Ali wrote to Nida about his illness.’

e. علی نے لکھا کہ وہ بیمار ہے۔

ali=ne                      lkʰ-a                      kih                      vuh                      bimar he  
Ali.M=Erg write-Perf.F.3Sg that.Compl 3Sg.Nom ill                      be.Pres.Sg  
‘Ali wrote that he was ill.’

f. علی نے ندا کو لکھا کہ وہ بیمار ہے۔

ali=ne                      nda=ko                      lkʰ-a                      kih  
Ali.M=Erg Nida.F.3Sg=Dat write-Perf.F.3Sg that.Compl  
vuh                      bimar he  
3Sg.Nom ill                      be.Pres.Sg  
‘Ali wrote to Nida that he was ill.’

The frames of the verb *likh* ‘write’ in (18) based on thematic roles of the participants are given as:

Nr.	Subcategorization Frame
(18a) i.	Agent Theme
(18b) ii.	Agent Goal Theme
(18c) iii.	Agent Theme
(18d) iv.	Agent Goal Theme
(18e) v.	Agent Theme
(18f) vi.	Agent Goal Theme

However, frameworks like LFG do not use the information of thematic roles to parse the sentence. Instead, they use information of grammatical functions of the participants required by a verb to parse the sentence. The grammatical functions in many languages are directly implied by the case type of the arguments.

The corresponding frames of the verb *likh* ‘write’ in (18) in terms of case/postposition type of arguments are given in the following:

Nr.	Subcategorization Frame
(18a) i.	Ergative/Nominative Nominative
(18b) ii.	Ergative/Nominative Dative Nominative
(18c) iii.	Ergative/Nominative Adpositional
(18d) iv.	Ergative/Nominative Dative Adpositional
(18e) v.	Ergative/Nominative Complementizer-clause
(18f) vi.	Ergative/Nominative Dative Complementizer-clause

As already explained in Chapter 2, different grammatical functions in Urdu can be marked for the same case and due to the free word order nature of the language the grammatical functions cannot be recognized by the position of the argument in contrast to other fixed order languages like English. So, the subcategorization information should be in terms of grammatical functions as follows.

Nr.	Subcategorization Frame
(18a) i.	Subject Direct-Object
(18b) ii.	Subject Indirect-Object Direct-Object
(18c) iii.	Subject Adpositional
(18d) iv.	Subject Indirect-Object Adpositional
(18e) v.	Subject Complementizer-clause
(18f) vi.	Subject Indirect-Object Complementizer-clause

Furthermore, one grammatical function of Urdu can be marked for different cases in different scenarios as it was shown in section 2.2.2. The verb lexicon of Urdu should

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include both information of grammatical functions and case of arguments to provide rich information to the parser. So, I have considered arguments with information of both case and grammatical function. With this enriched information the frames of the verb are given in the following:

Nr.	Subcategorization Frame		
(18a) i.	Subject <sub>erg/nom</sub>	Object <sub>nom</sub>	
(18b) ii.	Subject <sub>erg/nom</sub>	Object <sub>dat</sub>	Object <sub>nom</sub>
(18c) iii.	Subject <sub>erg/nom</sub>	Adpositional <sub>about</sub>	
(18d) iv.	Subject <sub>erg/nom</sub>	Object <sub>dative</sub>	Adpositional <sub>about</sub>
(18e) v.	Subject <sub>erg/nom</sub>	Clause <sub>compl</sub>	
(18f) vi.	Subject <sub>erg/nom</sub>	Object <sub>dative</sub>	Clause <sub>compl</sub>

In the experiments, I have only considered case marked arguments and the complementizer clause for the subcategorization frames of a verb. The adpositional and infinitival arguments/adjuncts are not included in the SCF information. No restriction is made on different combinations of case marked arguments to be the valid frames for verbs. Our system itself would testify valid frames of the verbs.

#### 3.4 Subcategorization Acquisition System for Urdu (SASU)

As already discussed, since we do not have more refined resources at hand for Urdu, I have developed a system (Raza, 2010a) that can infer subcategorization frames of verbs from an unannotated corpus. In the system, we test how many of the possible 64 case clitic form plus complementizer form combinations (CLCs) are valid for a verb. These different combinations are due to the presence or absence of five case clitics and one complementizer ( $2^6=64$ ) in the candidate sentence of the target verb. Before testing a verb for these combinations, necessary screening is made for candidate sentences of the target verb. The screened sentences are delimited to the scope of the target verb and possible spurious case phrases are ignored. Using the hypothesis testing technique, different case clitic combinations are validated. By further processing the information of the valid case clitic combinations for a given verb, its subcategorization frames are inferred. This system differs from the previous work on other languages in that we recognize verbs in the corpus by matching corpus words to members of conjugation set of a given verb and induce frame types indirectly from frequencies of clitic combinations.

Many of the challenges faced with the automatic lexical acquisition from a raw Urdu corpus described in Chapter 2, have been addressed in the SASU system. This system differs from the existing approaches in frame acquisition method. I have first acquired valid case clitics and complementizer combinations and then frames are induced from

frequencies of these combinations applying some meta rules. Different components of the frame acquisition system for Urdu are shown in Figure 3.1 and are described in detail in the following subsections.

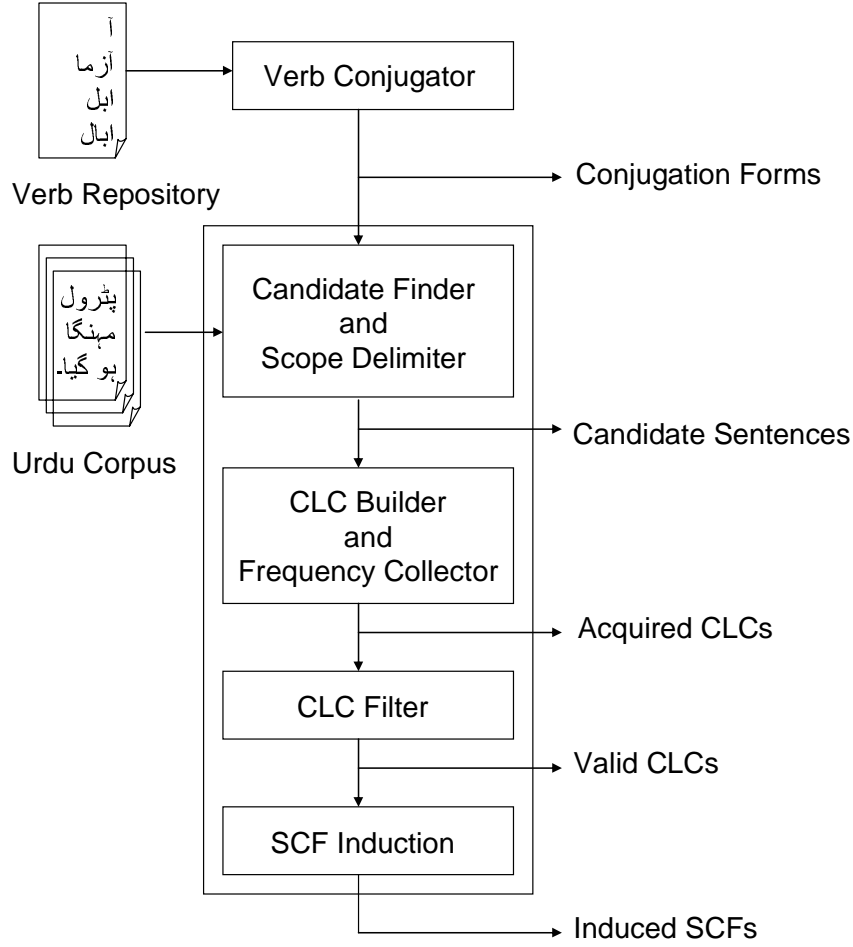


Figure 3.1: Block diagram of the SASU system

#### 3.4.1 Candidate Finder and Scope Delimiter

The good candidate sentences for a target verb are extracted from the corpus in many steps. First, all the sentences where any of the conjugations of the target verb are found are extracted. Sometimes one conjugation of the target verb is either form-identical to some noun or some conjugation of another verb or some functional word. In such a

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case those conjugations are not matched with the tokens of the sentences. After this initial step the screening and delimiting is made in three phases.

#### 3.4.1.1 Initial screening phase

A simple verb in Urdu generally can act as a main verb or a light verb forming a complex predicate with some other predicate or even it can act as an aspectual auxiliary. The very first screening is made to make it sure that the verb has not been used in the sentence as a light verb or an aspectual auxiliary and that the verb is not found in a subordinating clause or passive construction. In this phase the candidate sentences are examined for the position and the context of the target verb. The corpus is passed through the following screens.

**Screen 1:** *Exclude those sentences where some other verb is found just before the target verb.*

In that case the target verb would have been used as a light or an auxiliary verb in the sentence rather as a main verb. Consider, for example, the verb *ḍal* ‘put’ in (19).

- (19) a. علی نے سانپ مار ڈالا۔  
ali=ne sâp mar ḍal-a  
Ali=Erg snake.M.Sg kill put-Perf.M  
‘Ali killed a snake.’

- b. علی نے پانی میں کنکر ڈالا۔  
ali=ne pani=mẽ kankar ḍal-a  
Ali=Erg water=Loc pebble.M put-Perf.M  
‘Ali put a pebble in the water.’

In (19a) another verb *mar* ‘kill’ precedes the target verb *ḍal* ‘put’ and the target verb is functioning as a light verb of a complex predicate, rather than as a main verb. Here the obligatory locative marked argument of the verb *ḍal* ‘put’ does not come into play. In (19b) no other verb precedes the target verb and hence, the locative marked



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argument of the target verb is there.

**Screen 2:** *The target verb should not be found in the subordinating clause of the sentence.*

This screen is inserted due to the fact that the arguments of the verb in subordinating clause could be controlled externally and the external argument may not match the canonical argument of the target verb in the subordinating clause. So, remove all the sentences where the target verb is followed by subordinating conjunctions *kar/ke*, *hi*, *hua/hue/hui*. Consider, for example, the case of (20) with the target verb *dəṛ* ‘run’.

- (20) a. علی نے دوڑ کر پتنگ پکڑی۔  
ali=ne [dəṛ kar] patāg pakṛ-i  
Ali=Erg run Conj.having kite.F.3Sg catch-Perf.F  
‘Ali caught a kite by running.’
- b. علی دوڑا۔  
ali dəṛ-a  
Ali.Nom run-Perf.M  
‘Ali ran.’

The verb *dəṛ* ‘run’ is an intransitive verb that does not take an ergative subject, but a nominative subject as in (20b). In (20a) the ergative subject is due to the main clause verb *pakar* ‘catch’. If a sentence like (20a) is not blocked to be a candidate sentence of the target verb *dəṛ* ‘run’, then there is a chance that the system incorrectly infers an ergative subject for this verb.

**Screen 3:** *The target verb should not precede the ja ‘go’ auxiliary.*

The passive clause of a verb in Urdu is formed by the perfect participle of the verb followed by *jana* ‘go’.<sup>6</sup> In a passive construction, the agent of the verb usually is

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<sup>6</sup>The verb *cal* ‘walk’ is an exception to this rule.

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demoted and is either left out or appears as a *se*-marked NP. Therefore such sentences should not be included in the set of candidate sentences of the target verb.

- (21) a. کھانا کھایا گیا۔  
k<sup>h</sup>ana k<sup>h</sup>a-ya ga-ya  
meal.Nom eat-Perf.M go.Perf.M  
'The meal was eaten.'

- b. علی نے کھانا کھایا۔  
ali=ne k<sup>h</sup>ana k<sup>h</sup>a-ya  
Ali=Erg meal.Nom.M eat-Perf.M  
'Ali ate the meal.'

In the passive construction (21a) the subject of the verb *k<sup>h</sup>a* 'eat' is demoted and left out, while (21b) gives the information that this verb takes an ergative subject.

Some verbal stems form multiword verbs (complex predicates) with *ja* verb (light verb) and this phenomenon in Urdu affects the argument structure of the main verb. The verb *k<sup>h</sup>a* 'to eat' that usually takes an ergative subject; in case of a complex predicate *k<sup>h</sup>a ja* 'eat' it takes always a nominative subject as in (22).

- (22) علی کھانا کھا گیا۔  
ali k<sup>h</sup>ana k<sup>h</sup>a ga-ya  
Ali.Nom meal.Nom eat.Perf.M go.Perf.M  
'Ali ate the meal.'

As the argument structure of the main verb changes in both cases: when *ja* comes as a passive auxiliary or as a light verb after the main verb, therefore, we exclude all such sentences from the list of candidate sentences. There are other light verbs also that change the canonical argument structure of main verbs in Urdu. But in this work only the *ja* verb has been considered.

### 3.4.1.2 Scope delimiting phase

A sentence can have other clauses in it, for example: coordinating clause, relative clause etc. Each clause can have a different main verb. Delimitation of the candidate sentences to the scope of the target verb is made by identifying the following three patterns.

**Pattern 1:** Verb + *or* || Verb + *ya* || Verb + *nah*

The words *or* ‘and’, *ya* ‘or’ and *nah* ‘not’ are conjunctions that can conjoin two nouns or two clauses. If any of the above patterns is found in the forward direction after the target verb, then the sentence should be delimited to that point because in such a case another sentential clause might have been conjoined and share some arguments with the first clause. This is shown in different instances of (23) for three target verbs *xarid* ‘buy’, *a* ‘come’ and *ro* ‘weep’.

Arguments of the preceding clauses stay in their place when the the following clauses are removed. The advantage of this removal is that the system does not recognize the arguments of the second coordinating clause as arguments of the first clause. For example, the ergative and dative arguments of the second clause in (23b) would not be counted as the argument of the verb *a* ‘come’ in the first clause.

- (23) a. علی نے احمد سے انگوٹھی خریدی اور ندا کو دی۔  
 ali=ne ahmad=se āguṭhi xarid-i or nda=ko  
 Ali.M=Erg Ahmad.M=Abl ring.F.3Sg buy-Perf.F and Nida.F=Dat  
 d-i  
 give-Perf.F  
 ‘Ali purchased a ring from Ahmad and gave it to Nida.’
- b. علی اتفاقاً آیا یا ندا نے اس کو بلایا تھا۔  
 ali itfaqan a-ya ya nda=ne us=ko bula-ya t<sup>h</sup>a  
 Ali by-chance come-Perf.M or Nida=Erg 3Sg=Acc invite-Perf.M be.M.3Sg  
 ‘Ali came by chance or Nida had invited him.’

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c. ندا روئی نہ کسی کو مدد کے لیے بلایا۔

nida ro-i **nah** kisi=ko madad=ke liye pukar-a  
 Nida.Nom weep-Perf.F not someone=Acc help=Gen for call-Perf.M.Sg  
 ‘Nida neither wept nor called someone for help.’

This pattern, however, is not tested in the backward direction i.e. before the target verb in this phase. If we discard the sentence up to that pattern before the target verb then some of arguments of the target verb clause could be deleted due to the deleted first conjunction clause. Consider again the case of the target verb *xarid* ‘buy’ in (24).

(24) a. علی نے بنک سے رقم نکلوائی اور گھڑی خریدی۔

ali=ne bāk=se raqam nıklva-i **or** g<sup>h</sup>aṛi xarid-i  
 Ali.M=Erg bank.F=Abl money.F draw-Perf.F and watch.F buy-Perf.F  
 ‘Ali draw cash from the bank and purchased a watch.’

b. علی نے گھڑی بیچی یا خریدی؟

ali=ne g<sup>h</sup>aṛi bec-i **ya** xarid-i  
 Ali.3Sg.M=Erg watch.F.Sg sell-Perf.F.3Sg or buy-Perf.F.Sg  
 ‘Did Ali buy or sell the watch?’

c. علی نے گھڑی بیچی نہ خریدی۔

ali=ne g<sup>h</sup>aṛi bec-i **nah** xarid-i  
 Ali.3Sg.M=Erg watch.F.3Sg sell-Perf.F.Sg or buy-Perf.F.Sg  
 ‘Ali neither sold nor purchased the watch.’

By removing the clauses before the conjunctions *or* ‘and’, *ya* ‘or’ and *nah* ‘not’ in all three instances of (24) would also take out some of the arguments of the target verb *xarid* ‘buy’ and if the preceding clauses are not removed some extra or wrong arguments of the verb would be recognized. So, if such a pattern is found before the target verb, we exclude such a sentence as a whole in the final screening phase.

**Pattern 2:** Verb + any other conjunction or complementizer

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The sentence is delimited to either side of the target verb where such a pattern is found. If the complementizer is found after the target verb then it is retained because it is a signal for the complementizer clause argument of the target verb. If it is found before the target verb, it is deleted as in that case it is not a signal that the target verb is taking complementizer clause argument. If such deletion is not made, the later module would wrongly consider it as the argument of the verb. Consider the use of a conjunction *jabkih* ‘while’ and the complementizer form *kih* ‘that’ in Urdu in (25).

- (25) a. علی نے سنار کو اپنی انگوٹھی بیچی جبکہ ندا نے سنار سے ایک ہار خریدا۔  
 ali=ne      sunar=ko      apni    āguṭʰi      bec-i  
 Ali.M=Erg jeweller.M=Abl self    ring.F.3Sg    sell-Perf.3Sg.F  
**jabkih**    nida=ne      sunar=se      ek    har      xarid-a  
 while    Ali.M.3Sg=Erg jeweller.M=Abl one    garland.F.3Sg    buy-Perf  
 ‘Ali sold his ring to the jeweller while Nida purchased a garland from him.’
- b. علی نے کہا کہ اس نے ندا کو دیکھا ہے۔  
 ali=ne      kah-a      **kih**    us=ne      nida=ko      dekʰ-a      hε  
 Ali.M=Erg say-Perf.M    that 3Sg=Erg Nida.F.Sg=Acc see-Perf.M.Sg be.Pres  
 ‘Ali said that he has seen Nida.’
- c. علی نے دیکھا کہ ندا آ رہی ہے۔  
 ali=ne    dekʰ-a      **kih**    nida a      rah-i      hε  
 Ali=Erg see-Perf.M.3Sg    that Nida come Prog-Perf.F.3Sg be.Pres  
 ‘Ali saw that Nida was coming.’

The conjunction form *jabkih* ‘while’ is coordinating two complete clauses in (25a). Removing any of coordinating clause in such a case would not remove arguments of other clause. If we consider the verb *dekʰ* ‘see’ as a target verb in (25b–c), the complementizer *kih* ‘that’ will not be included in the frame of the verb in (25b) as it actually is occurring in the outer clause which has introduced the clause in which *dekʰ* ‘see’ is contained. But the complementizer form will be included in the frame of the verb *dekʰ* ‘see’ in (25c) where it is found just after the target verb.

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#### Pattern 3: Verb + any relative pronoun

For this pattern also, the sentence is delimited on both sides of the target verb. If the relative pronoun is found after the target verb, then it should be deleted as in such case it is the argument of some verb in the coming clause, else it is retained as it is in the domain of the target verb.

- (26) a. اس سنار کو جس سے ندا نے انگوٹھی خریدی، علی نہیں جانتا۔  
us sunar=ko [jis=se nida=ne āguṭʰi xarid-i]  
3Sg jeweller=Acc 3Sg.RelP=Abl Nida.F=Erg ring.F buy-Perf.F  
ali nahĩ jan-ta  
Ali.M.3Sg not know-Imperf.M.3Sg  
'Ali does not know the jeweller who Nida purchased the ring from.'
- b. ندا نے اس سنار سے انگوٹھی خریدی، جس کو علی نہیں جانتا۔  
nida=ne us sunar=se āguṭʰi xarid-i  
Nida.F=Erg 3Sg jeweller.M.3Sg=Abl ring.F.3Sg buy-Perf.F.3Sg  
[jis=ko ali nahĩ jan-ta]  
3Sg.Rel=Acc Ali not know-Imperf.M.3Sg  
'Nida purchased the ring from that jeweller whom Ali do not know.'

Two sentences of the target verb *xarid* 'buy' are given in (26) where in the first case the relative pronoun is found before the target verb (26a) and in the later case it is found after the target verb (26b). In the first case the tokens up to the relative pronoun would be truncated and the relative pronoun would be retained but in the second case the relative pronoun and the tokens after it both would be cut off. We note that in the first case extra arguments of the target verb could be detected due to presence of another verb. So, such type of sentences are dealt with in the final screening phase which is described in the next section.

### 3.4.1.3 Final screening phase

Although we have delimited the sentences to the scope of the target verb in the previous phase, still there might be other participle adjectives with their arguments within the scope of the target verb. So, to avoid counting a non-argument of the verb as an argument of the verb, we ignore such sentences.

**Screen 4:** *Ignore the sentences where any other verb before the target verb is found or after it after the light and/or auxiliary verbs.*

Consider the target verb  $\text{ut}^h a$  ‘pick’ in (27).

- (27) a. علی نے میز پر رکھے قلم کو اٹھایا۔  
ali=ne [mez=par rak<sup>h</sup>e] qalam=ko ut<sup>h</sup>a-ya  
Ali=Erg table.F=Loc place.Perf.Obl pen.M=Acc pick-Perf.M  
‘Ali picked the pen placed on the table.’
- b. علی نے میز پر قلم کو رکھا اور اٹھایا۔  
ali=ne mez=par qalam=ko rak<sup>h</sup>-a or ut<sup>h</sup>a-ya  
Ali=Erg table.F=Loc pen.M=Acc put-Perf.M and pick-Perf.M  
‘Ali put the pen on the table and picked it’
- c. علی نے قلم کو اٹھایا۔  
ali=ne qalam=ko ut<sup>h</sup>a-ya  
Ali=Erg pen.M=Acc pick-Perf.M  
‘Ali picked the pen.’

In (27a)  $\text{rak}^h e$  ‘placed’ is a participle adjective and takes a locative marked argument. In (27b) the verb  $\text{rak}^h$  ‘place’ is a main verb and takes a locative marked argument. Such sentences (27a–b) are excluded so that the locative marked argument should not be inferred for the target verb  $\text{ut}^h a$  ‘pick’, that does not take such argument as in (27c).

A limited number of adjectives are used in Urdu that are derived from Arabic verbal stems and do take case marked arguments. A few examples of such adjectives are *lahiq*

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‘attached’, *mustasna* ‘excepted’, *famil* ‘included’, *mustamil* ‘comprised’ taking *ko*, *se*, *mẽ* and *par* marked arguments respectively. Argument-taking adjectives are discussed in some detail in section 5.3. If such adjectives are found in candidate sentences, then the clitics associated with their arguments are ignored while acquiring CLCs of the target verb.

#### 3.4.2 CLC Builder and Frequency Collector

Once the candidate sentences have been found, screened and delimited to the scope of the target verb, the counts for the different types of case clitics and complementizer combinations (CLCs) are computed. The type of a CLC is distinguished by the value of a six bit vector. These bits are for the five clitic forms *ne*, *ko*, *se*, *mẽ*, *par* and one complementizer form *kih* from the most significant bit to the least significant bit, respectively. For example, the vector value 110000 represents that CLC of the target verb for a sentence where only *ne* and *ko* clitics are found and others are absent. Depending upon the absence or presence of five clitics and one complementizer in the sentence, 64 CLC types are possible.

The counts of different CLC types for the verb  $\nu^{\text{th}}a$  ‘pick’ from its 248 final candidate sentences are given in Table 3.6. The CLCs of zero count are not mentioned.

#### 3.4.3 CLC Filtering

The CLC types recognized in the last step may have some noise due to some wrong hits for the clitics. For filtering usually a null hypothesis ( $H_0$ ) is formulated, which is assumed true unless there is some evidence to the contrary. An alternate hypothesis ( $H_1$ ) is accepted in case some evidence proves  $H_0$  false. Four methods reported in the literature can potentially be used for filtering out the unreliable CLCs.

##### 3.4.3.1 Relative frequencies

One simple method is that relative frequencies of different CLC types be computed and if relative frequency of a CLC is higher than some threshold value then CLC is accepted else it is rejected. Lapata (1999) used this method to filter subcategorization frames for diathesis alternation detection. She used the COMLEX Syntax dictionary (Grishman *et al.*, 1994) to compute threshold frequency for each SCF from the the frequencies of SCFs in the dictionary. She reported that this method produced slightly better results than binomial filter discussed in section 3.4.3.4. Korhonen *et al.* (2000) also showed that this method performed better than binomial filter.



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CLC Type ( <i>ne+ko+se+mẽ+par+kih</i> )	CLC Frequency
000000	72
100000	75
010000	08
001000	25
000100	19
000001	02
110000	04
101000	07
100100	14
100001	05
011000	01
010100	04
001100	04
111000	02
101100	02
100101	03
111100	01

Table 3.6: Types of CLCs and their counts recognized for the verb  $ut^h a$  ‘pick’ with 248 candidate sentences

As we had no reference resource for setting a cut-off on the relative frequencies of CLCs, this method was not selected for filtering in our system.

#### 3.4.3.2 Log likelihood ratio

The log likelihood ratio (LLR) reflects the difference between the observed and the expected distribution. As a null hypothesis, it could be assumed that the distribution of CLC is independent of the distribution of a verb that is  $p(CLC|verb) = p(CLC)$ . The LLR statistic verifies or rejects this hypothesis. The greater the LLR value, the more likely it is that the CLC is associated with the verb. If LLR is greater than some threshold value, then the null hypothesis is rejected. To calculate the LLR for each verb and CLC combinations four counts are required.

- $k_1$  = Number of times CLC occurs with the verb
- $n_1$  = Number of occurrences of the verb
- $k_2$  = Number of times CLC occurs with any other verb
- $n_2$  = Number of occurrences of other verbs

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Using these numbers, the following three probabilities are computed:

$$p_1 = \frac{k_1}{n_1}, p_2 = \frac{k_2}{n_2}, p = \frac{k_1 + k_2}{n_1 + n_2}$$

Assuming that these probabilities are binomially distributed, the LLR statistic as given by Dunning (1993) is computed as:

$$-2\log\lambda = 2[\log L(p_1, k_1, n_1) + \log L(p_2, k_2, n_2) - \log L(p, k_1, n_1) - \log L(p, k_2, n_2)]$$

where,

$$\log L(p, n, k) = k \log p + (n-k)\log(1-p)$$

Sarkar & Zeman (2000) compared the LLR method with T-scores and binomial filter in their SCF acquisition system for Czech and showed that the F-measure was better with a binomial filter. And Korhonen *et al.* (2000) also showed that F-measure with binomial filter was better than the LLR method.

#### 3.4.3.3 T-scores

T-scores can also be used to measure association between the CLC and the verb. Using the definitions from the previous section, T-score is computed as follows:

$$T = \frac{p_1 - p_2}{\sqrt{\sigma^2(n_1, p_1) + \sigma^2(n_2, p_2)}}$$

where,

$$\sigma(n, p) = np(1 - p)$$

The CLC will be assumed valid for the verb if T is greater than some threshold value.

#### 3.4.3.4 Binomial filter

In a binomial filter Brent (1993)  $H_0$  is formulated as the SCF (CLC in our case) is not associated with the verb and that the error probability ( $p_e$ ) of occurring CLC with the verb is binomially distributed. Then probability of appearing  $m$  counts of CLCs in the total  $n$  occurrences of the verb can be computed by the following formula.

$$P(m, n, p_e) = \frac{n!}{m!(n-m)!} p_e^m (1 - p_e)^{n-m}$$

The following summation equation gives the probability of a CLC occurring  $m$  or more times.

$$P(m+, n, p_e) = \sum_{i=m}^n P(i, n, p_e)$$

If this probability  $P(m+, n, p_e)$  is less than some threshold value, then  $H_0$  is rejected and the CLC is assumed valid for the verb. A lesser threshold value gives a higher confidence level.

Briscoe & Carrol (1997) estimated error probabilities using reference resources. They defined verb classes based on frames and class membership probabilities of verbs were computed by dividing the number of verbs occurred with the class in Alvey NL Tools (ANLT) dictionary by total number of verbs in the dictionary. The probability of a pattern for class  $i$  was computed by dividing the number of patterns for class  $i$  extracted from the Susanne corpus by the total number of the patterns. The probability ( $p_e$ ) of the verb not of class  $i$  occurring with a pattern of class  $i$  was computed by multiplying the complement of class member ship probability to the pattern probability as follows.

$$p_e = (1 - \frac{|verbs\ in\ class\ i|}{|verbs|}) \frac{|patterns\ for\ i|}{|patterns|}$$

Brent, however, computed error probabilities experimentally from the corpus. In his method (see Brent (1993) for detail) a fixed number of first occurrences of verbs in the corpus are examined for different SCFs. For a specific SCF, first  $N$  occurrences of verbs each are distributed over histogram bins representing the number of times, a verb appeared with the SCF. A bin  $i$  contains the number of verbs appearing with the SCF exactly  $i$  times. The verbs that do not associate with the SCF are clustered towards the lower bins. Starting from the first bin to higher ones, the error probability is estimated that nearly fits to the binomial distribution.

In the experimentation, I used Brent's method to compute error probabilities by extracting CLCs of first 100 occurrences of 60 verbs in the corpus.

#### 3.4.4 SCF Induction

Once the unreliable CLCs for a verb are filtered out, the SCFs for the verb are induced in the following three stages.

##### 3.4.4.1 Application of Metarules

The information about the presence or absence of *ne* and *ko* bits in different CLCs is sufficient to infer information about the subject of the verb. The following three metarules are applied to infer what the subject of the verb is.

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1. If the *ne* bit in a significant number of the CLCs is 1<sup>7</sup>, then the subject of the verb is ergative/nominative and the verb is transitive.<sup>8</sup>
2. If both the *ne* and the *ko* bits are almost always zero then the subject of the verb is nominative and the verb is intransitive.<sup>9</sup>
3. If the *ne* bit is almost always zero and the *ko* bit is 1 in most of CLCs, then the subject of the verb is dative.

#### 3.4.4.2 CLC Collapse

After the application of metarules we can collapse CLCs of the verb ignoring the bits in CLCs whose information has already been exploited. If the subject of the verb is inferred by applying Metarule 1 then ignoring the *ne* bit, 64 CLCs could be collapsed into 32 CLCs. Application of Metarule 2 leads to the collapse of 64 CLCs to 16, as here the two bits *ne* and *ko* are ignored. After applying Metarule 3 also, CLCs are collapsed into 16. So, for three types of verbs, at the most 32, 16 and 16 number of SCFs respectively can be induced with the system.

CLC Type	CLC Frequency
000000+100000	72+75=147
010000+110000	08+04=12
000100+100100	19+14=33
001000+101000	25+07=32

Table 3.7: CLCs collapse for the verb *ut<sup>h</sup>a* ‘pick’

The collapse of the CLCs for the verb *ut<sup>h</sup>a* ‘pick’ is shown in Table 3.7.

#### 3.4.4.3 SCF Information Collection

Different bits of CLCs after collapse give the exhaustive information about the SCFs of the verb. The number of these CLCs are actually the number of valid SCFs for the

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<sup>7</sup>That is, counts of the CLCs where the *ne* bit appears and the counts of the CLCs where the *ne* bit does not appear are comparable.

<sup>8</sup>A very few intransitive verbs take a volition-based ergative subject. These are handled separately. It becomes more certain that an ergative subject is of a transitive verb if in some of the CLCs, a *ko* bit is also 1 alongside *ne* bit.

<sup>9</sup>A very few verbs are an exception to this rule. The transitive verb *la* ‘bring’ always takes the nominative subject. This is probably due to the reason that the verb *la* is the reduced form of the complex predicate *le a* ‘bring’ and the nominative subject is due to the intransitive light verb *a* ‘come’ in it.

verb. In case of the transitive verbs, the value 1 of the *ko* bit is the signal that verb takes accusative object and the 0 value of the *ko* bit tells that the verb takes nominative object. The other bits fill the rest of information about SCFs. For the intransitive verbs with nominative subject, other arguments in SCFs recognized are usually adjuncts of those verbs.

Nr.	SCF
1	Subject <sub>erg/nom</sub>
2	Subject <sub>erg/nom</sub> Object <sub>acc</sub>
3	Subject <sub>erg/nom</sub> Object <sub>loc.in</sub>
4	Subject <sub>erg/nom</sub> Object <sub>abl</sub>

Table 3.8: SCFs induced for the verb  $v_t^h a$  ‘pick’

The final subcategorization information induced for the target verb  $v_t^h a$  ‘pick’ is shown in Table 3.8. The ergative/nominative subject of the verb is induced by having significant number of CLCs with the *ne* bit as is shown in Table 3.7. The rest of arguments in the frames actually are the translation of the case clitic bits with value 1 in Table 3.7 to the grammatical functions. The case clitic *ko* bit is the signal of the accusative object and likewise the case clitic *se* bit is the signal of the ablative marked object.

### 3.5 Results and evaluation

Sixty basic verbs of Urdu were examined for CLCs and SCFs with the SASU system. In the first stage, we tested our CLC acquisition system. The reliable CLCs were filtered out by binomial hypothesis testing. The error probabilities were computed by the method as proposed by Brent (1993). The threshold value was set to 0.01 to achieve a 99% confidence level. The valid CLCs for different verbs were compared with hand judgments. The results for 22 CLCs have been displayed in Table 3.9. As was already mentioned that the *kɪh* form is multifunctional in Urdu, the CLCs results show that false positives are more when the *kɪh* bit is on in the CLCs.

In the second stage, the SCFs information was induced from the CLCs extracted in the first stage. In our system, SCF information includes both grammatical function and case of the argument of the verb. The subject has also been included in SCF information, as in Urdu subjects of different types of verbs are marked for different cases. Table 3.10 shows evaluation for 9 SCFs.<sup>10</sup>

<sup>10</sup>In Tables 3.9 and 3.10, TP=true positives; FP=false positives; TN=true negatives, FN=false

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CLC	$p_e(\text{CLC})$	TP	FP	TN	FN	MCV	Accuracy
000000	0.0000	59	1	0	0	1	98.34 %
100000	0.0023	38	6	13	3	9	85.00 %
010000	0.0137	32	2	17	9	11	81.67 %
001000	0.0093	36	5	13	6	11	81.67 %
000100	0.0025	44	11	3	2	13	75.00 %
000010	0.0000	0	0	54	6	6	90.00 %
000001	0.0077	13	19	28	0	19	68.34 %
110000	0.0021	19	4	17	20	24	60.00 %
101000	0.0044	12	3	39	6	9	85.00 %
100100	0.0009	37	7	16	0	7	88.34 %
100010	0.0000	0	0	57	3	3	95.00 %
100001	0.0021	8	8	39	5	13	78.34 %
011000	0.0050	10	2	47	1	3	95.00 %
010100	0.0024	19	7	34	0	7	88.34 %
010010	0.0000	0	0	56	4	4	93.34 %
010001	0.0018	11	9	38	2	11	81.67 %
001100	0.0058	15	7	36	2	9	85.00 %
001010	0.0000	0	0	58	2	2	96.67 %
001001	0.0059	5	3	50	2	5	91.67 %
000110	0.0000	0	0	60	0	0	100.00 %
000101	0.0022	11	6	43	0	6	90.00 %
000011	0.0000	0	0	57	3	3	95.00 %

Table 3.9: Results of 22 CLCs for 60 verbs compared with hand judgments

Theoretically accusative direct object is specific and nominative object is under-specified for specificity. However, in newspaper data accusative specific objects are rarely found. That is which we see in the table that for many transitive verbs the accusative object is not detected.

### 3.6 Usefulness of the SASU system

The SASU system is useful in three respects. Firstly, it can extract the subcategorization frames of verbs and classify them in transitive verbs, intransitive verbs and verbs of dative subject automatically. An example of each type of verbs is given in (28).

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negatives; MCV=misclassified verbs

### 3.6 Usefulness of the SASU system

Subcat Frame	TP	FP	TN	FN	MCV	Accuracy
Subject <sub>erg</sub> Object <sub>acc</sub>	25	4	15	16	20	66.67 %
Subject <sub>erg</sub> Object <sub>nom</sub>	38	5	14	3	8	86.67 %
Subject <sub>erg</sub> Clause <sub>compl</sub>	8	8	43	1	9	85.00 %
Subject <sub>nom</sub> Clause <sub>compl</sub>	0	7	53	0	7	88.34 %
Subject <sub>nom</sub>	14	5	37	4	9	85.00 %
Subject <sub>dat</sub>	0	0	59	1	1	98.34 %
Subject <sub>erg</sub> Obj <sub>nom</sub> Obj <sub>abl</sub>	12	3	39	6	9	85.00 %
Subject <sub>erg</sub> Obj <sub>nom</sub> Obj <sub>loc.in</sub>	37	7	16	0	7	88.34 %
Subject <sub>erg</sub> Obj <sub>nom</sub> Obj <sub>loc.on</sub>	0	0	57	3	3	95.00 %

Table 3.10: SCFs induced for 60 verbs

(28) a. علی نے کھانا کھایا۔

ali=ne k<sup>h</sup>ana k<sup>h</sup>a-ya  
 Ali=Erg meal.M eat-Perf.M  
 ‘Ali ate the meal.’

b. ندا بازار گئی۔

nida bazar gā-i  
 Nida.F market go-Perf.F.Sg  
 ‘Nida went to the market.’

c. علی کو انعام ملا۔

ali=ko nam ml-a  
 Ali=Dat prize be-received-Perf.M.Sg  
 ‘Ali got the prize.’

The other two uses of the system become available by extracting sentences corresponding to the unexpected CLCs and noting the context and grammatical functions in them. For one, different alternations of verbs are known. I have noted three basic types of alternations in Urdu verbs.

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#### Intransitive/Transitive alternation:

Some verbs show an alternation between intransitive and transitive. For example, the verb *badal* ‘change’ shows such an alternation in Urdu (29).

- (29) a. موسم مارچ میں بدلتا ہے۔  
mosam marc=mẽ badal-ta hε  
weather.M March=Loc.in change-Imperf.3Sg be.3Sg.Pres  
‘Weather changes in March.’
- b. ندا نے کپڑے بدلے۔  
nda=ne kaṛe badl-e  
Nida.F=Erg clothes change-Perf.3Pl  
‘Nida changed the clothes.’

Some other verbs showing this alternation are *ga* ‘sing’ and *b<sup>h</sup>ar* ‘fill’. A very few intransitive verbs sometimes take the object which is derived from the verb itself. An example of this type of verb is *ur* ‘fly’ which is illustrated in (30).

- (30) a. پرندے اونچا اڑے۔  
parinde ũca ur-e  
bird.3Pl high fly-Perf.3Pl  
‘Birds flew high.’
- b. پرندوں نے اونچی اڑان اڑی۔  
parindō=ne ũci uran ur-i  
bird.3Pl=Erg hight flight fly-Perf.F.Sg  
‘Birds flew high.’ lit: Bird flew the high flight.

**Intransitive/Dative-Subject alternation:** Another alternation which has been observed in Urdu verbs is between an intransitive verb and a dative subject verb. An example of a verb showing this alternation is *dik<sup>h</sup>* ‘appear’ (31).



- (31) a. آج چاند نہیں دکھا۔  
aj cād nahī dīk<sup>h</sup>-a  
today moon.M not appear-Perf.M.Sg  
‘The moon did not appear today.’
- b. ندا کو جنگل میں ایک سانپ دکھا۔  
nīda=ko jāgal=mē ek sāp dīk<sup>h</sup>-a  
Nīda=Dat jungle.M=Loc.in one snake.M.3Sg appear-Perf.M.Sg  
‘Nīda saw a snake in a jungle.’

#### Intransitive/Copula alternation:

Some intransitive verbs are alternated with the copular use. A typical example is the verb *rah* ‘live/remain’ (32).

- (32) a. علی ملتان میں رہتا ہے۔  
ali multan=mē rah-ta he  
Ali.M Multan=Loc.in live-Imperf.M.Sg be.3Sg.Pres  
‘Ali lives in Multan.’
- b. ندا تین دن بیمار رہی۔  
nīda tin dīn bimar rah-i  
Nīda.F three day.M ill remain-Perf.F.Sg  
‘Nīda remained ill for three days.’

Another verb *ho* ‘be/become’, which will be discussed in detail in Chapter 4, also shows this alternation.

Finally, sometimes unexpected CLCs of the verb under investigation are an indication that the verb forms complex predicates with other predicates. For, example, examining the sentences of unexpected CLCs of the verb *a* having the *ko* bit value equal to 1, the following complex predicates were identified.

- (33) a. شرم آ faram a ‘to be shy’
- b. رحم آ rahm a ‘have mercy’

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c. نظر آ nazar a ‘be-seen’

d. پیار آ piyar a ‘feel love’

e. یاد آ yad a ‘recall’

All the complex predicates in (33) have the *ko* (dative) marked subject argument. So, the empirical observation of unexpected CLCs can help collect the lexicon of complex predicates in Urdu.

#### 3.7 Limitations of the SASU system

The SASU system cannot recognise some token as a main verb with some lexical or structural cue. Verbs in the corpus are identified by comparing conjugation forms of verbs with all tokens of a sentence in the corpus. I have tested the SASU system only for simple predicates after having developed a repository of about 700 verbal roots and about 1200 stems in Urdu. However, once a repository of complex predicates is developed this system will also be able to extract their syntactic frames. In that case the conjugation of the light verb in a complex predicate would be matched with tokens of the corpus with an added rule that other predicate just occurs before the light verb.

Another limitation of the system is that it cannot extract infinitival arguments. Although infinitives themselves can be identified but in presence of some infinitive it is hard to identify whether some case phrase is of an infinitive or of a main verb. So, sentences of verbs with infinitival elements are not considered for extraction of CLCs of the verb. Still another limitation is that it cannot detect unmarked and genitive marked arguments and adjuncts of a verb from a raw corpus. As there is no clitic for an unmarked argument, so it cannot be identified from cues of just case clitics.

Although genitive case clitics exist, they are so abundantly used to mark modifiers/specifiers of head nouns that they cannot act as useful cues for genitive marked arguments/adjuncts of a verb. An example of a genitive marked adjunct and a genitive marked argument is illustrated in (34).

(34) a. علی کا بھائی رات کا آیا ہوا ہے۔  
 ali=ka      b<sup>h</sup>ai      rat=ka      ay-a      hu-a      hε  
 Ali.M=Gen brother.M night.F=Gen come-Perf.M be-Perf.M be.3Sg.Pres  
 ‘Ali’s brother is here since night.’

b. ندا نے علی کی بہن سے رابطے کا سوچا۔  
 nda=ne      ali=ki      bahn=se      rabte=ka      soc-a  
 Nida.F=Erg Ali.M=Gen.F sister.F=Com contact.M=Gen think-Perf.M.Sg  
 ‘Nida thought of contacting with Ali’s sister.’

There are two genitive marked elements in each instance of (34). The first genitive marked element in each instance is the modifier of the head noun. The second genitive marked element in (34a) is the adjunct of the verb *a* ‘come’ and the second genitive marked element in (34b) is the argument of the verb *soc* ‘think’.

Although I have not extracted adpositional participants of a verb from the the Urdu corpora, this can be made possible by incorporating more bits of adpositions in the information vector.

Subcategorization patterns of the verb *ho* ‘be’ due to its diversified syntacto-semantic behavior cannot be acquired by the developed SASU system. Multiple uses of this verb and its syntactic frames are empirically investigated in the next chapter.

### 3.8 Conclusion

The system/scheme presented in this chapter is very promising for inferring subcategorization frames of verbs in Urdu. As other South Asian languages like Saraiki, Sindhi, Balochi, Nepali etc., are very close to Urdu structurally, this scheme could also be applied to these languages. In principle, the approach is applicable to any case-rich language, whether of fixed word order or of free word order, if the nouns in the language are marked for case by separate lexical elements. The system does an extensive screening for the candidate sentences of the target verb, therefore if the experimentation is done on a sufficiently large and balanced Urdu corpus, the results are expected to improve further. As classification of German verbs was made based on frequencies of

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subcategorization frames (Schulte im Walde 2006; Schulte im Walde & Brew 2002), the automatic classification of verbs in Urdu can be investigated directly from frequencies of CLCs.

## Chapter 4

# The verb *ho* ‘be/become’

For encoding a given notion, different syntactic structures could be used in different languages or even within a single language. On the other hand it is also possible that different notions are encoded with similar syntactic structures. Urdu does both. In Urdu, the verb *ho* ‘be/become’ is especially interesting because the verb is not only used to express functions of copular predication, general stative expressions of existence and expressions of possession, but is also used as a dynamic verb and in adjectival participial expressions. In addition, *ho* ‘be/become’ is used as a tense auxiliary and as the verbal part (light verb) in Noun-Verb and Adjective-Verb complex predicates.

This verb has more conjugation forms than other basic verbs of Urdu. In Table 4.1, different inflectional forms of the verb *ho* ‘be/become’ are listed. The first three in this table are of infinitives, the next eight conjugation forms are non-aspectual and the last eight are aspectual ones. Its different conjugation forms are used in different contexts and constructions. Due to its diversified and not yet understood syntacto-semantic behavior it was not viable to extract its frames from the SASU system. So, they are empirically investigated in this chapter.

This chapter explores in detail the stative and dynamic uses of the verb *ho* and the number and type of arguments this verb can take. These points will be explored by investigating uses of infinitival *ho*, non-aspectual *ho* and aspectual *ho* in sections 4.1, 4.2 and 4.3, respectively. Syntactic tests which distinguish between stative and dynamic *ho* are provided in section 4.4. The verb *ho* as a light verb is discussed in section 4.5 and the semantic realizations of different constructions which make use of this verb are described in section 4.6. The characterizing participles, which also make use of the verb *ho*, are analyzed with respect to their possible subcategorization frames and the type of arguments they can modify in section 4.7. Section 4.8 concludes the chapter.

#### 4. THE VERB *HO* ‘BE/BECOME’

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Form	Feature decomposition
ho-na	be.Inf.M.Sg
ho-ne	be.Inf.M.Pl
ho-ni	be.Inf.F
t <sup>h</sup> a	be.M.3Sg.Past
t <sup>h</sup> e	be.M.3Pl.Past
t <sup>h</sup> i	be.F.3Sg.Past
t <sup>h</sup> ī	be.F.3Pl.Past
hε	be.2/3Sg.Pres
hē	be.Pl.Pres
ho	be.2.Pres OR be.2/3Sg.Subjn
hũ	be.1Sg.Pres OR be.1Sg/Pl.Subjn
hu-a	be.Perf.M.Sg
hu-e	be.Perf.M.Pl
hu-i	be.Perf.F.Sg
hu-ī	be.Perf.F.Pl
ho-ta	be.Imperf.M.Sg
ho-te	be.Imperf.M.Pl
ho-ti	be.Imperf.F.Sg
ho-tī	be.Imperf.F.Pl

Table 4.1: Conjugation forms of the verb *ho* ‘be/become’

##### 4.1 Infinitive *ho*

To illustrate the stative and the dynamic use of the verb *ho*, some example phrases with its infinitival form are given in (1). Although an infinitive also is inflected for number and gender agreement, only the default masculine singular form of the infinitive is used when the subject argument is marked for genitive case as in (1).

(1) a. بالوں کا لمبا ہونا

balõ=ka              lamba              ho-na  
hair.3Pl=Gen.3Sg long.M.3Sg be-Inf.3Sg  
‘The hair being long’ OR ‘The hair becoming long’

b. بالوں کا لمبا ہو جانا

balõ=ka                      lamba                      ho ja-na  
 hair.3Pl=Gen.3Sg long.M.3Sg be go-Inf.3Sg  
 ‘The hair becoming long’

c. تیل لگانے سے بالوں کا لمبا ہونا

tel                      laga-ne=se                      balõ=ka                      lamba                      ho-na  
 oil.M.3Sg apply-Inf=Abl hair.3Pl=Gen.3Sg long.M.3Sg be-Inf.3Sg  
 ‘The hair becoming long by applying oil’

Both stative and dynamic readings are possible with the bare infinitive of *ho* (1a). However, if the light verb *ja* is used (1b), only dynamic meanings are possible. Stative meanings are also suppressed in the context of some adverbial phrases (1c). These adverbial phrases usually encode cause/agentive effect due to which dynamic readings become more plausible.

## 4.2 Non-aspectual *ho*

Non-aspectual *ho* is used as an existential verb, as a stative copula and as a tense auxiliary. The subjunctive forms of *ho*, when used with the future, yield a modal interpretation with stative or dynamic reading. A detailed discussion of these phenomena is provided in the following subsections.

### 4.2.1 The verb *ho* as an intransitive verb

The verb *ho* is used as a lexical verb in an ‘existential’ meaning. Some examples of existential meaning are given in (2). In these examples, the verb *ho* acts like an intransitive verb and takes only the subject argument.

(2) a. خدا ہے۔

xuda                      he  
 God.M.Sg be.3Sg.Pres  
 ‘There is a God.’

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- b. آج کافی گرمی ہے .  
aj kafi garmi hε  
today much hot.F.Sg be.3Sg.Pres  
‘It is very hot today.’

- c. کل عید تھی .  
kal id t<sup>h</sup>i  
yesterday Eid.F be.F.Sg.Past  
‘It was Eid yesterday.’

##### 4.2.2 The verb *ho* as copula

Copular constructions can encode a variety of meanings (for details, see Declerck 1988; Hengeveld 1992). To encode meanings of identification and classification, there are four types of basic copula constructions (Curnow, 2000) i.e., (a) verbal copula, (b) particle copula, (c) zero copula and (d) inflectional copula. A language can have one or more copular constructions. The choice of construction depends upon factors such as tense and aspect, polarity, status of the clause as main or subordinate, person of the subject and the semantic relation expressed. Some examples of different copular constructions given by Curnow are in (3).

- (3) a. ten chłopiec jest moim uczniem  
this.Nom boy.Nom is my.Instr pupil.Instr  
‘This boy is my pupil.’ (Polish, Comrie 1997:40)
- b. is docht’ir È  
Cop doctor he.Acc  
‘He is a doctor.’ (Modern Irish, Doherty 1996:2)
- c. ni-ta:kat  
1SgSubj-man  
‘I am a man.’ (Pipil, Campbell 1985:54)
- d. Sara mora  
Sara teacher  
‘Sara is a teacher.’ (Modern Hebrew, Junger 1981:122)



The verbal copula construction involves a verbal element, similar to the English *be*, as is shown in (3a). In the particle copula construction (3b) there is some word in addition to the copula subject and the copula complement. This word either does not inflect or inflects for categories different from those of the verb in the language. In the inflectional copula construction (3c), the copula complement itself is inflected. In the zero copula construction (3d), the copula subject and the copula complement are simply juxtaposed.

In Urdu a verbal copula construction is used to encode meanings of identification (4a) and class membership (4b).

- (4) a. وہ لڑکا میرا بھائی ہے۔  
 vuh      larka      mera      b<sup>h</sup>ai      he  
 3Sg.Nom boy.M.3Sg 3Sg.Gen brother be.3Sg.Pres  
 ‘That boy is my brother.’

- b. علی ڈاکٹر ہے۔  
 ali      daktar      he  
 Ali.M.3Sg doctor.M.3Sg be.3Sg.Pres  
 ‘Ali is a doctor.’

The instance in (4a) encodes the notion of identification of one entity with another entity and the instance in (4b) encodes membership of Ali in the class of people who are characterized as doctors. Many linguists (e.g. Declerck 1988) claim that copular sentences are basically either specificational or predicational, though these categories may be subdivided further. Here, (4a) is an instance of a specificational sentence in the sense that ‘that boy’ is specified by ‘my brother’ and (4b) is an instance of a predicational sentence as the title of ‘doctor’ is predicated of ‘Ali’. In Urdu, the verbal copula construction is used to encode all specificational and predicational sentences.

- (5) a. علی ذہین ہے۔  
 ali      zahin      he  
 Ali.M intelligent be.3Sg.Pres  
 ‘Ali is intelligent.’

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- b. ندا سولہ سال کی ہے .  
 nida solah sal=ki hε  
 Nida.F sixteen year=Gen be.3Sg.Pres  
 ‘Nida is of 16 years.’

Some property can be predicated of the subject in ‘NP adjective *ho*’ construction. The property of being intelligent is attributed to ‘Ali’ in (5a) and the property of being 16 years old is attributed to ‘Nida’ in (5b). Attributive genitives like *solah sal=ki* ‘of 16 years’ show a distribution like that of adjectives in Urdu (Raza, 2010c). These are discussed in detail in Chapter 5.

- (6) a. کتاب میز پر ہے .  
 kitab mez=par hε  
 book.F.3Sg table.F.3Sg=Loc.on be.3Sg.Pres  
 ‘The book is on the table.’  
 b. میز پر ایک کتاب ہے .  
 mez=par ek kitab hε  
 table.F.3Sg=Loc.on one book.F.3Sg be.3Sg.Pres  
 ‘There is one book on the table.’

The example in (6a) encodes a location relation and it is also a predication sentence in the sense that the location, *mez=par* ‘on the table’ is predicated of the entity, *kitab* ‘the book’.

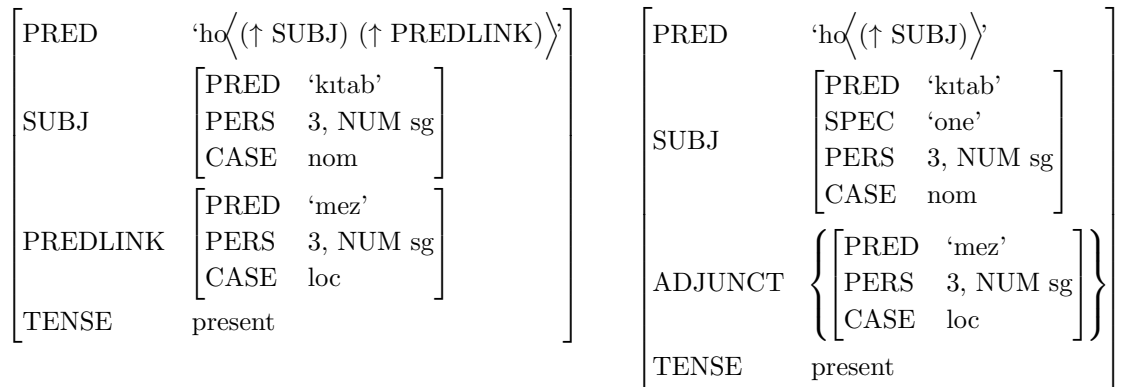


Figure 4.1: f-structure representations of (6a) and (6b)

I postulate two different analyses for the example in (6a) vs. the example in (6b). The location describes the relative position of some object/figure and is considered as PREDLINK (Butt *et al.*, 1999) in (6a). The example in (6b), however, can be

considered an intransitive lexical verb *ho* with the locative marked noun as an adjunct of the existential clause. In existential constructions, the locative phrase is usually in the subject position (Freeze, 1992).

It should be noted that the canonical order of different elements in copular constructions in Urdu is as following:

Copular-subject + Copular-complement + Copula

Although Urdu is generally considered a free word language, the order of different elements in copular construction does matter for the selection of the subject and the complement.

The sentence in (6b) would be uttered in a response to the question, *mez=par kya hē?* ‘What is on the table?’ and the sentence in (6a) would be uttered in a response to the question *kitab kahā hē?* ‘Where is the book?’. In the answer of the first question the locative phrase can optionally be dropped and someone can just say *ek kitab hē* ‘It is a book.’. And, interestingly the first question can also be put in this way: *mez=par yeh kya hē?* ‘What is this on the table?’. The f-structures for (6a) and (6b) are given in Figure 4.1. The copular constructions in Urdu have been analyzed as a double-tier closed function, following Attia (2008). In double-tier analysis, instead of the predicate, the copula or some dummy copula (when it is not present) is considered as a clausal head. The predicate is considered a closed function, i.e. PREDLINK.

Sometimes, when the relation is one of ‘integral’ part to whole, the whole is marked either for genitive or for locative *mē* and appears in the subject (Masica 1991:359) position as in (7).

- (7) کمرے کی / میں دو کھڑکیاں ہیں۔  
 kamre=ki/mē                      do kʰɪɾkɪyā                      hē  
 room.M=Gen.F/Loc.in two window.F.3Pl be.3Pl.Pres  
 ‘The room has two windows.’  
 =‘There are two windows in the room.’

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- (8) a. بلی میز کے نیچے ہے۔  
billi mez=ke nice he  
cat.F.3Sg table.F.3Sg=Gen under be.3Sg.Pres  
‘The cat is under the table.’

- b. یہ کتاب قانون سے متعلق ہے۔  
yih kitab qanun=se mut’aliq he  
this book.F.3Sg law.M=Abl about be.3Sg.Pres  
‘This book is about law.’

Another locative relation is encoded in (8a) by a spatial postpositional phrase that is acting as the PREDLINK of a copular construction. The non-spatial adpositional phrases can also act as PREDLINK as in (8b). In both instances of (8) adpositional phrases predicate ‘being under the table’ and ‘being about law’ of the entities ‘the cat’ and ‘this book’. Hence the former ones are acting as PREDLINKs and the latter ones as subjects.

##### 4.2.2.1 Possession of abstract characteristics/properties

The locative marked nouns entailing the real location cannot be the subject of the construction, as was assumed in (6b). However, spatial case markers in Urdu are also used to mark the abstract location of some properties (Mohanani, 1994), in which case the abstract location can be the subject of the clause. For example, the clitic *par* is used to mark the abstract location of responsibility and burden (9) and the clitic *mẽ* is used to mark the abstract location of some inherent characteristics, such as *jur’at* ‘courage’ and *mamta* ‘affection’, etc (10).

- (9) a. علی پر بچوں کی تعلیم کی ذمہ داری ہے۔  
ali=par baccõ=ki ta’lim=ki zimmahdari he  
Ali=Loc.on child.M.3Pl=Gen.F education.F=Gen.F responsibility.F be.Pres.3Sg  
‘Ali has responsibility of the education of the children.’

- b. ندا پر بچوں کی پرورش کا بوجھ ہے۔  
 nida=par baccō=ki parvarīf=ka boj<sup>h</sup> hε  
 Nida=Loc.on child.M.3Pl=Gen.F upbringing.F=Gen.M burden.F be.Pres.3Sg  
 ‘Nida has a burden of upbringing of the children.’

- (10) a. علی میں بہت جرأت ہے۔  
 ali=mē bahūt jur’at hε  
 Ali.M=Loc.in much courage be.3Sg.Pres  
 ‘Ali has a great deal of courage.’

- b. ندا میں بڑی مامتا ہے۔  
 nida=mē bārī mamta hε  
 Nida.F=Loc.in much affection.F be.3Sg.Pres  
 ‘Nida has a great deal of affection.’

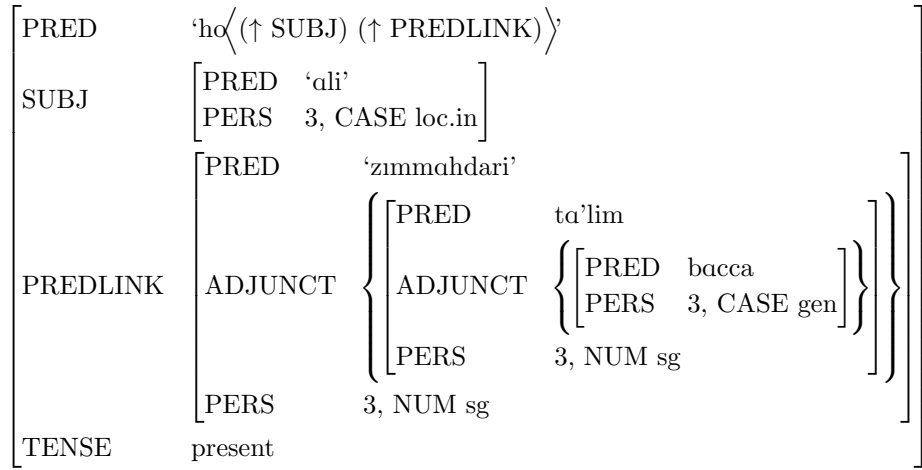


Figure 4.2: f-structure representation of (9a)

The subject argument of the copular constructions in (9) and (10) is marked for locative case. The f-structure representation of (9a) is given in Figure 4.2. The instances in (10) have two alternate utterances each with the same truth-conditional meaning, for example, for (9a) two alternate utterances are given in (11) below.

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(11) a. بچوں کی تعلیم کی ذمہ داری علی پر/ کی ہے۔

[[baccō=ki ta’lim]=ki zimmahdari] ali=par/ki hε  
 [[child.Pl=Gen education.F]=Gen responsibility.F] Ali=Loc.on/Gen.F be.Pres.3Sg  
 ‘The responsibility of the education of the children is on Ali.’

b. بچوں کی تعلیم علی کی ذمہ داری ہے۔

[baccō=ki ta’lim] [ali=ki zimmahdari] hε  
 [bchild.M.3Pl=Gen.F education.F] [Ali=Gen.F responsibility.F] be.Pres.3Sg  
 ‘Education of the children is the responsibility of Ali.’

In the case of (11a), the abstract location would be the PREDLINK in the f-structure. However, (11b) is an instance of an NP+NP+*ho* construction. The abstract location of some inherent characteristic is marked either by the locative or the dative case as in (12). According to Mohanan (1994), *mē* ‘in’ expresses the location of a characteristic attribute that is relatively permanent while the dative *ko* encodes the abstract location of a temporary state.

(12) a. علی میں کسی قسم کا لالچ نہیں ہے۔

ali=mē kisi qism=ka lalac nahī hε  
 Ali.M=Loc.in any sort.F=Gen.M greed.M not be.3Sg.Pres  
 ‘Ali has no greed of any sort.’

b. ندا کو کسی چیز کا لالچ نہیں ہے۔

nida=ko kisi ciz=ka lalac nahī hε  
 Nida.F=Dat any thing.F=Gen.M greed.M not be.3Sg.Pres  
 ‘Nida has no greed of anything.’

The relation between physical experience and the experiencer can also be encoded by copular construction in Urdu. In such constructions, the experiencer is mapped to the dative marked subject and the experience itself is mapped to the PREDLINK of the clause.

- (13) a. علی کو بخار ہے۔  
 ʔli=ko      buxar    he  
 Ali.M=Dat fever.M be.3Sg.Pres  
 ‘Ali suffers from fever.’

- b. ندا کو کھانسی ہے۔  
 nda=ko      kʰãsi    he  
 Nida.F=Dat cough be.3Sg.Pres  
 ‘Nida suffers from cough.’

In (13), the diseases are related to the experiencer by copular *ho*. We see here that the subject which corresponds to the experiencer thematic role is marked for dative case. Let us see another instance of a dative marked element in the context of copular constructions.

- (14) a. علی کو یہ قمیض ڈھیلی ہے۔  
 ʔli=ko      yih qamiz      dʰili      he  
 Ali.M=Dat this shirt.F.3Sg loose.F.3Sg be.3Sg.Pres  
 ‘This shirt is loose to Ali.’

- b. ندا کو وہ پاجامہ تنگ ہے۔  
 nda=ko      vuh pajamah      tãg    he  
 Nida.F=Dat that trouser.M.3Sg tight be.3Sg.Pres  
 ‘That trouser is tight to Nida.’

The dative NPs in (14) can be dropped and still the instances remain grammatical. Those datives in German and in some other languages that may be dropped without any syntactic and semantic residue are called free datives (Hole, 2009). Hole has given the following test to distinguish free datives from subcategorized datives in German:

- (15) A dative argument D not dependent on a preposition is *free* in a simple positive declarative sentence S of German **iff**

- (i) S without D is grammatical;

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- (ii) S without D does not entail that there is an individual  
( $\alpha$ ) which participates in the event described by S and  
( $\beta$ ) which could be encoded as a dative argument. (Hole 2009:3)

The Urdu datives in (14) also act like the free datives of German. The free datives in these constructions come due to adjectival predicates. These constructions will be discussed more in section 5.3.

##### 4.2.2.2 Possession of concrete objects

In English there is a verb *have* which is used to encode the possession relation. In Urdu, however, there is no such verb; instead the copular *ho* is used to encode the possession relation as in (16).

- (16) a. <sup>1</sup>علی کی ایک بیٹی ہے۔  
ali=ki ek beṭi he  
Ali.M.3Sg=Gen.F one daughter.F.3Sg be.3Sg.Pres  
‘Ali has a daughter.’  
  
b. ندا کے چار مکان ہیں۔  
nida=ke car makan hẽ  
Nida.F=Gen.3Pl four building.M be.3Pl.Pres  
‘Nida owns four buildings.’

The possessors in (16) are marked for genitive case and the copular verb agrees with the unmarked possessee. A verb in Urdu agrees with the unmarked argument (Mohanan, 1994); if there is no unmarked argument then the default masculine singular form is used. Mohanan (1994) has argued that the genitive marked element in these constructions acts as the subject.

There is still another copular construction in Urdu, which encodes the possession relation. In this construction the possessor is encoded as the complement of a proximal

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<sup>1</sup>In Hindi, the genitive case clitic that agrees usually in number and gender with the possessum can be replaced with the frozen form *ke* in case of inalienable possession (Mohanan 1994:178). Masica reports that the invariant genitive is used to express the kinship relation (Masica 1991:360). However, in contemporary Urdu, the genitive case clitic always agrees with the possessum both in noun phrases and the copular construction.



spatial postposition *pas* ‘near’.<sup>2</sup> Examples are given in (17).

- (17) a. علی کے پاس سونے کی انگوٹھی ہے۔  
 ali=ke pas sone=ki āgutḥi he  
 Ali.M.3Sg=Gen near gold.M=Gen.F ring.F.3Sg be.3Sg.Pres  
 ‘Ali has a golden ring.’
- b. ندا کے پاس پانچ مکان ہیں۔  
 nda=ke pas pāc makan hē  
 Nida.F=Gen.3Pl near five building.M.3Sg be.3Pl.Pres  
 ‘Nida owns four buildings.’

Mohanan (1994) has again analyzed the nominal that bears the postposition *pas* in such constructions, as the subject. The f-structure representation of (17b) is given in Figure 4.3. The postposition *pas* ‘near’ is used non-semantically. For full interpretation three features namely case, position-type and position form have also been used in the f-structure.

PRED	‘ho(↑ SUBJ) (↑ PREDLINK)’								
SUBJ	<table> <tr> <td>PRED</td><td>‘nda’</td></tr> <tr> <td>PERS</td><td>3, CASE loc</td></tr> <tr> <td>PFORM</td><td>‘pas’</td></tr> <tr> <td>PTYPE</td><td>non-sem</td></tr> </table>	PRED	‘nda’	PERS	3, CASE loc	PFORM	‘pas’	PTYPE	non-sem
PRED	‘nda’								
PERS	3, CASE loc								
PFORM	‘pas’								
PTYPE	non-sem								
PREDLINK	<table> <tr> <td>PRED</td><td>‘makan’</td></tr> <tr> <td>SPEC</td><td>pāc</td></tr> <tr> <td>PERS</td><td>3, CASE nom</td></tr> </table>	PRED	‘makan’	SPEC	pāc	PERS	3, CASE nom		
PRED	‘makan’								
SPEC	pāc								
PERS	3, CASE nom								
TENSE	present								

Figure 4.3: f-structure representation of (17b)

Linguists have tried to distinguish the two possessive constructions; one with the genitive marked possessor and the other with the possessor as the complement of the postposition *pas* in Urdu/Hindi. McGregor (1972) holds that the genitive construction encodes the permanent possession relationship while the *pas* construction rather

<sup>2</sup>A similar construction is also found in Russian as is shown below:

U kati (est’) samovar  
 at Katia.Gen (is) samovar.Nom.Sg.M  
 ‘Katia has a samovar.’ (Avgustinova & Uszkoreit, 2003)

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expresses a ‘contingent’ possession. Pandharipande (1981), however, showed that McGregor’s characterization is inadequate.

Pandharipande suggests that the genitive is used when there is emotional attachment or intimacy, for example, kinship or friendship and the *pas* construction is used to encode merely material possession. If there is ambiguity then either of the constructions can be selected. She argues that the choice between the two constructions depends merely on pragmatic factors. Recently, Sulger (2011) has differentiated the two constructions as individual level and stage level predication based on tests given by Carlson (1977), Diesing (1988) and Kratzer (1995).

- (18) a. یہ قلم علی کا ہے۔  
           yih qalam      ali=ka                      hε  
           this pen.M.3Sg Ali.M=Gen.M3Sg be.3Sg.Pres  
           ‘This Pen is Ali’s.’
- b. میرا قلم ندا کے پاس ہے۔  
           mera              qalam      nda=ke              pas    hε  
           my.Gen.M.3Sg pen.M3Sg Nida=Gen.Obl near be.3Pl.Pres  
           ‘My pen is with Nida.’

Some more examples of copular construction are given in (18). In these examples the possessums take the position of the subject. The f-structure of (18b) is given in Figure 4.4.

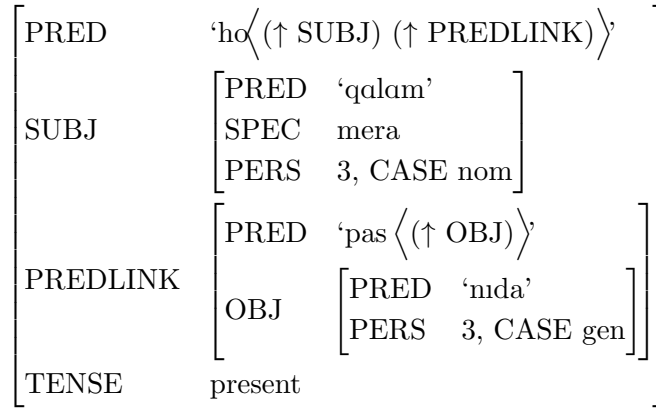


Figure 4.4: f-structure representation of (18b)

I have asserted above that the order of elements matters for the determination of the subject in copular constructions. Mohanan (1994) has suggested some diagnostics for grammatical subjects in Hindi/Urdu, which are given in (19).

- (19) a. The antecedent of *apna* must be a Logical-SuBJ or a SUBJ  
 b. The antecedent of a pronoun cannot be a c-commanding SUBJ of the minimal finite clause that contains the pronoun.  
 c. A nominal that can control a participial adjunct clause with an obligatory control site must be a SUBJ.  
 d. If an argument gaps or is gapped by a SUBJ, it must itself be a SUBJ  
 (Mohanani 1994:135)

These tests can be used to determine subjects of simple and complex verbs in Urdu. However, these do not apply well in all cases of stative copular constructions. The word *apna* can appear in possessive copular constructions, not as a reflexive genitive, but in the meaning of ‘own/personal’. The two uses of *apna* are illustrated in (20).

- (20) a. علی نے ندا سے اپنا قلم مانگا۔  
 ali=ne nida=se apna qalam māg-a  
 Ali.M=Erg Nida=Abl self.Gen.M.3Sg pen.M.3Sg ask-Perf.M.3Sg  
 ‘Ali<sub>j</sub> asked Nida for his<sub>j</sub> pen.’
- b. علی نے ندا سے اس کا اپنا قلم مانگا۔  
 ali=ne nida=se us=ka apna qalam māg-a  
 Ali.M=Erg Nida=Abl 3Sg=Gen.M.3Sg own.M.3Sg pen.M.3Sg ask-Perf.M.3Sg  
 ‘Ali asked Nida for her own pen.’
- c. علی کے اپنے بیٹے نے اپنی دوست سے قلم مانگا۔  
 ali=ke apne beṭe=ne apni dost=se  
 Ali.M=Gen own.M.3Sg.Obl son.M.3Sg.Obl=Erg self.Gen.F friend.F.3Sg=Abl  
 qalam māg-a  
 pen.M.3Sg ask-Perf.M.3Sg  
 ‘Ali’s own son<sub>j</sub> asked his<sub>j</sub> friend for the pen.’

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(21) a. علی کی اپنی چار دکانیں ہیں۔

ali=ki          apni   car   dūkanē          hē  
Ali.M=Gen.F own.F four shop.F.3Pl.Nom be.3Pl.Pres  
‘Ali has four shops of his own.’

b. یہ مکان ندا کا اپنا ہے۔

yih   makan          nda=ka          apna          hē  
this house.M.3Sg.Nom Nida.F=Gen.M.3Sg own.M.3Sg be.3Sg.Pres  
‘This is Nida’s own house.’

In (20a) *apna* is used as reflexive genitive pronoun and its antecedent is the subject of the clause. This *apna* was meant by Mohanan for diagnostic in (19a). However, in (20b) *apna* is used in the meaning of ‘one’s own’ and its antecedent is not the subject of the clause. Both *apna* are present in (20c). In the possessive copular construction in (21) the morpheme *apna* is not used as genitive pronoun but it is used in the meaning of ‘own’. The rest of the diagnostics also do not apply well in genitive copular constructions for the determination of the grammatical subject. The first participant should be considered as the subject in such constructions because this is the entity about which something is said/predicated.

##### 4.2.2.3 Syntactic frames of stative copula

In light of the above discussion, the possible syntactic frames of stative copular *ho* are listed in Table 4.2.

This table shows a variety of syntactic phrases which can act as the two grammatical participants, the subject and the complement, of the stative copular verb in Urdu. The syntactic frames of dynamic copula will be listed after discussing the use of the subjunctive/future forms of *ho*.

##### 4.2.3 The verb *ho* as modal

The verb *ho* is also used to construct modal meanings of ‘obligation’ and ‘will’, as shown in (22). The f-structure representation for (22b) following Butt & King (2005) is given in Figure 4.5.

Nr.	Subject	Complement (PREDLINK)	Example
1.	NP	NP	(4b)
2.	NP	AP	(5a)
3.	NP	KP <sub>Gen</sub> (Attributive genitive)	(5b)
4.	NP (Possessum)	KP <sub>Gen</sub> (Possessor)	(18a)
5.	NP	KP <sub>Loc</sub> (Location)	(6a)
6.	NP	PP (Adpositional phrase)	(8)
7.	NP (Possessum)	PP <sub>pas</sub> (Possessor)	(18b)
8.	NP marked with P <sub>pas</sub> (Possessor)	NP (Possessum)	(17)
9.	KP <sub>Gen</sub> (Possessor)	NP (Possessum)	(16)
10.	KP <sub>Loc.in</sub> (Whole)	NP (Part)	(7)
11.	KP <sub>Loc.in</sub> (Animate bearer)	NP (Abstract characteristic)	(10)
12.	KP <sub>Loc.on</sub> (Animate bearer)	NP (Responsibility/burden)	(9)
13.	NP (Responsibility/burden)	KP <sub>Loc.on</sub> (Animate bearer)	(11a)
14.	KP <sub>Dat</sub> (Animate bearer)	NP (characteristic/disease)	(13)

Table 4.2: Syntactic frames of stative copular *ho*

(22) a. علی کو کام ختم کرنا تھا۔

ali=ko kam xatam kar-na t<sup>h</sup>a  
 Ali.M=Dat work.M finish do-Inf.M.3Sg be.M.3Sg.Past  
 ‘Ali had to finish the work.’

b. ندا کو جانا ہے۔

nida=ko ja-na hε  
 Nida.F=Dat come-Inf.M.3Sg be.3Sg.Pres  
 ‘Nida has to go.’

c. ندا نے جانا ہے۔

nida=ne a-na hε  
 Nida.F=Erg come-Inf.M.3Sg be.3Sg.Pres  
 ‘Nida is to go.’

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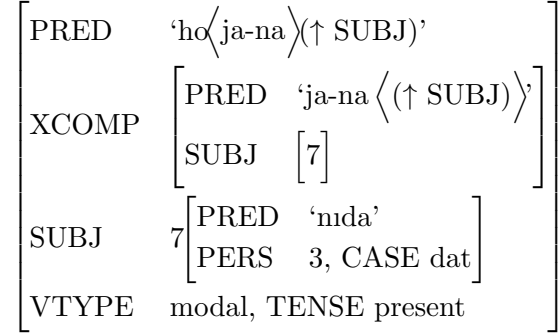


Figure 4.5: f-structure representation of (22b)

- (23) a. علی کام ختم کرنے کو تھا۔  
 ali kam xatam kar-ne=ko t<sup>h</sup>a  
 Ali.M work.M finish do-Inf=Dat be.M.3Sg.Past  
 ‘Ali was about to finish the work.’

- b. ندا آنے کو ہے۔  
 nda a-ne=ko hε  
 Nida.F come-Inf.Obl=Dat be.3Sg.Pres  
 ‘Nida is about to come.’

- c. ندا آنے والی ہے۔  
 nda a-ne=vali hε  
 Nida.F come-Inf.Obl=Val.F be.3Sg.Pres  
 ‘Nida is about to come.’

The verb *ho* is also used in another construction encoding an ‘imminent’ meaning in combination with dative marked infinitive (23a–b) or an infinitive marked with the *vala* clitic ‘one’ (23c).

##### 4.2.4 The verb *ho* as tense auxiliary

There is often a formal identity between a copula verb and an auxiliary (Curnow, 2000). This is the case in Urdu as well. The non-aspectual copular forms of a stative *ho* are

also used as tense auxiliaries. Here are some examples.

- (24) a. علی نے ایک کتاب لکھی تھی۔  
 ali=ne ek kitab lk<sup>h</sup>-i t<sup>h</sup>i  
 Ali.M.3Sg=Erg one book.F.3Sg write-Perf.M.3Sg be.F.3Sg.Past  
 ‘Ali had written a book.’
- b. ندا کتاب پڑھتی ہے۔  
 nda kitab par<sup>h</sup>-ti hε  
 Nida.F.3Sg book.F.3Sg read-Imperf.F.3Sg be.3Sg.Pres  
 ‘Nida reads a book.’

Because the perfect aspect by default includes the meaning of the past tense in it, the past tense auxiliary is usually not inserted to encode meanings in simple past. However, the past tense auxiliary is obligatory for encoding the meaning in the remote past (Butt & Rizvi, 2010).

#### 4.2.5 Optionality of non-aspectual *ho*

Non-aspectual *ho* is sometimes suppressed when there is the negative element *nahĩ* ‘not’ and the tense is present. For example, the copular verb of present tense in the possession relation (25a–b) and the present tense auxiliary (25c) are optional when there is a negative element.

- (25) a. ندا کی کوئی بہن نہیں (ہے)۔  
 nda=ki koi bahn nahĩ (hε)  
 Nida.F.3Sg=Gen.F any sister.F.3Sg not (be.3Sg.Pres)  
 ‘Nida has no sister.’
- b. علی کے پاس کھانے کے لیے کچھ نہیں (ہے)۔  
 ali=ke pas k<sup>h</sup>ane=ke lye kuc<sup>h</sup> nahĩ (hε)  
 Ali.M=Gen near eating=Gen for something not (be.3Sg.Pres)  
 ‘Ali has nothing to eat.’

#### 4. THE VERB *HO* ‘BE/BECOME’

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- c. علی دن کے وقت کچھ نہیں کھاتا (ہے).  
ali din=ke vaqt kuc<sup>h</sup> nahĩ k<sup>h</sup>a-ta (hε)  
Ali.M day.M=Gen time something not eat-Imperf.M (be.3Sg.Pres)  
‘Ali eats nothing in day time.’

##### 4.2.6 The verb *ho* with the future

The subjunctive *ho* in the future construction can have either a stative modal reading or a dynamic reading (26). The dynamic readings are usually possible in the presence of the *ja* light verb (26b) or with some adverbial phrase which encodes some cause effect (26c).

- (26) a. ندا کے بال لمبے ہوں گے.  
nida=ke bal lambe hũ-ge  
Nida.F.3Sg=Gen.M.3Pl hair.M long.M be.Subjn.Sg-Fut.M.Pl  
‘Nida’s hair will be long.’  
? ‘Nida’s hair will become long.’
- b. ندا کے بال لمبے ہو جائیں گے.  
nida=ke bal lambe ho jaẽ-ge  
Nida.F.3Sg=Gen.M.3Pl hair.M long.M be go-Subjn.3Pl-Fut.M.Pl  
‘Nida’s hair will become long.’
- c. تیل لگائے سے ندا کے بال لمبے ہوں گے.  
[tel laga-ne=se] nida=ke bal lambe hũ-ge  
oil.M apply-Inf=Abl Nida.F=Gen.3Pl hair.M long.M be.Subjn.Sg-Fut.M.Pl  
‘Nida’s hair will become long by using oil.’

- (27) a. علی اس فلم کا ہیرو ہو گا.  
ali is film=ka hiro ho-ga  
Ali.M this film=Gen.M hero be.Subjn.3Sg-Fut.M.3Sg  
‘Ali will be the hero of this film.’



b. علی گلوکار ہو گا۔

ali gulukar ho-ga  
Ali.M singer.M be.Subjn.3Sg-Fut.M.3Sg  
\* ‘Ali will become the singer.’

c. علی گلوکار بنے گا۔

ali gulukar bane-ga  
Ali.M singer.M become.Subjn.3Sg-Fut.M.3Sg  
‘Ali will become the singer.’

d. مونگ پھلی کھانے سے ندا کو کھانسی ہو گی۔

[mōg-ph<sup>h</sup>ali k<sup>h</sup>a-ne=se] nīda=ko k<sup>h</sup>āsi ho-gi  
beans eat-Inf=Abl Nīda.F=Dat cough.F be.Subjn.3Sg-Fut.F.3Sg  
‘Nīda will become inflicted by cough by eating beans.’

The syntactic frame NP+NP+ *ho* is possible only in case of stative *ho* as in (27a–b).<sup>3</sup> For the NP *become* NP construction in Urdu, another verb, *ban* ‘become’ is used as in (27c). However, the KP<sub>Dat</sub>+NP+ *ho* frame is possible with dynamic *ho* (27d).

(28) a. دو سال بعد ندا ۱۸ سال کی ہو جائے گی۔

[do sal ba’d] nīda 18 sal=ki ho jae-gi  
two year after Nīda.F 18 year.M=Gen.F be go.Subjn.3Sg-Fut.F.3Sg  
‘Nīda will become 18 years old after two years.’

b. ایک اور دکان خریدنے سے علی کی پانچ دکانیں ہو جائیں گی۔

[ek or dukkan xarid-ne=se] ali=ki pāc dukkanē  
one more shop.F.3Sg buy-Inf.Obl=Abl Ali.M=Gen.F five shop.F.3Pl  
ho jāē-gi  
be go.Subjn.3Pl-Fut.F  
‘After purchasing one more shop Ali will possess five shops.’

<sup>3</sup>Some more modal readings are also possible: for (27a), ‘Ali is probably the hero of this film.’, and for (27b), ‘Ali is probably the singer.’ By adding *zarur* ‘definitely’ in (27a), another reading will be available, ‘Ali must definitely be the hero of this film.’

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c. ایک اور قلم خریدنے سے ندا کے پاس دو قلم ہو جائیں گے۔

[ek or qalam xarid-ne=se] nda=ke pas do qalam  
one more pen.M.3Sg buy-Inf.Obl=Abl Nida.F=Gen.M near two pen.M  
ho jaẽ-ge  
be go.Subjn.3Pl-Fut.M.3Pl

‘After purchasing one more pen Nida will possess two pens.’

d. شرط ہارنے پر یہ کار کسی اور کی ہو جائے گی۔

[fart har-ne=par] yih kar kisi or=ki ho  
bet.F lose-Inf.Obl=Loc.on this car.F.3Sg someone else=Gen.F.3Sg be  
jae-gi  
go.Subjn.3Sg-Fut.F.3Sg

‘On losing bet this car will be possesses by someone else.’

Nr.	Subject	Complement (PREDLINK)	Example
1.	NP	AP	(26b)
2.	NP	KP <sub>Gen</sub> (Attributive genitive)	(28a)
3.	KP <sub>Gen</sub> (Possessor)	NP (Possessum)	(28b)
4.	NP (Possessum)	KP <sub>Gen</sub> (Possessor)	(28d)
5.	NP marked with P <sub>pas</sub> (Possessor)	NP (Possessum)	(28c)
6.	KP <sub>Dat</sub> (Animate bearer)	NP (Disease)	(27d)

Table 4.3: Syntactic frames of dynamic copular *ho*

Some more examples of dynamic *ho* are given in (28). The complement in (28a) is attributive genitive phrase, in (28b–c) is an NP possessum and in (28d) is the possessor. The possible syntactic frames of dynamic copular *ho* are listed in Table 4.3. The dynamic *ho* can also be an intransitive verb used in the meaning of ‘happen’ (29).

(29) a. پل کا افتتاح کل ہو گا۔

pul=ka iftitah kal ho ga  
bridge.F.3Sg=Gen.M inauguration.M tomorrow be.Subjn.Sg Fut.M.3Sg  
‘The inauguration of the bridge will happen tomorrow.’

- b. کل حکومت کے خلاف بڑا جلسہ ہو گا۔  
kal hakumat=Gen.M xılaf bara jalsah ho ga  
tomorrow government.F=Gen against big procession.M be.Subjn.Sg Fut.M.3Sg  
‘A great procession against the government will happen tomorrow.’

We can also interpret examples in (29) with existential semantics, for example, (29a) can be paraphrased as: tomorrow there will exist an event of the bridge inauguration. However, the dynamic readings are also right, because the same constructions are also possible with the perfective and progressive aspects.

### 4.3 Aspectual *ho*

#### 4.3.1 The imperfect form of *ho*

Imperfect forms generally are known to produce generic readings (Carlson & Pelletier, 1995). The imperfect form of the verb *ho* is used instead of the non-aspectual copular *ho* if some relation is generic in general.

- (30) a. زرافے ک گردن لمبی ہوتی ہے۔  
zarafe=ki gardan lambi ho-ti hε  
giraffe.M=Gen.F neck.F long.F.3Sg be-Imperf.F.3Sg be.3Sg.Pres  
‘A giraffe has a long neck.’

- b. ایک یورو میں سو سینٹ ہوتے ہیں۔  
ek yoro=mē so sanṭ ho-te hē  
one Euro=Loc.in hundred cent be.Imperf.F.3Sg be.3Pl.Pres  
‘There are 100 cents in a Euro.’

- c. مرغی کی دو ٹانگیں ہوتی ہیں۔  
muryi=ki do ṭāgē ho-ti hē  
hen.F.3Sg=Gen.F.3Sg two leg.F.3Pl be-Imperf.F be.3Pl  
‘A hen has two legs.’

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d. سانپ کی ٹانگیں نہیں ہوتیں۔

sāp=ki                      ṭāgẽ      nahĩ ho-tĩ  
snake.M.3Sg=Gen.F leg.F.Pl not be-Imperf.F.3Pl  
‘A snake has no leg.’

A common noun in an Urdu sentence can be indefinite or specific depending on the context (Dayal, 1992). When the imperfect form of *ho* is used to encode some relation, the common noun in the subject position is interpreted as indefinite and represents the whole of its class. In (30) the nouns *zarafe* ‘giraffe’, *muryi* ‘hen’ and *sāp* ‘snake’ are indefinite nouns. Because each giraffe has a long neck, each Euro equals 100 cents, each hen has two legs and no snake has legs, these are all generic relations.

(31) a. رات کو شہر میں خاموشی ہوتی ہے۔

rat=ko                      fahr=mẽ                      xamofĩ                      ho-ti                      hε  
night.F=Temp city.M=Loc.in silence.F.Sg be-Imperf.F.Sg be.3Sg.Pres  
‘It is quiet at night in the city.’

b. سرما میں دن چھوٹے ہوتے ہیں۔

sarma=mẽ                      din                      c<sup>h</sup>oṭe                      ho-te                      hẽ  
winter.M=Loc.in day.M.3Pl small.M.3Pl be-Imperf.3Pl be.3Pl.Pres  
‘Days are short in winter.’

c. جب امتحان نزدیک ہوتا ہے علی خوب پڑھتا ہے۔

jab      imtihan                      nazdik      ho-ta                      hε  
when examination.M.3Sg near be-Imperf.M.Sg be.M.3Sg.Pres  
ali                      xub      paṛ<sup>h</sup>-ta                      hε  
Ali.M.3Sg much study-Imperf.3Sg.M be.3Sg.Pres  
‘Ali studies a lot whenever exams are near.’

- d. زندگی وہاں ہوتی ہے جہاں پانی ہوتا ہے۔  
 zīdgi vāhā ho-ti hε  
 life.F.3Sg there be-Imperf.F.3Sg be.3Sg.Pres  
 jahā pani ho-ta hε  
 where water.M.3Sg be-Imperf.M.3Sg be.3Sg.Pres  
 ‘Life is there where water is.’

Some more examples of the use of the imperfect form of *ho* are given in (31). Because the city is quiet every night (31a), days are short every winter (31b) and Ali studies well each time when exams are near (31c), therefore these are notions of habitual/generic sense in specific intervals or at specific instants and are encoded by using imperfect *ho* rather than a simple non-aspectual copula. The example in (31d) also encodes the generic relation of water to life. From now onwards, for such generics, I would use the term ‘contextual generics’.

In all instances, so far, the insertion of imperfect *ho* is obligatory to encode the generic meanings. Some examples are given in (32) where the imperfect *ho* can be inserted optionally.

- (32) a. یہاں ایک درخت (ہوتا/ ہوا کرتا) تھا۔<sup>4</sup>  
 yahā ek daraxt (ho-ta/hu-a kar-ta) t<sup>h</sup>a  
 here one tree.M.3Sg (be-Imperf.M.Sg/be-Perf.M do-Imperf.M) be.3Sg.Past  
 ‘There has been a tree here.’
- b. علی آج کل انگلینڈ میں (ہوتا) ہے۔  
 ali aj-kal īglēd=mē (ho-ta) hε  
 Ali.M.3Sg now-a-days England=Loc.in (be-Imperf.M.Sg) be.3Sg.Pres  
 ‘These days, Ali is in England.’

The imperfect form of *ho* is stylistically used in instances of (32). However, here also the presence of imperfect *ho* is explained along generic/habitual lines. In (32a) the being of a tree at some place is generic in some stretch of time in past and in (32b) the presence of Ali in England is generic in context of these days.

<sup>4</sup>Sometimes, the verbal combination *hu-a kar* is used to express the habitual notion.

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Examples of imperfect *ho* shown so far have stative readings, where the imperfect form is used to encode defining properties and generic notions. The imperfect form of copular *ho* can also have a dynamic reading in an NP+AP+*ho* construction, as shown in (33).

- (33) a. تیل لگائے سے بال لمبے ہوتے ہیں۔  
tel laga-ne=se bal lambe ho-te hẽ  
oil.M use-Inf=Abl hair long be-Imperf.3Pl be.M.3Pl.Pres  
‘Hair become long by using oil.’
- b. سگریٹ نوشی سے پیپہڑے خراب ہوتے ہیں۔  
sigret-nofi=se p<sup>h</sup>ep<sup>h</sup>re xarab ho-te hẽ  
cigarette-inhaling=Abl lung.M.3Pl impaired be-Imperf.3Pl be.3Pl.Pres  
‘Lungs become impaired by smoking.’

We have seen both in case of future and in case of imperfect form of *ho* that dynamic readings of copular verb are only possible if there is the use of the light verb *ja* or some adverbial construction is present.

##### 4.3.2 The perfect form of *ho*

With perfect *ho*, generally dynamic readings are possible. In (34) are two examples where the verb *ho* is used with the meaning of ‘become’.

- (34) a. علی بہت خوش ہوا۔  
ali bahut xuf hu-a  
Ali.M much happy be-Perf.M.3Sg  
‘Ali became much happy.’
- b. ندا سولہ سال کی ہوئی۔  
nida solah sal=ki hu-i  
Nida.F.3Sg sixteen year=Gen.F.3Sg be-Perf.F.3Sg  
‘Nida became 16 years old.’

(35) a. پل کا افتتاح کل ہوا۔

pul=ka                      iftitah                      kal                      hu-a  
bridge.F.3Sg=Gen.M inauguration.M yesterday be-Perf.M.3Sg  
'The inauguration of the bridge happened yesterday.'

b. کل حکومت کے خلاف بڑا جلسہ ہوا۔

kal                      hakumat=ke                      xilaf                      bara jalsah                      hu-a  
tomorrow government.F=Gen.Obl against big procession.M be-Perf.M.3Sg  
'A great procession against the government happened yesterday.'

c. پہلی عالمی جنگ ۱۹۱۴ میں ہوئی۔

pahli almi                      jag 1914=mê                      hu-i  
first of-world war 1914=Loc.in be-Perf.F.3sg  
'The First World War occurred in 1914.'

d. سیلاب سے کافی تباہی ہوئی۔

selab=se                      kafi                      tabahi                      hu-i  
flood.M.Sg=Abl enough destruction.F.Sg be-Perf.F.3Sg  
'Much destruction occurred due to floods.'

In (35) the verb *ho* is used intransitively with the meaning of 'happen/occur/take-place'.

#### 4.3.2.1 Perfect *ho* with present and future interpretation

(36) a. اچھا ہوا کہ ندا خریداری کے لیے بازار چلی گئی۔

acc<sup>h</sup>a                      hu-a                      kih                      nida                      xaridari=ke                      liye bazar  
good.M.Sg be-Perf.M.Sg that Nida.F shopping.F=Gen.Obl for market.M  
cal-i                      ga-i  
walk-Perf.F.Sg go-Perf.F.Sg  
'It is good that Nida has gone to the market for shopping.'  
'It turned/happened good that Nida has gone to the market for shopping.'

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- b. اگر جوتے مہنگے ہوئے تو ندا نہیں خریدے گی۔  
 agar jute mah̃ge hu-e to nda nah̃i xarid-e-gi  
 if shoes expensive be-Perf.Pl then Nida.F not purchase-Subjn-Fut.F  
 ‘Nida will not purchase the shoes if they are (would be) costly.’

In (36a) *acc<sup>h</sup>a hu-a* can have stative reading ‘it is good’ in present tense or the canonical dynamic reading ‘it turned/happened good’. In case of an if clause for the non true future tense the perfect form of the verb is used in Urdu as in (36b).

##### 4.3.2.2 Perfect *ho* as an emphasis on being

- (37) a. ہم ہوئے کہ تم ہوئے کہ میر ہوئے  
 اس کی زلفوں کے سب اسیر ہوئے  
 ham hu-e k̃ih t̃um hu-e k̃ih mir hu-e  
 1Pl be-Perf.Pl or 2Pl be-Perf.Pl or Mir be-Perf.Pl  
 us=ki zulf̃=ke sab asir hu-e  
 3Sg=Gen.F hair.F=Gen.M all prisoner be-Perf.Pl  
 ‘Whether we, or you or Mir – all are bewitched by her hair’ (Mir Taqi Mir)

- b. میرے حال پہ حیرت کیسی درد کے تہا موسم میں  
 پتھر بھی رو پڑتے ہیں انسان تو پھر انسان ہوا  
 mere hal=p̃ih herat k̃esi dard=ke tanha mosam=m̃ẽ  
 my status.M=Loc.on wonder which pain=Gen lonely weather.M=Loc.in  
 pat<sup>h</sup>ar b<sup>h</sup>i ro par-te h̃ẽ msan to p<sup>h</sup>ir msan hu-a  
 stone.M also weep lie-Imperf.3Pl be.Pres man Emp then man be-Perf  
 ‘Why is this wonder on my affairs, in the lonely weather of pain;  
 stones even begin to weep (for me), a man, though, is a man’ (Mohsin Naqvi)

- c. پھول بھی ہوں درمیاں تو فاصلے ہوئے  
 p̃ul b<sup>h</sup>i h̃ũ darmiyā to fasle hu-e  
 flower.M even be.Subjn.Pl between then distance.M.Pl be-Perf.Pl  
 ‘Even if flowers are in between, there are distances.’ (A line of a song)



Sometimes, the perfect form of *ho* is used to emphasize the being/participation of some subject in some context as is shown in different instances of (37).

In this section it was shown that aspectual forms of the verb *ho* are generally used to encode dynamic meanings. The imperfect form of the verb, however, is also used to encode generic notions. In the next section some tests are listed which distinguish between stative and dynamic uses of the verb.

#### 4.4 Classification and distinction of the verb *ho* uses

Vendler (1968) divided verbs into four classes based on his Aktionsart schemata. However, basically all verbs can be classified into two major classes; stative verbs and dynamic verbs. Stative verbs involve no change, dynamic verbs do (Dowty, 1979).

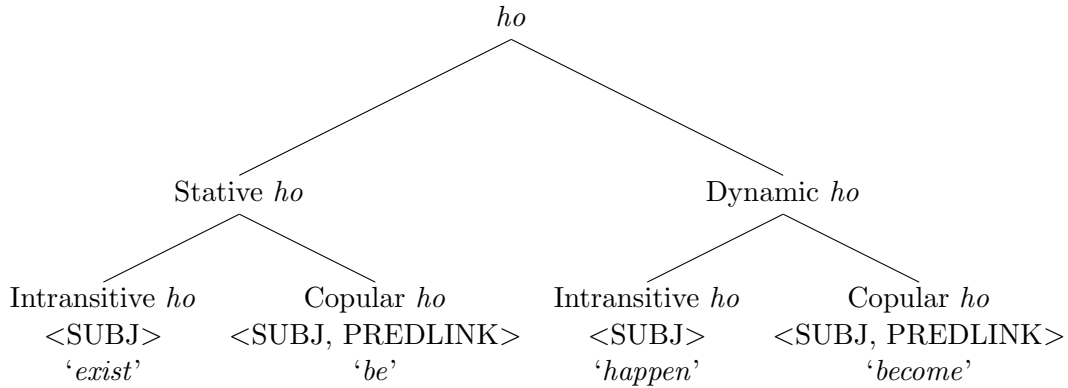


Figure 4.6: Classification of the verb *ho*

The verb *ho* is used both as a stative and as a dynamic verb in Urdu as shown in Figure 4.6. There are some syntactic tests that distinguish the stative use of *ho* from the dynamic use of *ho*. These are given in the following subsections.

##### 4.4.1 Aspectual distinction

Stative and dynamic *ho* differ in having different aspects (Satyanarayana, 1982). The stative *ho* does not take perfect aspect (38a) while the dynamic *ho* can take perfect aspect (38b).

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(38) a. کتاب میز پر ہوئی ہے۔

\*kɪtab      mez=par      hu-i      hɛ  
book.F.3Sg table.F.3Sg=Loc.on be-Perf.F be.3Sg.Pres  
‘The book has been on the table.’ (Stative *ho*)

b. سیلاب سے کافی تباہی ہوئی ہے۔

seɫab=se      kafi      tabahi      hu-i      hɛ  
flood.M.Sg=Abl enough destruction.F.Sg be-Perf.F.3Sg be.3Sg.Pres  
‘Enough destruction has occurred due to floods.’ (Dynamic *ho*)

Furthermore, stative *ho* cannot take progressive aspect (39a) while dynamic *ho* can take progressive aspect (39b).

(39) a. کتاب میز پر ہو رہی ہے۔

\*kɪtab      mez=par      ho rah-i      hɛ  
book.F.3Sg table.F.3Sg=Loc.on be Prog-F be.3Sg.Pres  
‘The book is being on the table.’ (Stative *ho*)

b. سیلاب سے کافی تباہی ہو رہی ہے۔

seɫab=se      kafi      tabahi      ho rah-i      hɛ  
flood.M.Sg=Abl enough destruction.F.Sg be Prog-F be.3Sg.Pres  
‘Much destruction is occurring due to floods.’ (Dynamic *ho*)

(40) a. علی تین دن بیمار تھا۔

ali      tin      dɪn      bimar t<sup>h</sup>a  
Ali.M three day.M ill      be.3Sg.Past  
‘Ali was ill for three days.’ (Stative *ho*)

b. علی تین دن بیمار رہا۔

ali      tin      dɪn      bimar rah-a  
Ali.M three day.M ill      remain-Perf.3Sg  
‘Ali was ill for three days.’ (Stative *rah*)

It should be noted that another copular verb *rah* ‘remain’ can take perfect aspect to encode the stative meanings in a stretch of time in past (40b).

#### 4.4.2 Light verb distinction

The *ja* ‘go’ light verb cannot combine with the stative *ho* (41a), however, its combination with the dynamic *ho* is possible (41b).

- (41) a. کتاب میز پر ہو جاتی ہے۔  
 \*kitab mez=par ho ja-ti he  
 book.F.3Sg table.F.3Sg=Loc.on be go-Imperf.F.3Sg be.3Sg.Pres  
 ‘The book is on the table.’ (Stative *ho*)
- b. سیلاب سے کافی تباہی ہو جاتی ہے۔  
 selab=se kafi tabahi ho ja-ti he  
 flood.M.Sg=Abl enough destruction.F.Sg be go-Perf.F be.3Sg.Pres  
 ‘Much destruction occurs due to flood.’ (Dynamic *ho*)

Likewise another light verb *le* ‘take’ combines with dynamic *ho* but not with stative *ho*.

#### 4.4.3 Auxiliary distinction

The construction formed with the combination of the default masculine perfect form of the main verb and the imperfect form of the auxiliary *cah* ‘wish/want’ is possible with dynamic *ho* as in (42b) but not with stative *ho* (Raza, 2010b) as in (42a).

- (42) a. کتاب میز پر ہوا چاہتی ہے۔  
 \*kitab mez=par hu-a cah-ti he  
 book.F.3Sg table.F.3Sg=Loc.on be-Perf want-Imperf.F.3Sg be.3Sg.Pres  
 ‘The book is going to be on the table.’ (Stative *ho*)
- b. سیلاب سے کافی تباہی ہوا چاہتی ہے۔  
 selab=se kafi tabahi hu-a cah-ti he  
 flood.M.Sg=Abl enough destruction.F.Sg be-Perf want-Perf.F be.3Sg.Pres  
 ‘Much destruction is going to occur due to floods.’ (Dynamic *ho*)

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### 4.4.4 Complement distinction

Not all syntactic frames of stative copular *ho* are possible for dynamic copular *ho*. For example, dynamic copular *ho* cannot take the NP complement (43b).

- (43) a. علی ڈاکٹر ہے۔  
           ali           ḍakṭar           he  
           Ali.M.Nom doctor.M.3Sg be.3Sg.Pres  
           ‘Ali is a doctor.’ (Stative *ho*)
- b. علی ڈاکٹر ہوا۔  
       \* ali           ḍakṭar           hu-a  
       Ali.M.Nom doctor.M.3Sg be-Perf.M.Sg  
       ‘Ali became a doctor.’ (Dynamic *ho*)

Different verb forms and their general use in a stative/dynamic sense are summarized in Table 4.4.

Verb forms	Stative use	Dynamic use
Infinitival	yes	yes
Subjunctive	yes	yes
Non-aspectual non-subjunctive	yes	no
Imperfect-aspectual	yes	yes
Perfect-aspectual	no	yes

Table 4.4: Uses of different forms of the verb *ho* ‘be/become’

The imperfect aspectual forms in its stative use encode the contextual generic relations, the absolute generic relations and also the contextual generic existentials.

## 4.5 The verb *ho* as a light verb

In Urdu there are many Noun+Verb, Adjective+Verb and Verb+Verb complex predicates (Butt, 1995; Mohanan, 1994). The first part (noun, adjective or verb) in these predicates actually carries the core meaning and the second part (verb) is inflected for agreement and is called the light verb. There are more than a dozen verbs in Urdu which act as light verbs to form complex predicates. The verb *ho* is one of these verbs. Some examples of complex predicates with the light verb *ho* are given in (44).

- (44) a. یاد ہو *yad ho*, lit: memory be, ‘to remember’  
 b. شروع ہو *šuru ho*, lit: start occur, ‘to begin’  
 c. تعمیر ہو *ta’mir ho*, lit: building become, ‘to become built’  
 d. حاصل ہو *hasıl ho*, lit: received be/become, ‘to be/become received’  
 e. بھروسہ ہو *b<sup>h</sup>arosah ho*, lit: trust be/become, ‘to trust’  
 f. پیار ہو *pyar ho*, lit: love be/become, ‘to be/fall in love’  
 g. معلوم ہو *xabar ho*, ‘to know/come to know’  
 h. خبر ہو *xabar ho*, lit: news be/become, ‘to know/come to know’

As it was already shown that the verb *ho* can act both as a stative and as a dynamic verb in different constructions, the complex predicates formed with this verb can also be stative or dynamic. If the light verb *ho* is inflected with non-aspectual morphology of *ho* then we can say that it is a stative predicate (45), else it is a dynamic predicate (46). Sometimes both cases are possible (47).

- (45) a. علی کو ندا کا انتظار تھا۔  
 ali=ko            nida=ka            intizar t<sup>h</sup>a  
 Ali.M.3Sg=Dat Nida.F=Gen.M wait    be.3Sg.Past  
 ‘Ali was waiting for Nida.’  
 b. علی کو ندا کا انتظار ہوا۔  
 \*ali=ko            nida=ka            intizar hu-a  
 Ali.M.3Sg=Dat Nida.F=Gen.M wait    be-Perf.M.Sg  
 ‘Ali was waiting for Nida.’

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- (46) a. مکان ۱۹۴۰ میں فروخت تھا۔  
\*makan 1940=mẽ faroxt t<sup>h</sup>a  
house.M 1940=Loc.in selling be.3Sg.Past  
‘The house was sold in 1940.’

- b. مکان ۱۹۴۰ میں فروخت ہوا۔  
makan 1940=mẽ faroxt hu-a  
house.M 1940=Loc.in selling be-Perf.M.Sg  
‘The house was sold in 1940.’

- (47) a. علی کو خبر ہے کہ ...  
ali=ko xabar he [kɪh ...  
Ali.M.3Sg=Dat news be.3Sg.Pres [that ...  
‘Ali knows [that ...’

- b. علی کو خبر ہوئی کہ ...  
ali=ko xabar hu-i [kɪh ...  
Ali.M.3Sg=Dat news be-Perf.F.3Sg [that ...  
‘Ali came to know [that ...’

In (47a) the stative meaning of ‘know’ is realized and in (47b) the dynamic meaning ‘come to know’ is realized. It should be noted that there are dative subjects also in copular constructions. In copular constructions there are only two arguments that is the subject and the complement. The main predicate in complex predicates of the verb *ho* introduces another argument. The that-clause argument in (47b) is introduced by the predicate *xabar* ‘news’. The main predicate of complex predicate cannot be coordinated with other predicate in contrast with the predicate in copular construction.

#### 4.6 Various other uses of *ho*

Some forms of the verb *ho* are used to form constructions with different shades of meanings. The perfect participles of *ho* are used with participles of main verbs to encode

subjunctive meanings of desire (48b1–b2) and the subjunctive forms of *ho* together with the auxiliary *ga* are used with participles of main verbs to encode subjunctive meanings of possibility/likelihood (48c1–c2).

- (48) a1. علی آیا.  
 ali a-ya  
 Ali.M come-Perf.M  
 ‘Ali came.’
- a2. علی آتا.  
 ali a-ta  
 Ali.M come-Imperf.M  
 ‘Would that, Ali came.’
- b1. علی آیا ہوتا.  
 ali a-ya ho-ta  
 Ali.M come-Perf.M be-Imperf.M  
 ‘Would that, Ali came.’
- b2. علی آتا ہوتا.  
 ali a-ta ho-ta  
 Ali.M come-Imperf.M be-Imperf.M  
 ‘Would that, Ali used to come.’
- c1. علی آیا ہو گا.  
 ali a-ya ho ga  
 Ali.M come-Perf.M be.Subjn Fut.M  
 ‘Ali may have come.’  
 ‘Ali is likely to have come.’
- c2. علی آتا ہو گا.  
 ali a-ta ho ga  
 Ali.M come-Imperf.M be Fut.M  
 ‘Might be, Ali used to come.’  
 ‘Ali is probably about to come.’

The perfect participles of *ho* are also used to construct subordinate clauses. The action/state of such subordinate clauses and action of main verbs both are simultaneous. Consider, for example, the sentences in (49).

- (49) a. ندا نے خط لکھا.  
 nda=ne xat lk<sup>h</sup>-a  
 Nida.F.3Sg=Erg letter.M.3Sg write-Perf.M.3Sg  
 ‘Nida wrote a letter.’
- b. ندا نے مسکراتے ہوئے خط لکھا.  
 nda=ne [muskara-te hu-e] xat lk<sup>h</sup>-a  
 Nida.F.3Sg=Erg smile-Imperf.Obl be-Perf.Obl letter.M.3Sg write-Perf.M.3Sg  
 ‘Nida wrote a letter while smiling.’
- c. Nida schrieb einen Brief [lächelnd].  
 Nida.F.3Sg write.Past a.M.Sg.Acc letter.M.Sg smiling  
 ‘Nida wrote a letter while smiling.’ (German)

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- d. ندا نے سیب کھاتے ہوئے خط لکھا۔  
 nda=ne [seb k<sup>h</sup>a-te hu-e]  
 Nida.F.3Sg=Erg apple.M.3Sg eat-Imperf.Obl be-Perf.Obl  
 xat lk<sup>h</sup>-a  
 letter.M.3Sg write-Perf.M  
 ‘Nida wrote a letter while eating an apple.’

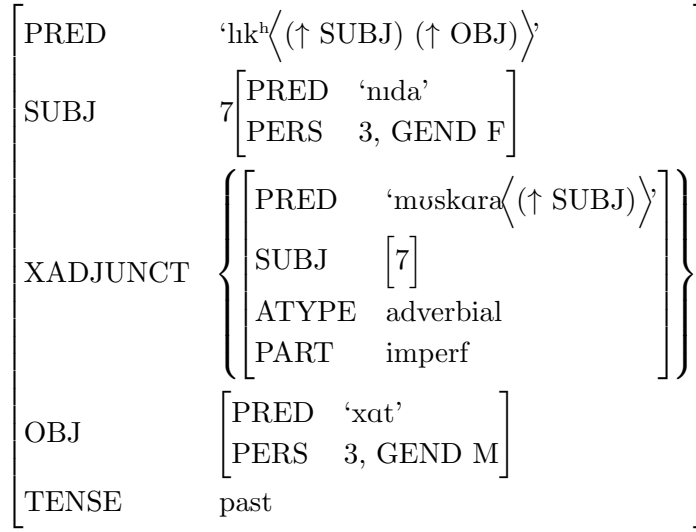


Figure 4.7: f-structure representation of (49b)

The example sentence in (49a) illustrates a simple sentence. The example sentence in (49b) adds a subordinate clause *muskarate hue* ‘while smiling’. The actions of writing and smiling are simultaneous in (49b). The f-structure representation of (49b) is shown in Figure 4.7. German also has a similar construction, as shown in (49c). Another example with a transitive verb in the subordinate clause is shown in (49d). The subject of the verb in the subordinate clause is controlled by the subject of the main clause.<sup>5</sup>

<sup>5</sup>However, with some verbs like *ho* ‘be’ and *cah* ‘wish’, the subordinate clause has its own subject marked for genitive case as in (50).

- (50) a. استاد کے ہوتے ہوئے بچے شور کر رہے تھے۔  
 [ustad=ke ho-te hu-e] bacce for kar rahe t<sup>h</sup>e  
 teacher.M=Gen be-Imperf.Obl be-Perf child.Pl noise do Prog.M be.3Pl.Past  
 ‘Children were making a noise in the presence of the teacher.’  
 b. عوام کے نہ چاہتے ہوئے فوج نے ملک پہ حکومت کی۔  
 [avam=ke nah cah-te hu-e] fuj=ne mulk=pih hakumat ki  
 public.F=Gen not want-Imperf be-Perf army.F=Erg country.M=Loc.on rule.F do-Perf.F  
 ‘The army unwanted by the public ruled over the country.’



- (51) a. ندا نے یہ بیٹھتے ہوئے کہا۔

nida=ne yih [beɬ<sup>h</sup>-te hu-e] kah-a  
 Nida.F.3Sg=Erg this sit-Imperf.Obl be-Perf.Obl say-Perf.F.3Sg  
 ‘Nida said this while seating.’

- b. ندا نے یہ بیٹھے ہوئے کہا۔

nida=ne yih [beɬ<sup>h</sup>-e hu-e] kah-a  
 Nida.F.3Sg=Erg this sit-Perf.Obl be-Perf.Obl say-Perf.F.3Sg  
 ‘Nida said this while having seated.’

- (52) a. ندا نے یہ چلتے ہوئے کہا۔

nida=ne yih [cal-te hu-e] kah-a  
 Nida.F.3Sg=Erg this walk-Imperf.Obl be-Perf.Obl say-Perf.F.3Sg  
 ‘Nida said this while walking.’

- b. ندا نے یہ چلے ہوئے کہا۔

\*nida=ne yih [cal-e hu-e] kah-a  
 Nida.F.3Sg=Erg this walk-Perf.Obl be-Perf.Obl say-Perf.F.3Sg  
 ‘Nida said this while having walked.’

- (53) a. ندا لیٹی (ہوئی) کتاب پڑھ رہی ہے۔

nida [leɬ-i (hu-i)] kitab paɾh rah-i he  
 Nda.F lie-Perf.F be-Perf.F book.F read Prog-F be.3Sg.Pres  
 ‘Nida is reading a book while lying.’

- b. ڈاکیا اپنے کندھے پر تھیلا لٹکائے (ہوئے) پھر رہا ہے۔

ɖakiya [apne kand<sup>h</sup>e=par t<sup>h</sup>ela laɬka-e (hu-e)]  
 postman Gen.Refl shoulder.M=Loc.on bag.M hang-Perf.Obl (be-Perf.Obl)  
 p<sup>h</sup>ir rah-a he  
 wander Prog-M be.3Sg.Pres  
 ‘A postman is wandering while hanging a bag on his shoulder.’

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The perfect participle of *ho* is used with the perfect participles of only stative verbs (not action verbs) in subordinate clauses. The verb *bēṭh* ‘sit’ in Urdu acts as a stative as well as a dynamic verb. In (51a) it is acting as a dynamic verb where it means ‘Nida said this while taking her seat’. In (51b) the perfect participle of this verb is combined with the perfect participle of *ho* where it is interpreted as ‘Nida said this while she has already taken the seat’. In (52b), we see that the perfect participle of the verb *cal* ‘walk’ cannot combine with *hu-e* because the verb *cal* ‘walk’ is a dynamic verb. So, we can distinguish between postural stative verbs and dynamic verbs in Urdu with this use of *ho*.

When the subject of the main clause is unmarked, the perfect participle of an intransitive stative verb of the subordinate clause can be in agreement with the subject and the perfect *ho* is optional (53a). However, the perfect participle of transitive stative verb of subordinate clause is obligatorily in the oblique form (53b).

In this section use of the verb *ho* in various subjunctive clauses and subordinate clauses was described. In the next section use of this verb in participial adjectives is explored.

### 4.7 Characterizing participles

The perfect form of *ho* is used to form two kinds of participles which characterize/modify a noun which logically is some argument of the verb. These participles, I call characterizing participles. In this section the syntactic frames of such participles, the arguments they modify and their syntactic distribution are explored.

#### 4.7.1 Concomitant participles

Concomitant or present participles are formed by adding the perfect form of *ho* to the imperfect form of the verb. Sometimes, stylistically the mere imperfect form of the main verb is used as a characterizing participle. Consider some examples from Urdu and German in (54).

#### 4.7 Characterizing participles

<p>(54) a1. اڑتے (ہوئے) پرندے  ur-te (hu-e) parinde  fly-Imperf.M (be-Perf.M) bird.M  ‘Flying birds’</p>	<p>a2.  Die fliegenden Vögel  the fly.PresPart bird.F.Pl.Nom  ‘Flying birds’</p>
<p>b1. پٹتا (ہوا) مجرم  piṭ-ta (hu-a)  be-beaten-Imperf.M (be-Perf.M)  muḡrim  criminal.M  ‘The criminal being beaten’</p>	<p>b2.  No equivalent intransitive verb</p>
<p>c1. گرتا (ہوا) سیب  gir-ta (hu-a) seb  fall-Imperf.M (be-Perf.M) apple.M  ‘A falling apple’</p>	<p>c2.  Ein fallender Apfel  A fall.PresPart apple.M.Sg.Nom  ‘A falling apple’</p>
<p>d1. بچے کو چومتی (ہوئی) ماں  bacce=ko cum-ti (hu-i)  baby.Sg=Acc kiss-Perf.F (be-Perf.F)  mā  mother.F  ‘The mother, kissing the baby’</p>	<p>d2.  Die das Baby  the.F.Nom the.Neut.Acc baby.Neut.Sg  küssende Mutter  kiss.PresPart.F mother.F  ‘The mother, kissing the baby’</p>
<p>e1. کتاب پڑھتی (ہوئی) لڑکی  kitab paṛh-ti (hu-i)  book.F.3Sg read-Imperf.F (be-Perf.F)  laṛki  girl.F.3Sg  ‘The girl, reading the book’</p>	<p>e2.  Das das Buch  the.Neut.Nom the.Neut.Acc book.Neut  lesende Mädchen  read.PresPart girl.Neut.Sg  ‘The girl, reading the book’</p>
<p>f1. لڑکی کو پھول دیتا (ہوا) لڑکا  laṛki=ko p<sup>h</sup>ul de-ta  girl.F=Dat flower.M give-Imperf.M  (hu-a) laṛka  (be-Perf.M.Sg) boy.M.Sg  ‘The boy giving a flower to a girl’</p>	<p>f2.  Der dem Mädchen die  the.M.Nom the.Dat girl.Neut.Sg the.F  Blume gebende Junge  flower.F give.PresPart boy.M.Sg  ‘The boy, giving a flower to a girl’</p>

Like adjectives, characterizing present participles in Urdu and German also inflect to agree with the head nouns they modify, as shown in (54). The attributive distribution of characterizing present participles in Urdu, German and English is given in Table 4.5. Patient oriented intransitive verbs like *piṭ* ‘be-beaten’ have no intransitive equivalents

#### 4. THE VERB *HO* ‘BE/BECOME’

	Intransitive Verb			(Di)Transitive Verb		
Orientation	Agent (unerg)	Patient	Theme (unacc)	Agent	Patient	Theme
Urdu	yes	yes	yes	yes	no	no
English	yes	N.A	yes	no	no	no
German	yes	N.A	yes	yes	no	no

Table 4.5: Attributive use of characterizing present participles

in German and English. So, patient oriented intransitive characterizing participles are not found in German and English. Characterizing participles of transitive verbs can only modify the agent argument, all other arguments appear as the arguments of participles.

In German, past participles with an adverb *gerade* ‘right-now’ attributively modify the theme argument of transitive verbs and in such case these are interpreted with the meaning of current state as is shown in (55b).

- (55) a. ? der von der Mutter gerade geküsste Junge  
the by the.Dat mother.F right-now kiss.PastPart baby  
‘the baby being kissed by the mother’ (German)

- b. das vom Mädchen gerade gelesene Buch  
the by girl.F right-now read.PastPart book  
‘the book being read by the girl’ (German)

- c. ? die gerade dem Mädchen gegebene Blume  
the right-now the.Dat girl.F give.PastPart flower  
‘the flower being given to the girl’ (German)

- (56) a. علی نے کچھ پرندے اڑتے (ہوئے) دیکھے۔  
ali=ne kūc<sup>h</sup> parinde ūr-te (hu-e) dek<sup>h</sup>-e  
Ali.M=Erg some bird.M.3Pl fly-Imperf.M.3Pl (be-Perf.M.3Pl) see-Perf.M.3Sg  
‘Ali saw some birds flying.’

b. ندا نے مجرم کو پٹتے (ہوئے) دیکھا۔

nida=ne    mujrim=ko    piṭ-te    (hu-e)    dek<sup>h</sup>-a  
Nida.F=Erg criminal=Acc beaten-Imperf.Obl (be-Perf.Obl) see-Perf.M.3Sg  
'Nida saw the criminal being beaten.'

c. علی نے ایک سیب گرتا (ہوا) دیکھا۔

ali=ne    ek    seb    gir-ta    (hu-a)    dek<sup>h</sup>-a  
Ali.M=Erg one apple.M.3Sg fall-Imperf.M.3Sg (be-Perf.M.3Sg) see-Perf.M.3Sg  
'Ali saw an apple falling.'

d. ندا نے ماں کو بچے کو چومتے (ہوئے) دیکھا۔

nida=ne    mā=ko    bace=ko    cum-te    (hu-e)    dek<sup>h</sup>-a  
Nida.F=Erg mother=Acc baby=Acc kiss-Imperf.Obl (be-Perf.Obl) see-Perf.M  
'Nida saw the mother kissing the baby.'

An adverbial use of characterizing present participles is shown in (56). Here we see that if the object, which the present participle characterizes, is unmarked, the participle agrees with the object in number and gender (56a,c). And if the object is marked, the oblique form of the participle is used (56b,d). Characterizing present participles are not used predicatively, in contrast to adjectives.

#### 4.7.2 Resultative participles

Nedjalkov & Jaxontov (1988), after having undertaken a crosslinguistic study of resultative constructions,<sup>6</sup> defined the resultatives as 'those verb forms that express a state implying a previous event'. A resultative participle characterizes its head 'by expressing a state that results from a previous event' (Haspelmath 1994:159). The resultative participles are used attributively and predicatively crosslinguistically. The latter construction is sometimes referred to as *be*-passives. It has been argued (Frajzyngier 1978:154) that there is no difference between *be*-passives and general copula sentences crosslinguistically, except that the predicate in *be*-passives is morphologically derived from the lexical class of verbs.

<sup>6</sup>The term resultative refers to two constructions i.e. resultative participles and resultative secondary predicates (Embick 2004:360). Here I am talking about the first one.

#### 4. THE VERB *HO* ‘BE/BECOME’

Unlike English and many other languages, resultative and passive participles in Urdu are formed in the syntax via auxiliaries. The resultative participle is formed from the perfect participle of the main verb followed by the perfect participle of the verb *ho* ‘be/become’. In a passive participle, on the other hand, the perfect participle of the verb *ja* follows the perfect participle of the main verb.

- (57) a1. آئے (ہوئے) لوگ  
a-e (hu-e) log  
come-Perf.M (be-Perf.M) people  
‘People who have come’
- a2. Die angekommenen Leute  
the come.PastPart people.Pl  
‘People who have come’
- b1. پٹا (ہوا) مجرم  
piṭ-a (hu-a) mujrim  
be-beaten-Perf (be-Perf) criminal  
‘The criminal, who has been beaten’
- b2. No equivalent intransitive verb
- c1. گرا (ہوا) درخت  
gir-a (hu-a) daraxt  
fall-Perf.M (be-Perf.M) tree.M  
‘A fallen tree’
- c2. Der gefallene Baum  
the fall.PastPart tree.M  
‘The fallen tree’
- (58) a1. بچے کو ڈسا (ہوا) سانپ  
\*bacce=ko das-a (hu-a) sâp  
baby=Acc bite-Perf (be-Perf) snake  
‘The snake, who has bitten the baby’
- a2. No agent oriented participle
- b1. سانپ کا ڈسا (ہوا) بچہ  
sâp=ka das-a (hu-a)  
snake=Gen.M bite-Perf.M (be-Perf.M)  
bacca  
baby.M.Sg  
‘The baby bitten by a snake’
- b2. Das von der Schlange  
the.Neut by the.Dat.F snake.F.Sg  
gebissene Baby  
bite.PastPart baby.Neut.Sg  
‘The baby bitten by a snake’
- c1. کتاب پڑھی (ہوئی) لڑکی  
kitaḥ paṛ<sup>h</sup>-i (hu-i) laṛki  
book read-Perf.F (be-Perf.F) girl.F  
‘The girl, who has read the book’
- c2. No agent oriented participle
- d1. لڑکی کی پڑھی (ہوئی) کتاب  
laṛki=ki paṛ<sup>h</sup>-i (hu-i) kitaḥ  
girl.F read-Perf.F (be-Perf.F) book  
‘The book read by the girl’
- d2. Das vom Mädchen gelesene Buch  
The by girl read.PastPart book  
‘The book read by the girl’

Resultative participles of some intransitive verbs from Urdu and German are illustrated in (57) and of some transitive verbs are illustrated in (58). The resultative participles in Urdu are typical in two respects. For one, they can be oriented either towards the agent or the patient/theme. Secondly, while modifying the patient/theme they can optionally take the agent as the genitive marked argument.

In (58a1), the resultative participle takes accusative object and cannot have active orientation. Haspelmath (1994) with reference to Subbarao (1984) has reported that the resultative participles taking only bare NP complements in Urdu have active orientation as shown in (59).

- (59) دس لڈو کھایا ہوا لڑکا  
das laḍḍu k<sup>h</sup>a-ya hu-a laṛka  
ten laddu.M.3Sg eat-Perf.M.3Sg be-Perf.M.3Sg boy.M.3Sg  
‘A boy who ate ten laddus (sweet meats)’ (Subbarao 1984:170)

	Intransitive Verb			Transitive Verb		
Orientation	Agent (unerg)	Patient	Theme (unacc)	Agent	Patient	Theme
Urdu	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes
German	yes	N.A	yes	no	yes	yes

Table 4.6: Attributive use of resultative participles

A summary of attributive use of resultative participles in Urdu and German is given in Table 4.6. In the case of ditransitive verbs, the resultative participles only orient to the theme argument, as shown in (60a-b). The genitive marked agent in participles of ditransitive verbs is obligatorily realized. In Urdu dative subject verbs also have theme oriented resultative participles, as shown in (60c).

- (60) a. علی کا دیا ہوا انعام  
ali=ka di-ya (hu-a) in'am  
Ali.M=Gen give-Perf.M (be-Perf.M) prize.M  
‘The prize given by Ali’

#### 4. THE VERB *HO* ‘BE/BECOME’

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b. علی کا ندا کو دیا ہوا انعام

ali=ka      nida=ko      di-ya      (hu-a)      in'am  
 Ali.M=Gen Nida.F=Dat give-Perf.M (be-Perf.M) prize.M  
 ‘The prize given by Ali to Nida’

c. ندا کو ملا ہوا انعام

nida=ko      mil-a      (hu-a)      in'am  
 Nida.F=Dat attain-Perf.M (be-Perf.M) prize.M  
 ‘The prize attained by Nida’

(61) a. ندا کی مرتبہ کتاب

nida=ki      **murattabah** kitab  
 Nida.F.3Sg=Gen.F composed book.F.3Sg  
 ‘The book composed by Nida’ (Arabic-loaned participle)

b. ندا کی مرتب کردہ کتاب

nida=ki      **murattab-kardah** kitab  
 Nida.F.3Sg=Gen.F composed book.F.3Sg  
 ‘The book composed by Nida’ (Persian-loaned participle)

c. ندا کی مرتب کی ہوئی کتاب

nida=ki      **murattab**      **k-i**      **hu-i**      kitab  
 Nida.F.3Sg=Gen.F compose-Perf.F.3Sg do-Perf.F be-Perf.F.3Sg book.F.3Sg  
 ‘The book composed by Nida’ (Urdu resultative participle)

In addition to native Urdu participles, some participles from Arabic and Persian are also used as adjectives in Urdu. The use of three participle forms from Arabic, Persian and Urdu is illustrated in (61a-c).

There is one difference between resultative participial forms used as adjectives in Urdu and other argument-taking adjectives taken from Arabic and Persian in that the former ones being participial forms of certain transitive verbs can take bare NPs as their complements and the latter ones, like English adjectives, do not allow bare NPs in their argument structure at all.



The use of resultative participles in clausal constructions is illustrated in (62). All instances with the unmarked subject seem to resemble the subject-complement construction of a copula sentence. Each of these constructions has a stative reading that has resulted after the action is executed/performed. The adverbial use of resultative participles is illustrated in (63). Only with some matrix verbs, resultative participles can be used adverbially.

(62) a. بہت لوگ آئے ہوئے ہیں۔

bahut log a-e hu-e hẽ  
many people come-Perf.3Pl be-Perf be.3Pl.Pres  
'Many people are in the state of having come.'

b. ایک درخت گرا ہوا ہے۔

ek daraxt gir-a hu-a hε  
one tree fall-Perf.M be-Perf.M be.3Sg.Pres  
'One tree is fallen'

c. ایک لڑکی (نے) کتاب پڑھی ہوئی ہے۔

ek lar̥ki=(ne) kitab paṛʰ-i hu-i hε  
one girl.F=(Erg) book.F.3Sg read-Perf.F.3Sg be-Perf.F be.3Sg.Pres  
'One girl has read the book'

d. یہ کتاب اس لڑکی کی پڑھی ہوئی ہے۔

yih kitab us lar̥ki=ki paṛʰ-i hu-i hε  
this book.F.3Sg that girl.F.3Sg=Gen.F read-Perf.F.3Sg be-Perf.F be.3Sg.Pres  
'This book is read by that girl'

(63) علی کو کھلونا ٹوٹا ہوا ملا۔

ali=ko kʰɪlona tuṭ-a hu-a ml-a  
Ali.M=Dat toy.M.3Sg break-Perf.M.Sg be-Perf.M.Sg meet-Perf.M.3Sg  
'Ali found the toy broken.'

In (64) the participle forms are of intransitive verbs and the genitive marked elements are not subject arguments. These genitive marked elements give adverbial meanings and must be classified as adjuncts.



## Chapter 5

# Arguments and syntax of nouns

Like verbs, some nouns usually derived from verbs also take arguments, however, their number and case-marking might not be the same as that of the corresponding verbs. This chapter explores arguments of nouns in Urdu. In section 1, different types of case phrases a noun can take as its arguments are described. The genitive marked arguments/adjuncts of nouns are discussed in detail in section 2. Multiple instances of genitive marked elements in noun phrases are analysed and it is shown that some nouns in Urdu can take two genitive marked arguments. Discontinuous constituents result in Urdu NPs when an argument-taking noun is modified by an argument-taking adjective. Argument taking adjectives in Urdu are first discussed in section 3 and then the phenomenon of NP-internal discontinuity in Urdu is analyzed and implemented in LFG in section 4. Section 5 concludes the chapter.

### 5.1 Argument-taking nouns

Chomsky (1970) first showed that verbs and nouns seem to share complement-taking properties (1).

- (1) a. The enemy destroyed the city.  
b. The enemy's destruction of the city.

One basic difference between the argument structure of verbs and nouns is that verbs can take bare NPs as their arguments, but nouns cannot.

Argument taking nouns in Urdu are mostly derived from verbs of Arabic origin, some are of Persian origin and a very few are of Urdu origin. Different case marked nouns as well as prepositional phrases can be arguments of nouns in Urdu. A list of such elements with examples of nouns taking them as arguments is given in Table 5.1.

## 5. ARGUMENTS AND SYNTAX OF NOUNS

Nr.	Type of Argument	Example of Noun Phrase
(i)	Dative Marked	hakumat= <b>ko</b> <b>intibah</b> government.F.3Sg=Dat warning.F.3Sg 'warning to the government'
(ii)	Instrumental Marked	be'at= <b>se</b> <b>inkar</b> obedience.F.3Sg=Inst denial 'denial of obedience'
(iii)	Locative (in) Marked	abadi= <b>mē</b> <b>izafah</b> population.F.3Sg=Loc.in increase.M.3Sg 'increase in population'
(iv)	Locative (on) Marked	føj= <b>par</b> <b>inhisar</b> army.F.3Sg=Loc.on dependence.M.3Sg 'dependence on army'
(v)	Locative (till) Marked	cād= <b>tak</b> <b>rasai</b> moon.M.3Sg=Loc.till reach.F.3Sg 'reach up to the moon'
(vi)	Adpositional	salamti                bare <b>tafviḡ</b> security.F.3Sg about anxiety.F.3Sg 'anxiety over security'
(vii)	Genitive Marked	tavan= <b>ka</b> <b>mutalbah</b> ransom.M.3Sg=Gen.M.3Sg demand.M.3Sg 'demand for ransom'

Table 5.1: Argument-taking nouns

All the bold-faced nouns in Table 5.1 are in fact taken from Arabic, except the noun *rasai* 'reach' which is derived from a Persian verb *rasidan* 'to reach'. These nouns form constituents with their arguments and appear in one structural position in a sentential clause. For example, the noun plus its arguments can take the subject position in copular constructions (2). The head noun and its to-be-illustrated argument are bold-faced in (2). *ko* marked, *se* marked, *par* marked, *mē* marked, *tak* marked, adpositional (*bare*) and genitive marked arguments are illustrated in (2a) to (2g), respectively. Although sometimes there are other arguments/adjuncts of the head noun, only one is bold-faced for illustration.

- (2) a. دہشت گردوں کے خلاف کاروائی پر پاکستان کا امریکا کو انتباہ مضحکہ خیز ہے۔  
 [dahʃat-gardõ=ke xılaf karvai=par pakıstan=ka  
 [terrorist.3Pl=Gen.Obl against action.F.3Sg=Loc.on Pakistan=Gen.M.3Sg  
 amrika=ko intıbah] mazhakah-xez he  
 America=Dat warning.M.3Sg] ridiculing be.Pres.3Sg  
 ‘Pakistan’s warning to America on action against terrorists is ridiculing.’
- b. امام حسین کا یزید کی بیعت سے انکار فطری تھا۔  
 [ımam huseın=ka [yazid=ki bε’at]=se  
 [Imam Hussain=Gen.M.3Sg [Yazid=Gen.F.3Sg obedience.F.3Sg]=Abl  
 ınkar fitri t<sup>h</sup>a  
 denial.M.3Sg] natural be.Past.Sg  
 ‘Imam Husain’s denial to obey Yazid was natural.’
- c. جوہری توانائی پر انحصار صحیح نہیں ہے۔  
 [[johri tavanai]=par ınhısar] sahih nahı he  
 [[atomic energy.F.3Sg]=Loc.on dependence.M] right not be.Pres.3Sg  
 ‘Dependence on atomic energy is not right.’
- d. آبادی میں اضافہ بڑا مسئلہ ہے۔  
 [abadi=mẽ ızafah] bəra mas’lah he  
 [population.F.3Sg=Loc.in increase.M] big problem.M.3Sg be.Pres.3Sg  
 ‘Increase in population is a big problem.’
- e. سورج تک رسائی ممکن نہیں۔  
 [suraj=tak rasai] mumkin nahı  
 [sun.M.3Sg=Loc.till reach.F.3Sg] possible not  
 ‘Approach to the sun is not possible.’
- f. عوام کی ملکی سلامتی بارے تشویش بلاجواز نہیں۔  
 [avam=ki [mulki salamti] bare tafvıf] bıla-javaz nahı  
 [people=Gen.F [of-country security.F] about anxiety.F] without-reason not  
 ‘People’s anxiety over country’s security is not without reason.’

## 5. ARGUMENTS AND SYNTAX OF NOUNS

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g. سرائیکی قوم کا صوبہ سرائیکستان کا مطالبہ جائز ہے۔  
[[saraiki qom]=ka [subah saraikistan]=ka  
[[Saraiki nation.F.3Sg]=Gen.M [province.M.3Sg Saraikistan]=Gen.M.3Sg  
mutalbah] jaiz he  
demand.M.3Sg] rightful be.Pres.3Sg  
'Saraiki nation's demand for Saraikistan province is rightful.'

Some examples of native nouns which take arguments are *b<sup>h</sup>arosah* 'trust', *baṛ<sup>h</sup>otri* 'increase', *pahōc* 'reach' and *māg* 'demand', etc. The last three nouns are from verbs *baṛ<sup>h</sup>* 'increase', *pahōc* 'reach' and *māg* 'ask' respectively. Some borrowed nouns from English also take arguments in Urdu, for example, the noun *bariḥ* takes the *par* 'on' marked argument in Urdu.

### 5.2 Genitive modifiers/arguments

In this section the syntactic structure of those noun phrases of Urdu is explored in which there are multiple instances of genitive marked elements. It will be shown that different genitive elements in noun phrases result into the different hierarchical structure. Due to morpho-syntactic properties of the genitive marker and agreement requirements different structural ambiguities are generated. Before discussing the genitive arguments, issues with the genitive modifiers are introduced. It is shown that the attributive genitive modifiers stack together at the same level to modify the head noun (Raza, 2010c). The nominals which license genitive marked arguments are then described and classified.

#### 5.2.1 The genitive marker

The genitive marker in Urdu-Hindi originated from the past participle form of the Indo-Aryan verb *kar-* 'do'; it inflects for gender, number and case and agrees with the head noun: *ka* (M.Sg.Dir), *ke* (M.Sg.Obl/M.Pl), *ki* (F) (Payne, 2004). The form *ka* is traced back to a Prakrit past participle form *kerā* 'done' that is further traced back to a Sanskrit past participle form *kṛita*. The evidence for it is provided by Beames (1879) who provides the example, *kapi-kṛitam vacanam* 'speech made by monkey' or alternatively 'speech of the monkey'. The inflected forms *kerā*, *keri*, *kere* were in use in Old Hindi. Possessive/genitive forms of pronouns were made by adding these forms to them. Later, the first syllable of these forms was lost and only the second one was retained with some forms of the pronouns and hence Hindi-Urdu now uses *mera*, *tera*, etc. as possessive pronouns. But with some other forms of pronouns and all nouns the forms *ka*, *ki*, *ke* began to be used. The most frequent use of these forms is that they

mark possessive nouns, that is, these generally express possession or a *have-a* relation. Consider the following instances of genitive phrases.

(3) a. ندا کی کتاب

nda=ki                      kitab  
Nida.F.3Sg=Gen.F book.F.3Sg  
'Nida's book'

b. کتاب کا ورق

kitab=ka                      varq  
book.F.3Sg=Gen.M.3Sg page.M.3Sg  
'The page of a book'

Both instances in (3) show a *have-a* relation. Although the genitive markers are hosted by the modifier noun, they show agreement of number and gender with the head noun. Based on some tests to distinguish affixes from clitics by Miller (1992) and Zwicky (1987), Butt & King (2005) have analyzed these forms as clitics. One of the tests is that these have scope over noun coordination (4a) and the other is that some other element can intervene between these endings and the nominal host (52b).

(4) a. ندا کی کتاب اور کاپی

nda=ki                      kitab                      or                      kapi  
Nida.F.3Sg=Gen.F book.F.3Sg and note-book  
'Nida's book and note-book'

b. ندا ہی کی کتاب

nda=hi=ki                      kitab  
Nida.F.3Sg=Emp=Gen.F book.F.3Sg  
'Nida's book'

In addition to agreement, another requirement for a genitive phrase to be grammatical is that the host of the genitive marker should be in the oblique form.

- In all of instances in (5) the hosts of the genitive markers are in the oblique form. Proper nouns and feminine singular common nouns usually have morphologically identical direct and oblique forms. The host in (5a) is the proper noun and here it is supposed that it is in oblique form. The host of the genitive marker *bacca* ‘child’ in (5b) and *k<sup>h</sup>ɪlona* ‘toy’ are in their oblique forms, respectively, as *bacce* and *k<sup>h</sup>ɪlone*. If a genitive phrase hosts a genitive marker then both the head noun and the modifier alongside the genitive marker in the host genitive phrase are in oblique form (6). The head noun *k<sup>h</sup>ɪlona* ‘toy’ in (6a) is modified by the phrase *nɪda=ka bacca* ‘Nida’s child’



which must be realized as *nida=ke bacce*. Similarly the head noun *qimat* ‘price’ in (6b) is modified by the phrase *bacce=ka k<sup>h</sup>ilona* ‘child’s toy’ which must be realized as *bacce=ke k<sup>h</sup>ilone*.

In addition to the possession relation there are many other relations that can be expressed by genitive markers in Urdu (Platts, 1967), for example, kinship relation, part-whole relationship, etc.

### 5.2.2 Structure of noun phrases with multiple genitive modifiers

Both flat and hierarchical structures of genitive phrases with multiple instances of genitive marked nouns are possible. Consider the following example.

- (7) a. علی کی چاندی کی انگوٹھی  
 ali=ki                      cādi=ki                      āguṭ<sup>h</sup>i  
 Ali.M.3Sg=Gen.F silver.F.3Sg=Gen.F ring.F.3Sg  
 ‘Ali’s silver-ring’ OR  
 ‘The ring of Ali’s silver’

- b. ندا کا سونے کا کنگن  
 nida=ka                      sone=ka                      kāgan  
 Nida.F.3Sg=Gen.M gold.M.3Sg=Gen.M.3Sg bracelet.M.3Sg  
 ‘Nida’s golden ring’

For (7a), the following three bracketing structures could all be assumed.

- (i) [ali=ki [cādi=ki āguṭ<sup>h</sup>i]]  
 (ii) [[ali=ki cādi]=ki āguṭ<sup>h</sup>i]  
 (iii) [ali=ki cādi=ki āguṭ<sup>h</sup>i]

The first two are the more plausible structures for a genitive phrase and are both hierarchical. In (i) the head noun *āguṭ<sup>h</sup>i* ‘ring’ is modified by the genitive marked element *cādi=ki* ‘of silver’ and then the resulting genitive phrase is modified by another genitive marked element *ali=ki* ‘of Ali’. In the second bracketing structure (ii), first

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the noun *cādi* ‘silver’ is modified by *ali=ki* ‘of Ali’ and then the genitive marker is attached to this phrase to modify the head noun *āguṭ<sup>hi</sup>* ‘ring’. In (iii) the head noun *āguṭ<sup>hi</sup>* ‘ring’ is modified by two genitives *ali=ki* ‘of Ali’ and *cādi=ki* ‘of silver’.

Three structures for a noun phrase with two genitive modifiers are not always possible. For example, in (7b) the bracketing structure  $[[nida=ka\ sone]=ka\ kāgan]$  is not possible due to morpho-syntactic behavior of the genitive markers described in the previous section. Here, a genitive marker is supposed to be attached with another genitive phrase *nida=ka sone* ‘Nida’s gold’ in which the genitive marker *ka* does not show the oblique agreement of case with the head noun *sone* ‘gold’. So, a hierarchical structure like (ii) is completely out for (7b).

The flat structure for both instances in (7) is actually not plausible in that the two genitive modifiers cannot alternate their positions as in (8). So, we cannot say that the two modifiers are modifying the head noun at the same level.

(8) a. چاندی کی علی کی انگوٹھی

\* *cādi=ki*                      *ali=ki*                      *āguṭ<sup>hi</sup>*  
 silver.F.3Sg=Gen.F Ali.M.3Sg=Gen.F ring.F.3Sg  
 ‘Ali’s silver-ring’

b. سونے کا ندا کا کنگن

\* *sone=ka*                      *nida=ka*                      *kāgan*  
 gold.M.3Sg=Gen.M.3Sg Nida.F.3Sg=Gen.M bracelet.M.3Sg  
 ‘Nida’s golden ring’

One could argue that (8) is ungrammatical due to another reason, namely that the possessive modifier *ali=ki* ‘of Ali’ is not the most prominent (the outer most). However, in (9) there is no possessive modifier and still only one order (9a) of genitive marked elements is grammatical. Some more instances of genitive phrases where a flat structure of genitive modifiers is not possible are given in (10).

(9) a. ملتان کے مٹی کے برتن

*multan=ke*                      *maṭṭi=ke*                      *bartan*  
 Multan=Gen.M.Pl clay=Gen.M.pl pot.M.Pl  
 ‘Ceramic pots of Multan’

b. مٹی کے ملتان کے برتن

\* matṭi=ke      multan=ke      bartan  
 clay=Gen.M.pl Multan=Gen.M.Pl pot.M.Pl  
 ‘Ceramic pots of Multan’

(10) a. علی کی بیوی کی انگوٹھی

ali=ki      bivi=ki      āguṭ<sup>hi</sup>  
 Ali=Gen.F wife.F.3Sg=Gen.F ring.F.3Sg  
 ‘The ring of Ali’s wife’

b. علی کی گھڑی کی قیمت

ali=ki      g<sup>h</sup>aṛi=ki      qimat  
 Ali=Gen.F watch.F.3Sg=Gen.F price.F.3Sg  
 ‘The price of Ali’s watch’

The noun that opens a position for another nominal is called the relational element (Seiler, 1983). The noun *bivi* ‘wife’ in (10a) is a relational element and the modifier *ali=ki* makes a constituent with this noun. In (10b) the head noun *qimat* ‘price’ actually is an attribute and this attribute can only be of *g<sup>h</sup>aṛi* ‘watch’. So, (10a) and (10b) both have a deep hierarchical structure on the left (due to our world knowledge), as illustrated below.

(i) [[ali=ki bivi]=ki āguṭ<sup>hi</sup>]

(ii) [[ali=ki g<sup>h</sup>aṛi]=ki qimat]

The hierarchical structure could be deep on either side depending upon the agreement of case and the semantics of the participants in genitive phrases. Some examples of genitive phrases where the structure is deep on the right side are given in (11) below.

(11) a. اونٹ کی دوڑنے کی رفتار

ūṭ=ki      [dɔṛ-ne=ki      raftar]  
 camel.M.3Sg=Gen.F run-Inf.Obl=Gen.F speed.F.3Sg  
 ‘The running speed of a camel’

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b. ندا کی سکول کی گاڑی

nida=ki [sakul=ki gaṛi]  
 Nida.F.3Sg=Gen.F school.M.3Sg=Gen.F bus.F.3Sg  
 ‘Nida’s school bus’

(12) a. اونٹ کے دوڑنے کی رفتار

[ūṭ=ke dōṛ-ne]=ki raftar  
 camel.M.3Sg=Gen.M.Obl run-Inf.Obl=Gen.F speed.F.3Sg  
 ‘The speed of running of the camel’

b. ندا کے سکول کی گاڑی

[nida=ke sakul]=ki gaṛi  
 Nida.F.3Sg=Gen.M.Obl school.M.3Sg=Gen.F bus.F.3Sg  
 ‘The bus of Nida’s school’

(13) a. اونٹ کے دوڑنے کے انداز

ūṭ=ke dōṛ-ne=ke andaz  
 camel.M.3Sg=Gen.M.3Sg run-Inf.Obl=Gen.M.3Sg style.M.3Pl  
 ‘The running styles of a camel’ OR ‘The styles of running of a camel’

b. ندا کی یونیورسٹی کی گاڑی

nida=ki university=ki gaṛi  
 Nida.F.3Sg=Gen.F university.F.3Sg=Gen.F bus.F.3Sg  
 ‘Nida’s university-bus’ OR ‘the bus of university of Nida’

The morpho-syntactic properties of the genitive marker, that is, the oblique form of the host and the agreement rule out the left-sided deep structure in (11). Likewise the right-sided deep structure is out in (12). However, in (13) the structure can be deep on either side because the morpho-syntactic properties and agreement are ambiguous.

It was shown here that different forms of the genitive marker agreeing with the head noun in such constructions entail different meanings. Due to more than one case of agreement ambiguity is generated.

### 5.2.3 Attributive genitive modifiers

A list of some attributes and some of their possible types are given in Table 5.2. Attributive genitive modifiers here are taken to be those genitive modifiers which result after adding a genitive marker to some attribute of the head noun. More than one attributive genitive element can modify the head noun at the same level. That is, a genitive phrase with multiple attributive genitive modifiers has a flat structure.

Nr.	Attribute	Type
1	material	gold, clay
2	price	10 rupees, low price
3	size	small size
4	height	tall height
5	color	red color
6	weight	low wight, 80 gram
7	age	20 years, less age

Table 5.2: List of attributes

Consider the following instances of genitive phrases with multiple instances of attributive genitive modifiers.

- (14) a. لبے قد کی گورے رنگ کی لڑکی  
 [lambe qad=ki] [gore rāg=ki] lārki  
 [tall.M.3Sg height.M.3Sg=Gen.F] [white.M.3Sg color.M.3Sg=Gen.F] girl.F.3Sg  
 ‘A girl of tall height and white color’
- b. کم قیمت کا چھوٹے سائز کا لیپ ٹاپ  
 [kam qimat=ka] [c<sup>h</sup>oṭe saiz=ka] laptop  
 [low price.F.3Sg=Gen.M.3Sg] [small size.M.3Sg=Gen.M.3Sg] laptop.M.3Sg  
 ‘A laptop of low price and small size’

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(15) a. گورے رنگ کی لمبے قد کی لڑکی

[gore rāg=ki] [lambe qad=ki] lar̥ki  
 [white.M.3Sg color.M.3Sg=Gen.F] [tall.M.3Sg height.M.3Sg=Gen.F] girl.F.3Sg  
 ‘A girl of white color and tall height’

b. چھوٹے سائز کا کم قیمت کا لیپ ٹاپ

[c<sup>h</sup>oṭe saiz=ka] [kam qimat=ka] laptop  
 [small size.M.3Sg=Gen.M.3Sg] [low price.F.3Sg=Gen.M.3Sg] laptop.M.3Sg  
 ‘A laptop of small size and low price’

In both examples of (14a) and (14b) the order of genitive modifiers can be changed without altering the truth-conditional meaning. The examples with the changed order are shown in (15). The claim, here, is that attributive genitive modifiers stack together in a flat structure in Urdu. Furthermore, attributive genitive modifiers show a syntactic distribution similar to adjectival modifiers. The meanings conveyed by attributive genitives in (14) and (15) can also be conveyed by adjectives, as shown in (16) and (17).

(16) a. لمبی گوری لڑکی

lambi gori lar̥ki  
 tall.F.3Sg white.F.3Sg girl.F.3Sg  
 ‘A tall and white girl’

b. سستا چھوٹا لیپ ٹاپ

sasta c<sup>h</sup>oṭa laptop  
 cheap.M.3Sg small.M.3Sg laptop.M.3Sg  
 ‘A cheaper and smaller laptop’

(17) a. گوری لمبی لڑکی

gori lambi lar̥ki  
 white.F.3Sg tall.F.3Sg girl.F.3Sg  
 ‘A white and tall girl’

b. چھوٹا سستا لیپ ٹاپ

c<sup>h</sup>oṭa sasta laptop  
small.M.3Sg cheap.M.3Sg laptop.M.3Sg  
'A smaller and cheaper laptop'

Another syntactic distribution that is shared by both adjectival modifiers and attributive genitive modifiers is that they must appear adjacent to the head noun they are modifying. Any genitive modifiers that also appear in the NP constituent must be ordered before the adjectives. This is illustrated with the adjectival modifiers *barā* 'big' and *saf* 'clean' in (18)–(19) below.

(18) a. علی کا بڑا کمرہ

ali=ka barā kamra  
Ali.M.3Sg=Gen.M.3Sg big.M.3Sg room.M.3Sg  
'Ali's big room'

b. بڑا علی کا کمرہ

\* barā ali=ka kamra  
big.M.3Sg Ali.M.3Sg=Gen.M.3Sg room.M.3Sg  
'Ali's big room'

(19) a. پینے کا صاف پانی

pine=ka saf pani  
drink.Inf.Obl=Gen.M.3Sg clean water.M.3Sg  
'Purified drinking-water'

b. صاف پینے کا پانی

saf pine=ka pani  
clean drink.Inf.Obl=Gen.M.3Sg water.M.3Sg  
'Purified drinking-water'

The head noun *kamra* 'room' in (18a) is modified by the adjective *barā* 'big' and then the resulting phrase is modified by *ali=ka* 'of Ali' and the whole phrase is grammatical. However, in (18b) the adjectival modifier *barā* 'big' is not modifying the head

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noun *kamra* ‘room’. We cannot suppose that this adjective is modifying the possessor noun because in that case it should have been in oblique form with ‘Ali’, which is oblique given that it is hosting a genitive *ka*. As the adjective cannot modify the genitive phrase *ali=ka kamra* ‘Ali’s room’, the whole phrase becomes ungrammatical. Similarly, the phrase in (19b) can only be grammatical if the phrase *pine=ka pani* ‘drinking-water’ is considered as a unit. As in English, the phrase ‘every men’s room’ is acceptable because ‘men’s room’ is considered to be a noun-noun compound involving the possessive morpheme and ‘every’ takes ‘men’s room’ as a unit for its complement (Baker 1995:6-7). Likewise the noun phrases in (8) and (9b) are also ungrammatical because the attributive genitive modifiers are not modifying the head nouns in these. These examples are repeated in (20) for convenience.

(20) a. چاندی کی علی کی انگوٹھی

\* cādi=ki                      ali=ki                      āguṭḥi  
 silver.F.3Sg=Gen.F   Ali.M.3Sg=Gen.F   ring.F.3Sg  
 ‘Ali’s silver-ring’

b. سونے کا ندا کا کنگن

\* sone=ka                      nda=ka                      kāgan  
 gold.M.3Sg=Gen.M.3Sg   Nida.F.3Sg=Gen.M   bracelet.M.3Sg  
 ‘Nida’s golden ring’

c. مٹی کے ملتان کے برتن

\* maṭṭi=ke                      multan=ke                      bartan  
 clay=Gen.M.pl   Multan=Gen.M.Pl   pot.M.Pl  
 ‘Ceramic pots of Multan’

Sometimes ambiguity is generated as to whether the genitive attributive modifier before the material genitive modifier is for the material of the head noun or the head noun itself (21a). If the material genitive modifier is placed before any other genitive attributive modifier (21b) then no such ambiguity is generated.



- (21) a. سرخ رنگ کی لکڑی کی میز  
 sŭrx rāg=ki lakṛi=ki mez  
 red color.M.3Sg=Gen.F wood.F=Gen.F table.F.3Sg  
 ‘The table made of red wood’ OR  
 ‘The red wooden table’

- b. لکڑی کی سرخ رنگ کی میز  
 lakṛi=ki sŭrx rāg=ki mez  
 wood.F=Gen.F red color.M.3Sg=Gen.F table.F.3Sg  
 ‘The red wooden table’

When both adjectives and attributive genitive modifiers are present in noun phrases then attributive genitive modifiers are placed near the head noun before the adjectives, as shown in (22).

- (22) a. ندا کا سفید رنگ کا خوبصورت لباس  
 nida=ka sufəd rāg=ka xubsurat libas  
 Nida.F=Gen.M.3Sg white color.M.3Sg=Gen.M.3Sg beautiful suit.M.3Sg  
 ‘Nida’s beautiful suit of white color’

- b. ندا کے ملتان کے مٹی کے رنگین برتن  
 nida=ke mŭltan=ke maṭṭi=ke rāgin bartan  
 Nida.F=Gen.M.Pl Multan=Gen.M.Pl clay.F=Gen.M.Pl colorful pot.M.Pl  
 ‘Nida’s colorful ceramic pots of Multan’

The order of different genitive modifiers and adjectives in Urdu noun phrases can be generalized as the following:

possessor + relational genitives + attributive genitives + adjectives + noun

There are some more crucial points with respect to the attributive genitives. For one, the part-whole relation which is usually expressed by marking the whole with the genitive marker, can also be expressed by attributing some specified part to the whole by marking the specified part for genitive case. In the first case the genitive phrase is

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either the possessor or the whole (23) and in the latter case it should be considered an attributive genitive (24).

(23) a. مرغے کی ٹانگ

mūrye=ki                      ṭāg  
rooster.M.3Sg=Gen.F leg.F.3Sg  
'The leg of a rooster'

b. پنکھے کے دو پر

pākh<sup>h</sup>e=ke                      do par  
fan.M.3Sg=Gen.M.Pl two wing.M  
'Two wings of a fan'

(24) a. ایک ٹانگ کا مرغہ

ek ṭāg=ka                      mūrya  
one leg.F.3Sg=Gen.M.3Sg rooster.M.3Sg  
'The rooster of one leg'

b. پیلے رنگ کا دو پروں کا یہ پنکھا

pile rāg=ka                      do parō=ka                      yih pākh<sup>h</sup>a  
yellow color.M=Gen.M two wing.M.3Pl=Gen.M this fan.M.3Sg  
'This fan of yellow color and of two wings'

Another point is that some attributive genitives contain either a specified attribute or its concrete value to modify countable nouns, as shown in (25)–(26). However, such attributive genitives cannot modify uncountable nouns, as shown in (27).

(25) a. کم قیمت کا لیپ ٹاپ

kam qimat=ka                      laptop  
low price.F.3Sg=Gen.M.3Sg laptopt.M.3Sg  
'A laptop of low price'

- b. پندرہ سو روپے کا لیپ ٹاپ  
 pādrah so rupe=ka laptop  
 fifteen hundred rupee.M.3Pl =Gen.M.3Sg laptop.M.3Sg  
 ‘A laptop of fifteen hundred rupees’
- (26) a. کم وزن کی روٹی  
 kam vazan=ki roṭi  
 low weight.M.Sg=Gen.F bread.F.Sg  
 ‘A bread of low weight’
- b. اسی گرام کی روٹی  
 asi garam=ki roṭi  
 eighty gram=Gen.F bread.F.Sg  
 ‘A bread of 80 grams’
- (27) a. کم (وزن کی) چینی  
 kam (\*vazan=ki) cini  
 less (\*weight.M.Sg=Gen.F) sugar.F  
 ‘Less sugar’
- b. اسی گرام (کی) چینی  
 asi garam=(\*ki) cini  
 eighty gram=(\*Gen.F) sugar.F  
 ‘80 gram sugar’
- Finally, abstract nouns cannot have attributive genitive modifiers. In (28a) and (28b) the modified nouns are abstract and therefore modifiers in such cases are not attributive genitive modifiers. An *is-a relation* is instead expressed in (28b).
- (28) a. قیمت کا علم  
 qimat=ka ilm  
 price.F.3Sg=Gen.M.3Sg knowledge.M.3Sg  
 ‘Knowledge of the price’

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- b. سو روپے کی قیمت  
so rupe=ki qimat  
hundred rupee.M.3Pl =Gen.F.3Sg price.F.3Sg  
'Price of one hundred rupees'

So far, in this section, multiple instances of genitive modifiers have been explored and the analogy of attributive genitive modifiers with adjectives has been analyzed. It has been shown that the attributive genitive modifiers stack at the same level otherwise there is an hierarchical structure when there are some genitives encoding inherent relations and possession. An order of different modifiers in noun phrases was established. Genitive arguments of nouns are discussed in the next section.

### 5.2.4 Nominals and genitive arguments

Some nouns like brother, child, enemy, edge, etc., are supposed to be inherently relational (Partee & Borschev, 2003), taking genitive arguments in English and many other languages, but the clearest cases of arguments in noun phrases are found in nominalizations. First it was believed that nouns take arguments only optionally (Anderson, 1983; Dowty, 1987). Later it was shown by Grimshaw (1990) that many nouns have two senses or interpretations. In one sense they denote complex events and take arguments obligatorily and in another sense they denote simple events and do not necessarily take arguments. In the first sense they are called process nominals or derived nominals (Babby, 1997) and in the latter sense they are called result nominals. Later in this section, it will be examined whether this distinction also exists in Urdu.

#### 5.2.4.1 Infinitives with genitive arguments

In Urdu, infinitives are used to construct clauses and are also used as nominals. Butt (1995) has debated whether infinitive clauses in Urdu are nominalizations or gerunds. Bhatt (2005) proposed that infinitives can be projected without a subject but Davison (2008) recommended only a full clause structure for Urdu infinitives. She provided evidence for the presence of a projected syntactic subject in infinitive clauses, even if it is not pronounced. I would say infinitives in Urdu can act both as nouns and as clauses.

In this section, Urdu infinitives as nominals will be explored as to what types of genitive arguments they can take. Consider the example phrases of infinitival nominals in (29)–(31).

- (29) a. ایندھن کا جلنا

ĩdʰan=ka jal-na  
 fuel.M.3Sg=Gen.M.3Sg burn-Inf.M.Sg  
 ‘Burning of fuel’ (Unaccusative)

- b. مریض کا کھانسنّا

mariz=ka kʰās-na  
 patient=Gen.M.3Sg cough-Inf.M.Sg  
 ‘Coughing of the patient’ (Unergative)

- c. مجرم کا پٹنا

mujrim=ka piṭ-na  
 criminal=Gen.M.3Sg be-beaten-Inf.M.Sg  
 ‘Being beaten of the criminal’

- (30) a. تصاویر کا دیکھنا

tasavir=ka dekʰ-na  
 picture.F.Pl=Gen.M.3Sg see-Inf.M.Sg  
 ‘Seeing of pictures’

- b. ندا کا دیکھنا

nɪda=ka dekʰ-na  
 Nida=Gen.M.3Sg see-Inf.M.Sg  
 ‘Seeing of Nida/ Seeing by Nida’

- c. علی کا ندا کو دیکھنا

ali=ka nɪda=ko dekʰ-na  
 Ali=Gen.M.3Sg Nida=Acc see-Inf.M.Sg  
 ‘Seeing of Nida by Ali’

For both unaccusative intransitive verbs (29a) and unergative intransitive verbs (29b), the subject argument (the theme in the first case and the agent in the latter case) of the nominal is marked genitive. Likewise the patient argument of the intransitive

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verb *pit* ‘be-beaten’ is marked for genitive case. The question is which argument of the transitive verb *dek<sup>h</sup>* ‘see’ is marked by genitive marker in (30b). Is it subject or object? It is assumed that it can be either in Urdu. If only one argument of the infinitival nominal of a transitive verb is mentioned in Urdu then it can be either its internal argument or its external argument.

Lebeaux (1986), however, notes that if the subject of a nominal derived from a transitive verb is present, then the object must obligatorily be there for the noun phrase to be grammatical. Grimshaw showed that obligatory arguments are taken by nominals only when these are action nominals and it could also be the case that the same nominal behaves in both senses. The nominal in (30b) will therefore be considered a result nominal. We observe that with Urdu infinitives only one argument is marked genitive. In case both the subject and the object arguments of a transitive verb are realized, the subject is marked genitive and the object is marked nominative or accusative. This is illustrated in (31).

(31) a. ندا کا بیچنا

nida=ka                      bec-na  
Nida=Gen.M.3Sg sell-Inf.M.Sg  
‘Selling by Nida/ Selling of Nida’

b. کھلونوں کا بیچنا

k<sup>h</sup>ilonō=ka                      bec-na  
toy.M.3Pl.Obl=Gen.M.3Sg sell-Inf.M.Sg  
‘Selling of toys’

c. ندا کا کھلونے بیچنا

nida=ka                      k<sup>h</sup>ilone bec-na  
Nida=Gen.M.3Sg toy.3Pl sell-Inf.M.Sg  
‘Selling of toys by Nida’

d. ندا کا بچوں کو کھلونے بیچنا

nida=ka                      baccō=ko k<sup>h</sup>ɪlone      bec-na  
Nida=Gen.M.3Sg child.3Pl toy.M.3Pl sell-Inf.M.Sg  
'Selling of toys by Nida to children'

(32) a. مالدار کا دینا

malدار=ka                      de-na  
wealthy=Gen.M.3Sg give-Inf.M.Sg  
'Giving by the wealthy'

b. فقیر کو دینا

faqir=ko                      de-na  
beggar.M=Dat give-Inf.M.Sg  
'Giving to a beggar'

c. خیرات (کا) دینا

xerat=(ka)                      de-na  
alms.F=Gen.M give-Inf.M  
'Giving of alms'

d. فقیر کو خیرات کا دینا

faqir=ko                      xerat=(ka)                      de-na  
beggar.M=Dat alms.F=Gen.M give-Inf.M.Sg  
'Giving alms to a beggar'

e. مالدار کا فقیر کو دینا

malدار=ka                      faqir=ko                      de-na  
wealthy=Gen.M.3Sg beggar.M=Dat give-Inf.M.Sg  
'Giving to a beggar by the wealthy'

f. مالدار کا خیرات دینا

malدار=ka                      xerat      de-na  
wealthy=Gen.M.3Sg alms.F give-Inf.M  
'Giving of alms by the wealthy'

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g. مالدار کا فقیر کو خیرات دینا

maldar=ka                      faqir=ko                      xerat    de-na  
 wealthy=Gen.M.3Sg beggar.M=Dat alms.F give-Inf.M.Sg  
 ‘Giving alms to a beggar by the wealthy’

In (31), the infinitive of the transitive verb *bec* ‘sell’ is given with its arguments. The subject reading of genitive modifier in (31a) and object reading in (31b) both are okay. In (31c–d) both object and subject are included and only the subject is marked genitive. The indirect object of a ditransitive verb like *de* ‘give’ is never marked for genitive case in the infinitival construction, as shown in (32). If the subject argument is not realized, the direct object can be unmarked or marked for genitive case, else it is obligatorily unmarked.

(33) a. ایک خدا کا ماننا

ek xuda=ka                      man-na  
 one God=Gen.M.3Sg believe-Inf.M.Sg  
 ‘Believing in one God’

b. قرآن کا پڑھنا

quran=ka                      parh-na  
 Quran.M.3Sg=Gen.M.3Sg read-Inf.M.Sg  
 ‘Reading of the Quran’

The instances in (33) are frequent expressions in Urdu web corpora where only the object reading is construed. In case of only a single genitive argument of the infinitive, most of the times, the object reading is meaningful.

We have seen that either the subject or the object argument in Urdu infinitives is marked for genitive case, but not both simultaneously. In this respect Urdu is similar to Persian, where infinitives can take either subject or object, but not both with the *ezafe* construction (Ghomeshi, 1997). In Urdu, however, not only are some arguments of infinitival nominals marked for genitive case, but arguments of verbs in participial adjectives and in some subordinate clauses are also marked genitive. Participial adjectives have already been discussed in Chapter 4 under the heading of characterizing participles.



### 5.2.4.2 Other nominals with genitive marked arguments

In Urdu many nouns other than infinitives are derived from verbal roots and take genitive arguments. Some nouns are derived from verbal roots of Urdu itself and some are derived from verbal roots of other languages like Arabic and Persian. These nouns can be divided into two classes. The nouns in one class take only one genitive marked argument and the nouns in the other class can take two genitive marked arguments. Some instances of nouns from the first class are given in (34)–(35).

(34) a. ٹرین کی روانگی

train=ki ravangi  
train.F.3Sg=Gen.F.3Sg departure.F.3Sg  
'Departure of the train'

b. ٹرین کی اسٹیشن سے روانگی

train=ki station=se ravangi  
train.F.3Sg=Gen.F.3Sg station.M.3Sg=Abl departure.F.3Sg  
'Departure of the train from the station'

(35) a. سیلاب کی تباہی

selab=ki tabahi  
flood.M.3Sg=Gen.F.3Sg destruction.F.3Sg  
'Destruction due to floods'

b. فصلوں کی تباہی

faslō=ki tabahi  
crop.F.3Pl=Gen.F.3Sg destruction.F.3Sg  
'Destruction of crops'

c. انسان کی تباہی

insan=ki tabahi  
man.M.3Sg=Gen.F.3Sg destruction.F.3Sg  
'Destruction of man / destruction by man'

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d. انسان کی فصلوں کی تباہی

\* insan=ki faslō=ki tabahi  
man.M.3Sg=Gen.F.3Sg crop.F.3Pl=Gen.F.3Sg destruction.F.3Sg  
'Destruction of crops by man'<sup>1</sup>

e. سیلاب کی فصلوں کی تباہی

\* selab=ki faslō=ki tabahi  
flood.M.3Sg=Gen.F.3Sg crop.F.3Pl=Gen.F.3Sg destruction.F.3Sg  
'Destruction of crops due to floods'

f. انسان کے ہاتھوں فصلوں کی تباہی

insan=ke hat<sup>h</sup>ō faslō=ki tabahi  
man.M.3Sg=Gen.Obl hand.Pl.Obl crop.F.Pl destruction.F.3Sg  
'Destruction of crops by man'

g. سیلاب سے فصلوں کی تباہی

tselab=se faslō=ki tabahi  
flood.M.3Sg=Abl crop.F.3Pl=Gen.F.3Sg destruction.F.3Sg  
'Destruction of crops due to floods'

In (34) *ravangi* 'departure' is a noun derived from the Persian word *ravanīh* 'dispatched' and has two alternate subcategorization frames. In both cases it takes a genitive marked subject. All nouns of an intransitive nature have their subject as genitive marked. The noun *tabahi* 'destruction' is of a transitive nature and can take either a genitive marked subject or a genitive marked object (35a–c) but both cannot be marked for genitive case simultaneously (35d–e). In (35f) the agent argument is encoded by adpositional phrase and in (35g) the instrumental marked noun encodes the cause of the event. Other nominals in Urdu which fall in this class are, for example, *pitai* 'beating', *dhūlai* 'washing', *pisai* 'crushing', *mv'ainah* 'examination'.

There are some nouns that can take only a genitive marked object, for example, the nominal *bacao* 'safety' derived from the verb *baca* 'save'. The noun *intixab* 'selection' usually takes a genitive object. However, it can also act as a result nominal where it refers to the result of the selection process.

<sup>1</sup>This phrase is grammatical in another reading: 'Destruction of crops of man'. In such case the bracketing structure would be as: [insan=ki faslō]=ki tabahi

(36) a. صدر کا انتخاب

sadar=ka                      intixab  
 president=Gen.M.3Sg selection.M.3Sg  
 'Selection of the president'

b. علی کا انتخاب

ali=ka                      intixab  
 Ali.M.3Sg=Gen.M.3Sg selection.M.3Sg  
 'Selection made by Ali'

c. یہ خوبصورت شعر علی کا انتخاب ہے

yih xubsurat fer ali=ka                      intixab                      he  
 this beautiful verse Ali=Gen.M.3Sg selection.M.3Sg be.Pres  
 'This beautiful verse is a selection made by Ali'

In (36b), the noun *intixab* 'selection' refers to some result of the process which is evidenced in (36c). Because event or process nominals cannot be used predicatively, as showed by Grimshaw (1990), the instance of the noun *intixab* 'selection' in (36c) is a result nominal which is modified by a genitive modifier.

In addition to the above nouns, there is another class of nominals in Urdu which take two genitive marked arguments. The noun *g<sup>h</sup>erao* 'surrounding' derived from the verb *g<sup>h</sup>er* 'surround' is one example. For each of the head nouns in (37), there are two arguments and both are marked genitive. Urdu infinitives can be marked for case like other nouns. In (37b), the second argument is infinitival.

(37) a. نوجوانوں کا تھانے کا گھیراؤ

nojavanō=ka                      t<sup>h</sup>ane=ka                      g<sup>h</sup>erao  
 youngster.M.3Pl=Gen.M.3Sg police-station=Gen.M.3Sg surround.M.3Sg  
 'Surrounding of police-station by youngsters'

b. صدر کا الیکشن کرانے کا اعلان

sadar=ka                      [election                      kar-a-ne]=ka                      i'lan  
 president=Gen.M [election.M.3Sg do-Caus-Inf.Obl]=Gen.M announcement.M  
 'Announcement made by the president to conduct elections'

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c. عوام کا صدر کے اعلان کا خیر مقدم

avam=ka      [sadar=ke      i'lan]=ka      xer-maqdam  
 people=Gen.M president=Gen.M [announcement.M]=Gen.M welcome.M.Sg  
 'Welcome by the people of the announcement of the president'

It is typical for the second class of nominals in Urdu in that both subject and object/theme are marked by genitive markers. In Persian, there is not a single nominal in which both subject and object are licensed by the *ezafe* construction. In English too, both subject and object of a noun cannot be realized prenominal genitives simultaneously. It is observed in Urdu and some other Indo-Aryan languages (for example, Saraiki) that both subject and object/theme in some nominals are marked for genitive case. Also in German, deverbal nouns of a transitive nature allow for two genitives one in the prenominal position and the other in the postnominal position (Butt *et al.*, 1996).

### 5.2.5 Implementation of NPs with multiple genitives in LFG

In an LFG grammar of Urdu (Butt & King, 2007) genitive markers are dealt with within syntax. Genitive clitics have their own terminal node to represent the head of their case phrase. The agreement of the genitive marker in gender, number and case with the head noun is dealt with at f-structure via feature unification. The genitive phrases with a single instance of genitive marked element work well. With multiple instances of genitive elements the complexity increases. Consider (38):

(38) a. ابراہا کا ہاتھیوں کا لشکر

abraha=ka      hat<sup>h</sup>iyō=ka      lafkar  
 Abraha.M.3Sg=Gen.M.3Sg elephant.M.3Pl=Gen.M.3Sg army.M.3Sg  
 'Abraha's army of elephants'

b. ابراہا کے ہاتھیوں کا لشکر

abraha=ke      hat<sup>h</sup>iyō=ka      lafkar  
 Abraha.M.3Sg=Gen.M.3Pl elephant.M.3Pl=Gen.M.3Sg army.M.3Sg  
 'The army of Abraha's elephants'

c. ابراہا کے ہاتھیوں کے لشکر

abraha=ke                      hat<sup>h</sup>iyō=ke                      lafkar  
 Abraha.M.3Sg=Gen.M.3Pl elephant.M.3Pl=Gen.M.3Pl army.M.3Pl  
 ‘Abraha’s armies of elephants’ OR ‘The armies of Abraha’s elephants’

Consider the following three bracketed structures. For (38a), the bracketed structure in (i) is valid; for (38b), the bracketed structure in (ii) is valid and for (38c) two bracketed structures in (i) and (ii) are valid.

- (i) [abraha=kX [hat<sup>h</sup>iyō=kX lafkar]]
- (ii) [[abraha=kX hat<sup>h</sup>iyō]=kX lafkar]
- (iii) [abraha=kX hat<sup>h</sup>iyō=kX lafkar]

If no restrictions of agreement and/or hierarchy are posited at f-structure, all three bracketed structures for any instance in (38) should result. Having put the agreement restrictions, the bracketed structure in (ii) will be out for (38a) via feature unification, as the first case form *ka* in it does not agree with the noun *hat<sup>h</sup>iyō* ‘elephants’. Now the issue is how to generate the hierarchical structure for it as in (i) rather than the flat structure as in (iii). A hierarchical structure in genitive phrases is usually found when there are possessors or inherently relational nouns. I would suggest encoding features of nouns in the grammar, e.g., whether some noun is inherently relational and whether something is able to be possessed. All nouns cannot be possessed, for example, the noun ‘price’ cannot be possessed. If some noun is inanimate then it cannot be the possessor. The noun ‘Abraha’ is a human name, so it qualifies as a possessor. Furthermore, features for recognizing attributive genitives should also be devised. Attributive genitives always stack together at the same level. So, working with these features the flat structure for (38a) would be out and only the hierarchical structure in (i) would result.

The agreement morphology will also rule out the bracketed structures in (i) and (iii) for (38b). The second case form *ka* in it is singular which agrees with the singular noun *lafkar* ‘army’. The first genitive form *ke* should then definitely be in agreement with the plural noun *hat<sup>h</sup>iyō* ‘elephants’. Hence only the bracketed structure (ii) would result for (38b) via feature unification.

Example (38c) is crucial in that two hierarchical structures are possible for it because the agreement of case markers is ambiguous. The first case marker *ke* agrees with the noun *hat<sup>h</sup>iyō* ‘elephants’ and also with the plural noun *lafkar* ‘army’. It should be noted that the singular direct and the plural direct forms of many masculine common nouns in Urdu are identical. The plural form of the noun *lafkar* ‘army’ in this example is

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recognized due to the second case form *ke*. The valid c-structures and the corresponding f-structure representations of (38c) are shown in Figures 5.1 and 5.2<sup>2</sup>. The right-sided deep structure has the corresponding f-structure with SPEC and ADJUNCT and the left-sided deep structure has the corresponding f-structure only with ADJUNCT.

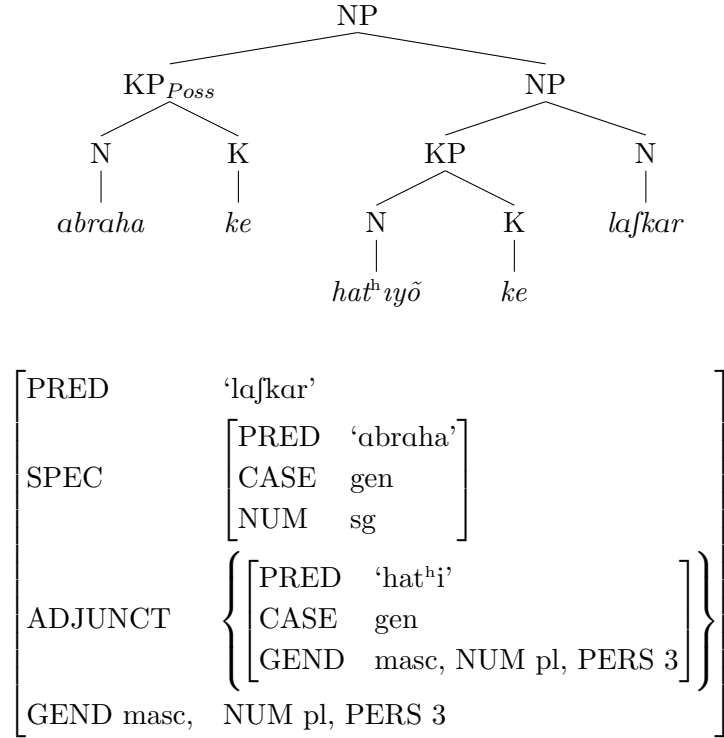
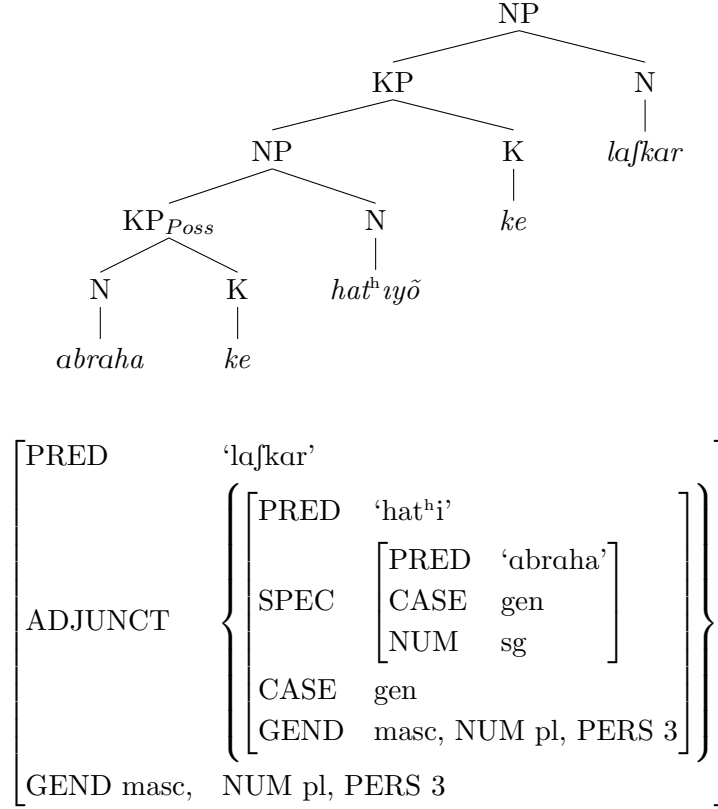


Figure 5.1: A valid c- and f-structure representation of (38c)

Another issue is that a non-ambiguous noun phrase with multiple genitives may become ambiguous when it itself is marked by a case. This is due to the fact that direct forms of nouns and cases in a noun phrase are changed to oblique forms when a case clitic is added. For example, when the accusative case marker *ko* is added to to any instance of (38a–b), both result in an identical surface structure as in (38c) and the resulting phrase has two meanings (39).

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<sup>2</sup>I use the simplified f-structures in my discussions.



- (39) ابراہا کے ہاتھیوں کے لشکر کو روکو!  
 [abraha=ke                      hat<sup>hi</sup>yo=ke                      lafkar]=ko rok-o  
 Abraha.M.3Sg=Gen.M.3Pl elephant.M.3Pl=Gen.M.3Pl army.M.3Pl stop-Imper  
 ‘Stop Abraha’s army of elephants!’ OR  
 ‘Stop the army of Abraha’s elephants!’

In Table 5.3 different types of genitive elements in a noun phrase with the proposed equivalent functional categories are given. The pseudo-possessives are as the first genitive in *nida=ki sakul=ki gari* ‘Nida’s school bus’ and inherently relational genitives are as in *nida=ka b<sup>hi</sup>ai* ‘Nida’s brother’.

As the attributive genitive modifiers syntactically show the same distribution as simple adjectives do, these should be treated as adjuncts in the f-structure. Consider another genitive phrase in (40) with different types of genitive elements. The f-structure of this phrase is shown in Figure 5.3. A feature ‘adjunct-type’ can be added to show the particular kind of genitive adjunct.

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Nr.	Type of genitive	Functional category
1	Genitive <sub>possessive</sub>	SPEC
2	Genitive <sub>pseudo-possessive</sub>	SPEC
3	Genitive <sub>inherently-relational</sub>	SPEC
4	Genitive <sub>relational</sub>	ADJUNCT
5	Genitive <sub>attributive</sub>	ADJUNCT

Table 5.3: Different genitive elements with functional labels

(40) ندا کے ملتان کے نیلے رنگ کے مٹی کے قیمتی برتن

nida=ke                      multan=ke                      nile    rāg=ke                      maṭṭi=ke  
Nida.F=Gen.M.Pl   Multan=Gen.M.Pl   blue   color=Gen.M.Pl   clay.F=Gen.M.Pl  
qimati            bartan  
expensive   pot.M.Pl  
‘Nida’s expensive blue ceramic pots from Multan’

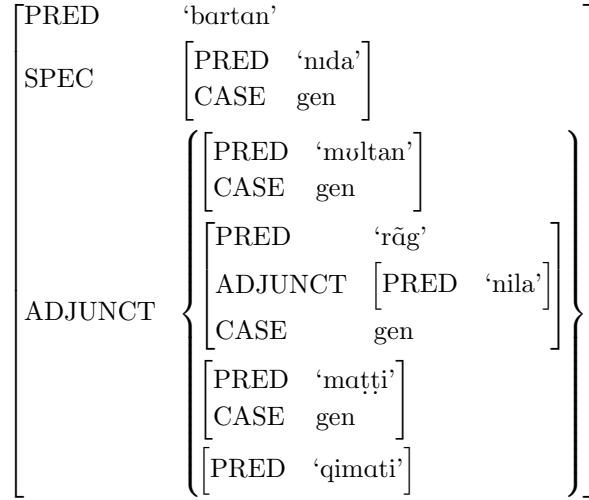


Figure 5.3: f-structure representation of (40)

For deverbal nouns it is proposed that they should be listed in the lexicon according to the number and type of genitive arguments they take. The lexicon with full subcategorization information of nouns will help to correctly parse the noun phrases in Urdu and the coverage of the parser will be increased.



### 5.2.6 Summary

In this section, nominals in Urdu with genitive adjuncts and genitive arguments have been analyzed. Different classes of nominals based on the number and type of genitive arguments have been investigated. The flat and hierarchical structure of such phrases was explored. It was shown that attributive genitive modifiers behave like adjective modifiers in the syntax and can stack together at the same level. It was proposed to deal with such elements separately from other genitive elements like possessive genitives and inherently relational genitives. Some nouns take either genitive marked agent or genitive marked theme/object, others take agent and theme/object both marked for genitive case.

Different types of genitives in Urdu noun phrases and different possible hierarchical structures of such phrases is an interesting phenomenon to be investigated further in syntactic theories formally.

## 5.3 Argument-taking adjectives

In Urdu, participial adjectives and some other adjectives originally derived from verbal stems of other languages also take arguments. Participle forms of verbs used as adjectives in Urdu were discussed in detail in section 4.7 under the heading of characterizing participles.

Some of the argument-taking adjectives are listed in Table 5.4. The nouns in parenthesis are modified by the argument taking adjectives. Nouns are put in parenthesis because the purpose here is to illustrate only the adjectives and their arguments. These adjectives usually are derived from Arabic verbal stems and can sometimes be replaced with native participial adjectives as shown in (41).

- (41) a. صدر کو حاصل اختیارات  
sadar=ko      hasil      ixtiyarat  
president=Dat attained power.M.3Pl  
‘Powers attained by the president’

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Nr.	Type of Argument	Example of Adjective Phrase
(i)	Dative Marked	sadar=ko <b>hasıl</b> (ixtiyarat) president=Dat attained (powers) '(The powers) attained by the president'
(ii)	Instrumental Marked	adliyah=se <b>xaif</b> (hukmaran) courts=Inst afraid (rulers) '(The rulers) afraid of courts'
(iii)	Locative (in) Marked	buxar=mē <b>mubtala</b> (fāxs) fever=Loc.in suffered (man) '(The man) suffered from fever'
(iv)	Locative (on) Marked	taqarir=par <b>muftamil</b> (kıtāb) speech.Pl=Loc.on comprised (book) '(The book) comprised of speeches'
(v)	Adpositional	sihat=ke hīe <b>muẓir</b> (xurak) health=Gen for harmful (food) '(The food) harmful for health'
(vi)	Genitive Marked	sadar=ke <b>hami</b> (afrad) president=Gen.Pl supporting (people) '(People) supporting the president'

Table 5.4: Argument-taking adjectives

b. صدر کو ملے ہوئے اختیارات

sadar=ko mil-e hu-e ixtiyarat  
president=Dat attain-Perf.M.3Pl be-Perf.M.3Pl power.M.3Pl  
'Powers attained by the president'

The adjective *hasıl* in (41a) and the participial form *mil-e hu-e* in (41b) are semantically equivalent with the meaning of 'attained'.<sup>3</sup>

(42) a. صدر کی حامی جماعت نے ریلی نکالی۔

sadar=ki hami jama'at=ne reli nıkal-i  
president=Gen.F supporting party.F.3Sg=Erg rally.F.3Sg conduct-Perf.F.3Sg  
'The supporting party of the president conducted a rally'

<sup>3</sup>The equivalent construct in Persian for this meaning is *hasıl fudāh* which is the participial form of *hasıl fudan*. In Urdu, the adjective *hasıl* can also be considered as the reduced participle form of complex predicate *hasıl ho*.

b. صدر کے حامی افراد نے ریلی نکالی۔

sadar=ke      hami      afrad=ne      reli      nıkal-i  
 president=Gen.F supporting people.3Pl=Erg rally.F.3Sg conduct-Perf.F.3Sg  
 ‘The supporting people of the president conducted a rally’

c. صدر کے حامیوں نے ریلی نکالی۔

sadar=ke      hamıyõ=ne      reli      nıkal-i  
 president=Gen.F supporter.3Pl=Erg rally.F.3Sg conduct-Perf.F.3Sg  
 ‘Supporters of the president conducted a rally’

In English *-er* nouns like ‘supporter’ are not used as adjectives but their equivalents in Urdu are also used as adjectives as shown in (vi) of Table 5.4. They are used both as attributive adjectives (42a–b) and as nouns (42c). When these are used as nouns, these can be inflected like nouns. They are not inflected when used as adjectives. The genitive case clitics that mark the arguments of such elements are inflected according to the number and gender of the (modified) noun (42a–c). In addition to adjectives similar to *-er* English nouns, some other participial forms of verbs from Arabic, Persian and many from Urdu also take a genitive marked subject argument and are used as adjectives.

Traditionally it was believed that adjectives do not subcategorize for an OBJ function crosslinguistically. Later it was found that adjectives can take accusative complements in some languages (first observed by Platzack (1982) for old Swedish). Such adjectives were called transitive adjectives (Maling, 1983). In Urdu, apparently there are no adjectives that take bare NPs as their complements. However, participle forms of transitive verbs can take bare NPs to modify the subject argument of the verb. More cases of complement taking adjectives are described below.

### 5.3.1 Genitive marked complements of degree adjectives

The theme of some degree adjectives in Urdu is also marked by the genitive case, as is shown in (43) for the two adjectives *bura* ‘bad’ and *acch<sup>a</sup>* ‘good’.

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- (43) a. دل کا برا شخص  
 dīl=ka bura faxs  
 heart.M.3Sg=Gen.M.3Sg bad.M.3Sg person.M.3Sg  
 ‘a person of bad heart’
- b. طبیعت کی اچھی لڑکی  
 tabi’at=ki acc<sup>hi</sup> lar̥ki  
 nature.F.3Sg=Gen.F.3Sg good.F.3Sg girl.F.3Sg  
 ‘a girl of good nature’

Ikeya (1995) argued that degree adjectives in English are one-place predicates and that the contextual/semantic dimensions are in fact modifiers of these predicates. He reported three contextual dimensions of such predicates: Thematic Dimension (TD), Comparative Dimension (CD) and Degree Dimension (DD). In his example *He is very good at basketball for a short Japanese* all these dimensions are expressed: *at basketball* is TD, *for a short Japanese* is CD and *very* is DD. The first dimension TD was first reported by Bartsch (1986/87). The comparative and thematic dimensions of degree adjectives in Urdu are usually encoded by different case phrases or adpositional phrases. The genitive marked elements in (43) in fact are modifiers of adjectives encoding the thematic dimension of adjectives.

Constructions similar to (43) also exist in Welsh (Mittendorf & Sadler, 2008) and Arabic (Al-Sharifi & Sadler, 2009). Morris-Jones (1931) has called genitives in such construction as ‘genitives of respect’ or ‘in respect of genitives’. Mittendorf & Sadler (2008) have analysed the genitive of respect in attributive constructions as the OBJ function of the adjective. On similar lines the f-structure representation of (43b) is given in Figure 5.4.

$$\left[ \begin{array}{cc} \text{PRED} & \text{'lar̥ki'} \\ \text{ADJUNCT} & \left\{ \left[ \begin{array}{cc} \text{PRED} & \text{'acc<sup>hi</sup>'} \\ \text{OBJ} & \left[ \begin{array}{cc} \text{tabi'at} & \text{gen} \\ \text{CASE} & \end{array} \end{array} \right] \right\} \end{array} \right]$$

Figure 5.4: f-structure representation of (43b)

### 5.3.2 Dative marked complements of degree adjectives

Consider some copular sentences with dative elements of Urdu in (44) and of German in (45).

- (44) a. علی کو یہ قمیض ڈھیلی ہے۔  
 ali=ko yih qamiz d<sup>h</sup>ili he  
 Ali.M=Dat this shirt.F.3Sg loose.F.3Sg be.3Sg.Pres  
 ‘This shirt is loose to Ali.’

- b. ندا کو وہ پاجامہ تنگ ہے۔  
 nida=ko vuh pajamah tãg he  
 Nida.F=Dat that trouser.M.3Sg tight be.3Sg.Pres  
 ‘That trouser is tight to Nida.’

- (45) a. Dieses Hemd ist ihm zu weit  
 this.Neut shirt be.3Sg.Pres Pron.3Sg.M.Dat too loose  
 ‘This shirt is too loose to him.’  
 b. Diese Hose ist ihr zu eng  
 this.F trouser be.3Sg.Pres Pron.3Sg.F.Dat too tight  
 ‘This trouser is tight to her.’ (German)

The dative NPs in (44) can be dropped and still the instances remain grammatical. Those datives in German and in some other languages that may be dropped without any syntactic and semantic residue are called free datives (e.g. Hole 2009). Hole has given the following test to distinguish free datives from sub-categorized datives in German:

- (46) A *dative argument* D not dependent on a preposition is *free* in a simple positive declarative sentence S of German **iff**
- (i) S without D is grammatical;
  - (ii) S without D does not entail that there is an individual
    - (α) which participates in the event described by S and
    - (β) which could be encoded as a dative argument. (Hole 2009:3)

The Urdu datives in (44) also act like the free datives of German. As the free datives in these construction encode the beneficiaries, in the f-structure representation these can be analyzed as OBJ-GO of adjectives as is shown in Figure 5.5.

It should be noted that copular verb in (44) cannot be assumed to introduce a genitive marked argument in addition to PREDLINK because in that case it would not be called a copular verb. The dative argument is due to the adjectival predicate, hence it should be encoded as an argument of the adjective.

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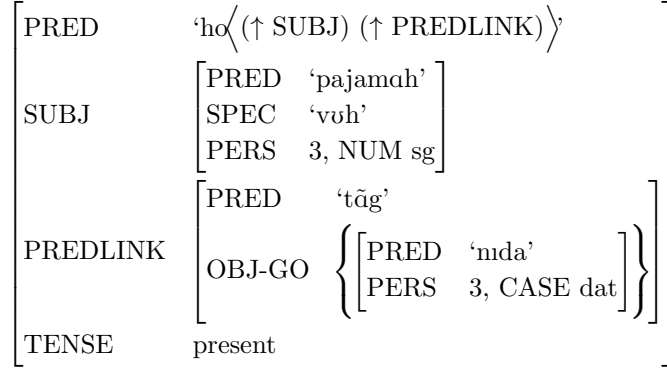


Figure 5.5: f-sructure representation of (44b)

### 5.3.3 Clausal complements

Adjectives in Urdu can also allow for clausal complements. There is one class of adjectives that can appear in the copula constructions illustrated in (47). The morphemes *yih* or *yih bat* are equivalent to expletives in Urdu and can sometimes be dropped.

(i) [Nominalized property] Adj Cop

(ii) [(*yih*/*yih bat*) ‘it’] Adj Cop CP

(47) a. علی کا انعام جیتنا ممکن ہے۔

[ali=ka m'am jit-na] **mumkin** he  
[Ali=Gen.M.3Sg prize.M.3Sg win-Inf.M] possible be.Pres.3Sg  
'Ali's winning of the prize is possible.'

b. (یہ (بات)) ممکن ہے کہ علی انعام جیتے۔

(yih (bat)) **mumkin** he [kih ali m'am jit-e]  
(this (thing.F.3Sg)) possible be.Pres [that Ali prize.3Sg win-Subjn]  
'It is possible that Ali will win the prize.'

In addition to *mumkin* 'possible', some other adjectives that fall in this class are *yaqini* 'sure', *zaruri* 'important', *sahih* 'true', etc.

Consider another class of adjectives which can take three alternate frames with the typical example *heran* ‘surprised’ illustrated in (48).

- (i) NP-*par*
- (ii) that-clause
- (iii) NP-*par* that-clause

(48) a. ندا علی کے انعام جیتنے پر حیران ہے۔

nɪda [ali=ke m'am jit-ne]=par **heran** hɛ  
 Nida.F [Ali=Gen.Obl prize.M win-Inf.Obl]=Loc.on surprised be.Pres.3Sg  
 ‘Nida is surprised at Ali’s winning of the prize.’

b. ندا حیران ہے کہ علی نے انعام جیتا۔

nɪda **heran** hɛ [kɪh ali=ne m'am jit-a]  
 Nida.F surprised be.Pres.Sg [that Ali=Erg prize.M win-Perf.M]  
 ‘Nida is surprised that Ali won the prize.’

c. ندا اس بات پر حیران ہے کہ علی نے انعام جیتا۔

nɪda ɪs bat=par **heran** hɛ [kɪh ali=ne m'am jit-a]  
 Nida this thing=Loc.on surprised be.Pres.Sg [that Ali=Erg prize.M win-Perf.M]  
 ‘Nida is surprised that Ali won the prize.’

d. ندا علی پر حیران ہے کہ اس نے انعام جیتا۔

nɪda ali=par **heran** hɛ [kɪh ʊs=ne m'am jit-a]  
 Nida.F Ali.M=Loc.on surprised be.Pres.Sg [that 3Sg=Erg prize.M win-Perf.M]  
 ‘Nida is surprised that Ali won the prize.’

It can be said that the canonical argument of the adjective *heran* ‘surprised’ is *par* marked NP. However, if the *par* marked element is some nominalization then the adjective can alternatively take *that*-clause arguments (48b–d). The adjectives *parefan* ‘sad’ and *xʊf* ‘happy’ show similar syntactic behavior.

### 5.4 Discontinuous constituents within noun phrases

Clause-level discontinuity of noun phrases in different languages has been reported in the literature under different headings like discontinuity, extraposition, extraction, free topic and quantifier float. However, discontinuity within the constituent-level has not been discussed before. Urdu is a language in which both types of discontinuity, clause-level and constituent-level exist. The arguments of heads in NPs are non-contiguous to their respective heads at surface structure. This detachment can occur at one structural position of a clause inside the NP rather than spanning the whole clause with other constituents in between. The heads in such phrases cannot precede their arguments. This discontinuity and the constraints on the order of elements in noun phrases in Urdu pose a modeling problem. Syntactic analysis of such noun phrases is made. In contrast to what is usually assumed within ParGram (Butt *et al.*, 1999; Dipper, 2003), a flat c-structure for Urdu NPs is therefore proposed and is modeled in the LFG framework.

#### 5.4.1 State of the Art

In simple terms, a constituent in which the individual words that make it up appear separately and interleaved with other elements is called a discontinuous constituent. Languages that exhibit several of the following characteristics: free word order, discontinuous constituents, split-ergative case marking and null anaphora, are often referred to as non-configurational languages in the syntactic literature (Hale, 1980, 1983, 1992; Simpson, 1983, 1991). Warlpiri is considered to be a typical example of a non-configurational language in Australian aboriginal languages and shows almost all the properties that have been associated with non-configurational languages. A sample sentence of Warlpiri is given in (49) to show the phenomenon of discontinuous noun phrases across the clause.

- (49) **wita-jarra-rlu** ka-pala            wajili-pi-nyi yalumpu **kurdu-jarra-rlu**  
       small-Du-Erg    Pres-3DuSubj chase-NPast that.Abs child-Du-Erg  
       maliki.  
       dog.Abs  
       ‘The two small children are chasing that dog.’ (Warlpiri: Austin & Bresnan 1996)

In (49) two noun phrases ‘two small children’ and ‘that dog’ are not contiguous. Some other elements are interleaved between the head nouns ‘children’ and ‘dog’ and their modifiers ‘small’ and ‘that’. Other permutations of words in the sentence (provided the auxiliary *ka-pala* is always in the second position) can also be uttered spontaneously by a native speaker and the truth-conditional meaning of the sentence does



not change. Austin & Bresnan (1996) have worked out a detailed analysis of non-configurationality in Australian aboriginal languages in LFG framework.<sup>4</sup> Discontinuous noun phrases have also been investigated in detail for many other languages like German (Fanselow & Ćavar, 2002; Kuhn, 1998; Müller, 2004; Roehrs, 2006; van Riemsdijk, 1989), Russian (Gouskova, 2001; Kazenin, 2005; Sekerina, 1997), Greek (Agbayani & Golston, 2005; Nthelitoes, 2004), Dutch (van Hoof, 1997), Ukrainian (Féry *et al.*, 2007), Serbo-Croatian-Bosnian (Bošković, 2005; Ćavar, 1999), etc.

Different phenomena of discontinuous noun phrases have been discussed in the literature (see for example (Fanselow & Féry, 2006)) and are briefly described in the following subsections. Many examples quoted in these subsections are taken from Fanselow & Féry (2006).

### 5.4.1.1 Simple and inverted discontinuous noun phrases

If the order of elements in the discontinuous noun phrase is the same as the canonical order in the corresponding continuous noun phrase, then the discontinuous noun phrase is called a simple discontinuous noun phrase, else it is called an inverted discontinuous noun phrase.

Considering the prosodic properties, discontinuous noun phrases are divided into cohesive and non-cohesive discontinuous noun phrases. When the whole discontinuous noun phrase is integrated into a single intonational phrase, then it is a cohesive discontinuous noun phrase and if its two parts are separated into two intonational phrases then it is a non-cohesive discontinuous noun phrase. Simple discontinuous noun phrases are usually cohesive and inverted discontinuous noun phrases are usually non-cohesive. In Ukrainian (Féry *et al.*, 2007) both types of discontinuous noun phrases have been reported.

- (50) a. Marija maje    **bahato krisel.**  
           Mary    has.got many    chairs.Gen.Pl  
           ‘Mary has got many chairs.’
- b. **bahato** maje Marija **krisel.**
- c. **krisel** Marija maje **bahato.** (Ukrainian)

The example sentence (50) from Ukrainian depicts the canonical order of a continuous noun phrase in (50a) and a simple discontinuous noun phrase in (50b) and an inverted discontinuous noun phrase in (50c).

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<sup>4</sup>Legate (2002), however, has argued for a configurational analysis of Warlpiri.

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### 5.4.1.2 Extraction from DP

Extraction from DP involves the dislocation of an argument or adjunct of the head noun to the left in the DP. For example in (51), *über Logik* ‘about logic’ is thematically dependent on the lexical noun *Bücher* ‘books’. In (51b), although the DP is discontinuous, the adjunct of the noun is still adjacent to it. In (51c), however, the adjunct *über Logik* is taken out of the DP to the left and hence is an example of extraction.

- (51) a. Er hat **viele Bücher über Logik** gekauft.  
He has many books on logic bought  
‘He has bought many books about logic.’  
b. **Bücher über Logik** hat er **viele** gekauft.  
c. **Über Logik** hat er **viele Bücher** gekauft. (German)

This distinction between extraction and other discontinuous phrases was made by generative syntacticians (Haider, 1985). Extraction as in (51c) is generally explained by movement. Only a maximal projection is posited to move to a pre-auxiliary position. As *über Logik* is the maximal projection of a preposition, it can be moved to the pre-auxiliary position. *Bücher über Logik*, however, is considered a submaximal projection of a noun. The maximal projection of a noun is assumed to have the specifier position filled by the determiner. So (51b) and (51c) are explained by different mechanisms and a distinction is made between (51b) and (51c). Müller (2004) has described various possible analyses for (dis)continuous constituents in German in HPSG with different assumptions and explanations.

### 5.4.1.3 Quantifier Float

Quantifier Float involves dislocation of the quantified expression away from the noun. This phenomenon has also been explained in terms of movement dependencies in that the DP can move to Spec,TP and the quantifier could be left *in situ* (Déprez, 2003). A further analysis for *all* is made in terms of adverbial quantification as it shares the distributional properties of adverbs like *ever*.

- (52) a. **They all** have bought a car.  
b. **They** have **all** bought a car.

In (52a) the base generated ‘They all’ has moved to Spec,TP and in (52b) the quantified part ‘all’ has been left *in situ* and only *They* has moved to Spec,TP.

McCloskey (2000) has observed another type of quantifier float in the context of *wh*-movement. The quantifier in (53b) is not bound with the subject, rather it is construed with the *wh*- question word referring to the object.

- (53) a. **What all** did you get *t* for Christmas?  
       b. **What** did you get **all** for Christmas? (Irish English)

### 5.4.1.4 Free Topic structure

In a Free Topic structure, two semantically related elements forming a unique theme become discontinuous in the clause. Usually one element that is more abstract is made the topic and the other more specific element is placed in the canonical position.

- (54) **Say-nun** ku-ka    **nightingale-man** a-n-ta.  
       bird-Top   he-Nom   nightingale-only    know-Pres-Dec  
       ‘As for birds, he only knows nightingales.’ (Korean)

In (54) *bird* and *nightingale* are both semantically related and form a unified theme in the clause, although they are separate from each other in the clause.

### 5.4.1.5 Extraposition

Extraposition is a phenomenon in which the dependent element of a noun is moved to the right in contrast with extraction where the dependent element is moved to the left.

- (55) a. **A man** came in **who had a beard**.  
       b. **A book** came out **about logic**.

The relative clause in (55a) that describes the noun in the main clause is postposed and in (55b) the PP adjunct of the noun is postposed.

Although extraction, quantifier float, free topic and extraposition are all in some sense discontinuous noun phrases, in the generative framework these are generally distinguished from the absolute discontinuous noun phrases that only involve the separation of the head noun from its determiner, article or an adjective modifying it. Theoretically the phenomenon of a discontinuous noun phrase is licensed only if at least one of the heads involved appears in an A-bar position (Fanselow & Féry, 2006).

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### 5.4.1.6 Clause-level discontinuity in Urdu

Almost all types of discontinuous NPs at clause level mentioned above have also been observed in Urdu. Although clause-level discontinuous NPs are not the main topic here, however, for contrast, evidence for such phrases is provided by the following examples.

- (56) a. ندا نے منطق پر ایک کتاب خریدی ہے۔

nida=ne    **mantiq=par ek kitab**    xarid-i    he.  
Nida=Erg logic=Loc.on    one book.F.3Sg buy-Perf be.Pres  
'Nida has purchased a book on logic.'

- b. منطق پر ندا نے ایک کتاب خریدی ہے۔

**mantiq=par** nida=ne    **ek kitab**    xarid-i    he.  
logic=Loc.on    Nida=Erg one book.F.3Sg buy-Perf be.Pres  
(Extraction from DP)

- (57) a. علی نے بہت آم کھائے۔

ali=ne    **bahut am**    k<sup>h</sup>a-e  
Ali.M.3Sg=Erg many    mango.M eat-Perf.M.3Pl  
'Ali ate many mangoes.'

- b. آم علی نے بہت کھائے۔

**am**    ali=ne    **bahut** k<sup>h</sup>a-e  
mango.M Ali.M.3Sg=Erg many    eat-Perf.M.3Pl  
(Quantifier Float)

- (58) a. علی کو آم پسند ہے۔

ali=ko    **am**    pasād he  
Ali.M.3Sg=Dat mango.M liked    be.Pres.3Sg  
'Ali likes mango.'

- b. پھل، علی کو آم پسند ہے۔  
**p<sup>h</sup>al**      ali=ko      **am**      pasād he  
 fruit.3Sg Ali.M.3Sg=Dat mango.M liked be.Pres.3Sg  
 ‘With respect to fruits, Ali likes mangoes’ (Free Topic)

- (59) a. ایک شخص، جس کی داڑھی تھی، آیا۔  
**ek**   **faxs**      **jis=ki**      **dar<sup>h</sup>i**      **t<sup>h</sup>i**      a-ya  
 one person.M.3Sg Rel.3Sg=Gen.F beard.F.3Sg be.Past.F.3Sg come-Perf.M.3Sg  
 ‘One person, who had a beard, came.’

- b. ایک شخص آیا جس کی داڑھی تھی۔  
**ek**   **faxs**      a-ya      **jis=ki**      **dar<sup>h</sup>i**      **t<sup>h</sup>i**  
 one person.M.3Sg come-Perf.M.3Sg Rel.3Sg=Gen.F beard.F.3Sg be.Past.F.3Sg  
 ‘One person came who had a beard.’ (Extraposition)

Extraposition with relative clauses and correlatives has been discussed in detail by Dayal (1994) and a relevant discussion can also be found in Dwivedi (1994). Note that the sentence in (57b) is an instance of an inverted discontinuous noun phrase in Urdu. Before moving to the within-constituent discontinuity in Urdu, argument taking adjectives and argument taking nouns are briefly described to provide the necessary background.

#### 5.4.2 NP-internal discontinuity

In NPs, both nouns and their arguments/modifiers can have their own arguments. The discontinuous constituents in NPs occur in Urdu when some argument-taking adjectives modify some argument taking noun or if the specifier of the head noun licenses its own argument in the noun phrase.

Argument-taking adjectives are placed further away from the head noun in comparison with argument-less adjectives. Both the argument of the head noun and the argument of its argument/modifier can co-occur at the beginning of noun phrases, thus giving rise to discontinuous constituents within noun phrase. Although Urdu

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noun phrases have been described in grammar books (see Platts 1967; Schmidt 1999, etc.), the phenomenon of discontinuity within the bounds of noun phrases has not been noticed and discussed before. Consider first rather simple examples of noun phrases in (60)–(61).

(60) a. مقدمات سے استثنیٰ

muqaddamat=se      istisna  
court-case.M.3Pl=Abl immunity.M.3Sg  
'Immunity from court-cases'

b. سلامتی پر بریفنگ

salamti=par      barifig  
security.F.3Sg=Loc.on briefing.F.3Sg  
'Briefing on security'

c. آرمی چیف سے مطالبہ

armi-cif=se      mutalbah  
army-chief.M.3Sg=Abl demand.M.3Sg  
'Demand to the army-chief'

(61) a. مقدمات سے آئینی استثنیٰ

muqaddamat=se      aini      istisna  
court-case.M.3Pl=Abl constitutional immunity.M.3Sg  
'Constitutional immunity from court-cases'

b. سلامتی پر تفصیلی بریفنگ

salamti=par      tafsili      barifig  
securit.F.3Sgy=Loc detailed briefing.F.3Sg  
'Detailed briefing on security'

c. آرمی چیف سے قانونی مطالبہ

armi-cif=se      qanuni      mutalbah  
army-chief.M.3Sg=Abl legal demand.M.3Sg  
'Legal demand to the army-chief'

#### 5.4 Discontinuous constituents within noun phrases

Example (60) contains just head nouns with a single argument. In (61), however, the head nouns are modified by argument-less adjectives. We see that the argument of the head noun in Urdu is separated from the noun when an adjective modifies the head noun. In English, on the other hand, the adjective modifying the noun is placed prenominally and the complement of the noun comes postnominally and so both remain contiguous to the head noun. A complex example of noun phrases in Urdu with different order of elements is given in (62).

- (62) a. صدر کو حاصل مقدمات سے آئینی استثنیٰ  
 sadar=ko<sub>1</sub> hasil<sub>1</sub> muqaddamat=se<sub>2</sub> aini istisna<sub>2</sub>  
 president=Dat possessed court-cases=Abl constitutional immunity  
 ‘Constitutional immunity from court-cases possessed by the president’
- b. مقدمات سے صدر کو حاصل آئینی استثنیٰ  
 muqaddamat=se<sub>2</sub> sadar=ko<sub>1</sub> hasil<sub>1</sub> aini istisna<sub>2</sub>
- c. صدر کو حاصل آئینی استثنیٰ  
 sadar=ko<sub>1</sub> muqaddamat=se<sub>2</sub> hasil<sub>1</sub> aini istisna<sub>2</sub>
- d. حاصل مقدمات سے صدر کو آئینی استثنیٰ  
 \* hasil<sub>1</sub> muqaddamat=se<sub>2</sub> sadar=ko<sub>1</sub> aini istisna<sub>2</sub>
- e. حاصل صدر کو مقدمات سے آئینی استثنیٰ  
 \* hasil<sub>1</sub> sadar=ko<sub>1</sub> muqaddamat=se<sub>2</sub> aini istisna<sub>2</sub>

The subscripted numbers in (62) show which arguments belong to which heads. The order of elements in (62a) seems to be canonical where arguments of both noun and adjective are close to their heads. The bracketed structure for (62a) is given as:

[NP[AP[KP sadar=ko<sub>1</sub>] hasil<sub>1</sub>][KP muqaddamat=se<sub>2</sub>] aini istisna<sub>2</sub>]

The bracketed NP shows the logical structure and association of arguments in this noun phrase. The elements marked for case are called case phrases (Butt & King,

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2005), hence the case marked arguments of nouns or adjectives are labelled as KP in the bracketing structure. All of the examples in (62a–c) are valid noun phrases of Urdu and are equivalent in meaning. The plausible/canonical order of elements in (62a), although acceptable to some of native speakers of Urdu, is rarely found in newspaper corpus. Instead the orders in (62b–c) are generally found in news corpora, with the latter one being the most common. In (62b) the argument-less adjective is just adjacent to the head noun, then comes the argument-taking adjective with its argument to its left and the argument of the noun is at the left-most edge of the NP. The constituent AP in (62b) is contiguous; however, it becomes non-contiguous in (62c) where arguments of the adjective and the noun are in order on the left; then all the heads follow on the right. The orders in (62d–e) are ungrammatical due to a violation of the head-final constraint in Urdu NPs. More examples of NP-internal discontinuity are shown in (63)–(64), where the head noun has a genitive marked argument and another ablative marked argument.

(63) a. سلامتی پر بریفنگ کا آرمی چیف سے مطالبہ

salamti=par<sub>1</sub> barifig<sub>1</sub>=ka armi-cif=se<sub>2</sub> mutalbah<sub>2</sub>  
 security=Loc.on briefing=Gen army-chief=Abl demand  
 ‘The demand to the army chief for a briefing on security’

b. آرمی چیف سے سلامتی پر بریفنگ کا مطالبہ

armi-cif=se<sub>2</sub> salamti=par<sub>1</sub> barifig<sub>1</sub>=ka mutalbah<sub>2</sub>

c. سلامتی پر آرمی چیف سے بریفنگ کا مطالبہ

salamti=par<sub>1</sub> armi-cif=se<sub>2</sub> barifig<sub>1</sub>=ka mutalbah<sub>2</sub>

(64) ملکی سلامتی پر آرمی چیف سے تفصیلی بریفنگ کا قانونی مطالبہ

mulki salamti=par armi-cif=se tafsili  
 of-country security.F.3Sg=Loc.on army.chief.M.3Sg=Abl detailed  
 barifig=ka qanuni mutalbah  
 briefing.F.3Sg=Gen.M.3Sg legal demand.M.3Sg  
 ‘The legal demand to the army chief for a detailed briefing on the security of the country’



The argument *barifig* ‘briefing’ of the head noun *mutalbah* ‘demand’ in (63) takes its own case marked complement *salamti=par* ‘on security’. All orders in (63a–c) are acceptable to native speakers and the last one is the most common in news corpora. Here, again we see that the argument of the genitive marked argument and the other argument of the head noun stack together on the left edge, and the genitive marked argument and the head noun are lumped together at the right edge. The noun phrase in (64) shows that the argument-less adjectives always have their positions adjacent to the head nouns.

### 5.4.3 Syntactic explanation

In English, adjectives cannot take complements in their prenominal position. Consider the examples in (65).

- (65) a. a proud mother  
       b. a mother [proud of her daughter]  
       c. \* a [proud of her daughter] mother  
       d. \* a [yellow with age] manuscript (Maling 1983:284)

Emonds (1976) proposed the ‘Surface Recursion Restriction’ according to which the modifiers themselves cannot be modified in prenominal position. Williams (1982) has formulated the ‘Head-Final Constraint’ in English: prenominal phrasal modifiers of nouns must be head-final. Due to this constraint no prepositional phrase (PP) can occur before nouns, as shown in (65c–d). The PP *of her daughter* is the complement of the adjective *proud* and *with age* is an adjunct of the adjective *yellow*. Consider some more examples from English in (66).

- (66) a. The girl [suitable for the job]  
       b. \* The [suitable for the job] girl  
       c. \* The [for the job suitable] girl  
       d. The suitable girl for the job

The PP *for the job* is considered as the complement of the adjective *suitable* in (66a) and an adjunct of the head noun in (66d). The construction in (66b) is invalid

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because the prenominal adjective is not head-final.<sup>5</sup> Likewise the construction in (66c) is invalid because the complement of an adjective cannot appear before the adjective in English. William’s ‘Head Final Constraint’ on prenominal modifiers also accounts for the German data given in (67).

- (67) a. Das Mädchen geeignet [für den Job]  
           the.Neut girl.Neut suitable for the.Dat job  
           ‘The girl suitable for the job’
- b. \* Das geeignete [für den Job] Mädchen  
           the.Neut suitable for the.Dat job girl.Neut  
           ‘The girl suitable for the job’
- c. Das [für den Job] geeignete Mädchen  
           the.Neut for the.Dat job suitable girl.Neut  
           ‘The girl suitable for the job’
- d. \* Das geeignete Mädchen [für den Job]  
           the.Neut suitable girl.Neut for the.Dat job  
           ‘The girl suitable for the job’ (German)

The complement *für den Job* ‘for the job’ of the adjective *geeignet* ‘suitable’ appears on the right-side of the adjective in (67a–b). The first one is grammatical and the second one is ungrammatical. The same complement appears on the left-side of the adjective in (67c) to meet the Head Final Constraint for prenominal modifiers. The same data can also be accounted for by the Consistency Principle of Giorgi & Longobardi (1991) about (non)-recursion of prenominal modifiers in Romance languages. The principle is stated in (68).

(68) Consistency Principle

An XP immediately expanding a lexical category on the non-recursive side is directionally consistent in every projection.

(Giorgi & Longobardi 1991:98)

The recursive side of a head in this principle is meant by that side where complements appear. Thus if a phrase (XP) occurs on the opposite side of a complement (XP N Complement) then this category would only be expanded to that direction. For German, the recursive side is on the right and if some adjective appears on the left of the head-noun then it will be expanded to the left as is shown in (67b). There are still

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<sup>5</sup>Sometimes lexicalized modifiers with prepositional phrases can appear before nouns in English as in *made-for-tv movies*.

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other proposals for prenominal adjectives where they are treated as heads and adjoin to other heads rather projecting their own structure. Among them are (Bessler, 1992; Sadler & Arnold, 1994; Travis, 1988) for English prenominal adjectives and (Bouchard, 1997; Lamarche, 1991) are for French prenominal adjectives.

As we have seen in examples of Urdu noun phrases, adjectives can take complements in prenominal position, Emond's Surface Recursion Restriction, therefore, does not apply to Urdu prenominal modifiers. Williams' Head Final Constraint works in Urdu due to default head-last constraint for APs and NPs but does not account for different order of complements in noun phrases. The Consistency Principle of Giorgi and Longobardi cannot be applied to Urdu NPs either, as argument taking adjectives do not appear on the non-recursive side.

In generative syntactic theory, Larson (1997, 1998) has proposed that predicating and adverbial adjectives acquire their surface (prenominal) position in the DP through movement. That proposal has further been extended by Androutsopoulou (2000) to account for pleonastic determiner and prenominal argument taking adjectives in Greek. According to the latter theory the surface position of prenominal adjectives is the result of at least two movements. If the final structure violates Koopman's Generalized Doubly Filled Comp Filter (Koopman, 1993), it is considered an illegitimate structure. According to this Filter, both the head and the specifier of a projection cannot contain overt material at the end of the derivation.

First movement is the same in all languages in which the AP or extended projection of the AP moves to the specifier of XP1 dominating the NP. The languages only differ in the kind of the second movement. In English, in the second move, the adjectival head undergoes a short head movement from the specifier of XP1 to the head of XP2 immediately dominating XP1. The head noun also moves first to the specifier of XP0, another projection, which is the complement of XP1 and then in a second movement to the head of XP1. The resulting structure for (65c) is shown in Figure 5.6 below. As both the head and the specifier of XP1 are overtly filled in this structure, this structure is ungrammatical.

In languages like Greek, the AP or extended projection thereof moves to the specifier of XP2 and the configuration for a valid phrase of Greek in (69) is generated in Figure 5.7.

- (69) i    perifani ja    tin kori        tis        mitera  
       the proud    for the daughter hers(CL) mother  
       'lit. the proud of her daughter mother'        (Greek)

## 5. ARGUMENTS AND SYNTAX OF NOUNS

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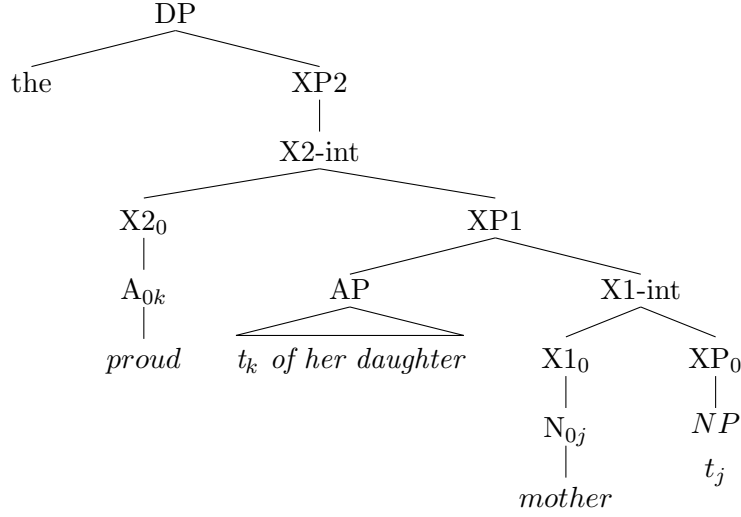


Figure 5.6: English prenominal adjectives

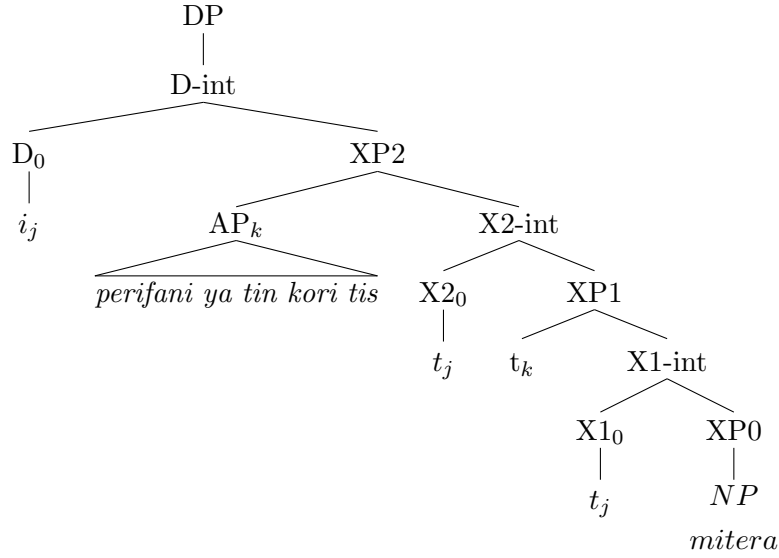


Figure 5.7: Greek prenominal adjectives

The definite determiner in Greek is base generated in the head of XP1 and in English it is generated in the head of the top most projection. Now consider again the Urdu NPs in (70).

- (70) a. ؟ صدر کو حاصل مقدمات سے استثنیٰ  
           ? sadar=ko<sub>1</sub>    hasil<sub>1</sub>    muqaddamat=se<sub>2</sub> istisna<sub>2</sub>  
           president=Dat possessed court-cases=Abl immunity  
           ‘Constitutional Immunity from court-cases possessed by the president’
- b. مقدمات سے صدر کو حاصل استثنیٰ  
    muqaddamat=se<sub>2</sub> sadar=ko<sub>1</sub> hasil<sub>1</sub> istisna<sub>2</sub>
- c. صدر کو حاصل استثنیٰ  
    sadar=ko<sub>1</sub> muqaddamat=se<sub>2</sub> hasil<sub>1</sub> istisna<sub>2</sub>

The valid order of different elements in Urdu NPs can also be explained in terms of multiple movements. The first movement as above is of AP to the specifier of XP1. For further steps of movements the complement of head noun moves to successive heads and the complement of adjective moves to the successive specifiers of higher projections both simultaneously or individually. Different movements are illustrated in Figures 5.8–5.10.

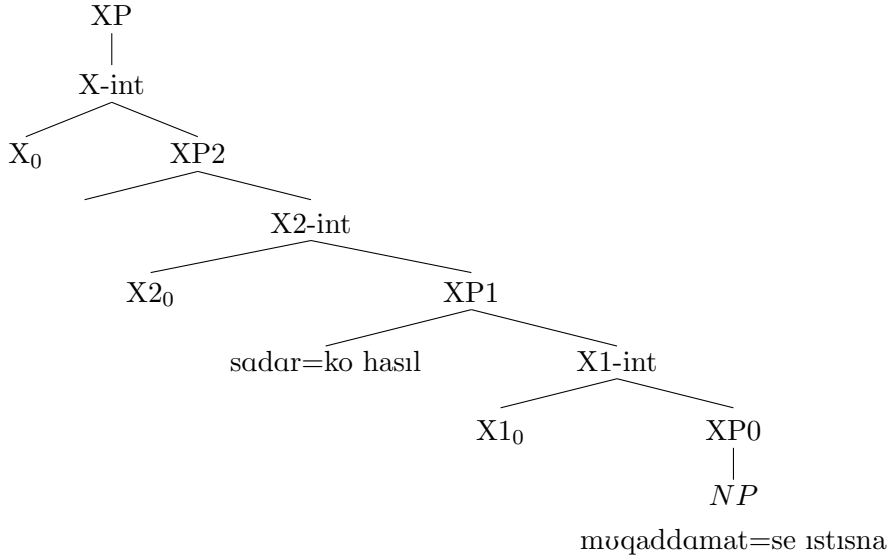


Figure 5.8: Urdu prenominal adjectives 1st movement

As there are no determiners in Urdu, no care is taken to leave heads of different projections to be filled by determiners. After the second movement, Koopman’s filter rules out the structure in Figure 5.9. The most frequent structure is shown in Figure 5.10, which is generated after a 3rd movement. If we hold the complement of the adjective in its place and move the complement of a noun in two hops then we can get the second most frequent structure of the noun phrase.

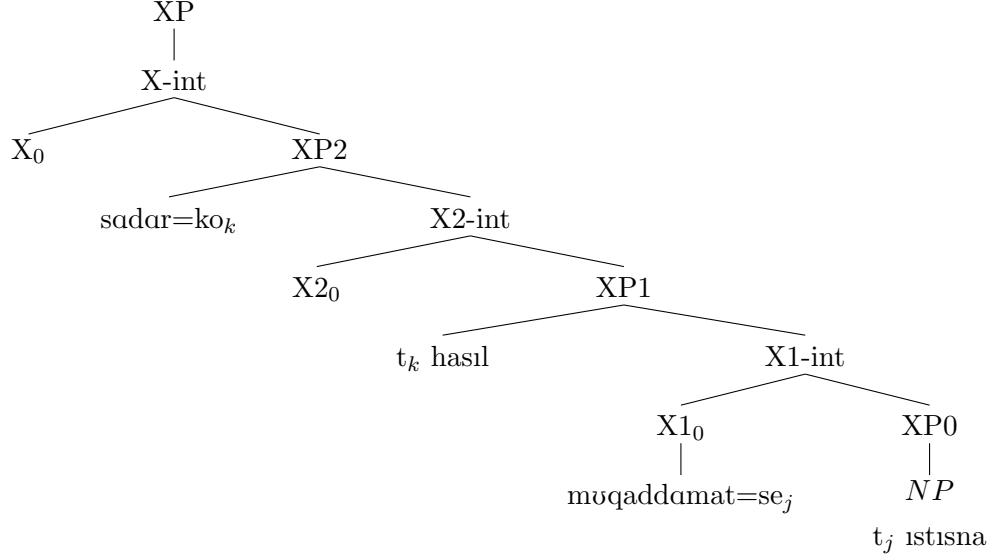


Figure 5.9: Urdu prenominal adjectives 2nd movement

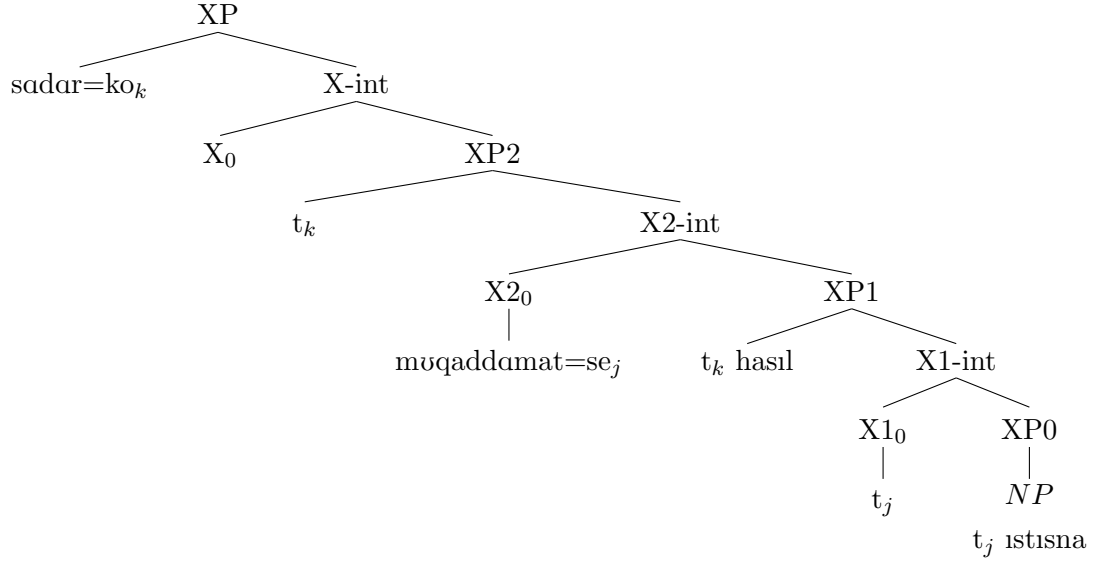
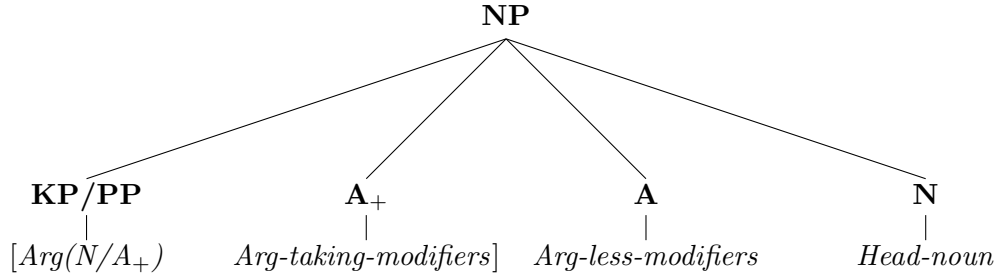


Figure 5.10: Urdu prenominal adjectives 3rd movement

So, the valid orders of different elements in Urdu NPs can be explained by movement across different projections. Koopman's filter rules out invalid orders. In LFG, however, movements cannot be encoded in c-structure, another proposal is provided for c-structure of Urdu noun phrases in general in the next section and it is explained how a correct f-structure of such noun phrases can be generated.

#### 5.4.4 LFG implementation

As discussed above, examples of noun phrases from Urdu news corpora show that the arguments of the head noun and its modifiers/arguments can scramble inside the noun phrase, but that the heads must systematically follow their arguments. Non-continuous APs can appear inside a noun phrase. This evidence of discontinuous constituents within NPs implies a non-hierarchical structure of Urdu NPs. So a flat structure is proposed for Urdu noun phrases (Raza & Ahmed, 2011a). The pattern of NPs in Urdu with the order of different elements is depicted in Figure 5.11. An excerpt from the grammar rules for the implementation of NPs in LFG is given in Figure 5.12.



[Elements in brackets can scramble among each other but the head-final filter is in effect]

Figure 5.11: Word order in Urdu NPs

There are different constraints to be accounted for in generating c-structure and f-structure. For one the head must be final. Secondly the argument-less adjectives must always be contiguous to the head noun they modify. Thirdly allowing different orders of elements in noun phrases.

To model discontinuous XPs at the constituent level within the LFG framework, use of several operators is made. The disjunction notation ( $|$ ) has been used to assign various functional labels to the KP. The shuffle ( $,$ ) operator establishes different word orders of the arguments in noun phrase. The  $\in$  sign has been used for two different purposes. It is used to add some element to an adjunct set. This is its general use. However, it is also used to assign something nondeterministically to some feature of any member of the adjunct set. Both of its uses appear in the grammar rules for the NP. In the first two lines of the grammar rules in Figure 5.12,  $\in$  has been used to assign KP to the OBL function or OBJ-GO function of a member of the adjunct set. Another operator that has been taken advantage of, is the head precedence operator ( $>h$ ). This operator is used for f-structure precedence and here it is used to make it





## 5.5 Conclusion

In this chapter arguments and adjuncts especially the genitive elements in noun phrases were analyzed. The order of different genitival modifiers in Urdu NPs was established. It was shown that the attributive genitives exhibit syntactic distribution similar to adjectives and are placed before adjectives in noun phrases. Some nouns in Urdu can license exactly two genitive marked arguments and some can take only one genitive marked argument. The discontinuous noun phrases in Urdu were explored in the second part of the chapter.

It was shown that discontinuous constituents in Urdu can be found both at the clause level and at the noun phrase level. In NPs, discontinuous constituents arise when an argument-taking noun is modified by an argument-taking modifier or the argument of a noun itself licenses its argument. The argument of the head noun and the arguments of its arguments/modifiers can scramble among each other with the head-final constraint in effect. A syntactic analysis of this phenomenon is provided together with its implementation in the LFG framework.



(a) C-structure for (62a)



(b) C-structure for (62b)



(c) C-structure for (62c)

Figure 5.14: C-structures for the instances in (62)

## Chapter 6

# Adpositional arguments

Different case marked arguments of verbs were investigated in Chapter 2. Focusing on challenges posed due to the complexity of Urdu case system, an approach to acquire case marked arguments from the raw corpus of Urdu was presented in Chapter 3. The subcategorization information of the verb *ho* and deverbal predicators was investigated in Chapter 4 and Chapter 5, respectively. In this chapter, I analyze different kinds of adpositional participants of the verbs. In addition to the case clitics discussed in previous chapters, there are a variety of adpositions in Urdu. Adpositional phrases, like case phrases, can act either as adverbial modifiers (adjuncts) or as subcategorized-for elements (arguments) of verbs. The internal structure of adpositions is subject to some restrictions. The adposition itself acts as a predicate and requires its complement position to be filled by a case phrase. Not every case phrase is selected by every adposition. In this chapter, the origin of different adpositions in Urdu is described and the structure of adpositional phrases is analyzed. A classification of adpositions is presented based on the type of case phrase complements.

In section 1, adpositions are defined. Section 2 describes the range of spatial adpositions in Urdu and it is argued against the compound adposition analysis of *ke age* ‘in front of’ and *ke pic<sup>h</sup>e* ‘behind’ in Butt & King (2005). Section 3 analyzes the structure of spatial adpositions in Urdu in vector space semantics and also in the spirit of the spatial notions worked out by Svenonius (2006, 2007, 2008). A proposal is formulated that encodes Svenonius’ notions of spatial expressions in LFG in terms of LexSem features. Nonspatial single word adpositions and compound adpositions are described in section 4. The structure of complex adpositions is analyzed in the LFG framework in section 5. Section 6 briefly describes the grammaticalization process in which complex adpositions become simple adpositions. Some more typical adpositions are described in section 7. Classes of adpositions based on alternation of case marking on their complements are given in section 8 and section 9 concludes the chapter.

## 6. ADPOSITIONAL ARGUMENTS

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### 6.1 What adpositions are

The caseless and tenseless words that express spatial or other relations among entities and events are referred to as adpositions. They differ from verbs as they do not have any aspect or tense and also differ from nouns in that they are not usually pluralized when used as adpositions.

Based on crosslinguistic empirical observations, Svenonius (2007) lists the following typical characteristics of adpositions. Adpositions:

- a. Express binary relations between entities (including events)
- b. Form a syntactic constituent with a DP complement
- c. C-select properties of the complement
- d. S-select properties of the complement
- e. Project XPs which function as predicates or sentential adjuncts
- f. Do not combine with tense or aspect morphology

All of these properties hold for Urdu adpositions. The first property will become clear with the examples in the course of this chapter. Urdu is a free word order language in which major constituents scramble freely in a clause. However, an adposition and its complement cannot be separated in any valid order of the sentence. This phenomenon attests the second property of adpositions in Urdu.

C-selection of a head is the determination of syntactic conditions on a dependent. Just as a verb requires its arguments to appear with a certain case or adposition, so does an adposition require case on its complements. For example, the adposition *pahle* ‘before’ only takes an ablative marked noun argument. Adpositions can also determine the category of a complement, for example *sat<sup>h</sup>* ‘with’ takes only a genitive marked noun, whereas *bayēr* ‘with-out’ can also take a perfective participle.

Adpositions may furthermore place semantic restrictions (S-selection) on their complements. For example, *andar* ‘inside’ only takes a complement which has three dimensional boundaries and some space in between. Adpositions crosslinguistically fill adjunct or complement positions in the projections of verbs and nominals. At least in Urdu, adpositions do not combine with tense or aspect morphology.

### 6.2 Spatial adpositions

Before progressing to a detailed discussion on true spatial adpositions in Urdu, a brief description of the spatial case markers in Urdu is provided below.

### 6.2.1 Spatial case markers

Basic prepositions *in*, *on*, *to*, *from* are used in English to encode location and path. To encode such notions in Urdu there are different case clitics. A general description of case clitics was given in Chapter 2. Those clitics which mark nouns for location and path are listed here again in Table 6.1.

Place/Path	Case Clitic
Place	<i>par</i> ‘on’
	<i>mẽ</i> ‘in’
Path	<i>se</i> ‘from’
	<i>ko</i> ‘to’
	<i>tak</i> ‘up to’

Table 6.1: Spatial case clitics in Urdu

#### 6.2.1.1 Location marking

Two case clitics are used in Urdu to mark locations. The clitic form for adessive case is *par* ‘on/at’ and for inessive case is *mẽ* ‘in’. Examples of their use are given in (1).

- (1) a. کتاب میز پر ہے۔  
 kitab      **mez=par**      he  
 book.F.3Sg table.F.3Sg=Loc.on be.Pres.Sg  
 ‘The book is on the table.’
- b. بچے سکول میں ہیں۔  
 bacce      **sakul=mẽ**      hẽ  
 child.Pl school.M.3Sg=Loc.in be.Pres.Pl  
 ‘The children are at school.’

In Urdu, a non-verbal noun cannot be modified directly by a locative phrase. Consider, for example, (2)–(3). The noun phrase in (2a) would be ungrammatical in Urdu without the participial adjective *pari hu-i* ‘lying’. In the English translation, however,

## 6. ADPOSITIONAL ARGUMENTS

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the noun phrase is grammatical even without the participial ‘lying’. Likewise the verbal adjective *majud* ‘present’ is mandatory in (2b) to make the noun phrase grammatically valid with the locative phrase, *sakul=mẽ* ‘in the school’.

- (2) a. میز پر پڑی ہوئی کتاب

**mez=par** \*(paṛi hu-i) kitab  
table.F.3Sg=Loc.in \*(lie-Perf.F be-Perf.F) book.F.3Sg  
‘The book (lying) on the table’

- b. سکول میں موجود بچے

**sakul=mẽ** \*(majud) bacce  
school.M.3Sg=Loc.in \*(present) child.M.Pl  
‘The children (present) in the school’

- (3) a. سکول میں بچوں کو کتابیں دی گئیں۔

**sakul=mẽ** baccõ=ko kitabẽ d-i ga-ĩ  
school.M.3Sg=Loc.in child.Pl.Obl=Dat book.F.Pl give-Perf.F give-Perf.F.Pl  
‘The children were given books in the school.’/  
\*‘The children in the school were given books.’

- b. سکول میں موجود بچوں کو کتابیں دی گئیں۔

**sakul=mẽ** majud baccõ=ko kitabẽ d-i ga-ĩ  
school.M=Loc.in present child.Pl=Dat book.F.Pl give-Perf.F give-Perf.F.Pl  
‘The children in the school were given books.’

- c. پارلیمنٹ میں آبادی میں اضافے کا مسئلہ اٹھایا گیا۔

**parliman=mẽ** **abadi=mẽ** ızafe=ka mas’alah  
parliament.F=Loc.in population.F=Loc.in increase.M=Gen.M issue.M.3Sg  
uṭ<sup>h</sup>a-ya ga-ya  
raise-Perf.M give-Perf.M  
‘The issue of increase in population was raised in the parliament.’

In (3a), the locative phrase *sakul=mẽ* ‘in the school’ cannot be considered to be attached to the subject of the sentence. Rather, it is construed that the event of giving

books took place in the school. In (3b), however, the locative phrase is not linked with the main verb of the sentence *de* ‘give’, instead it is linked with the deverbal adjective *majud* ‘present’ modifying the noun *bacce* ‘children’. In (3c), the first locative phrase is attached at the clause-level and the second locative phrase is the argument of the deverbal noun *izafah* ‘increase’. So it can be concluded that in Urdu the locative phrases are attached only with the (de)verbal adjectives or nouns as their arguments.

Absolute locations in Urdu are always overtly marked by case clitics. However, in some Indo-Aryan languages, locations can be unmarked in copula constructions. Consider a contrastive example from Saraiki in (4).

- (4) a. علی گھر پر/میں ہے۔  
 ali g<sup>h</sup>ar=\*(par/mẽ) he  
 Ali.M.3Sg home.M.Sg=\*(Loc.at/Loc.in) be.Pres.Sg  
 ‘Ali is at home.’ (Urdu)
- b. علی گھر ہے۔  
 ali g<sup>h</sup>ar he  
 Ali.M.3Sg home.M.Sg be.Pres.Sg  
 ‘Ali is at home.’ (Saraiki)

The copula construction in (4a) is ungrammatical in Urdu if the noun *g<sup>h</sup>ar* ‘home’ is not marked with the locative case marker. However, the equivalent construction in (4b) for Saraiki is perfectly grammatical.

### 6.2.1.2 Path marking

The basic use of three clitics used for marking path in Urdu given in Table 6.1 is illustrated in (5).

- (5) a. علی گھر سے آیا۔  
 ali g<sup>h</sup>ar=se a-ya  
 Ali.M.3Sg home.M.3Sg=Abl come-Perf.M.Sg  
 ‘Ali came from home.’

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b. علی گھر کو گیا۔

ali            g<sup>h</sup>ar=**ko**            ga-ya  
 Ali.M.3Sg home.M.3Sg=Loc go-Perf.M.Sg  
 ‘Ali went home.’

c. علی دکان تک گیا۔

ali            dukan=**tak**            ga-ya  
 Ali.M.3Sg shop.F.3Sg=Loc go-Perf.M.Sg  
 ‘Ali went up to the shop.’

The clitic *se* in (5a) marks source path, while the clitics *ko* and *tak* mark goal/destination paths in (5b) and (5c), respectively.

(6) a. علی باغ سے گزرا۔

ali            bay=**se**            guzr-a  
 Ali.M.3Sg garden.M.3Sg=Abl pass-Perf.M.Sg  
 ‘Ali passed through the garden.’

b. علی گھر گیا۔

ali            g<sup>h</sup>ar            ga-ya  
 Ali.M.3Sg home.M.3Sg go-Perf.M.Sg  
 ‘Ali went home.’

The clitic *se* is not only used to mark the source path in Urdu, but also the route path as is shown in (6a). The destination path is sometimes not overtly marked with some verbs like *ja* ‘go’ and *pahūc* ‘reach’, etc. in Urdu as is shown in (6b).

(7) a. علی اور ندا دریا کے پل پر جا رہے ہیں۔

ali            or    nda            darya=**ke**            **pul=par**  
 Ali.M.3Sg and Nida.F.3Sg river.M.3Sg=Gen.Obl bridge.F.3Sg=Loc.on  
 ja rah-e            hē  
 go Prog-Perf.M.Pl be.Pres.Pl  
 ‘Ali and Nida are going over the river’s bridge.’  
 ‘Ali and Nida are going to the river’s bridge.’



- b. علی اور ندا صنعتی نمائش میں جا رہے ہیں۔  
 ali or nida san'ati numaiṣ=mē  
 Ali.M.3Sg and Nida.F.3Sg industrial exhibition.F.3Sg=Loc.in  
 ja rah-e hē  
 go Prog-Perf.M.Pl be.Pres.Pl  
 'Ali and Nida are walking in the industrial exhibition.'  
 'Ali and Nida are going to the industrial exhibition.'

Locative phrases are sometimes ambiguous between location and path readings as in (7). In one reading of (7a) and (7b) the locative marked nouns can be construed as places where where Ali and Nida are seen walking and in the other reading the marked nouns can be considered as destinations where Ali and Nida are heading to.

Gehrke (2007) has argued that in English, Dutch and German, prepositions like *in*, *on*, *behind* and *under* are not ambiguous between a locative and directional reading. They only denote places and the meaning of directionality is licensed by other means like additional directional adpositions, resultative verbs, certain movement operations, case and/or contextual or reference axes. In Urdu too, the locative case phrases are interpreted as referring to paths with motion verbs. We see that in both instances of (7) the motion verb *ja* 'go' is used. The directional reading of the instances is possible due to the directional component of the verb *ja* 'go'. However, not all motion verbs license a path meaning with location marked phrases.

### 6.2.1.3 Stacked markers

Syntactically path structure embeds locative phrases (see e.g. den Dikken 2003; Helmantel 2002; Huybregts & van Riemsdijk 2002; Koopman 1997; Svenonius 2004; van Riemsdijk 1978, 1990). The same is the case with Urdu. A locative marked noun phrase can still be marked with another clitic for path or direction. Consider the instances in (8)–(9), where locative marked phrases are further marked by path clitics.

Only the path clitic *se* 'from' can mark phrases already marked for location by the clitics *mē* 'in' or *par* 'on'. The path marking of *mē* 'in' marked phrases is illustrated in (8) and that of *par* marked phrases in (9). With verbs like *guzar* 'pass' the *se* marked phrases are interpreted as a route as in (8a) and (9a) and with verbs like *nikal* 'draw' (8b) and *uṭhā* 'pick up' (9b), a source interpretation obtains.

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(8) a. علی باغ میں سے گزرا۔

ali bay=**mẽ**=se guzr-a  
 Ali.M.3Sg garden.M.3Sg=Loc.in=Abl pass-Perf.M.Sg  
 ‘Ali passed through the garden.’

b. علی نے کنویں میں سے پانی نکالا۔

ali=ne kōvẽ=**mẽ**=se pani nīkal-a  
 Ali.M.3Sg=Erg well.M.3Sg=Loc.in=Abl water.M.3Sg draw-Perf.F.3Sg  
 ‘Ali drew water from the well.’

(9) a. علی پل پر سے گزرا۔

ali pul=**par**=se guzr-a  
 Ali.M.3Sg bridge.F.3Sg=Loc.on=Abl pass-Perf.M.Sg  
 ‘Ali passed over the bridge.’

b. علی نے میز پر سے کتاب اٹھائی۔

ali=ne mez=**par**=se kitab ṭṭḥa-i  
 Ali.M.3Sg=Erg table.F.3Sg=Loc.on=Abl book.F.3Sg pick-up-Perf.F.3Sg  
 ‘Ali picked the book up off the table.’

In Urdu, two place clitics or two path clitics are never stacked together. Crosslinguistically, if two elements are used to encode path meaning, one element is for location marking. The two prepositions *bih* ‘to’ and *ta* ‘till’ both are used in Persian for marking path (10a)–(10b). In (10c) both prepositions are conjoined to render a path meaning, but the second preposition, here, in fact encodes a location. Although there are other locational prepositions in Persian, sometimes the preposition *bih* ‘to’ is also used to encode location (10d).

(10) a. علی به خانه رفت۔

ali bih xanih raft  
 Ali.M.3Sg to home go-Past.3Sg  
 ‘Ali went home.’ (Persian)

b. علی تا خانه رفت.

ali ta xanih raft  
 Ali.M.3Sg to home go-Past.3Sg  
 ‘Ali went home.’ (Persian)

c. علی از مسجد تا به خانه رفت.

ali az masjid ta bih xanih raft  
 Ali.M.3Sg from mosque.3Sg to at home go-Past.3Sg  
 ‘Ali went home from the mosque.’ (Persian)

d. میسر نه گردد به کس این سعادت.

به کعبه ولادت به مسجد شهادت  
 moyassar nah gardad bih kas i sa’adat  
 available not become.Past.3Sg to anyone this fortune  
 bih ka’bih viladat bih masjid jahadat  
 at kabah birth at mosque martyrdom  
 ‘(Except Ali) none met such a fortune; birth at Kabah and martyrdom at a mosque’ (Persian)

The clitics *se* ‘from’ and *tak* ‘upto’ are used to mark source and destination, respectively, of place (11a) or time (11b). These clitics are also used to mark bounds of some set (11c). The phrases marked with such clitics, therefore, represent some bounded place, time or members of some set and can carry a genitive clitic to act as modifier of a head noun (12).

(11) a. علی حاصلوالا سے ملتان (تک) گیا.

ali hasilvala=se multan(=tak) ga-ya  
 Ali.M.3Sg Hasilwala=Abl Multan(=to) go-Perf.M.3Sg  
 ‘Ali went from Hasilwala to Multan.’

b. علی صبح سے شام تک چلا.

ali subuh=se jam=tak cal-a  
 Ali.M.3Sg morning.F=Abl evening.F=till walk-Perf.M.3Sg  
 ‘Ali walked from morning till evening.’

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c. ندا نے قلم سے کمپیوٹر تک ہر چیز خریدی۔

nida=ne qalam=se kampiyuṭar=tak har ciz xarid-i  
Nida.F=Erg pen.M=Abl computer.M=till every thing.F purchase-Perf.F  
'Nida purchased everything from pen to computer.'

(12) a. حاصلوالا سے ملتان (تک) کا سفر کٹھن تھا۔

[hasilvala=se miltan(=tak)]=ka safar kaṭʰan  
[Hasilwala=Abl Multan(=to)]=Gen.M.3Sg journey.M.Sg difficult  
tʰa  
be.Past.M.Sg  
'The journey from Hasilwala to Multan was difficult.'

b. صبح سے شام تک کی پکنک خوشگوار تھی۔

[subuḥ=se ʃam=tak]=ki pıknık xuşgavar tʰi  
[morning.F=Abl evening.F=till]=Gen.F picnic.F.Sg pleasant be.Past.F.Sg  
'The picnic from morning to evening was pleasant.'

c. قلم سے کمپیوٹر تک کی اشیاء خریدی گئیں۔

[qalam=se kampiyuṭar=tak]=ki aḟya xarid-i  
[pen.M.Sg=Abl computer.M.Sg=till]=Gen.F thing.F.Pl purchase-Perf.F  
ga-ĩ  
go-Perf.F.Pl  
'Things ranging from a pen to a computer were purchased.'

If the source point of some place or time or the initial boundary of some set is unspecified or understood, only the destination or the other boundary is encoded by marked noun with a *tak* clitic and that further can carry the genitive marker to modify some other noun (13).

(13) a. ملتان (تک) کا سفر کٹھن تھا۔

miltan(=tak)=ka safar kaṭʰan tʰa  
Multan(=to)=Gen.M.3Sg journey.M.3Sg difficult be.Past.M.Sg  
'The journey to Multan was difficult.'

b. اب تک کی تحقیقات تسلی بخش ہیں۔

ab=tak=ki tahqiqat tasalli-baxf hē  
 now=till=Gen.F investigation.F.3Pl satisfactory be.Pres.Pl  
 ‘Investigations made till now are satisfactory.’

c. سوئی تک (کی چیز) ندا کو جہیز میں دی گئی۔

sui=tak(=ki ciz) nda=ko jahez=mē  
 needle.F.Sg=till(=Gen.F thing.F.Sg) Nida=Dat dowry.M=Loc.in  
 d-i ga-i  
 give-Perf.F.Sg go-Perf.F.Sg  
 ‘Nida was given things down to a needle in her dowry.’

We have thus seen that stacking of clitics is possible in two cases: 1) location marked nouns further marked by the path clitic *se* to encode the source/via path, 2) *tak* marked nouns further marked by genitive clitics to act as modifiers. Otherwise no overtly marked nouns can be marked further by another clitic.

### 6.2.2 Spatial postpositions

The postpositions which in combination with an NP (object) are used to denote either location or path are called spatial adpositions. A list of spatial postpositions used in Urdu is given in Table 6.2.

In addition to the above spatial postpositions there is one comitative postposition in Urdu *sat*<sup>h</sup> ‘with’, which is also sometimes used for spatial vicinity. Other postpositions *bayal mē* ‘in armpit’, *pahlu mē* ‘in facet’ and *barbar mē* ‘in equal’ are also used to encode the meaning of spatial closeness. The adposition *darmīyan* is originally a combination of Persian basic preposition *dar* ‘in’ and other word *mīyan* ‘center’ and is lexicalized in Urdu as one word.<sup>1</sup> In addition to *taraf* ‘side/direction’, two more postpositions *simat* ‘side/direction’ and *janīb* ‘side/direction’ are also used. The use of spatial adpositions is exemplified in (14).

<sup>1</sup>This is also the case with the words *dar-pef* ‘faced’ and *dar-pe* ‘yielding/after’, which are each used as one word in Urdu.

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Nr.	Postposition	Meanings
(i)	andar	‘inside’
(ii)	bahar	‘outside’
(iii)	age	‘in front of’
(iv)	pic <sup>h</sup> e	‘behind’
(v)	upar	‘above/over’
(vi)	nice	‘under’
(vii)	tale	‘under’
(viii)	samne	‘against’
(ix)	gird/ird gird	‘around’
(x)	nazdik	‘near’
(xi)	qarib	‘near’
(xii)	pas	‘near’
(xiii)	bic	‘between’
(xiv)	darmīyan	‘between’
(xv)	kīnare	‘side’
(xvi)	taraf	‘side/direction’
(xvii)	par	‘other side/across’

Table 6.2: Spatial postpositions in Urdu

(14) a. علی دکان کے آگے رکا۔

ali dūkan=ke age k<sup>h</sup>arā hε  
 Ali.M.3Sg shop=Gen.Obl front standing be.Pres.3Sg  
 ‘Ali is standing in front of the shop.’

b. کرسی کے نیچے بلی ہے۔

kursi=ke nice billi hε  
 chair.F.3Sg=Gen.Obl under cat.F.3Sg be.Pres.3Sg  
 ‘There is a cat under the chair.’

The use of genitive marker is discussed in section 5.2.1. In Urdu grammar books (e.g. Schmidt 1999) and the linguistic literature (e.g. Butt & King 2005) *ke age* and *ke nice* are generally considered to be compound postpositions. These spatial postpositions

always appear with the genitive, that is why the compound postposition analysis was proposed. I argue that these in fact are not compound adpositions.

Many morphemes used for spatial postpositions in Urdu originally are nouns and the form of the genitive case used with them is due to the gender of the original noun (Platts, 1967). So, the genitive oblique form *ke* in them should be considered as a case marker rather a part of a compound postposition. Arguments for the analysis of *ke* as two separate entities, namely, a genitive case clitic and a spatial adposition that was once a noun, come from: the other form of genitive with the first person and second person pronouns, the placement of emphatic clitics, the general separability of the genitive and the adposition, use of another case marker in place of the genitive, omissibility of the genitive marked NP, coordination, postposition and agreement. These data are presented in the remainder of this section.

(i) With the first person and second person pronouns the genitive appears as part of pronouns (15b), that is the genitive form *ke* is not used.

- (15) a. کرسی کے نیچے  
           kursi= **ke**                   **nice**  
           chair.F.3Sg=Gen.Obl under  
           ‘under the chair’

- b. میرے نیچے  
       mere                   **nice**  
       1Sg.Gen.Obl under  
       ‘under me’

(ii) The emphatic marker *hi* can intervene between the case marker *ke* and the adposition (16).

- (16) کرسی کے ہی نیچے  
       kursi= **ke**                   hi       **nice**  
       chair.F.3Sg=Gen.Obl Emph under  
       ‘really under the chair’

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(iii) A measure/description term can come between the case marker *ke* and the adposition (17). In addition to measure phrases, spatial adpositions can also be modified by special adverbs like *bahut* ‘much’, *bulkul* ‘exactly’, and *en* ‘exactly’.

- (17) زمین کے ۳ فٹ نیچے  
zamin=**ke**                      3 fuṭ    **nice**  
ground.F=Gen.Obl 3 foot under  
‘three feet under the ground’

(iv) The complement of an adposition can optionally be marked by an alternate case marker (18).

- (18) زمین سے ۳ فٹ نیچے  
zamin=**se**                      3 fuṭ    **nice**  
ground.F=Abl 3 foot under  
‘three feet under the ground’

(v) The *ke* marked complement can be postposed (19).

- (19) ۳ فٹ نیچے زمین کے  
3 fuṭ    **nice**    zamin=**ke**  
3 foot under ground.F=Gen.Obl  
‘three feet under the ground’

(vi) The clitic form *ke* can be distributed over the coordinated adpositions (20).

- (20) کرسی کے اوپر اور نیچے  
kursi=**ke**                      **upar** or    **nice**  
chair.F.3Sg=Gen.Obl over    and under  
‘over and under the chair’

(vii) The genitive marked complement, which semantically is the ground, can sometimes be omitted when understood (21). Naked spatial adpositions in Urdu behave like adverbs. The category P has been realized for both dressed and naked adpositions of



Hungarian by Marácz (1989), however, naked Ps have been termed as adverbs by Kiss (2002). I would follow the first analysis. In case of naked adpositions, the ground is implicitly understood.

- (21) علی، (گھر کے) باہر آؤ!  
 ali (g<sup>h</sup>ar=ke) **bahar** a-o  
 Ali.M.Sg home.M.3Sg=Gen.Obl outside come-Imper.2Sg  
 ‘Ali, come out (of home)!’

(viii) The feminine form of a genitive marker is used when the adposition originates from a feminine noun (22). The agreement of genitive strengthens the analysis that the genitive form with these adpositions should be considered as a case marker rather than the part of compound adposition.

- (22) علی بازار کی طرف چلا.  
 ali bazar=**ki** **taraf** cal-a  
 Ali.M.Sg market.M.3Sg=Gen.F side head-Perf.M.3Sg  
 ‘Ali headed towards the market.’

As already mentioned, many spatial adpositions in Urdu are originally nouns. Many of them are not used as nouns anymore. Some of them do continue to be used as nouns, but their syntactic distribution is different when used as adpositions and when used as nouns. Spatial adpositions give a locational sense usually without being overtly marked by a case clitic (23) in comparison with nouns.

- (23) دکان کے آگے (\* پر/میں)  
 dukan=ke **age**(=\*par/mẽ)  
 shop.F.3Sg=Gen.Obl front(=Loc.on/in)  
 ‘In front of the shop’

In modern Urdu the spatial adposition morpheme *age* ‘front’ is not used as a noun (24).

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(24) a. علی دکان کے آگے رکا۔

ali dukan=ke                      age ruk-a  
 Ali shop.F.3Sg=Gen.Obl front stop-Perf.M.3Sg  
 ‘Ali stopped **in front of** the shop.’

b. جہاز کے آگے کو آگ لگ گئی۔

\*jahaz=ke                      age=ko      ag              lag ga-i  
 aeroplane.M.3Sg=Gen.Obl front=Acc fire.3F.Sg hit go-Perf.F.3Sg  
 ‘**The front** of the aeroplane caught fire’

c. جہاز کے آگے میں آگ لگ گئی۔

\*jahaz=ke                      age=mẽ      ag              lag ga-i  
 aeroplane.M.3Sg=Gen.Obl front=Loc fire.F.3Sg hit go-Perf.F.3Sg  
 ‘**The front** of the aeroplane caught fire’

In contemporary Urdu, for the meaning of noun ‘front’, the NP *agla hissah* is used instead (25).

(25) a. جہاز کے آگے حصے کو آگ لگ گئی۔

jahaz=ke                      agle hisse=ko      ag              lag ga-i  
 aeroplane.M.3Sg=Gen.Obl front part.M.3Sg=Acc fire.F.3Sg hit go-Perf.F.3Sg  
 ‘**The front** of the aeroplane caught fire.’

b. جہاز کے آگے حصے میں آگ لگ گئی۔

jahaz=ke                      agle hisse=mẽ      ag              lag ga-i  
 aeroplane.M.3Sg front part.M.3Sg=Loc.in fire.F.3Sg hit go-Perf.F.3Sg  
 ‘**The front** of the aeroplane caught fire.’

In contrast with nouns, the adjectival modification and pluralization of spatial adpositions is not possible in Urdu except for the postposition *taraf* ‘side’ which can be modified by demonstratives *is* ‘this’, *us* ‘that’ or the adjectives *dai* ‘right’ and *bai* ‘left’, or by quantifiers like *donõ* ‘both’, *carõ* ‘all four’, etc. Its plural form *atraf* ‘sides’ can also be used due to ideosyncratic semantics of this spatial adposition.

### 6.2.3 Persian spatial prepositions in Urdu

In Persian, there are two basic prepositions for location: *bar* ‘on’ and *dar* ‘in’ and three for path: *az* ‘from’, *bih* ‘to’ and *ta* ‘up to’ in Persian. These are rarely lexically contentful in Urdu. Instead, they are used grammatically in some adverbial constructions in Urdu. In contrast to these basic Persian prepositions, some other Persian prepositions are used in a lexical meaning in Urdu. Examples of Persian prepositions used in Urdu are given in Table 6.3. It should be noted that Persian *bih* is pronounced as *bah* in Urdu.

Persian preposition	Examples found in an Urdu corpus
<i>bar</i> ‘on’	<i>bar vaqt</i> ‘in time’, <i>bar mahal</i> ‘in the nick of time/fitting’
<i>dar</i> ‘in’	<i>dar haqiqat</i> ‘in fact’, <i>dar pardah</i> ‘behind the curtain/hidden’
<i>az</i> ‘from’	<i>az sar-e na</i> ‘from scratch’, <i>az xud</i> ‘by itself’
<i>bih/bah</i> ‘to’	<i>ba-zahir</i> ‘apparently’, <i>ba-ja</i> ‘right/accurate/in place’
<i>ta</i> ‘up to’	<i>ta hal</i> ‘till now’, <i>ta qiyamat</i> ‘till resurrection’
<i>pas</i> ‘behind’	<i>pas-e gardan</i> ‘behind the neck’, <i>pas-e pardah</i> ‘behind the curtain’
<i>bala</i> ‘above’	<i>bala-e mimbar</i> ‘over the pulpit’, <i>bala-e sar</i> ‘over the head’
<i>zer</i> ‘under’	<i>zer-e zamin</i> ‘under ground’, <i>zer-e ab</i> ‘under water’

Table 6.3: Use of Persian spatial prepositions in Urdu

The preposition *zer* is more frequently used in Urdu as compared to other prepositions listed in the table. Some prepositional phrases of Persian, involving the demonstratives *in/ī* ‘this’ or *an/ā* ‘that’ in them, are used in Urdu as multiword colloquial expressions, for example, *dar in isna* ‘in the mean time’, *bina bar in* ‘based on this’, *ilawah bar in* ‘in addition to this’, *qabl az in* ‘before this’, *pef az in* ‘before this’, *ba’d az in* ‘after this’ and *ba’d az an* ‘after that’.

In this section, a range of spatial adpositions was discussed. There are some clitics which are used to mark locations. Many spatial adpositions used in Urdu are originally nouns. It was argued that the genitive oblique form used with a spatial postposition is not the part of the postposition. Rather it marks the object of the postposition for genitive case. The use of Persian prepositions in Urdu was given for the sake of completeness.

### 6.3 Analysis of spatial adpositions

#### 6.3.1 Vector Space Semantics

To explain the modification of PPs with measurement terms, PPs have been interpreted as a set of vectors, rather than as a set of points or mereological portions of space (Zwarts, 1995, 2000; Zwarts & Winter, 1997). Special terms and extended expressions are interpreted in the context of three dimensional *vector space*. A vector is a directed line segment between points in space.

Spatial adpositions are seen as vector spaces projected from the Ground. The measure phrases define a subset of these vectors. For example, *mez ke upar* ‘above the table’ defines a space of vectors emanating from the upper plane of the table (see Figure 6.1). And the measure phrase in *mez ke 2 miṭar upar* ‘2 meters above the table’ selects the subset of that space constituted by vectors of 2 meters length each, as shown on the right hand side of Figure 6.1.

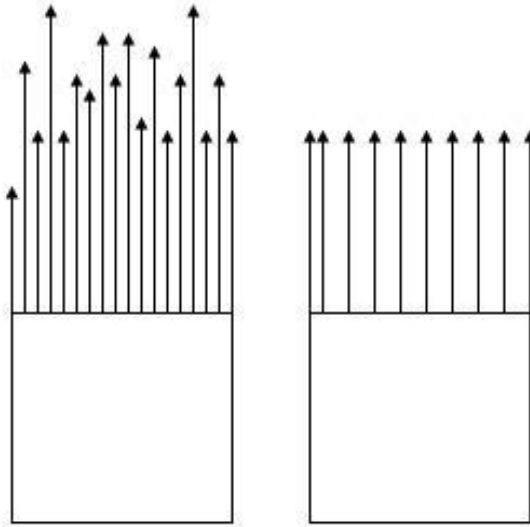


Figure 6.1: Vector Space

Initially, spatial adpositions were analyzed as denoting a general region of space relative to the Ground. However, this analysis failed to properly explain the measure phrases in PPs. On the other hand, if the region is considered to consist of vectors originating from the reference plane, then how the modifiers of measure phrases work can be explicated clearly. The explanation of the PPs in (26) is given in (27).

(26) a. مکان کے آگے

makan=ke                      age  
house.M.3Sg=Gen.Obl front  
'in front of the house.'

b. مکان کے ۵ میٹر آگے

makan=ke                      5 miṭar age  
house.M.3Sg=Gen.Obl 5 meter front  
'five meters in front of the house'

c. مکان کے سیدھا آگے

makan=ke                      sid<sup>h</sup>a age  
house.M.3Sg=Gen.Obl straight front  
'straight in front of the house'

d. مکان کے بالکل آگے

makan=ke                      bilkūl age  
house.M.3Sg=Gen.Obl just front  
'just in front of the house'

(27) a. [[in front of the house]] = { $v$  |  $v$  originates at the front plane of the house and extends beyond it}

b. [[5 meters in front of the house]] = { $v$  |  $v$  originates at the front plane of the house and extends beyond it and  $v$  has a measure of 5 meters}

c. [[straight in front of the house]] = { $v$  |  $v$  originates at the front plane of the house and extends beyond it and  $v$  is perpendicular to the front plane}

d. [[straight in front of the house]] = { $v$  |  $v$  originates at the front plane of the house and extends beyond it and  $v$  has a measure approximately equal to zero}

The vector space system has the following formal components (for details see Winter 2001; Zwarts & Winter 1997):

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1. A vector space  $V$  over the real numbers  $\mathbf{R}$ .
2. An addition operation  $+$  on elements of  $V$ .
3. A zero element  $0$  that satisfies  $v + 0 = v$  for all  $v \in V$ .
4. An opposite element  $-v$  for each  $v \in V$ , such that  $v + (-v) = 0$ .
5. A scalar multiplication operator between real numbers in  $\mathbf{R}$  and elements in  $V$  such that for all  $s \in \mathbf{R}$  and  $v \in V$ ,  $s \cdot v \in V$ .
6. A norm function  $||$  from  $V$  to non-negative elements of  $\mathbf{R}$ .

Zwarts (2000) defined the place vector  $place(v, x)$  as the vector  $v$  originating at  $y$ . The analysis of some locative PPs in terms of place vectors is given in (28).

- (28) a.  $[[\text{inside NP}]] = \{v \mid place(v, [[NP]]) \wedge |v| < 0\}$   
 b.  $[[\text{outside NP}]] = \{v \mid place(v, [[NP]]) \wedge |v| > 0\}$   
 c.  $[[\text{in front of NP}]] = \{v \mid place(v, [[NP]]) \wedge |FRONT(v)| > |\perp FRONT(v)|\}$   
 d.  $[[\text{behind NP}]] = \{v \mid place(v, [[NP]]) \wedge |-FRONT(v)| > |\perp -FRONT(v)|\}$   
 e.  $[[\text{above/over NP}]] = \{v \mid place(v, [[NP]]) \wedge |VERT(v)| > |\perp VERT(v)|\}$   
 f.  $[[\text{below/under NP}]] = \{v \mid place(v, [[NP]]) \wedge |-VERT(v)| > |\perp -VERT(v)|\}$

The *axis functions* VERT, FRONT, etc., their inverses (-VERT, etc.) and their orthogonal complements ( $\perp$  VERT, etc.) are added to deal with directional adpositions. Different measure or description phrases modifying the PPs actually represent more specified set of vectors as is shown below:

- (29) a.  $[[5 \text{ meters}]] = \{v \mid |v| = 5m\}$   
 b.  $[[\text{straight}]] = \{v \mid VERT(v)\}$   
 c.  $[[\text{just}]] = \{v \mid |v| \approx 0\}$

This is how the vector space system (VSS) explains the spatial adpositions and their modification by a measurement or descriptive phrases. Stacked adpositions in Urdu can also be analyzed in this system. The position of an object can be interpreted to be a vector resulting from the summation of two vectors entailed by two stacked adpositions. Consider the PPs in (30).

- (30) a. دروازے کے اوپر دائیں طرف  
darvaze=ke upar daĩ taraf  
door.M.3Sg=Gen.Obl above right side  
‘above the door and to the right of it’
- b. دروازے کے دائیں طرف اوپر  
darvaze=ke daĩ taraf upar  
door.M.3Sg=Gen.Obl right side above  
‘to the right of the door and above it’

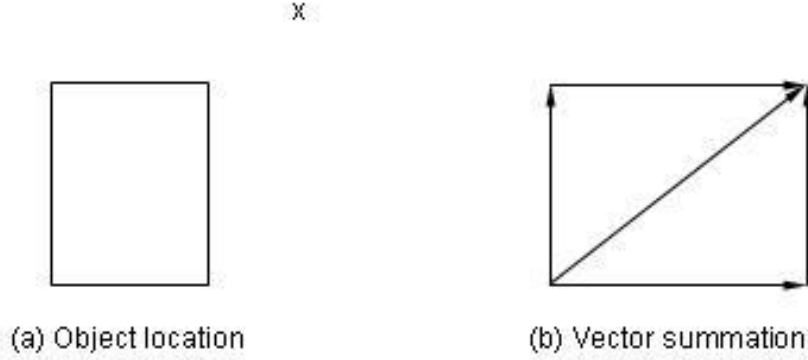


Figure 6.2: Interpretation of spatial adpositions

The two-dimensional object position entailed by the spatial adpositions in (30) is illustrated in Figure 6.2 in the context of VSS. The summation of upward and rightward vectors for two spatial adpositions in (30a) results in a diagonal vector which shows the position of the object with reference to the door. The same resultant vector is produced if the vectors are added in the reverse direction which correspond to the order of spatial adpositions in (30b). The position of the object in (30) is described by stacking two adpositions. To describe the position of an object in two dimensions either an adverbial modification of a single PP is made or two prepositional phrases are coordinated.

### 6.3.2 Svenonius' hierarchy and notions of space

Svenonius (2007, 2008) has examined a set of crosslinguistic data with respect to PPs in order to arrive at a universal structure of PPs. He proposes a rather fixed hierarchy of different functional heads for spatial PPs:

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$p$  - Deg(ree) - Deix(is) - Loc - Ax(ial)Part - K - DP

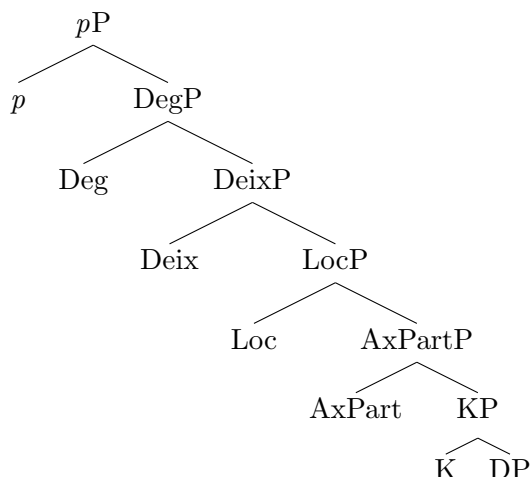


Figure 6.3: Svenonius' hierarchy of spatial adpositions

In this hierarchy, different functional heads are recursively nested. The functional heads do not always have to be realized. They could also be null. In Figure 6.3,  $p$  is the prepositional head. The Deg head corresponds to the measure phrases in PPs. The AxParts correspond to so-called “Axial Parts” of an object and are described by Jackendoff (1996) as follows:

“The “axial parts” of an object – its *top*, *bottom*, *front*, *back*, *sides*, and *ends* – behave grammatically like parts of the object, but, unlike standard parts such as a *handle* or a *leg*, they have no distinctive shape. Rather, they are regions of the object (or its boundary) determined by their relation to the object’s axes. The up-down axis determines top and bottom, the front-back axis determines front and back, and a complex set of criteria distinguishing horizontal axes determines sides and ends.”

(Jackendoff 1996:14)

The head K in the structure is for the case of complements as the complements of PPs are usually marked for case. The Deix head is usually filled by demonstratives which just express different degrees of proximity to a deictic center (Svenonius, 2006). For example, the English PP ‘5 meters in front of the house’ is analysed in an hierarchical structure, as shown in Figure 6.4.

Although almost all notions of spatial expressions worked out by Svenonius are found crosslinguistically, the hierarchy of these notions can vary from language to lan-



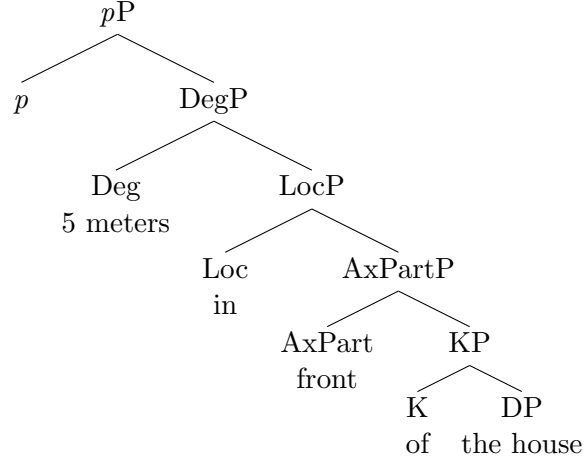


Figure 6.4: English PP structure

guage. For example, in Persian, the Loc head is above Deg and Deix (proximal/distal marker) heads (Pantcheva, 2006, 2008; Svenonius, 2008), as shown in (31).

- (31) در ۵ متری این جلوی خانه  
dar 5 mitri-ye in jilu-ye xanɪh  
at 5 meter-Ez Prox front-Ez house  
‘here, five meters in front of the house’ (Persian)

The list of spatial adpositions in Table 6.2 is in fact a list of AxParts in Urdu. The following hierarchy can be observed for different spatial notions in Urdu spatial postpositions.

Urdu PP: NP - K - Deg(ree) - Deix(is) - Ax(ial)Part - Loc - p

The evidence for the observed hierarchy in Urdu can be seen in (32) below.

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(32) a. مکان کے ۵ میٹر آگے

makan=ke                      5 miṭar age  
house.M.3Sg=Gen.Obl 5 meter front  
‘five meters in front of the house’

b. مکان کے بیچ (میں)

makan=ke                      bic      (mē)  
house.M.3Sg=Gen.Obl center (in)  
‘in the middle of the house’

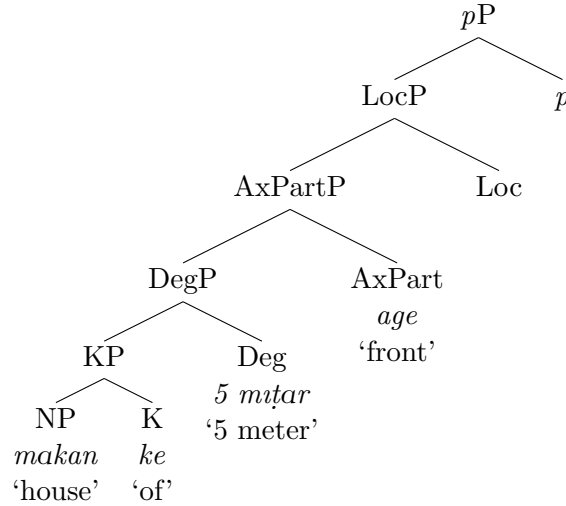


Figure 6.5: Urdu PP structure

The structure for (32a) is displayed in Figure 6.5. If we take the Deg head out of the tree structure (for a moment), then we see the structure of Urdu postpositions just becomes the mirror image of English prepositions. So, ignoring the position of Deg/Deix heads, Svenonius’ hierarchy of spatial notions indeed seems to work crosslinguistically.

For a Deix example in Urdu, consider the PP in (33a) below. The word *par* in Urdu means ‘the other side of some river, stream, etc’. When used as a postposition it means ‘across’ and the demonstrative *us* in (33) is the Deix head which expresses that the region referred to is far across the river rather than just across the river.



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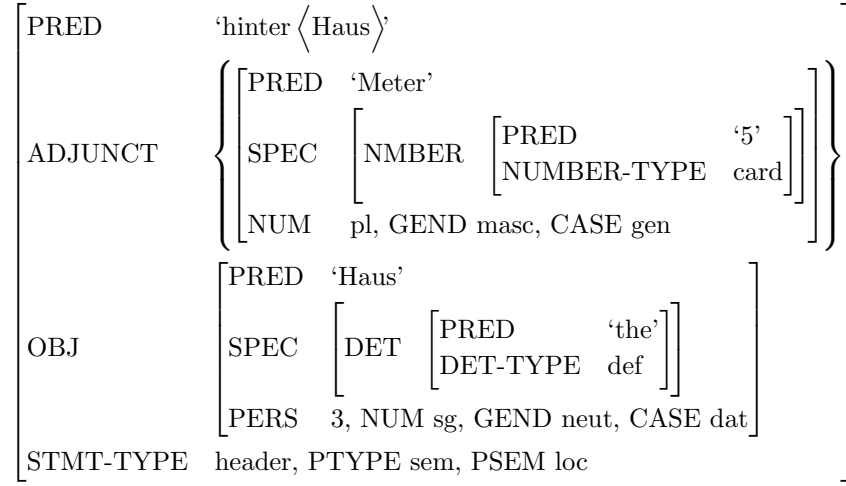


Figure 6.7: f-structure for German PP

In the English ParGram grammar, *meter* is the head and *behind the house* is a prepositional adjunct while in the German ParGram grammar, *hinter* (preposition) is the head, *Haus* is its object and the measure phrase *5 Meters* is the adjunct. The German f-structure seems to be more reasonable, because the AxPart is chosen as the head of the prepositional phrase. The AxPart is the key element in such phrases in the sense that some other elements like Deg(ree) and Deix(is) in Svenonius' hierarchy cannot be licensed if there is no AxPart. So, it is proposed that in such phrases the AxPart should in principle be chosen as a head.

Drawing on the functional heads of Svenonius' hierarchy, features are proposed for different place components (Raza & Ahmed, 2011b). The lexical semantics of spatial components can be included in the f-structure in the form of features/attributes under a LEX-SEM label which already exists independently in the Urdu PARGRAM grammar. The proposed features for different components of PLACE/PATH are listed in Table 6.4. A single token of PPs can have one or more features. Distribution of features over tokens of the phrase *5 meters behind the house* would be as follows:

The bare form of AxParts as *front* in *in front* would not have a LOC feature as it would be carried by the preposition *in*. In different languages notions of spatial expressions can be encoded either morphologically or syntactically. This is illustrated by the following examples:

- from in front (English)  
Src | Loc | AxPart (3 tokens, 3 features)

PLACE/PATH	Feature	Value
PLACE	AxPart	back, front, etc
	Loc	+
	Ground	
	Deg	
	Deix	prox, dist
PATH	Src	$\pm$
	End	$\pm$

Table 6.4: Features of Place/Path

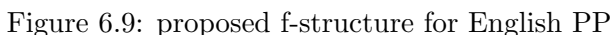
behind:	$\left[ \begin{array}{cc} \text{PLACE} & \left[ \begin{array}{cc} \text{AxPart} & \text{back} \\ \text{LOC} & + \end{array} \right] \end{array} \right]$
house:	$\left[ \text{PLACE} \quad \text{Ground} \right]$
5 meters:	$\left[ \text{PLACE} \quad \text{Deg} \right]$

Figure 6.8: Distribution of features over tokens

- from behind (English)  
Src | Loc & AxPart (2 tokens, 3 features)
- *pic<sup>h</sup>e se* (Urdu)  
AxPart & Loc | Src (2 tokens, 3 features)
- *pic<sup>h</sup>-ũ* (Saraiki)  
AxPart & Loc & Src (1 token, 3 features)

There is a historical explanation for assigning two features to the token *behind*. Actually the *be*-series of adpositions in English comprising prepositions like *behind*, *before*, *beneath* and *between* emerged from a preposition *be* plus some noun, directional particle or some quantifier. Svenonius (2006) has speculated that *be* in these examples served as a Place head, and different lexical elements were recruited to serve as AxParts. A similar situation is with the *a*-series of prepositions (*about*, *above*, *along*, etc) in English.

In line with the proposed selection of head and the LEX-SEM features, the equivalent f-structure representation for the expression ‘5 meters behind the house’ will look



Consider now the Urdu spatial expressions in (34), whose f-structures are provided in Figures 6.10 and 6.11.

- The feature ‘Ground’ occurs with the spatial ground irrespective of the fact that it is an OBJ in the English f-structure (Figure 6.9) and an OBL in the Urdu f-structure (Figure 6.10). The explicit morphemes carrying only Loc features in English are basic prepositions, but in Urdu are case markers. Hence, even though the languages differ at the level of c-str, a parallel f-structure representation of spatial expressions is proposed in line with Svenonius’ notions of space, but in the spirit of LFG and the ParGram project.

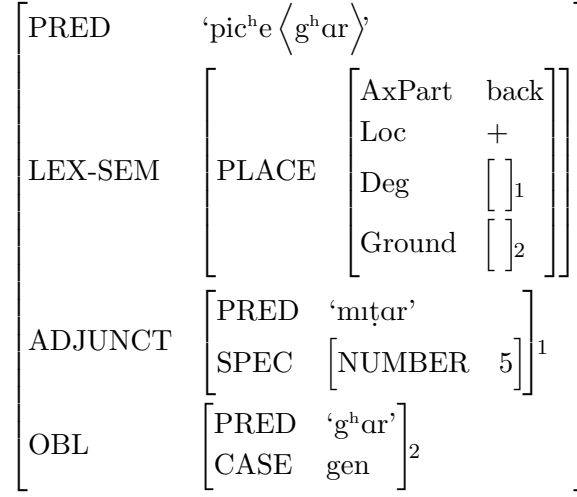


Figure 6.10: f-structure for Urdu spatial PP in (34a)

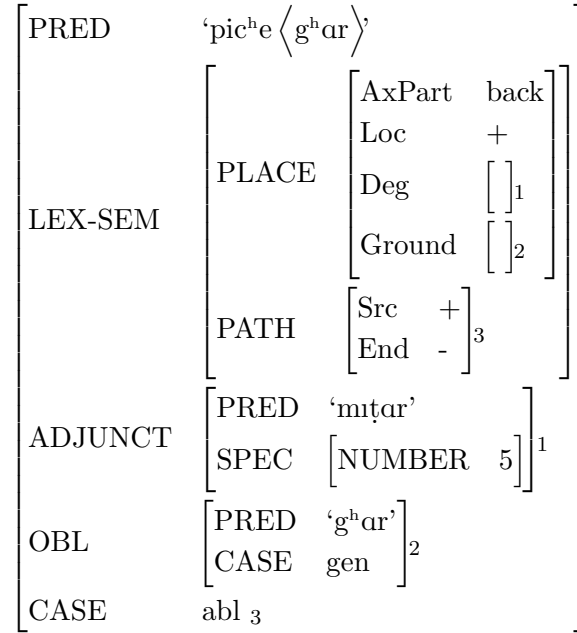


Figure 6.11: f-structure for Urdu spatial PP in (34b)

## 6.4 Non-spatial adpositions

In addition to the spatial adpositions described and analyzed above, there is a large variety of other adpositions in Urdu. Most of the morphemes used as non-spatial adpositions in Urdu originate from Arabic. In the following subsections, first simple and then complex adpositions in Urdu are discussed.

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### 6.4.1 Simple adpositions

With simple adpositions, I mean here the mono-morphemic adpositions in Urdu. These adpositions license different case marked noun phrases as their complements. Some examples are given in (35).

(35) a. سیلاب کے باعث فصلیں تباہ ہو گئیں۔

seḷab=ke      ba'is faslẽ      tabah ho      gaĩ  
flood=Gen.Obl cause crop.F.3Pl destroy become go-Perf.F.3Pl  
'Crops destroyed due to floods'

b. ملکی مفاد کی خاطر غیر مقبول فیصلے کیے۔

mũlki      mafad=ki      xatir yer-maqbul fẽsle      kiy-e  
of-country benefit.M=Gen.F sake.F unpopular decision.3Pl make-Perf.3Pl  
'We made unpopular decisions for the benefit of the country.'

c. آج سے / کے بعد

aj=se/ke      ba'd  
today=Abl/Gen after  
'after today'

d. آج سے / کے پہلے

aj=se/\*ke      pahle  
today=Abl/\*Gen before  
'before today'

The Arabic morphemes *ba'is* 'cause' and *xatir* 'sake' are used both as nouns as well as postpositions in Urdu. In contemporary Urdu, however, *xatir* is rarely used as a noun and *ba'is* is used as a relational noun only in its singular form as in *faram=ka ba'is* 'cause of embarrassment'. When used as postpositions, the complements are marked with genitive oblique case forms (35a–b) according to the gender these adpositions have as nouns in Urdu. The postposition *ba'd* 'after' can take either an ablative or a genitive marked complement (35c) and the postposition *pahle* 'before' takes only an ablative



complement (35d). The expression *ba'd mē* is used as an adverb in the meaning of 'afterwards'.

The degree or measure phrase that was discussed in case of spatial adpositions can also be involved in temporal adpositional phrases as in (36). In such cases, the reference time can sometimes be omitted.

- (36) a. آج سے / کے ایک ہفتہ بعد  
 (aj=se/ke) ek haftah **ba'd**  
 today=Abl/Gen one week after  
 'a week after (today)'

- b. آج سے / کے ایک ہفتہ پہلے  
 (aj=se/\*ke) ek haftah **pahle**  
 today=Abl/\*Gen one week before  
 'a week before (today)'

The Perso-Arabic temporal adpositions *ba'd* 'after' and *qabl* 'before' used in Urdu sometimes take *az*-prepositional arguments (37).

- (37) a. بعد از نماز جمعہ ریلی نکالی گئی۔  
**ba'd** az namaz-e jum'ah reli nikali ga-i  
 after from prayer-Ez Friday rally hold-Perf.F go-Perf.F.Sg  
 'A rally was held after Friday prayer.'

- b. ملزم نے قبل از گرفتاری معافی مانگی۔  
 mulzim=ne **qabl** az giriftari mu'afi māg-i  
 accused.M=Erg before from arrest.F pardon beg-Perf.F.3Sg  
 'The accused begged pardon before arrest.'

- (38) a. ندا کا جواب نہ دینا شرم کے باعث ہے۔  
 nida=ka javab nah de-na faram=ke  
 Nida=Gen.M.Sg reply.M.Sg not give-Inf.M.Sg shyness.M=Gen.Obl  
 ba'is he  
 because be.Pres.3Sg  
 'No reply from Nida is because of shyness.'

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b. ندا کا جواب نہ دینا شرم کا باعث ہے۔

nida=ka javab nah de-na faram=ka ba'is hε  
Nida=Gen.M reply.M not give-Inf.M shyness.M=Gen.M cause be.Pres.3Sg  
'No reply from Nida is the cause of embarrassment.'

c. ندا کا جواب نہ دینا باعث شرم ہے۔

nida=ka javab nah de-na ba'is-e faram hε  
Nida=Gen.M reply.M not give-Inf.M casue-Ez embarrassment.M be.Pres.3Sg  
\*‘No reply from Nida is because of shyness.’  
‘No reply from Nida is the cause of embarrassment.’

Some adpositions taking genitive marked complements also allow complements in the *ezafe* construction. For example, *ba'is* as an adposition allows a genitive marked complement (38a), but does not allow the complement in the *ezafe* construction (38c). So, *ba'is-e faram* would be ungrammatical in the meaning of ‘because of embarrassment’. However, the word *ba'is* as a noun takes either a genitive complement or its complement is in the *ezafe* construction: *faram=ka ba'is* ‘cause of embarrassment’ or *ba'is-e faram* ‘cause of embarrassment’. An example of an adposition either taking a genitive complement or allowing its complement in the *ezafe* construction is given in (39).

(39) a. میچ کا نتیجہ توقع کے خلاف ہے۔

mεc=ka natijah tavaqqu'=ke xılaf hε  
match.M.Sg=Gen.M.Sg result.M expectation.F=Gen.Obl against be.Pres.3Sg  
'The result of the match is unexpected.'

b. میچ کا نتیجہ خلاف توقع ہے۔

mεc=ka natijah xılaf-e tavaqqu' hε  
match.M=Gen.M result.M against-Ez expectation.F be.Pres.3Sg  
'The result of the match is unexpected.'

Another example of an adposition that allows both types of complements is *doran* ‘during’. The phrases *guftgu=ke doran* and *doran-e guftgu* both mean ‘during conversation’. In Urdu there is only one non-spatial preposition *hasb* ‘as per/according to’

which requires an *ezafe* construction to make a phrase with its complement. To show that this pattern is productive in Urdu, examples from an Urdu corpus are listed in Table 6.5.

<i>hasb-e iradah</i> ‘as per determination’	<i>hasb-e usul</i> ‘as per rule’
<i>hasb-e taqaza</i> ‘as per requirement’	<i>hasb-e t̤fiq</i> ‘as per capability’
<i>hasb-e tavaqqu</i> ‘as per expectation’	<i>hasb-e hal</i> ‘as per time’
<i>hasb-e h̤s̤nyyat</i> ‘as per status’	<i>hasb-e dastur</i> ‘as per standard’
<i>hasb-e zaīqah</i> ‘as per taste’	<i>hasb-e rivaī</i> ‘as per fashion’
<i>hasb-e sabīq</i> ‘as per previous’	<i>hasb-e rivayat</i> ‘as per tradition’
<i>hasb-e adat</i> ‘as per habit’	<i>hasb-e zabītah</i> ‘as per precept’
<i>hasb-e zarurat</i> ‘as per need’	<i>hasb-e tariqah</i> ‘as per method’
<i>hasb-e qanun</i> ‘as per law’	<i>hasb-e qaidah</i> ‘as per regulation’
<i>hasb-e qavaid</i> ‘as per regulations’	<i>hasb-e mazi</i> ‘as per past’
<i>hasb-e ma’mul</i> ‘as per usual’	<i>hasb-e manfa</i> ‘as per wish’
<i>hasb-e mansubah</i> ‘as per plan’	<i>hasb-e m̤qa</i> ‘as per opportunity’
<i>hasb-e niyyat</i> ‘as per intention’	<i>hasb-e va’dah</i> ‘as per promise’
<i>hasb-e iradah o mansubah</i> ‘as per determination and plan’	
<i>hasb-e usul o qavaid</i> ‘as per rules and regulations’	
<i>hasb-e marzi o manfa</i> ‘as per will and wish’	

Table 6.5: Use of the adposition *hasb* ‘as per’ in Urdu

The adposition *bin/bina* ‘without’ is one of some adpositions in Urdu which can take either a nominative complement as in *tum bin* ‘without you’ or a genitive marked complement as in *tumhare bin* ‘without you’. This adposition, like another adposition *bayer* ‘without’, can also take an oblique form of a perfective participle as its complement, as in *bin dek<sup>h</sup>-e* ‘without seeing’ or *dek<sup>h</sup>-e bayer* ‘without seeing’.

#### 6.4.1.1 Attachment of adpositional phrases

Some adpositional phrases can modify both nouns and verbs and others can only modify verbs. The use of the adposition *mut’alq* ‘about’ is illustrated in (40).

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(40) a. عدالت نے ملزم کی جائیداد سے متعلق پوچھا۔

adalat=ne [mulzim=ki jaidad=se **mut'alıq**] puc<sup>h</sup>-a  
 court.F=Erg accused.M=Gen.F property.F=Abl about ask-Perf.M.3Sg  
 'The court asked about the property of the accused.'

b. عوام نے حکومت کی روزگار سے متعلق پالیسی کو پسند کیا۔

avam=ne [hakumat=ki rozgar=se **mut'alıq**  
 public.F=Erg government.F=Gen.F employment.M=Abl about  
 palisi]=ko pasād kiy-a  
 policy.F=Acc like do-Perf.M.3Sg  
 'People praised the employment policy of the government.'

c. بنیادی انسانی حقوق سے متعلقہ قوانین

bunyadi insani haquq=se mut'alıqah qavanin  
 basic of-human right.M.Pl=Abl related law.M.pl  
 'Laws related to the basic human rights'

In (40a) the adpositional phrase *mulzim=ki jaidad=se mut'alıq* 'about the property of the accused' is in fact modifying the verb or in a sense the whole sentential clause. In (40b) the adpositional phrase *rozgar=se mut'alıq* modifies the noun *palisi* 'policy'. There is another equivalent word *mut'alıqah* 'related' in Urdu which is used as an adjective (40c). The use of another adposition *xılaḥ*, which is only attached at the clause level, and an adjective *muxalıḥ* is exemplified in (41)–(42).

(41) a. حکومت کے مخالف لوگوں نے حکومت کے خلاف جلوس نکالا۔

hakumat=ke **muxalıḥ** logō=ne hakumat=ke  
 government.F=Gen.3Pl opposing people.3Pl=Erg government.F=Gen.Obl  
 xılaḥ julus nıkal-a  
 against procession.M conduct-Perf.M  
 'People opposed to the government conducted a procession against the government.'

b. حکومت کی مخالف جماعت نے حکومت کے خلاف ریلی نکالی۔

hakumat=ki                      **muxalif** jama'at=ne   hakumat=ke  
 government.F=Gen.F.3Sg   opposing   party.F=Erg   government.F=Gen.Obl  
**xılaf**   reli   nıkal-i  
 against   rally.F   conduct-Perf.F  
 'The party opposed to the government conducted a rally against the government.'

(42) a. عوام کی اکثریت جنگ کی مخالف ہے۔

avam=ki                      aksariyat   jãg=ki                      **muxalif**   he  
 public.F=Gen.F   majority.F   war.F=Gen.F   opposed.F   be.Pres  
 'The majority of people are opposed to war.'

b. عوام کی اکثریت جنگ کے خلاف ہے۔

avam=ki                      aksariyat   jãg=ke                      **xılaf**   he  
 public.F=Gen.F   majority.F   war.F=Gen.Obl   against   be.Pres  
 'The majority of people are against war.'

In (41), the complement of the adposition is marked by an oblique genitive marker, however, the argument of the adjective is marked genitive according to the gender and number of the modified head-noun. The argument of the adjective in (41a) is marked for 3Pl genitive marker due to plural head noun *logõ* 'people' and in (41b) is marked for F.3Sg due to the feminine head noun *jama'at* 'party'.

The adjective *muxalif* 'opposed' is used predicatively in (42a). In this case also, the complement of the adjective is marked genitive according to the number and the gender of the subject *aksariyat* 'majority'. In (42b), however, the complement of the adposition is marked by an oblique genitive marker.

It should be noted, as already said, that complements of some adpositions are marked for feminine genitive marker in the case adposition is originally a feminine noun, however, when the complement is postposed the default oblique masculine form is used (Khan, 2005), for example *ali=ki mısl* 'like Ali' and *mısl ali=ke* 'like Ali'.

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### 6.4.1.2 *is hye* ‘therefore’ and *is tarah* ‘thus’

The adpositions *hye* ‘for’ and *tarah* ‘like’ take genitive marked complements in Urdu. Their canonical use is illustrated in (43).

- (43) a. علی ندا / اس کے لیے پھول لایا۔  
ali [nda/ʊs]=ke hye p<sup>h</sup>ul la-ya  
Ali.M Nida.F/3Sg=Gen for flower.M.3Sg bring-Perf.M.3Sg  
‘Ali brought a flower for Nida/her.’
- b. علی / اس کی طرح ندا بھی ذہین ہے۔  
[ali/ʊs]=ki tarah nda b<sup>h</sup>i zahin he  
Ali.M/3Sg=Gen.F like Nida.F also intelligent be.Pres.3Sg  
‘Nida is also intelligent like Ali/him.’

The phrase *is/ʊs ke hye* means ‘for him/her/it’ and *is/ʊs ki tarah* means ‘like him/her/it’. So, the meanings of these phrases are constructed syntactically. However, the word combination *is hye* is also used in Urdu in the lexical meaning of ‘therefore/hence’ and *is tarah* is used in the lexical meaning of ‘thus/so’. Two other expressions *kis hye* and *kis tarah* are also used with the meanings ‘why’ and ‘how’ respectively. Each pair of these lexical expressions show a similar syntactic behavior, as shown in (44)–(47).

- (44) a. ندا بیمار ہے، اس لیے کالج نہیں آئی۔  
nda bimar he is hye kalj nahi a-i  
Nida.F ill be.Pres.3Sg therefore college.M not come-Perf.F.3Sg  
‘Nida is ill, therefore, she did not come to college.’
- b. علی نے محنت کی، اس طرح کامیاب ہو گیا۔  
ali=ne mihnat ki is tarah kamyab ho ga-ya  
Ali.M=Erg hardwork.F do-Perf.F.3Sg thus successful become go-Perf.M.3Sg  
‘Ali did hard work, so, succeeded.’

- (45) a. ندا یہاں کس لیے آئی؟  
 nda yahā kīs liye a-i  
 Nida.F here why come-Perf.F.3Sg  
 ‘Why did Nida come here?’
- b. ندا یہاں کس طرح آئی؟  
 nda yahā kīs tarah a-i  
 Nida.F here how come-Perf.F.3Sg  
 ‘How did Nida come here?’
- (46) a. ندا یہاں علی سے ملنے کے لیے آئی.  
 nda yahā ali=se mīl-ne=ke liye a-i  
 Nida.F here Ali.M=Com meet-Inf.Obl=Gen.Obl for come-Perf.F.3Sg  
 ‘Nida came here to meet Ali.’
- b. ندا یہاں چوروں کی طرح آئی.  
 nda yahā corō=ki tarah a-i  
 Nida.F here thief.M.3Pl=Gen.F like come-Perf.F.3Sg  
 ‘Nida came here like a thief.’
- (47) a. ندا یہاں اس لیے آئی کہ علی سے ملے.  
 nda yahā is liye a-i kih ali=se mīl-e  
 Nida.F here hence come-Perf.F.3Sg that Ali.M=Com meet-Subjn  
 ‘Nida came here, so that she meet Ali.’
- b. ندا یہاں اس طرح آئی کہ کسی کو پتا نہیں چلا.  
 nda yahā is tarah a-i kih kisi=ko pata nahī cal-a  
 Nida.F here so come-Perf.F that any=Dat knowledge not walk-Perf.M  
 ‘Nida came here in a way that no one noticed.’

There is still another multiword expression of this series *jis tarah*, which has the meaning of ‘as’ as in *jis tarah ap cahē* ‘as you wish’. Its counterpart expression with

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the *lye* adposition is *jis lye*. Note that *is tarah*, *kis tarah* and *jis tarah* are in fact reduced forms of *is tarah se* ‘by this way’, *kis tarah se* ‘by which way’ and *jis tarah se* ‘by which (ever) way’, respectively.

### 6.4.2 Complex adpositions

In many languages, the basic adpositions together with nouns seem to act as predicators and take some other elements as complements. Such predicators in linguistic literature (Kurzon & Adler, 2008; Quirk & Mulholland, 1964) are usually termed complex adpositions or compound adpositions or phrasal prepositions. Some examples of these are listed in the following:

- French: *en face de*, *en dépit de*, *au milieu de*
- Spanish: *al lado de*, *en casa de*
- Swedish: *i början av*, *med hjälp av*, *i stället för*
- English: *in view of*, *in spite of*, *by dint of*
- Polish: *bez względu na*, *w związku z*, *z uwagi na*
- German: *an Hand von*, *mit Hilfe von*, *in Bezug auf*

(adapted from Trawinski 2003)

Table 6.6 shows examples of complex prepositions from Persian, many of which are also used in Urdu. In these complex prepositions a noun is added to a basic preposition and the combination then licenses a complement, usually NP, mostly in the *ezafe* construction. For other types of complex prepositions in Persian, see Chime (2006).

The use of the first two complex prepositions in Table 6.6 are illustrated in (48). These complex prepositions are hardly found in Urdu news corpus, however, they are found in poetry and in the religious literature written in Urdu.



Preposition	Complex prepositions
<i>bar</i> ‘on’	<i>bar sabil</i> ‘in the way of/as’, ( <i>bar</i> ) <i>sar</i> ‘on’, <i>bar aks</i> ‘opposite to’ <i>bar asas</i> ‘based on’, ( <i>bar</i> ) <i>xilaf</i> ‘against’, ( <i>bar</i> ) <i>tibq</i> ‘according to’
<i>dar</i> ‘in’	( <i>dar</i> ) <i>mahzar</i> ‘in presence of/to’, ( <i>dar</i> ) <i>xidmat</i> ‘in service of/to’ <i>dar murid</i> ‘in case/respecting’, <i>dar barah</i> ‘about’
<i>az</i> ‘from’	<i>az jihat</i> ‘with regard to/for’, <i>az rah</i> ‘by the way of’ <i>az ru</i> ‘with respect to’, <i>az janab</i> ‘from the side of/from’
<i>bih/bah</i> ‘to’	( <i>bih</i> ) <i>jihat</i> ‘for the sake of/for’, <i>ba-tar</i> ‘by way of’ <i>ba-qal</i> ‘according to’, <i>ba-ja</i> ‘in place of’
<i>ba</i> ‘with’	<i>ba vajud</i> ‘with existence of/in spite of’

Table 6.6: Persian complex prepositions

(48) a. ہے مجھ کو تجھ سے تذکرہ غیر کا گہ

ہرچند برسبیل شکایت ہی کیوں نہ ہو

he mujh=ko tujh=se tazkarah-e yer=ka gilah  
be.Pres 1Sg=Acc 2Sg=Abl mention-Ez rival=Gen.M remonstrance.M  
har-cād **bar-sabil-e fikayat** hi kiyō nah ho  
even on-way-Ez complaint.F Emp why not be.Subjn  
‘I remonstrate with you for the mention of the rival;  
even if his complaint is made in this mention.’ (Asadullah Khan Ghalib)

b. ہونٹوں پہ کبھی ان کے میرا نام ہی آئے

آئے تو سہی برسر الزام ہی آئے

hōṭō=pih kabhi un=ke mera nam hi ae  
lip.3Pl=Loc.on ever 3Pl=Gen.Obl my name.M Emp come.Subjn  
ae to sahi **bar-sar-e ilzam** hi ae  
come.Subjn Emp Emp on-head-Ez blame Emp come.Subjn  
‘May my name come on her/his lips;  
it should come, even if it come as a start of blame.’ (Ada Jafari)

In these examples we see that complements of complex prepositions occur in the *ezafe* construction. Some of the Persian complex prepositions can take oblique genitive

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marked complements in Urdu. For example, *bar aks* ‘opposite to’ takes a genitive marked complement as in *ma’mul=ke bar aks* ‘against usual’. Another example is given in (49b). The genitive complements of complex adpositions can also be postposed (49c).

- (49) a. بقول علی ندا بیمار ہے۔  
ba-qol(-e) ali nida bimar he  
to-saying.M(-Ez) Ali Nida ill be.Pres.3Sg  
‘According to Ali, Nida is ill.’
- b. علی کے بقول ندا بیمار ہے۔  
ali=ke ba-qol nida bimar he  
Ali.M=Gen.Obl.M to-saying.M Nida ill be.Pres.3Sg  
‘According to Ali, Nida is ill.’
- c. بقول علی کے ندا بیمار ہے۔  
ba-qol ali=ke nida bimar he  
to-saying.M Ali.M=Gen.Obl.M Nida ill be.Pres.3Sg  
‘According to Ali, Nida is ill.’

The form of the oblique genitive marker which marks the complement of a complex adposition is according to the gender and number of the noun, which is part of complex adposition. The noun *qol* ‘saying’ in (49b–c) is masculine, so the masculine oblique form *ke* is used to mark the complement *ali* ‘Ali’. Another example of a prepositional phrase is *ali=ki bajae* or *bajae ali=ke* ‘instead of Ali’; here the complement at its canonical position is marked by feminine form of genitive marker because the noun in the complex adposition is feminine.<sup>2</sup>

There are some Persian complex prepositions which in their original form do not take genitive marked complements. Their equivalent Urdu forms can only take genitive complements. Such Persian complex prepositions and their Urdu equivalents are given in Table 6.7.

The Persian complex adposition *ba-qol* ‘according to’ does not have a literal equivalent in Urdu. Like *ba-qol* ‘according to’, the complex lexical sign *ba-tor* ‘by way of’ can have its complement in an *ezafe* construction or be genitively marked. Its Urdu equivalent is *tor par* ‘by way of’. The peculiarity with this sign is that the noun part of it can be modified by an adjective both in Persian and Urdu and in that case it does not take its nominal complement, for example, *ba-tor-e xas* ‘as a special case’ in Persian

<sup>2</sup>The Persian complex preposition *baja* is lexicalized as *bajae* in Urdu. That, is the *ezafe* clitic has become the part of the adposition and remains there even if its complement is genitive marked.

Persian complex preposition	Urdu equivalent
<i>bar asas</i> ‘based on’	<i>asas par</i> ‘based on’
<i>dar xidmat</i> ‘in service of/to’	<i>xidmat mē</i> ‘in service of/to’
<i>dar barāh</i> ‘in behlaf/about’	<i>bare (mē)</i> ‘about’
<i>az ru</i> ‘with respect to’	<i>ru se</i> ‘with respect to’
<i>az janīb</i> ‘from the side of/from’	<i>janīb se</i> ‘from the side of/from’

Table 6.7: Persian complex prepositions and their Urdu equivalents

and *xasusi tār par* ‘as a special case’ in Urdu. However this property is generally not found with complex adpositions.

So, many complex adpositions in Urdu actually have been borrowed from Persian either in the form as they are in Persian, or the basic adposition part of them is replaced by an Urdu case clitic. To show that these combinations are really complex, I now present the syntactic distribution of nouns in them.

#### 6.4.2.1 Syntactic distribution of nouns in complex adpositions

The nouns in complex adpositions display a different syntactic distribution as compared to the syntactic distribution of nouns elsewhere. Chime (2006) has discussed such differences for Persian that apply to Urdu as well. Consider a simple phrase and a complex adpositional phrase both in Persian (50-a1,b1) and Urdu (50-a2,b2).

- |   |  |
|---|--|
| <p>(50) a1. بر دیوار خانہ<br/> <b>bar</b> divar-e xanih<br/> on wall-Ez house<br/> ‘on the wall of the house’ (Persian)</p> | <p>a2. گھر کی دیوار پر<br/> g<sup>h</sup>ar=ki divar <b>par</b><br/> house=Gen wall on<br/> ‘on the wall of the house’</p> |
| <p>b1. بر اساس مطالعات<br/> <b>bar asas</b>-e mutali’at<br/> on base-Ez research.Pl<br/> ‘based on research’ (Persian)</p>  | <p>b2. تحقیقات کی اساس پر<br/> tahqiqat=ki <b>asas par</b><br/> research.Pl=Gen base on<br/> ‘based on research’</p>       |

The nominal part of complex adpositions cannot be modified by demonstratives as is shown in (51).

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- (51) a1. بر (این) دیوار خانه  
**bar** (in) divar-e xanih  
 on (this) wall-Ez house  
 ‘on (this) wall of the house’ (Persian)
- a2. گھر کی (اس) دیوار پر  
 g<sup>h</sup>ar=ki (is) divar **par**  
 house=Gen (this) wall on  
 ‘on (this/one/every) wall of the house’
- b1. بر (\*این) اساس مطالعات  
**bar** (\*in) **asas**-e mutali’at  
 on (\*this) base-Ez research.Pl  
 ‘based on research’ (Persian)
- b2. تحقیقات کی (\*اس) اساس پر  
 tahqiqat=ki (\*is) **asas par**  
 research.Pl=Gen (\*this) base on  
 ‘based on research’

Nor can nouns of complex adpositions take an indefinite article (in case of Persian) or quantifiers (52).

- (52) a1. بر (یک/ہر) دیوار خانه  
**bar** (yik/har) divar-e xanih  
 on (one/every) wall-Ez house  
 ‘on (one/every) wall of the house’  
 (Persian)
- b1. گھر کی (ایک/ہر) دیوار پر  
 g<sup>h</sup>ar=ki (ek/har) divar **par**  
 house=Gen (one/every) wall on  
 ‘on (one/every) wall of the house’
- b1. بر (\*یک/\*ہر) اساس مطالعات  
**bar** (\*yik/\*har) **asas**-e mutali’at  
 on (\*one/\*every) base-Ez research.Pl  
 ‘based on research’ (Persian)
- b2. تحقیقات کی (\*ایک/\*ہر) اساس پر  
 tahqiqat=ki (\*ek/\*har) **asas**  
 research.Pl=Gen (\*one/\*every) base  
**par**  
 on  
 ‘based on research’

Neither question words nor words of exclamation can modify nouns of complex adpositions (53).

- (53) a1. بر (چہ) دیوار خانه  
**bar** (cih) divar-e xanih  
 on (what) wall-Ez house  
 ‘on (what) wall of the house’  
 (Persian)
- b1. گھر کی (کس) دیوار پر  
 g<sup>h</sup>ar=ki (kis) divar **par**  
 house=Gen (what) wall on  
 ‘on (what) wall of the house’
- b1. بر (\*چہ) اساس مطالعات  
**bar** (\*cih) **asas**-e mutali’at  
 on (\*what) base-Ez research.Pl  
 ‘based on research’ (Persian)
- b2. تحقیقات کی (\*کس) اساس پر  
 tahqiqat=ki (\*kis) **asas par**  
 research.Pl=Gen (\*what) base on  
 ‘based on research’

Adjectival modification of nouns in complex adpositions is also not possible (54).

- (54) a1. بر دیوار (بزرگ) خانه  
**bar** divar-e (buzurg-e) xanih  
on wall-Ez (big-Ez) house  
‘on the (big) wall of the house’  
(Persian)
- a2. گھر کی (بڑی) دیوار پر  
g<sup>h</sup>ar=ki (bari) divar **par**  
house=Gen (what) wall on  
‘on the (big) wall of the house’
- b1. بر اساس (\*بزرگ) مطالعات  
**bar** asas-e (\*buzurg-e) mutali’at  
on base-Ez (\*big) research.Pl  
‘based on research’ (Persian)
- b2. تحقیقات کی (\*بڑی) اساس پر  
tahqiqat=ki (\*bari) **asas par**  
research.Pl=Gen (\*big) base on  
‘based on research’

The noun of complex adpositions cannot be replaced by a plural form (55).

- (55) a1. بر دیوار (ہای) خانه  
**bar** divar-(ha-y)e xanih  
on wall-Pl-Ez house  
‘on wall(s) of the house’ (Persian)
- a2. گھر کی دیوار(وں) پر  
g<sup>h</sup>ar=ki divar(ō) **par**  
house=Gen wall(Pl) on  
‘on wall(s) of the house’
- b1. بر اساس (\*ہای) مطالعات  
**bar** asas-(\*ha-y)e mutali’at  
on base-\*Pl-Ez research.Pl  
‘based on research’ (Persian)
- b2. تحقیقات کی اساس (\*وں) پر  
tahqiqat=ki **asas**(\*ō) **par**  
research.Pl=Gen base(\*Pl) on  
‘based on research’

Coordination of another noun with the noun in the complex adposition is also not possible (56b).

- (56) a1. بر (بام و) دیوار خانه  
**bar** (bam o) divar-e xanih  
on (roof and) wall-Ez house  
‘on (roof and) wall of the house’  
(Persian)
- a2. گھر کی (چہت اور) دیوار پر  
g<sup>h</sup>ar=ki (c<sup>h</sup>at or) divar **par**  
house=Gen (roof and) wall on  
‘on (roof and) wall of the house’
- b1. بر (\*بنا و) اساس مطالعات  
**bar** (\*bina o) **asas**-e mutali’at  
on (\*basis and) base-Ez research.Pl  
‘based on research’ (Persian)
- b2. تحقیقات کی (\*بنیاد اور) اساس پر  
tahqiqat=ki (\*bunyad or)  
research.Pl=Gen (\*basis and)  
**asas par**  
base on  
‘based on research’

These syntactic differences support an analysis in which the two lexical categories in Persian *bar* ‘on’ and *asas* ‘basis’ can be assumed to project to a complex adposition *bar asas* which heads the entire phrase. The lexically selected complement of the relational noun in such phrases is syntactically realized as the object of the complex adposition. Likewise, in the case of similar Urdu constructions, the relational noun can also be assumed to be part of the complex postposition.

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### 6.4.2.2 *zer*+N complex adpositions

There are some constructions in which the preposition *zer* ‘under’ and a noun seem to act like a complex adposition. Complex adpositions of this type are more common in Urdu than in Persian. One of such complex adpositions is *zer-e nazar*<sup>3</sup> ‘under supervision/guidance/vigilance of’ which is found in Persian (57a) as well as in Urdu (57b). It should be noted that the phrase *zer-e nazar* is also used as an attributive adjective in the meaning of ‘what is being sighted’ (58).

(57) a. ندا زیر نظر استاد این مقاله را ادامه داد.

nida            **zer-e**        **nazar-e**            ustad            in    maqalāh    ra  
Nida.F.3Sg    under-Ez    supervision-Ez    professor.3Sg    this    article.3Sg    Acc  
īdamāh        dad  
completion    give.3Sg.Past  
‘Nida completed this article under the supervision of a professor.’ (Persian)

b. ندا نے پروفیسر کی / کے زیر نظر یہ مقالہ مکمل کیا.

nida=ne        parofesar=ki/ke        **zer-e**        **nazar**            yih    maqalah  
Nida.F=Erg    professor.3Sg=Gen    under-Ez    supervision.F    this    article.M.3Sg  
mukammal    kī-ya  
complete     do-Perf.M.3Sg  
‘Nida completed this article under the supervision of a professor.’

c. ندا نے پروفیسر کی نظر کے زیر یہ مقالہ مکمل کیا.

\* nida=ne        parofesar=ki            **nazar=ke**        **zer**            yih    maqalah  
Nida.F=Erg    professor.3Sg=Gen    sight.F=Gen    under    this    article.M.3Sg  
mukammal    kī-ya  
complete     do-Perf.M.3Sg  
‘Nida completed this article under the supervision of a professor.’

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<sup>3</sup>The Persian preposition *zer* can occur with or without *ezafe* (Pantcheva, 2006). In the LFG implementation which will come later, I have considered *zer* and *zer-e* as two forms of the same preposition.

(58) زیر نظر کتاب کا مسودہ ۱۹۰۰ میں لکھا گیا۔

zer-e nazar kitab=ka musavvadah 1900=mẽ  
under-Ez sight.F.3Sg book.F.3Sg=Gen.M.3Sg draft.M.3Sg 1900=Loc.in  
lk<sup>h</sup>-a ga-ya  
write-Perf.M.3Sg go-Perf.M.3Sg

‘The original draft of the book, which is being examined, was written in 1900.’

All the syntactic differences discussed for the noun part of complex adpositions in the previous section are also applicable to the noun *nazar* ‘supervision/consideration’ in *zer-e nazar* ‘under supervision/guidance/vigilance of’. I provide some more arguments in favor of the complex adposition analysis of *zer-e nazar* in Urdu.

The complement of the complex adposition *zer-e nazar* in Urdu (57b) is marked by the genitive case, the form of which is either feminine according to the gender of the noun *nazar* ‘sight’ or the default masculine oblique. The Persian prepositional phrase *zer-e nazar-e ustad* ‘under the supervision of the professor’ cannot be translated as *ustad ki nazar ke zer* (57c) according to the pattern by which the Persian noun phrase in (59a) is translated in Urdu in (59b).

(59) a. گنبد کلیسای شهر خیلی بلند است۔

gumbad-e kalisa-ye fahr xeli bulād ast  
dome.3Sg-Ez church.3Sg-Ez city.3Sg very high be.Pres.3Sg  
‘The dome of the church of the city is very high.’ (Persian)

b. شہر کے کیسے کا گنبد کافی اونچا ہے۔

fahr=ke kalise=ka gumbad kafi ũca hε  
city.M=Gen.Obl church.M=Gen.M.Sg dome.M.3Sg very high be.Pres.3Sg  
‘The dome of the church of the city is very high.’

That is the two nouns *nazar* ‘supervision’ and *ustad* which are added to the basic preposition *zer* in an in the *ezafe* construction cannot both be replaced by genitive marked nouns in Urdu in contrast with the other noun phrases. Only the second noun can be replaced by a genitive marked noun in Urdu. To provide one more contrast, I

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give some more examples of Persian noun phrases with two modifier nouns in the *ezafe* construction and their equivalent translations in Urdu in (60)–(61).

- (60) a1. ذوق شاعری اقبال  
 zəq-e ʃa'iri-ye iqbāl  
 verve-Ez poetry-**Ez** Iqbāl  
 'Iqbal's verve for poetry' (Persian)
- a2. اقبال کا ذوق شاعری  
 iqbāl=ka zəq-e ʃa'iri  
 Iqbāl=Gen.M verve.M-Ez poetry.F  
 'Iqbal's verve of poetry.'
- b1. طرز حکمرانی پہلوی  
 tarz-e həkmarani-ye pahlvi  
 way-Ez rule-**Ez** Pahlvi  
 'The way of rule of Pahlvi' (Persian)
- b2. پہلوی کا طرز حکمرانی  
 pahlvi=ka tarz-e  
 Pahlvi=Gen.M.Sg way.M.Sg-Ez  
 həkmarani  
 rule.F  
 'The way of rule of Pahlvi'
- c1. شجر سایہ دار جنت  
 ʃəjr-e sayəh-dar-e jannat  
 tree-Ez shady-**Ez** heaven  
 'The heaven's shady tree' (Persian)
- c2. جنت کا شجر سایہ دار  
 jannat=ka ʃəjr-e sayəhdar  
 heaven=Gen.M tree.M-Ez shady  
 'The heaven's shady tree'
- (61) a1. لباس پسر علی  
 libas-e pīsar-e ali  
 suit-Ez son-**Ez** Ali  
 'The suit of Ali's son' (Persian)
- a2. علی کا لباس پسر  
 \* ali=ka libas-e pīsar  
 Ali=Gen.M suit.M-Ez son.M  
 'The suit of Ali's son'
- b1. خوشبوی زلف یار  
 xuʃbu-ye zulf-e yar  
 fragrance-Ez hair-**Ez** beloved  
 'The fragrance of the beloved's hair'  
 (Persian)
- b2. یار کی خوشبوئے زلف  
 \* yar=ki xuʃbu-ye  
 beloved=Gen.F fragrance.F-Ez  
 zulf  
 hair.F  
 'The fragrance of the beloved's hair'
- c1. درد سر دوست  
 dard-e sar-e dost  
 ache-Ez head-**Ez** friend  
 'Friend's headache' (Persian)
- c2. دوست کا درد سر  
 dost=ka dard-e sar  
 friend.M=Gen.M ache.M-Ez head.M  
 'Friend's headache'

In each of the Persian noun phrases in (60)–(61) there are two modifiers. There is one difference between the noun phrases in (60) and those in (61). In (60) two modifiers modify a single head noun, however, in (61), the first modifier modifies the head noun and the second modifier modifies the first modifier.



In (60) we see that the second nominal modifier of a head noun in Persian examples is replaced by a genitive modifier in Urdu. In (61), however, the second modifier (which actually is the modifier of the modifier of the head noun) cannot be replaced by a genitive modifier in Urdu noun phrases. This is due to the fact that modifiers are always contiguous to the head nouns in Urdu. The second nominal modifier in (60-c1) is replaced by the respecting genitive modifier in Urdu (60-c2) because in Urdu *dard-e sar* ‘headache’ behaves as a compound word like *vazir-e azam* ‘prime-minster’. One could alternatively assume that the two modifiers in (60) are modifying the same head noun *dard* ‘pain’, however, for me, this claim is not justifiable semantically.

Now, we see how things are with prepositional phrases. Three adpositional phrases are shown in (62). In all three instances of the Persian prepositional phrases the last modifier in fact modifies the object of the preposition *zer* ‘under’.

- (62) a1. زیر قالین مسجد  
zer-e qalin-e masjid  
under-Ez carpet-Ez mosque  
‘under the carpet of the mosque’  
(Persian)
- a2. مسجد کی / کے زیر قالین  
\* masjid=ki/ke zer-e qalin  
mosque.F=Gen under-Ez carpet.F  
‘under the carpet of the mosque’
- b1. زیر پای ندا  
zer-e pa-ye nida  
under-Ez foot-Ez Nida  
‘under the foot of Nida’ (Persian)
- b2. ندا کے زیر پا  
\* nida=ke zer-e pa  
Nida=Gen.M under-Ez foot.M  
‘under the foot of Nida’
- c1. زیر نظر علی  
zer-e nazar-e ali  
under-Ez supervision-Ez Ali  
‘under the supervision of Ali’ (Persian)
- c2. علی کی / کے زیر نظر  
ali=ki/ke zer-e nazar  
Ali=Gen under-Ez supervision-Ez  
‘under the supervision of Ali’

In the first two cases, other modifiers can intervene between the object and the existing modifier, for example, *qafāg* ‘beautiful’ can intervene between *qalin* ‘carpet’ and *masjid* ‘mosque’ to make a prepositional phrase of the meaning ‘under the beautiful carpet of the mosque’. So, in the first two cases *zer* acts as a simple preposition and we see that the modifier of the object of this simple preposition cannot be replaced by respecting a genitive complement in Urdu.

In the third example of a Persian prepositional phrase in (62-c1), however, no other modifier can intervene between *nazar* ‘supervision’ and *ali* ‘Ali’. So, in the third case *zer-e nazar* ‘under supervision’ acts as a compound or complex adposition, the object of which can be replaced by genitive marked object in Urdu. The genitive marker on the

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modifier of a compound noun shows agreement with the head noun (61-c1) , however, the genitive marker on the object of a complex adposition can be in masculine oblique form even if the noun in the complex adposition is feminine (62-c1).

(ke)	<i>zer-e asar</i> ‘under influence (of)’
	<i>zer-e isti’mal</i> ‘used (by)’
	<i>zer-e intizam</i> ‘under management (of)’
	<i>zer-e ihtimam</i> ‘under management (of)’
	<i>zer-e bar</i> ‘under pressure (of)’
	<i>zer-e tasallut</i> ‘under occupation (of)’
	<i>zer-e ilaj</i> ‘under curing (of)/cured (by)’
	<i>zer-e unvan</i> ‘under title (of)’
	<i>zer-e sayah</i> ‘under auspices (of)’
	<i>zer-e yor</i> ‘under consideration (of)’
	<i>zer-e qabzah</i> ‘under occupation (of)’
	<i>zer-e kontrol</i> ‘under control (of)’
	<i>zer-e mutali’ah</i> ‘under reading (of)’
	<i>zer-e muamnah</i> ‘under examination (of)’
	<i>zer-e nagin</i> ‘under rule (of)’
(ki/ke)	<i>zer-e idarat</i> ‘under editorship (of)’
	<i>zer-e tarbiyat</i> ‘under training (of)’
	<i>zer-e taftis</i> ‘under investigation (of)’
	<i>zer-e tavajjuh</i> ‘under attention (of)’
	<i>zer-e harasat</i> ‘under arrest (of)’
	<i>zer-e hukmarani</i> ‘under rule (of)’
	<i>zer-e sarparasti</i> ‘under mentorship (of)’
	<i>zer-e sama’at</i> ‘under hearing (of)’
	<i>zer-e sadarat</i> ‘under chair (of)’
	<i>zer-e safqat</i> ‘under kindness (of)’
	<i>zer-e qiyadat</i> ‘under leadership (of)’
	<i>zer-e kaft</i> ‘under cultivation (of)’
	<i>zer-e kaman</i> ‘under command (of)’
	<i>zer-e nazarart</i> ‘under supervision (of)’
	<i>zer-e nazar</i> ‘under supervision (of)’
	<i>zer-e nigrani</i> ‘under vigilance (of)’
	<i>zer-e hidayat</i> ‘under guidance (of)’

Table 6.8: *zer-e+N* complex constructions in Urdu

A list of *zer+N* complex adpositions which take genitive marked complements in Urdu is given in Table 6.8. The complex adposition *zer-e unvan* ‘under title (of)’ has another alternate construction in Urdu as *unvan ke taht* ‘under title (of)’. Except

for this complex adposition, complements of all other complex constructions in the Table 6.8 are somehow animate in nature.

### 6.4.2.3 *pef-e nazar*

The complex construction *pef-e nazar* ‘in view (of)’ is the short form of the Persian expression *dar pef-e nazar*. In Urdu it is typical in that it can take two types of arguments, either experiencer or theme.

- (63) a. عوام کی / کے پیش نظر جنگ کا خطرہ ہے۔  
 avam=ki/ke pef-e nazar jãg=ka xatrah he  
 public.F=Gen before sight.F war.F=Gen.M.Sg danger.M.Sg be.Pres.3Sg  
 ‘The danger of war is in sight of the public.’
- b. جنگ کے خطرے کے پیش نظر عوام پریشان ہے۔  
 jãg=ke xatre=ke pef-e nazar avam parefan he  
 war.F=Gen.M danger.M=Gen.Obl before sight.F public.F worried be.Pres.3Sg  
 ‘The public is worried in light of war.’

The genitive marked argument of *pef-e nazar* ‘in view (of)’ in (63a) is the experiencer *avam* ‘public’ and in (63b) it is the theme *jãg=ka xatrah* ‘danger of war’. A similar complex construction *madd-e nazar* ‘in view (of)’ usually takes a theme argument as its complement.

In this section different types of complex adpositions in Urdu have been analyzed. It was shown that the noun part of complex adpositions shows different syntactic distribution in complex adpositions. The *zer+N* complex adpositions were contrasted with the similar Persian noun phrases and their equivalents in Urdu.

## 6.5 Modeling complex adpositions in LFG

There are many possible ways of dealing with the syntax of the complex predicates discussed in the previous sections. One way not to treat them as complex/compound and therefore analyse their structure similarly to the structure of simple adpositions. Consider two adpositional phrases in (64).

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- (64) a. علی ساری رات زیر آسمان سویا.  
 ali sari rat zer asman so-ya  
 Ali.M.3Sg all night.F.3Sg under sky.M sleep-Perf.M.3Sg  
 ‘Ali slept all the night under the sky.’
- b. ندا نے پروفیسر کے زیر نظر ایک مقالہ لکھا.  
 nida=ne parofesar=ke zer nazar ek  
 Nida.F.3Sg=Erg professor.3Sg=Gen.M.3Sg.Obl under supervision.F one  
 maqalah lh<sup>h</sup>-a  
 article.M.3Sg write-Perf.M.3Sg  
 ‘Nida wrote an article under the supervision of a professor.’

The f-structure representation of a simple adpositional phrase *zer asman* ‘under the sky’ in (64a) is given in Figure 6.12. And if the complex adposition *zer nazar* ‘under supervision (of)’ is not considered as complex then the f-structure of the adpositional phrase *parofesar=ke zer nazar* ‘under supervision of a professor’ used in (64b) should look as in Figure 6.13.

$$\left[ \begin{array}{l} \text{PRED} \quad \langle \text{zer} \langle \text{asman} \rangle \rangle \\ \text{OBJ} \quad \left[ \begin{array}{l} \text{PRED} \quad \langle \text{asman} \rangle \\ \text{PERS} \quad 3, \text{NUM sg, GEND masc, CASE nom} \end{array} \right] \end{array} \right]$$

Figure 6.12: Simple adposition

$$\left[ \begin{array}{l} \text{PRED} \quad \langle \text{zer} \langle \text{nazar} \rangle \rangle \\ \text{OBJ} \quad \left[ \begin{array}{l} \text{PRED} \quad \langle \text{nazar} \langle \text{parofesar} \rangle \rangle \\ \text{OBL} \quad \left[ \begin{array}{l} \text{PRED} \quad \langle \text{parofesar} \rangle \\ \text{PERS} \quad 3, \text{NUM sg, CASE gen} \end{array} \right] \\ \text{PERS} \quad 3, \text{NUM sg, GEND fem, CASE nom} \end{array} \right] \end{array} \right]$$

Figure 6.13: An analysis of *zer nazar* ‘under supervision (of)’

To analyze constructions like *zer nazar* ‘under supervision (of)’ as in Figure 6.13, one would have to ensure the following:

- Only some nouns like *nazar* ‘supervision’ should not take premodifiers or post-modifiers when they become the object of the adposition *zer* ‘under’. Other examples of such nouns/objects can be seen in Table 6.8.

- The genitive marked complements of only such objects as *nazar* ‘supervision’ can be placed before the adposition *zer* ‘under’. This rules out other similar but ungrammatical structures like *nida=ke zer-e pa* ‘\*under the foot of Nida’.

The last point would lead to a flat c-structure of such adpositional phrases as is shown in Figure 6.14 below. This analysis would also imply that there are discontinuous NPs within Urdu PPs as we see that the noun phrase *parofesar ki nazar* ‘supervision of professor’ is discontinuous. The noun *nazar* ‘supervision’ is on the right side of the adposition and its complement *parofesar ki* is one the left side of the adposition.

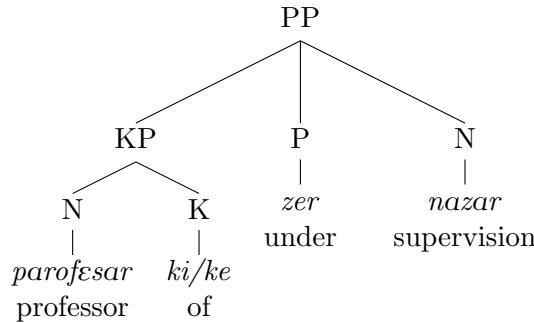


Figure 6.14: Flat structure for Urdu PPs

Another simple analysis could be that expressions like *zer nazar* ‘under supervision (of)’ are multiword lexical predicates which take genitive marked objects/complements in Urdu. The c-structure and the f-structure of the phrase *parofesar=ke zer nazar* ‘under supervision of a professor’ based on this analysis is given in Figure 6.15.

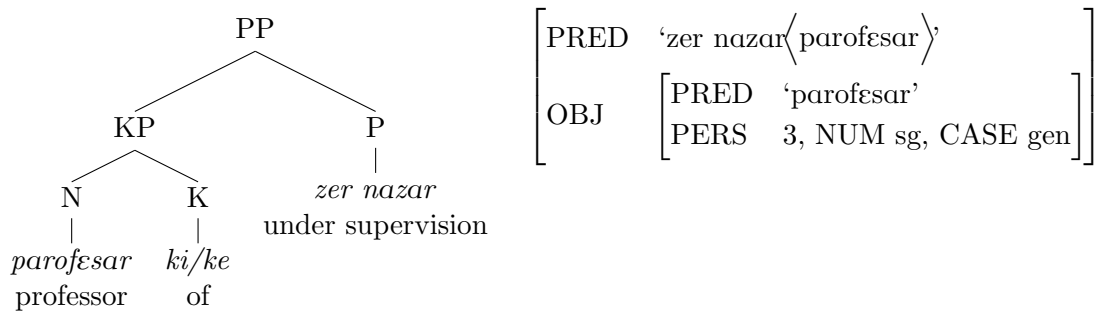


Figure 6.15: *zer nazar* as a multiword lexical adposition

As already mentioned, the syntactic differences of nouns in complex adpositions support an analysis in which the two lexical categories *zer* ‘under’ and *nazar* ‘supervision’ project to a complex adposition *zer nazar* ‘under supervision (of)’, which heads the entire phrase. The lexically selected complement of the relational noun in such phrases

## 6. ADPOSITIONAL ARGUMENTS

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is syntactically realized as the object of the complex adposition. So, the phenomenon of complex adposition formation is somehow similar to verbal complex formation although the former is not very productive. Now I move to the linguistically motivated implementation of complex adpositions in LFG.

Alsina (1996) and Butt (1995) have argued that complex predicate formation should take place in the syntax. Frank (1996), however, takes the opposite position and places complex predicate formation within the lexical component. Although in her approach subcategorization requirements and restrictions on combinations are specified within the lexical entries, still the separate pieces are combined in the syntax. Butt *et al.* (2003) implemented the syntactic combination of complex predicates of in Urdu via the RESTRICTION operator (Kaplan & Wedekind, 1993).

The above proposals in LFG have been posited for the verbal complex formation in different languages. Trawinski (2003) proposed an HPSG-based linguistically motivated, formal treatment of complex prepositions, applicable for computational platforms intended for developing typed feature structure grammars. Following Butt *et al.* (2003), I posit the proposal for licensing the complex adpositions in the LFG formalism (Raza, 2011) via the RESTRICTION operator. This operator is used to add and/or delete an argument of a predicator.

The subcategorization requirement and the features recognizing some specific combinations of adpositions and nouns are included in lexical entries and are checked at the syntactic level. The syntactic composition of two predicates to yield one complex predicator is done using RESTRICTION. The complement of the noun part is suppressed and is assigned as the object of the complex adposition. The lexical entry for the basic adposition *zer* ‘under’ and the grammar rule constructing the complex adposition is given in Figure 6.16.

I posit two entries for the adposition *zer* ‘under’. The first entry states that it takes a variable argument which can be filled in the syntax. The %Arg is an XLE notation used for a variable. This entry permits the formation of complex predicators. The second entry is the basic entry where the adposition is just used as a simple adposition. The grammar rule states that the PRED of the noun is assigned to the variable argument of the adposition and the argument of the noun becomes OBJ of the newly constructed adposition.

The c-structure and the f-structure of the syntactically constructed complex adposition *zer nazar* ‘under supervision (of)’ is shown in Figures 6.17 and 6.18 respectively. In the f-structure, we see that the complement *parofesar* ‘professor’ of the noun *nazar* ‘supervision’ has become the object of the complex adposition.

Lexical Entry	
zer	$P * \{(\uparrow \text{PRED}) = \text{'zer } \langle \% \text{ARG1} \rangle';$ $ (\uparrow \text{PRED}) = \text{'zer } \langle \uparrow \text{OBJ} \rangle';\}$
Grammar Rule	
$P_c \rightarrow$	$\{P: \uparrow = \downarrow;$ $N: \downarrow \backslash \text{PRED} \backslash \text{OBL} = \uparrow \backslash \text{PRED} \backslash \text{OBJ}$ $(\uparrow \text{PRED ARG1}) = (\downarrow \text{PRED})$ $(\uparrow \text{OBJ}) = (\downarrow \text{OBL})$ $  \dots$ $  \dots$ $  \dots\}$

Figure 6.16: An excerpt from the grammar rules

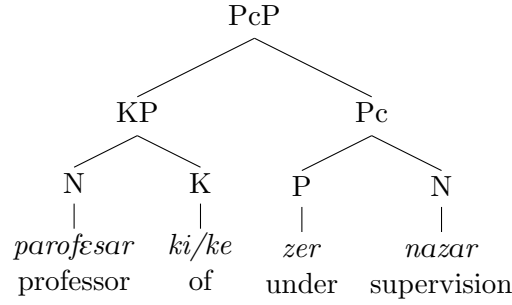


Figure 6.17: The c-structure of syntactically constructed complex adposition

$$\left[ \begin{array}{ll} \text{PRED} & \text{'zer } \langle \text{nazar } \langle \text{parofesar} \rangle \rangle' \\ \text{OBJ} & \left[ \begin{array}{ll} \text{PRED} & \text{'parofesar'} \\ \text{PERS} & 3, \text{NUM sg, CASE gen} \end{array} \right] \end{array} \right]$$

Figure 6.18: The f-structure of syntactically constructed complex adposition

## 6.6 Complex adpositions to simple adpositions

Complex adpositions comprising of more than one morpheme in a grammaticalization process may later be reduced into single word. Condensing is one form of reduction in which two morphemes are combined into one (Kortmann & König, 1992), for example, *beside* from *be sidan* and *instead* from *in steed*. Examples of condensing in Urdu/Persian are *bah qal* to *baqal* ‘per saying’ and *bah t̤ar* ‘by way’ to *bat̤ar*.

Another form of reduction is noted in Urdu and Persian (Raza, 2010d), in which the

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basic preposition (Persian) or the case marker (Urdu) is dropped and the noun itself is used as an adposition. In Urdu, a noun with some case marker acts first like a complex adposition, and then with the passage of time the case marker is dropped/lost and the bare oblique form of the noun itself acts like a simple adposition.<sup>4</sup> Some examples of this phenomenon are given in Table 6.9.

Complex adposition	Simple adposition
(ke) <i>bal par</i> ‘with support/power (of)’	(ke) <i>bal</i>
(ke) <i>vaqt par</i> ‘at the time (of)’	(ke) <i>vaqt</i>
(ke) <i>ba’is se</i> ‘because (of)’	(ke) <i>ba’is</i>
(ke) <i>bahane se</i> ‘by excuse (of)’	(ke) <i>bahane</i>
(ke) <i>raste se</i> ‘through way (of)’	(ke) <i>raste</i>
(ke) <i>zari’e se</i> ‘by means (of)’	(ke) <i>zari’e</i>
(ke) <i>sabab se</i> ‘because (of)’	(ke) <i>sabab</i>
(ke) <i>tufel se</i> ‘by grace (of)’	(ke) <i>tufel</i>
(ki) <i>tarah se</i> ‘similar (of)’	(ki) <i>tarah</i>
(ke) <i>bare mē</i> ‘about’	(ke) <i>bare</i>
(ke) <i>natije mē</i> ‘in result of’	(ke) <i>natije</i>
(ke) <i>dōran mē</i> ‘during’	(ke) <i>dōran</i>
(ki) <i>surat mē</i> ‘in case (of)’	(ki) <i>surat</i>

Table 6.9: Complex adpositions to simple adpositions

In contemporary Urdu *bare* ‘about’ and *dōran* ‘during’ are only used as adpositions, although originally in Persian, these words are nouns used in the meaning of ‘regard’ and ‘period’. Another noun *dōranīyah* is used in Urdu for the meaning of ‘period’. However most of other lexical items except the case markers in Table 6.9 are used as nouns as well.<sup>5</sup>

### 6.7 Still more adpositions

In addition to all of the above adpositions, there are some further adpositions/adpositional phrases which are described in this section.

<sup>4</sup>In some adverbial constructions, the case marker can also optionally be dropped as in *g<sup>h</sup>antō (tak)* ‘for hours’.

<sup>5</sup>It is worth mentioning here that sometimes, in case of infinitival clause complements, the adposition *haye* ‘for’ together with the genitive case marker *ke* is suppressed and only the infinitival clause (the infinitive being in masculine oblique form) encodes the adpositional meaning as is shown in (65), where *kitab xarid-ne* means ‘for purchasing the book’.

(65) ندا کتاب خریدنے (کے لیے) گئی ہے۔  
 nda kitab xarid-ne(=ke haye) ga-i he  
 Nida.F book.F buy-Inf.Obl(=Gen for) go-Perf.F.3Sg be.Pres.3Sg  
 ‘Nida has gone to purchase the book.’



6.7.1 *hat<sup>h</sup>õ* ‘hands’

The adposition *hat<sup>h</sup>õ* is plausibly the reduced form of *hat<sup>h</sup>õ se/mẽ*. It is used in three senses as in (66) below.

- (66) a. سوات کا شہر دہشت گردوں کے ہاتھوں تباہ ہوا۔  
 savat=ka      fahr      dahfat-gardõ=ke      hat<sup>h</sup>õ      tabah  
 Sawat=Gen.M.Sg city.M.Sg terrorist.3Pl=Gen.3Pl hand.3Pl.Obl destroyed  
 hu-a  
 be-Perf.M.Sg  
 ‘The city of Sawat was destroyed by terrorists.’
- b. علی نے احمد کے ہاتھوں اپنا مکان بیچا۔  
 ali=ne      ahmad=ke      hat<sup>h</sup>õ      apna      makan      bec-a  
 Ali.M=Erg Ahmad.M=Gen.3Pl hand.3Pl GenR.M.3Sg house.M sell-Perf.M.Sg  
 ‘Ali sold his house to Ahmad.’
- c. علی نے احمد کے ہاتھوں ندا کو خط بھیجا۔  
 ali=ne      ahmad=ke      hat<sup>h</sup>õ      nda=ko      xat      b<sup>h</sup>ej-a  
 Ali.M=Erg Ahmad.M=Gen.3Pl hand.3Pl Nida.F=Dat letter.M send-Perf.M.Sg  
 ‘Ali sent a letter to Nida through Ahmad.’

In (66a), the complement of the adposition encodes the agent of the sentential clause, in (66b) its complement encodes a goal argument and in (66c) the complement of the adposition encodes an intermediary/supporting agent.

6.7.2 *le kar* ‘from’

The canonical use of the subordinating clause conjunction *kar* is illustrated in (67) below. This conjunction is used when two actions are done in a sequence. The word combination *le kar* is canonically used in (67b), however, it is not used in the canonical sense in (68).

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(67) a. ندا کھانا کھا کر سو گئی۔

nida [k<sup>h</sup>ana k<sup>h</sup>a kar] so ga-i  
Nida.F meal.M eat CConj sleep go-Perf.F.3Sg  
'Nida went to sleep after having eaten meal.'

b. علی اپنی کتاب ندا سے لے کر چلا گیا۔

ali [apni kitab nida=se le kar] cal-a ga-ya  
Ali.M GRef.F book.F Nida.F=Abl take Conj.having walk-Perf.M go-Perf.M  
'Ali went after having taken his book from Nida.'

(68) a. ندا نے صبح سے لے کر شام تک کتاب پڑھی۔

nida=ne subuh=se le kar jam=tak  
Nida.F=Erg morning.F=Abl take Conj.having evening.F=Temp.till  
kitab paṛ<sup>h</sup>-i  
book.F.Sg read-Perf.F.Sg  
'Nida read a book from morning to evening.'

b. علی نے حاصلوالا سے لے کر ملتان تک سفر کیا۔

ali=ne hasilvala=se le kar multan=tak safar  
Ali.M=Erg Hasilwala=Abl take Conj.having Multan=Loc.till journey.M  
ki-ya  
make-Perf.M  
'Ali travelled from Hasilwala to Multan.'

The expression *le kar* as an adposition is used to encode source time (68a) or source location (68b) in context of 'from-to' time or 'from-to' location.<sup>6</sup>

<sup>6</sup>The lexical sign *baje* is used to encode the time in full hour (69a) and when the time is mentioned in hours and minutes then hours are encoded with *baj kar* (69b).

(69) a. ندا ۸ بجے سو گئی۔

nida 8 baje so ga-i  
Nida.F.3Sg 8 O' clock sleep go-Perf.F.Sg  
'Nida went to sleep at 8 O' clock.'

b. علی ۸ بج کر ۱۰ منٹ پر چلا گیا۔

ali 8 baj kar 10 mint=par cal-a go-Perf.M.3Sg  
Ali.M 8 ring Conj.having 10 minute=Temp.on walk-Perf.M go-Perf.M.Sg  
'Ali went at 10 past 8.'

### 6.7.3 Arabic prepositions in Urdu

A very few prepositions of Arabic are also used in Urdu, but they are not used productively. Some typical prepositional phrases of Arabic used in Urdu are given in Table 6.10.

Preposition	Examples of prepositional phrases
<i>bi</i> ‘with’	<i>bi-l-ittifaq</i> ‘unanimously’, <i>bi-l-tartib</i> ‘in order’
<i>ben</i> ‘between’	<i>ben-ul-adyan</i> ‘between religions’, <i>ben-al-satur</i> ‘between lines’
<i>ala</i> ‘on’	<i>ala-l-i’lan</i> ‘openly’, <i>ala-l-amum</i> ‘generally’
<i>fi</i> ‘in’	<i>fi-l-asl</i> ‘in fact’, <i>fi-l-hal</i> ‘presently’
<i>ma</i> ‘with’	<i>ma’ tarjamah</i> ‘with translation’, <i>ma’ tafrih</i> ‘with explanation’
<i>min</i> ‘from’	<i>min ba’d</i> ‘after’, <i>min jumlah</i> ‘in all’
<i>min janib</i> ‘from’	<i>min janib allah</i> ‘from God’, <i>min janib zed</i> ‘from Zaid’
<i>min hes</i> ‘as’	<i>min hes-ul-qom</i> ‘as a nation’, <i>min hes-ul-jama’at</i> ‘as a party’

Table 6.10: Arabic prepositional phrases in Urdu

In contrast to Persian loaned prepositions, which are used productively in Urdu, Arabic prepositions are not used productively in Urdu.

## 6.8 Classes of adpositions

Based on marking of case on the complements of adpositions, Urdu adpositions can be divided into four classes.

**Class 1:** There is one class of adpositions in Urdu which take only genitive marked complements. Some examples are listed below:

- *nida=ke sath* ‘accompanied by Nida’
- *nida=ki babat* ‘about Nida’

**Class 2:** In another class, adpositions take either nominative or genitive marked complements. An example is given below.

- *nida bayar* ‘without Nida’
- *nida=ke bayar* ‘without Nida’

**Class 3:** In the third class, adpositions take either genitive or ablative marked arguments. An example is given in the following.

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- *nida=ke age* ‘before Nida’ (in context of position in space)
- *nida=se age* ‘ahead of Nida’

**Class 4:** In this class, adpositions take only ablative marked arguments. For example:

- *nida=se pahle* ‘before Nida’ (in context of time)

Some Persian loaned adpositions can take an *ezafe* linked noun or a prepositional phrase as their complements. If complements in the *ezafe* construction and prepositional phrases as complements are considered in the classification then the above classes may further be subdivided into subclasses.

### 6.9 Conclusion

In this chapter different predicators used as adpositions in Urdu were explored. The compound adposition analysis of spatial adpositions with the genitive marker was proposed. It was shown that spatial adpositions in Urdu can be explained by vector space semantics and that the hierarchy of spatial adpositions in Urdu is the mirror image of the hierarchy of English prepositions as devised by Svenonius with the exception of the position of the Deg and Deix heads. A model of spatial adpositions was proposed in LFG in terms of LEX-SEM features drawing on Svenonius’ notions of spatial expressions which themselves are influenced by vector space semantics.

Argumentation was made why some predicators in Urdu are complex adpositions. The noun part in complex adpositions show different syntactic distribution from its syntactic distribution elsewhere. With some complex adpositions formed with the basic adposition *zer* ‘under’, the hierarchical c-structure of adpositional phrases is not possible because the genitive complement of the noun part becomes non-contiguous to the head noun. I therefore analysed them as complex adpositions and proposed to compose them at the level of syntax. Complex adpositions in LFG were implemented via RESTRICTION operator.

This detailed investigation of adpositional predicators in Urdu can be useful in developing computing applications for Urdu language.

## Chapter 7

# Conclusions

In this thesis, I have focused on identifying and exploring different types of predicates and patterns of their subcategorization frames in Urdu. Not having at hand refined resources for Urdu, for example, part-of-speech tagged corpora or tree bank, it was investigated how to acquire subcategorization of verbs from a raw Urdu corpus. Challenges to automatic subcategorization acquisition from a raw Urdu corpus were discussed in Chapter 2. Urdu is a free word order language in which major constituents can scramble among each other in a clause. That is, an argument of a verb is not strictly bounded to some specific position in a sentential clause, although the verb itself usually comes last. So, identification of the argument based on its position is not possible in Urdu in contrast with other languages like English where some arguments can be identified only by their positions in a sentence.

The participants of verbs in Urdu sentences are usually marked for case by different case clitics. It first seemed straightforward to identify different arguments based on case marking. But it turned out that case clitics pose challenges. There is not a one-to-one correspondence between the case clitic form and the case feature. That is, the same clitic form is used to mark nouns for more than one case. Another challenge is that the same grammatical function is marked for different cases in different situations.

Furthermore, both nouns and verbs can subcategorize for their arguments. So, it was also a challenge to identify which case phrase is semantically combined with which predicate. The case phrase attachment ambiguities in some sense resemble to the PP-attachment ambiguities in English and other languages. To identify the complementizer clause based on the complementizer form is not trivial in Urdu as the same form of complementizer is also used for many other functions.

Having explored the above challenges, an algorithm was devised to acquire subcategorization information from a raw Urdu corpus. In the subcategorization acquisition system for Urdu (SASU) many of above challenges were addressed and a few were

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ignored. The SASU system was presented in Chapter 3. The strategy of the SASU system differs from existing strategies in two respects. For one, lexical clues of case are used. Secondly, the frames are identified indirectly from the extracted case phrases by applying some meta rules. This system comprises of two input repositories and a verb conjugator and four more components. About 700 basic verbs of Urdu were collected from different resources and a corpus of Urdu obtained mainly from news sites was cleaned and segmented. The different morphological inflectional paradigms of verbs were analyzed and an Urdu verb-conjugator was implemented as a supplementary part of the SASU system.

To extract subcategorization frames of a verb, a component of the system finds all candidate sentences by comparing the conjugation forms of the verb with tokens of sentences in the corpora. Necessary screening of candidate sentences is made to make it sure that the verb in those sentences is used as a main verb and that it is not of the verb of some subordinating or coordinating clause. Another component then builds different case clitics and complementizer combinations and collect their frequencies in the corpus. The third component of the system filters out potentially invalid combinations based on statistical method. The final component induces the frames of verbs from the valid case clitics and complementizer combinations. Results of subcategorization frames of 60 basic verbs in a summarized form were reported. These 60 verbs were chosen based on sufficient number of their occurrences in the corpora.

Due to the diversified syntacto-semantic behavior of the basic verb *ho* ‘be/become’, it was not viable to extract its subcategorization information by the developed system. So, this verb was individually investigated in Chapter 4 for its different uses and subcategorization frames. It was shown that the verb *ho* can basically be classified into stative *ho* and dynamic *ho*. The syntactic distribution of stative *ho* and dynamic *ho* are different in terms of aspect, taking the light verb *ja* ‘go’ and making modal construction with the verb *cah* ‘want’. Both stative *ho* and dynamic *ho* act either intransitively or as a copula. Syntactic frames of both types of copula were explored. Dynamic copula only subcategories for a subset of the frames selected by the stative copula. Although Urdu is a free word order language, the position of the participant does matter for interpreting it as a subject or a complement in case of copular sentences. The characterizing participles which are constructed by perfect form of *ho* were also analyzed with respect to the arguments they modify.

Arguments of deverbal adjectives and deverbal nouns were investigated in Chapter 5. Noun phrases containing multiple instances of genitive elements were explored and the order of different genitive modifiers in them was established. It was shown that only attributive genitives can stack together at same level before adjectives in Urdu NPs,

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otherwise there is always a hierarchical structure. Attributive genitives show syntactic distribution similar to adjectives. Furthermore it was shown that some nouns in Urdu can take two genitive marked arguments. A classification of nouns was made based on number and type of genitive marked arguments. It was reported that discontinuous constituents are generated in Urdu NPs when an argument taking noun is modified by some argument taking adjective or if the argument of the head noun itself licenses its argument. Heads cannot appear before their argument in noun phrases. Argument-less adjectives are always contiguous to the head noun. The syntactic explanation of the phenomenon was provided in terms of multiple movements across different projections. In LFG a flat c-structure was proposed for Urdu NPs. A correct f-structure was generated by making use of different operators of XLE in the grammar rules.

Adpositions as predicators were analyzed in Chapter 6. A model of spatial adpositions in LFG was proposed in terms of lex-sem features drawing on Svenonius' notions of spatial expressions. Different classes of adpositions were made based on the case of their complements. An evidence for complex adpositions in Urdu was provided. It was shown that nouns in complex adpositions show different syntactic distribution compared with their normal syntactic distribution. Linguistically motivated implementation of complex adpositions was presented.

To conclude, this thesis reports results of an exhaustive research made on patterns of predicators and their subcategorization frames in Urdu. An acquisition system is presented which extracts the subcategorization frames of Urdu verbs based on lexical cues of case clitics and complementizer forms. Having a very large and balanced corpus of Urdu, the SASU system presented in the thesis can be used to build the broad-coverage lexicon of Urdu verbs enriched with their subcategorization information in terms of grammatical functions coupled with their case marking. This system can support identification of complex predicates and also useful in discovering different patterns of syntactic alternations for Urdu verbs. By adding more bits of adpositions in the information vector, the adpositional arguments of verbs can also be extracted.

As a future work, the system can be generalized for South-Asian languages as many South-Asian languages like Saraiki and Sindhi are structurally very close to Urdu. The language selection and other parameters could be set at the interface level and subcategorization information in different South-Asian languages can be acquired by using the same inside technology. More fine-grained and advanced computing applications for South-Asian languages in general and particularly Urdu can be developed by using the SASU system as a core module.

The classes of verbs based on their syntactic frames can be explored. Incorporating the information of syntactic frames with allowed alternations and features of selectional

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preferences could be more useful in exploring semantic classes of verbs in Urdu. Formal analysis needs to be worked out for phenomena like even predicates and many complex predicates reported in the thesis which have not yet been analyzed and implemented in context of some formal theory.



## Zusammenfassung

In dieser Dissertation habe ich mich mit der Identifikation und Untersuchung verschieden Typen der Prädikation und deren Muster der Subkategorisierung beschäftigt. Da keine präzisen Ressourcen wie zum Beispiel part-of-speech getaggte Korpora oder eine Baumbank für Urdu verfügbar sind, wurde untersucht, wie man die Subkategorisierungsrahmen von Verben aus rohen Urdu Korpora erfassen kann. Die Herausforderungen der automatischen Erfassung von Subkategorisierungsrahmen aus einem rohen Korpus für Urdu werden im zweiten Kapitel diskutiert. Urdu ist eine Sprache mit freier Wortstellung, bei der sich die Hauptkonstituenten frei im Satz bewegen können. Das bedeutet, dass ein Verbargument nicht strikt an eine Position im Satz gebunden ist, obwohl das Verb selber normalerweise am Schluss steht. Demnach ist die Identifikation eines Arguments aufgrund seiner Position in Satz im Falle von Urdu nicht möglich, dies steht im Gegensatz zu anderen Sprachen wie Englisch, wo einige Argumente aufgrund ihrer Position im Satz bestimmt werden können.

Argumente von Verben werden in Urdu Sätzen generell mit Klitika kasusmarkiert. Es sah zunächst relativ unkompliziert aus, diese Argumente aufgrund ihrer Kasusmarkierung zu identifizieren. Allerdings stellte sich heraus, dass diese Kasusklitika einige Herausforderungen aufwerfen. Es gibt keine Eins-zu-eins-Übereinstimmung zwischen Kasusklitikon und Kasuseseigenschaft. Das bedeutet, dass dasselbe Klitikon Nomen mit mehr als einem Kasus markieren kann. Eine weitere Herausforderung ist, dass dieselbe grammatische Funktion, abhängig von der jeweiligen Situation, mit unterschiedlichem Kasus versehen sein kann.

Darüber hinaus können Nomen und Verben Argumente haben. Deswegen war es auch eine Herausforderung herauszufinden, welche kasusmarkierte Phrase semantisch mit welchem Prädikat verbunden ist. Die Bindungsambiguitäten der Kasusphrase sind in etwa vergleichbar mit der Bindungsambiguität von Präpositionalphrasen im Englischen und anderen Sprachen. Die

Identifikation der Komplementiererphrase auf der Basis des Komplementierers ist nicht einfach in Urdu, da dieselbe Komplementiererform auch für andere Funktionen verwendet wird.

Nach der Erforschung der oben genannten Herausforderungen wurde ein Algorithmus konzipiert, der die Subkategorisierungsinformation aus dem rohen Urdu Korpus gewinnt. In diesem System zur Gewinnung von Subkategorisierungsrahmen (SASU) sind viele der oben genannten Herausforderungen berücksichtigt, einige wurden auch ignoriert. Das SASU System wurde in Kapitel 3 präsentiert. Die Herangehensweise des SASU Systems unterscheidet sich von bereits existierenden Strategien in zweierlei Hinsicht. Zum einen werden lexikalische Hinweise für Kasus benutzt. Zweitens werden die Rahmen indirekt aus den extrahierten Kasusphrasen identifiziert, indem Metaregeln angewandt werden. Dieses System beinhaltet zwei Archive für die Eingabe, ein Verbkonjugator und vier weitere Komponenten. Rund 700 Basisverben in Urdu wurden von unterschiedlichen Quellen gesammelt, zudem wurde ein Urdu Korpus auf der Basis von verschiedenen Nachrichtenseiten aufgeräumt und segmentiert. Die verschiedenen morphologischen Flektionsparadigmen der Verben wurden analysiert und ein Verbkonjugator wurde als unterstützender Teil des SASU Systems implementiert.

Um die Subkategorisierungsrahmen eines Verbes zu extrahieren findet eine Komponente des Systems alle Kandidatensätze in dem die Konjugationsformen des Verbes mit den Token der Sätze im Korpus überstimmen. Um sicherzugehen, dass das Verb in diesen Sätzen als Hauptverb benutzt wird und nicht als Verb eines Nebensatzes oder einer Koordinierungskonstruktion, ist ein Durchsehen der Kandidatensätze nötig. Eine weitere Komponente baut dann verschiedene Kasusklitika und Komplementiererkonstruktionen zusammen und ermittelt deren Häufigkeit im Korpus. Die dritte Komponente des Systems filtert auf der Basis einer statistischen Komponente potentiell falsche Kombinationen aus. Die letzte Komponente induziert die Subkategorisierungsrahmen der Verben aufgrund der validen Kombinationen von Kasusklitika und Komplementiererkombinationen. Die Ergebnisse der Subkategorisierungsrahmen von sechzig Basisverben werden in zusammengefasster Form in der Dissertation dargestellt. Die Auswahl dieser Verben wurde aufgrund ihres ausreichenden Vorkommens in den Korpora getroffen.

Das Verb *ho* ‘to be/become’ wurde aufgrund seines breit gefächerten syntaktisch-semantischen Verhaltens separat in Kapitel 4 behandelt. Es wurde gezeigt, dass das Verb *ho* generell in statisches *ho* und dynamisches *ho* eingeteilt werden kann. Die syntaktische Verteilung des statischen und dynamischen *ho* unterscheiden sich mit Hinsicht auf ihren Aspekt, ihrer Kombination mit dem Hilfsverb *ja* ‘gehen’ und der Fähigkeit zu Modalkonstruktionen mit dem Verb *cah* ‘wollen’. Statisches und dynamisches *ho* kommen beide entweder in einer Intransitivkonstruktion oder in einer Kopulakonstruktion vor. Die syntaktischen Rahmen für beide Arten der Kopulakonstruktion wurden untersucht. Das dynamische *ho* subkategorisiert nur für eine Untermenge an syntaktischen Rahmen die für das statische *ho* gelten. Obwohl Urdu eine Sprache mit freier Wortstellung ist, ist die Position des Arguments in Kopulakonstruktionen wichtig für seine Interpretation als Subjekt oder Komplement. Die charakterisierenden Partizipien, die mit der Perfektform von *ho* geformt werden, werden ebenfalls mit Hinsicht auf die von ihnen modifizierten Argumenten analysiert.

Argumente von Verbaladjektiven und Verbalnomen wurden in Kapitel 5 untersucht. Nominalphrasen mit mehreren Genitivelementen wurden analysiert und es wurde gezeigt, dass nur attributive Genitive auf der gleichen Ebene der Urdu NP zusammengesetzt werden können, in allen anderen Fällen gibt es eine hierarchische Struktur. Weiterführend wurde gezeigt, dass einige Nomen in Urdu zwei genitiv-markierte Argumente besitzen können. Aufbauend auf der Anzahl und des Typs der genitiv-markierten Argumente wurde eine Nomenklassifizierung durchgeführt. Dabei wurde berichtet, dass nicht-kontinuierliche Konstituenten in der Nominalphrase in Urdu dadurch gebildet werden, dass ein subkategorisierendes Nomen von einem subkategorisierenden Adjektiv modifiziert wird oder dass das Argument des Nomes ein eigenes Nomen lizenziert. Die syntaktische Erklärung des Phänomens wird bereitgestellt, ebenso wie eine Implementierung im Rahmen von LFG.

Adpositionen als Prädikatoren wurden in Kapitel 6 analysiert. Ein Modell für räumliche Adpositionen im Rahmen von LFG wurde vorgeschlagen, auf der Basis der von Svenonius lexikalisch-semantischen Ideen zum Ausdruck von Räumlichkeit. Auf der Basis des Kasus ihrer Objekte wurden Adpositionen in verschiedene Klassen eingeteilt. Es wurde gezeigt, dass Nomen in komplexen Adpositionen eine unterschiedliche syntaktische Verteilung

zur ihrer normalen syntaktischen Verteilung aufweisen. Die linguistisch motivierte Implementation dieser komplexen Adpositionen wurde gezeigt.

Zusammenfassend berichtet diese Dissertation über die Ergebnisse umfassender Forschung zu den Mustern von Predikatoren und deren Subkategorisierungsrahmen in Urdu. Durch einen sehr großen, ausreichend gewichteten Korpus kann das SASU System, das in dieser Dissertation vorgestellt wurde, benutzt werden, um ein umfassendes Verblexikon mit Subkategorisierungsinformation im Sinne ihrer grammatischen Funktionen und deren Kasusmarkierung zu erstellen. Dieses System kann für die Identifikation von komplexen Prädikaten verwendet werden, sowie bei der Erkennung von syntaktischen Alternationen von Urdu Verben behilflich sein. Als Teil der zukünftigen Aufgaben können Verbklassen aufgrund der syntaktischen Rahmen untersucht werden. Die Inkorporation der syntaktischen Rahmen mit möglichen Alternationen und Eigenschaften der lexikalischen Beschränkungen können bei der Untersuchung von semantischen Verbklassen in Urdu eingesetzt werden. Die formale Analyse kann insoweit ausgebaut werden, als dass für manche Phänomene von Verben und komplexen Prädikaten, über die in dieser Dissertation berichtet wurde, formal weder eine Analyse noch eine Implementation existiert.

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