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Extended Abstract

Compound Verb in Lari Language

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Introduction

Compound verbs and its structure in different languages has been the subject of many grammarians and linguists, and there are many discussions in this field has been raised. The purpose of this article is to investigate the compound verb construction process in Lari language. As a subset of southwestern Iranian languages, UNESCO has identified Lari as one of the endangered languages in its Atlas of the World's languages in Danger. Like other Iranian languages and dialects, Lari language is among the major sources of historical, sociological, and linguistic studies. Saving this language allows us to preserve the cultures it represents and losing this language means a loss of identity, culture, and social memory. It is unquestionable that one primary task of linguists is to describe, record, and document such an endangered language. The study sought to answer the following questions: What processes are involved in constructing a compound verb in the Lari language? What is the non-verbal constituent of compound verb in this language? Is the construction of a compound verb in this language a syntactic or morphological process?

Materials & Methods

The research has been carried out in descriptive-analytic framework. The Corpus of this study has been collected from Dianat (2023) and the author intuition of this article as a native speaker as well. The data were categorized according to non-verbal constituents and analyzed based on the type of construction. Mann (1909) has described this language and provided the conjugation of some verbs in Lari. According to Safari (2011: 19), Kolbasi (1988) has studied the verb in the Lari dialect and divided the types of verbs into three categories: simple, prefixed, and compound; Due to the fact that the author was not a native speaker of the this language and the amount of data was small, her studies has some shortcomings. Vosughi (1990) wrote conjugation of verbs in Lari with the phonemic transcription of words as well as their Persian equivalents. Safari (2011) proposed a classification for VP in Dahkuye dialect of Lari language according to X- bar theory. The results have proved that this theory is

efficient enough when it comes to analyze the structure of VP of this dialect. Dabir-Moghaddam (2009) has studied this language in terms of typology and gave examples of verb conjugation. Mir-Dehghan and Ourang (2013) compared the tense system in Lari with Persian Language. Due to the fact that no research has been done on the structure and process of constructing the compound verbs in Lari, it shows the importance of this research.

Results & Discussion

In Lari language, combination is one of the processes involved in forming a compound verb. In this process, non-verbal constituents are combined with verb and forms compound verbs. Types of this process include: adjective + verb; noun + verb (intransitive/transitive); preposition phrase + verb; adverb + verb; pronoun + verb.

In addition to the combination process, another process in the formation of compound verbs in this language is the incorporation process. Baker (1988) considers incorporation as a process by which a semantically independent word is transferred to a new position by syntactic rules and placed inside another word (Katamba and Stonham, 2006: 484). In the following, we will discuss types of incorporation processes that lead to the construction of compound verbs in Lari language.

Unlike Persian, there is no *rā* in Lari and suffix /-ü/ is used instead. /ü/ attaches to singular definite DP. Since suffix /-ü/ comes not only in some singular definite DP but also in some singular indefinite DP, the role of this suffix based on Karimi's (1999, 2003) definition of definiteness is specificity marker. In the formation of compound verbs via incorporation, the direct object loses its grammatical endings such as plural marker, indefinite marker, specificity marker, and possessive pronoun. In the sentences where the direct object, the preposition phrase and the verb are in order, the direct object has lost its grammatical endings and is joined to the verb. Mansuri (2006) has defined two levels regarding this category of incorporation in Persian language: in the first level, the object loses its grammatical endings and merges with the whole constituents, and in the second level, the incorporated noun becomes closer to the verb.

Baker (1988) has named the above incorporation processes as noun incorporation and has not provide a separate division. He considers the term noun incorporation as a kind of compounding process whereby a noun that has the theta role of patient, benefactive, theme, instrument or location and the grammatical function of object combines with the verb to form a compound word.

Conclusion

This research showed that the formation of a compound verb in Lari is the result of two processes of combination and incorporation. Five types of combinations, including the combination of adjective + verb; noun + verb (intransitive/transitive); preposition phrase + verb; adverb + verb; pronoun + verb, and two types of incorporation, including the direct object incorporation and indirect object incorporation, are involved in the construction of

compound verbs in this language. The compound verb in Lari language starts from the compound verb and leads to the incorporation. The verb resulting from incorporation in this language also has semantic transparency; for example, /jama düta/ meaning sewing clothes is semantically clear. But in combination, the verb undergoes metaphorical meaning; for example, /gam zata/ meaning to sewing stitch, the verb /zata/ is no longer in its true meaning, i.e. to hit, but it has a new meaning in combination with the noun /gam/.

The results of this study show that compound verb construction in Lari is a lexical/morphological process because it is not head-to-head movement and some functional categories including adjunct and pronouns combine with simple verbs and make compound verbs.

Keywords

Compound verb, Lari language, Incorporation, Combination, Morphological Process

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