

Extended Abstract

Description and analysis of the pronoun clitics of past verb phrase in the Se-Qal'a dialect based on optimality theory

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Introduction

Based on Prince's and Smolensky's (1993/2004) Optimality Theory approach, the present research deals with the description and analysis of past tense pronominal clitics in Se-Qal'a dialect, which is one of the dialects of South Khorasan. South Khorasan province has many and varied dialects. The city of Se-Qal'a is one of the cities of Sarayan city located in South Khorasan. Crystal believes that the clitic is similar to a word, but it cannot be used alone and independently in a part of speech and is phonetically dependent on its host (2008: 80). In fact, it can be said that a clitic is a morpheme that has the syntactic features of a word, but is phonologically related to another word or phrase. In other words, it is syntactically independent and phonologically dependent on its host and is connected to it. Clitics at the lexical level choose different categories as hosts. Their role and distribution at the level of syntax is often the same as expected from other words of the same category (Allah-vaisi-Azar et al., 2021: 55-56).

Materials & Methods

This research is trying to identify the clitics of the past tense verb phrase in this dialect and to analyze and examine their distribution in the host structure which is the past tense verb phrase, based on the universal constraints of the Optimality Theory. Se-Qal'a dialect is one of the ancient dialects of Persian language in the South Khorasan region, which few studies have been done so far. The method of conducting this research is descriptive and analytical. Linguistic data were collected using speech recordings and interviews. Then, the desired data were extracted from the recorded sentences and transcribed based on the International Phonetic Alphabet, and the types of past tense verbs in this dialect were classified, described and their pronominal clitics were determined. In the next step, the constraints used in the linguistic structure were extracted based on the constraints proposed by Andersen (1994) to determine the position of the clitic, and finally, the

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extracted constraints were described and analyzed in the special tables of the Optimality Theory. The study of clitics in the Se-Qal'a dialect has not been described and analyzed in the form of any theory. It seems that the only linguistic research done on the Se-Qal'a dialect is related to Riyahi's master's thesis (2019). The main question of the current research is how to choose the clitic host of the past verb phrase in this dialect and to what extent the optimality approach can explain the distribution of clitics of the past verb phrase in this dialect, based on the universal constraints of the Optimality Theory.

Results & Discussion

In this article, the presence of pronominal clitics in the simple past tense in the Se-Qal'a dialect of the dialects located in South Khorasan was investigated and analyzed based on the framework of Optimality Theory. Clitics in the past simple verb in this dialect are highly transferable, and they choose different places in the phonological domain of the past tense. The findings of this research are based on three groups of constraints: "non-presence of clitic at the beginning of the phonological domain" (NonInitial(cli)), "integrity of the phonological domain" (Integrity(word)) and "presence of clitic at the leftmost edge of the phonological domain" (Leftmost(cli)) was described and analyzed. These constraints apply different ranks to choose the optimal option. The ranking of constraints in this dialect to determine the position of clitic in the past tense takes three types of arrangements. In all types of past tense verbs, except for the subjunctive past tense verb, the constraint of "presence of the preposition at the leftmost edge of the domain" is unrivaled, although in the compound past tense, the ranking of the constraints is different from that of the simple past tense.

Conclusion

Based on the analysis, it can be concluded that in all types of past tense verbs, except the subjunctive past tense verb, the constraint of "presence of clitic on the leftmost edge of the field" is unrivaled. Although in the compound past tense, the ranking of constraints is different from the simple past tense. In the subjunctive past tense to determine the optimal position of clitic, the constraint "non-presence of clitic at the beginning of the phonological field" (NonInitial(cli)) has the highest rank and its violation is considered fatal. Therefore, the competition between constraints in this dialect shows that the clitics for the host selection in the past participle use all three positions, which shows the flexibility of this dialect regarding the selection clitics in the past participle.

Keywords: Optimality Theory; Constraint; Clitics; past tense; Se-Qal'a Dialect

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