Extended Abstract

Clitics in Kondazini Dialect

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Introduction

A clitic is a bound morph that is neither an affix nor a root. A clitic is a morpheme that has syntactic characteristics of a word, but depends phonologically on another word or phrase. In this sense, it is syntactically independent but phonologically dependent—always attached to a host. Clitics fall into various categories depending on their position in relation to the word they connect to. A proclitic appears before its host and an enclitic appears after its host. The distinction clitics from the inflectional affixes and also from the independent word and the number of clitics in Persian language and other Iranian languages have been a challenge among linguists and grammarians. To get a perfect model and pattern of distinction, we need more studies of various languages. The article aims to determine and investigate the clitics of Kondazini dialect. Kondazi is a mountainous village in the subdistrict of Abarj in the western north of Marvdasht city. Kondazi dialect is actually a survived dialect of Sassanid Pahlavi/ Middle Persian and belongs to the southwestern branch of New Iranian Languages. There are some similarities between Kondazi dialect and Emamzadeh-esmaeili, Dashtaki, Khollari, Qalati, Ardakani, Davani, Dashti and the dialects of Larestani language, Kohmare regions and some other dialects which have ergative structure.

Materials & Methods

This study was done through a descriptive analytic method based on a corpus of data of various sentences and a pattern of Shghaghi (1995) adopted from Zwicky and Pullum (1983). According to the pattern, first seven tests have been applied to examine and classify the dependent morphemes which have been used in Kondazini dialect. The data was collected by recording the free speech, conversations, interviews and asking sentences in different tenses and structures from 16 males and 4 females of elders, middle-

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aged illiterate and literate of native speakers. The results of this research can shed light on Iranian studies, typology of Iranian languages and ethnology.

Results & Discussion

The present article determines and investigates the clitics of Kondazini dialect by giving examples of several types of clitics from a wide range of structures. According to the pattern of Shghaghi (1995), a number of tests were examined to distinguish clitics from words. The suggested tests in making distinction belong to the three types of phonological idiosyncrasies, morphological idiosyncrasies and syntactic idiosyncrasies. The reliable tests are accentual, relevance, affixation blocking, distribution, arbitrary gap, ellipsis and transference; Examples (1) and (2) illustrate when the plural suffix -*â* is added to the word, the stress is moved. While the examples (3-9) doesn't show any change as the clitics are added to the hosts. In the example (10), the relevance test makes it an ungrammatical sentence when an enclitic pronoun is used as a head of a noun phrase and precedes the word. The affixation blocking test is used to distinguish derivational affixes from clitics and inflectional affixes. The examples (11a-12b) show that any inflectional affix cannot be added to the base, which is followed by an enclitic. The distribution test is employed to distinguish derivational and inflectional from clitics. For example, the inflectional suffix -*tar* has limitation in selecting hosts. It can only be added to an adjective category. Whereas, the enclitic verb =*en* follows grammatical category such as nouns, pronouns, adjectives and adverbs (13-14e). Through the arbitrary gap test, the combination of word and clitic is not seen. However, the arbitrary gap can be appeared as in the examples of (15) and (16), the derivational suffix -*a* can be attached to the past stem of some verbs and convert them as past participle. Ellipsis test in the instances (17-21b) illustrates that the proper parts of [word + clitic] combinations are equally immune to deletion. While the deletion of plural suffix -*â* makes the grammatical sentence (19a) into an ungrammatical sentence (19b). Finally, the transference test is used to make a distinction between clitics and words. Whereas one part of a combination of (X+Y) can be moved in the sentence, we are encountered to words. The examples of (22), (23), (24a), (25a) are grammatical while the sentences (24b) is ungrammatical because the indefinite clitic =*i* and the subject agreement clitic =*em* cannot be moved. The sentence (25b) is also ungrammatical since the pronominal clitic =*eš* and the enclitic verb =*en* can't be moved. So far, no independent research has been done on clitics in Kondazini dialect.

Emadi (2005) gives a brief and general look at the clitics in this dialect. According to him, the clitics in Kondazini dialect included: the present inflectional forms of the verb /bod-o/ 'to be', bound objective pronouns, bound possessive pronouns, Ezafe marker, indefinite and unity marker, definite marker and vocative marker.

Conclusion

The results of this research show that the clitics of Kondazini dialect include: pronominal clitics, enclitic verbs, object marker *=o*, complement marker *=e*, conjunction *=o*, contracted form of adverb *=am* (also/too)*,* definite marker *=o*, indefinite marker *=i*, Ezafe marker *=e* and *emphasis marker =â*. The pronominal clitics have 4 functions in a sentences namely subjective, direct objective, indirect objective, and Genitive/ Possessive. The subjective clitics in Kondazini dialect are included as: *=em, =et, =eš, =emu, =etu, =ešu* which they are the same as objective and possessive pronouns with difference in their syntactical function in a sentence. The subjective clitics are the subject marker agreement of person and number which appears in ergative forms in all past transitive verbs and also in the verbs of *šast-o* 'can', *mess-o* 'to have', *[vâ-bid-o]* 'to have' in present and past tenses (as main verb or modal verb). In Kondazini dialect, there are many words to be selected as hosts for subjective clitics. The clitics in this dialect are enclitic syntactically. However, as Kondazini like Persian is a pro-drop dialect with null-subject. In such sentences with an ergative verb, sometimes stems, past participles, non-verbal elements in compound verbs are selected as host and the pronominal clitic is associated with following adjunct words.

Keywords: Iranian Languages; Dialect; Clitic; Morpheme; Ergative; Kondzi, Kondazini

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