

Extended Abstract

**Constructional schema of situation in phase constructions in the Persian language**

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**Introduction**

In the Persian language, some constructions have the dominant pattern of "verb-verb" in terms of structure. In the pattern under discussion, one verb expresses the main event of the construction, and it is often infinitive or sometimes in subjunctive form. Another verb also shows each the beginning, continuation or end of the main event (such as starting, continuing, ending, etc.) and for this reason, they are called "phase verbs". In some studies (Newmayer, 1969, 1975; Freed, 1979), phase verbs are tied to the concept of "aspect" and, as a result, they are interpreted as aspectual verbs. The title "phase" instead of "aspect" first appeared in the opinions of Longacre (1976) and in subsequent research, they are referred to with the same title "phase" in the analysis of the constructions under discussion. In current research, we generally call the constructions in which there is a phase verb "phase construction" and we try to discuss the types of constructions and their morpho-syntactic and semantic construction features. The main goal of the current research is to describe how to conceptualize phase constructions, and to achieve the mentioned goal, we will mainly use what Nolan (2017) calls "situation". Nolan (2017) defines a situation as a mental structure that involves one or multiple events and the participants involved in these events. Hence, a scenario encompasses occurrences and the nature of the connection between them, along with the components that

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influence them or are impacted by them. The current study intends to address the following questions as outlined in the stated contents. 1- What kind of morpho-syntactic features do phasal constructions have in Persian language? And what is the juncture-nexus relations in them?

2- How is the representation of situation construction in phase verbs in Persian language?

### Materials & Methods

The current study analyzes Persian language information utilizing a qualitative method. Following the classification of phase verbs, various sources were used to gather examples of each type of verb. The sources cited consist primarily of Persian folk culture (Najafi, 1999), the everyday language of the speakers, and a few modern short stories in Persian.

### Results & Discussion

An initial analysis of the data indicates that the phase constructions can be categorized into two main groups: simple and compound. Hence, an effort will be made in the upcoming analysis to assess each of the divisions stated.

Simple phase constructions have a phased verb in their structure, which represents the grammatical features of the construction, and the main event in the form of a nominal phrase acting as a complement of the phased verb.

(1) *Anha bazi ra xub shoru mikonand.*

They start the game well.

As can be seen, the phase verb in sentence (1) refers to the beginning stage of an event. The phase verb in such constructions can express the phase explicitly (verbs such as start/ begin, continue, end/ terminate, etc.) or express the concept of the phase depending on the context. As in example (2), the verb *gereftan* has moved away from its original meaning and indicates the beginning stage of the event.

The verbs used in constructions

(1) are called "explicit phase verb" and the phase verbs used in constructions, like (2), are called "non-explicit phase verb".

(2) *barf dobare gerefte bud.*

It had snowed again. (In *shekasteha*, p. 48)

Compound phase constructions consist of two verbs where one verb expresses the main event and the other verb indicates the change in phase within the main event, acting as a sub-event of the main event. The combination of these two verbs creates a compound predicate signaling a singular occurrence. Studies show that there is significant variation in both structure and meaning within a construction phase, to be further examined in the subsequent discussion.

These constructions involve two finite verbs. The phase verb in these constructions acts as an adjunct, meaning removing it does not make the sentence ungrammatical.

(3) *Bi xodahafezi gozashti rafti.*

You left without saying goodbye. (*deraznay-e shab*, p. 153)

In sentence (3), the verb *gozashti* has shifted from its original meaning to take on the function of a phrasal verb. In these constructions, both the phase and main verbs are in the nucleus position and create a complex nucleus due to their juncture relationship. However, the key idea is that in these constructions, the phrasal verb can be simply omitted, leaving only the core element that signifies the primary action as the predicate of the construction.

In non-explicit constructions, a verb that generally has a core meaning in a specific context is emptied of this central meaning and receives a new meaning, which is the concept of changing the phase in an event. In example (4), the verb *amadan* is placed before the main predicate of the sentence. The main predicate is a verb that encodes the main event and appears in constructions such as (4) as a subjunctive.

(4) *xanom amad beraqsad, pashne kafshash var amad.*

The lady broke her shoe heel when she came to dance. (*sag-e velgard*, p. 31)

In these constructions, although two verbs have a lot of semantic correlation, so they can be considered as a compound predicate, "*amad + verb (subjunctive)*", but structurally, they have a weaker connection (in terms of structure and the presence of the connecting element) than constructions such as (4), so that unlike them, a connecting element such as "*ke*" can be added between two verbs.

In these constructions at the juncture level, we can consider the existence of two cores in such a way that each of them contains the verb *amadan* and the main predicate. Since the verb *amadan* also has the concept of the volitional modality, and it is raised at the core layer, and as a result, we can imagine the cosubordination nexus for these two cores. Examining the findings confirms that phase constructions generally have a "*verb-verb*" combination and that this combination forms a complex predicate that refers to a single event in such a way that the main event is a macro event and the phase change is presented as its sub-event. The verbs in this combination have a common subject and shared arguments.

Analyzing the results shows that most phase constructions consist of a "*verb-verb*" pairing, creating a compound predicate describing a singular event with the main event seen as a macro event and the phase change as a sub-event. The verbs in this combination share the same subject and have common arguments. Determining the time precedence and delay for them is impossible, as both verbs are in present tense, making them one event. Indeed, the compound predicate is composed of the format "*action verb (to) main verb*" (e.g. she began to run), and if the main event has a transitive form, it will be the core argument of the construction.

## Conclusion

The current research aimed to examine, and explore the various types of phase constructions found in the Persian language. Regarding this matter, the constructions being discussed were categorized into two groups, simple and compound, depending on the phase predicate type and its corresponding complement. Compound structures were assessed in two extra categories according to the function of the phrasal verb in each structure. In other structures, the main verb loses its specific meaning and functions as an aspectual verb. In compound constructions that are not explicitly stated, the phrasal verb retains its own meaning but may change to be used as a phrasal verb due to contextual needs. Phase constructions typically feature a verb-verb combination as the dominant structure, with the phase verb as a finite verb and the main event verb typically in nonfinite or subjunctive forms. Every verb in the phrase construction is located at a central point and they are connected in a cosubordination relationship because of the shared operator at the central level. In relation to extra structures, the phase verb is grammaticalized and functions solely as a grammatical category, specifically, an aspectual operator. In this instance, while the verb referenced is in the nuclear layer, it serves a subordinate role and is linked to the main predicate (depicting the primary event) through an ad-nuclear subordination relationship.

**Keywords:** Position, Role order and reference, layered clause structure, Conjunction-conjunction relations, Stepwise construction

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