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A DESCRIPTIVE STUDY OF THE URDU VERB PHRASE

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ABSTRACT

This article would investigate VP construction in Urdu based on the Minimalist Program. The Minimalist Program has been instrumental in achieving the explanatory adequacy of the description of Urdu VP structure. It is clear that the Minimalist Program has the ability to be further explored in the description of more complex syntactic structures in Urdu. This data can add to the cross linguistic data of all languages in efforts to develop the universals of human language. This research is based on the descriptive qualitative and quantitative method. Based on the analysis it is found out that all languages have almost same binary representation with a variation of grammatical sentence structure like Urdu Verb Phrase has S+O+V structure which is different than English.

Keywords: Urdu VP, Minimalist Program, Verb phrase structure, Tree diagram, Merger operation

Introduction

Sentence is a group of words that consists of a subject and a verb and perhaps the elements following the verb. If the elements are important to the structure of the sentence they will be named as complement if they are optional they are called adjuncts. The following examples will clarify this definition more precisely. The first example does not have a complement or an adjunct while the second one has subject-verb and complement the third example has an adjunct.

بس آ چکی ہے

bʌs aa tʃokihæ

The bus has arrived

آپ کی امی نے ایک پیغام چھوڑا ہے

ap=ki əmi ne pəɣamtʃhə[a hæ

Your mother has left a message

لبنی عالیہ سے پارک میں ملی۔

Lubna Alia se parkmeinmili

Lubna met Alia in the Park.

The head of the verb phrase conveys a central piece of information and the modifiers convey extra information. Berry (1975) as cited in Morley (2000), presents complements as the segment of the sentence which provide information about 'who or what?' after the verb. In this



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aspect, it would be described as being linked typically with the nominal phrase (or clause). The scope of the complement is to allude to the completive function which it satisfies after the action word. Complement is an obligatory element, so it completes the meaning of its head. Adjuncts do not necessarily come after the head; in fact, they appear at a distance from the verb. They are not obligatory.

In contrast, complements complete the meaning of the verb, and give it both syntactic and semantic completion; adjuncts provide additional information which could be ignored (Miller, 2002). This paper aims to describe the Urdu Verb phrase and its constituents by using Minimalism Program. The Minimalist Program (MP) points towards a program under the Principles and Parameters Theory that started in 1993 in the result of a paper by Noam Chomsky, in Linguistics. The principle of economy is a part of Minimalism. It proposes that if the Linguistic system requires to be as economical as possible in terms of representation and creating structures, then the smallest possible set of devices to account for language should be utilized, which means that representation of syntactic structure contain no more than the required elements Carnie (2008). Traditional Grammar refers to the whole body of grammatical description in America and Europe during the complete period before the emergence of modern Linguistics in the 20th century, but particularly to the descriptions presented in school textbooks in the 19th and early 20th centuries. Universal Grammar (UG) is the system of principles, conditions and rules which include elements or properties of all human languages.

A descriptive grammar, on the other hand, is described as an approach to grammar, in which linguists study, observe or explain how a particular language exists and is used. It holds that linguistic facts should be described as they are observed to exist.

Statement of the Problem:

People have not described the Urdu Verb Phrase in the Minimalism Program. Very limited data is available in terms of Minimalisation of Urdu Verb Phrase. This research will explain Urdu VP in terms of Minimalism Program.

Objective of the Study:

This research has the following objectives:

1. To identify and describe the constituents of Urdu Verb Phrase
2. To explore the construction of Urdu Verb Phrase according to Minimalism Program
3. To describe different kinds of Urdu Verb Phrase



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Research Questions:

The following issues of the study will be observed:

1. What are different constituents of Urdu Verb Phrase?
2. How do we construct several variants of Urdu Verb Phrase in accordance with Minimalism Program?
3. What are basic kinds of Urdu Verb Phrase?

Significance of the study:

The result of this study is expected to give clear explanation about the constituents of Urdu Verb Phrase. This study will give necessary information to the next writers who want to conduct this research. This study will give more information to readers about Urdu Verb Phrase as it was not discussed in the past in the light of Minimalism Program.

Limitations of the Study:

This study is limited in order to give a clear description of discussion in terms of Urdu VP. This study is concerned on the description of Urdu Verb Phrase in general. This paper will not deal with the description of VP of all the languages. Urdu Verb Phrase will not be discussed in the light of all the grammar programs. It will cover the entire necessary data of Urdu Verb Phrase in the light of Minimalism Program.

Literature Review

Carnie (2008) defines the Verb Phrase as a category which is headed by the Verb; minimally a VP consists of a single verb. Van Valin (2001) explains that a verb phrase refers to a phrase that is composed of at least one verb and the dependents of the verb. The verb functions as the headword of the verb phrase. Verb Phrase always contains a Verb, which might be followed by other constituents (Fromkin & Rodman, 1988).

The Description of Urdu Verb Phrase

A single word or group of words that act as a predicate is referred as a verb phrase (Carnie 2008). There can be one or more auxiliary verbs before the main verb. Auxiliary verbs like be, have, and might are helping verbs and are helpful in terms of making verb phrases.

Similarly, in Urdu, we have VP. Urdu VP has a complex structure with different parts: the central part is verb and after it there are other auxiliaries linked to verb. In other words, the structure of Urdu Verb Phrase contains a verb followed by one or more auxiliaries (AUX) and verb tense markers (VBT). Each is represented by a separate word.



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ہما بسکٹ کھا رہی ہے۔
Huma biskitk^harahihæ
Huma is eating biscuit.

لڑکے کھیل رہے ہیں۔
la:rkek^hailrahehæn
Boys are playing

میں چڑیا گھر جاتا ہوں۔
meintʃi[jag^hærdʒata hon
I go to zoo.

The Organization of Verb Phrase in to Finite and non – Finite:

It is worth emphasizing that the verb forms found in verb phrases are distinguished into two categories depending on their structural characteristics. These two categories are called: Finite and non-finite verb phrases.

Finite verb phrases:

Grammatically, finite verb phrase has salient features, and they are described below:

Finite verb phrase has the tense variation like:

حنا نے اپنا کام مکمل کر لیا ہے (کرتی ہے۔)
Hina neapnakammukamælkarlijahæ(kartihæ)

Hina has completed her work.

اکبر کرکٹ کھیلتا ہے۔ یا اکبر نے کرکٹ کھیلا
Akbar krikitk^hailtæhæ ja akbar ne krikitk^hailæ
Akbar plays cricket/ Akbar played cricket.

ہما ناول پڑھتی ہے یا ہما نے ناول پڑھا
Huma nauvælpæh[tiæ ja huma ne nauvælpæha
Huma reads/ Huma read novel.

Finite verb phrase operates like the verb components of a clause. As well as, there are number and person agreement.

I + am /you / they / we + are She / He / it / + is

ہما ہر روز کیلا کھاتی ہے۔
Hum hærozælakæhætiæ
Huma eats banana every day.

وہ کھاتے ہیں
Vo k^hætehæn
They eat }

وہ روزانہ شاعری لکھتی ہے۔
vorozanaʃærilik^htiæ
She writes } poetry daily.

وہ لکھتے ہیں۔
volik^htiæhæn
They write }

Finite verb phrases have the mood as well.



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Non – Finite Verb Phrases:

Contrastingly, this term differs in that it has three various forms: the infinitive (to call), the – ing participle (calling) and the – ed participle (called). Non – finite verb phrases consist of one or more such items.

اس طرح لڑنا خطرناک ہوگا۔

ɪstərhələ[naxɑtrnak ho ga

To fight like that must be dangerous

اس نے اسے چوری کرتے ہوئے پایا۔

ʊs=neʊsetʃɔ:rikərtəhoepaya

He found her stealing.

The Form of the Verb Phrase:

Generally speaking, the form of the verb phrase is restricted to the three types which compose it. These three types specify the structure more accurately and they are called: transitive, intransitive and ditransitive.

Transitive Verb Phrase:

It can be defined as the phrase that takes a direct object. A direct object, on the other hand, is a word or group of words that represent the action of an action verb. In given examples:

وہ روزانہ اخبار پڑھتی ہے۔

vorozaɳaəxbarpə[ɦt̪hæ

She reads newspaper daily

میں نے سیب کھایا

I ate an apple.

mã=nesæbk^haya

The words "read" and "ate" are action verbs that make the reader / listener want more information regarding how, where, or when that action happened. Some direct objects appear with transitive verbs. Active or passive both forms can be a part of transitive VP like:

Jon loves his mother includes an active VP, whereas in 'His mother is loved by Jon' states a passive VP form. These types of verb phrases (Transitive) are more common in the English language than in other languages (Angell, 2009).

Intransitive Verb Phrase:

These are similar yet they differ than transitive verb phrases. Intransitive verb phrase neither takes a direct object nor does it carry a passive verb form. Intransitive and transitive verb phrases may use the same verbs. In the following examples, the verbs 'opened' and 'left' are used in both the transitive and intransitive forms like:



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اس نے اپارٹمنٹ کا دروازہ کھولا

ʊs=neapartmɛntkɑdʒ:ˈvazak^hɔla

She opened the door of the apartment. (Transitive form with a direct object)

اپارٹمنٹ کا دروازہ اس کے ذریعہ شور سے کھلا تھا

apartmɛntkɑdʒ:ˈvazɑʊskezarijæʃɔ:rse k^hɔlɑt^hɑ

The door of the apartment was opened noisily by her. (Intransitive form with an adverb)

اس نے غصے سے پارٹی چھوڑ دی۔

ʊs=neɪʊse se partɪtʃɔ:[dɪ

She left the party angrily. (Transitive form with a direct object)

پارٹی کو اس نے غصے سے چھوڑا تھا

partɪkəʊs=neɪʊse se tʃɔ:[ɑ t^hɑ

The party was left angrily by her. (Intransitive form with an adverb)

Ditransitive Verb Phrase:

The verb which takes both the direct and indirect objects is ditransitive verb.

For example:

اس نے اسے دوپہر کا کھانا پیش کیا۔

She offered him the lunch.

‘The lunch’ is the direct object and ‘him’ is the indirect object, the person he offered it to.

This sentence can also be written

اس نے اسے لنچ پیش کیا۔

ʊs=neʊselɒntʃpæʃkiya

She offered the lunch to him. Aspectual Auxiliaries:

1. استاد کا کردار بدل چکا ہے۔

Ustadkakarɪdarbədɔltʃɔkahæ

The roles of teacher have changed.

2. اس نے ڈون کو قتل کیا تھا۔

Us ne Daunkokɑtɔlkija

He had killed Duane.



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3. لیونارڈو ڈا ونچی یا تھامس ایڈیسن نے عمر کے آخری حصے میں زیادہ سے زیادہ نتائج حاصل کیے تھے۔

li:ə'na:dəʊ da: 'vɪnʃi ja'təməs 'edɪs(ə)n neʊmərkeak^harɪhɪssemeɪnzəyada se
zəyadanəʔaəʔhasɪlkɪyət^hay

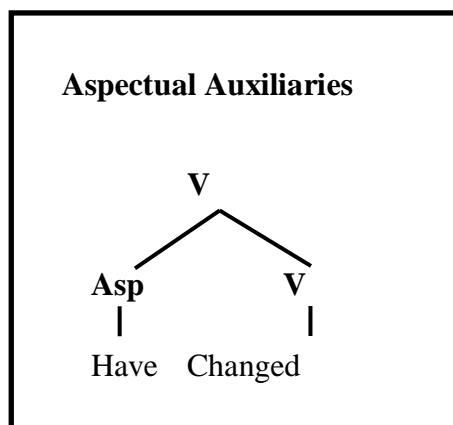
Leonardo da Vincior Thomas Edison had found more and more findings at the age of twilight.

The underlined words have changed, had killed and had found are 'Aspectual Auxiliaries' as the helping verb is accompanied by the main verb.

Ps Rules

V'' → (ASP) + V''

V'' → V



Research Methodology

Qualitative:

This investigation is conducted by utilizing the qualitative method. According to Cresswell (2002), qualitative research refers to the descriptive approach. Bogdan and Taylor (1975) in



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Moleong (2002) state that qualitative method is taken as a research procedure that produces descriptive data in the form of words written or spoken by the individuals.

Data Source:

Arikunto (2010) explains that data source is the subject from where the data is acquired. In accordance with the statement, Moleong (1998) in Arikunto (2010) explains that data source should be original; however, if the original one is difficult to manage, then photocopy or imitation is not a problem, as long as the evidences can be acquired. In order to describe Urdu VP according to Minimalism Program and constituents of VP, data from different spoken sources like from native Urdu speakers of Lahore will be utilized.

Sample of Collecting Data:

In this investigation, observation method of data collection will be utilized. This approach provides data by monitoring participants in certain situations or environments at a particular time or day.

Theoretical Framework

Grammar is identified as a system by which the words or morphemes of a language are organized into larger units, particularly into sentences. The term Minimalism is usually associated to certain creative tendencies whose work is said to be stripped down to its most fundamental features. In the linguistic agenda developed by Noam Chomsky and others since the early nineties, this term is endowed with the similar aesthetic concern of searching for the most fundamental features of grammatical theory.

Minimalism Program

Merger operation

Verbs refer to words that demonstrate any action such as drink, walk, smell and write etc. They function like a connector between the subject of the verb and the information about the subject. This information is mostly descriptive. VP like:

وہ دوکان کی طرف بھاگ رہے تھے

vodokankitarfb^hagrahet^hay

They were running to the shop comprises the verb (running) and the complement (to the shop).

متکلم ا: تم کیا کرنا چاہتے ہو؟



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mətakələmalıf:təmkiyakərnatfahte ho?

Speaker A: What do you want to do?

متکلم ب: تم سے شادی

mətakələm be: təm se ʃɑd̪i

Speaker B: Marry you

The speaker's utterance demonstrates the easiest way of forming a phrase that is by merging two words together: for example, by merging the word marry with the word you a phrase like marry you is formed. The phrase marry you appears to have verb- like rather than pronoun-like properties, it is apparent from the fact that it could occupy the similar range of positions as the simplest verb marry, and therefore for example, appear after the infinitive participle to like, I want to marry you. By contrast, the phrase marries you cannot occupy the similar kind of position as a pronoun such as you take, as illustrated below:

a) تم بہت ہوشیار ہو۔

təmbuhəthotʃæjar ho.

You are very smart

b) آپ سے شادی کرنا بہت اہم ہے۔

ap se ʃɑd̪ikərnabuhətəhəmhæ

*Marry you is very important.

Therefore, it is apparent that the grammatical properties of a phrase like marry you is determined by the verb marry, and not by the pronoun you. Similar things can be said about the semantic properties of the expression, as the phrase marries you describe an act of liking, not a kind of person. By utilizing the appropriate technical terminology, we could say that the verb marry is the head of the phrase marry you, and hence that marry you is a VP: in the similar way as we abbreviate category labels like verb to V, so too we could abbreviate the category label Verb Phrase to VP. If we utilize the traditional labeled bracketing technique to represent the category of the overall VP marry you and of its constituent words (the verb marries and the pronoun you), we could represent the structure of the resulting phrase as shown below:

[VP [V marry] [PRN you]]

A substitutive or equivalent way of presenting the structure of phrases is like marry you via a labeled tree diagram like:



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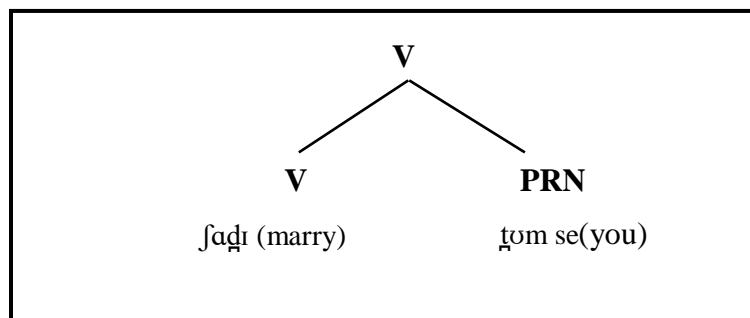
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Phrases can be constructed with a series of binary merger operations which combine the successive pairs of constituents to form even larger structures. For example, by merging the infinitive phrase to marry you with the verb want, even larger phrase could be made.

متکلم ا: تم کیا کرنا چاہتے ہو؟

mətakələmalıf:t̤omkɪyakərnatʃaḥte ho?

Speaker A: What do you want to do?

متکلم ب: تم سے شادی کا سوچ رہا ہوں

mətakələm be: t̤om se ʃaḍıkasautʃraha hon

Speaker B: Thinking to marry you

The resulting phrase want to marry you is headed by the verb want, it can be viewed from the fact that it could be utilized after words like be, keep or start, which choose a complement headed by a verb in the -ing form like VP (= Verb Phrase) and has a structure as illustrated below:

t̤om se ʃaḍıkasautʃraha hon

(Thinking to Marry You)



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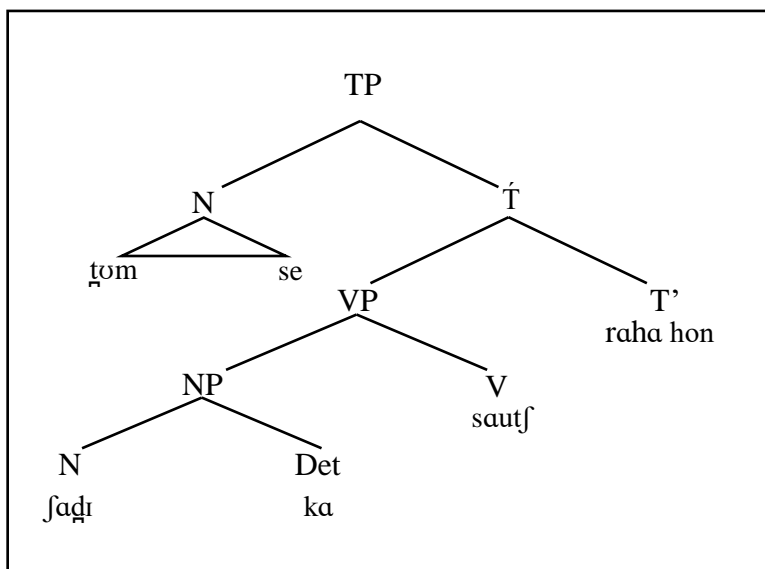
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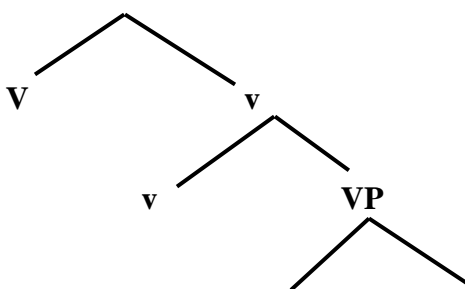


Data Analysis

As the guidance of this research, the Minimalism Program was used to describe and to analyze the data of Urdu VP. Words, morphemes, and morphosyntactic features are drawn from the mental lexicon; afterwards merger operation combines all the items into grammatical structures.

Verbs in Urdu are formed from the inflection of a base verb. An inflected form of a verb in Urdu could possibly contain information about gender, person, number and respect (for instance singular or plural), tense etc. The Minimalist Program presumes that VP has two layers: the VP node and the vP (small vp) node as represented as illustrated below.

VP





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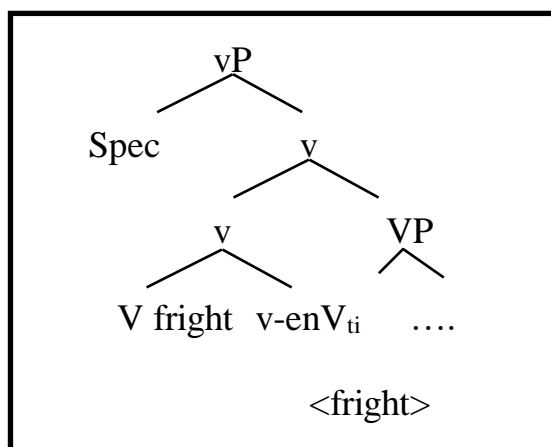
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Based on the configuration in the above diagram, the VP structure consists of two kinds of verb phrase that is (i) VP which is headed by the lexical verb (V) and (ii) VP which is headed by the head *v* of the VP. The projection of the VP has its own specifier position and this node is adjoined to the specifier position of the highest VP node. The head of the small *v* is a functional category type with abstract characteristics. Radford (2004) stated that the position of the small *v* contains the abstract verbal suffix which is supposed to merge with the lexical verb from the VP. For example, the suffix *-en* for the word ‘frighten’ is an abstract morpheme which is in the VP and would merge through the internal merge with the adjective ‘fright’ at the head position of the VP and would eventually form a causative verb ‘frighten’ as illustrated below:



One important implication from the introduction of this VP node is that the internal and external argument is assumed to be base-generated in the phrase structure. According to Chomsky (1995), the position of the specifier of the *vP* is the position where the external argument of the transitive and causative verb is placed or base-generated in the phrase structure. The internal argument, on the other hand, is base generated outside of the *vP*, that is in the VP where the internal argument is the complement to the lexical verb. The position of both arguments is stipulated as illustrated below.



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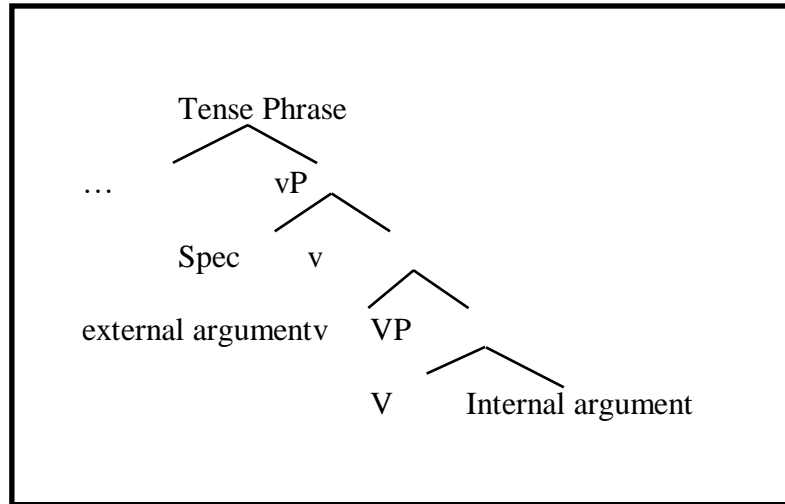
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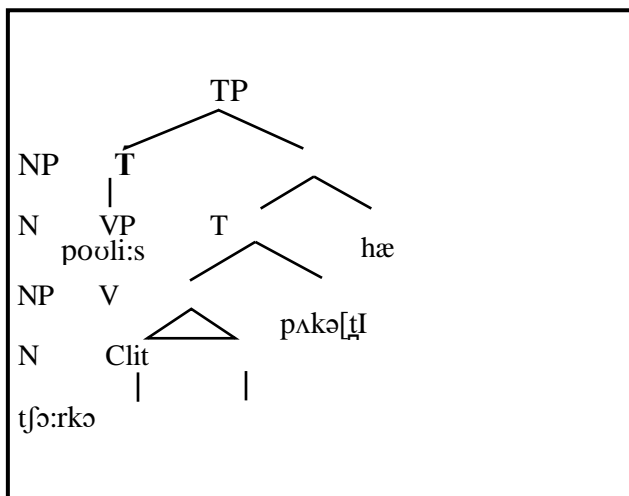
According to the configuration in the above structure, the internal argument is under the VP node whereas the external argument is under the vP node. In other words, the internal argument is the argument to the lexical verb in the VP and the external argument is the argument to the small v head under the vP node.

Transitive Verb Phrase:

پولیس چور کو پکڑتی ہے۔

poʊli:stʃo:rkəɾʌkə[tɪhæ

The police catch the thief.





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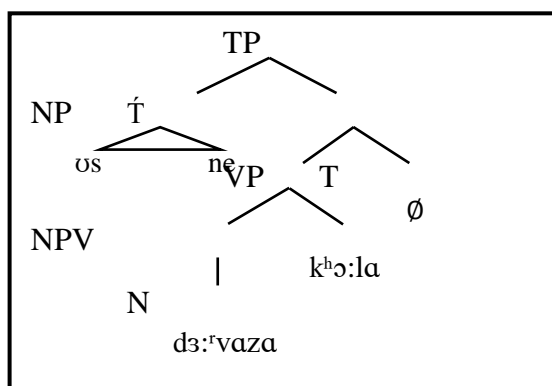
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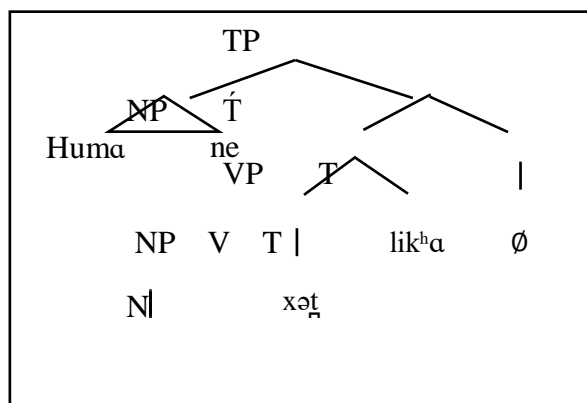
اس نے دروازہ کھولا۔

us ne d3:ʔvazakʰo:la
He opened the door.



ہما نے خط لکھا۔

Huma ne xətʃ likʰa
Huma wrote a letter.



The verb wrote is transitive and has a Theme a letter.

Intransitive Verb Phrase:

سورج غروب ہوتا ہے۔

Sun sets

soorəʒyarobhotahə



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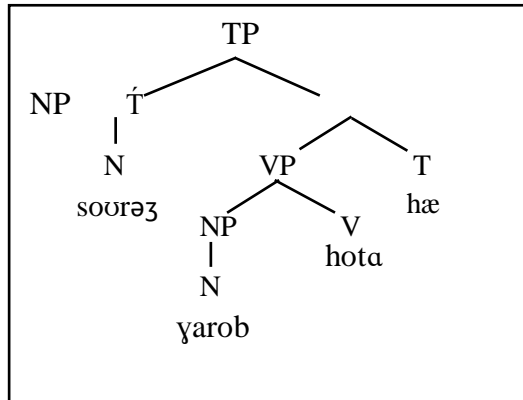
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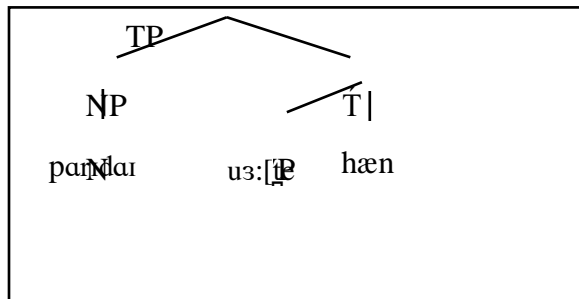
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پرنده اڑتے ہیں۔

parɪdaʊ:ʒ[terəhehæn

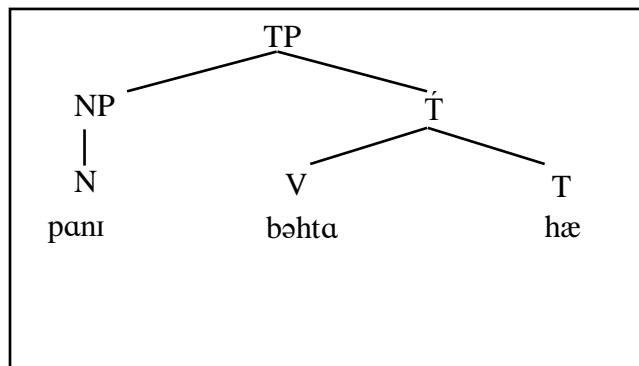
Birds fly



پانی بہتا ہے۔

panɪbəhtəhæ

Water flows





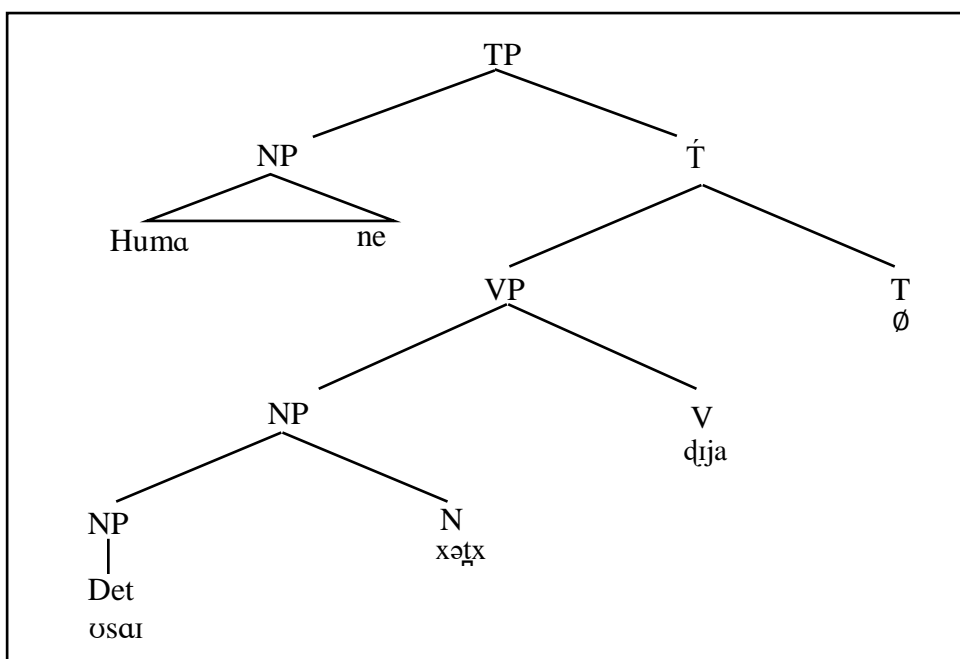
Here the verb flows is intransitive as it has no theme.

Ditransitive Verb Phrase:

ہما نے اسے خط دیا۔

Huma ne usaxəɬ dɪja

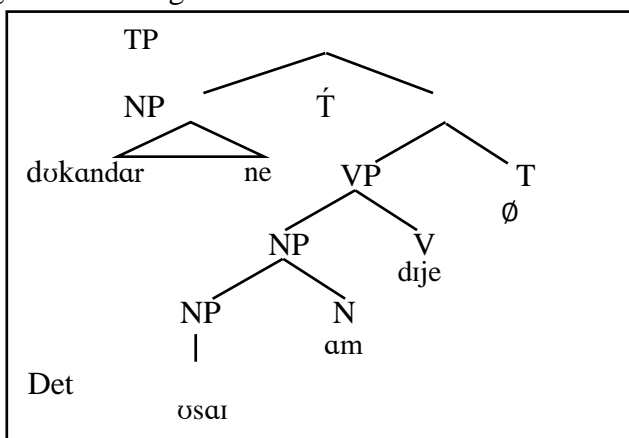
Huma gave a letter to him.



دکاندار نے اسے آم دیئے۔

dokandar ne usaramdije.

The shopkeeper gave him mangoes.





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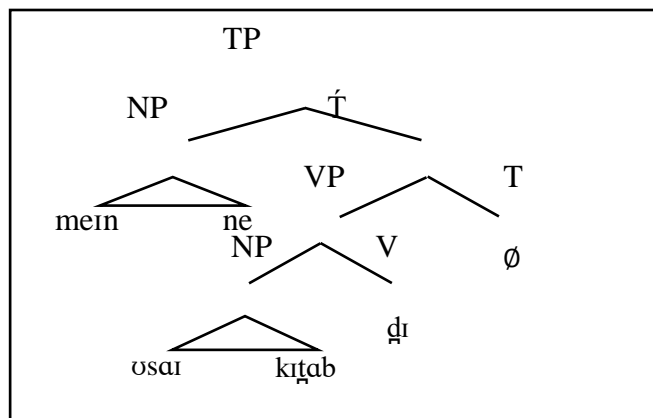
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میں نے اسے کتاب دی۔

meinne usaikṭabḍi

I gave him a book.



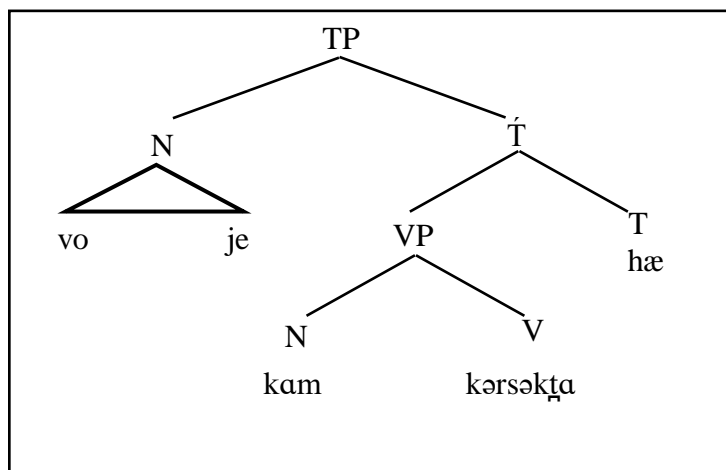
Gave in this sentence is ditransitive as it has direct object 'a book' and indirect object 'to him'.

Modal Auxiliary Verb Phrase:

وہ یہ کام کر سکتا ہے۔

vo je kamkərsəḱṭahæ

He can do this work.



آپ کو محنت کرنی چاہیے۔



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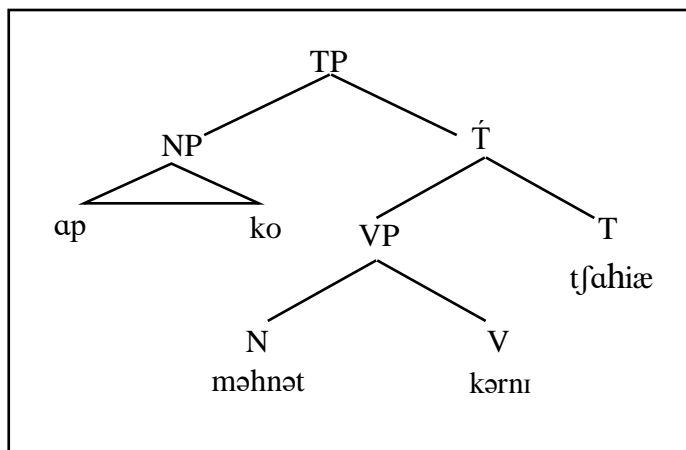
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apkoməhnətəkərnıtʃahiaə

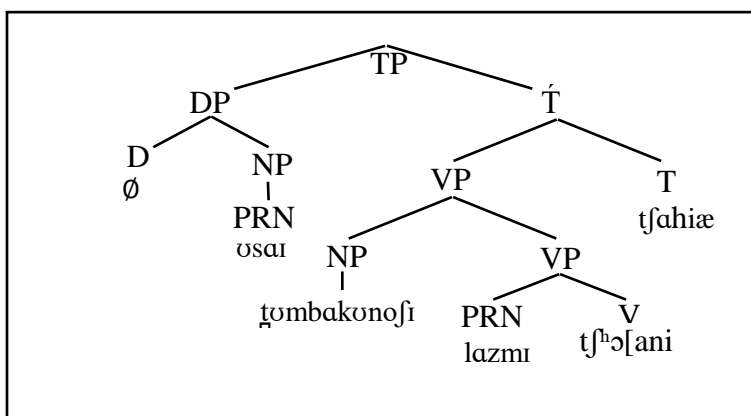
You should work hard.



اسے تمباکو نوشی لازمی چھوڑنی چاہیے۔

ʊsaɪtʊmbakʊnoʃilazmɪtʃʰə[anitʃahiaə

He must quit smoking.



Helping Verb Phrase:

میں اپنا کام کر رہا ہوں۔

meɪnəpnəkamkrɾaha hon

I am doing my work.



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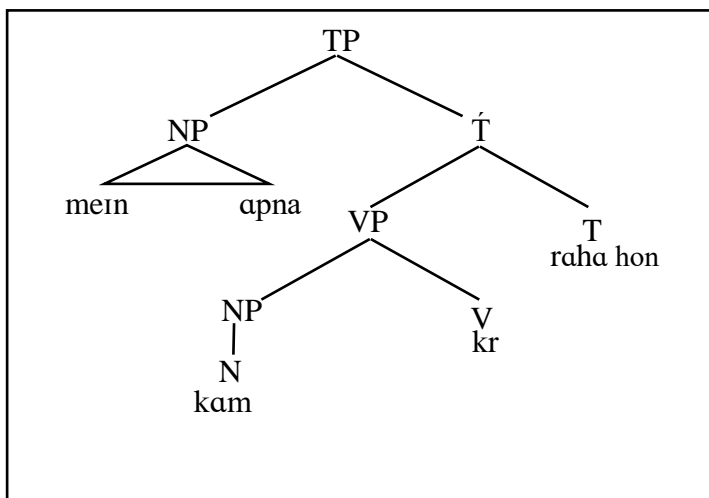
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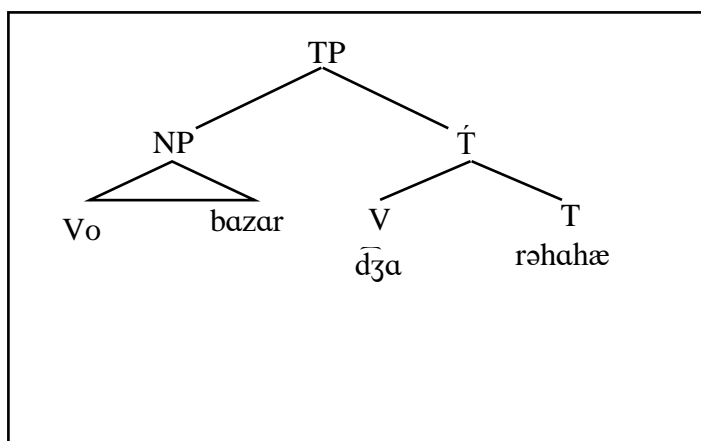
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وہ بازار جا رہا ہے۔

Vo bazar d̄zarəhahæ

He is going to the market.



وہ محنت کر رہی ہے۔

Voməhnət kərrəhihæ

She is working hard.



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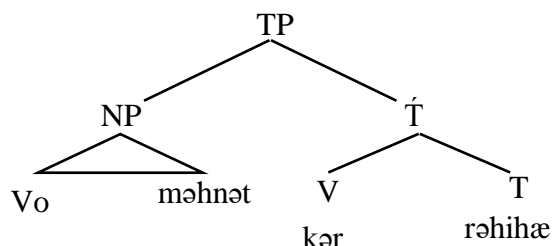
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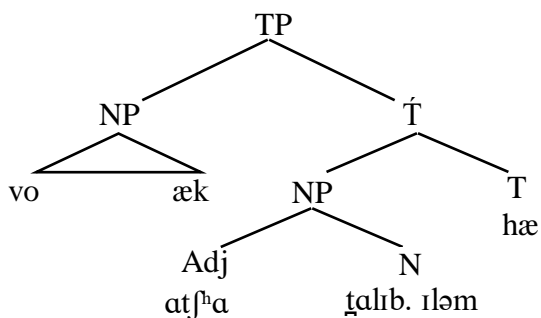
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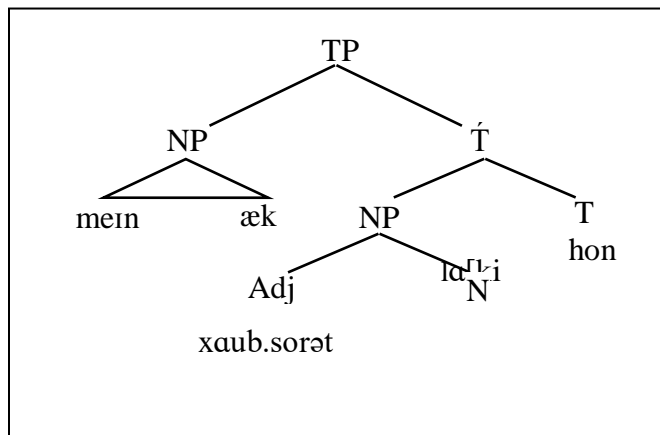


Linking Verb Phrase:

وہ ایک اچھا طالب علم ہے۔
voækatʃʰat̪alɪb. ɪləmhæ
He is a good student.



میں ایک خوبصورت لڑکی ہوں۔
meɪnækxəub.sorətla[ki hon
I am a beautiful girl.





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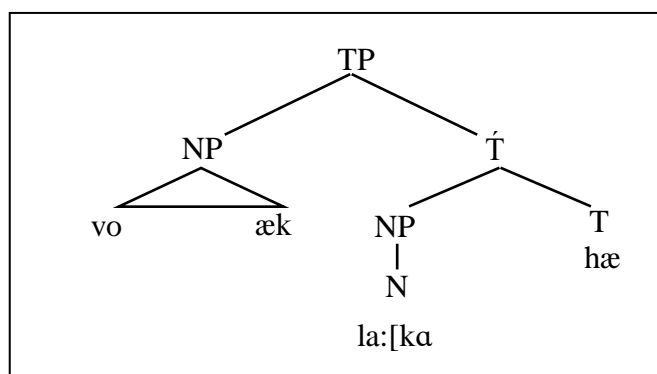
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وہ ایک لڑکا ہے۔

voækla:[kəhæ

He is a boy.



S+ O+V is the standard syntactic word order in the Urdu Language.

وہ کرکٹ کھیلتا ہے۔

vokrɪkɪtk^hail̩təhæ

He plays cricket.

Urdu Verb is always followed by a subject and object in a grammatically correct structure. Just like English sentence, the subject in Urdu will determine the form of the verb. Urdu VP has different word order than English VP.

He writes an essay.

S+V+O (English)

وہ مضمون لکھتا ہے۔ (Urdu)

voməðʒmɒnlik^htəhæ

S+O+V

Conclusion:

In conclusion, more and more complex phrases can be made by successive binary merger operations, each of which combines a pair of constituents to form larger constituents. The Minimalist Program has proposed syntactic models and derivations that are very minimal and almost the same for every language. In general, it can be said that a clause can be divided into



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the operational constituents of Subject, Predicate, Complement and Adjunct. All these constituents could be phrases.

VPs, they are built around a verb, which can indicate an action, a state or a sensation. Verbs can be in the present or past tense. Some VPs include other obligatory material, i.e. words or phrases that cannot easily be left out. These obligatory parts are called complements.

Verb phrase has a verb headword, which is a main verb. It might be preceded by an infinitive particle too or one or more auxiliary verbs. In case of phrasal verbs, the main verb is followed by an adverbial particle. Urdu has free phrase-order, i.e. the phrases within a sentence can randomly change order, but the word within a phrase has a fixed order. As the order of the phrases is variable, the case markers (CM), which are written in Urdu as separate words, assist to determine the role of each phrase in a sentence. We divide TP into two parts S and \bar{T} in English we have done the same in Urdu. \bar{T} does not come under VP in both English and Urdu language.

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