



Verbs in Kashmiri: A Semantico-Syntactic Classification

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Abstract: Kashmiri, a North-western language (Dardic) of Indo-Aryan family, contains lexicon of tatsam, tadbhav and deshaj (indigenous) words. The investigation of the root forms reveal that most of the verbs are intransitive at base. Hence, most of the verb roots end up being listed as intransitives, if one were to make reference to solely morphology in decisions concerning what constitutes the base form of a Kashmiri verb. The present paper argues that morphology can't be the reliable basis to decide on the verb classification. Hence, it is imperative to investigate the semantico-syntactic behaviour of verbs and classify them accordingly. This paper provides an account of semantico-syntactic classification of Kashmiri verbs using the framework of Levin & Rappaport (1995) and focuses to capture the relationship between syntax and semantics of Kashmiri verbs.

Key words: Verb Classes, Internally caused, Externally caused, Intransitives, Transitives, Causatives

INTRODUCTION

Establishing verb classes for a language is not only essential for the proper understanding of the theoretical issues related to the predicate-argument structure, but also for exploring the relationship between syntax and semantics of verbs. A semantico-syntactic classification aims to capture this relationship further. Though, it can not serve as a means for full semantic inferencing, its usefulness is nevertheless quite extensive. It gives an insight into a range of (cross) linguistic properties. It is in itself a useful knowledge resource for semantic analysis and cognitive linguistics research. It is used in building various other kinds of knowledge resources like Frame-Net and PropBank which provide useful information for handling various NLP tasks like Computational Lexicography, Machine Translation (MT), Word Sense Disambiguation (WSD), Language Generation, Semantic Role Labelling (SRL), Event Recognition, etc. Therefore, the classification and the knowledge resources created on the basis of it can not only help in understanding theoretical issues but it can be very useful in various NLP applications which need information about predicate-argument structure. It can help us understand causative and transitive alternations in Kashmiri in a better way. It can provide us with the basic structure of various classes of verbs too. It can also tell us about the role of the root and its associated structure.

As aforementioned, lexicon of contemporary Kashmiri contains tatsam, tadbhav and deshaj words. Irrespective of etymology, most of the Kashmiri verb roots would end up being classified as intransitives, if one were to make reference to morphology alone in making decisions about what constitutes the base form of a verb. The present paper explores Kashmiri verbs in this light and attempts to provide an elaborate semantic classification of Kashmiri verbs based on Levin & Rappaport Hovav (1995). This paper is organized in five sections. Section-2 discusses the issue of transitive/intransitive base in Kashmiri, section-3 gives a brief explanation of Levin's classification, section-4 provides the classification of Kashmiri verbs and section-5 concludes the paper.

Is Verb Intransitive or Transitive at base?

According to Koul & Wali (2006), there are very few basic transitive verbs in Kashmiri, e.g. *par* (read), *kar* (do), *the* (eat), *ce* (drink), *ni* (take), *la:y* (beat) etc. Most of the transitive verbs are derived from intransitives.

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As mentioned above most Kashmiri verbs seem to have an intransitive base. Transitives are usually derived from intransitives by vocalic change (a/aa), suffixation (with –aav, –Iraav, –Inaav) and suppletion (Koul & Wali 2006). Let us look at some examples with their roots as provided in the dictionary:

Intransitive	Transitive	English	Root	Changes	Class
mar	maar	die	mar	-a/aa	I
tar	taar	cross	tar	-a/aa	I
ruk	rukaav	stop	ruk	-aav	II
phas	phasaav	stuck	phas	-aav	II
tshoT	tshTIraav	shorten	tshoT	-Iraav	II
zev	zevIraav	be born	zev	-Iraav	II
As	asInaav	laugh	As	-Inaav	II
vad	vadInaav	cry	vad	-Inaav	II
khots	khotsInaav	fear	khots	-Inaav	II
hokh	hokhInaav	dry	hokh	-Inaav	II
yi	an	come	yi/an	-	III
Ats	tsaan	enter	Ats/tsaan	-	III
daz	zaal	burn	daz/zaal	-	III
shong	saav	sleep	shong/shaav	-	III

Table 1. Intransitive-Transitive-Root

Kashmiri verbs, then, seem to fall into three sets of verbs. In Kashmiri verb class-I, where transitives are derived from intransitives by vocalic changes (a/aa) (i.e. lengthening or shortening of vowel, as given in table.1), it is difficult to determine the base form on the basis of morphology. However, in class-II transitives are derived through suffixation, so, it is easy to determine the base form on morphological basis but that would be hardly reliable. Therefore, Kashmiri morphology is not a reliable cue when one seeks to determine whether roots are at base transitive or intransitive.

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Moreover, it is not so easy to point out the basic variants in all the verbs as we can note here that the transitive verb *maarun* 'to kill' can not be derived from the intransitive *marun* 'to die' because in the present tense, *maarun* means 'to hit' and not 'to kill' but in the past tense, *maarun* can mean both 'to kill' and 'to hit.' So, we can argue that *marun* and *maarun* are separate verbs. Furthermore, in Kashmiri verb class-III also (see Table.1), both intransitive and transitive are separate verbs instead of one being derived from the other. However, the base form in verb class-II (see Table.1) can be easily worked out on the basis of morphology. Therefore, it is clear that arguments from morphology cannot be the reliable basis to decide which form is the derived one and which is the basic. If there is a need to maintain a distinction between these forms, they must be distinguished on a syntactic or a semantic basis.

VERB CLASSES: LEVIN'S CLASSIFICATION

Levin (1993) and Levin & Rappaport Hovav (1995), henceforth LRH, identify three broad classes of verbs, defined in terms of their lexical semantic representation and associated argument structure. The first class of verbs is the class of verbs that are *externally¹ caused*, which include many verbs of change of state, and are basically dyadic causative verbs. The second class of verbs is the class of verbs that are *internally caused* which are monadic in terms of their lexical semantic representation, and unergative in nature. The third class of verbs is the verbs of *existence and appearance*, which are dyadic unaccusative verbs with two internal arguments. Let us consider the three broad classes in detail –

Externally Caused Verbs: The externally caused class of verbs regularly participate in causative alternation. For example,

1. i) Sasha broke the window. English
- ii) The window broke. (unaccusative)

Here, the subject of the intransitive variant and the object of the transitive variant bear the same semantic role. However, prototypical unergatives 'laugh', 'play', 'speak', etc do not participate regularly in this alternation in languages like English, French, Italian and Russian. For example,

2. i) The children laughed. (unergative) English
- ii) The joker laughed the children*.

LRH suggest that such alternating unaccusative verbs are basically causative. The alternating unaccusative verbs have a unique lexical semantic representation associated with both their unaccusative and transitive variants, and this is a causative one. They propose the following representation for the two types of verbs:

- i) *Break*: [[x DO – SOMETHING] CAUSE [y BECOME BROKEN]]
- ii) *Laugh*: [x LAUGH]

A verb like 'break', on both its transitive and intransitive uses, has a complex Lexical Semantic Representation (LSR) involving the predicate CAUSE. There are two sub-events involved: the causing sub-event and the central sub-event, the latter specifying the change associated with the verb. The causer argument is associated with the causing sub-event and the passive participant (patient/theme) with the central sub-event. The LSR associated with a non-alternating intransitive verb such as 'laugh' does not involve the predicate CAUSE; it has only one sub-event and is taken to be basically monadic. The above representation of alternating ('break') verbs reflects that such verbs are externally

¹Borrowed (from Sanskrit, Persian and Arabic) and preserved intact

²Derived (from Sanskrit, Persian and Arabic) and modified

caused, as these verbs involve two sub-events. Therefore, externally caused verbs are inherently dyadic predicates, which take both the external cause and passive participant in the eventuality as arguments. The core class of causative alternation verbs are verbs of change of state (describe changes in physical shape or appearance).² It is, however, important to note that only externally caused verbs of motion and verbs of change of state participate in causative alternation. Levin (1993) suggests that there should be no externally caused verbs without a transitive variant. All externally caused verbs have a transitive and causative use, but not all of them have an intransitive use in which the external cause is unspecified. For example,

3. i) Mehwish wrote a new poem. English
ii) A new poem wrote*.
4. i) The girl cut the cake.
ii) The cake cut*.

In English, many alternating verbs of change of state are de-adjectival as those adjectives are used to describe states. For example,

5. i) *open, loose, slim, shut, dry, empty, cool, clear, quiet, dirty,.....*
ii) *lighten, redden, ripen, toughen, tighten, loosen, lengthen,*

(B. Levin 1993)

Internally Caused Verbs

Internally caused verbs are monadic in terms of their lexical semantic representation. These verbs do not participate in the causative alternation and need not be agentive as they are internally caused. This class of verbs is referred to as ‘verbs of emission.’³ This class is divided into four subclasses:

6. i) Sound: *jingle, whistle, roar, ring, buzz, clank, hum, crackle ,.....*
ii) Light: *glow, glitter, sparkle, flash, flicker, gleam, shine ,.....*
iii) S⁴mell: *stink, reek, smell ,.....*
iv) Substance: *ooze, gush, spout, squirt, puff, bubble ,.....*

These verbs describe eventualities that are result of internal physical characteristics of their argument. Therefore, the kinds of entities that qualify as arguments of such emission verbs are limited. For example, consider the verb ‘glitter’: because only certain substances have the inherent property to glitter, the choice of argument for such a verb is restricted to those substances. These verbs generally have no causative use. For example,

7. i) The diamond sparkled.
ii) *Mehwish sparkled the diamond.

However, some emission verbs are compatible with a dual classification as either internally or externally caused. LRH argue that the transitive and causative uses of emission verbs represent the externally caused option and their intransitive uses represent internally caused option. The externally caused use arises only by direct manipulation of the emitter. For example;

³Jespersen (1927) characterised the class of alternating verbs as the ‘move and change’ class as it also includes verbs change of state as well as verbs of motion.

⁴Perlmutter (1978) describes these verbs as verbs of “[n]on-voluntary emission of stimuli that impinge on the senses.”

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8. i) The doorbell rang.
ii) The postman rang the doorbell.
9. i) The light flashed.
ii) The kid flashed the light.

In addition, there are some verbs of change of state which are internally caused. The changes of state they describe are inherent to the natural course of development of the entities and do not need to be brought about by any kind of external cause. This class includes verbs such as 'flower', 'bloom', 'blossom', 'decay', 'rust', 'sprout', 'swell' etc. These verbs, too, do not participate in the causative alternation.

For example,

10. i) The rose bloomed / blossomed early.
ii) The gardener bloomed / blossomed the rose early*.

Verbs of bodily process are also internally caused and do not participate in the causative alternation. For example;

11. i) Anna coughed.
ii) *Katharine coughed Anna.

Agentive verbs like 'laugh', 'play', 'speak', etc also do not participate in causative alternation as the property inherent to the argument of the verb which is responsible for bringing the eventuality is the will or volition of the performing the activity.

Existence and Appearance Verbs

The third class of verbs includes verbs of existence, appearance and disappearance⁶. LRH though agree that these verbs are associated with a theme and a location, they propose that these verbs are dyadic and take two internal arguments. This class of verbs requires a location argument (even an understood argument). These verbs do not participate in causative alternation.

12. i) A solution exists.
ii) *The mathematician existed a solution.
13. i) A picture appeared (on the screen)
ii) *The lady appeared a picture (on the screen).

These verbs are among the prototypical unaccusative verbs of many languages. They are particularly stable in their unaccusativity. For example, in English, these verbs cannot assign accusative case; in Italian, they select the auxiliary *essere* 'be', the auxiliary found with unaccusatives. They are not internally caused. LRH propose that these verbs belong to a class of verbs for which the notion of external and internal causation is irrelevant. In the following section we identify the verb classes (based on Levin 1993) in Kashmiri.

VERB CLASSES IN KASHMIRI

Based on LRH (1995)'s classification, Kashmiri verb classes can be broadly divided into the following ten classes:

⁶Mulder & Wehrmann (1989) recognise that verbs of existence describe eventualities that involve two participants: a theme (i.e. an entity whose existence is asserted) and a location. They treat these verbs as monadic verbs taking a small clause internal argument containing a theme and a location.

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1. Emission verbs
2. Verbs of Change of State
3. Verbs of Motion
4. Verbs of Spatial Configuration
5. Verbs of Existence, Appearance & Disappearance
6. Verbs of Bodily Process
7. Verbs of Contact /Attachment
8. Verbs of Consumption
9. Verbs of Perception
10. Verbs of Image Impression

Table 1. English vs Kashmiri Verb classes: A Comparison

VERB CLASS	ENGLISH	KASHMIRI
Emission Verbs	Only externally caused verbs participate in causative alternation	Externally caused verbs have transitive and causative uses
Verbs of Change of State	Core class of causative alternation but internally caused verbs do not	Have transitive as well as causative uses
Agentive Verbs of Manner of Motion	Directional phrases are obligatory in the transitive use of these verbs	Directional phrases are not obligatory in the transitive and causative uses of these verbs
Verbs of Manner of Motion	Participate in causative alternation	Have transitive as well as causative uses
Verbs of Inherently Directed Motion	Do not participate in causative alternation	Have transitive as well as causative uses
Verbs of Spatial Configuration	Participates in causative alternation	Have transitive as well as causative uses
Verbs of Existence, Appearance & Disappearance Bodily Process	Do not participate in causative alternation Never participate in causative alternation	Do not have transitive and causative uses No transitives, only causatives
Verbs of Contact/ Attachment	Do not participate in causative alternation	Have transitive and causative uses
Verbs of Consumption	Can have transitive use too	Have transitive and causative uses
Verbs of Perception	Can have transitive use too	Have transitive and causative uses
Verbs of Image Impression	Can have transitive use too	Have transitive and causative uses

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1. Emission Verbs– Some of these verbs in Kashmiri are compatible with a dual classification as either internally or externally caused whereas some are only internally caused. The verbs, which are exclusively internally caused, do not have a transitive, causative use. These verbs are Expressives⁷ in Kashmiri, e.g. *nA:pun* (glitter), *chamkun* (shine), *prezlun* (shine), *grozun* (roar). The verbs with the externally caused option have transitive and causative use and involve direct manipulation of the (animate) emitters. Therefore, just as LRH have noted for English, Kashmiri verbs too have transitive and causative uses of emission verbs that corresponds to the externally caused option, with intransitive uses of such verbs corresponding to the internally caused option. For example,

1. i) ganTii bajAi

bell ring-PST.F

‘The bell rang.’

ii) Sahiran bajA:v ganTii

Sahir-ERG ring-TR-PST.F bell

‘Sahir rang the bell.’

iii) Sahiran bajaavInA:v Bashiiras athi ganTii

Sahir-ERG ring-CAUS-PST.F Bashiir-INS bell

‘Sahir made Bashiir ring the bell.’

Moreover, transitive and causative uses of these verbs do not permit instruments/ natural forces. For example,

1. i) hawhan bajov ganTii*

wind-ERG ring-TR-PST ganTii

‘Wind rang the bell*.’

ii) naaran greyknov tii*

fire-ERG boil-TR-PST oil

‘Fire boiled the oil*.’

2. Verbs of Change of State⁸ – This class of verb can be subdivided into two sub classes -- Verbs of Non-volitional

⁶This can be further divided into onomatopoeic expressions and expressive as done in literature since expressive are not sound symbolic in the strict sense whereas onomatopoeic expressions. However, onomatopoeic expressions and expressives share the general property that neither of the two halves of the expression is independently meaningful, whereas the base of an echo expression forms a lexical item in its own right, and this is true of both elements of paired words. Therefore, in order to avoid any

⁷Levin (1993) has further divided this class into subclasses like *break* verbs, *bend* verbs, *cooking* verbs, *-en* verbs, *-ify* verbs, *-ize* verbs, *-ate* verbs etc. which is only useful for English verbs.

⁸Smith (1970) explains the lack of transitive and causative uses for these verbs in terms of the presence of internal control.

⁹Smith (1970) makes a slightly different proposal. He suggests that these verbs describe eventualities that are under control of some external cause and these have transitive uses where the external cause is expressed as a subject.

¹⁰The argument of certain predicates involved in defining homomorphism from its own physical extent to the temporal progress of the event it participates in. (Rappaport Hovav & Levin 2002).

Change of State and Verbs of Change of State.

a. *Verbs of Non-volitional Change of State* (henceforth verbs of NVCS): “The change of state described by these verbs are inherent to the natural course of development of the entities that they are predicated of and do not need to be brought about by an external cause, although occasionally they can be, and in such instances, causative uses of these verbs are found.” (LRH 1995:97)

Some of the verbs in this class describe a state as well as a change-of-state, e.g. *pholun* (to bloom), Let us consider the following sentences:

1. i) *yi posh pholyov akh dohas khA:trI* (in a state interpretation)

this flower bloom-PST one day till

‘This flower bloomed for a day.’

- ii) *yi posh pholyov akhis dohas manz* (change-of-state interpretation)

this flower bloom-PST one day in

‘This flower bloomed in a day.’

In (16i) the verb describes being in a state and in (16ii) it has an interpretation of ‘come to bloom’ (i.e. a change-of-state). The verb has transitive and causative uses, though the semantics of these uses are slightly different from verbs of other classes. For example, (compare with example (14ii))

Sahiran pholrov posh

Sahir-ERG bloom-TR-PST flower

‘Sahir made the flower bloom’.

2. **Sahiran pholrov yeth kullis peyTh posh*

Sahir-ERG bloom-TR-PST this plant in flower

‘*Sahir made the flower bloom in this plant.’

In (17), the initiator of the causing sub-event, *Sahir*, does not directly affect the central event of the flower blooming; rather, he creates conditions favourable for the internally caused event to come about (by planting / watering the shrub etc.). Therefore sentence (18), which requires him to externally cause the natural course of development of the flower, is unacceptable. Therefore, though these verbs do have transitive and causative uses, there are also restrictions, with the transitive and causative use denoting a semantically distinct eventuality. Other verbs like *hokhun* (to dry), *mandchavun* (to shy), *bihun* (to sit), *shrukun* (to shrink), etc. have only the change-of-state interpretation. For example,

3. i) **yi posh hokh akhis dohas khA:trI* (in-a-state interpretation)

this flower wither-PST one day till

‘*This flower withered for a day.’

- ii) *yi posh hokh akhis dohas manz* (change-of-state interpretation)

this flower one day in wither-PST

‘This flower withered in a day.’

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Moreover, these verbs do not have transitive and causative uses⁹ unlike verbs like ‘bloom.’ For example;

2. *Sahiran hokhrov posh

Sahir-ERG wither-TR-PST flower

‘*Sahir withered the flower.’

b. Verbs of Change of State: These verbs are externally caused¹⁰ change of state verbs unlike NVCS verbs which are internally caused. Some verbs of change of state in Kashmiri are, *hokhun* ‘dry’, *phaTun* ‘sink’, *veyglun* ‘melt’, *lagun* ‘freeze’, *fITun* ‘break’, *khulun* ‘open’ etc. These have transitive and causative uses that differ from the transitive and causative uses of verbs of NVCS verbs in that the eventuality brought out here is direct not indirect.

For example,

4. Sahiran phaaTnA:v naav

Sahir-ERG sink-TR-PST boat

‘Sahir sank the boat.’

Compare the above example (21) with (14). Moreover, note that while in (16), the eventuality of blooming is not directly brought about by *Sahir*, in (21) the eventuality of sinking is directly brought about by *Sahir*.

3. Verbs of Motion –

a. Agentive Verbs of Manner of Motion: Reinhart (1991) & Cruse (1972) point out that the “cause” argument in transitive and causative uses of these verbs can only be an agent in true sense, never an instrument or a natural force. This is true in Kashmiri, too. For example,

27. i) *hawhan vuDov patang

wind-ERG fly-TR-PST kite-ACC’

‘*The wind flew the kite.’

ii) *Sahiran vuDov hawha sI:t’ patang

Sahir-ERG fly-TR-PST wind-INS kite-ACC’

‘*Sahir made the wind flew the kite.’

In Kashmiri, directional phrases are not obligatory in the transitive and causative uses of these verbs as they are in languages like English. For example;

28. i) *We ran the mouse

ii) We ran the mouse through the maze

29. i) Sahiran davnov gagur

Sahiran-ERG mouse-ACC run-TR-PST

‘Sahiran ran the mouse.’

b. Verbs of Manner of Motion: These verbs specify a manner of motion but not direction, inherently involving a kind of change which is not directed. In Kashmiri, most of these verbs have transitive and causative uses. For example,

30. i) jindrI chu natsaan

wheel rotate PROG be-PRS

‘The wheel is rotating.’

ii) Sahir chu jindri natsInaavaan

Sahir wheel rotate-TR PROG be-PRS

‘Sahir is rotating the wheel.’

ii) Sahir chu reyaazas athi jindri natsInaavInaavaan

Sahir reyaazas -INS wheel rotate-CAUS PROG be-PRS

‘Sahir is making Reyaaz rotate the wheel.’

a. Verbs of Inherently Directed Motion: These verbs are achievement verbs; they specify an achieved end point. These specify direction not manner. Dowty (1991) argues that in the verbs, it is the path argument, not the theme, which is the incremental theme.¹¹ Like other verbs of motion, these also have transitive and causative uses in Kashmiri. For example,

31. i) Sumaiya khAats baalas peTh

Sumaiya climb-PST.F mountain up

‘Sumaiya climbed up the mountain.’

ii) reyaazan khol Sahir baalas peTh

reyaaz-ERG climb-TR-PST Sahir-ACC mountain up

‘Reyaaz made Sahir climb up the mountain.’

iii) Sahiran khaalInaavInov reyaazni zaryi fayaz baalas peTh

Sahir-ERG climb-TR-PST reyaaz-INS by fayaz-ACC mountain up

‘Sahir made Reyaaz make Fayaz climb up the mountain.’

4. Verbs of Spatial Configuration – These verbs specify the position of an entity that bears a particular spatial configuration with respect to that position. LRH suggest that languages associate up to three types of noncausative meanings and one type of causative meaning with a particular spatial configuration of these verbs. The first is “maintained position”, the second is “assumed position” and the third is “simple position.” For example,

32. i) Yvonne stood alone (in the hallway) for six hours.

ii) Yvonne stood up.

iii) The picture is hanging on the wall. (LRH 1995:127)

In Kashmiri, unlike in English, the locative phrase is not obligatory in the “simple position” sense (though the location of the entity is implicit). For example,

33. i) phoTu chu labbe peTh avezaan

picture be-PRS wall on hang PROG

¹¹The argument of certain predicates involved in defining homomorphism from its own physical extent to the temporal progress of the event it participates in. (Rappaport Hovav & Levin 2002).

‘The picture is hanging (on the wall).’

In Kashmiri, these verbs also have transitive and causative uses. For example,

34. i) ponz namrA:v lAnD
 monkey-ERG bend-TR-PST.F twig

‘The monkey bent the branch.’

ii) Sahiran nemIraavInA:v reyaazas athi lAnD
 Sahir-ERG bend-CAUS-PST.F reyaaz-INS twig

‘Sahir made Reyaaz bent the branch.’

5. Verbs of Existence, Appearance & Disappearance – Mulder & Wehrmann (1989) define verbs of existence as verbs describing eventualities that involve two participants: a theme (i.e. an entity whose existence is asserted) and a location. Verbs of existence and verbs of appearance are semantically related. Kimball (1973:267) states, “The concept of existence is... formed semantically (grammaticality) as perfective of coming into being.” Verbs of disappearance are the verbs of coming not to exist. LRH propose that for this class of verbs external and internal causation are apparently not relevant.

In Kashmiri, these verbs do not have transitive and causative uses. For example,

35. i) su aav
 he-nom come-pst

‘He came.’

ii) ramas milyAi veaj
 Ram-dat find-pst ring

‘Ram found the ring.’

iii) vaej reaav
 ring lose-pst

‘The ring was lost.’

iv) su draav parde peth kiin
 he-nom appear-pst curtain from behind

‘He appeared from behind the curtain.’

6. Verbs of Bodily Process – LRH suggest that these verbs are internally caused; hence they do not have transitive and causative uses. There are few instances of transitive and causative uses of these verbs which they term as “spurious”, i.e. the causative variant is not derivationally related. Smith (1970) points out that the choices of objects for transitive use of these verbs are very limited. For example,

36. i) The baby burped.

ii) The nurse burped the baby.

iii) The doctor burped.

iv)*The nurse burped the doctor. (Smith 1970:107)

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Kashmiri uses mostly complex predicates to express the bodily process verbs like *spit, belch, burp, hiccup, pant, sneeze, sniffle, snore, snuffle, wheeze, yawn* etc. But some verbs like *blush, swallow, flush* etc. form analytic causatives. For example,

37. i) tIm ninglaev keyal

he swallow-pst banana

‘He swallowed a banana’

ii) tIm ninglaev nov su keyal

he swallow-pst made he-nom banana

‘He made him swallow a banana.’

iii) su maandchaav

he-nom blush-pst

‘He blushed.’

iv) tIm maandchov su

he-erg blush-pst he-nom

‘He made him blush.’

Verbs like ‘spit’ are used in complex predicates, hence Kashmiri has causative uses with these. For example,

v) Sahir chu Thokh traavaan Intransitive

Sahir be-PRS spit release-HAB

‘Sahir spits.’ (in other words ‘releases spit’)

vi) reyaaz chu Sahiras Thok traavInaavaan Causative

reyaaz be-PRS Sahir-ACC spit release-CAUS -HAB

‘Reyaaz causes Sahir to spit.’

7. Verbs of Contact / Attachment – These are accomplishment verbs (consisting of a process and a result state). With these verbs, the result state describes the attained location of some physical object. In Kashmiri, these verbs do have transitive and causative variants. For example,

38. i) Sahiran mod posTer

Sahir-ERG paste-TR-PST poster

‘Sahir pasted the poster.’

ii) Sahiran maDInaavInov reyaazas athi posTer

Sahir-ERG paste-CAUS-PST reyaz-INS poster

‘Sahir made Reyaz paste the poster.’

8. Verbs of Consumption – These verbs describe atelic (non-delimited) activities, i.e. which does not include a goal, aim or conclusion. These are also incremental theme verbs. In Kashmiri, these verbs have transitive and causative variants. For example,

39. i) maaji khyenov bachchas meyavI

mother-ERG eat-TR-PST child-ACC fruit

‘Mother fed fruit to the child.’

ii) maaji khyenInaavInov nokras athi bachchas meyavI

mother-ERG eat-CAUS-PST servant-INS child-ACC fruit

‘Mother made the servant feed food to the child.’

9. Verbs of Perception – According to LRH (1995), these verbs, in their active use, describe the act of perceiving a state or an event. Frequently, the state asserts the existence of a physical object at some location. In Kashmiri, these verbs have transitive and causative variants. For example,

40. i) Sahir chu reyaazas geyvun bozInaavaan

Sahir be-PRS reyaz-ACC song listen-TR-HAB.F

‘Sahir makes Reyaz listen to the song.’

ii) Sahir chu ayaazas athi reyaazas geyvun bozInaavInaavaan

Sahir be-PRS ayaaz-INS reyaz-ACC song listen-CAUS-HAB.F

‘Sahir makes Ayaaz make Reyaz listen to the song.’

10. Verbs of Image Impression – These verbs have transitive and causative variants in Kashmiri.

41. i) reyaazan parInov Sahir hisaab

reyaz-ERG read-TR-PST Sahir-ACC maths

‘Reyaaz taught Sahir maths.’

ii) reyaazan parInaavInov masteras athi Sahiras hisaab

reyaz-ERG read-CAUS-PST teacher-INS Sahir-ACC maths

‘Reyaz made the teacher teach Sahir maths.’

CONCLUSION

This paper provides the base for semantico-syntactic investigation of Kashmiri verbs and their argument structure. Further analysis into this is needed for its proper utilization. Although Kashmiri exhibits the same classes as those detailed for English by LRH, there are also significant differences between the two languages in how the verbs in each class behave. While in English, only externally caused verbs participate in the transitive/causative alternation, in Kashmiri, all externally caused verbs and many internally caused verbs have transitive, ditransitive and morphological causatives. This can be seen by a comparison of the verb classes we have isolated for both Kashmiri and English.

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