

Urdu *Ezafe* — Phrasal Affix or Clitic?

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- The expressions of possession in Urdu are clitics

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sher=e punjaab
 lion.M=Ezafe Punjab.Nom
 'The Lion of Punjab'

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- Our main concern is with the interplay of morphology, syntax and prosody and sorting through architectural assumptions made by others (vs. ourselves).
- **Main Question:** Should *Ezaf*e be analysed as part of morphology (“phrasal affix” as proposed in HPSG) or rather as a clitic, triggering an interaction of prosody and syntax?

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Genitive Agreement

paakistaan=kii hukuumat
Pakistan.M=Gen.F.Sg government.Nom.F.Sg
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- Butt and King (2004) argue that case markers in Urdu (including the genitive) should be analyzed as case clitics (not postpositions).
- Since clitics are independent functional items as far as the syntax is concerned (they are “little words”), Butt and King (2004) accord case markers their own terminal node.

Structural Representation of Case

→ Case markers are functional heads of a KP (Butt and King 2004):

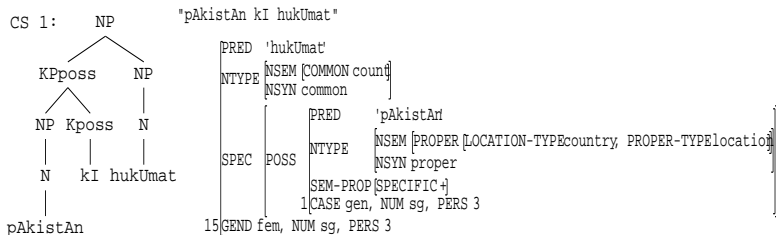
$$\text{KP} \rightarrow \text{NP}[\text{ob1}] \text{ K (General Schema)}$$

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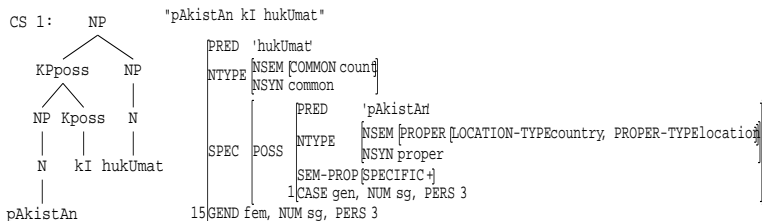
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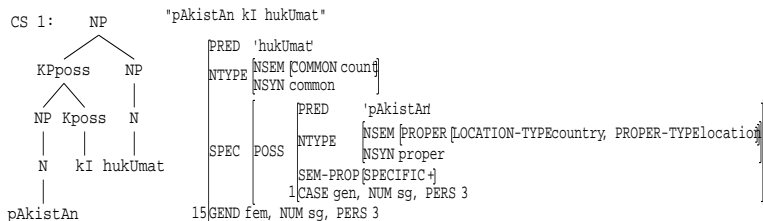
→ Specialized Rule for Genitive
(Structures from the Urdu ParGram Grammar):



Structural Representation of Case II

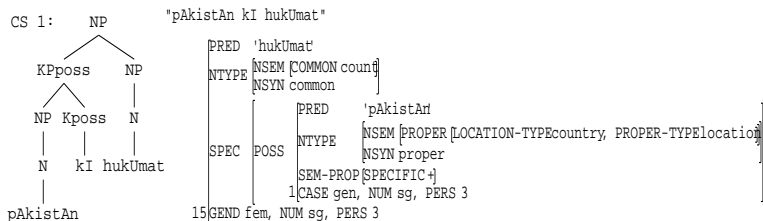


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- Note that the prosody and syntax here do not contradict each other: *kii* shares a mother node with the modifier, which is also its prosodic host.

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- 3 Stress:** Case markers do not carry stress and do not affect the placement of stress while affixes may.

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(2) *sadaa=e buland*
voice=Ez high
'a high voice'

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Compare the *Ezafe*-construction in (a) to the genitive in (b):

a) hukuumat=e paakistaan
government=Ez Pakistan
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→ **Problem:** The *Ezafe* is part of the modifying construction — it licenses the modifier *paakistaan*. This should be expressed within the **syntax**. However, **prosodically**, the *Ezafe* is part of the head noun *hukumat*.

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- Is it part of the noun morphology?
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- If it is a clitic, where do clitics in LFG “come in”?
- How would we represent a construction like that and cover **all** its morpho-syntactic and prosodic aspects?

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- The *Ezafe* is introduced in the **morphology** and marks the noun as expecting a modifier.
- Its phrasal placement is effected by an EDGE constraint.

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- The *Ezafe* attaches to constituents rather than words.

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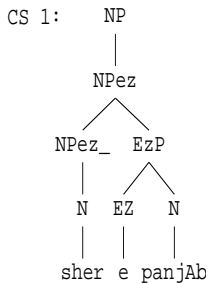
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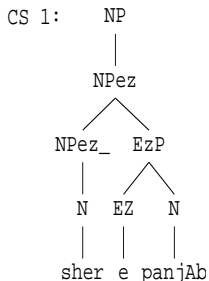
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 - **LFG** with its modular projection architecture allows for a thorough analysis without engendering a need to generate clitics within the morphology (as in HPSG).

Syntax — the C(onstituent)-structure

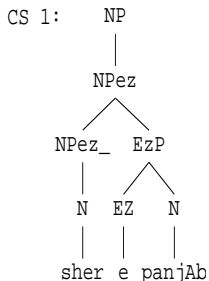


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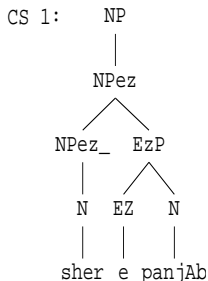
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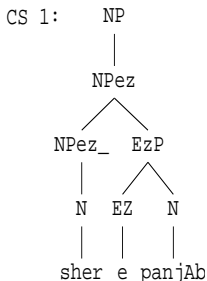
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- Together, they form the modifying constituent for the head noun *fer*.

Syntax — the F(unctional)-structure

"sher e panjAb"

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MOD	{	<table style="border-collapse: collapse;"> <tr> <td style="border-left: 1px solid black; padding-left: 5px;">PRED</td> <td style="padding-left: 10px;">'panjAb'</td> </tr> <tr> <td style="border-left: 1px solid black; padding-left: 5px;">NTYPE</td> <td style="padding-left: 10px;">[NSEM [COMMON count]]</td> </tr> <tr> <td style="border-left: 1px solid black; padding-left: 5px;">NSYN</td> <td style="padding-left: 10px;">common</td> </tr> </table>	PRED	'panjAb'	NTYPE	[NSEM [COMMON count]]	NSYN	common
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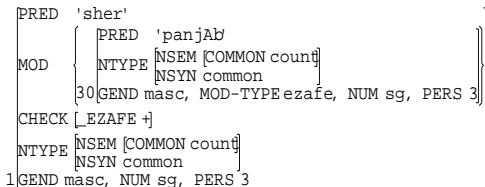
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- The type of modification is registered as being of the *Ezafe* type: MOD-TYPE ezafe.

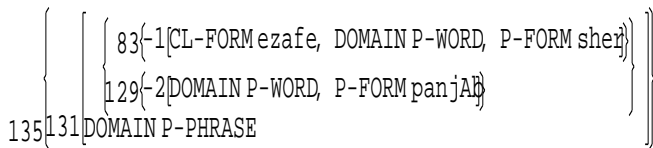
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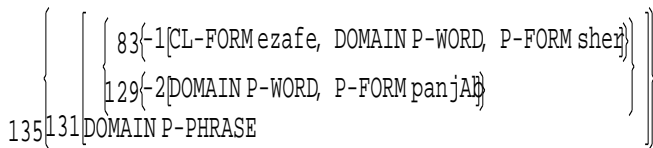
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- For *Ezafe*, we have experimented with p(rosodic)-structure following proposals as to the prosodic hierarchy as formulated within Prosodic Phonology (e.g., Selkirk 1984).

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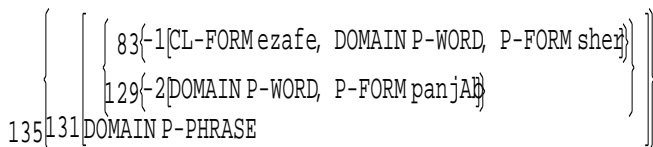
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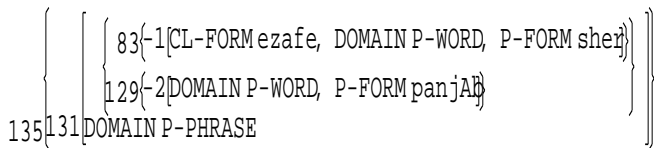
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- Rather, it is encoded via the feature CL-FORM.

Prosody — the P(rosodic)-structure



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- The CL-FORM *Ezaf*e is clearly integrated into the domain of a p-word *fer* at p-structure, although it syntactically shares a mother node with *panjAb* at c-structure.

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- The CL-FORM *Ezafe* is clearly integrated into the domain of a p-word *fer* at p-structure, although it syntactically shares a mother node with *panjAb* at c-structure.
- The morphological component was not involved in the analysis in any form with respect to *Ezafe*.

Demo — Coordination

Demo/Example of an Coordinated Structure with Ezafe

Conclusion

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Conclusion

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- There is no need to generate clitics within the morphological component.
- Instead, an interaction between **Prosody** and **Syntax** accounts for the properties of Urdu *Ezaf*e (and Persian *Ezaf*e as well).
- We have not explicitly demonstrated how to deal with Second Position clitics or other types of special clitics, but the basic approach would be the same as illustrated here.

Thank you for listening!

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