

Reduction of Compound Adpositions in Persian, Urdu and Saraiki

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Test Case Languages

Persian:

- ▶ An Indo-Iranian language
- ▶ Mainly spoken in Iran
- ▶ SOV
- ▶ Head-**initial** Adpositions

Urdu and Saraiki:

- ▶ Indo-Aryan languages
- ▶ Mainly spoken in Pakistan
- ▶ SOV
- ▶ Head-**final** Adpositions

Points of the presentation

- ▶ Whether the structure of adpositions in all these languages fit into the structure of PPs proposed by Svenonius (2008,2007,2006)?
- ▶ Some abstract nouns together with basic adpositions seem to form compound adpositions.
- ▶ An element of a compound adposition is dropped or assimilated into another element and the reduced form acts as an adposition.

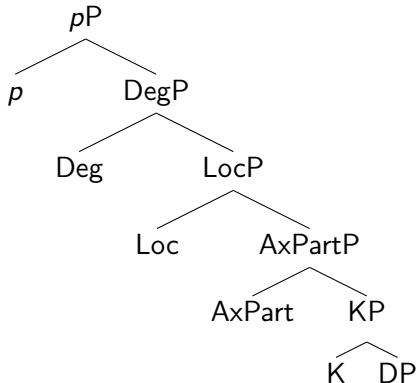
Outline of the Talk

- ▶ Recent Proposal for structure of PPs
- ▶ Basic Adpositions and their stacking
- ▶ Nouns/AxialParts as Adpositions
- ▶ Compound Adpositions
- ▶ Reduction of Compound Adpositions

Structure of PPs proposed by Svenonius

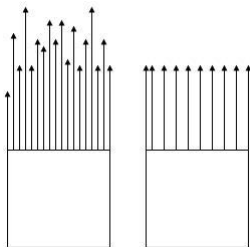
Path - Place - K

p - Deg(ree) - Deix(is) - Loc - Ax(ial)Part - K - DP



There was a monkey 100 meters in front of the car.

AxialParts



- ▶ Vector Space Semantics originally developed by Zwarts (1997, 2000)
- ▶ AxialParts are vector spaces projected from the Ground (For example: above, behind, etc.)
- ▶ Measure expressions define subset of vectors (For example: 3 meters)

An example of Adpositional Phrases

(1) a.

az ziir-e sandlii
from under-Ezafe chair
'from under the chair' (**Persian**)

b.

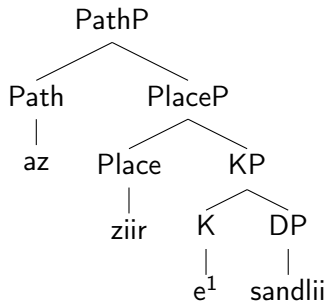
kursii=ke niice=se
chair=Gen.Obl under=from
'from under the chair' (**Urdu**)

c.

kursii=de tal.uuñ
chair=Gen.Obl under.from
'from under the chair' (**Saraiki**)

An example of Adpositional Phrase

Tree of prepositional phrase *az ziir-e sandlii* 'from under the chair'.



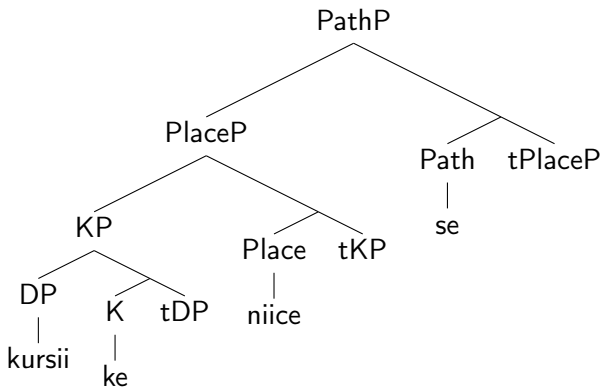
(Persian)

¹Some linguists consider Ezafe as a case marker (Pantcheva)

An example of postpositional Phrase

DP - K - Deg(ree) - Deix(is) - Loc - Ax(ial)Part - *p*

Tree of postpositional phrase *kursii=ke niice=se* 'from under the chair' in Roll-up fashion.



Basic Adpositions in Persian, Urdu and Saraiki

	Persian	Urdu	Saraiki
Place	<i>bar</i> 'on' <i>dar</i> 'in/on'	<i>par</i> 'on' <i>meñ</i> 'in'	<i>ute/te</i> 'on' <i>vic/ic</i> 'in'
Path	<i>az</i> 'from' <i>beh</i> 'to' <i>taa</i> 'up to'	<i>se</i> 'from' <i>ko</i> 'to' <i>tak</i> 'up to'	<i>tuuñ</i> 'from' <i>do/Do</i> 'to' <i>tor</i> 'up to'

Table: Basic Adpositions

Null locative adposition

The locative sense in all three languages is not always taken from overt adposition.

(2) a.

nidaa (dar=)xaaneh hast
Nida Loc.in=home be.Pres
'Nida is at home.' (**Persian**)

b.

nidaa gHar(=meñ) hai
Nida home=Loc.in be.Pres
'Nida is at home.' (**Urdu**)

c.

nidaa gHar(=ic) he
Nida home=Loc.in be.Pres
'Nida is at home.' (**Saraiki**)

Stacking of Basic Adpositions in Urdu and Saraiki

Stacking of basic adpositions in Urdu also agrees with Svenonius hierarchy.

Persian	Urdu	Saraiki
<i>bar</i> (*beh) 'onto' (*dar) az 'via' (*bar) az 'from on'	<i>par</i> (*ko) 'onto' (meñ) se 'via' (par) se 'from on'	<i>ute/te</i> (*do) 'onto' vicuñ/tuuñ 'via' utuuñ/tuuñ 'from on'

Table: PlacePath: Stacking of Basic Adpositions

Axial Parts in Urdu and Saraiki

The class 2 prepositions (which originally were nouns) of Persian are AxialParts in Persian (Pantcheva 2006)

Following is the list of AxialParts in Urdu and Saraiki.

Urdu	Saraiki	Translation of oblique form
andar	andir	'inside'
baahar	Baahir	'outside'
aagaa	aaGaa	'in front of'
piicHaa	piicHa	'behind'
niicaa	talaa	'under'
nazdiik	nazdiik	'near'
qariib	qariib	'near'
gird	gird	'around'
darmiyaan	vicaalaa	'between'

Table: AxialParts in Urdu and Saraiki

Axial Parts in Urdu and Saraiki

- ▶ Many AxialParts in Urdu and Saraiki were originally nouns
- ▶ Now only some of them are used also as nouns. But their syntactic distribution is different when used as AxialParts and when used as nouns.
- ▶ Others are used only in an adposition sense

AxialParts in Urdu and Saraiki

AxialParts in the Urdu and Saraiki give locational sense without locational adposition. In Persian, however, locative adposition can optionally be used.

(3) a.

dukaan=ke aage(=*par/meñ)
shop=Gen.Obl front(=Loc.on/in)
'In front of the shop' (**Urdu**)

b.

haTTii=de aGe(=*par/ic)
shop=Gen.Obl front(=Loc.on/in)
'In front of the shop' (**Saraiki**)

c.

(dar=)jiluu-e maQazeh
(Loc.in= front-Ezafe shop
'In front of the shop' (**Persian**)

AxialParts in Urdu/Saraiki only as adposition

The AxialPart *aage* in Urdu is originally from the noun *aagaa* 'front'. But now it is not used in the noun meaning.

(4) a.

alii dukaan=ke *aage* ruk-aa

Ali shop=Gen.Obl front stop-Perf.3Sg.M

'Ali stopped *in front of* the shop.' (**Urdu**)

b.

jahaaz=ke **aage*=ko aag lag ga-ii

aeroplane front=Acc fire.3Sg.F catch go-Perf.3Sg.F

*'The *front* of the aeroplane caught fire' (**Urdu**)

c.

jahaaz=ke **aage*=meñ aag lag ga-ii

aeroplane front=Loc fire.3Sg.F catch go-Perf.3Sg.F

*'The *front* of the aeroplane caught fire' (**Urdu**)

AxialParts in Urdu/Saraiki only as adpositions

Now for the meaning of noun 'front', a noun phrase *agalaa hissa* is used in Urdu.

(5) a.

jahaaz=ke **agle** **hise**=ko aag lag ga-ii
aeroplane front part=Acc fire.3Sg.F catch go-Perf.3Sg.F
'The front of the aeroplane caught fire' (**Urdu**)

b.

jahaaz=ke **agle** **hise**=meñ aag lag ga-ii
aeroplane front part=Loc fire.3Sg.F catch go-Perf.3Sg.F
'The front of the aeroplane caught fire' (**Urdu**)

Syntactic Distribution of AxialParts

AxialPart in English (Svenonius, 2007):

- ▶ cannot take the determiner
- ▶ cannot be pluralized
- ▶ cannot be modified by an adjective
- ▶ cannot be replaced by pro-form
- ▶ cannot move away from adposition

Syntactic Distribution of AxialParts

AxialPart in Persian (Pantcheva, 2007):

- ▶ cannot take the subject position
- ▶ can be complement of directed motion verbs
- ▶ cannot be modified by adjectives
- ▶ cannot be modified by quantifiers
- ▶ can take demonstrative and can be pluralized, but still the semantic analysis shows distinction of AxialParts to nouns

Syntactic Distribution of AxialParts

Like in Persian:

- ▶ AxialPart cannot take the subject position in Urdu and Saraiki.
- ▶ AxialPart can be be the complement of directed motion verbs in Urdu and Saraiki.
- ▶ Adjectival modification of AxialParts in Urdu and Saraiki is also not possible.
- ▶ AxialParts cannot be modified by quantifiers in Urdu and Saraiki.

Syntactic Distribution of AxialParts

AxialParts in Urdu and Saraiki cannot be used in plural forms. However there is an AxialPart *taraf* 'side' which can take plural form and is modified by a quantifier and can optionally add the basic locative adpositions.

(6)

saRak=ke donoñ atraaf(=par) paanii hai
road=Gen.Obl both side.Pl(=Loc.on) water be.Pres
'There is water on both sides of the road' (**Urdu**)

Syntactic Distribution of AxialParts

- ▶ There are only some AxialParts in Urdu/Saraiki that can be preceded by demonstrative (deixis head).

DP - K - Deg(ree) - **Deix(is)** - Loc - Ax(ial)Part - *p*

(7) a.

daryaa=ke **us** paar
river=Gen.Obl that other-side
'across the river' (**Urdu**)

b.

daryaa=de **uuñ** paar
river=Gen.Obl that other-side
'across the river' (**Saraiki**)

Compound Adpositions in Persian, Urdu and Saraiki

In all three languages, there are some abstract nouns which together with basic adpositions act as compound adpositions.

	Persian	Urdu	Saraiki
'on the basis of'	bar asaas	bunyaad par	bunyaad te
'in the honour of'	dar xidmat	xidmat meñ	xidmat ic
'as'	beh taor	taor par	taor te
'because'	beh sabab	sabab se	sabab tuuñ

Table: Compound Adpositions

Compound Adpositions in Persian, Urdu and Saraiki

- ▶ The basic adpositional part of a compound adposition is sometimes not unique in the same language. For example *taor par* and *taor se* both are used in Urdu in the meaning of 'as'.
- ▶ In some compound adpositions, different basic adpositions are used with the same noun for the same meaning in different languages.

Argumentation for compound adpositions

- ▶ The noun part of compound adpositions cannot be (re)duplicated.

(8) a.

Germany=meñ zindgii=ke taor+tariiqe=par behs
Germany=Loc.in life=Gen.Obl way=Loc.on discussion
'Discussion on the way of life in Germany' (Urdu)

b.

zardaarii=ne sadr=ke taor=par halaf uTHaa-yaa
Zardari=Erg president=Gen.Obl way=Loc.on oath carry-Perf.Sg
'Zardari took an oath as a president.' (Urdu)

c.

zardaarii=ne sadr=ke *taor+tariiqe=par halaf uTHaa-yaa
Zardari=Erg president=Gen way=Loc.on oath carry-Perf
*'Zardari took an oath as a president.' (Urdu)

Argumentation for compound adpositions

- ▶ The noun part of compound adpositions cannot be coordinated with other nouns, even semantically related nouns.

(9) a.

zardaarii=ne sadr=ke taor=par halaf uTHaa-yaa
Zardari=Erg president=Gen.Obl way=Loc.on oath carry-Perf.Sg
'Zardari took an oath as a president.' (Urdu)

b.

- sadr=ke [taor aor tariiqe]=par halaf uTHaa-yaa
- president=Gen.Obl [way and way]=Loc.on oath carry-Perf.Sg
'Zardari took an oath *as a president.' (Urdu)

Argumentation for compound adpositions

- ▶ When compound adposition takes genitive complement, its nominal part cannot take demonstrative.

(10) a.

zardarii=ne sadr=ke taor=par halaf uTHaa-yaa
Zardari=Erg president=Gen.Obl way=Loc.on oath carry-Perf.Sg
'Zardari took an oath as a president.' (Urdu)

b.

- sadr=ke *is taor=par halaf uTHaa-yaa
Zardari=Erg president=Gen.Obl *this way=Loc.on oath carry-Perf.Sg
'Zardari took an oath *as a president.' (Urdu)

Argumentation for compound adpositions

- ▶ When compound adposition takes genitive complement, its nominal part cannot be pluralized.

(11) a.

zardaarii=ne sadr=ke taor=par halaf uTHaa-yaa
Zardari=Erg president=Gen.Obl way=Loc.on oath carry-Perf.Sg
'Zardari took an oath as a president.' (Urdu)

b.

- sadr=ke *atvaar=par halaf uTHaa-yaa
- president=Gen.Obl *way.Pl=Loc.on oath carry-Perf.Sg
'Zardari took an oath *as a president.' (Urdu)

Argumentation for compound adpositions

- ▶ When compound adposition takes genitive complement, its nominal part cannot be modified by adjective.
- ▶ When compound adposition takes genitive complement, its nominal part cannot be modified by quantifier.
- ▶ The elements in compound adposition cannot move far from each other, although all languages under test are of free word order nature.

Reduction of Compound Adpositions

Compound adpositions become reduced by:

- ▶ Either dropping the basic adpositional part
- ▶ Or assimilating the basic adpositional part as an affix to the noun

Reduction of Compound Adpositions

(12) a.

dar xidmat-e ton guftam
in service-Ezafe you say.Perf.1Sg
'I told you' (**Persian**)

b.

xidmat-e ton guftam
service-Ezafe you say.Perf.1Sg
'I told you' (**Persian**)

c.

sailaab=de sabab tuuñ
flood=Gen.Obl reason from
'because of flood' (**Saraiki**)

d.

sailaab=de sabab.uuñ
flood=Gen.Obl reason.from
'because of flood' (**Saraiki**)

Reduction of Compound Adpositions

In the following tables full compound adpositions and reduced adpositions are given.

	Persian	Urdu	Saraiki
'in the honour of'	dar xidmat	huzuur meñ	huzuur ic
'as'	beh taor	taor par	taor te
'because'	beh sabab	sabab se	sabab tuuñ

Table: Compound Adpositions

	Persian	Urdu	Saraiki
'in the honour of'	— xidmat	huzuur —	huzuur —
'as'	be.taor	taor —	taor —
'because'	be.sabab	sabab —	sabab.uuñ

Table: Reduced Compound Adpositions

Spatial Adpositions in Saraiki

Locative	Directional
aGe 'before'	aG.uuñ 'from before'
picHe 'behind'	picH.uuñ 'from behind'
andir 'inside'	andr.uuñ 'from inside'
Baahir 'outside'	Baahr.uuñ 'from outside'
ute 'above'	ut.uuñ 'from above'
tale 'below'	tal.uuñ 'from below'

Table: Spatial Adpositions in Saraiki

Analogy of reduced compound adpositions with some English Prepositions

Persian/Urdu²:

Full form	Reduced Form
beh taor	betaor
beh sabab	besabab

English:

Old form	New Form
be sidan	beside
be foran	before

²It should be noted that in Persian, both full and reduced forms of these adpositions are in use but in Urdu only reduced forms are used.

Conclusion

- ▶ Data of adpositions in all three languages fit into the hierarchy of adpositional phrases proposed by Svenonoinus.
- ▶ Some abstract nouns in all three languages together with basic adpositions act like compound adpositions. These abstract nouns have different syntactic distribution when compared with other nouns. Syntactic distribution of these abstract nouns is very near to the syntactic distribution of AxialParts.
- ▶ The light part (basic adpositional part) of some compound adpositions is dropped or assimilated to the other part.

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