



Mukri Pronominal Clitics in Prepositional Phrase: An Optimality Theoretic

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(51-76)

Abstract

Historical linguistic studies on words lead to finding clitics. Clitics function like independent words but they are phonologically dependent and in order to be pronounced they attach neighboring elements. Clitics attachment to their hosts can appear in different forms: proclitic, mesoclitic, endoclitics and enclitic. They are very important because clitics are where morphology, syntax, and phonology meet. Mukri Kurdish clitics which are highly mobile can be hosted by different categories including prepositions. Two groups of adpositions are found in Mukri which appear as both preposition and postposition. MacKenzie recognizes two kinds of prepositions in Mukri: simple prepositions and absolute forms. The prepositions of the first group occur immediately before a noun (or a noun phrase) and a pronoun which they govern, while the absolute forms which are fewer in number cannot occur before an independent noun, a noun phrase or an independent pronoun and can take only clitics as their complements. Besides the aforementioned ones compound prepositions and circumpositions are also found in Mukri. Circumpositions can be both simple and complex. Simple circumpositions can take only nominal complements but the complex circumpositions can take both clitics and full forms as their complements. The present article tries to investigate the interaction of different kinds of Mukri adpositions with pronominal clitics using Optimality Theory constraints in Prepositional Phrase (PP). The constraints which play role in clitic placement within PP are NonInitial (cli, PP), Integrity (PP) and LeftMost (cli, L, PP). Data analysis against Optimality Theory constraints showed that constraints NonInitial (cli, PP) and Integrity (PP) dominate LeftMost (cli, L, PP). Finally it was concluded that Mukri Kurdish pronominal clitics place in the second position. The research method of this article is descriptive – analytic and fieldwork. To collect the data the main author's intuition as the native speaker of the dialect under the discussion, 20 hours recorded speech, Mukri Kurdish sites and newspapers have been used.

Keywords: Mukri Kurdish, Pronominal clitics, Adpositions, constraints, Optimality Theory.

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1. Introduction

This study focuses on the pronominal clitics in prepositional phrases in Mukri Kurdish which is a sub-branch of Central Kurdish (CK) spoken in Murkiryan region in North-West of Iran in Oshnaviyeh, Mahabad, Naghadeh, Piranshahr, Bukan and Sardasht. The data of Oshnaviyeh Mukri are analyzed in the present study. The aforementioned variety has a highly rich and complicated clitic system in which clitics are highly mobile and need to be studied within Linguistics Theories. Mukri variety has been studied by both orientalist and native scholars. Since most of the scholars have investigated the typology of Mukri clitics and studying Mukri clitics theoretically was outstandingly ignored, the present paper tries to fill this gap. Various kinds of clitics are found in Mukri which have a tendency to be hosted by hosts belonging to different categories. They are hosted by Nouns, Adverbs (in Mukri), Verb Phrases (VPs), Noun Phrases (NPs), and Prepositional Phrases (PPs). The present paper first tries to study and analyze Mukri pronominal clitics, and then discusses their placement in PPs. Two groups of adpositions are found in Mukri which appear as both preposition and postposition. MacKenzie recognizes two kinds of prepositions in Mukri: simple prepositions and absolute forms. The prepositions of the first group occur immediately before a noun (or a noun phrase) and a pronoun which they govern, while the absolute forms which are fewer in number cannot occur before an independent noun, a noun phrase or an independent pronoun and can take only clitics as their complements. Besides the aforementioned ones, compound prepositions and circumpositions are also found in Mukri. Circumpositions can be both simple and complex. Simple circumpositions can take only nominal complements but the complex circumpositions can take both clitics and full forms as their complements. The present article tries to investigate the interaction of different kinds of Mukri adpositions with pronominal clitics using Optimality Theory constraints in Prepositional Phrase (PP). The OT constraints which play a role in clitic placement within PPs are NonInitial (cli, PP), Integrity (PP) and LeftMost (cli, L, PP). Data analysis against Optimality Theory constraints showed that constraints NonInitial (cli, PP) and Integrity (PP) dominate LeftMost (cli, L, PP). Finally it was concluded that Mukri Kurdish pronominal clitics appear in the second position.

2. Literature Review

A review of the literature on Kurdish pronominal clitics and their interaction with prepositions revealed that this issue has been ignored and there were just two relevant studies. Alinezhad and MohammadiBolbanAbad (2013) tried to investigate the interaction of absolute prepositions of CK with pronominal clitics. Öpengin (2013, p. 282) considered placement of clitics in second position as a morphological phenomenon because they appear after the first morpheme.

3. Methodology

The research method of this study is descriptive – analytic and fieldwork. To collect the data the main author's intuition as the native speaker of the dialect under discussion, 20 hours recorded speech, Mukri Kurdish sites, TV programs and newspapers have been used. All the data have been analyzed within Optimality Theory.

4.Results

Mukri data analysis showed that clitics can function in different domains but they can't appear everywhere within their domains. In other words, OT constraint puts some restrictions for clitics and these restrictions place them in the second position.

5.Discussion

We discussed how OT constraints are applied on Mukri Kurdish data to position clitics.

6.Conclusions

Based on the results mentioned, the OT constraints which play a role in clitic placement within PPs are NonInitial (cli, PP), Integrity (PP) and LeftMost (cli, L, PP). NonInitial (cli, PP) doesn't let the clitic appear at the beginning of its functioning domain. Integrity (PP) prevents elements which are not part of the domain to enter the domain and LeftMost (cli, L, PP) pushes the clitic to appear at the leftmost edge of the domain.