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Dear readers

In this issue of the journal of humanities, some papers have been reviewed and selected from different scholars in the domain of language studies .It goes without saying that areas of interest are diverse and theoretical frameworks in contemporary linguistics are expansive. Broadly speaking there are three major trends in linguistics .Formal linguist are interested in developing formal (read mathematical) rules and principles for studying different building blocks of language .So formal linguists take language as a system with well-defied patterns and symbols. On the other hand, functional linguists give priority to the role of speakers (not pure grammar) and the factors which lubricate language use .As a new offshoot of functional linguistics, cognitive linguistics emerged as a rival to the above mentioned theories .Nowadays, most of the forward looking universities with linguistics program are hard working to institutionalize their academic curriculum with Cognitive approaches to the study of language. In Iran TMU (Tarbiat Modares University) is the leading academic institute that included Cognitive linguistics in its PhD programs .In order to help researchers and academics who are desirous of cognitive linguistics ,the guest editor has given more space to articles with cognitive interest and the appellation for this special issue of the journal comes from that.

SPECIAL ISSUE: Linguistics

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SPECIAL ISSUE: Linguistics
Research Article

A Cognitive Perspective on the So-called *pro-drop* Parameter in Persian

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Abstract

According to the extended projection principle (EPP), it is claimed that all sentences require subjects. In line with such assumption, it is believed that some languages, including Persian, are categorized as *pro-drop* languages and their subject is encoded by the verbal inflection. In fact, the subject position is an empty category designated by *pro* (small pro). Therefore, AGR (verbal inflection) has a purely syntactic function. However, in cognitive grammar, AGR is treated as a symbolic assembly profiling a process whose only independent contribution to the meaning of the verb with which it combines, is the person and number specification of the processual AGR. Considering AGR as a meaningful category, its trajector can correspond with the trajector of the processual component (verb) which is left unexpressed. In contrast to the assumption that AGR is redundant, it shown that the subject (the trajector of the processual component) is not dropped; it does exist but is highly schematic. It is elaborated (becomes specific) by trajector of AGR through correspondence. In other words, Persian speakers conceptualize the subject by only one source of information; that is the trajector of AGR.

Keywords: pro-drop Parameter; Correspondence; Redundancy; Agreement (AGR); Cognitive Grammar (CG).

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1- Introduction

In formalist tradition, notably generative grammar, the linguists made the claim that all sentences require subjects, and encoded this into the extended projection principle (EPP). However, many languages appear to violate this constraint. Take, for example, these perfectly acceptable sentences of Persian:

1) *a. xābid-am.*
sleep.PAST-1SG
'I slept.'

b. raft-and.
go.PAST-3PL
'They went.'

The subject in these sentences seems to be missing. But there is no ambiguity here. Persian native speakers know exactly who is doing the *sleeping* or *going*. This is because the verbs are inflected with endings that tell us who the subject is. This phenomenon is called either *pro-drop* or *null subjects* (Carnie, 2006: 449). Notice that Persian subject position is a case position, because you can have an overt NP (2a) or a pronoun (2b) in subject position.

2) *a.bačče-hā* *raft-and.*
child-PL go.PAST-3PL
'The children went.'

b. ānhā *raft-and.*
they go.PAST-3PL
'They went.'

In fact, languages differ as to the obligatory expression of the subject, depending on the degree of richness of the verbal paradigm (Booij, 2007: 140); that is, in the case of Persian every number/person combination has a different verbal ending; as a result the inflectional paradigm distinguishes all six persons uniquely. Thus, generative linguists have proposed the category *pro* (written in lower-case letters); it is called *little pro* or *baby pro* and appears in case positions (Carnie, 2006: 449-450). As a null element *pro* is specified for the features [±Anaphor] and [±Pronominal] as [-Anaphor, + Pronominal]. This option is not available in non-pro-drop languages like English:

3) *a.*slept.*
*b. *went.*

Just for the sake of a better comparison, let's call the sentences with an overt subject full-fledged sentence.

One might think that in pro-drop languages the dropping (or missing) the overt nominal at the beginning of the sentence is licensed by virtue of the enclitic which is attached to the verb and agrees with the subject in person and number. The subject is thus redundant. However, Langacker (2013: 188) believes that redundancy is not to be disparaged, for in one way or another every language makes extensive use of it. The redundancy afforded by grammatical elements is traditionally referred to as *agreement.* Therefore, in this paper, I will address the redundancy: whether or not the subject or the agreeing enclitic in Persian sentences is redundant? In line with this problem, this paper tries to shed light on the (so-called) *pro-drop* parameter within a theoretical framework whose mechanisms are basically

different from the ones in current orthodoxy. This article is in accordance with the cognitive grammar (CG) approach advocated by Langacker (1987, 1990, 1991, 1999, 2002, 2008, 2009, and 2013). One of the most important claims of CG is that grammar is not hidden but in fact largely overt (what-you-see-is-what-you-get (WYSIWYG)). Grammar in CG is viewed as a vast network of intersecting componential hierarchies: it is neither generative nor derivational, but rather symbolic. For CG, the goal of linguistic description is to characterize the structures and abilities that comprise a speaker's grasp of linguistic convention (Arnett, 2004: iv). This knowledge is procedural, and the internalized grammar which represents this knowledge is *a structured inventory of linguistic units*, a unit being a thoroughly mastered, preassembled structure that can be used automatically without attention to the specifics of its internal composition (Langacker, 1987: 57).

This article includes four other sections: in Section 2, some basic features of Persian sentence structure are mentioned. Section 3 is about the theoretical framework (CG) and the theoretical meta-language which helps us to analyze the data; in Section 4 it is discussed that how the *so-called pro-drop* construction is profiled in CG. The role of AGR and redundancy is put forward in this section. The last section will naturally be devoted to results and findings.

2- Persian: Some Basic Features

To start with the analysis of the *so-called pro-drop* phenomenon, a very brief introduction to the sentence structure in Persian seems to be due. Persian is an SOV, pro-drop language with partially free word-order. Therefore, it is possible to see the constituents in almost any order; even the occurrence of the constituents after verb is also possible in spoken register. In the following examples the canonical word order of Persian sentences has been represented:

4) *a. (sinā)* *ketāb* *rā* *xarid-Ø.*
Sinā book DO buy.PAST-3SG
'Sina bought the book.'

b. (sinā) *ketāb-i* *xarid-Ø.*
Sinā book-INDF buy.PAST-3SG
'Sina bought a book.'

As can be seen, the initial position of the sentence is occupied by the subject; its occurrence is optional; therefore it can be omitted (*ketāb rā xarid-Ø* or *ketāb-i xarid-Ø*). When the object is definite, it is followed by the direct object marker, *rā*; however, when it is indefinite, the suffix *–i* attaches to the object. The canonical position of the verb is sentence-final; it is always followed by an enclitic which obligatorily agrees with subject in person and number. In addition, in Persian verbal system there is weak or strong stem suppletion; that is, all past-tense forms have a stem *'xor-d'* (eat-PAST), *'raf-t'* (go-PAST) and all present-tense forms share another *'xor'* (eat.PRES) or *'ro'* (go.PRES). Accordingly, the inflectional verbal endings in Persian are as follows:

Table 1. inflectional enclitics in past tense

	SINGULAR	PLURAL
1st	*-am*	*-im*
2nd	*-i*	*-id*

3rd	*-Ø*	*-and*

Table 1. inflectional enclitics in present tense

	SINGULAR	PLURAL
1st	*-am*	*-im*
2nd	*-i*	*-id*
3rd	*-ad*	*-and*

Enough preliminaries. Now, let's have a brief look at the background of *pro-drop* phenomenon in Persian. Almost all the previous studies on *pro-drop* construction agree on the existence of an unexpressed subject which is the same as the inflectional endings of the verb in person and number. The grammarians (Ahmadi Givi and Anvar (1998), Qarib et. al. (1991), Emad Afshar (1993), and Natel Khanlari (2005) among others) have always pointed to this null element under the title of *zamir-e nāmalfuz* (unexpressed pronoun), *zamir-e mostatar* (covert pronoun), or *zamir-e mahzuf* (omitted pronoun) but there is no explanation of its deletion; it seems that they consider this phenomenon an obvious case.

On the other hand, the analysis made by linguists is almost always rooted from generative grammar (Zahedi (2008) and Motevalian N. (2016) in particular). *pro* is considered as an empty category which has definite reference: its interpretation is like that of an overt pronoun. In their analysis, either the distribution of *pro* has been studied or a cross-linguistic description of *pro* has been brought.

3- Theoretical Framework

Now, let's have a brief review on some basic theoretical notions before proceeding with the analysis.

3-1- Symbolic Assembly

One of the main assumptions of CG is the symbolic nature of language in which only semantic (S), phonological (P), and symbolic (Σ) (combining the first two) units are permitted as the content requirements. The morpheme *cat* can thus be given as [Σ[CAT]/[cat]], in which [CAT] shows its semantic pole and the phonological pole is rendered by [cat]. It is a simplex structure, but we know that a defining property of human language is the formation of complex structures out of simpler ones. In Figure (1b), we see two symbolic structures combining to produce a higher-level symbolic structure, represented by outer box (Langacker, 2013: 15). Any higher-level symbolic structure can itself enter into a combinatory relationship, producing a more complex structure, Figure (1c) exhibits a more complex symbolic structures:

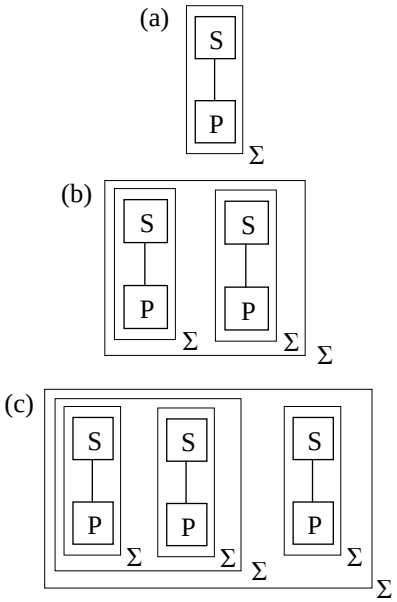


FIG. 1

It is easily retrievable from the above figure that each symbolic structure, either simplex or complex, is made up of at least three components: 1) phonological structure, 2) semantic structure, and 3) symbolic structure, therefore these structures constitute a symbolic assembly.

3-2- Meaning in CG

In CG, meaning is identified with conceptualization which has been characterized as being dynamic, interactive, imagistic and imaginative. In this approach, a meaning is drawn from both conceptual content and construal. By construal, cognitivists believe in the alternate ways the conceptualizer conceive and portray the same situation. In order to have a uniform way of referring to (conceptual) content, the term domain (base) is adopted in CG. The role of meaning in the grammatical analyses is so strong that the distinction between grammar and semantics is not at all a sharp one, in a way that CG can be considered as a model founded on the foundational concepts of Cognitive Semantics.

The semantic value of a linguistic expression is determined by the combination of both base and profile. Profile is a technical term in the literature of CG which stands out as the specific focus of attention to some part of base. When you profile something, you are in fact singling out an aspect of its base that a predication designates. Whenever we speak about profile, we will face an asymmetry which is the result of the difference in prominence: in a profiled relation one entity is always more prominent with respect to other profiled entity. This entity is called trajector (tr), and the less prominent profiled participant other than the trajector is called landmark (lm).

Although the following two examples are treated as synonymous expressions in the predominating assumptions of the current-day leading linguistic school of thought, namely generative grammar, they represents two distinctive semantic values in CG, since the degree of prominence of profiled participants in (a) differs from (b). It is shown in Figure 2:

5) *a. ketāb-e* *ruy-e* *miz*
book-EZ on-EZ table
'the book on the table'

? *b. miz-e* *zir-e* *ketāb*
table-EZ under-EZ book
'the table under the book'

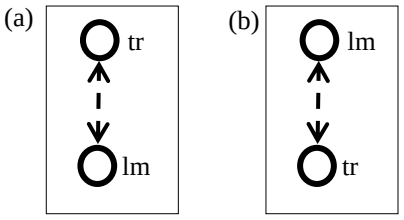


FIG. 2

3-3- Action Chain

One of the fundamental aspects of the sentences is the structure of actions and events and how they are coded linguistically. Langacker (1991: 13) uses a billiard ball model to describe prototypical transitive event structure. On a billiard table you observe two or more discrete objects (balls) that interact energetically through physical contact. The first ball which is moved by the external energy transmits its energy to the next ball, and it continues until the energy finishes or there is no other ball. The point is that the viewer

(V)/conceptualizer of the action are distinct from the table (setting) and from the balls (participants). This scene is depicted in the following figure, in which the double-line arrow represents the energy transition and the single-line arrow shows the change of the participant. The leftmost or the first participant is the energy source (head) and the rightmost or the last participant is the energy sink (tail).

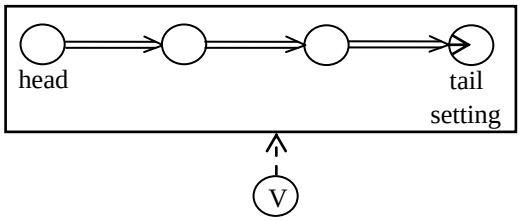


FIG. 3

Quite similar to this situation, the speakers view their world as filled with discrete things that have interaction with each other through physical contact. This physical contact often involves the transfer of energy from one object to the next. In fact, the billiard ball model is an archetypal conception that is part of a speaker's construal of the world. It is not only a linguistic model, but perhaps one that is basic to human cognition (Langacker 1986: 3).

The second archetypal conception is the stage model which reveals the viewing arrangement in which the speaker perceives the world. Most often speakers interact with the world by focusing attention (usually sight) on some region. As pointed out in the billiard ball model, here the participants of the events are also conceived as distinct from the observer, and the setting which are normally off-stage. As Langacker (1986: 3) states participants and events take place within an inclusive and stable setting. Such conception of event structure forms a fundamental part of the prototypical transitive event. Consider the following example:

6) *ali* *šise* *rā* *šekast-Ø.*
Ali glass DO break.PAST-3SG.
'Ali broke the glass.'

In a prototypical transitive event like that sketched in figure 5, the head of the action chain is agent (AG). This participant initiates the action by the transmission of energy to other participant which is the tail of the action chain and is usually patient (PAT). Agents are prototypically human entities and have the grammatical function of subject. On the other hand patients are usually inanimate entities which are affected by the energy flow and grammatically functions as object.

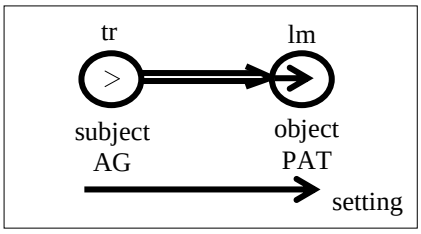


FIG. 4

In addition to these two main participants there might be other participants in an action chain. Instruments (INST) are often physical objects by which the agent transmits the energy along the chain toward the patient.

7) *ali* *bā* *sang* *šiše* *rā*
Ali with stone glass DO
šekast-Ø.
break.PAST-3SG.
'Ali broke the glass with the stone.'

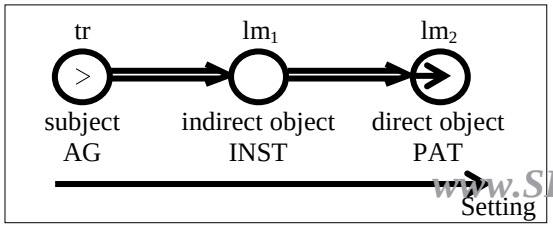


FIG. 5

Experiencer (EXP) is another participant that might be coded in an event. A prototypical experiencer is human who engage in mental activity of some kind in response to relations and/or processes along the action chain (Smith, 1994: 9).

The typical relationships among the basic role archetypes arranged in a grid according to the natural classes into which into which they fall: active vs. passive participants in source vs. target domains. Figure 6 represents these relationships (Langacker, 1991: 327):

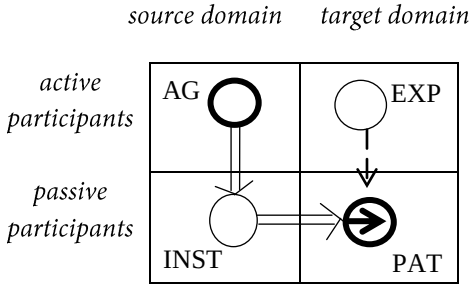


FIG. 6

3-4- Prototypical Constructions

In theoretical linguistics *'construction'* is used in different approaches to language, to the extent that it is the common keyword of all the cognitive approaches to grammar. Since this notion differs in these approaches; here I will only focus on 'construction' in CG. In a very simple and brief definition Langacker (2009: 10) states that '[a construction] is an assembly of symbolic structures'. It means that constructions are made up of symbolic assemblies, hence in CG a specific or schematic construction, a fixed or novel construction, a lexical or grammatical construction is basically treated the same. This kind of definition is approximately similar to the ones in the other cognitive grammars (e.g. Construction Grammar (CxG) by Goldberg (1996)). However, in CG 'construction' differs according to the number of the composite structures. In a typical construction, two component symbolic structures are integrated to form a composite symbolic structure. In other words, in Langacker's terminology 'construction is compositional in nature in which two component structures, (Σ_1) and (Σ_2) are integrated (i) and make a prototypical construction (Σ_3).

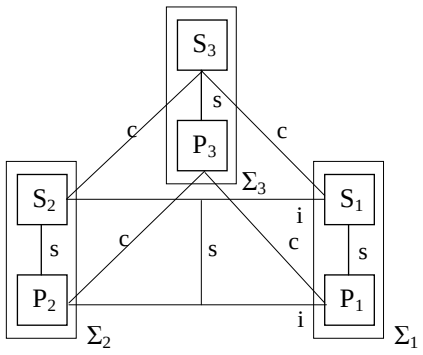


FIG. 7

The integration exists at the semantic and the phonological poles, their phonological integration serving to symbolize their semantic integration. In addition to horizontal relationship, the component structures have compositional (c) relationship with the composite structure; it is vertical and is seen at both poles. There is another relationship in Figure 7; it is the familiar relation which is called symbolic (s) and exists between phonological and semantic poles of each assembly.

Keeping this mechanism in mind, now consider the phrase *pesar-e bāhuš* 'smart boy' depicted in FIG 8.

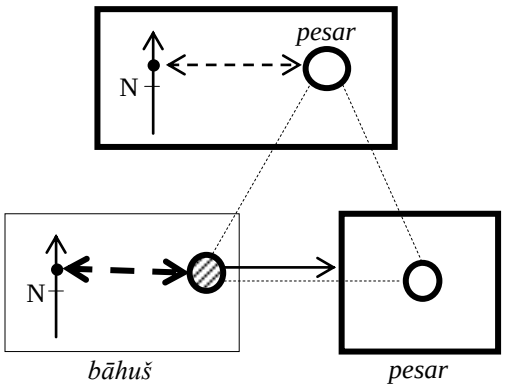


FIG. 8

At the semantic pole, the adjective *bāhuš* 'smart' profiles a relationship that situates its trajector on a scale of intelligence (N stands for Normal). The noun *pesar* 'boy' profiles a thing. The semantic integration of *bāhuš* and *pesar* hinges on a correspondence between the adjective's trajector and the noun's profile (marked by dotted lines). By superimposing these elements and merging their specifications, we obtain the composite semantic structure, in which a thing characterized as *pesar* is located on a scale of intelligence

As it can be seen in the above figure, there exist different relationships between the participants of the construction, depicted by the dotted lines or arrow. Correspondences are perhaps the most fundamental descriptive factors to be considered in a construction. They indicate how component and composite structures fit together in a coherent assembly (as opposed to being an arbitrary collection of unrelated elements). At the semantic pole, they specify the conceptual overlap between component structures, thus providing the basis for their integration. They also specify how each component structure overlaps with the composite structure, thereby indicating what it contributes to the unified conception that emerges.

In addition to correspondences, the structures constituting a symbolic assembly are also linked by categorizing relationships. This latter relationship link component structures to one another. Whenever we speak of 'elaboration', we are facing a categorizing relationship. Let's consider the phrase *zir-e miz* 'under the table'. It is consisted of a preposition schematized as follows:

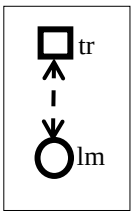


FIG. 9

And a noun phrase profiled as a thing sketched in FIG 10:

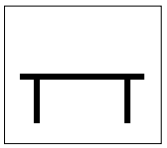


FIG. 10

When these two structures are integrated *miz* corresponds with a schematic substructure (lm) in *zir*; the corresponding relationship is shown by the dotted line in FIG 11:

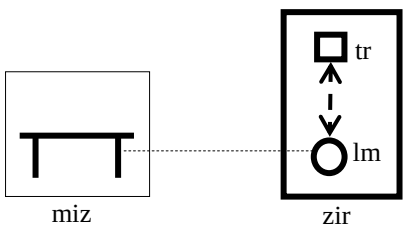


FIG. 11

In this composite structure, there is a schematic substructure (lm) in one of the component structures *(zir)* which the other component serves to elaborate, i.e. characterize in finer-grained detail; that is, it is characterized with more details. In such a situation it is said that 'the substructure of *zir* is elaborated by the other component *(miz)*. A schematic element elaborated by another component is called an *elaboration site*, or *e-site* for short; the notation showing e-site is hatching.

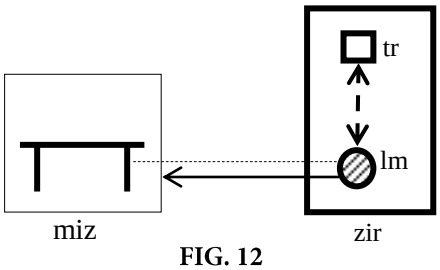


FIG. 12

As it is shown in figure 12 the corresponding relationship (the dotted line) is between two things; it is a kind of referential relation: the landmark of the preposition and the profile of the nominal refer to the same entity: they are two manifestations of a single entity in the composite conception. On the other hand, the elaboration relation which is depicted by solid arrow → is a matter of characterization which links the landmark of the preposition to the square surrounding *miz*.

4- Discussion

With this theoretical framework in mind, in what follows, the case of *pro-drop* parameter in Persian is examined within CG.

4-1- Agreement in Full-fledged Sentences

Predictably, agreement (AGR) plays a key role in languages with rich inflection, including Persian. The role of this category in *so-called pro-drop* languages is undeniable. Let us preface our examination of the meaning of AGR in Persian by considering how verb AGR is viewed within CG. As it was mentioned before, CG is inherently meaningful; therefore, its components must be meaningful. Accordingly, AGR which is usually treated as a meaningless element and is considered as only a syntactic device must be a meaningful constituent in CG. The following example exemplifies a full-fledged sentence in Persian:

7) *man ʔin roman rā xānd-am.*
I this novel DO read.PAST-1SG
'I read this novel.'

The 1SG AGR marker *–am* which appears as a suffix on the verb obviously indicates that the subject (tr) is a 1SG entity. Langacker believes that the verb AGR can be viewed in either of two ways: 1) a nominal element, 2) a verbal inflection that agrees with subject or object (1991: 375). Although in some languages there may be good reason to analyze verb AGR markers as nominal, AGR markers are not generally categorized as nouns in Indo-European languages. Langacker's consideration of AGR is as follows:

> *'a marker of this sort designates a process whose characterization is schematic apart from what it indicates about the participant in question; it is manifested morphologically on a verb stem that generally characterizes the process in greater detail. But despite its schematicity and phonological*

dependence, the marker is categorized as a verb on the basis of its processual profile' (1991: 375).

In other words, a verb AGR marker can be viewed as a schematic verbal predication (which appears in Persian as a verbal suffix) whose only independent contribution to the meaning of the verb to which it attaches is the person, and number specification of the trajector of the process that it profiles schematically. Otherwise its schematic meaning overlaps with and is subsumed by the meaning of the lexical verb.

The following figure represents the semantic structure of the general schema for verb AGR in Persian (e.g. 1SG):

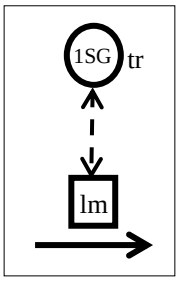
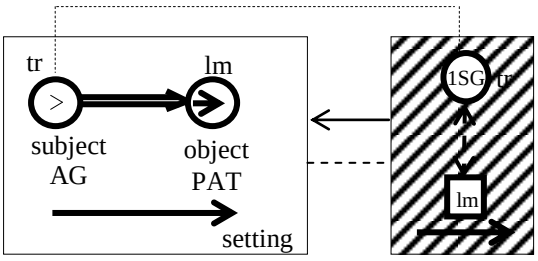


FIG. 13- Agreement (1SG)

The schematic process profiled by 1SG verb AGR involves only the conception of a relation between two entities extending through time. The top circle represents the *tr* in the schematic process, the lower box represents the *lm* in the same process (an entity which corresponds to the rest of the action chain), and the line connecting the circle and box signifies the symbolic relation between these two entities (Smith, 1994: 33-34). The person and number specification contributed by AGR is indicated within the *tr*. The arrow at the bottom of the figure signifies that the relation is construed processually, i.e. as continuing through a span of conceived time. The box encompassing the schematically designated process indicates that the participants and the relation between them represent the semantic pole of a symbolic unit symbolized by a particular phonological unit (which is not included in the diagram). Profiling is designated by boldface. Given the assumption that verb AGR designates a schematic process, all aspects of the process are in profile, including the time line (which represents the temporal profile of the process).

Now, it is time to see how the verb AGR (FIG. 13) combines with the verb. In the following figure, (14a) representing a specific process and is a prototypical transitive verb in Persian combines with (14b) depicting AGR (1SG) in CG:



(a) Processual predication (b) Agreement (1SG)

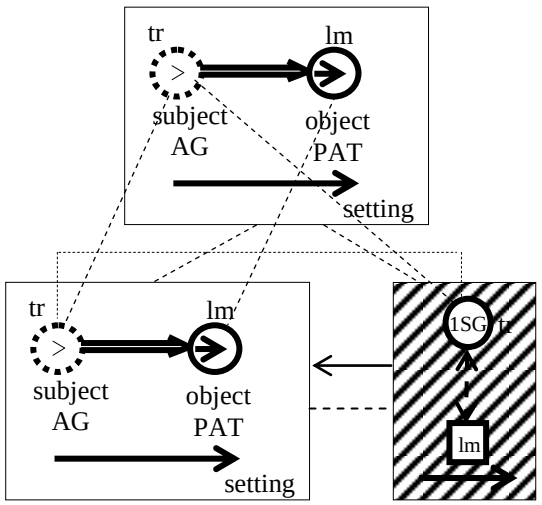
FIG. 14- verb + AGR

What makes verb AGR combines with verb is the semantic overlap of two predications: both (verb and AGR) encode a process in which a *tr* is in relationship with an *lm* (ibid). This semantic overlap in figure 14 is represented by dotted line that connects two square. The trajector of 1SG AGR corresponds with the trajector of the verb (subject). The correspondence between two trajectors is shown by dotted line that connects them. It shows that the two 'things' are identical. As it is represented in figure 14 verb AGR is the e-site of a more

specific process profiled by verb. In other words, when verb and AGR combines, the verb elaborates a process which is specified in AGR morpheme schematically.

4-3- Agreement in *pro-drop* Sentences

The situation of AGR in the so-called pro-drop sentences is the same as the full-fledged sentences; the only difference is that the subject is left unexpressed (depicted by dotted circle). The following figure illustrates the composite structure of a so-called pro-drop sentence like *ʔin romān rā xānd-am*.



(a) Processual predication with unexpressed subject (b) Agreement (1SG)

FIG. 15

Correspondence lines are a graphic indication of conceptual overlap. Component and composite structures can overlap to any extent, even completely. A case in point is the *so-called pro-drop* sentence in Persian. In such constructions, the clitic which is attached to the verb stem in order to represent person and number evokes no element not specified in as much or greater detail by the clausal component *'roman xānd-an'*.

The clausal component profiles the specific process of *reading*. Its trajector is identified by an unexpressed nominal (or pronoun). The clitic *–am* evokes a process, but only schematically (hence the arrow representing it contains ellipses). It serves to identify the trajector as the subject through correspondence. Thus all the basic elements of one component have counterparts in the other.

In particular, the specific process profiled by the clause corresponds to the schematic one profiled by the clitic. This entails that the trajectors also correspond. The clitic, however, provides no information that is not also supplied by the clause, so when corresponding elements are superimposed to form the composite conception, the latter proves identical to the clausal component.

4-4- Redundancy

As it was pointed out, due to the identity of the subject nominal and the verbal inflection the scholars consider the clitic as a redundant constituent. Redundancy is not to be disparaged, for in one way or another every language makes extensive use of it. By providing the listener with extra clues, it helps ensure that a partially degraded message can still be understood. It allows the speaker to either emphasize a certain notion through *repetition* or to portray it from *multiple perspectives*. The second-position clitics of Persian exemplify the natural cognitive strategy of *zooming in* from general to particular. Anchored by the initial element, they frame the clause by

introducing a schematic depiction of the profiled process, its central participant, and their relationship to the speech situation (langacker, 2013: 188-189).

In line with Langacker, Smith (1994, 33-34) also states that redundancy of AGR markings is a contributing factor to their being taken as meaningless in many theoretical approaches, though there is no reason a priori to make such an assumption. Viewing verb AGR as a schematically characterized process reflects a fundamental difference between CG and autonomist accounts which view AGR markings as belonging to a completely different (i.e. meaningless) linguistic category from other clausal elements. In a CG analysis AGR markers are linguistic predications which differ semantically from other predications only in degree of abstractness and/or schematicity. It is important to note that abstractness of meaning is not the same as lack of meaning.

The redundancy afforded by grammatical elements is traditionally referred to as *'agreement'*. The Persian clitics would thus be described as agreeing with the subject in person and number. The traditional notion of agreement is highly problematic, however; often the *'agreeing'* elements have nothing to agree with or provide differing information about the entity characterized (Barlow 1992). CG takes another approach. The kinds of redundancy in question are not handled by *'copying'* information from one part of an expression to another, but simply as matters of multiple symbolizations (Langacker, 2013: 188). That is, information about some entity is symbolized by more than one component structure within the same symbolic assembly and thus has multiple manifestations in a single complex expression. The representations of that entity (like the trajector in figure 15) correspond to one another and map onto the same element in the composite conception.

Yet, this overlap varies in extent, and sometimes the *'agreeing'* element (clitic in our example) is the only source of the information in question. This is the situation of the *so-called pro-drop* sentences. In Persian, subject is omitted and left unexpressed; therefore, in a sentence like *ʔin roman rā xānd-am* (I read this novel) the clitic is the only element serving to identify the trajector. In this case each component structure (both 15a and 15b) evokes a highly schematic entity that the other specifies in greater detail. The clausal component *'ʔin romān rā xānd-an'* evokes a highly schematic trajector which the clitic *'-am'* identifies as the subject. Conversely, AGR evokes a schematic process which the clause identifies as that of *xānd-an* (to read). When pieced together, the two component structures afford a full characterization of the profiled event.

5- Conclusion

In this paper, we have seen that within CG the prototypical sense of AGR can be motivated as meaningful by viewing it as a schematic processual predication whose only independent contribution to the meaning of the verb with which it combines, is to designate the trajector of the processual AGR.

By providing the means to analyze AGR as meaningful, CG allows us to explain its occurrence in the *so-called pro-drop* constructions as a completely regular extension of its prototypical value in full-fledged constructions. The semantic value of the unexpressed nominal in processual component (15a) is achieved through correspondence between the trajector of the processual component and the trajector of AGR. In fact, it is evinced that the trajector of a processual component is not dropped; it does exist but is highly schematic. It is elaborated (comes in finer-grained detail) by trajector of AGR through correspondence. By keeping the nominal unexpressed, the Persian speakers conceptualize the subject by only one source of information; that is the trajector of AGR.

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ویژه‌نامهٔ زبان‌شناسی

چشم‌اندازی شناختی به پارامتر به‌اصطلاح ضمیرانداز در زبان فارسی

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چکیـده

با توجه به اصل فرافکنی گسترده که نشأت گرفته از نگرش زبان‌شناسان زایشی به زبان است، همهٔ جمله‌ها نیازمند فاعل هستند. همسو با چنین نگرشی، ادعا می‌شود که برخی زبانها از جمله فارسی در گروهی قرار می‌گیرند که اصطلاحاً ضمیرانداز نامیده می‌شوند. در این نوع زبانها فاعل به کمک شناسه پایانی فعل رمزگذاری می‌شود. در واقع، در چنین زبانهایی جایگاه فاعل تهی انگاشته می‌شود که با *pro* نشان داده می‌شود. بنابراین، در چنین رویکردی مقولهٔ مطابقه (تصریف فعلی) نقشی صرفاً نحوی دارد و مقوله‌ای فاقد معنا در نظر گرفته می‌شود. اما در دستور شناختی مطابقه یک هم‌گذاری نمادین تلقی می‌شود که فرایندی را نمابرداری می‌کند که سهم آن در ساختار جمله تعیین شخص و شمار فرایند مطابقه است. با در نظر گرفتن مطابقه به عنوان یک مقولهٔ معنامند در دستور شناختی، متحرکِ آن می‌تواند با متحرکِ عنصر فرایندی دیگر (فعل) که ناملفوظ است، انطباق داشته باشد. برخلاف فرضی که در آن مطابقه مقوله‌ای حشو تلقی می‌شود، در رویکرد شناختی به دستور فاعل عنصری حذف-شده نیست، بلکه وجود دارد ولی به شدت طرح‌واره‌ای است. این سازهٔ طرح‌واره‌ای به کمک متحرکِ مطابقه و از طریق انطباق گسترش می‌یابد. به عبارت دیگر، برخلاف جمله‌های تمام‌عیاری که در آنها فاعل جمله بازنمایی آوایی دارد، فارسی‌زبانان فاعل جمله را در ساخت‌های به‌اصطلاح ضمیرانداز صرفاً با یک منبع مفهوم‌سازی می‌کنند و آن هم متحرک مقولهٔ مطابقه است.

واژه‌های کلیدی: پارامتر ضمیراندازی؛ انطباق؛ حشو؛ مطابقه؛ دستور شناختی.

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