Syntactic Templates of the Clause in Central Kurdish According to Role and Reference Grammar

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Abstract:

Clause in Role and Reference Grammar has a layered structure (LS) which is based on two fundamental distinctions: the distinction between the argument and the predicate on the one hand, and the distinction between the argument and the non-argument constituents of the clause on the other hand. The aim of this research is to study the syntactic templates of the clause in Central Kurdish simple sentences according to Role and Reference Grammar. Data are analyzed by following Van Valin´s framework and besides them, the researchers' intuition, as the native speakers of the accent plays a decisive role in evaluating the data. The research´s findings include: categorizing the CKD's predicates into two groups of verbal and non-verbal predicates, dividing the verbal predicates based on the number of their arguments, defining the non-verbal predicates according to the part of speech of their arguments, and finally, introducing the non-universal elements in CKD's clause structure.

Key words: layered structure, Role and Reference Grammar, argument, verbal predicate, non-verbal predicate

1. Introduction:

The syntactic structure of the clause in every language is one of the basic grammatical issues, and accordingly, other constituents of the clause such as NPs and PPs are defined in comparison with this structure (Van Valin, 2005:3). The clause structure in RRG according to Van Valin (ibid) has a layered or semantically based structure which is believed to be a universal characteristic of the clause. RRG depicts one presentation for the sentence and it is in complying with the real form of the sentence. In a broader term, language in RRG framework is defined as a system of social and communicative actions, in which the grammatical structure is interpreted with respect to communicative and semantic functions (Van Valin & Lapolla, 1997:13). Erteschik-Shir (2007:4-5), on the other hand, puts his hand on the organization of RRG, in which the grammatical structures are presented as constructional templates with morpho-syntactic, and semantic properties.

Evaluating the clause structure and the clause constituents according to the layered structure (LS) stems from the theory that interpreting a piece of a language by only paying attention to its syntactic features is incomplete (Van Valin, 2005:3). Hengeveld (1990:130) as a functional grammarian refers to four different layers in his Functional Grammar theory (FG) that each one of these layers is expressed through a certain constructional unit and a certain reference. He (ibid) names four layers for the clause which from the top to the bottom is arranged as the utterance layer, proposition layer, predication layer, and predicate layer. These four layers according to Van Valin & Laoplla (1997:47) correspond to the sentence, clause, core and nucleus layers respectively. Hengeveld (1990:8-14), moreover, refers to the elements in this LS under the titles of operator and satellite. These elements reveal the grammatical and lexical information of each layer, and offer the following template for the sentence, "I saw him yesterday."

Figure 1. Predication template with grammatical and lexical modifiers (Hengeveld, 1990:9)

operator   kernel structure   satellite

(Past $e_i:[see_v(I)(him)](e_i)$ yesterday$_{Adv}$ (e_i))

The LS templates of the clause in RRG as Van Valin (1990:194) says, has been taken from Olson's (1981) PhD dissertation which is on analyzing Barai[1] clause structure, in which Olson proposes three layers for clause with operators belonging to each one of the layers. Van Valin (1990:195) refers to Foley & Van Valin's (1984) organization of the operators as follow:

Figure 2. Operators organization in the LS of the clause (Foley & Van Valin 1984)

(illocutionary force(evidential(tense(situation [<u>PP/Adv</u>…(mood[<u>NP(NP)</u>direction(aspect [<u>predicate</u>])])])])))))

periphery   core   nucleus

Van Valin (1990:195) counts some problems for this presentation, among them, lack of any specific place for question words and topicalized elements in this diagram. Also, operators in the external layers are a part of periphery operators of the core which in reality, define the clause layers, and not the core's.

RRG devises a symmetric, bilateral base for the clause structure, i.e. relational and non-relational structure. Relational structure of the clause refers to the relations of a predicate with its arguments, and non-relational structure refers to the hierarchical structure of the clause elements (Van Valin, 2005:4). He (ibid) also believes that the non-relational structure of the clause appears as LS, and reveals two basic distinctions; a distinction between predicate and non-predicate elements, and a distinction between argument and non-argument elements, as well. In the following figure, Van Valin (2005:4) presents the components of the LS in a clause which is applied on the CKD sentence, "men Jamâlem la dūkane

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[1] One of the Papua new guinea languages

dit.". An important feature of RRG which gives it the universal applicability is non-linearity of its components which is clear in the below-mentioned figure:

Figure3. LS components in a clause (Van Valin,2005:4)
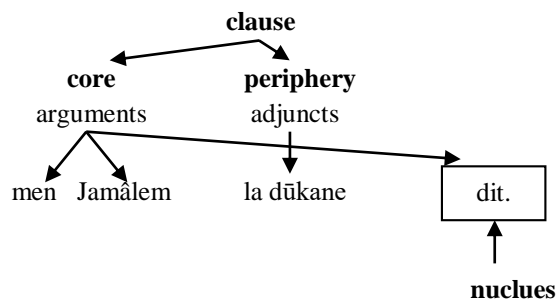
RRG approaches the grammatical relations from a specific point of view; means in the first stance, these relations are assumed as non-basic relations. Therefore, there is not any distinction between direct and indirect object from one hand, and between subject and object on the other hand. In the second stance, RRG does not believe in the universal features of grammatical relations (Van Valin 2005:89). Grammatical categories of the clause are presented in the frame of operators in RRG, which Van Valin (2005:8) put this closed class of grammatical or functional categories out of the nucleus domain. Operators, actually define the layers of clause, core and nucleus, among them are the operators of aspect, tense and illocutionary force.

2. Materials and Methods:

The presented paper has a descriptive-analytic structure which in the first stance presents and defines the RRG framework of Van Valin (2005). In the second stance and after a brief introduction to the theory, CKD's data are selected from the written sources such as grammatical books and also from the daily interactions of the dialect which are evaluated by the writers' intuitions as the native speakers of the dialect. In the rest of the section, the syntactic structure and templates of the simple sentences in RRG are introduced. Reaching this goal and in the first step, the universal and non-universal constituents of the clause are introduced generally, then and in the second step, sub-divisions of each group are introduced.

2.1. Universal constituents of the clause:

The constituent elements of the clause in RRG consist of nucleus, as the main unit beheld predicate, and core which in turn, beheld nucleus, arguments and peripheries (figure 3). As it will be presented, RRG does not believe in VPs as the building blocks of the clause structure, instead introduces nucleus or predicate as the main constituent of the clause (Van Valin, 2005:5). Adverbials are put in periphery layer and adjectives are viewed as the operators of NPs in RRG (Van Valin, ibid:19). In the following example, the LS of a simple CKD sentence is presented:

1. [mén]ARG1[jamâl.ém]ARG2 [la dūkan.e]PERI [dit]NUC.
   I   jamâl.1SG   at store.DAT   see.PAST
   "I saw Jamal at the store".

The hierarchical layouts of these units are arranged according to their semantic and not syntactic features; therefore, they are independent of the linear orders of their elements, and the constituents have the capability of natural arrangements in any language. In the following table, each semantic unit is located in front of its symmetric syntactic unite (Van Valin, 2005:5):

360

Table 1. Relationships between semantic and syntactic units in LS

Syntactic units	Semantic units
nucleus	predicate
core argument	argument related to semantic presentation of the predicate
periphery	Non-argument
core	predicate+argument
clause	Predicate+argument+non-argument

2.2. Non-universal constituents of the clause:

There are other constituents in LS that are presented in all the layers and in contrary to the universal constituents, the linear order in contrast to non-linearity of the elements in universal constituent are decisive in determining their positions. These elements consist of pre-core slot (PrCS) where an element inside the core extracted from its normal place to a place before the core, and post-core slot (PoCS) where an element from inside the core extracted to a place after the core (Van Valin 2005:5), such as the following two examples, respectively refer to PrCS and PoCS:

2. [PRE-CORE [kanje] CORE [jamâl hât-awa]]?
        When   jamal   PAST.come back-OP
    "when did Jamal come back?"
3. [CORE [jamâl ba   to   gūt-i]   POST-CORE [či?]]
        jamâl   to you PAST.tell-3SG   what
    "what did Jamal tell you?"

Van Valin (2005:6) introduces two other slots outside the clause domain, but inside the sentence which are called right and left detached positions (RDP & LDP respectively). Mainly, these two slots are devoted to adjuncts extraposed from the clause to these positions outside the clause, and after their extraposition transformation, they replace an NP in their position in order to keep the Verb valence unchanged. The below examples contain LDP and RDP respectively:
4. peš esta,   bist-m   ka   dar bâz-bun.
    Before now   PAST.hear-1SG that PAST.escape-become.3PL
    "before now, I heard that (they) escaped.

5. da-yân-nâs-im,   aw kur-ân-a.
    OP-3PL-know-1SG, that boy-pl-DEF
    "I know them, those boys."

Van Valin (2005:8) distinguishes between the universal and non-universal features of the clause, i.e. the universal features such as nucleus, core, periphery and clause are semantically based, and the non-universal features are pragmatically based. The basic foundation of LS according to Van Valin (ibid:19) is summarized in the distinction between core and adjuncts or in other word, between argument and non-argument constituents. He divides adjuncts into two groups: phrasal adjuncts include PPs and non-phrasal adjuncts include Adverbs. Whenever PP defines the temporal and spatial features of the core, then is categorized as the phrasal adjuncts. The structural similarities between clause and NP in RRG is rooted in this reality that both of them have argument in their structures, i.e. RRG analyzes the syntactic structure of the NP in comparison with the syntactic structure of the clause. Moreover, both the NP and the clause syntactic structures are formed according to semantic differences (Van Valin & Lapolla, 1997:53).

RRG introduces two generalized semantic roles or macro-roles which are actor and undergoer. These two macro-roles are the two basic arguments of the predicate, and there are not any theta relations in this theory (Van Valin. 2005:53). Actor includes thematic roles as agent, experience, and undergoer includes thematic roles as patient and

recipient. RRG takes advantages of Vendler's (1967) Aktionsart theory which according to it, state of affairs are divided into four groups of state, action, achievement and accomplishment.

3. Results and discussion:

In this section, the universal and non-universal constituents of LS in CKD are introduced, hereupon, verbal and non-verbal predicates and the related arguments are presented. Introducing the verbal predicates merged with their semantic characteristics, and finally, the syntactic templates are accrued.

3.1. Universal constituents of the clause in CKD

In order to have a more tangible understanding of the subject matter, it is preferred to begin the discussion with an example. In the following sentence, a simple CKD sentence clause with its constituents is presented:

6. [Kamâl]$_{ARG}$ [dûyne la dūkân-i]$_{PERI}$ [ketab-aka-y] $_{ARG}$ [keri]$_{NUC}$
    kamâl   yesterday at store-OBL   book-DEF-ACC   PAST.buy.3SG   "kamâl bought the book from the store yesterday."

As it is clear, there are two arguments and a nucleus in the core, nucleus contains a transitive verb, and there are also two peripheries describing the core. An important point worth mentioning here is the propositional suffix that attaches to the past tense transitive verb in CKD and shows agreement, always appears in third person singular (3SG) form which is phonologically null, if the undergoer argument be in the form of an NP or an independent proposition. In the above example, the second argument plays the macro-role of undergoer, and the agreement suffix is in 3SG, which is phonologically null.

A question exposed here, that is, if other constituents instead of transitive or intransitive verbs could take the nucleus position? Answering this question needs more illustrations. The bellow example (example 7) contains a copula as its nucleus. The linking verb "būn" means "be" in the present tense attaches to its host in the form of enclitic "-a" in CKD. In this example, the host for enclitic "-a" is the PP "la bèn miz" means "under the table", but the copula carries tense and illocutionary force features. Therefore it cannot plays the role of nucleus, and just plays the role of an operator for the clause:

7. pūl-aka   la bèn/ žer   miz-a.
    money-DEF   at under   table-PRES.COP   "the money is under the table."

3.1.1. Verbal predicates in CKD:

Verbal predicates in CKD are divided into three categories according to the number of their arguments including one, two and three argument predicates. One argument predicates are in fact, intransitive verbs that their valence would be completed by the presence of one NP. The following template is offered for these types:

Figure 4. one argument predicates template in CKD
a) [ARGUMENT$_{NP, pro}$ NUC$_{INT.V}$]$_{CORE}$ (PERIPHERY)

b) [NUC$_{INT.V}$ ▪ARGUMENT $_{SUF. PRO]\,CORE}$ (PERIPHERY)

As it is clear, in template (a) the only argument of the predicate consists of an NP or a proposition, but in template (b) the argument attaches to the end of the nucleus as an enclitic. In the following examples, both of these templates are presented respectively:

8. [[$_{core}$[$_{arg}$men   [$_{peri}$la   târân.e]   [$_{nuc}$hat-(i)m.]]]
            1SG   from Tehran.OBL   PAST.come-1SG
   "I came from Tehran."

9. de-h-im.
   OP-PRES.come-1SG
   "I come/will come."

In the first sentence, the enclitic goes under the agreement and index node in the tree diagram, and finally links to nucleus node. In contrary to it, in the second sentence the enclitic plays the role of the only argument for the predicate, because there is not any NP in this sentence and in CKD's clauses, there is not any zero-argument predicate. The proposed tree diagram of sentence (8) is presented here:

Diagram1. Proposed diagram for sentence (8)
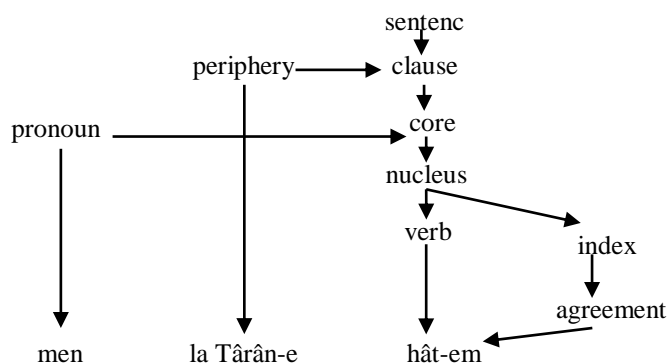
The second type of verbal predicates in CKD refers to two argument predicates which consist of those transitive predicates covering a subject and an object. In this type of predicates, the first arguments take the macro role of actor, and the second arguments take the macro role of undergoer. The below-coming figure reveals this type of predicates:

Figure 5. two argument predicates template in CKD
[ARGUMENT 1NP,PRO   ARGUMENT 2NP,PRO   (PERIPHERY) NUCTRA.V]

One point, worth of mentioning here is that, in unmarked case, the temporal peripheries are placed before the spacial peeripheries and changing this order causes a marked case. In example (10), the unmarked case of the clause and in example (11) the marked case are used:

10. hassan   Ɂawân-e   [dûyne   la dūkan-i]PERI   dit.
      hassan   3PL-ACC yesterday at store-OBL   PAST.see.3SG
    "hassan saw them yesterday at the store."

11. hassan   [la dūkan-i] PERI Ɂawân [estâ] PERI da-bin-e.
      hassan   at store-OBL   3PL   now   OP-PRES.see-SG
     "hassan is seeing them now at the store."

An important point from these two examples is interpreted, that says, the clitic shows accusative case in the past tense, attaches to the second argument with an undergoer macro-role, but in the present tense, this clitics dose not appear. In compensation for this case, the pronoun showing agreement enclitics the verb.
    The last group of verbal predicates in CKD appeertains to three argument predicates and consists of ditransitive verbs. As it was mentioned before, macro-roles actor and undergoer replace the expresions such as subject and object, and the previledged syntactic argument sits in the place of the first argument if these two macro-roles lose their contrast. The two coming examples illustrate the matter:

363

12. (ʔama) (keteb-aka-man)　ba　to　da.
　　1PL　book-DEF-POSS　to　2SG　PAST.give
　　"we gave our book to you."

13. ba　to　ʔama　keteb-aka-man　da.
　　to　2SG　1PL　book-DEF-1PL　PAST.give
　　"to you, we, gave our book."

Sentence (13) is the marked case of sentence (14), because the indirect argument of the core that is the argument number (3) is a PP, and by occupying the second argument which is a direct argument of the core, change it to a marked case. On the other hand, the agreement enclitic is not able to separate itself from undergoer and to attach itself to the third non-macro-role argument:

14. *ʔama　ba　to-man　keteb-aka　da.
　　1PL　to　2SG-1PL　book-DEF　PAST.give
　　"we gave the book to you."

This point cause we conclude that in CKD the agreement enclitics in three argument prdicates in the past tense could only attach to those macro-role arguments with the undergoer macro-role. If the argument with the undergoer macro-role be omitted, the result would be an acceptable sentence with one argument reduced from the verb valence:

15. ʔama　ba　to-man　da.
　　1PL　to　2SG-1PL　PAST.give
　　"we gave it to you."

The next figure shows the three argument predicates template:

Figure 6. the three argument predicates template in CKD
[ARGUMENT 1NPARGUMENT 2NP(PERIPHERY) ARGUMENT 3PP NUCTRA.V]

3.1.2. Non-verbal predicates in CKD

In CKD, non-verbal predicates circle around the copula verb which in turn, plays the role of the operator of time and space, and NPs, PPs and adjectives takes the place of nuclues and cosequently, the role of predicates. CKD's copula consists of verb "būn", means "to be" attached as an enclitic to the end of the predicates in the present tense, but in the past tense, it appears as "būn". In the following table the copula enclitics in the present tense are arranged according to their number:

Table 2. CKD's copula enclitics in the present tense

person \ number	singular	plural
1st	-(i)m	- în
2st	-î	-(i)n
3st	-a	-(i)n

By dividing the PPs in two groups of predicative and non-predicative (Ibanez,2009) RRG refer to this point that the predicative PPs prepare the clause with the neccesary semantic information based both on their own meanings and on the meaning of the arguments which come after them. These group of PPs sit in the place of the predicate and the copula modifies the outer layer of the clause. The following figure shows the CKD template for non-verbal predicates, and the incoming examples give a better understanding of the situation:

364

Figure 7. CKD's template for non-verbal predicates
[ARGUMENTNP (PERIPHERY) NUCPP,NP,ADJ][(OPERATOR)COPULA]

16.[keteb-i   men]ARG [la doyne-wa]PERI [la qotâbxâna]PREDICATE[ya]OPERATOR.
   book-EZ   1SG   from yesterday-POP[2]   in   library   PRES.COP   "my book remains in the library from yesterday."
   17. [mâmostâ Sohrâbi]ARG [zor]PERI   [peřř]PRED[a]OP
      master   Sohrabi   very   intelligent PRES.COP
     "master sohrabi is very intelligent."
18.[morâd]ARG   [berâ-i Fârūq-i]PRED   [bū]OP.
     morad   brother-EZ faruq-OBL   PAST.COP
     "morâd was fârūq's brother."

3.2. Non-universal constituents of the clause in CKD:

As it was mentioned earlier in this paper, non-universal constituents appear in the clause based on the pragmatic needs where LDP and RDP are in relation with the sentence layer and PrCs plus PoCs are in relation with the clause layer. Van Valin (2005:12) says that these constituents are language specific, and some, but not all of them, may be presented in one or another language. In CKD, there are PrCs and LDP where PrCs is the place of topicalized or focal constituents such as a Wh-word which is not in-situ, a non-Wh-word or a PP. in the following examples all of these constituents are observable:

19. [PreCore čon]   keteb-aka-t   ba dū rož-an   xend-awa.
         how   book-DEF-2SG   for two day-PL PAST.read--OP
      "how did you read the book in two days?"
20. [PreCore la doyne-wa]   [keteb-i   men]ARG [la qotâbxâna]Pre [ya]Operator.
         from yesterday-POP   book-EZ 1SG   in   library   PRES.COP   "from yesterday my book remains in the library."
21. - lá   to   čon   keteb-e   bi-kr-im.
      from you how   book-ACC   OP-PRES.buy-1SG
      "from you how can I buy a book?"

LDP in contrary to PrCS is the place of adverbs that have scope over the sentence which are seperated from the rest of the sentence by a comma. In fact, adverbs placed in LDP are transitional expressions.

22. ba râsti, wâz-em   le-y   henâ.
    In fact, hand-1SG   from-3SG   PAST.take of.3SG
    " in fact, I took hand of him/her."

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[2] Post position

4. Conclusion:

In this paper and by following RRG framework of Van Valin (2005) in CKD, predicate contains nucleus as the main constituent of the core in the LS of the clause is divided into two groups of verbal and non-verbal. In non-verbal predicates, verb is a copula; therefore, predicate is of three types of NP, PP and Adj. Copula, in this case, appears as an enclitic in the present tense, but in the past tense, it conjugates as "būn", and in both case of past and present tense, it is an operator which defines the clause.

On the other hand, if the predicate has a verbal nucleus, then it will be categorized in three groups of one, two and three argument predicates, i. e. the criteria for this division is the number of the arguments. The nucleus of one argument predicates contain an intransitive verb that in CKD are divided in two types of voluntary and non-voluntary intransitive verbs. These predicates express in two ways: with and without subjective pronouns plus an enclitics. In the former case, the enclitic is put under the index and agreement node and finally is linked to the nucleus.

Two and three argument predicates in fact, are transitive and ditransitive verbs. In two argument predicates, the first argument has the macro-role of actor, and the second argument has the macro-role of undergoer. What is important in these predicates is that, the enclitic in the past tense attaches to the end of the second argument which carries the macro-role undergoer, but in the present tense, it attaches to the end of the verb. In three argument predicates, the third argument is in an oblique case.

نماذج النحوية للعبارة الجملية في الكردية المركزية وفقاً الي قواعد الدور و المرجع

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الملخص

يحتوي العبارة الجملية في قواعد الدور والمرجع علي بنية طبقية الذي يعتمد على تمييزين أساسيين : من جهة واحدة، التميز بين الموضوع و الخبر، والتمييز بين المكونات الموضوعية و غير الموضوعية للعبارة الجملية من جهة اخري.

تهدف هذا البحث الي الدراسة نماذج النحوية في عبارة الجملية الكردية المركزية أو جمل السورانية بسيطة وفقًا لقواعد الدور والمرجع.

يتم تحليل البيانات باتباع إطار نضري فان فالين وإلى جانبها حدس الباحثين ، حيث يلعب المتحدثون الأصليون دورًا حاسمًا في تقييم البيانات.

تتضمن نتائج البحث: تصنيف اللهجة الكردية المركزية إلى مجموعتين من الخبر جملة فعلية وغير فعلية ، وتقسيم الخبر جملة فعلية بناءً علي عدد من الموضوعاتهم، التي تحدد الخبر غير الفعلية وفقًا لأقسام الكلام في موضوعاتهم. وأخيرًا ، تقديم العناصر غير الكلية في البنية عبارة الجملية في اللهجة الكردية المركزية.

الكلمات المفتاحية: البنية الطبقية، قواعد الدور والمرجع ، الموضوع ، الخبر جملة الفعلية، الخبر جملة غير الفعلية.

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