

Urdu *Ezafe* — Phrasal Affix or Clitic?

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 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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Nested genitive constructions with an adjective

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 Yassin.M.Sg=Gen.F.Sg mother.F.Sg=Gen.M.PI black-Nom.M.PI dog.Nom.M.PI
 'Yassin's mother's black dogs'

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- This is consistent with other patterns in the language, where the modifier agrees with the noun it modifies.

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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):

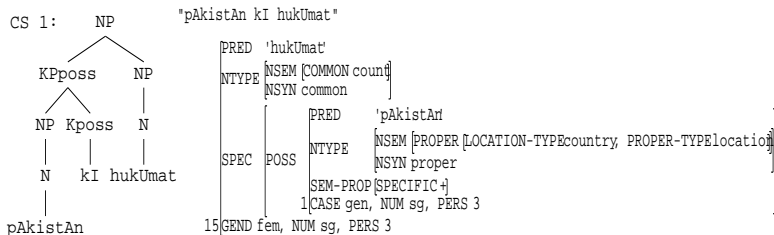
$$\text{KP} \rightarrow \text{NP}[\text{ob1}] \text{ K (General Schema)}$$

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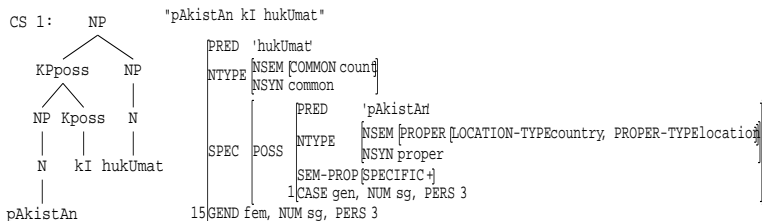
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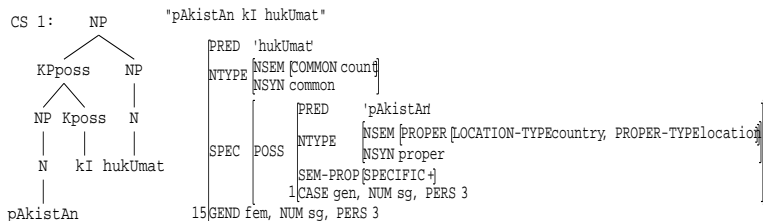
→ Specialized Rule for Genitive
(Structures from the Urdu ParGram Grammar):



Structural Representation of Case II

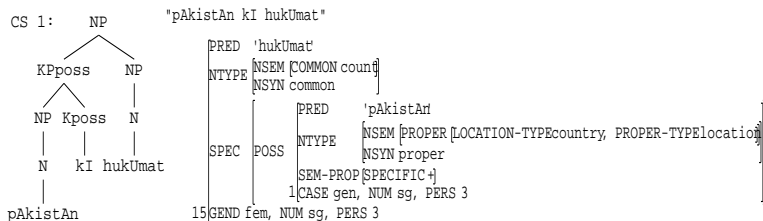


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- Note that the prosody and syntax here do not contradict each other: *kii* shares a mother node with the modifier, which is also its prosodic host.

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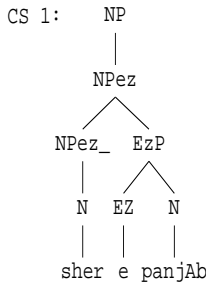
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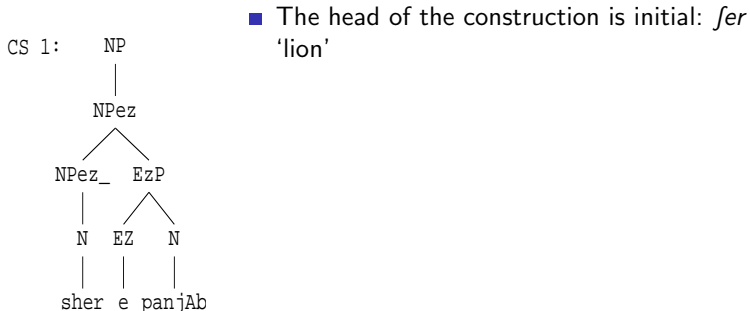
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 - **LFG** with its modular projection architecture allows for a thorough analysis without engendering a need to generate clitics within the morphology (as in HPSG).

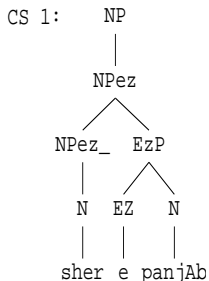
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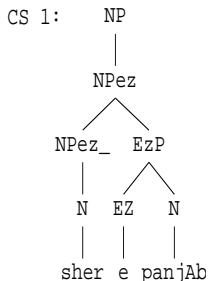


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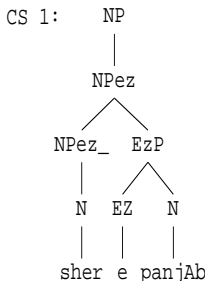
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- The *Ezafe* is inserted at a terminal node and is thus analyzed as a syntactic word in its own right: *EZ*
- It licences a modifier to its right: *panjab* 'Punjab'
- Together, they form the modifying constituent for the head noun *sher*.

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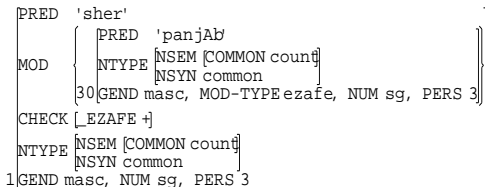
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- *panjAb* is the modifier of the head noun.
- The type of modification is registered as being of the *Ezafe* type: MOD-TYPE ezafe.

Prosody — the P(rosodic)-structure

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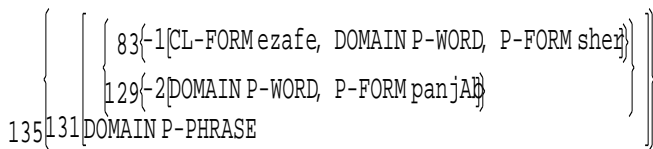
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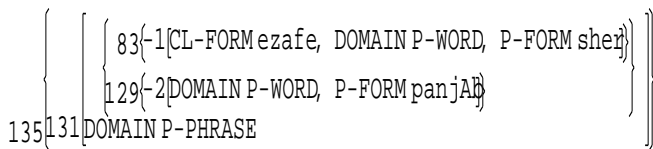
[but also see other proposals for incorporating prosody, e.g., O'Connor 2005, Mycock 2006, Bögel, Butt, Kaplan, King and Maxwell III 2009 (forthcoming)].

Prosody — the P(rosodic)-structure



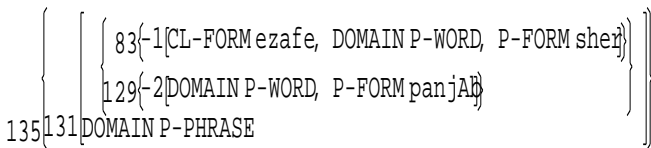
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Prosody — the P(rosodic)-structure



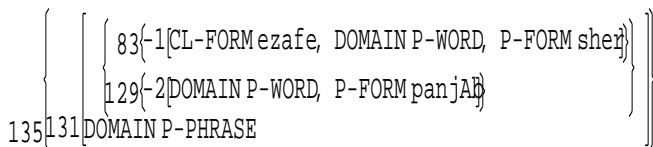
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- The morphological component was not involved in the analysis in any form with respect to *Ezafe*.

Demo — Coordination

Demo/Example of an Coordinated Structure with Ezafe

An Argument We Don't Understand

- One argument that we have seen advanced in favor of treating clitics/phrasal affixes as being part of the morphological component is that clitics/PAs need access to word-level properties of their host, such as POS, number or gender in order to be able to ensure well-formedness.

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- For example, the Urdu genitive would seem to need access to word properties (find a noun, figure out its number and gender) — “a property that disqualifies it as a clitic” (Anderson 2005, Samvelian 2007 etc.)

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- For example, the Urdu genitive would seem to need access to word properties (find a noun, figure out its number and gender) — “a property that disqualifies it as a clitic” (Anderson 2005, Samvelian 2007 etc.)
- But since **any** type of agreement (e.g., subject-verb, modifier-head) that is generally dealt with in the syntax needs access to information about number, gender, POS, etc., we do not understand this argument. [any help very welcome!]

Conclusion

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- With the modular architecture of LFG it is possible to represent all aspects of clitics: special syntactic properties as to placement as well as prosodic structure.
- There is no need to generate clitics within the morphological component.
- Instead, an interaction between **Prosody** and **Syntax** accounts for the properties of Urdu *Ezafe* (and Persian *Ezafe* 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.

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- In **synchronic** terms, the distinction between phrasal affixes vs. other clitics thus seems to be unnecessary.
- In **diachronic** terms, however, phrasal affixes seem to be those clitics which are on their way to becoming part of the morphological component (i.e., morphological affixes) — they represent a construction in transition, which accounts for many of their special properties.

Thank you for listening!

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