Strengthening and Weakening of Linguistic Features: A Case of Complex Predicates in Hindi

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Abstract

The formation of a complex predicate is a unique phenomenon. There are very clear and categorical syntactic, morphological and semantic strategies to form the construction.

The formation of the predicate as 'complex predicate' manifests very distinct and marked linguistic evidences which are measurable in terms of case-association, valences, thematic role and agreement features from that of the simple-predicate.

The present paper is an attempt to examine how the combination of a Noun/Adjective to a verb and making a predicate actually strengthens the verb in the process of making a complex predicate and the combining of a verb to another verb weakens the verb in producing a complex predicate. There is also an attempt in the paper to show how and why the complex predicates are produced or formed in different languages, and the cost that the natives have to pay in terms of acquiring such complex predicate is comparably cheaper. The acquisition of these complex predicate make the speakers more competent to master some very useful aspects of language and make them comfortable to handle different contexts of the use of the language.

The paper examines the case of 'compound verb and conjunct verb' in particular to exemplify the instances of 'strengthening and weakening' processes of linguistic features of complex predicate in Hindi-Urdu.

Key Words: Complex Predicate, Case-association, Thematic Role, Strengthening, Weakening, Linguistic Features, Conjunct Verb, compound Verb, Agreement etc.

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The Role of Grammatical Categories in Languages

The linguistic elements are the constructs of different concepts of human cognition. The way in which the human mind responds to the linguistic constructs is surprisingly similar across the board, yet very complex to comprehend. And this is where the linguistic theorization comes very handy to explain these similarities that are found in languages with any genealogical or geographic relatedness. In short, the linguistic elements are very unique items in themselves. They have their own existence and they help humans to weave the garland of communication in the form of atoms of human language which culminates in a sentence as the basic unit and a discourse as an output of the whole process.

The Synthesis of Linguistics Elements

It is very interesting to notice the way two or more lexical items get linguistically synthesized. If we examine the historicity of the synthesis of these items, it will unfold several natural and fascinating theoretical facts. However, we must wonder as to why we have not been concerned about such issues at all in linguistics. An instance of synthesis of two lexical items that comes to mind immediately is the process by which the 'phrases' gradually become 'compounds' in many languages.

Some phrases in the language are made of two lexical items and are connected together by a functional word. These phrases become so common for every day usage and we get so used to such expressions that after some time we feel that the functional word that helps connecting the two lexical items in the phrase is completely redundant. We also see that the language always chooses the principle of economy, thus, it rather prefers to drop the functional word of the phrase and goes one step ahead to synthesize the two items by one of the morphophonemic processes that are available in the language of such synthesis.

For example:

'rɑjɑ kɑ pʊtrə'   becomes 'rɑjputrə'

devõ mẽ indrə   becomes 'devẽdrə'

If we examine the form and function of 'compound and conjunct verb' in Hindi under this schema, I think we will be able to explain some of the unanswered questions that are still hovering in the outer space of this 'grammatical category' and thus those questions have not allowed this concept to be a concrete concept of human cognition. The present paper is an attempt to try to examine the above mentioned complex verb phrases using the model of cognitive grammar and draw the conclusion that there is something more than the structural dependencies of the linguistic structure that we see in it usages, and we should try exploring the cognitive properties of the human mind that shape the usage of the language by fine tunings and adjusting the psychological factors of the grammatical structures.

The Sharing Features of the Grammatical Categories:
It is also very interesting to note how the grammatical categories share some of their core properties in order to be together to form a new category. It is important to evaluate this process especially when two different and distinct grammatical categories such as noun+verb and adjective +verb come together for a new category such as a complex predicate. It is but natural that a noun or an adjective can't just come to verb phrase and be the part of a verb phrase unless they give up some of their core semantic and syntactic features and then come to be the part of the verb phrase. The nominal elements in this context are very interesting to examine. There has been a formal distinction that is maintained between a nominal and a verbal element in the grammar. It is a must to make some distinction between the two as this is how we separate these two grammatical categories in the grammar.

However, in some cases when a nominal entity is forced to become the part of the verb phrase for the purpose of bridging the gap that the language might have, the nominal entity has to give up some of its core properties and share some of the verbal properties as it has to synchronize and be the part of the verb phrase. The case of conjunct verb in Hindi is such a case where some of the abstract nouns come and become a part of the verb phrase in order to bridge the gap that the language has. Meaning, unless we bring a noun in the verb phrase the process of verbalization that

is needed in the language is just not possible. For example, we don't have a verb in Hindi for the expressions like 'to remember', 'to hate', 'to love', 'to marry' etc. and if we want to make such predication possible in Hindi, it is a must that we bring a nominal element and put in the verb phrase and introduce a light verb[1] that comes and combines with the nominal entity and form a predicate that fulfills the requirement of making a predicate that is equivalent to the expressions like 'to remember', 'to hate', 'to love', 'to marry' etc. in English. This is what I call the sharing features of the grammatical categories.

The Process of Grammaticalization:

The process of grammaticalization is one of the most salient features of human language and the way it produces new grammatical structures of different types is also very interesting to examine. It is very interesting to examine different processes of grammaticalization that take place in languages to facilitate with the new grammatical constructs that are demanded by different discourse phenomena. The simplest and most convincing instance of grammaticalization that I remember is the one that is used for 'continuous or progressive' marker in Hindi. We know that a lexical item 'rəhnɑ', 'to stay' is selected to formalize the use of 'progressive aspect' in Hindi. This lexical item passes through the process of grammaticalization. Thus, it sheds off its core semantic properties and after being semantically bleached it becomes available to mark the 'progression' of an action when it is used with the main verb. Unlike English where there are some handful of verbs such as 'see', 'love' and 'understand' etc. that cannot take the progressive marker '-ing' in English, there is no such exceptions in Hindi. The grammaticalized verb 'rəhnɑ', to

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[1] A light verb is a grammaticalized verb that is used more like an auxiliary verb in the language. The most salient feature of the light verb is that it has been semantically bleached and thus it does not retain its lexical meaning.

Butt (2010) Butt, Miriam. The Light Verb Jungle: Still Hacking Away, In M. Amberber, M. Harvey and B. Baker (eds.) Complex Predicates in Cross-Linguistic Perspective, 48–78. Cambridge University Press. is the best that I have come across.

stay' can be used with any main verb. It can, in fact, be used with the identical lexical verb 'rəhnɑ', 'to stay' where one is the main verb and second one is the grammaticalized item for marking the 'progressive' aspect of the verb. This is a classic case of the process of 'grammaticalization' and this has not been reported earlier by any researcher. Some examples at this juncture of our discussion become necessary:

For example:

1. ləṛkɑ   čɪṭṭʰi   lɪkʰətɑ   hɛ

   boy-3MS-   letter-   write-3MS-   be-pres-
   Nom   N.f   impf   3MS

   'The boy writes a letter.'

2. ləṛkɑ   čɪṭṭʰi   lɪkʰ   rəhɑ   hɛ

   boy-   letter-   write   stay-Cont-   be-pres-
   3MS-   N.f   3MS-Impf   3MS
   Nom

   'The boy is writing a letter.'

3. vəh ləṛkɑ   čɑr   vərsõ-   dɪlli-   rəh   rəhɑ   hɛ
                            se   mẽ

   that boy-   four years-   delhi-   stay cont- be-
         3MS-   from   Loc   3MS   pres-
         Nom   3MS

   'The boy has been staying in Delhi for past four years.'

The above examples (1-3) show an interesting fact of grammaticalization of a lexical element 'rəhnɑ', 'to stay' in Hindi. In example (2), the auxiliary verb 'rəhnɑ', to stay' shows that this element is used as an auxiliary verb, after being grammaticalized, as this adds upto an aspect of continuous reading of the earlier sentence (1). However, the next example (3) is the one which proves the point of grammaticalization at its best. The natives of Hindi have internalized the grammaticalized element 'rəhnɑ' as an aspect marker for 'continuous' in such a way that it does not pose any constraint even when this is used with a lexical verb 'rəhnɑ', 'to stay' that is used as the main verb.

In most instances of 'the conjunct verb' and 'the compound verb' the light verb is usually a grammaticalized linguistic element. In examples like 'ləɽkɑ bɛʈʰ gəyɑ', 'The boy sat' or 'ləɽkɑ mɪʈʰɑi kʰɑ gəyɑ', 'The boy ate the sweet' etc., the light verb 'gəyɑ', 'went' has been grammaticalized or delexicallised[2]. In the expressions such as 'us-ne səb-ki gəlti *maf ki*', 'He forgave everyone's mistake', 'us-ne meri bɑt-pər *dʰyan dɪya*', 'He paid attention to my issue' etc., the light verbs i.e. 'kərnɑ', 'to do' and 'denɑ', 'give' have also been grammaticalized and thus don't have their complete lexical meaning.

The Degree of Grammaticalization:
It is necessary to examine the degree of grammaticalization when we talk about the use of the light verbs in different complex predicates i.e. 'the compound verb and the conjunct verb' in Hindi and other languages. The issue of 'strengthening and weakening' is somehow deeply related to the notion of degree of grammaticalization. It is an issue that the researchers have not taken very seriously and thus it needs some urgent attention in order to understand some of the related issues such as ± transitivity of the compound verb and the agreement facts of the conjunct verb. I have examined this phenomenon of degree of grammaticalization very carefully

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[2] Delexicalization or delexicalised item is used frequently as a synonym of 'grammaticalization' or grammaticalized element.

and have come up with three different degrees that are shown very clearly when we evaluate the process of grammaticalization.

The Complete Grammaticalization:
The case of complete grammaticalization surfaces when we look at the instance of 'rəhnɑ', 'to stay' that is used for marking the 'progressive aspect' in Hindi. Let us see the example (3) that is repeated here for the purpose of explanation:

4.	vəh	ləṛkɑ	čɑr	vərsõ-se	dɪlli-mẽ	rəh	rəhɑ	hɛ
	that	boy-3MS-Nom	four	years-from	delhi-Loc	stay	cont-3MS	be-pres-3MS

'The boy has been staying in Delhi for past four years.'

The use of 'rəhnɑ', 'to stay' in the above sentence both as a main verb and an auxiliary to mark the progressive aspect of the main verb is the proof that the second use of 'rəhnɑ' has been completely grammaticalized and there is no lexical meaning left in it. This, as I mentioned earlier, is a classic case of grammaticalization, also because there is no exception to it i.e. there is no verb in Hindi that cannot take this progressive auxiliary. However, a large number of vector verbs (i.e. V_2 or the light verb of the compound verb) fulfill this requirement. For example, when we use the expressions like 'bɛʈʰ gəyɑ', ' sat', 'so gəyɑ', 'slept', 'kʰɑ gəyɑ', 'ate' etc. the light verb of such expressions is completely grammaticalized as 'no one can sit and go at the same time' so, the light verb 'gəyɑ' in all these cases are completely grammaticalized.

5.2 The Semi-Partial Grammaticalization:

This term might be new for all of us, but this is what I could, at best, come up with. This is another kind of grammaticalization where the bleaching of the semantics takes place but the degree is not very high and thus the lexical items do pose a constraint of identity. In other words, this category of grammaticalization refers to a lexical item, having been

grammaticalized, can be attached to any or many lexical items to do what it is employed for, however, it fails to do so when the lexical item is identical or same to which this is meant to be attached. I want to put the conjunctive participle marker of Hindi in this category. The conjunctive participle marker (CPM)'**kər**', 'having done X/after doing X' is derived and in fact is the grammaticalized-form of lexical verb 'kərnɑ', 'to do'. We can add this CPM to any and many verb, but when we add it to a lexical verb 'kərnɑ', it poses problem and thus we do not have a construction 'kər-kər' in Hindi[3].

The Partial Grammaticalization:

The case of partial grammaticalization includes a small section of 'compound verb' and those cases of light verbs in the 'conjunct verb construction' that show agreement with its nominal host. The instances where the light verbs do not show agreement with their nominal hosts despite the fact that they are potential candidates for the agreement in Hindi, also because they are null case marked nominal, the light verbs are certainly different from those which show agreement with their host nominal. Mohanan (1993) and Masica (1993) have mentioned this fact in their papers on 'conjunct verb'[4].

Let us see some example:

5. marA-ne   moh↔n-   yAd   kIyA
            ko

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[3] It is interesting that no one has ever tried to explain as to why it is not possible to have 'jɑnɑ', 'to go' as the main or V_1 or 'polar' verb in Hindi except in one negative use of the compound verb 'vəh kəhɑ̃ jɑ mərɑ, where 'jɑ mərɑ' means 'went' (data was obtained in personal communication with Prof. R. Gargesh over a cup of tea'. The nature of present paper is different and if we take up this issue, it will take me in other direction, thus, it is better to leave it as a topic for further research.

[4] Both these papers can be seen for detail information in Verbma (1993 ed.) *Complex Predicates in South Asian Languages*.

Meera-3FS-Erg	Mohan-Acc	remembrance-N(f)	do-perf-default-3MS

'Meera remembered Mohan'.

6. r↔him-ne   dInes&-ko   AwAz   di

Rahim-3MS-Erg	Dinesh-Dat	call/sound-N(f)	give-perf-3FS

'Rahim called Dinesh'.

7. dines&-ko   s↔mirA-se   gHṛnA   hYyi

Dinesh-3MS-Dat	Sameera-??(Abl/Loc)	hatred-ness-N(f)	be-perf-3FS

'Dinesh hated Sameera'.

In the above examples (4-6), there are two different types of 'light verb' that have been used with regard to the process of 'grammaticalization'. Das (2009) has explained the reasons for treating these light verbs differently. The crux of the matter can be said in this way; the light verb if it shows the agreement with its host nominal, the degree of grammaticalization for the noun as well as the verb in a series of N+V has to be different. This is so because the verb has to function more like a lexical verb than an auxiliary, and the noun, having fulfilled the semantic need to be the part of the verb phrase to make the predication possible, also has to re-gain some of its nominal quality as it has to function as one of the arguments of the predicate and show agreement with the verb.

In case of the compound verb construction, it is very clear that there are some compound verbs in which the V_2 or the vector verb has not been completely grammaticalized and thus there is a definite and distinct change of the meaning of the compound verb when the polar verb is changed,

which otherwise should not have happened in case of the compound verb. For example:

8.   us-ne   mer-i   čɪṭṭʰi   pəṛʰ   li

      he-3MS-Erg   my-F   letter-3FS-Acc   read-V1   take-past-3FS

      'He read my letter'. <In a sense that he should not have done it, but did it.>

9.   us-ne   mer-i   čɪṭṭʰi   pəṛʰ   di

      he-3MS-Erg   my-F   letter-3FS-Acc   read-V1   give-past-3FS

      'He read out my letter for me'. <In a sense that he did a favor for me.>

The examples in (8-9) clearly show that the use of vector verbs, 'lenɑ', 'take' and 'denɑ', 'give' have not been totally grammaticalized. The semantic change of the meaning of the compound verbs in these examples is the fact that lends support to the core hypothesis of different degree of grammaticalization in different linguistic constructs where two or more linguistic elements get combined to outsource all together a different 'pragmatic meaning'.

The Result of Grammaticalization
The process of grammaticalization is the key factor that allows the linguistic elements to come together to form a new grammatical construct for the requirements of the pragmatics and discourse purposes. In this process of grammaticalization, the lexical item that becomes grammaticalized has to efface some of its linguistic properties. For example, there are no parallel verbs to denote 'to love, to have, to develop, to progress etc. in Hindi and thus to fulfill the requirement and bridge the

gap in the language, the nouns, the abstract nouns in particular, have to be grammaticalized to allow them to get combined with the light verb to form what is known as 'conjunct verb construction'. Similarly, the V_2, or the vector verb in the case of 'compound verb' has to pass through the process of grammaticalization to get combined with the 'polar' or main verb to make the expression more perfective in expression.

Coming back to the issue at hand, the V_2 or vector verb weakens the linguistic properties of the 'polar verb' when it gets combined with it to form the 'compound verb construction'.

There are three well-established requirements that any combination of two verbal elements has to qualify before being called as a 'compound verb'. These requirements are with regard to the semantic, morphological and syntactic conditions[5] of the compound verb constructions.

Semantic Condition

10.	**Polar verb**	**Vector verb**	**= Compound verb**
	pərʰna 'to read'	*lena* 'to take'	= pərʰnɑ
	mɛ̃-ne yəh kɪtɑb pəɽʰ li I-1MS-Erg this book read-V1 take-V2-Pst-3FS 'I read this book.'		mɛ̃-ne yəh kɪtɑb pəɽʰi I-1MS-Erg this book read-Pst-3FS 'I read this book.'

 The first and very important condition for the compound verb construction is that of its semantics. It is well-known and proven fact in Hindi that the V_1 or 'polar' verb dominates the semantics of the

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[5] Some of the conditions mainly the semantic and morphological are universal for almost all the languages that have compound verb, but the syntactic condition is parametric and is more valid for the languages that has grammatical gender and ergativity.

construction. There are some exceptions to it and we will take it up later, it is enough at the moment to say that if the meaning of the 'polar' verb is not equitable or replaceable to that of the whole compound verb, we don't call such combinations of two verbs as the compound verb. For example:

However, let us see an example which looks very similar in the form to the above example (10), but there is a semantic as well as morphological condition violation in the example. Let us examine the case:

11.	**False Polar verb**	**False Vector verb**	**= Not a Compound verb**
	cəlna 'to go/walk'	*jana* 'to go'	= cəlnɑ
	ləṛkɑ gʰər čəlɑ gəyɑ boy-3MS-Nom house walk-3MS went-Pst-3MS 'The boy went home.'		*ləṛkɑ gʰər čəlɑ boy-3MS-Nom house walk -Pst-3MS 'The boy went home.'

The above example shows that the verbs 'cəlɑ' and 'jɑnɑ' cannot form a compound verb in Hindi. The semantic criterion is violated in the above example. However, there is another criterion that has been violated in the above example and that is the next point for us to prove.

The Morphological Condition

The morphological condition of a compound verb in Hindi is that the V_1 or the 'polar' verb must appear in the root form in all the instances of the compound verb construction. There are parametric variations[6] for the morphological condition in Indian languages, but whatever is the case, the polar verb must occur in just one form. There are languages like Magahi,

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[6] See Das (2006) for more detail account of the variation in different varieties of Hindi-Urdu.

Maithili where the polar verb takes a 'stem forming morpheme' and having taken that morpheme it occurs in a uniform manner across the examples of compound verb construction.

Coming back to the point of discussion, the polar verb in Hindi must be in the root form. For example:

12.	polar verb	vector verb	compound verb
	bɛʈʰ-nɑ	jɑnɑ	bɛʈʰ gəyɑ = 'sat'
	kʰɑ-nɑ	lenɑ	kʰɑ lɪyɑ = 'ate'
	so-nɑ	jɑnɑ	so gəyɑ = 'slept'
	mər-nɑ	jɑnɑ	mər gəyɑ = 'died'
	pəɽʰ-nɑ	lenɑ	pəɽʰ liyɑ = 'read'
	lɪkʰ-nɑ	denɑ	lɪkʰ dɪyɑ = 'wrote'

All the compound verbs in the above table show that the 'polar verb' must appear in the root form in Hindi. Now, if we consider the example (13) and its variants we can prove our point more authoritatively that the two verbs in combination in example (13) are not the instances of compound verb construction.

13.	False polar verb	False vector verb	No compound verb
	cəl-nɑ	jɑnɑ	cəli gəyi = 'went' for feminine
	cəl-nɑ	jɑnɑ	čəlɑ gəyɑ = 'went' for masculine
	cəl-nɑ	jɑnɑ	čəle gəyɑ = 'went' for plural nouns

So, the morphological criterion of the compound verb in Hindi that requires the 'polar verb' not to be inflected with the PNG of the subject noun is obeyed by the examples given in (10), but the examples in (11) show a different picture. If we use this verb in different examples with a changed subject, the 'polar verb' will be inflected with the subject noun phrase in the sentence and thus it is a violation of the condition for the compound verb in Hindi and almost all languages that have compound verb.

The Syntactic Condition

This is a unique and very appealing condition in Hindi and some other languages including Kinnauri[7] where the ± transitivity of the 'vector verb' plays a crucial role in terms of licensing the ergative case with the subject noun phrase as if the 'vector verb' is intransitive, the whole compound verb is intransitive. And if the 'vector verb' is transitive, the whole compound verb becomes syntactically transitive and it can license the ergative case with the subject NP. Let us see one example of each to make the point clear.

14. lə̣rkɑ   sɑri roṭi   kʰɑ   gəyɑ

    boy-3MS-Nom   all-F bread-3F   eat-V_1 go-V_2-past-3MS

    'The boy ate all the bread'

In the example (14), the ergative case '-ne' is not possible as the compound verb becomes syntactically intransitive as the 'vector verb' in intransitive here. If we remove the 'vector verb' and say the same sentence in Hindi with just the main verb with the same tense and aspect , there will be an ergative case with the subject noun in that sentence. For example:

15. lə̣rke-ne   sɑri roṭi   kʰɑ-yi

    boy-3MS-Nom   all-F bread-3F   eat-pst-3FS

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[7] See Das (2013) for more detail, especially for the syntactic condition of the 'compound verb' as Kinnauri also follow the syntactic condition for licensing the ergative case suffix..

'The boy ate all the bread'

The above example (15) proves the point we just made about the 'vector verb' in Hindi. The mirror imaging is also possible. Meaning if the V_1 or polar verb is intransitive and the V_2 or vector verb is transitive, the entire compound verb becomes syntactically transitive. Let us see the example:

16. ləṛki-ne   səb-ke sɑmne   čʰɪk   dɪyɑ

     girl-3FS-Erg   all-Gen-front   sneeze-V_1 give-V_2-pst-3MS

     'The girl sneezed in front of everyone'.

17. kʊtte-ne   gɑṛi-pər   mʊt   dɪyɑ

     dog-3MS-Erg   car-Loc   piss-V_1 give-V_2-pst-3MS

     'The dog pissed on the car'.

There are some other set of intransitive and transitive pairs in Hindi such as 'bʰõk denɑ', 'to bark', 'nəhɑ lenɑ', 'to bathe' and 'mʊt denɑ', 'to piss' etc. which work absolutely fine with regard to the abovementioned syntactic condition for the compound verb.

The Weakening of Linguistic Features in the Compound Verb Construction

Having discussed the above conditions of the compound verb construction we can now make the main points of the paper i.e. whenever there are two linguistic items together and there is process of grammaticalization that takes place for the synthesis of these items, one or the other seems to gain the advantage over other with regard to the syntactic, morphological or semantic function. Thus, one of the two has to become either weak or strong. If we talk about the compound verb construction, very contrary to the traditionally known and explained facts of the complex predicate, there is a process of weakening that happens for the V_1 or the polar verb which to my knowledge has not been reported by any researcher.

The Finiteness of the Verb

Let us see the example of a compound verb construction to explain the 'finiteness issue of the verb'. We know that a finite verb has an edge over the verb that is not finite (either non-finite or infinitive) in an expression. The very defining property of a sentence is that a sentence is a sentence as long as there is finite verb in the sentence. So, a finite verb in the sentence must be a very important element in a sentence. However, take an example of a compound verb in Hindi or in any language that has a compound verb, the V_1 can never be a finite verb because it is the V2 that has the tense and the aspect markers in a compound verb construction. For example:

18. bɔččõ-ne   šišɑ   toṛ   dɪyɑ

    children-3Pl-Erg   glass   break-V_1 give-V_2-pst-3MS

    'Children broke the glass'.

The sentence in (18) shows that the V_1 in Hindi compound verb construction has to be in its root form. So, despite the fact that V_1 dominates the compound verb with regard for the semantics of it, the V_2 makes the polar verb 'weak' in terms of forming the syntactic unit of compound verb as a complex predicate. The linguistic features that make the predicate 'finite' stay with the V_2 instead of V_1, and this certainly is the case of weakening the syntactic value of the V_1.

The Semantic Content of V_2

There are two issues that would be required to understand this concept. If one questions as to what is that the V_2 does in a compound verb and if one goes by the explanation given in the literature[8] and also observe the use of the compound verb construction, we would conclude that the V_2 makes the compound verb to mean more perfect. For example:

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[8] Hook, P. E. (1974) *The Compound Verb in Hindi*. Ann Arbor, Michigan: Center for South and Southeast Asian Studies.

19a. buɽʰɑ   hɑtʰi   mərɑ

old   elephant-3MS-Nom die-pst-3MS

'The old elephant died'.

And

19b. buɽʰɑ   hɑtʰi   mərɑ   gəyɑ

old   elephant-3MS-Nom die-V_1 go-V_2-past-3MS

'The old elephant died'.

The above examples (18a-b) are the most cited examples in the literature of the compound verb construction. There are different reasons for the wide use of the above set of examples of compound verb in the literature from the ones that are being emphasized in the present paper.

The point that this paper wants to make is very simple. First, it can be proven by the statistical data that everyone, natives or non-natives ever, would prefer (18b) to (18a) in any context and if this is true, we must say that V_2 weakens the V_1 in terms of attaining the perfective reading of the compound verb construction.

The other issue is more relevant to discuss the so called semantics of the V_2 in compound verb construction. Let us first see some examples. We have already discussed these examples in (7 and 8), but the context demands to repeat them here:

20. us-ne   mer-i   čɪʈʈʰi   pəɽʰ   li

he-3MS-   my-F   letter-3FS-   read-V1 take-past-
Erg   Acc   3FS

'He read my letter'. <In a sense that he should not have done it, but did it.>

21.	us-ne	mer-i	čɪṭṭʰi	pəṛʰ	di
	he-3MS-Erg	my-F	letter-3FS-Acc	read-V1	give-past-3FS

'He read out my letter for me'. <In a sense that he did a favor for me.>

If we pay attention to the core fact of the semantics of the above sentences, we would have to say that the semantics in the two sentences is totally different. The sentence (7) is more of an allegation that someone has done something that s/he was not supposed to do, while the sentence (8) shows some sort of help that one extends to another. The interesting thing is that we attain this great change of semantics just by replacing the V_2 in the above sentences. So, the semantic contents of V_2 (in limited usages) 'weaken' the linguistic property of V_1.

The Syntactic content of V_2

This is an interesting linguistic feature of V_2 and there has been no extensive work on this aspect the compound verb. A typological work of this feature of the V_2 in compound verb will enrich the research in this area. The syntactic content of the V_2 or vector verb in compound verb construction is such that if the vector verb is intransitive[9], the whole complex predicate becomes *syntactically* intransitive. For example:

22a.	bɪlli	sɑrɑ	dʊdʰ	pi	gəyi
	cat-3FS-Nom	all	milk	drink-V1.(tran)	go-V2-pst-3FS.(intran)

'The cat drank all the milk'.

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[9] Abbi, A.& D. Gopalakrishanan (1991) have observed the phenomenon but they have a different view point, and in fact their claim looks invalid in the light of new facts that come out from the structural descriptions of Hindi and some other related languages.

*22b.	bɪlli -ne	sɑrɑ	dʊdʰ	pi	gəyi
	cat-3FS-Erg	all	milk	drink-V1.(tran)	go-V2-pst-3FS.(intran)

'The cat drank all the milk'.

The above two sentences (22a-b) prove the point we made in the section earlier. The V2, having been intransitive, syntactically turns the whole complex predicate in an intransitive verb phrase. So, despite of having other required conditions fulfilled to have an ergative case with the subject, the sentence (22b) shows that it cannot have the ergative case with the subject because, the V2 syntactically weakens the entire verb phrase by being intransitive.

If we examine the mirror image of this phenomenon, it can give us a deceptive picture in the beginning. For example:

23a.	ləṛki	səb-ke sɑmne	cʰĩk-i
	girl-3FS-Nom	all- Gen- front	sneeze-pst-3FS

'The girl sneezed in front of everyone'.

23b.	ləṛki-ne	səb-ke sɑmne	cʰĩk	di
	girl-3FS-Erg	all- Gen-front	sneeze-V_1	give-V_2-pst-3FS

'The girl sneezed in front of everyone'.

The examples (23a-b) show exactly opposite of what we saw in (22a-b) and one can get deceived at the first and quick glance that V_2 in this case 'strengthens' rather than weakening the polar verb. This is so because the polar verb which was intransitive verb has been syntactically changed into transitive by putting a transitive V_2 in the compound verb construction. The result of this placement of a transitive V_2 in the complex predicate is

that it syntactically turns the whole unit into a transitive one and thus the marking the subject NP with an ergative case has been possible.

The above account is very much true and this is how it functions in the actual usage of the language. However, the V_2 has not strengthened the V_1, rather it has 'weakened' it to this extent that it has produced a new category in the grammar of the language and we have to relearn that there can be a syntactically transitive complex predicate in the sentence but there will be not ***direct object*** in that sentence. It seems very unusual that we have a transitive complex verb phrase without a direct object in it! I think this is not that unusual if we think of the category of the verb such as 'un-accusative verb' and 'un-ergative verb'. They V_1+V_2 as a combination of transitive and intransitive functions as an 'un-ergative' verb, and the V_1+V_2 as a combination of intransitive and transitive one behaves as an 'un-accusative' verb phrase. But for the present paper what is important is the process of 'weakening' of the linguistic features in both the case and for the polar verb.

The Strengthening of Linguistic Features in the Conjunct Verb Construction

In the earlier section we saw the process of weakening of linguistic features in the compound verb constructions. As opposed to the process of weakening in the compound verb construction, the conjunct verb construction shows a process of strengthening of the linguistic features when two linguistic items come together as a synthesized item. I will make some quick points about the conjunct verb construction before we discuss the main issue here. Any combination of an N/Adj + verb is not qualified as a 'Conjunct verb' in Hindi or in the languages where this grammatical construct exists. There are some abstract nouns only that can come and be the part of a light verb and be synthesized as 'Conjunct verbs'. For example:

'rɑm-ne əpnɑ *homework kɪya*', 'Ram did his homework' or 'mɛ̃-ne əpne mɪtr-ko ek *cɪʈʈʰi lɪkʰi*', 'I wrote a letter to my friend' etc. are not where the combinations of N+V can be called as the 'conjunct verb' in Hindi. There are two reasons for not accepting these are conjunct verbs. One that the

words like 'homework' and 'letter' are not abstract nouns, second that the verbs in these cases are lexical verb and thus the homework and letter are the direct object of the these lexical verbs.

But the combinations of N+V such as 'mɑf kərnɑ', 'to forgive', 'prəgəti kərnɑ', 'to develop' 'ənʊbʰəv kərnɑ', 'to experience', 'yɑd kərnɑ', 'to remember', 'əpmɑn kərnɑ', 'to insult' and 'səfəl honɑ', 'to succeed' are some of the examples of conjunct verb in Hindi where all the nouns are the abstract nouns and when these complex predicates are used in a sentence, the nominal hosts do not become the direct object of the light verb in most cases. These are the defining properties of the conjunct verb construction in Hindi and the languages that have this construction.

With regard to the process of 'strengthening of linguistic features in the conjunct verb construction, there are three main points that I want to highlight hrer:

The Increase in the Number of the Participants:

24. mAn↔s-ne   ↔pnA   homw↔rk   kIyA

Manas-3MS-Erg   self   homework-MS   do-pst-3MS

'Manas did his homework'.

If we talk about the number of participants (arguments) that are there in the sentence (24) with a transitive verb 'kərnɑ', 'to do', we would say that there is a subject and a direct object for this transitive verb in the sentence and it sounds fine for any theoretical approach or model.

But,

25. mAn↔s-ne   sʊmɑn-ko   yɑd   kIyA

Manas-3MS-   Suman-3FS-   remembrance-   do-pst-
Erg   Acc   N.f   3MS

'Manas remembered Suman'.

The sentence (25) has the same transitive verb 'kərnɑ', 'to do' that we had in sentence (24), but if we count the number of participants, we find an increase in the number of participant. There is a new participant in the sentence i.e. 'yɑd', 'remembrance' which is besides the subject and the direct object of the transitive verb 'kərnɑ', 'to do'. This means that the noun that becomes the internal member of the conjunct verb construction strengthens the 'light verb' of the complex predicate. The strengthening itself happens two-fold. One, that it helps the light verb to attain the predication which otherwise does not seem to be available as a verb in Hindi such as 'ənʊbʰəv kərnɑ', 'to experience', 'yɑd kərnɑ', 'to remember', 'əpmɑn kərnɑ', 'to insult' and 'səfəl honɑ', 'to succeed' etc. Second, the nominal host along with the light verb helps to increase the number of participants in the construction.

The Parsing of the Unusual Case Suffixes:

The other important thing that we must include in explaining the process of strengthening of the linguistic feature of the light verb in a conjunct verb construction is the kind of case association that happens in the complex predicate. Let us see some example and then explain the phenomenon.

26. nitu-ne   m↔hes&-ko   ek   kItAb   di

    Neetu-3FS-   Mahesh-3MS-   one   book-FS-   give-pst-
    Erg   Dat   Acc   3FS

    'Neetu gave a book to Mahesh'.

The verb in (26) is a di-transitive verb one and thus the participants (arguments) i.e. the subject, the direct object and the indirect object have their associated cases in the sentence that are ergative, dative and accusative respectively. The verb of this sentence is a full lexical verb. Let

us now examine the conjunct verb construction with same di-transitive verb.

27. dHir↔j-ne   b↔c&c&o)-   dHyAn   dIyA
                    p↔r

     Dhiraj-3MS-   child-MPl-obl-   attention-   give-pst-
     Erg   Loc   MS   3MS

     'Dhiraj paid attention to the children'.

This is an interesting example. In sentence (27), we have the same di-transitive verb but the difference that is shown with regard to the case association with different participants in the sentence is puzzling. If at all, the participant 'bəčče', 'children' is the indirect object in the sentence, it should have a dative case marker, and this is attestable in almost every language. But we have a locative case instead with the indirect object. The only possible way to explain the phenomenon is that we have to say that the nominal host strengthens the light verb in conjunct verb construction and if we see N+V as one unit, the licensing of the locative case becomes clear. So, there is a process of strengthening that takes place for the light verb and it is supported by the noun that has come to make the predication possible and help the verb to accommodate the unsupported case association.

The Degree of Synthesis and the Agreement:

The last way in which the nominal host strengthens the light verb in conjunct verb construction can be explained by looking at the agreement features of the conjunct verb[10]. Let us see the example to explain the notion:

(adopted from Bahl: 1974:24):

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[10] For a full length discussion on the issue, see Das (2009).

28a.	Ys-ne	moh↔n-ko	yAd	kIyA
	S/he-3M(F)S-Erg	Mohan-3MS-Acc	memory-N(fem)	do-pst-3MS

'S/he remembered Mohan'.

28b.	Ys-ko	moh↔n-ki	yAd	Ayi
	S/he-3M(F)-Dat	Mohan-3MS-Gen	memory-N(fem)	come-perf-3FS

'S/he remembered Mohan'.

Das (2009) has given the explanation of the above puzzling pattern of agreement in complex predicates and there is a follow up research that is taking place to support the hypothesis that has been proposed in the work. However, to explain how the process of strengthening takes place by the nominal to the light verb it is necessary to outline the abovementioned hypothesis here.

The verbs, either intransitive or transitive or di-transitive, bear their structural or canonical cases with them, and in order to be conjugated in different tenses and aspects and take the inflectional markers of the subject noun phrase, they have to give away or disperse the canonical case(s) to the arguments/participants in the sentence.

If the canonical cases of the verb phrase have already been dispersed, the synthesis between the two elements in conjunct verb construction remains undisturbed. However, if the light verb of the conjunct verb construction has not been able to give away its canonical cases, the nominal hosts comes up for help and strengthens the light verb by taking one of the canonical cases and shows agreement with it. The two examples in (28a-b) exemplify the same fact. The example (28a) is has a transitive verb and there are two canonical cases i.e. nominative/ergative and accusative, and if we examine the sentence, these cases have already been given to the subject and the direct object of the sentence. The nominal host in this

situation remains synthesized in the complex predicate and the verb takes the default agreement morphology which is 3MS. The sentence (28b), however, is interesting. There is an intransitive verb in the sentence, meaning it has only one case i.e. nominative to disperse. If we check the cases that are associated with different kinds of noun phrases, we would say that they are many other case-endings but the nominative. The light verb cannot become finite unless it gives away this canonical case and thus the nominal host strengthens and empowers the light verb by taking this case and shows agreement with it. This is how the strengthening of linguistic features takes place in conjunct verb construction.

Conclusion

The hypothesis presented in the paper is very new. I have been observing the nitty-gritty of different kinds of functions of the complex predicate for a long time now and very closely in all my research and teaching. The presented facts and the data regarding the weakening and strengthening of the linguistic features of linguistic items have been selected and chosen very carefully. There have been several cross checks for all the semantics of individual members of the complex predicate. The native speakers' opinion has been taken for all the corpora that have been used as the means to prove the theoretical point in the paper. It seems that we forget to take-care of these small points but if we want to add a brick of our own to the edifice of the overall knowledge system, the idea presented in the paper is a modest attempt to cover this lacuna and is open for all kind of critical evaluation.

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