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REFLECTIVE VERB- SUFFIXES IN KASHMIRI

Mohan Lal Sar

Kashmiri provides interesting complexities at almost every level of language. Some noticeable efforts have been made to analyse and explain these complexities by some native as well as foreign investigators. The phenomenon of reflective verb- suffixes is the area that has attracted the attention of quite a few scholars. If the suffix of a verb refers to its subject, object or some other entity, in a sentence, it may be called a reflective suffix. A verb form can have more than one such suffixes referring to these categories.

Ishwer Koul, 1898 realized that the suffixes are distinctively of two categories. He calls the first category as *pratyaya* (8.1.11,12) and the second as *sambandh pratyaya (8.1.46)*. However, the explanation that he gave falls short of solving the problem. Susheela Sar, 1977 tried to explain the process under the concept of *aaroopit kriya*, but the functional categorisation of the suffixes could not be explained. Peter Hook and Omkar Koul, 1984 gave a serious thought to the process. They categorised the suffixes under colour terms, irrespective of their completely different functions. The colour terms they used are--- green, white and gold. They observed that "...the pronominal suffixes in Kashmiri can be said to mediate between case and case relations..." They have been able to explain the concept of ergativity in the language, but the suffix system gets complicated, because they missed the point that the morphologically motivated suffixes are different from the semantically motivated ones. Roop Krishan Bhat, 1987 lists the suffixes with examples and suggests that their occurrence may not be universal in the language. Kashi Wali and Ashok Kumar Koul, 1994 observe, "... the pronominals assume an obliquely ergative form".

The analysis gives an impression that the system is quite complicated and difficult to control for linguists. One of the reasons that the explanations are not simple or adequate is that the suffixes are not properly classified. The fact that they can refer to the subject or the object or a third party which is benefited, obliged or harmed by the action of the verb, makes their identification difficult. The process gets

more ricated when it is seen that more than one suffix can be fused to the stem and it can show person and number distinction as well. Besides, there are some homophonous suffixes also.

However, the fact remains that the use of such forms is very frequent in both written and spoken form of the language. An inappropriate use of these elements can create unpleasant situations. Here we shall try to focus attention on these suffixes only and will not burden the explanation with case or case related discussion.

Broadly speaking, the suffixes can neatly be divided in two exclusive categories. The first category has only morphological implication and the second provides only semantic information. The suffixes of first category are obligatory. Their absence is not accepted in the language.

   1. bA   poku -s

       I   walked IP.SG.

   "I walked"

-s in this construction is the person suffix referring to first person singular subject. Construction without this s in not possible. Hence bA pok* is not acceptable. Domiki and Shina languages also use this suffix s almost for the same function (Tikanen :2007 :146,147). The process of obligatory person suffixes is prevalent in Sanskrit and Persian languages also.

Skt.-- aham agacham went'. m with agacham is the first person singular suffix. Construction without this m is not possible.

Persian --diidam 'I saw'. Here also m is the same kind of suffix.

Sindhi shows, characteristically, similar reflective suffixes as that of Kashmiri, except the gender distinction that is observed in objectival suffixes there. K. Rangan (2008) provides examples where the suffix with the verb agrees with the subject in person, number and gender in Tamil.

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Second category example can be seen in the sentence below:

2. bA poku -sa- -y

I walked **IP.SG. IIP. SG.**

"I walked for you/obliging you".

-y refers to second person singular. It can be avoided if the additional information- 'for you/ obliging you' is not intended.

Hook and Koul, 1984 did observe this. They state "... the gold and green suffixes mediate between morphology (case) and semantics; (Karaka)", (PP.130). But they did not develop the argument. Besides, gold and green, as classified by them, testify morphological implications only. They even missed to identify the objectival suffixes. Kashi Wali and Ashok Koul, 1994 appreciate this fact, saying, "The implications straddle between syntax and morphology." However, the attention gets withdrawn and they analyse the case implications with regard to these suffixes.

As already stated that the suffixes can. neatly be divided into two exclusive categories. We shall call the morphological suffixes as person suffixes and the semantic ones as pronominal suffixes.

PERSON SUFFIXES

It is a group of three sets of suffixes. The suffixes are given below:-

Table No. 1			Table No. 2		Table No. 3	
Person	Singular	Plural	Singular	Plural	Singular	Plural
I	-s	Ø	-m	Ø	-A	-aw
II	-kh	-wA	-th	-wA	-kh	-iw
III	Ø	Ø	-n	Ø	-i	-n

The first set given at table-1 is used as the subjectival person suffix, in the case of intransitive verbs in perfective aspect, where the auxiliary does not exist (sentence no. 1 and 2). And also in the case of imperfective aspect, where the auxiliary exists. Here the main verb in imperative form is suffixed with (w)aan, and gets

petrified. It does not allow any further suffixes. aan is added to the consonant ending stem and waan to the vowel ending stems.

wan 'tell' +aan — wanaan ni 'take' + waan---= niwaan

Auxiliary acts as a tense operator. All grammatical information as well as concordance is carried out by it. Auxiliary is Kashmiri is aasun 'to be'. Its past, present and future forms are oos, chu and ass respectively. In the case of past and present forms the auxiliary shows identical derivational process so for as number and gender is concerned. However, the future auxiliary takes the suffix directly. That will be discussed later.

3. tsA oosu   -kh   yi kitaab garA   niwaan

You .were   IIP. SG. this book home   take

"You were taking home this book./you used to take home this book".

4.   bA   chu   -s   yi kitaab   garA
             niwaan
I   am   IP.SG. this book   home   take
"I am taking home this book/I take home this book".

It may be noted that progressive and stative aspects, in past and present do not exhibit structural difference in Kashmiri. In respect of word order auxiliary is positioned as second element in the construction and the main verb, which is petrified can occur away from it.

Suffixes given at table-1 are also used in the case of such perfective aspect, where *mut* is added to the stem. Here also the presence of auxiliary is obligatory. *mut* is considered as an perfective suffix in the language, for all the verbs except the verb *he* 'take' when it is used as an implicator.

5.   me   chu   wuchun hyotmut
I   AUX   to watch   started

"I have started watching".

Simple past tenses verb form acts as the stem, when /nut is added. (past tense of *he* is *hyot*). The derived-form shows number-gender agreement with the subject, in case of intransitive verbs. and with the object in case of transitive verbs. After this

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concordance the form does not accept any other suffix. Suffixes are attached to the auxiliary.

6.	bA	chu/oosu	-s	pokmut
	I	AUX	IP.SG.	Walked

" I have/had walked"

7.	tohy	chi/ aas	-wA	pokymAty
	you	AUX	IIP.PL.	walked

"you (PL) have/had walked".

We have observed that the main verb or the auxiliary takes the suffix and gets inflected as well. Table- I shows that, besides third person singular and plural, first person plural suffix is also zero. However, the stem does get inflected for the plural form. The plural marker in the language is posited as i. It activates regressive vowel harmony and also palatalizes the final consonant. After bringing this change it gets deleted. Regressive vowel harmony and this kind of palatalization is a universal process in the language *pok* + *i* is realized as *paky*. Plural marker i unrounds the stem vowel and palatalizes the final consonant.

8.	asy	poky
	we	walked

Even the epenthetic vowel introduced with the suffix is harmonized. Peri Bhaskararao et al 2009 used technology to quantify, in detail the feature of palatalization in the language, at its phonetic level. However, at the morphological level palatalization is observed as a derivational process, where the articulation is perceived uniform.

The second set of suffixes, gives at table-2 are added to the transitive verbs in past tense, as subjectival suffixes. Here also the auxiliary is not required. Suffixes at table-1 are termed green and at table-2 gold by Hook and Koul. Their claim is that green suffixes "are used in past tense of all verbs". It may, however he noted that subjectival person suffixes given at table-1 cannot be used as subjectival person suffixes in the case of transitive verbs, in past tense. Subjectival person suffixes used here are given in table - 2. Suffixes given at table-1 are fixed as objectival

suffixes with them. The interesting thing here is that the subject in such situations does not remain in nominative case. And in the case of first and third person singular forms, the subjectival suffix can appear, only when the subject is deleted.

9.   me   wuch   cinema

          I   watched   cinema

          "I watched cinema".

10.   cenima   wuchu   -m

          cinema   watched   IP.SG.

          "I watched cinema".

Sentence-9 does not have subjectival suffix, because the subject *me* is very much there. Senten10.has-the suffix -m when the subject is deleted. But the subjectival suffix is a must if the objectival suffix has to appear.

11. me   wuch   -ma-   - kh   tsA

     I   saw   IP.SUB.SG   IIP.OBJ.SG   you

12. tse   wuch   -th-   -s   bA

13. humy   wuch   -na-   -kh
     tsA

     him   saw   IIIP.SUB.SG.   IIP.OBJ.SG.

     "you He saw you"

Auxiliary is an essential element in the case of *mut* suffixed transitive verbs also. As already indicated *mut* suffixed transitive verb shows number gender agreement with the object. It does not receive the person suffix. That suffix is taken by the auxiliary, with the same observation as above.

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14.   me   chu/oos   -ma-   -kh   tsA   wuchmut

         me   AUX   **IP.SUB.SG.**   **IIP.OBJ.SG.** you   seen
         "I have/had seen you".

15.   Humy   chu/oos   -na-   -s   bA   wuchmut

         Him   AUX   **IIIP.SUB.SG.**   **IP.OBJ.SG.**   I   seen
         "He has/had seen me".

It is obvious that subject in these examples remains in oblique case and the object in direct. If a verb in a construction demands two objects, the first object gets the dative suffix; -is or -as

16.   me   wuch   raam   -as   athA

         me   saw   Ram   DAT.   hand

         "I saw Ram's hand".

(It may be noted that dative marker is communicated as genetive in translation). The subject *me* 'I' can be deleted in the sentence. In that case the verb takes the subjectival suffix m

17.   ram   -as   wuchu   -m   athA

         Ram   DAT   saw   **IP.SUB.SG**   hand

         "I saw Ram's hand".

The third set of suffixes given at table-3 is used in the case of future tense for transitive as well as intransitive verbs. The suffixes are added directly to the stem. There is no derivational process as is observed in the case of past and present forms, except for the second person plural suffix *iw* where the *i* of the suffix initiates vowel harmony. Sentence no. 20.provides the example.

18.   bA   banaaw   -A   makaanA

         I   will build   **IP.SG.**   house

         "I will build (a) house".

19.	hum	banaawa	-n	makaanA
	they	will IIIP.PL.	build	house

"They will build (a) house".

20.	Tohy	banaaw	-iw	makaanA
	You PL.	will build	**IIP.PL.**	house

" you (PL.) will build (a) house".

In the case of future construction, where auxiliary is present, the main verb gets - (w) *aan* suffix as is the case with imperfectives in past and present. The person suffix is taken by the auxiliary.

21.	a sy	aas	-aw	makaanA	banaawaan
	we	AUX	IP.PL.	house	building

"We will be building (a) house".

Auxiliary is also present in the case of -*mut* suffixed verbs in future tense, with the observation that auxiliary appears as *aasi* in place of *aas*. In second person singular *i* of *assi* is lengthened and in its plural form *assi* is suffixed with wA. Here also simple past tense verb form acts as the stem.

22.	me	aasi	makaamA	banowmut
	me	will have	house	built

"I will have built (a) house".

23.	tohi	aassi	-wA	makaanA	banowmut
	you (PL.) will have		**IIP.PL.**	house	built

" You will have built (a) house".

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PRONOMINAL SUFFIXES

These suffixes have semantic implications only, as stated earlier. The suffixes are given at table-4

Table-4		
Person	Singular	Plural
I	m	Ø
II	y	wA
III	s	kh

Epenthetic vowel introduced with these suffixes do not submit to vowel harmony. The reason being that these suffixes are added to the form only after it has completed the derivational process. They act as clitics attached to the already derived forms. The function of the suffix is to through the focus of the action described in the verb on a particular person. It is not necessary that the person on whom the focus of the action falls should be a part of the linguistic activity. In English or in most of the Indian languages this kind of expression needs an extra phrase, e.g. "I am watching TV for him." The focus of watching TV is falling on a persons who is not involved in the linguistic activity. Such an expression may not be very common in languages other than Kashmiri. But a non-use of this kind of expression can affect the politeness parameter in Kashmiri. The expression is realized by fixing one of the suffixes from table-4.

24.	me	wuchu	-ma-	-s	TV
	me	watched	IP.SG	IIIP.SG.PRO.	TV

"I watched TV for him/obliging him".

We can see here that the third person singular pronominal suffix s is homophonous to the first person singular obligatory suffix given in table-1. Both these suffixes can occur together in a sentence.

25.   bA   chu -sa-   -s   TV   wuchaan

       I   am   I.P.SUBSG.   IIIP.SG.PRO.   TV   watching

       "I am watching TV for him".

Next sentence is an example of second person singular pronominal suffix.

26.   me   cha -y   bauchi   lajmAts

       me   AUX IIP.SG.PRO. hunger   felt I

       "I am hungry --your concern"

A child will normally use this sentence, when he is asking for food to his or her mother, to express the fact that my hunger is your concern. This set of suffixes can be fused with all the examples given under person suffixe, except the situations, when both subjectival as well as objectival suffixes are added. Another observation is that the second person singular suffix *kh* is realized as *h* when the pronominal suffix is added.

27.   tsA   chu -haa-   -s   TV   wuchaan

       you   AUX IIP.SUB.SG. IIIP.SG.PRO. TV   watching

       "You are watching TV for him".

Table-1 says that second person subjectival person suffix is *kh*. However, it is realized as *h* when the pronominal suffix s is added.

In translation from Kashmiri to other languages there in always a chance of meaning loss with regard to these expressions. A sentence from Kashmiri novel. 'Akh Door' of Bansi Nirdosh, translated into Hindi by Shiban Raina can be cited as an example. Deenmohammad is admitted in a hospital in Srinagar. Back home he has a daughter all alone at Bandipora. Deenmohammad tells the doctor

28.   me   hasaa   cha -y   koor   kunizany

       me   (Respect term)   AUX IIP.SG.PRO   daughter all alone
              " Sir. I have a daughter all alone".

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Suffix y conveys the meaning that it is your concern also that my daughter is all alone back home. In Hindi this, socially important meaning is lost. It is translated as-

29. ghar   par   meri   beti   akeli   hai

     home   at   my   daughter alone   is

     "My daughter is alone at home".

With regard to verbs expressing human feelings these suffixes may play a different role. Consider the following sentences, where the focus is not very prominent.

30. hymath   cha   -y

     courage   AUX   IIP.SG.PRO.

     "You have courage".

31. kruud   chu   -s

     anger   AUX   IIIP.SG.PRO.

     "He has anger / He is angry".

However, the fact remains established that the morphologically motivated suffixes are obligatory, where as the semantically motivated suffixes have social implications only.

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