TYPOLOGY IN DARĀG DIALECT OF KALKOT IN DIR KOHISTĀN[1]

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There are isolated languages in which a word cannot be divided into smaller meaningful parts. While there are others in which a compound word may be divided in smaller meaningful components. Two such dialects, Darāg and Bishor, are spoken in Kalkot village in Dīr Kohistān, of which the former is older and more common. Some distinguished features of this dialect are discussed in the following lines.

Morphology of the Darāg dialect indicates that it is not an isolated language. There are verbs and nouns that consist of stem plus endings. Sometime a noun-stem is derived from another noun by attaching a suffix to the end of a letter as in [idȝ], which is a noun meaning 'lie' and [gar] is a person doing certain activity. The combination of the two means, 'a person telling a lie'. Every part of the word of this dialect can be broken into small meaningful pieces or units. In many highly melting languages different grammatical meanings may find expression in a single word, each of its part expressed by different shapes. Darāg shows examples of fusion in its noun system as well as in verbs. If the object or word is feminine, the suffix [i] is added in present and future continuous tense, as shown in the following example:

Present continuous tense:	[j raʋa:n ti]	I am going.	(feminine)
Future continuous tense:	[j raʋa:n ti]	I shall be going.	(feminine)

While in the rest of the tenses it is [ent], for example, in the present indefinite tense it is used as [j betʃent], I go. Here [ent] is used for feminine. Another example of fusion is that the plural of many words is not formed by adding a plural ending or by modifying the shape of a word as in many English words (man, men, table, tables). In the Darāg dialect [ba:r] is used to make plural of a word for example [dʌn] 'teeth', the plural of which is [ba:r dʌn]. Sometime if there are two or three things then [du] two, [ɫa] three is used, but if there are many things then [ba:r] will be used. For example:

Two joints:	[du bʌn]
Three joints:	[ɫa bʌn]
Many joints:	[ba:r bʌn]

Vowel and tone change processes are responsible for most of the fusional characteristics of the language for example [lu:kuɫ] 'child' [lu:kuɫor] 'children'. Here [or] is responsible for the fusional characteristic of the language. Darāg cannot be neatly chopped up into many chunks, each of which carries one part of the meaning. The following example is showing the same: [noɫu:] is a stem of a verb meaning 'turn' (oneself) around. [potke] creates passive form of the this verb (be turned around), finally the suffix [u:] is used to create infinitives. Such as: [potke noɫu:] 'to be turned around'.

Most of morphological processes (processes that change the grammatical properties of a word) also occur in Darāg of Kalkot, but, like other languages of South-Asia, it also uses a process of reduplication. In this operation a noun duplicates and replaces the first consonant of the second

instance by [m], the meaning of the formation can be described as the meaning of the second noun and thing like that. A few examples of this type are as follows.

[kæʈo]	'cattle'
[kæʈo mæʈo]	'cattle and thing like that'
[aʈ]	'flour'
[aʈ maʈ]	'flour and thing like that'
[ge:l]	'bread'
[ge:l me:l]	'bread and thing like that'
[ʋa:dʌ]	'marriage'
[ʋa:dʌ ma:dʌ]	'marriage and thing like that'
[ta:l]	'oil'
[ta:l ma:l]	'oil and thing like that'
[ʃIʈ]	'house'
[ʃIʈ mi:ʈ]	'house and thing like that'
[sama:n]	'goods'
[sama:n mama:n]	'goods and thing like that'
[halak]	'people'
[halak malak]	'people and such things'

There is a series of adjectives with a prefix [bæ] 'without', which corresponds to [be] in Urdu and Persian. Such examples are as under.

[bægu:na]	'innocent'
[bæpʌrʋo]	'careless'

However, there are few highly frequent operations that use modification of a stem or word form instead of the addition of a suffix. A simple example is the word [po] 'boy', the plural of which is [ba:r po] 'boys'. Similarly, the plural of [birɛ] 'girl' is [ba:r birɛ] 'girls'. A more complex example of suppletion concerns the verb contain stem [beʧ] and [raʋa:n] including the other tenses. For example,

[beʧont]	'go'	male
[beʧent]	'go'	female
[raʋa:n]	'is going'	male, female

Here the word [raʋa:n] 'going' is using for both 'male and female'. Another example is formed with the stem [ga:]. A few examples of this type are as follows.

[j ga:]   'I went'

[tu ga:t]   'You will have gone'

[j ga:ʃ]   'I have gone'

[j ga:ʃ]   'I had gone'

[j betʃont]   'I go'

[j ga:t]   'I shall have gone'

Head/dependent marking can also be observed in Darāg of Kalkot. The relationship between the head of the phrase and the dependent elements is often marked on the latter. Such type of example is as follows.

[ra:n po]   'good boy'

[ra:n birɛ]   'good girl'

[ra:n mi:tʃ ʃ] 'good man'

[ra:n I:s]   'good woman'

Along with dependent marking examples, head-marking cases can also be found.

The relation between the subject and a verb is marked on the verb, which agrees with the corresponding noun and some time also in number. Such examples are as follow.

[a po raʋa:n tu]   'A boy is going'

[a birɛ raʋa:n ti]   'a girl is going'

[mi:ʃa:l raʋa:n tu]   'men are going'

[isa:l raʋa:n ti]   'women are going'

In this example [po] is the head/ dependent marking and [ra:n] is the modifier.

Constituent order typology can also be observed in Darāg of Kalkot. The first thing to observe about Darāg words order is that the language has some time verb final in a sentence. A few examples of this type of sentence are as follow.

[mærbini: kɛr me: kɛĨ: kita:b da:r]

Please   me a book give

Please give me a book.

[kedeʃI: j re:tɛ batʃont]

may   I tomorrow go

I may go tomorrow.

Another example of verb final sentences is as follows.

[atã mi:tʃ ʃ tæedʒrʌbaka:rɖ a:ku:]

'That man is an experienced robber'

[tu I:n kɛrɓo]

'You can do this'

[mæ I:n kɛrɓo]

'We can do this'

[so I:n kɛrɓo]

'She can do this'

[j I:n kɛr bont]

I can do this.

As we have observed, that verb is normally placed in final position in Darāg dialect. This is a characteristic feature of most Indo-Aryan languages, and in fact of most of the languages of South Asian subcontinent.[2] In some sentences the subject is placed to the right of the object. For example:

[j zaru:r betʃont]

o   s

I have to go.

In this sentence [j] is the object and [zaru:r] is the subject placed to the right of the object.

After summarizing, the unmarked order of major clause constituents in Darāg can be characterized as SOV (subject, object, verb). But it is not rigidly fixed. As we have seen, one or two constituents may be ordered after the verb, and the relative order of subject and object may also be reversed. These are few examples of those clauses, which have verb final, and the subject is placed to the right of the object.

Noun phrases are also present in Darāg dialect where the head noun is normally the right most element. [ak] is used for one, but in mostly fluent sentences [a] is used for "one". The preferred position for the indefinite article is directly before the head noun, with other elements. Between the modifier and the head noun the position can also be taken by the other numerals. The example of this is as follows.

[a odʒud]

One body.

[a batʃa]

One king.

[ba:r silix a birɛ]

A very pretty girl.

There are grammatical comparatives in Darāg of Kalkot. There is no marking of comparative adjectives etc like English (big, bigger, small, smaller etc). In Darāg dialect one person will be compared with the other person.

It will be spoken as 'that girl is bigger than that boy' or 'one of my brothers is elder than me'. This type of example is as follows.

[atã birɛ atu:n po gæn ti]

'That girl is bigger than this boy'

[mema: a dʒætʃ   gæn tu]

'One of my brothers is bigger than me'

Question sentences are also found in Darāg of Kalkot. The question marking word occurs mostly in the middle of a sentence. It is placed before the verb phrase as follows.

[tu kã: ba:g raʋa:n tu]

where are you going?

[po kom tu]

boy who are you?

Notes

[1] For history of the dialect, tribe and area, please see the author article; A Short Note on the Darāg Dialect of Kalkot in Dir Kohistan, *Ancient Pakistan,* Vol. XV, 2002

[2] Joan.L.G.Baart. *A sketch of Kalam Kohistani grammar*. P.22

Bibliographic Reference

Baart, Jhon. L. G. A Sketch of Kalam Kohistani Grammar, p.22