Pashto Endoclitics

Introduction

- Pashto endoclitics are subject to both prosodic and syntactic constraints (Tegey 1977), challenging a syntax-dependent view of prosody (e.g. Schär 1984) and the Principle of Lexical Integrity (Bresnan and McChombo 1995) as the clitics can appear inside a morphological word.
- One possible analytical route: Lexical Shifting (Wossnat 2009, Broadwell 2008).
- Another possible avenue: an architecture that views syntax and prosody as independent yet interacting dimensions of grammar (Boyd et al. 2009). Instead of regarding the prosodic projection as being based on the syntactic tree, prosody and syntax are viewed as equal partners trying to align with one another.

Two models of architecture

1. Syntactocentric
2. Parallel

The data

- Pashto is spoken in Afghanistan and parts of Pakistan.
- Clitics are quite common; some challenge the general understanding of the interaction of morphology, syntax and phonology.
- Clitics are inserted into the morphological word postlexically.
- Clitics are subject to prosodic constraints in that their placement depends on stress.
- The position of the clitic is determined by its prosodic property.
- The phonological process of vowel coalescence proves that the clitic is inserted postlexically (Tegey 1977).
- Vowel coalescence with clitic
- Vowel coalescence without clitic

Table 1: Group of possible relations as described by Tegey (1977)

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Second Position Clitics

Pashto clitics seem to be second position clitics (Tegey 1977).

1. a.
   - a.
   - a.
   - a.
   - a.
   - a.
   - a.

2. a.
   - a.
   - a.
   - a.
   - a.
   - a.
   - a.

Conclusion

- And what about the violation of the Principle of Lexical Integrity (Tegey 1977):
- The principle affects the morphology-syntax interface — can be revised (overruled) by prosody.

Analysis

- Assuming that prosody and syntax are indepdendent, but interacting dimensions of grammar, we can then conclude that prosody can operate on the morphological word and include a clitic after the lexeme before the syntactic representation (Figure 3).

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Vowel coalescence

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Table 2: Vowel coalescence and clitic insertion

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Table 3: Examples of sentence subclasses

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Prosodic representation

- The problem: a-clitics violate the Principle of Lexical Integrity, which prevents any syntactic process from interfering with morphology. There were several approaches to the problem: two of which are:
1. The e-verb is probably a prefix-clitic in the past, thus the verbs should be analyzed as bimerophemic verbs (Kaiser 1981, Anderson 2003).
2. This cannot be confirmed diachronically for all verbs.

The special class

- Adopting properties of all three classes:
  - from the perfective with the prefix e-
  - can have alternative stress in the imperfective
  - Initial consonant: no special behavior; clitic is placed after the verb.
  - Initial a-vowel: clitic is placed after the foot bearing main stress.

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