

The Syntax of Negation of Serial Verbs in Urdu

Bisma Butt*, Behzad Anwar† and Shamshad Rasool‡

Abstract

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The focus of this study is to highlight the syntax of the negation marker in Urdu serial verbs. There are two types of serial verb constructions (SVCs) in Urdu. In SVC 1, negation marker either precedes both verbs or it comes in between SVC, whereas in SVC 2 single negation marker either comes in between SVC or double negation precedes both verbs in sequence. The insertion of single negation marker in SVC does not affect the agreement phenomenon in Urdu and it merely adds supplementary negation reading in the sentence. However, the double negation affects the agreement i.e. the basic construction of SVC-1 where the first verb remains frozen and the last verb shows agreement in terms of number, person, and gender but when double negation comes in SVC-1 it converts the construction into SVC-2 where both verbs show agreement, and negation marker shows agreement in terms of aspect on first verb. Under the Minimalist Program, both negation markers originate under TP which is similar to Chomsky's representation of negation in clause. First negation marker in double negation constituent takes the frozen verb as its complement and becomes cause of its inflection, whereas the second negation marker is the specifier of the second verb which is similar to Bukhari's analysis.

Keywords: Serial Verbs, Syntactic Structure, Negation Marker

* Bisma Butt <bisma.butt@ell.uol.edu.pk> Lecturer in English Language and Literature, University of Lahore, Gujrat Campus, Pakistan.

† Behzad Anwar <behzad.anwar@uog.edu.pk> Assistant Professor in Department of English, University of Gujrat, Pakistan.

‡ Shamshad Rasool <shamshad.rasool@uog.edu.pk> Lecturer, Department of English, University of Gujrat, Pakistan.

1. INTRODUCTION

Serial verb construction is a phenomenon where more than one verb occurs in a sequence and no conjunction or subordination intervenes between them. Bukhari (2009) has explained this phenomenon in Gojri. Following is the example of Gojri SVC:

a.

kaloo-ne sa ntro chill khayo
kaloo-ERG orange peel-PF eat-PST.3. S.M
kaloo did not (peel and eat) an orange.

However, there are two major types of SVC in Urdu. Firstly, the second verb V2 is responsible for tense and agreement whereas V1 remains frozen. Secondly, all verbs in SVC exhibit tense and agreement. Examples illustrating these phenomena are given below:

b.

Aslam-ne khat likh bheja
Aslam-ERG letter.M. 3. SG – NOM write.SV1 send-PST-SV2
Aslam (wrote and sent) the letter. (SVC 1)

c.

Aslam ata jata rehta ha
Aslam-NOM come-SV1 go-SV2 live-SV3 Is-T
Aslam is used to coming and going. (SVC 2)

Serial verb constructions show many features. One such feature is the negation marker, the main focus of the work. Bukhari (2009) has studied serial verb constructions (SVC) in Gojri (an Indo-Aryan language) and he explains that there are two places of negation in SVC in Gojri, it either precedes both verbs or it follows the first verb. Urdu shows two places of negation in SVC contrary to Gojri. The first place is between the two serial verbs, like Gojri, while the second place is quite different from other languages such as, Creole (Lord, 1993), Korean (Choi, 2003; Lee, 1993), Malayalam (Jayaseelan, 2004) and Gojri (Bukhari, 2009). The second place of the negation marker in the aforementioned languages is within a single SVC, and in this construction, every verb follows its own negation marker.

This may be the first attempt to study and analyze the different places of the negation in serial verb phenomenon of Urdu within the theoretical framework of the Minimalist Program (Chomsky, 2014). Consequently, the current study adds to previous studies of SVCs in world languages. Furthermore, it helps to explore the Indo-Aryan languages that have scarcity

of linguistic research. The researchers expect that the significance of the study helps the reader to understand the concept of negation in Urdu SVCs. Finally, it also assists to show the importance of negation for making SVCs.

1.1. Sociolinguistic Background of Urdu

Pakistan is a country where a dozen languages are spoken as first languages. Five languages (Pashto, Punjabi, Sindhi, Urdu, and Saraiki) have more than ten million speakers, all in Pakistan. Almost every language spoken in Pakistan belongs to the Indo-Iranian group of the Indo-European languages family. Urdu is the national language while English as the official one (Manan and David, 2014).

The Urdu language is a member of the Indo-Aryan languages. Initially it was known as *Rekhta*, which later became Urdu during the Mughal Empire. *Rekhta* is a borrowed term from Turkish, which means *Lashkar* and it is still used in Urdu as ‘army’. Urdu was influenced by many languages but the most influential ones at that time were Turkish and Persian; other influential languages were Arabic, Hindi, Punjabi and Sanskrit (Rahman, 2015). Rahman and Gautam (2011) referred to Urdu as a Hindi language, whereas Hindi is a regional language. According to them, Punjabi, Hindi, Gujarati and Dakhani languages are names assigned for local distinctions. Urdu was considered as the amalgamation of all these; however, it was originally developed in Delhi and its surrounding area. Up to the age of Mirza Ghalib, the term *Rekhta* remained in use and at the end of the eighteenth century it was the language of Delhi poets and writers. Later, a coined term for Urdu was used by writers as *zaban e Urdu e Mualla* in the ring of Britishers. In modern time, it is known as Urdu.

1.2. Aims and Objectives

The objectives of this research study are:

- to identify the different features of negation markers in Urdu SVCs-; and
- to analyze different syntactic sources and derivation of SVCs in terms of negation marker

1.3. Research Questions

The study bears the following research questions:

1. What are the features of negation marker in Urdu SVCs?
2. What are the syntactic sources and derivation of SVCs in terms of negation

marker?

1.4. Hypothesis

The significant features of negation marker in Urdu SVCs make this language distinct from other languages across the world but especially from other Indo-Aryan languages.

2. LITERATURE REVIEW

The serial verbs phenomenon makes the structure of a language complex. In recent decades, the remarkable work of these constructions has been studied. Many researchers show different features of serial verb constructions and one of them is the negation marker which is the main focus of this study (Haspelmath, 2016; Paul, 2008; Andrason, 2018).

The question of negation has always been controversial in connection with serial verb constructions. Bisang (2009) claims that serial verb construction (SVC) does not accommodate the negation markers; however, it is not true in the case of Urdu as the study has proved that Urdu bears two negation markers in SVC. Lord (1993) considers ‘only one possible negator’ as one of the characteristics of serial verb constructions. Choi (2003) and Lee (1993) also report that the Korean serial verb constructions may have negation, as does Jayaseelan (2004) for Malayalam. According to Jayaseelan, the negation comes after first verb, and it only negates the meaning of the second verb. Bukhari (2009) has also confirmed this phenomenon for Gojri where the negation marker either precedes both verbs or it follows the first one. This proves that negation with serial verbs can occur in other languages, not only in Urdu.

García (2014) has also explained this phenomenon. According to him, negation in a serial verb construction can be marked once or more than once, but it has to apply to the whole string. The negation test indicates that the negative particle must have scope over the sequence of verb, hence confirmings the idea of a single event. However, Alamlak also exhibits only one negation marker in serial verb constructions (Aikhenvald, 2006). In this language, the negation marker has scope over the complete unit, or one of its components or any combination of adjacent components of the whole construction. Same is the case with Ewe, where the negation marker is marked once for the whole construction. The scope of the negation marker in Ewe is V, V1 or both (Ameka, 2005). Consequently, all components of serial verb constructions are marked negations with the same single negator. Bruce (1988) claimed that disambiguation of negation can be achieved with the help of context.

Occasionally, a negator may behave differently. In Barai (Papuan), the negator *ba* negates the entire SVC. The other *naebe* negates the whole SVC if it is contiguous. It can also negate components of a noncontiguous SVC separately (Foley, 2010). According to their claim, so far, no serializing language has been encountered where all the negators could have such scope effect. Only occasionally is the secondary-A concept of ‘negation’ expressed with SVCs. This appears to be exclusive to Dravidian languages (Steever, 1988; Krishnamurti, 2003). A SVC contains two finite verbs; the main verb has no restrictions on its semantic or other class, whereas for the minor verb, the expressing negation comes from a small lexically defined class (usually just ‘be’, ‘become’). Moreover, the Old Tamil (Steever, 1988) involves the negative verb ‘not become’. Similar constructions have been described for Old Kannada (Steever 1988). According to Aikhenvald (2006), asymmetrical and symmetrical SVCs can have other language-specific differences but the formal differences between various construction types in Goemai exhibit that only symmetrical coordinate SVCs allow a separate locational setting for one of the components, and negation has scope over V. In Tariana, symmetrical, asymmetrical, and event-argument SVCs differ in transitivity value and transitivity matching, in restrictions on verbs and in the scope of manner of action enclitics.

3. RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

The study of negation of serial verbs in Urdu was investigated in the light of the Naturalistic Research Approach, mostly used for linguistic inquiries. This approach was introduced especially for the study of language within the framework of generative grammar proposed and followed by Chomsky (1993). The primary idea of naturalistic methodology is that language should be studied as a science like other branches of science such as biology, physics, and psychology. This is also known as one of the recurring themes in most of the Chomsky’s writings. He studied language as a component of human mind; therefore, he coined the study of language and mind as ‘Methodological Naturalism’ which operates as the framework of whole Chomskyan linguistics. In the light of this research approach, language should be studied and investigated in the same way as other phenomena of the natural world are investigated. The aim of employing methodological naturalism is to provide explanatory description of the phenomenon being studied.

The major purpose of this approach is to uncover the underlying

principles on behalf of the empirical data in order to explore new issues and concepts, moving from their description towards theorizing and making generalization about the phenomenon under investigation. The operative tools and mechanisms of applying this methodology was provided by Chomsky in terms of the Minimalist Program (1995 and subsequent works). Naturalistic methodology helped the researcher in order to find certain sets of ideas which serve as the underlying principles used for the investigation of particular phenomenon of language within linguistic inquiries. Moreover, it helps the researcher in order to produce theoretical dimensions for the subject under investigation.

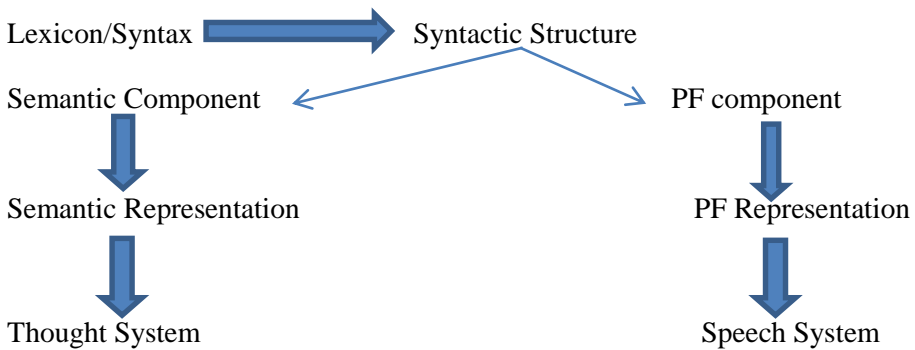
The present study uses a qualitative approach. The data is analyzed within the theoretical framework, the Minimalist Program (MP) (Chomsky, 1957, 1995, 2005). Chomsky first introduced in 1995, emphasizing that it is a program, not a theory. It is the latest version of Government Binding (GB) theory. GB has a great impact on the Minimalist Program but MP is significantly different from GB in a number of ways.

3.1. Minimalist Program

Chomsky (1993) has presented a fairly flexible theoretical ground for accounting the syntactic ideas named as Minimalist Program (MP). In the past, much of Chomsky's own work was the projection of complex grammatical apparatus making the theory complex. He theorized the idea of MP that is essentially a technique for understanding the grammar. It involves an inquiry linking with cognitive science and the reflections of Chomsky's ideas of transformation and generative grammar. Generally, it belongs to the paradigm of theoretical linguistics. Grammatical studies not only deal with principles and parameters of only one language but all the languages across the globe (Chomsky, 1995). Minimalist framework is more rooted in principles and parameters theory which is also referred to as Government and Binding theory (Chomsky, 1993). The study is using MP as theoretical background as outlined in Radford (2004). It is a primary assumption that the features of human language are mutually shared by all human beings with a general capacity of acquiring language in order to motivate GG. Such mutually shared features are called 'Principles' and one of them is called 'Locality Principle'. According to Radford (2004), Locality Principle requires all the grammatical operations to be local. In other words, the grammatical operations such as A' movement, case assignment and auxiliary inversion are subject to attracting the most relevant expression (ibid). Nevertheless, it is claimed that all principles and parametric variations are part of genetic makeup of human beings. Such innateness is a part of Universal Grammar (UG) projected by Chomsky (1965). According to

UG, the grammar of all human languages in the brain is structured and systematized within different constituents and one of them is Lexicon (Radford, 2004). Lexicon functions as the storage facility of language faculty; furthermore, it behaves as a list of all lexical words in a language along with their linguistic features (ibid). The other components such as syntactic component also called computational constituent works with Lexicon, phonetic component and semantic component to drive only grammatically true expressions. The aforementioned relationship of components is displayed in following figure.

Figure 1 (cf. Radford, 2004:9)



Chomsky described the grammar within Generative Grammar (GG) in simplest way (Chomsky, 1993); this led him to minimize the theoretical and the descriptive apparatus used to describe language’ (Radford, 2004). Nevertheless, the minimization of theoretical and descriptive grammatical apparatus is referred as MP.

3.2. Representations in the Minimalist Program

3.2.1. The Interface Levels

MP and GB have different levels of representation; GB consists of four levels of representation, while MP contains two levels of representation. Deep structure and Surface Structure, Logical Form (LF) and Phonological Form (PF) are associated with GB, while LF and PF are part of MP (Chomsky, 1993). They are the interface levels mainly associated with the interpretability of features.

3.2.2. Interpretability Features

Three features are present in lexicon such as properties of semantics, formal features and phonetic properties. Formal features always prompt the derivational operations (merge and move) (Chomsky 1995). In MP, three things are considered and discussed in details which are as follows:

- Phi-features such as number, person and gender
- Extended projection principle
- Abstract features

During the course of derivation, no semantic interpretation is achieved in terms of abstract case features whereas phi-features of nominal get valued. Therefore, unvalued abstract case features become part of derivation in the presence of phi-features present on heads of V and T. Here, the phi-features have no semantic interpretation just like abstract case features and remain unvalued while entering into derivation (Chomsky, 1995). Complementizer (C) provides these features to Tense (T) as head T does not possess these features (Chomsky, 2005). Now interpretable features finally reach at LF in the process of semantic interpretability. After reaching LF, the derivation becomes converged.

3.2.3. Economy

The most important feature of minimalist program is ‘economy’; MP involves economy of representation and economy of derivation. The properties of economy are mentioned below:

- i. As a principle, the economy of representation directs that there must be a reason for every grammatical structure. For example, there should not be any complexity on the part of any grammatical structure to satisfy the constraints required for grammaticality. Such constraints are similar to other checks in any optimal systems applied to the mapping in between sensorimotor and conceptual interfaces that are ultimately subject to the exploration of MP.
- ii. As a principle, the economy of derivation, it is a principle which governs the movement in order to match the interpretable and un-interpretable features. For example, the plural inflection of English regular nouns e.g. *cats* is referred as interpretable features. Here, the word ‘*cats*’ is used to refer many cats instead of one cat. It is interpretable as it adds to the meaning. Furthermore, the inflection of verbs in English is sensitive to the number of their subjects in every grammatical sentence. For instance,

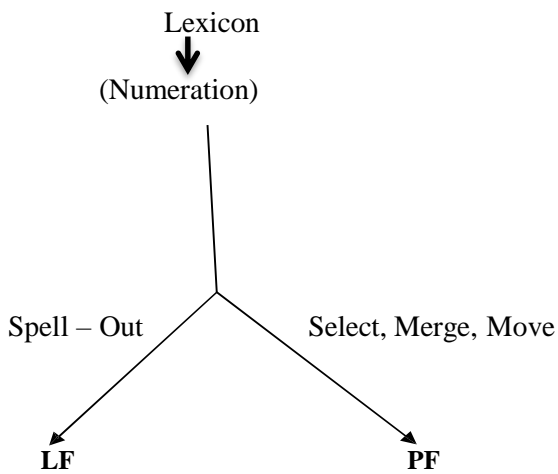
‘A cat runs’ vs ‘Cats run’; in this case, movement is necessary in order to achieve interpretability by developing a relationship between subject and verb.

3.3. Derivational Operations

3.3.1 The Operation Select

The following figure shows the minimalist model of representation.

Figure 2: Representation of Minimalist Program



Clause derivation starts from numeration. In this process, the items are selected and then the two derivational operations e.g. Move and Merge are applied.

3.3.2. The operation Merge

It is a function through which two syntactic objects (e.g., α and β) merge. The merge operation is done with unordered setting of objects with a particular label (for instance, in this case, the label is α). Furthermore, it always involves a head and a non-head syntactic object. For further elaboration, consider the following examples:

- I want to eat.
- I want to eat pizza.
- Eating is fun.
- Eating pizza is fun.

This operation applies on lexical items such as ‘eat’ and ‘pizza’ to produce ‘eat pizza’. Under the minimalist program, all phrases are identified with a label. For instance in above example, the label for ‘eat pizza’ is ‘eat’ as the phrase acts as verb. In other words, the phrase is called verb phrase (VP).

Operation Merge [eat, pizza]  [eat, {eat, pizza}]

3.3.3. The Operation Move

The phenomenon of ‘displacement’ is well defined by the operation move. According to Chomsky (1995), the interpretation of phrases is different where they are actually heard in a sentence as compared to the original place where they are instigated. However, these phrases in analogous expressions are constructed and interpreted in terms of specific natural constraints of locality, and computational system projects the idea of displacement (Chomsky, 1993).

3.3.4. The Operation Agree

Between two syntactic elements, the operation ‘agree’ develops in order to match their phonological, formal, and abstract case features. The process of derivation under Agree-based theory is explained through the tree diagram given below. Figure 3 projects the derivation in terms of elaborating how the syntactic elements get merged, interpretable features get valued, and uninterpretable features remain unvalued (Chomsky, 2014).

Figure 3: Derivational Operations of MP

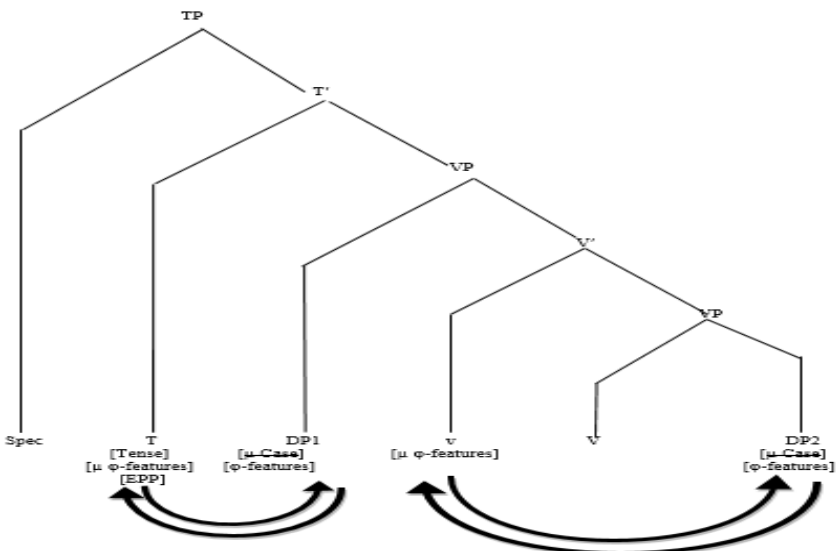


Figure 3 highlights the mechanism of getting value of uninterpretable features and their deletion process under Agree-based theory. During derivation, the syntactic elements are called probe (uninterpretable features) and goal (interpretable features). A relationship develops between probe and goal in order to get value of uninterpretable features. For example, the above figure shows little *v* as probe having uninterpretable features whereas DP2 is goal having interpretable features. Moreover, it is also important to notice that DP2 also has an uninterpretable feature such as case feature which is also in need of getting value. Probe and goal enter into derivation where case features of DP2 and uninterpretable features of little *v* get valued. The aforementioned process is a fundamental requirement of Agree-relation that is satisfied during derivation. Further, the deletion of uninterpretable case feature is done and the same relation is developed between T and DP1.

4. ANALYSIS AND DISCUSSION

The phenomenon of serial verbs shows that it is a sequence of verbs and that they act together as a single predicate. The coordination and subordination markers are absent in these constructions. Like many other features, SVC also possesses negation marker. Similar to other languages of the world, Urdu also shows this phenomenon. The following features of negation marker in SVC are observed that makes the language distinct from other languages of the world. Urdu shows two places of negation marker in SVCs.

On a surface level, first place of negation in SVC in Urdu is similar to that of Gojri because in both languages, the negation marker follows the first verb whereas Bukhari (2009) explains that in Gojri, it only negates the last verb, but this is not true for Urdu because in this language, it negates both verbs. The second place of negation marker in SVC in Urdu does not exist in Gojri where every verb in SVC follows its own negation marker. In Gojri, when two negations are used in SVC then a coordination marker is used which results as a destruction of SVC. Examples are:

d.

Kaloo santhro na chillyo te na khayo

kaloo-ERG orange-NOM NEG Peel-PF and NEG eat-PST.3.S.M

Kaloo did not [peel and eat] an orange.

Bukhari explains the above cited example as non-serial verb construction on the basis of two reasons. Firstly, the presence of two negation markers is contradictory to the ‘only one negation marker’ requirement for

SVCs, and secondly, there is an overt coordinating conjunction *te* ‘and’, that rules out the possibility of the above example being a serial verb construction. But this case is different in Urdu. Although there are two negation markers present in this SVC, it does not break the rule of SVCs. Explanation of this point is given below with the help of different examples:

1(a)

Amna-ne khat likha na bheja

*Amna. F. SG – ERG letter.M. 3. SG – NOM write – SVI not send.M.SG-
Amna did not write and send the letter. (SVC 2)*

1(b)

**Amna-ne khat likha bheja*

*Amna. F. SG – ERG letter.M. 3. SG – NOM write – SVI send.M.SG-SV2
Amna did not write and send the letter. (SVC 2)*

1(c)

Amna-ne khat na likha na bheja

*Amna. F. SG – ERG letter.M. 3. SG – NOM not write – SVI not send.M.SG-
SV2*

Amna did not write and send the letter. (SVC 2)

1(d)

Amna-ne khat likh bheja

*Amna. F. SG – ERG letter.M. 3. SG – NOM write – SVI send.M.SG-SV2
Amna did not write and send the letter. (SVC 1)*

1(e)

**Amna-ne khat likh na bheja*

*Amna. F. SG – ERG letter.M. 3. SG – NOM write – SVI not send.M.SG-SV2
Amna did not write and send the letter. (SVC 1)*

1(f)

**Amna-ne khat na likh na bheja*

*Amna. F. SG – ERG letter.M. 3. SG – NOM not write – SVI not send.M.SG-
SV2*

Amna did not write and send the letter. (SVC 1)

1(g)

Amna-ne khat nahi likh bheja

*Amna. F. SG – ERG letter.M. 3. SG – NOM not write – SVI send.M.SG-
SV2*

Amna did not write and send the letter. (SVC 1)

1(h)

Amna-ne khat likh nahi bheja

Amna. F. SG – ERG letter. M. 3. SG – NOM write – SVI not send.M.SG-

SV2

Amna did not write and send the letter. (SVC 1)

Urdu shows two types of SVCs (see examples b and c). Examples (1a-1c) are categorized as (SVC-2) whereas examples (1d-1h) are (SVC 1) and in both types, verbs stand next to each other without any coordination and subordination except examples (1a), (1c) and (1h). First type (SVC 1) exhibits tense agreement only on the final verb and non-final verb remain as 'invariant form' (see examples 1d-1h) while in the second type all verbs in the sequence of SVC show tense agreement (see examples 1a-1c) only when negation marker *na* comes either in between the SVC or two negation markers for each verb in a sequence. Without this double negation, SVC-2 cannot be achieved in Urdu.

In 1(a), a second type of SVC is shown where both verbs in Urdu SVC never agree with any other case except the nominative. This shows that in the structure, both verbs *likha* and *bheja* only agree with the highest nominative NP *khat*, which is masculine in gender and singular in number. Both verbs do not show any agreement with the subject *Amna*, because it displays feminine gender. The above examples clearly exhibit the four patterns of negation markers in two types of SVCs. Both SVCs show the presence of two types of negation patterns; SVC 1 shows the negation marker-*nahi* that either precedes both verbs in sequence or it comes in between the SVC whereas SVC 2 exhibits the negation marker-*na* that either comes in between the SVC or double negation precedes both verbs in the sequence.

The insertion of the negation marker in 1(a) and 1(h) does not affect the agreement phenomenon in Urdu and it merely adds supplementary negation reading in the sentence but in 1(c) double negation affect the agreement i.e., 1(d) is the basic construction of SVC-1 where the first verb remains frozen and the last verb shows agreement in terms of number, person and gender but when double negation is added in SVC-1 it converts this construction into SVC-2 where both verbs show agreement. Example 1(c) shows serial verbs *likha* and *bheja* exhibiting agreement in terms of person, number and gender. Similar is the case with 1(a) where adding negation *na* in between SVC-1 turns into SVC-2. Therefore, it can be claimed that 1(a), 1(c), and 1(h) do not break the rule of SVC with negation markers in between serial verbs. Furthermore, it is obvious from above examples that Urdu shows the Consequential Serial Verb Constructions; also known as the Direct Object Sharing serial verb constructions (Chomsky, 1995). These constructions

take two transitive verbs and share the same subject and object. In consequential SVCs, the two verbs express a natural sequence of events and they are ordered in a precedence- consequence iconic relation (Gruber, 1992a). Examples 1a-h above, therefore, mean that ‘Amna wrote the letter first and then sent it.’ It is important to note that the second verb is not a result of the action of the first verb in these constructions. It is the second step of an overall plan on the part of the agent. The object of the second verb must be the same as the object of the first verb.

Moreover, the SVC in 1(a) is only true because of the presence of the negation marker. If this marker were to be removed, then the construction would be ungrammatical like 1(b). Hence, from this construction, it can also be observed that negation marker also helps to change the construction into SVC like 1(a). Moreover, if we observe 1(c) without the negation marker, it is first type of SVC in Urdu. Therefore, it is also clear from this example that often, a negation marker changes the first type of SVC into the second type of SVC in Urdu.

However, 1(e) and 1(f) both are ungrammatical, exhibiting that negation marker in both places cannot come with (SVC 1). An important point to consider is that when it tries to negate the SVC 1, then the whole construction is destroyed, and the SVC is no more. Examples are given below:

2(a)

Amna-ne aam kaat diya

Amna. F. SG – ERG mango. M. 3. SG – NOM cut – SVI give. M .SG-SV2

Amna cut and give the mango. (SVC 1)

2(b)

Amna-ne aam nahi kaata

Amna. F. SG – ERG mango. M. 3. SG – NOM not cut – SVI

Amna did not cut the mango. (SVC 1)

2(c)

Amna-ne aam nahi diya

Amna. F. SG – ERG mango. M. 3. SG – NOM not give. M .SG

Amna did not give the mango. (SVC 1)

2(a) shows first type of serial verb construction where tense agreement is only possible on the final verb *diya* and non-final verb *kaat* remains as ‘invariant form’ and it does not show any agreement with the highest nominative NP. The negation marker cannot be inserted between (SVC 1) as the examples 1(e) and 1(f), it can only be possible when construction bears only one verb and it follows a negation marker like above examples 2(b) and 2(c). The given examples show that Urdu is different from Gojri and other

languages across the world as it exhibits unique places of negation markers in two different types of SVCs and their effect on their meanings. Therefore, it can be concluded that negators in SVC do not influence the agreement of construction whereas they only provide additional reading except the double negation.

4.1. Representation of Negation in Urdu Clause Structure

Thus far in this section, the distribution of negation in Urdu sentences has been explained. The next question that arises is how negative markers are syntactically represented. In this section, firstly, the position of negation in the clause structure of Hindi as proposed by Kumar (2004), and Bukhari (2009) for Gojri is explained. Finally, we present our proposal for the location of sentential negation in Urdu clause structure.

4.2. Representation of Negation in Kumar (2004)

Kumar (2004) assumes that Hindi has a Neg head which takes AspP as complement. He proposes the following analysis:

Figure 3: Kumar’s Analysis of Negation Marker

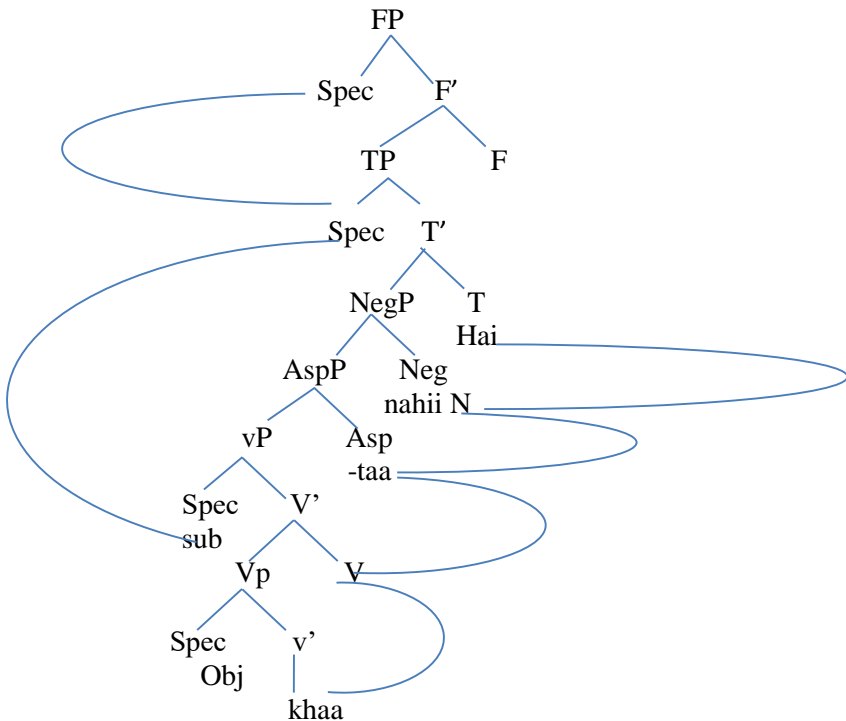
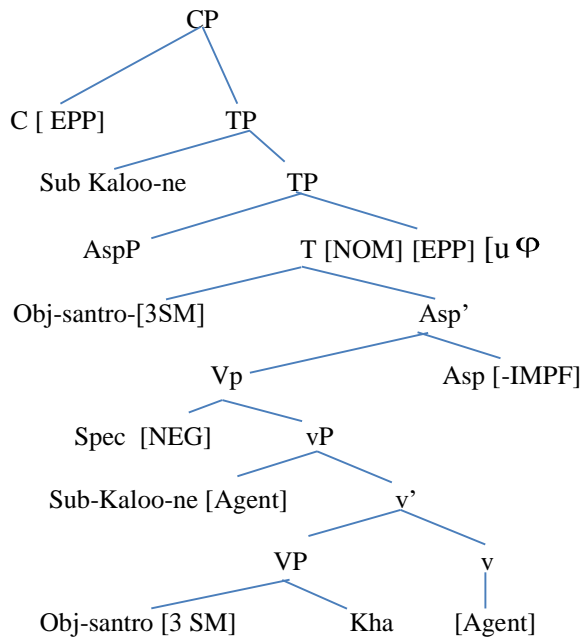


Figure 3 shows an unattractive feature of this analysis. According to Kumar (2004), the head movement that derives the inflected verb must be assumed to be switched from left-adjunction (to *v* and *Asp*) to right adjunction (to *Neg*), and back to left adjunction (to *T*) because negation would be the only prefix among a set of suffixes. Under his analysis, both complex predicates and the serial verb construction must be analyzed as derived complex heads, to which the negation is prefixed by head-movement.

4.3. Representation of Negation in Bukhari (2009)

Contrary to Kumar, Bukhari claimed that the negation is a specifier of *vp* and sister to another *vp* but not a head. Following tree diagram explains the location of negation marker in Gojri.

Figure 4: Bukhari's Analysis of Negation Marker



There are three reasons for thinking that the negation in Gojri is a particle, in the sense of a non-projecting maximal category, not a head: (a) If it were a head, it would be the only head in the inflection layer which would precede its complement, while as a specifier it is expected to precede the head it is a specifier of. (b) It does not have properties typical of heads. It is not

inflected, i.e., no tense feature and unvalued phi-features are present (contrary to the case of negation in Marathi which is head final language and inflected).

Moreover, it is not involved in case assignment. (c) According to Holmberg (2000) and Biberauer, Holmberg and Roberts (2008), universal word order principle- Final over Final Constraint (FOFC) (in which head final phrase cannot immediately dominate the head initial phrase) will be violated if negation is considered as head; taking vP its complement. This analysis is reasonable for preverbal negation where adjacency remains undisturbed but it lacks the explanation for double negation where the first negation marks agreement on first verb in SVC.

4.4. Structural Position of Sentential Negation

So far, the researchers have discussed the proposals locating the structural position of negation in clause structure. Now, the evidence is discussed for the structural position of sentential negation in Urdu clause. On the basis of discussion section, it appears that both negation markers originate under TP which is similar to Chomsky's representation of negation in clause (see figure 5). First negation marker takes the frozen verb *likh* its complement and becomes the cause of its inflection whereas the second negation marker is the specifier of second verb *bhej*, similar to Bukhari's analysis. Two layers of *Asps* are present in this clause structure that triggers the verbs to fulfil the need of aspectual agreement. Subject of the clause moves out of VP and gets its case from TP; moreover, EPP feature also get satisfied. See the following tree structure for Urdu clause structure carrying double negation.

of negation patterns; SVC 1 shows the negation marker *nahi* that either precedes both verbs in sequence or it comes in between the SVC which is similar to Gojri (Bukhari, 2009) whereas SVC 2 exhibits the negation marker *na* which either comes in between the SVC or double negation precedes both verbs in the sequence.

The insertion of negation marker in SVC does not affect the agreement phenomenon in Urdu and it merely adds supplementary negation reading in the sentence but double negation affects the agreement i.e., the basic construction of SVC-1 where the first verb remains frozen and the last verb shows agreement in terms of number, person and gender but when double negation is added in SVC-1 it converts this construction into SVC-2 where both verbs show agreement, and the negation marker shows agreement in terms of aspect on first verb.

Under the Minimalist Program, both negation markers originate under TP which is similar to Chomsky's representation of negation in clause (Chomsky, 1993). First negation marker in Urdu takes the frozen verb its compliment and becomes the cause of its inflection, whereas the second negation marker in Urdu is the specifier of second verb which is similar to Bukhari's analysis.

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