



RESEARCH ARTICLE

A Study on the Agreement of Transitive Compounds in Pashto Language

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ABSTRACT

In Pashto language, transitive and intransitive verbs differ with respect to the grammatical agreement of sentence elements and parts. This study shows how, with a transitive (necessary) verb, the elements of a sentence and its basic components create grammatical agreement with each other. In Pashto language, a sentence has two fundamental parts, and each part must agree with the other. The linguistic elements within these parts also agree among themselves. This study demonstrates that if this grammatical rules and agreements are broken, it wrongly affect the semantic integrity of the sentence. In Pashto language, the characteristic of a transitive verb is that, along with the doer (subject), it also requires an object. In Pashto, an action is performed directly on something or some entity. The one who carries out the action is called the doer (subject), the entity or thing upon which the action is performed is called the object, and the action itself is called the deed. Similarly, for the sentence elements, the realization of an action also involves clarity, place, and time, which this study discusses regarding the agreement of the action.

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Introduction

Language, as a system, has specific structures. In linguistic structures, linguistic elements are arranged horizontally according to particular rules for the purpose of transmitting meaning. Pashto, as an ancient Aryan language, is an inflectional language in which sentences begin with a nominal part and end with a verbal part. The nominal part also has its related elements that come consecutively, and in the second part, the verb comes, making statements about its nominal part. In this study, the agreement of other parts of the sentence with the transitive verb has been examined.

Research on the agreement with transitive and intransitive verbs has been conducted in various works, but some scholars have focused only on one aspect. Regarding the transitive verb, Sherzad wrote in 'Pashto Syntax (A New Review and Research)' that a transitive verb

is an action that agrees with the first element of the sentence in tense or is inflected for the subject of the clause (Shirzad, 2020, p.176). The subject of the clause, also called the 'mubtada,' is the initial part of the clause. Khweshki, however, wrote in 'Contemporary Pashto Grammar' that a transitive verb is a verb that takes an object and is inflected for the object in the past tense; of course, this inflection and derivation are done in terms of person, number, and gender (Khweshki, 2016, p.150).

It is worth mentioning that, in the past tense, transitive verbs appear in the passive form and receive the object, and agreement between the components of the sentence is also necessary. The theoretical part of this research is the study of the components of transitive sentences, and we bypass other related topics. Transitive verbs are of two types: one is active, and the second is passive. In Pashto grammar, Zarghuna Zewar writes: In sentences where there are passive transitive verbs,

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agreement and correspondence with the subject in both tenses (past and non-past) with the object is necessary ([Rashtin Zewar, 2018 p. 166](#)). In Short Pashto Grammar, it is stated that: the passive verb is formed with the auxiliary verb 'kēdal' (to become), in this case, the main verb is brought in the infinitive form, or in the past participle form ([Shafif, 2016, p. 80](#)). It is a matter worthy of consideration.

Materials and Methods

The research type of this study is literary, and its method is exploratory and analytical. First, the Pashto-language

Results and Discussion

Language and speech are two different realities; however, it is important to understand that language (langue) is a set of rules for speech (parole), which comes into existence through those very rules. In speech, meaning is conveyed through sounds, words, phrases, compositions, sentences, and eventually complete texts. So, sentences are a means of transmitting thought; each sentence conveys a thought, a request, or a command...

Therefore, it is important that every speaker of a language pays attention to the use of linguistic elements according to the rules of their language in order to convey the correct meaning. If the order of linguistic elements is changed, the meaning is either lost or altered. In Pashto sentences where (کړی, کړی, کړی) appear, other elements are also combined in each part to express different meanings. For example:

English	Pashto/Phonemic (IPA)
1. I study.	/zə dars lo'lam/
2. I came.	/zə ra'ɣəlam/
3. The bread was eaten.	/dɔ:dəi wə'xoɾəl fwa/
4. The bread was being eaten.	/dɔ:dəi xo'ɾəl ke'də/
5. The article was being written.	/ma'qɑ:la le:kəl ke'də/

It does not only come as something related to the verb, but other linguistic elements like (nouns, pronouns, proper nouns, adverbs, and numerals) also come as complements of the verb ([Taheri, 2020, p. 135](#)).

Like in the examples below:

English Singular form	Pashto/Phonemic (IPA)
1. : The young man is cutting the green plant.	/zal'mai bo:'tai fi:n wa'hi/
English plural form	Pashto/Phonemic (IPA)
2. The youths are cutting the green plant.	/zal'mijɑ:n bo:'tai fi:n wa'hi/
3. The youths cut the green plant.	/zal'mijɑ:n bu:'ti fə'na wa'hi/
English Singular form	Pashto/Phonemic (IPA)
4. The boy colors the green shirts.	/ha'lak ka'mis fin ran'gaw/
English plural form	Pashto/Phonemic (IPA)
5. The boys color the green shirts.	/hal'kɑ:n kə'misuna fə'na rən'gawi/
English Singular form	Pashto/Phonemic (IPA)
6. The pigeon eats green seeds.	/ko'tara dɑ:'na fə'na xo'ri/
English plural form	Pashto/Phonemic (IPA)

- | | |
|--------------------------------|----------------------------------|
| 7. The pigeons eat green seeds | /ko'tare dɑ:'ne ʃə'ne xo'ri/ |
| English Singular form | Pashto/Phonemic (IPA) |
| 8. The lion eats raw meat. | (zəm'rai ɣwa:'ʃa xɑ:'ma xo'ri/) |
| English plural form | Pashto/Phonemic (IPA) |
| 9. The animals eat raw meat. | /dzə'nɑ:war ɣwa:'ʃe xɑ:'me xo'ri |

In the above examples (green, green, green, green, raw, and raw), these are adjectives, which currently agree in gender and number with the nouns (plant, plants, shirt, shirts, grain, grains, meat, meats) they describe and change according to gender and plural and singular form of the nouns in Pashto language.

According to the fundamental division of Pashto verbs, verbs are categorized into three types: 1- Transitive verbs, 2- Intransitive verbs, 3- Reciprocal verbs ([Ziar, 2005, p. 143](#)). On this basis, we can also classify clauses according to verbs into three types (transitive, intransitive, and reciprocal), and here the focus of our study is on transitive clauses.

In the structure of Pashto clauses, in a transitive verb, the combination of subject + object + verb produces a transitive clause ([Chamto, 2019, p. 117](#)).

In the following clauses, the (object) is in masculine form, so in both past and present tenses it does not change; it only agrees with the subject and the verb, as in the following sentences:

Present tense (singular form) Pashto/Phonemic Present tense (plural form) Pashto/Phonetics

- (First person) I planted flowers. /zə gə'la:n kə'rəm/ We planted flowers. /muz gə'la:n kə'ro/
- (Second person) You build houses. /tə ko'runa dʒo:ɾə'we/ You build houses. /taso tə ko'runa dʒo:ɾə'we/
- (Third person) He/She hears the news. /ha'ɣa xabə'runa ɔ:'r. /They hear the news. /ha'ɣwi xabə'runa ɔ:'r/

In the examples above (I, you, he) the singular form of the verb agrees with the subject, and (flowers, houses, news) take the plural form of the object. In the verb (did) in the past tense, it found agreement with 'I' (the subject), where (m) matches the first person. In the second example, (made) in the past tense agreed with 'you' (the subject), where (e) matches the second person. In the third example, (hears) in the past tense agreed with 'he' (the subject), where (i) matches the third person both in singular and plural forms. Also, in the past tense plural form, the verb agrees with the subject, but in the above sentences there are no adverbs available.

Past Tense (Singular). Pashto/Phonemic (IPA) Past Tense (Plural) Pashto/Phonemic(IPA)

- (First person) I planted a flower. /ma gul wɔ'ka:rə/ We planted flowers. /muz gə'la:n wə'kərel/
- (Second person) You built a house. /ta ko:r dʒo:ɾ kər/ You built houses. /ta'so ko'runa dʒo:ɾ kə'ɾəl/
- (Third person) He heard the news. /ha'ɣa xa'bər wa:wə'red/ They heard the news. /ha'ɣwi xabə'runa wa:wə're:dəl/

In the above sentences, in the past tense, the verb does not agree with the subject and the subject takes the indefinite form, while the second sentence agrees with its second object. Transitive verbs are those that require an object in addition to the subject, and in the past tense, they adapt to the object of the sentence, of course, this adaptation is done according to person, number, and gender ([Shirzad, 2020, p. 149](#)).

Transitive verbs are those verbs that, in the present tense, agree with the subject of the sentence (doer), and in the past tense, the subject of the sentence (doer) comes in an indefinite form and the verb agrees with the object of the sentence ([Shirzad, 2020, p. 176](#)).

From the above notes, it is clear that in the present and future tense, the verb comes in a definite form and the verb agrees with the doer (subject), with examples given. A transitive verb is one that accepts an object, and in the past tense, the verb aligns with the object of the sentence, and this agreement happens in terms of person, number, and gender ([Khweshki, 2016, p. 150](#)). Based on the above sources, other linguistic elements related to a transitive verb also follow a specific pattern according to tense. If there is an auxiliary verb with a transitive verb, it pertains to the verb and shows the place, time, and manner of the action ([Rashtin, 1993, p. 457](#)).

Present tense English Pashto/Phonemic(IPA) Past tense English Pashto/Phonemic(IPA)

1. Zalmai eats sweet clay. /zəl'mai xo:z xat'kai xo'ri/ Zalmai ate sweet clay. /zəl'mai xo:z xat'kai wo'xuʁ/
2. Zalmai eat sweet clays. /zal'maj xwa:'yə xat'ki xu'ri/ Zalmai ate sweet clays. /zal'maj xwa:'yə xat'ki wə'xuʁəl

If we look at the above examples (khatki and khatkai), the verb (object) has been used in the past tense and has been adjusted according to the number of the subject, meaning (khatki) is singular, so the verb (ate) matches it in the past tense, and (khatkai), which is plural, so the verb (ate) matches it. And in the past tense, the subject also appears in its proper form, but in the non-past tense, the verb doesn't match the object. Similarly, (sweet and sweets), which are adjectives, agree in number with what they describe (khatki, khatkai) in the sentence in both past and present tense.

Transitive Passive Verbs

In a passive verb, the object is brought in place of the subject and comes at the beginning of the sentence ([Rashtin, 1993, p. 458](#)).

in the following Example:

Present tense (singular form) Pashto/Phonemic (IPA) Present tense plural form Pashto/Phonemic (IPA)

1. The branch breaks. /tsɑ:ŋga mɑ:te'yi/ The branches break. /tsɑ:ŋgi mɑ:te'yi/
2. The wood breaks. /lar'gai mɑ:te'yi/ The pieces of wood break /lar'gi mɑ:te'yi/

In the above examples, we see that transitive verbs in the present tense have no connection of gender or number with the object they acted upon.

Past tense (singular form) Pashto/Phonemic(IPA) Past tense plural form Pashto/Phonemic(IPA)

2. The axe broke. /lo:r ma:t fo/ The axes broke. lo:ru'na ma:t ful/
1. The branch broke. /tsɑ:ŋga 'ma:ta fwa/ The branches broke. /tsɑ:ŋ'ge ma:'te fwe/

In the examples above, in the first example, we see that (/lo:r/axe) is masculine in gender and singular in number as an object, and (daughters) is the plural masculine form. (Broke) is the verb that matches the gender with the object, but it does not match in number, and (became) and (became) are auxiliary verbs that match the object in both gender and number. With the singular object ((/lo:r/axe), the form (became) has been chosen, and with the plural object (lo:ru'na/axes), the form (became) has been chosen. In the second sentence, (branch) is a singular feminine object, and (branches) is its plural feminine object. The verbs (broke) and (broke) have been adjusted according to the gender and number of the object, and (became) and (became) are auxiliary verbs that match the object in both number and gender.

Transitive verbs are those verbs that do not require a subject (doer) and the sentence is made up of an object and a verb. In the past tense, the verb agrees with the object in number and gender, and in the non-past tense, the verb does not agree with the object in number and gender.

According to some linguists, the passive verb is formed with the help of the auxiliary 'to be'; the main verb is used in the infinitive form or as a past participle, and the auxiliary verb is used in the appropriate tense ([Shafif, 2016, p. 80](#)).

Read the examples below:

English	Pashto/Phonemic (IPA)
To be seen.	/li:dəl ke:dəl/
To be hit.	/wahəl ke:dəl/
To be written	/li:kəl ke:dəl/
To be eaten.	/xoʁəl ke:dəl/

In the above examples (to be seen, to be hit, to be written, to be eaten), these are verbal adjectives that have taken the forms above by dropping the (i).

In the above examples (being seen, being hit, being written, being eaten), the verbs are passive participles that have taken the above forms by dropping the 'i'.

A: Personal passive or unknown transitive verb: It shows the process of an action being done, like in the following sentences:

English	Pashto/Phonemic (IPA)
1. The clay is being beaten.	/dɔ:l wahəl ke:gi/
2. The pen is being writing.	/qalam tʃa'le:gi/
3. The wood is being broken.	/largai ma:'te:gi/
4. The wheat is being sown.	/ɣanam karəl ke:gi/

In the above examples, we see that the verb shows the process of an action being done, where the doer exists but is not known, so it is called a personal passive.

Its form is like this:

Past passive adjective + auxiliary verb (was, became, or both) + (if needed) another auxiliary verb (take, have)

The type is struck (-i) by its master or is/gets struck (-i).

The passive adjective(s) is used, which is considered one of the forms in Pashto.

B: Passive verbal form: which shows the state rather than the process of doing something, for example:

English	Pashto/Phonemic (IPA)
1. It has been stolen.	/ɣla fwe da/
2. The bread has been baked.	/dɔdɔi pəxa fwe da/
3. The clothes have been washed.	/ʒa:me win'dʒal fwe di/

C: Inventive or impersonal passive verb: where instead of an action, an indefinite or indeterminate subject (this, what, something, it...) appears, or sometimes nothing appears at all, for example:

English	Pashto/Phonemic (IPA)
(It) is impossible to (go there).	/ (da) na'fɔne da tʃe (drə'fəm)/

How annoying it is /da tʃomra nazyəma da/ ([Ziar, 2005, p. 158-159](#)).

Conclusion

The research concluded that with a known transitive verb, in the past tense, the action (verb) matches the doer (subject), and the adverb matches the action. Transitive verbs are those verbs in a sentence that require an object in addition to the subject. With an unknown transitive action (verb), there is no subject, and it is divided into three types: personal action, state-indicating, and event-based.

If we pay attention, in the unknown verb of things, the transfer of meaning becomes easier and clearer. If voice, states, or affirmative and negative forms are not taken into account, misunderstandings and mistakes in meaning occur.

In Pashto language succinct grammar, it has been mentioned regarding the transitive passive voice that only the auxiliary 'to be' and the infinitive form of the verb have

been shown, but the Pashto linguist has discussed the similarity with the infinitive by dropping the passive adjective 'i' and has divided the passive voice into three types. Similarly, Rashin in Pashto grammar has written that: in the past tense, the transitive verb takes the subject (doer) in one form, and in the past tense, the subject (doer) appears in another form and the verb adjusts for the object. All the above views are correct, but not complete. In this article, the gender, number, tense of the transitive verb, and the agreement of modifiers (adverbs) with the subject and object are also shown, covering all aspects.

Conflicts of Interest:

The author(s) declare that there are no financial, commercial, personal, or professional relationships that could be construed as a potential conflict of interest in relation to the research, authorship, and/or publication of

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