

# Modeling Adj+V constructions in Urdu

Tafseer Ahmed

DHA Suffa University, Karachi

This work was conducted at University of Konstanz,  
Germany.

# Outline

Complex Predicates (CP): an introduction

Adjective+Verb sequences

Verbs appearing with Adjectives

# Outline

Complex Predicates (CP): an introduction

Adjective+Verb sequences

Verbs appearing with Adjectives

## N/Adj/..+V Complex Predicates

- ▶ around 700 simple verbs in Urdu.
- ▶ many more complex predicates (Butt 1993)
- ▶ possible combinations: Noun + V, PP + V, Adv + V, Adj+V

nAdiyA=nE yAsin=kO yAd ki-yA  
Nadya=Erg Yasin=Acc memory do-Perf.M.Sg

'Nadya remembered Yasin.' N+V complex predicate

nAdiyA=nE mEz sAf kI  
Nadya=Erg table.F.Sg clean do-Perf.F.Sg

'Nadya cleans a/the table.' Adj+V complex predicate

- ▶ Our question: Is Adj+V combination in the above example is really a complex predicate?

# Contents

- ▶ Question:  
Are Adj+V sequences constitutes complex predicate? Or can be present an alternate analysis?
- ▶ Observation:  
The verbs that appears in Adj+V sequences

# Outline

Complex Predicates (CP): an introduction

Adjective+Verb sequences

Verbs appearing with Adjectives

## Adjective + Verb sequences

- ▶ The adjective + verb sequences e.g. *sAf* 'clean' + *kar* 'do' 'clean' are usually analyzed as complex predicate.
- ▶ In this section, we present an alternate analysis of these constructions that deals the adjective with copular verbs and adjectives with *kar* in an unified way.



## Copular Constructions

- ▶ The following example is a copular construction.

pAnI(SUBJ) THanDA(PREDLINK) he/huA  
water.M.Sg cold.M.Sg be/become  
'Water is/became cold.'

- ▶ This adjective THanDA (and many others) can also be used in Adj+kar 'do' sequences as in the following example.

us=nE(SUBJ) pAnI(OBJ) THanDA(?) kiyA  
3Sg=Erg water.M.Sg cold.M.Sg do.Perf  
'He cooled the water.'/'He made the water cold.'

- ▶ The adjective agrees with the object.

us=nE(SUBJ) cAE(OBJ) THanDI(?) kI  
3Sg=Erg water.F.Sg cold.F.Sg do.Perf  
'He cooled the tea.'/'He made the water cool.'

# Possible Analysis

There are three different ways to model  $\text{Adj}+kar$  and  $\text{Adj}+hO$  constructions.

1. We consider  $\text{Adj}+hO$  as a complex predicate, if we find an equivalent  $\text{Adj}+kar$  sequence.
2. We always consider  $\text{Adj}+hO$  as a part of copular construction and  $\text{Adj}+kar$  as a complex predicate.
3. We consider that  $\text{Adj}+hO$  is a part of copular construction and  $\text{Adj} + kar$  construction has a small clause.

# Possible Analysis

1. We consider  $Adj+hO$  as a complex predicate, if we find an equivalent  $Adj+kar$  sequence.
  - ▶ In this solution, we do not find any reason why does sometime noun form a copular construction with  $hO$ ? And why does sometime adjective become part of a complex predicate with  $hO$  for no syntactic reason on the level of the  $hO$  clause.
  - ▶ Hence, we reject this solution.
2. We always consider  $Adj+hO$  as a part of copular construction and  $Adj+kar$  as a complex predicate.
  - ▶ This solution is better than the previous one, but it does not explain why the copular (linking) relation between noun and adjective disappears in  $kar$  construction.

## Possible Analysis

- ▶ We always consider *Adj+hO* as a part of copular construction and *Adj+kar* as a complex predicate.
  - ▶ This solution is better than the previous one, but it does not explain why the copular (linking) relation between noun and adjective disappears in *kar* construction.

## Preferred Analysis

- ▶ We consider that *Adj+hO* is a part of copular construction and *Adj + kar* construction has a small clause.
- ▶ It gives a unified analysis for both *Adj+hO* and *Adj+kar* sequences. It treats the adjective similarly in both constructions.
- ▶ In the following example, *THanDA* 'cold' is linked with *pAnI* 'water'.

us=nE(SUBJ) pAnI(OBJ) THanDA(PREDLINK) kiyA  
3Sg=Erg      water      cold      do.Perf

'He cooled the water.'/'He made the water cold.'

# Outline

Complex Predicates (CP): an introduction

Adjective+Verb sequences

Verbs appearing with Adjectives

## Verbs with objectives: an observation

- ▶ *kar* 'do', *he* 'be', *hO* 'become', *rakH* 'put', *rah* 'stay'
- ▶ e.g. *garam* 'memory' *kar* 'do' remember/memorize
- ▶ These copular verbs are related with aspect.
- ▶ This set of verbs is frequently used in Adj+V complex sequences.

## "Aspectual" Copular Verbs

- ▶ *pAnl THanDA he*  
water cold be.Pres  
'Water is cold.'  
Something/Somebody has the state.
- ▶ *pAnl THanDA hU-A*  
water cold become  
'Water becomes/get cold.'  
Something/Somebody gets the state.
- ▶ *us=nE pAnl THanDA ki-yA*  
3SG=Erg water cold do.Perf  
'He cooled the water./ He made the water cold.'  
Something/Somebody causes something/somebody to get the state.



## "Aspectual" Copular Verbs

- ▶ *pAnI THanDA rah-A*

water cold stay-Perf

'The water remained cold.'

Something/Somebody stays in the state.

- ▶ *us=nE pAnI THanDA rakH-A*

3SG=Erg water cold keep-Perf

'He kept the water cold.'

Something/Somebody causes something/somebody to stay in the state.

# Thanks and Questions