



Mukri Pronominal Enclitics distribution in VP: An Optimality Theoretic

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1. INTRODUCTION

Since clitics interconnect different modules of the grammar and are hosted by various hosts from different categories, they have attracted the attention of many linguists. Besides, their interaction with their hosts and positioning in the second position seems interesting. Central Kurdish (CK) like some other Iranian languages such as Persian, Vafsi, among others have two sets of Person Agreement Markers (PAM), a Direct set and an Oblique set, sometimes also called Set₁ and Set₂, respectively. In Mukri Kurdish like other Iranian languages clitics can be found. Mukri clitics are very mobile and can appear in different domains. The previous scholarship on the clitic system of Kurdish have been done by different scholars. A review of the literature on CK reveals that the role of clitic PAMs has been surveyed along four major aspects: (i) the listing of clitic functions; (ii) the grammaticalization of clitic PAMs; (iii) the correlation between clitic PAMs and the nominal case system; (iv) the role of clitic PAMs in the alignment system. The present paper investigates the distribution of Mukri pronominal enclitics using Optimality Theory constraints in the VP. The constraints which play role in clitic placement are NonInitial (cli,VP), Integrity (VP) and LeftMost (*cl_i*, L,VP). The VPs under discussion can contain a preverbal, negative maker prefixes (*ne-*, *na-*), subjunctive and imperative prefix (*bi-*) or only a verb. The research method of this study is descriptive – analytic and fieldwork. Competition of the constraints which play role in placing Mukri pronominal clitics in the VP showed that the constraints NonInitial (cli,VP), Integrity (VP) in hierarchy of constraints dominate LeftMost (*cl_i*, L,VP) but none of constraints NonInitial (cli,VP), Integrity(VP) dominate each other. The analysis revealed that Mukri Kurdish pronominal clitics are placed in the

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second position in their VP.

2. MATERIALS AND METHODS

The research method of this study is descriptive – analytic and fieldwork. To collect the data the main author’s intuition as the native speaker of the dialect under discussion, 10 hours recorded speech, Mukri Kurdish sites, TV programs and newspapers have been used. All the data have been analyzed within Optimality Theory.

3. RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

Data analysis against Optimality Theory constraints (Integrity (XP), NonInitial (cli, XP), LeftMost (cli, IP)) showed that Mukri Kurdish pronominal clitics appear in the second position.

First constraints hierarchy in Mukri was designated and then the data were put into tableaux to show how violable constraints work. Since functioning Mukri Kurdish pronominal clitics were examined in three types of VP (verbs with preverbals, verbs with no preverbals and verbs with prefixes (negative prefixes, imperative and subjunctive prefixes) three tableaux have been used (tableaux 1, 2 and 3):

Tableau 1

/INPUT/:	NonInitial(<i>cl_i</i> , VP)	Integrity(VP)	LeftMost(<i>cl_i</i> , L,VP)
<i>dæ=in-gu3-in</i>			
a. <i>in=dæ-gu3-in</i>	!*		
☞ b. <i>dæ=in-gu3-in</i>			*
c. <i>dæ-g=inu3-in</i>		*	*
d. <i>dæ-gu3=in-in</i>		*	*

Tableau 2

/INPUT/:	NonInitial(<i>cl_i</i> ,VP)	Integrity(VP)	LeftMost(<i>cl_i</i> , L,VP)
<i>guft=yan-in</i>			
a. <i>yan=guft-in</i>	!*		
b. <i>guft-in=yan</i>			*
☞ c. <i>guft=yan-in</i>			*
d. <i>gu=yan-ft-in</i>		*	*

Tableau 3

/INPUT/:	NonInitial(<i>cl_i</i> ,VP)	Integrity(VP)	LeftMost(<i>cl_i</i> , L,VP)
<i>næ=yan-xward-in</i>			
a. <i>næ-xward-in=yan</i>			*
☞ b. <i>næ=yan-xward-in</i>			*
c. <i>næ-xw=yan-ard-in</i>		*	*
d. <i>yan=næ-xward-in</i>	!*		

In all of the used tableaux competition of the constraints revealed that “LeftMost (*cl_i*, L, VP)” show that clitics tend to appear at the leftmost edge of the domain but “NonInitial (*cl_i*, VP)” never lets the clitic to appear in at beginning of the domain and “Integrity (VP)” does not let the clitic break the integrity of the host. So, the clitic places in the second position.

4. CONCLUSION

We concluded that constraints of Optimality Theory work perfectly in Mukri Kurdish. Positioning of pronominal clitics in second position right after the verb root in VPs which do not contain preverbals and prefixes and positioning after the preverbal and prefix is another finding of the research. Another conclusion of the study revealed that Mukri Kurdish pronominal clitics tend to appear in leftmost position of the domain. Since clitics are very mobile in Mukri it is recommended to investigate their behavior in other domains like clauses, PPs, NPs and their interaction with other clitics and affixes.

Keywords: Constraints; Mukri Kurdish; Optimality Theory; Pronominal Clitics; Verb Phrase