

Syntactic Domains and Linguistic Theories:
Evidence from Iranian Languages

Mohammad Dabir-Moghaddam
Allameh Tabataba'i University

In this article, I will argue for the grammaticalization of three syntactic domains which regulate the distribution of the Agent clitics of the transitive verbs in the past Tense-Aspect-Mood forms in the Iranian languages. The main group of evidence will be presented from the three South-Western languages Davani, Delvari, and Larestani. I will show that the distribution of these clitics in Davani initiates with the first word / phrase of the **Clause**, in Delvari with the first word / phrase of the **Verb Phrase**, and in Larestani with the **(Prepositional Phrase +) Verb**. These syntactic domains are illustrated in the examples (1)-(3) below, respectively:

- (1) *ušu-šu* *u* *ze-gæł-e* *di*
they-CLIT3PL that woman-PL-DEF saw
'They saw those women.'
- (2) *una* *ketav-ešu* *xer-i(d)*
they book-CLIT3PL buy-PAST
'They bought the book.'
- (3)a. *æli* *ketab* *bori* *š-xond-e*
Ali book a lot CLIT3SG-read-PERF
'Ali has read books a lot.'
- (3)b. *æli* *ketab* *bori* *o-š* *xond-e*
Ali book a lot PARTICLE-CLIT3SG read-PERF
'Ali has read books a lot.'
- (3)c. *š-æ* *mo* *got-e*
CLIT3SG-to I said-PERF
'He/she has said to me.'

In the light of (a) these observations, (b) the options which are allowed by these languages in the placement of the clitics, and (c) the variations in the morphosyntactic realizations of them as enclitics and / or proclitics, I describe the status of a large number of other Western and Central plateau Iranian languages. This description shows that only Davani and a

very few other Iranian languages indeed synchronically manifest Wackernagel's sentence second position.

I will then evaluate the findings of the study in the perspective of the explanatory mechanisms of the generative and cognitive linguistics.

Mohammad Dabir-Moghaddam
Professor of Linguistics
Allameh Tabataba'i University
Tehran, Iran

Home address: Sheikh Baha'i St., Pol-e Sheikh Baha'i, Ali-Khani St.,
Vanak Park Apartments, Borj-e Damavand, 6th Floor, Apt. D, Postal
Code 1436943884, Tehran, Iran
Home telephone: ++98-21-88038013
E-mail address: dabirmoghaddam@yahoo.com