

Possessor Split in Eastern Gilaki Nominalized Constructions

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Abstract

This study aims to explore possessor split in certain constructions which contain deverbal nominalization in Eastern dialect of Gilaki, a Northwestern Iranian language. In their work on possessor split construction in Persian and two dialects of Gilaki, Kahnemuyipour and Shabani (2018) argued that possessor split with resumption in Persian involves base-generation; however, the possessor split with a gap, found in Eshkevarat dialect of Gilaki, involves syntactic movement. Inspired by Kahnemuyipour and Shabani (2018), the present study focuses on possessor constructions in which the possessum NP is modified by a nominalized predicate and moves to the initial position of the sentence for the purpose of discourse as shown in (1).

- (1) sib, [mi bufost-ə -----] zak-ə hadi
apple I.GEN washed-ACC child-DAT give
'Give my washed apple to the child.'

Applying the syntactic diagnostics including Complex NP Island, Adjunct Island, Freezing Effect and P-stranding to these constructions, reveals that the possessor split with a gap out of an island does not lead to ungrammaticality when the head NP is in object position of the sentence as illustrated in (2). While in other positions like subject or oblique position, the possessor split requires a resumptive element to fill the gap as shown in (3).

- (2) sib, hartə [mi bufost-ə -----] buxord-ə, mōz hæ-n-den-əm
apple whoever I.GEN washed-ACC PST.eat-3SG banana give-NEG-1SG
'I don't give banana to whoever ate my washed apple.'

- (3) vəlg, i [dar-ə bəkalse *(shi)] zərd-ə
leaf this Tree-GEN fallen yellow-is
'The fallen leaf of this tree is yellow.'

Given this, the possessor split with a gap in Eastern dialect of Gilaki with head NP in object position does not involve topicalization, which according to Rivero (1980), is subject to Complex NP Constraint. Therefore, the present study provides a left dislocation analysis for the possessor split in Eastern Gilaki deverbal nominalization construction and proposes that the NP is base-generated in the TOP node. This analysis provides a unified left-dislocation account for both possessor split with gap and resumption in constructions which involve nominalization.

References

- Kahnemuyipour, A. and Shabani, M. (2018). Split topicalization with(out) resumption. [Conference Presentation]. *Annual conference of the Canadian Linguistic Association*.
- Rivero, M. (1980). On left dislocation and topicalization in Spanish. *Linguistic Inquiry* 11 (2), 363-393.