The analysis of Persian verb group based on Halliday's systemic functional grammar

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Abstract: One of the most outstanding branches of functional linguistic is Halliday's functional grammar. He introduces some groups and three metafunctions, ideational, interpersonal and textual. Although many texts are analyzed based on Halliday's grammar, a few, like the present study, examine the applicability of the theory in Persian. Examining this, it seems although all the three metafunctions are applicable in Persian, some elements, like range, circumstance and finite are represented variously. Analyzing verb group and its elements, we find that the finite is not one word and it always comes between auxiliary and event.

1. Introduction

In a sense new linguistic is divided into two branches. Constructivist and functional linguistic. Functional linguistic has a lot of splits that Haliday's systematic functional grammar is one of the most prominent split. This theory is put up the sequence of London's school and base on Firth's structure system. This program is based on displacement terms and believes that language is a network of correlate systems for showing semantic terms. Grammatical functional grammar is meaning base owing to functional linguistic, considers language as a system of semantics' relation and credence that whenever we use language in fact we are making meaning. (Bloor et al,.1995).

Haliday introduces verb group, noun group, prepositional group and conjunction group instead of nominal phrase, verb phrase… and just accepts prepositional phrase. His unit of study is text but the most minimum unit which is similar to text is "clause". He believes there are four basic functions in language that called them metafunction. (Halliday.,1994) Also according to functions and public language's meanings, he explains opportunity context which includes field of discourse, tenor of discourse and mode of discourse. As a whole this kind of grammar considers three levels for language; semantic level, lexicogrammar and morphological level but just note that always emphasize is on semantic level.

In Persian language different texts have been surveyed from Haliday's point of view. Processes which are used in different texts such as academic texts, literary texts, and conversational texts have been examined and somehow try to introduce this theory. Among some researchers which only introduce this theory and test it in Persian language, there is an essay that by checking experimental metafunction tries to describe structure of simple clause base on functions of composing elements in Persian. Processes are distinguished from each other according to semantic and syntactic criteria (Palevan nejad.et al., 2004)). In criticism of Persian contemporary poem, (Salehi. et al., 2013) in a research surveyed the application of Haliday's theory. First functional Haliday's theory is explained then due to the status of criticisms and its history which have done, the capacity and shortcomings of this theory is evaluated as a kind of tool for analysis of Persian contemporary poem. (Sasani.,2011) considering the elements which accompany the verb as a domain of some processes, offers the replacement pattern for synthetic's verb, and believes processes in Persian can be represent in several ways: 1.morpheme's stem, 2.non-verb component and finite, 3.adjective and finite.

It is clear from foreign studies that most of the researchers try to find out whether it is possible to use Haliday's functional theory in their language such as French, Indonesian,… or not. For instance, it is impossible to use all metafunctions in Indonesian language and there is not interpersonal metafunction because finite concept in any official language (Bahasa) is not available. Even so by showing much effort to mentioned metafunctions by Haliday; structure of noun group, verb group… have not surveyed in Persian language. In this essay by representing all three metafunctions in Persian, concern how Persian verb group and it's elements are made since it seems all elements hardly ever can distinguish from each other.

2.0 Materials And Methods
2.1 Identical metafunction

Identical metafunction is a representation of mental illustration of internal or external reality experience of itself. The concept of transiency and process is important in this structure. Processes in identical metafunction will survey and categorized. Traditionally in English, each clause contains a verb while in functionalist view each clause must contain a process. In this structure the process itself in the formats of "verb group", the main participants in the formats of "noun group" become visible which is different in various processes such as physical process, mental process, and verbal process, behavioral and existential process. Minor and indirect participants are the range. Range limits and determines the process. Often in English they are prepositional group but not in Persian. Circumstances that are mostly adverbial group or prepositional group can be minor process by themselves. They are knot, time domain, place domain, reason, companionship and role.

2.2 Textual metafunction

Textual metafunction is a place of stability of clause's contents elements and how it is effective on the order of identical and interpersonal information which are in the clause. Textual structure of the clause divided in to two different thematic structures such as given and new information, theme and rheme and the other part which is nonstructural named "cohesion". In the most traceless position they agreed each other but not always.

2.3   Interpersonal metafunction

As mentioned before some parts of meaning in each text is implies the interaction of involved elements. In this relation, each element has a function: 1. informs 2. asks 3. commands 4. offers. These relational functions in other word these verbal actions are realized in the lexicogrammar level by mood structure. But there are other elements which don't have any role in formation of speech and we called them "residue".

Mood element includes subjects, modal particles such as probability particles and periodicity which acts as modals and finite elements. Until now we understand that kinds of elements which we count for metafunctions somehow can represent in Persian. But we aren't certain about finite element which is a part of the verb group itself. It is better to survey verb group instructions. To do this many Persian verb groups are examined. Sentences are chosen randomly and different forms of Persian verbs.

3. Results
3.1 Example

آب یگـاه احتمــالا {باغچــه یتـو گـل چهارتـا نیا تمــام}
{بودنـــد شـده داده}

Had been watered at times probably garden in flower four these all

"(all of these four flowers in the garden) probably {had been watered} at times"

Noun group: all → prediectic / these → deictic / four → numerative /
flowers →numerative's unit / flower → thing / in the garden→ qualifier

Identical metafunction:
Process: physical → had been watered
Main participants: agent → … / goal→ four flowers in the garden
Indirect participants: scope → water
Circumstance elements: time node →at times

Textual metafunction:
Theme: given information → all of these four flowers in the garden
Rheme: new information → probably were watered at times

Interpersonal metafunction:
Contact role: giving, phenomenon / informative verbal reaction: rheme
Residue: finite elements and others
Mood elements: grammatical subject
Modal elements→ probably

Finite element: should survey in order to understand in our verb group "had been watered" which one is the finite.

As we see in this example and many others, in Persian unlike English, it is hard to identify the finite element and the arrangement of verb group's elements.

4.   Discussion
4.1 verb group

Verb group is a kind of structure that has a role as a finite element and event in mood structure and acts as a process in transitivity. Verb group like the other groups is a developmental shape of word and in English which is Haliday's concern contains finite elements with the fixed chain of 'finite + auxiliary + event'. Finite element shows mood, tense, polarity and as it is clear from its name, it has a role of finite preposition structure and limits and specified it. Verb word or event has semantic role. Verb group can be as small as a word which represents a finite element and a verb word or can be a big structure which contains several auxiliaries (Halliday., 2004). As we mentioned before it seems that recognition of finite element in Persian is not as easy as in English. So it is better to

review signs of time, polarity and mood in Persian language.

4.2 Tense

One of the verb's features is tense. From tense view Persian language is past or non-past. It means {د, ت, اد, يـد} {/d/, /t/, /ad/, /jæd/} are signs of past (Farshidvard., 2005) and خواسـتن} {{xa;stæn} is a sign of future.

4.3 Polarity

In order to make negative structure, bring prefix ن { {/n/} at the first of your verb. This prefix has different place in different verb group. For instance in passive structure, negative prefix comes at the first of auxiliary →{نشــد خورده غذا} {the food was not eaten}

Has not eaten food

or in today's compound time it comes at the first of the participle element → اسـت نرفتـــه خانـه بـه او} }

has gone not house to he

{he has not gone to the house}.(Farshidvard., 2005)

4.4 Mood

Verb's mood is an aspect of verb that predicates statement, probability, command, wish, emphasize, hope … .today there are five or six moods in Persian language. Verbal and semantic signs of each one are going to mention below:

Indicative → shows finality and its sign is morphological prefix like {mi}. Specific structures of this mood are in past perfect, future… and in using exclamatory and indicative statements. (Farshidvard, 2005)

Subjunctive → implicates on hope, wish, desire, condition and …. its signs are: patterns like: 1.object + implicit {بـودن}{bu;dæn} 2. Adding {ب}{/be/} at the first of verb like{بـروم} {/berævæm/} 3. Dependent clause 4. Word or different group such as {شـايد}{/ʃajæd/}5. Pray {مبـادا} {/mæabada/} command also talks about order and comes by {be} and morphological prefix such as{م} {/m/} .

Now we can search finite element in Persian verb structure. We have just a small verb group, in simple present, progressive, implicit, present perfect and imperative, that verb word and finite element are represent in it. But in present progressive

شما مدرسه بـه مـيرم دارم} }''{I am going to your school} because of existence of{مى} {/mi:/} in {مـيرم}, time and mood are clear. And {مـيرم} is the finite element and verb word. {دارم} is an auxiliary.

Also in {مـــيرفتيم داشـــتيم تـو بخـاطر همه}{we all were going just for you} that is past progressive, {مـــيرفتيم} shows indicative mood and time.

In an example of past implicit: ديـده را حامد نكنـــه} باشـــى{

{you might see Hamed} see Hamed might

that the negative form of that is {باشـى نديـده}, mood and time is clear in {باشـى} but {ديـده} takes the

negative sign. {ديـده} is verb word but if we want count {ديـده} as a finite element must ignore polarity's feature.

In the following clause: گربـت از خيلـى} بـودم ترسـيده {

had been afraid your cat of very

{I had been very afraid of your cat} or { بـودم نترسـيده } is past perfect and mood is identified by the whole verb group structure, polarity is identified by past participle also tense is identified from {بـودم}. {ترسـيده} is a verb word but {بـودم} according to Haliday's explanation isn't the finite element.

In {خوانـد نخواهـم قصـه حميـد بـراى }

read wont story Hamid for

{I won't read story for Hamid{ easily can identify {خواهم} as a finite element and {خوانـد} is a verb word since {خواهم} shows future tense, polarity and mood.

It is harder about passive structure. For instance in the following example: خواهد بـرده كتـاب كـدام} شـد؟{.

be will taken book which

}which book will be taken?} {خواهد} is finite element , {بـرده} is the verb word and {شـد} is an auxiliary. But in this sentence: { گـل چهارتـا ايـن تمـام داده}, {بودنـد شـده داده آب احتمـالا باغچـه تـوى} is the verb word, {شـده} shows polarity and {بودنـد} shows time. Mood doesn't have special sign and it seems several words together show the finite.

Conclusion

All three processes are practical in Persian language, just it seems some elements like range and circumstance elements represent in various forms that need to survey. But in interpersonal metafunction's survey, one of the mood elements, finite element, cannot easily be identified. Therefore by verb group's analyzing from Haliday's point of view in different Persian verb's forms and reviewing the signs of the mood, tense and polarity which are features of the finite element we conclude that these elements appear in several words in some forms and the finite element always places between the event and the auxiliary.

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