THE SURVEYING OF THE POLARITY BY MOOD ADJUNCTS IN PERSIAN LANGUAGE BASED ON FUNCTIONAL GRAMMAR APPROACH

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Abstract

Polarity determines whether the message is positive or negative. This key element of every context can be expressed through mood adjuncts. The present study aimed at surviving the polarity of Persian mood adjuncts based on functional grammar approach. Both positive and negative discourses were presented and discussed. To achieve the purpose of the study, however, some negative mood adjuncts such as "hargez"(never), "be zahmat"(scarcely), "be nodrat"(rarely), and some positive mood adjuncts including "hamishe"(always), "aqlab" (often), "mamulan" (usually) and "barxi auqat" (sometimes) were discussed. Finally it was found that to carry a severe negative message in contexts using the negative polarity mood adjuncts in Persian language ،"negative" markers are required

Keywords: Polarity ، mood adjuncts, Persian language ، functional grammar approach

1. Introduction

Functional grammar mainly concentrates on the development of grammatical systems as a means for people to communicate. As argued by Derewianka (2009) a functional approach to language is associated with the language choices available to produce a variety of meanings and how these choices differ based on the social context. Functional grammar seems to view language as a communicative tool via which people can communicate with each other thus affecting each other's mental and practical activities. In the 1920s and 1930s Malinowski and Buhler (cited in Morley, 2000) had discussed the notions of a cognitive function in which language serves as a form of social control, of an expressive function in which language is used to

express speaker's feelings, and of an ideational/representational function in which language is a communicative tool.

Systemic Functional Grammar (SFG) developed by M.A.K. Halliday (1994, cited in Gonzales, 2008) takes a functional approach to grammar and studies language as a social-semiotic of communicative meaning-making. Language and interaction are defined within the context and this model manifests the role of grammar in expressing contextual meaning. SFG is 'systemic' since there exists a series of options in grammar that can be adopted in order to express ideas. It is 'functional' since the systems obtain certain functions which are realized in the lexico-grammar of the language (Gonzales, 2008).

As Halliday (1994, cited in Gonzales, 2008) argues there are three 'metafunctions' which make the basic foundation on which Systemic Functional Grammar is based. The 'experiential' metafunction consists of the occurrences, or the topic, of a text. An analysis from this perspective consists of scrutinizing the system of "transitivity" realized as 'processes' in a verb phrase constituent and its associated participants. There are some types of processes and participants given different functional labels based on their role in a clause. The four main types of process include material, mental, relational and verbal, which each have assigned participants relating to each other via the process. The 'interpersonal' metafunction includes the structure of clausal elements because they manage the interpersonal relationship between speaker and hearer and achieve the communicative purpose of a text. The "mood" realizes this metafunction and elements of modality, tense and polarity are taken into account. The 'textual' metafunction organizes clauses as messages realized by speakers arranging the ways in which different groups and phrases in the clause are ordered with the "theme" system (Gonzales, 2008).

Roman Jacobson (1960) believes that interpersonal meaning clarifies the position of the speaker and/or the listener. It can be used in the following ways:

a)It is interactive e.g.
Hamlet was written by Shakespeare.

b) It offers information in declarative sentence

c)It can be used to ask for information in questions

d)It can be used o demand goods and services in imperative sentences

d)It can be used to present good and services(offer) e.g in:

Would you like …? I'd like you to have my copy.

In Halliday's (1994; Halliday & Matthiessen 2004, cited in Taverniers, 2004) version of Systemic Functional Grammar (SFL), the interpersonal organization of an utterance is structured in terms of a Mood + Residue pattern. The Mood comprises the Subject of the clause, the

Finite (which encodes grammatical number, primary tense and modality), polarity markers, and modal adverbs (if present). In this conception, it is the Mood element which is seen as carrying the burden of the utterance as an interactive event, and hence, it is through different options available for the Mood element that the interpersonal component is manifested in language.

2. Modality

An understanding of the mood system is helpful in analyzing the interpersonal meaning established in the texts. Thompson, (2004) considers "mood", containing Subject and Finite, as an essential part of the interpersonal approach. The Subject of the mood is similar to the subject of traditional grammar, but is interpreted on a functional basis; in other words, the "subject" is what a clause is 'about'. The "finite" is defined as "the first functional element of the verbal group" (Thompson, 2004, p.49). It reveals tense, modality and negative or positive polarity in a clause. The Finite is most easily identified in clauses including an auxiliary (Gonzales, 2008).

According to Halliday (1994, cited in Ahangari & Zafarani, n.d.), modality specifies if the speaker is expressing his judgment or making a prediction. Modality as interpersonal meaning refers to the space existing between "yes" and "no", that is different types of indeterminacy that fall in between the positive and negative poles. Modality fundamentally deems clauses and other linguistic units as "exchanges" of propositions and proposals, by which a proposition includes an exchange of information and a proposal involves an exchange of "goods-and-services" (Halliday & Matthiessen, 2004, cited in Ahangari & Zafarani, n.d). Based on Halliday (1994, p.49), modal adjuncts "express the speaker's judgment regarding the relevance of the message."

Mood element, in a broad sense, includes "Subject, Finite and Modal Adjuncts" including mood Adjuncts and comment Adjuncts. The intersections between marked Theme and Mood typically exist in imperative clauses.

a. Do [Finite] hurry up, for goodness' sake.

b. You [Subject] listen to me, young man.

c. Don't you [Finite + Subject] take that tone of voice to me (Qi, 2012).

Thompson (1996) states that modality relates to the validity of information based on probability (hoe likely it is to be true) or usuality (how frequently it is true). According to Thompson probability scale consists of a) possible, b) probable, and c) certain; on the other hand usuality scale includes : a) sometimes, b) often, and c) always. Thompson adds that if the commodity is goods-services, the modality is related to speaker's confidence

in the eventual success of the exchange. In commands this is associated with the degree of obligation on the other person to perform the command; goods-services' scale includes: a) permissible, advisable and c) obligatory, but regarding offers it is related to the degree of speaker's willingness to fulfill the offer including a) ability, b) willingness and c) determination.

3. Modality and Polarity

As Thompson states, "the finite expresses not only tense but also polarity and modality" (1996,p.56). He adds that any finite has positive or negative polarity arguing that the negative forms have an identifiable added marker ("n't", "not") in relation to positive forms. Regarding the interaction performed by the clause, polarity plays a basic role in conveying the meaning. Thompson, however, maintains that polarity may also be expressed via mood adjuncts including "never" or "hardly".

I	've	never	liked	him.
I	would	hardly	say	that.
Subject	Finite	Mood adjunct	Predicator	Complement
Mood			Residue	

Table1 Mood Adjuncts expressing polarity (adopted from Thomson, p.56)

Thompson believes that polarity isn't confined to the mood. Through exemplifying he supports his claim:

He has said nothing to me about that.
He hasn't said anything to me about that.

Regarding modality, the freedom of movements is the unique feature of interpersonal meanings as a whole: "they tend to cluster around the mood but they are by no means confined to that part of the message"(Ibid, p. 56).

So far polarity has been regarded as if it were absolute: a message is either positive or negative. But as argued by Thompson there exist intermediate stages-points between "yes" and "no" like "may be", or "sometimes", or "supposedly", that are expressed through modality.

		+		
		She teaches Latin.		
M	S	She might teach Latin.	Perhaps yes, perhaps no.	
O	P	She usually teaches Latin.	Sometimes yes, sometimes no.	
D	A	She ought to teach Latin.	At present no, but ideally in the future yes	
A	C	She'll teach Latin if you want.	At present no, but in the future yes if you want	
L	E	She can teach Latin is she wants	At present no, but in the future yes if she want	
		She can teach Latin well	In principle yes, at present maybe yes or no	
	-	She doesn't teach Latin.		

Table2 Modal Space (adopted from Ibid, p.56)

However, this study is concerned with surveying the polarity of mood adjuncts in Persian. To do so a comparative study has been done in English and Persian based on polarity of such adjuncts based on Thompson model.

4. Data analysis

The present comparative study aims at comparing the polarity of widely used mood adjuncts in Persian and English in terms of functional grammar. Two categories of mood adjuncts exist in Persian: negative and positive. Polarity includes positive (including "it is so") and negative (including "it is not so") statements (Chen & Herbst, 2010). The negative polarity mood adjuncts in Persian include "benodrat, hargez, be hich vajh, bezahmat" whose English equivalents are "rarely(seldom,)", "never", "never", respectively. On the other hand, positive mood adjuncts include "hamishe, "aqlab", "ma'mulan", "barkhi auqat" showing degrees of usuality from high to low. To achieve the goals of this case study, 13 sentences, adopted from 60 formal written discourses, were employed by the author. Data were analyzed and findings were discussed.

Example 1:

Hamid Hamid	benodrat rarely	be varzeshgah to the stadium	miravad. goes.
Subject	Mood adjunct	Adjunct	Predicator
Mood		Residue	

"Hamid rarely goes to the stadium"

As the example 1 shows the mood adjunct "benodrat" (rarely) in both Persian and English contexts occurs after subject (Hamid) with a negative polarity which is conveyed through the context to the addressee by the speaker. The addressee can understand that "going to the stadium isn't Hamid's favor. Looking at the verb structure of the sentences in above contexts the polarity outside the context is positive and this is the context which transmits signals of negative polarity.

Example 2:

	benodrat rarely	ghazaye italiayi Italian food	mixorand. eat.
they			
Subject	Mood Adjunct	Complement	Predicator
Mood		Residue	

"They rarely eat Italian food".

Persian speakers can start sentences with "benodrat" as a negative mood adjunct, see example 2. The speaker aims at stating that they eat Italian foods, but always "no", and occasionally "yes".

Example 3:

u	benodrat	bacheha ra	tanha begozarda.
she	seldom	children	leaves unattached.
Subject	Mood Adjunct	Complement	Predicator
Mood		Residue	

"She seldom leaves children unattached."

        Using possibility may confirm the existence of a negative polarity in the context. Speaker says that "leaving children unattended" isn't the Subject's continuous work (may "yes" before and next; may "no" before and next).

Example 4:

Amir	bezahmat	30 sāl	dārad.
Amir	scarcely	30 years old	has.
Subject	Mood adjunct	adjunct	Predicator
Mood		Residue	

"Amir is scarcely 30 years old."

        The polarity is negative in both sentences. That is, possibly, Amir is 30 years old. There is no negative marker preceding or following the verb in both sentences. Also the load of polarity is less than sentences implying lack of any possibilities. Based on the speaker 30 years old is "no" but close to 30 years old is "yes".

Example 5:

Maryam	hargez	be sinemā	nemiravad.
Maryam	never	to the cinema	goes.
Subject	Mood Adjunct	adjunct	Predicator
Mood		Residue	

"Maryam never goes to the cinema."

        Based on the context displayed in example 4, the mood adjunct used by the speaker is "hargez" (never). The polarity of the mooal adjunct is negative which is similar to the example 1. The difference is related to the negative marker which exists in Persian context but the English context lacks such marker and the polarity load is sent through the mood adjunct "never". A native speaker of Persian needs to use "ne" as a negative marker to produce a discourse which makes sense. On the contrary, a native speaker of English uses "never" without any negative marker. The claim is that polarity load of mood adjunct "never" is more compared to its Persian equivalent "hargez" which requires the speaker to add negative marker before the verb to produce a meaningful written or spoken discourse. Based on the context

presented in example 4 speaker states that "Maryam doesn't go to the cinema".

Example 6:

man I	ta hala never	ĉenin manzerei such a sight	nadide budam. have seen.
Subject	Mood Adjunct	Adjunct	Predicator
Mood		Residue	

"*I 've never seen such sight".*

As example 6 shows Persian speakers in Iran use " tā hālā" as a negative mood adjunct meaning "never" when they apply negative marker "na" preceding the verb (nadide budam). The speaker needs to use such negative markers to convey a meaningful negative context otherwise the message takes a positive form. But English speakers use "never" as a negative mood adjunct without any extra negative marker. As reveled by the context Persian speaker says that s/he hasn't seen so far ("no" until now) but s/he may see in the future ("yes" in the future).

Example 7:

Anha they	hargez never	be omid to Omid	ejaze nemidaahand. allow to do so.
Subject	Mood Adjunct	Adjunct	Predicator
Mood		Residue	

"*Omid is never allowed to do so".*

"hargez" has a high load of negative polarity in Persian language and in above sentence Omid (S) is prohibited from doing so. Also to make sense the context requires negative marker "ne" preceding the auxiliary verb (nemidahand). In English language "never" mood adjunct individually carries negative polarity of the message. Persian speaker states that Omid is never allowed to do so for always ("no" forever).

Example 8:

man I	hargez never	dust nadaram don't like	in tajrobeye vahshatnak ra. this terrible experience	tekrar konam repeat.
Subject	Mood Adjunct	Predicator		
Mood		Residue		

"*I never like to repeat such experience."*

Based on example 8 it can be concluded that the speaker doesn't like to go through the experience ("no" for always).

Example 9:

man I	be hich vajh not at all	hazer nistam willing	ba ishan them	molaqat konam. to meet
Subject	Mood adjunct	Predicator		
Mood		Residue		

"*I am not willing at all to meet them*".

      Based on the above example (Ex.9) both Persian and English speakers use negative markers ("ne" and "not") to convey a negative polarity. The context implies "no" in the present and in the future without any probability.

      Regarding positive modal adjuncts see following examples:

Example 10:

man I	hamishe always	nahar ra lunch	dar xane at home	mixoram. eat.
Subject	Mood adjunct	Complement	adjunct	Predicator
Mood			Residue	

"*I always eat lunch at home*".

      Based on example 10, Persian speakers use "hamishe" to express the highest degree of usuality in events which occur regularly ("yes" in the present; "yes" in the future). Based on example 10, the speaker tends to say that "eating lunch at home" has a regular base and the Subject doesn't eat his/her lunch elsewhere.

Example 11:

ahmad Ahmad	Aqlab often	baraye ŝena for swimming	be estaxr to the pool	miravad. goes.
Subject	Mood Adjunct	Complement	Adjunct	Predicator
Mood			Residue	

"*Ahmad often swims in the pool.*"

      Based on sentence 11 "swimming in the pool" is Ahmad's present habitual action occurring with a less usuality than "always".

Example 12:

Anha they	mamulan usually	be mosaferat to the trip	miravand. go.
Subject	Mood Adjunct	Adjunct	Predicator.
Mood		Residue	

"*They usually go to the trip"*.

   In Persian language "mamulan" implies that the event occurs but not always. Its degree of usuality is higher than "barkhi auqat" (sometimes) but lower than "hamishe" (always). The speaker of sentence 12 says that "going to the trip" occurs more than "sometimes" but not "always".

Example 13:

sara Sara	barxi auqat sometimes	qazaye daryayi sea food	mixorad. eats.
Subject	Mood adjunct	Complement	Predicator
Mood		Residue	

"*Sara sometimes eats sea food"*.

        As displayed in the above context 'eating" sea food doesn't occur regularly or usually. The degree of its usuality is the least among those above mentioned. Sara may eat "sea food" or "may not".

5. Conclusion

        Based on what mentioned in previous sections polarity is mainly concerned with positive or negative statements, such as "it is so" and "it is not so." Polarity of Persian mood adjuncts (both positive and negative adjuncts) was discussed. Findings showed that the use of negative marker preceding the verb is necessary for the speaker of Persian language in order to carry a correct negative message. Also it was found that the polarity load differs in different mood adjuncts. For example "hargez" (never) has a higher negative polarity compared to "benodrat"; a detailed order of negative polarity load, from high to low, can be as following:
"hargez" ranks the first. "bezahmat", "benodrat" and "tahala" follows.

        Regarding positive mood adjuncts in Persian expressing the degree of usuality, "hamishe" ranks the first and "barxi auqat" ranks the least regarding the degree of usuality in Persian contexts. Accordingly, degrees of usuality, from high to low, can be expressed with the words including ""hamishe", "mamulan", "aqlab", and "barxi auqat".

        Further research is necessary to fill in the gaps existing in polarity and modality in Persian language based on functional grammar.

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