

Split Headedness in Persian

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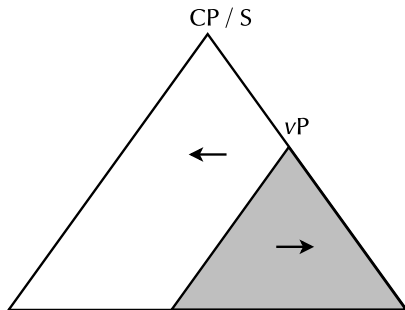


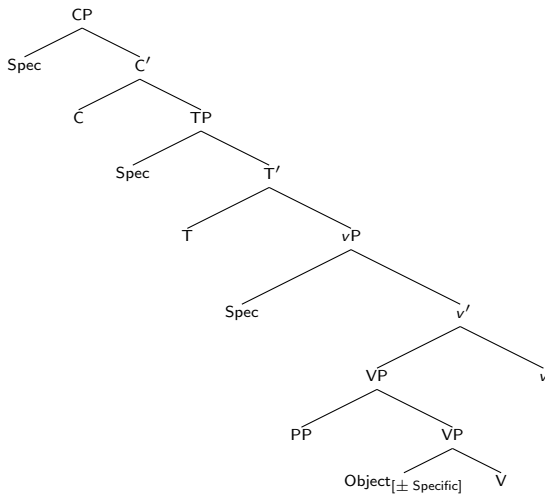
Word order typology of Persian?

- Head-final / Left-branching: SOV
- Head-initial / Right-branching: Prepositions, N-Rel, N-Gen
 - “Persian is operand-operator language . . . , but exceptionally it has OV word order” (Comrie, 1989: 98; see also Mahootian, 1997: 5)

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 - Functional categories: head-initial
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- Application to Persian
 - Karimi (2005) and Dehdari (2006)





Statistically significant V – O correlations

Dryer's (1992) extensive survey of 625 languages

V Correlate	O Correlate
Complementizer	S
Interrogative	S
Adverbial Subordinator	S
Tense Aux	VP
'want'	VP
V	Manner Adv
V	PP
Copula V	Pred
Adposition	NP
Article	NP
N	Rel
N	Gen
Adj	Standard of Comparison

Head – Dependent relations in Persian

Relation	Head Initial	Head Final
Complementizer – S	x	
Interrogative – S	x	
Adverbial Subordinator – S	x	
Tense Aux – VP	x	
'want' – VP	x	
Perf Aux – VP*		x
Passive Aux – VP*		x
V – Manner Adv		x
V – PP		x
V – O		x
Copula V – Pred		x
Adposition – NP	x	
Article – NP	x	
Numeral – NP*	x	
N – Rel	x	
N – Gen	x	
Adj – Standard of Comparison	x	

* Not investigated in Dryer (1992).

Examples

- (1) a. enteḡāl dāde šodænd
transfer give-PSPT become-3.P
'They were transferred.'

(Kayhan online 1383-04-22 AP)

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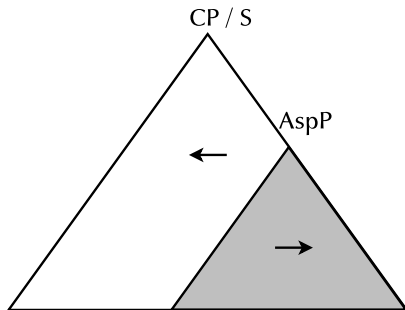
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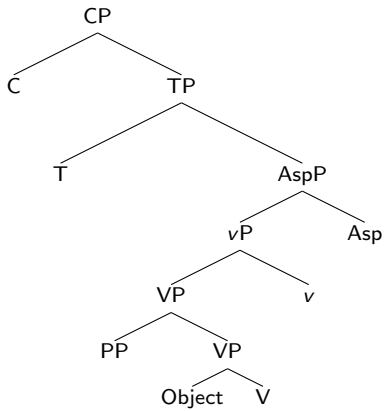
- (2) a. tæzækkor dāde šode bud
notice give-PSPT become-PSPT was
'Notice had been given.'

(Kayhan online 1383-03-13 AP)

- b. možde dāde šode bud
news give-PSPT become-PSPT was
'News had been given.'

(Kayhan online 1383-03-10 AP)





Future Auxiliary:

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- (3) a. (ānhā) xāhænd zæd
they FUT-3.P hit
'They will hit.'
- b. be zæmin xāhænd zæd
to earth FUT-3.P hit
'They will overthrow.'
- c. be zæmin zæde xāhænd šod
to earth hit-PSPT FUT-3.P become
'They will be overthrown.'

(Kayhan online 1383-05-27 AP)

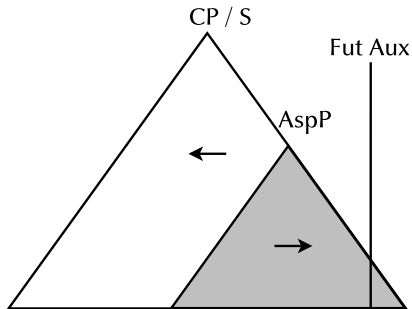
(Kayhan online 1383-07-26 AP)

Future Auxiliary Cont'd

- (4)
- a. tæmām xāhæd šod
complete FUT-3.S become
'It will be completed.'
- b. tæmām šode xāhæd bud
complete become-PSPT FUT-3.S was
'It will have been completed.'

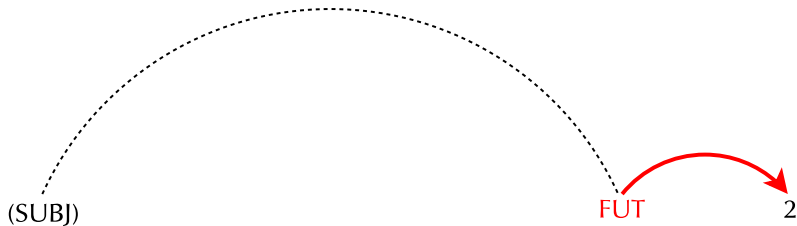
(Kayhan online 1383-08-25 AP)

Future Auxiliary Cont'd



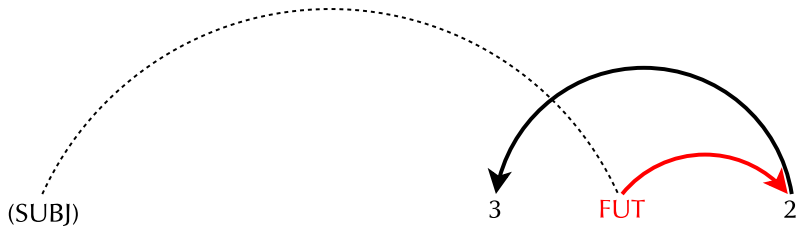
Future Auxiliary Cont'd

- $V2^R$?



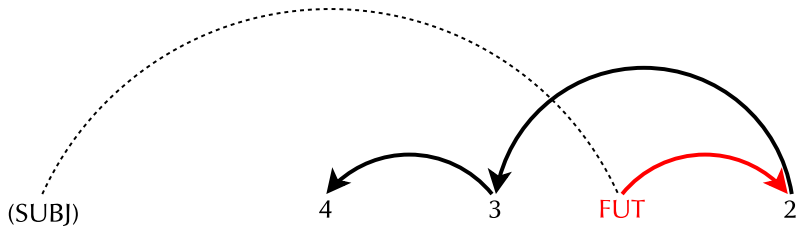
Future Auxiliary Cont'd

- $V2^R$?



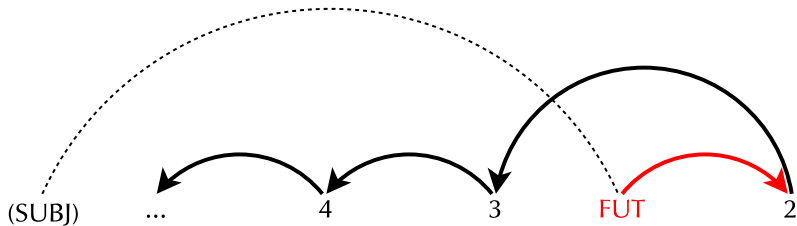
Future Auxiliary Cont'd

- $V2^R$?



Future Auxiliary Cont'd

- $V2^R$?



- Split-headed explanation accounts for wider range of phenomena than simple head-initial or head-final accounts
- CP / S: head-initial
- AspP: head-final
- Future Auxiliary: $V2^R$

- Other Iranian languages (see Stilo, 2005)



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Roberts' (2000: 63) Functional vs. Lexical Categories

Category	Direction of Head
NP	final
VP	final
AspP	final
PP	initial
NegP	initial
CP	initial
DP	initial
ModalP	initial
AgrP	initial