

## Phrasal Integrity in Magahi Complex Predicates

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**Abstract:** Complex Predicates (CPs) refer to a sequence of elements such as verb and verb (compound verb) or noun/adjective and verb (conjunct verb) combinations. Complex predicates have become the defining feature of South Asian languages. It forms a phrasal unit and shows the properties of string adjacency. Magahi (a member of the Indo-Aryan language family) appears to follow no such fixed adjacency requirements. There is a considerable variation in the intervening elements within the CPs in Indo Aryan languages in general and Magahi in particular. This paper explores the adjacency gap found in Magahi complex predicates. The elements that disrupt the adjacency of the components of CPs are particles, adverbials, interrogative, negation, and post positions. Our goal is to come up with an analysis of this break of adjacency.

**Keywords-** Complex Predicate, Phrasal Integrity, Adjacency, Magahi.

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### I. Introduction

Syntactically, the two verbs of complex predicate construction form a single unit with respect to movement, co-ordination, and negation. The two verbs in the standard complex predicate construction do not function as heads of independent clauses; rather form a verb complex of a single clause. In this construction, the main verb acts as a complement of light verb construction. The scrambling possibilities demonstrate that the light verb and the main verb can move together as a unit. On the surface, the constituent verbs enjoy a considerable amount of freedom of movement; other syntactic element like adverb can intervene between the constituents; adverb and negation scope over the whole construction and cannot modify one of the components. The analysis of complex predicates often create problem for researchers because of their property of being discontinuously placed in a text for giving some structure information like topic, focus, etc . The three tests (movement, coordination, and modification) <sup>[1]</sup> suggest a strong degree of cohesion between the light verb and the main verb. The question whether they should be treated as a single lexical unit and stored in the lexicon or a phrasal unit as such or they should be generated by some syntactic operations has been debated for years in the literature <sup>[1], [2], [4]</sup>.

Complex predicate has become an areal feature of South Asian languages <sup>[1], [2], [3]</sup>. Among South Asian languages, there are languages like Gojri <sup>[4]</sup> and Bengali <sup>[5]</sup> which do not allow any intervening elements in Complex Predicates. On the other hand, there are languages like Marathi <sup>[6]</sup>, and Hindi-Urdu <sup>[1]</sup> allow intervening elements within Complex Predicates. This paper shows the property of phrasal integrity in Magahi Complex Predicate with the help of intervening and non-intervening elements. This paper consists of four major sections. The first section is of Introduction. The second section is of intervening elements in Magahi complex predicate. The third section is of non-intervening elements. The last section is of conclusion.

### II. Intervening Elements In Magahi Complex Predicate

Complex predicate is a phrasal unit. Although there are some elements which intervenes the sequence of two elements, but it doesn't loses its feature. The intervening element modifies the entire event; and not any one of the elements of the construction. The intervening elements in Magahi complex predicate are limited in number. These are particles, adverbials, interrogatives, and negation words.

#### 2.1 Particles

A particle is a word that doesn't belong to one of the main classes of words. It is invariable in form and typically has some pragmatic meaning. There are some particles that intervenes the sequence of complex predicate construction in Magahi. These are negative particle, relative particle, *to/ta* particle, and intensifier particle. These particles do not appear at the end of the clause, when the particle appears after the light verb in complex predicate construction, is rendered ungrammatical.

##### 2.1.1 Negative Particle

In Magahi, the negative particle *na* can intervene between sequence of both compound verb and conjunct verb construction. The use of such particle is evident in (1) and (2). The particle intervenes in between to show a kind of emphasis on the work/action.

1. *unkhaa jaae laa kah na dahuu* him go for say part. give ‘Please say him to go.’. *unkhar madad kar na dahu* his help do part. give ‘Please, help him.’

In example (1) the negative particle *na* functioning as emphatic marker intervenes between main verb *kah* ‘say’ and *dahu* ‘give’. In the conjunct verb construction as in (2), the negative particle *na* having the same function comes after the noun and verb sequence, that is conjunct verb. Hence we can say that in Magahi the emphatic particle *na* can only intervene the adjacency of compound verb construction and not the conjunct verb construction.

### 2.1.2 Relative Particle

In Magahi the relative particle *je* ‘who/that’ intervenes the adjacency of both compound verb and conjunct verb sequence, as in (3), (4) and (5). The particle *je* breaks the adjacency of the sequence of complex predicate. Its intervene adds the semantic sense of doing the event which should not be done.

3. *raam puujaa kar saka halaii baakii uu khaa je lelaii*  
Ram worship do can be.pt but he eat part. take.pt  
‘Ram can do the rituals but he has eaten.’

4. *raam khus je halaii se unkhar sab batabe maan lelaii*  
Ram happy that be.pt by his all talks agree take  
‘Ram agreed on his all matter as he was happy.’

5. *raam unkhaa kucho naa kah saka hain kaheki baRii pahile* okar madad je karle halthii  
Ram him little not say can be.pr.H because long back his.NH help that do be.pt  
‘Ram can’t say him anything, as since long back, he has helped him.’

In example (3), the relative particle *je* intervenes in the sequence of main verb *khaa* ‘eat’ and light verb *lelaii* ‘took’. In example (4), the relative particle *je* intervenes in the sequence of adjective *khus* ‘happy’ and light verb *halaii* ‘be.pt’. In example (5), the relative particle *je* intervenes in the sequence of noun *madad* ‘help’ and light verb *karle* ‘do’. All the above mentioned examples show that relative particle *je* can intervene in between the sequence of complex predicate construction.

### 2.1.3 Discursive particle

The particle *to* and *ta* are discursive particles. They act in a sentence as intensive or vaguely contrastive or emphatic devices. They can intervene the adjacency of both compound verb and conjunct verb sequence. Such particles are evident in examples (6), (7) and (8).

6. *raam katnaa pyaar ta kara haii aapan parivaar se*  
Ram lots of love part. do be.pr his family by  
‘Ram loves his family a lot.’

7. *raam unkhaa dekhthe khus ta ho gelaii*  
Ram him seeing happy part. become go.pt  
‘Ram became happy on seeing him.’

8. *unkhaa jaa ke kam se kam dekh ta lahuu*  
him go cp atleast see part. take.H  
‘Go and at least have a look of him.’

In example (6), the particle *ta* intervenes in the sequence of noun *pyaar* ‘love’ and light verb *kara* ‘do’ forming conjunct verb construction. In example (7), the particle *ta* intervenes in the sequence of adjective *khus* ‘happy’ and light verb *ho* ‘become/ happen’ forming conjunct verb construction. In example (8), the particle *ta* intervenes in the sequence of main verb *dekh* ‘see’ and light verb *lahuu* ‘take’ resulting to compound verb construction. All these above mentioned examples show that the particle *ta/to* can intervene in complex predicate sequence without changing the meaning.

### 2.1.4 Intensifier Particles

In Magahi, *bhii* ‘also’ is an intensifier particle. The intensifier particle *bhii* can intervene in between sequence of compound verb, as in (9). In case of conjunct verb construction, the particle mainly follows the noun and verb sequence, as in (10). In some cases the particle *bhii* intervenes for adding effort on some action as in (11). In case of adjective and light verb sequence, the intensifier particle can intervene in between, as in (12).

9. *baRii let ho gelaii, ab ohijaa cal bhii jaahu*  
 very late be go.pt now there walk part. go.hon  
 'It's very late, now you go there.'
10. *unkhar madad kar bhii dahu*  
 his help do part give  
 'Help him.'
11. *paDhe me okar madad bhi karhu*  
 study in his help part. do  
 'Do help him in his studies.'
12. *unkhaa ohija dekh ke hamraa achaa bhii laglak aau kharaab bhii*  
 him. H there see CP me good part. feel/attach and bad part  
 'I felt both good and bad by seeing him there.'

In example (9), the intensifier particle *bhii* intervenes between main verb *cal* 'walk' and light verb *jaahu* 'go'. In example (10), the particle *bhii* comes after noun *madad* 'help' and light verb *karhu* 'do' sequence in conjunct verb construction. In example (11), the particle *bhii* comes after the noun *madad* 'help' showing that this should be done along with other activities. In example (12), the particle *bhii* appears in between the sequence of adjective *achaa* 'good' and light verb *laglak* 'feel/attach' in conjunct verb construction. In the entire above complex predicate constructions *bhii* particle is used to intensify the action.

## 2.2 Adverbials

Adverbials cannot appear between the main verb and the light verb, since it cannot modify only the light verb<sup>[1]</sup>. Syntactically adverbials cannot intrude between the two verbs. This shows the restrictions on the modification of the complex predicate construction.

The case is somewhat same in Magahi. In Magahi, the adverbials can intervene in conjunct verb constructions during our discourse but it forms ungrammatical sentences when gets intervened in compound verb constructions. This can be well explained with the examples in (13), (14), and (15).

13. *yaad baRii din par karlii hamanii ke!*  
 remember very day on do us of  
 'You remembered us after a long time!'
14. *tora etanaa khus baRii din baad dekhliba*  
 you this much happy very day after saw  
 'I saw you this much happy after a long time.'
15. *\*apne dikhaaii baRii din par deli*  
 you.H see very day on give  
 'I saw you after a long time.'

In example (13), the adverbial phrase *baRii din par* 'after a long time' intervene in between conjunct verb construction *yaad karlii* in which *yaad* 'memory' is noun and *karlii* 'did' is light verb. In example (14), the adverbial phrase *baRii din baad* 'after a long time' intervene in between conjunct verb construction *khus dekhliba* in which *khus* 'happy' is adjective and *dekhliba* 'saw' is light verb. In example (15), the intervening adverbial phrase *baRii din par* 'after a long time' in between compound verb sequence *dikhaaii deli* generates ungrammatical sentence.

## 2.3 Interrogative

The interrogative words such as *ke* 'who', *kahaN* 'where', *kaise* 'how', *kaahe* 'why' can intervene in between the sequence of both compound verb and conjunct verb. This can be seen in examples (16), (17) and (18). Such intervening interrogatives, question the entire event or action and not the single element of the construction.

16. *tora kah ke delauu ii sab?*  
 you said who give this all  
 'Who said all these to you?'

17. *tor madad ke karlaau?*

your help who do  
'Who helped you?'

18. *tuu etnaa patraa kaise gela?*

you this much thin how go  
'How do you become this much thin?'

In example (16), the interrogative word *ke* 'who' intervenes between compound verb sequence *kah* 'say' and *delauu* 'give'. In example (17), the interrogative word *ke* 'who' intervenes between conjunct verb sequence in which *madad* 'help' is noun and *karlaau* 'do' is light verb. In example (18), the interrogative word *kaise* 'how' intervenes between conjunct verb sequence in which *patraa* 'thin' is adjective and *gela* 'go' is light verb.

#### 2.4 Negation

The negative marker *naa* intervenes in conjunct verb construction as in (19) and (20). Such negative markers do not intervene the compound verb sequence. The light verb drops while negating the compound verb construction and main verb carries all the inflections of the light verb. This can be explained with the examples in (21).

19. *giitaa aapan laikaban par dheyaan naa deba haii*

Gita her children on attention not give be.pr  
'Gita does not pay attention on her children.'

20. *unkhaa dekh ke uu khus naa holaii*

him see cp he happy not became  
'He did not become happy on seeing him.'

21. a. *\*ham khaa naa lelii*

I eat not taken  
'I have eaten.'

b. *ham naa khailii.*

I not eaten  
'I haven't eaten.'

In example (19), the negative marker *naa* 'not' intervenes in between conjunct verb construction in which *dheyaan* 'attention' and *deba* 'give'. In example (20), the negative marker *naa* 'not' intervenes in between conjunct verb construction in which *khus* 'happy' and *holaii* 'became/ happened'. In example (21a), we see that the negative marker can't intervene the compound verb sequence *khaa* 'eat' and *lelii* 'take'. It rather comes before the main verb which incorporates the feature of the light verb as well. As in example (21b), *khailii* 'eaten' incorporates the light verb *lelii* 'taken' in main verb only.

#### 2.5 Post-Position

In complex predicate construction with *caah* 'want' as a light verb, the post-position *ke* 'of' intervenes the adjacency of the two elements, i.e. main verb and light verb. This is evident in example (22a). This type of constructions occurs only with those which give the sense of suggestion. The intervening of *ke* does not occur in all complex predicate construction with light verb *caah* 'want'. It is not necessary that the infinitive construction with light verb *caah* must have post-position *ke* as intervening element. This is evident in example (22b).

22. a. *okraa roj dudh piye ke cahiaii*

he.NH daily milk drink of want.NH  
'You should take/drink milk daily.'

b. *\*riinaa ghare jaael ke caahiit haii*

Rina home go of want.inf be.pr.NH  
'Rina wants to go home.'

In example (61a) of Magahi, the post- position marker *ke* 'of' occurs in between main verb *piye* 'drink' and light verb *cahiaii* 'want', giving the complex predicate construction *piye ke cahiaii* 'should drink'. The

sentence in (61b) is ungrammatical with post-position *ke* intervene in infinitival complex predicate construction *jaael caahiit* ‘wants to go’.

### III. Non-Intervening Elements In Magahi Complex Predicate

In some cases, the complex predicate sequence follows a strict adjacency pattern. If the elements intervenes the sequence, then generates ungrammatical sentences. This section discusses those elements such as quantifiers, auxiliaries and conjoining elements which cannot intervene in Magahi complex predicate constructions.

#### 3.1 Quantifiers

Quantifiers are words that express some quantity. In Magahi, the quantifiers such as *kucho* ‘something’, *koi* ‘anybody’, etc. cannot intervene the sequence of complex predicate construction. Its intervening can generate ungrammatical sentences as in (23).

23. a. *kucho khaa le*  
 something eat take  
 ‘You eat something.’

b. \**khaa kucho le*  
 eat something take  
 ‘You eat something.’

The quantifier *kucho* ‘something’ in example (23a) precedes the complex predicate construction. In example (23b), the sentence becomes ungrammatical when it intervenes in between the sequence of complex predicate. Quantifiers cannot intervene in complex predicate constructions.

#### 3.2 Auxiliary

Auxiliary in a sentence always comes at the final position. In complex predicate construction it always comes after the light verb. It cannot intervene the sequence of complex predicate. This is evident from examples in (24).

24. a. *raam khaanaa khaa lele haii*  
 Ram food eat take be.pr  
 ‘Ram has taken the food.’

b. \**raam khaanaa khaa haii lele*  
 Ram food eat be.pr take  
 ‘Ram has taken the food.’

In example (24a), the sentence is grammatical because auxiliary *haii* ‘is’ is coming at the final position. The sentence in (24b) is ungrammatical because the auxiliary *haii* ‘is’ is intervening the complex predicate sequence *khaa lele* ‘has eaten’.

#### 3.3 Conjoining element

The conjoining element such as *aau* or *aur* ‘and’ cannot intervene the sequence of complex predicate construction, as in (25). It generates ungrammatical sentence. The construction becomes ungrammatical as well if it conjoins the two actions carrying same light verb as in (26a). The two main verbs carrying same light verb shows two different actions. The use of same light verbs for two events cannot restrict their occurrence individually in a sentence. Two separate events occurring in complex predicate construction occurs separately. This is evident in example (26b).

25. \* *raam khaa aur lelaii*  
 Ram eat and take

26. a. \**raam khaa aur paDh lelaii*  
 Ram eat and read take  
 ‘Ram has eaten and read.’

b. *raam khaa lelaii aur paDh lelaii*  
 Ram eat take and read take  
 ‘Ram has eaten and read.’

The example in (25) is ungrammatical because the conjoining element *aur* is conjoining the elements of a single event of 'eating'. The complex predicate *khaa lelaii* 'has eaten' is showing one action. The example in (26a) is ungrammatical because the conjoining element *aur* 'and' is intervening in between two complex predicate construction *khaa lelaii* 'eaten' and *paDh lelaii* 'read'. The sentence in (26b) is grammatical as the conjoining element *aur* joins the two separate complex predicate constructions *khaa lelaii* 'has eaten' and *paDh lelaii* 'has read'.

#### IV. Conclusion

Thus complex predicate forms a phrasal unit and shows the properties of string adjacency. In Magahi, complex predicate shows the adjacency gap at the surface level by the intervening elements, but syntactically and semantically form a single unit. It together forms the verb phrase. Both the intervening elements and non-intervening elements in Magahi complex predicate construction show that complex predicate construction is a phrasally an integrated phenomenon. The intervening elements such as particles, adverbials, negations only qualify or show addition of force to the action. Intervention doesn't affect the occurrence of complex predicate. Complex predicates still remain one syntactic unit representing a single event. Hence at surface level, it may look like two morphological units but at deep level it represents a single action.

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