

LIN 1232 – Topics in the Syntax of Iranian Langs. Univ. of Toronto, Winter 2020

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UTM: By appointment (highly recommended!)

Evaluation:	Weight	Date
Participation	5%	Ongoing
Discussion Questions/Comments	15%	Ongoing
Leading discussion of articles	30%	TBD
Paper topic proposal	5%	Feb 3
Abstract	10%	Feb 24
Abstract Peer Review/Feedback	5%	Mar 2
Presentation (Conference style)	15%	Mar 30
Final paper (Proceedings style)	25%	Apr 6

Course Description: As it should be clear from the title, this course covers some topics in the syntax of Iranian languages. We will be focusing on four topics: Nominal Linkers, Differential Object Marking, Complex Predicates and Ergativity & the distribution of clitics. While Iranian languages will provide the source of data and literature for the course, they are really a vehicle to delve into four major topics of general interest to syntacticians. In other words, the course should be of interest to both those working on or interested in Iranian languages and anyone who might have an interest in any or all of these topics. Needless to say, there are many other interesting syntactic topics in Iranian languages we will not cover (in depth) in the course. I will talk about some of those in the first class and others may present themselves in passing throughout the course. The topics we are focusing on are just the ones Iranian languages are best known for syntactically.

Readings: Readings are assigned on a weekly basis. Every student is expected to come to class having read the assigned articles. The readings may be made available on Quercus.

Leading discussion of articles: As of the second week of classes, the discussion of articles will be led by the students. Each student will be responsible for leading the discussion of 2-3 readings throughout the semester. Auditors are typically expected to present one article as well. I will be leading the discussion of some articles myself. The assignment of readings to students will be sorted out in the first class.

Discussion Questions/Comments: Starting in the second week, every student should submit one discussion question/comment on every assigned reading. The questions should be thoughtful, engaging, roughly 150-250 words long and can involve discussion of problematic argumentation in the paper, data that the analysis fails to account for, extension of proposals in the paper to other data/problems, etc. These questions should be

typed up and are due on the same day the readings are discussed. (Students leading the discussion of an article in a given week do not have to submit questions at all that week.)

Term Project: Each student should work on a project throughout the semester. The project should either be on any syntactic question in an Iranian language or on one of the topics we have covered (broadly speaking) investigated in a non-Iranian language. The project has different components. The first component is the topic proposal (approx. 1 page, double-spaced) due Feb 3. You should discuss your topic with me in advance. The next step in the project is an abstract (conference-style, default: CLA, though if you really want to submit to a conference, MOTH may be an option for practical reasons) due Feb 24. You will provide feedback on the abstract of a peer student, due the following week, Mar 2. I will then collect your abstracts with the peer feedback and return them to you with my own comments the week after, Mar 10. You will then work on your project and present it to the class in the final week of class (conference-style, 20 minutes plus 10 minute for questions). You will receive feedback on your presentation and will use that to write up your final paper (proceeding-style, default: CLA, approx. 12 pages). The final paper is due Apr 6.

Course Schedule (approximate):

Week	Date	Topic	Item Due (in addition to weekly questions)
1	Jan 6	Introduction	

References:

Karimi, S. 2018. Generative Approaches to Syntax. In: Sedighi, A. and P. Shabani-Jadidi (Eds.), *The Oxford Handbook of Persian Linguistics*. Oxford: Oxford University Press, 161-204.
 Samvelian, P. 2018. Specific Features of Persian Syntax: The Ezafe construction, differential object marking, and complex predicates. In: Sedighi, A. and P. Shabani-Jadidi (Eds.), *The Oxford Handbook of Persian Linguistics*. Oxford: Oxford University Press, 226-269.

Weeks 2-4: Nominal Linkers

2	Jan 13	Ezafe Construction I	
	Articles:	Ghomeshi 1997, Larson and Yamakido 2008	
3	Jan 20	Ezafe Construction II	
	Articles:	Kahnemuyipour 2014, Kahnemuyipour and Peters 2019 (& more)	
4	Jan 27	Reverse Ezafe	
	Articles:	Larson 2009, Haghkerdar 2009 (& more)	

References:

Atlamaz, Ü., 2016. Merging of an NP before its Arguments. In: Kyeong-min Kim et al. (Eds.), *Proceedings of the 33rd West Coast Conference on Formal Linguistics*. Somerville, MA: Cascadilla Proceedings Project, 47-56.
 Franco, L., Manzini, M. R., Savoia, L. M. 2015. Linkers and Agreement. *The Linguistic Review* 32(2): 277-332.
 Ghaniabadi, S., 2010. *The Empty Noun Construction in Persian*. Ph.D. Dissertation. University of Manitoba.

Ghomeshi, J., 1997. Non-projecting Nouns and the Ezafe Construction in Persian. *Natural Language and Linguistic Theory* 15: 729-788.

- Haghkerdar, M. 2009. Western Iranian Ezafe: A comparative syntactic analysis. Undergraduate Honour's Thesis, Yale University.**
- Holmberg, A., Odden, D., 2005. The Izafe and NP structure in Hawrami. *Durham Working Papers in Linguistics* 10: 77-94.
- Kahnemuyipour, Arsalan. 2014. "Revisiting the Persian Ezafe construction: A roll-up movement analysis." *Lingua* 150, 1-24.**
- Kahnemuyipour, A., Peters, A. 2019. Separating Concord and Agree: The Case of Zazaki Ezafe. Proceedings of the CLA Annual Meeting, University of British Columbia, Vancouver.**
- Karimi, Y. 2007. Kurdish Ezafe Construction. Implications for DP Structure. *Lingua* 117, 2159-2177.
- Larson, R., 2009. Chinese as a Reverse Ezafe Language. *Yuyanxue Luncong (Journal of Linguistics)* 39, 30-85. Beijing, Peking University.**
- Larson, R., Yamakido, H., 2008. Ezafe and the Deep Position of Nominal Modifiers. In: McNally, L., Kennedy, C. (Eds.), *Adjectives and Adverbs: Syntax, Semantics and Discourse*. Oxford: Oxford University Press, 43-70.**
- Samiiian, V., 1994. The Ezafe Construction: Some Implications for the Theory of X-bar Syntax. In: Marashi, M. (Ed.), *Persian Studies in North America*, Bethesda, MD: Iranbooks, 17-41.
- Samvelian, P., 2007. A (Phrasal) Affix Analysis of the Persian Ezafe. *Journal of Linguistics* 43: 605-645.
- Samvelian, P., 2008. The Ezafe as a Head-marking Inflectional Affix: Evidence from Persian and Kurmanji Kurdish. In: Karimi, S., Samiiian, V., and Stilo, D. (Eds.), *Aspects of Iranian Linguistics*, Newcastle upon Tyne: Cambridge Scholars Publishing, 339-361.
- Toosarvandi, M., van Urk., C., 2014. The Syntax of Nominal Concord: What *Ezafe* in Zazaki Shows Us. *Proceedings of NELS*, 43(2), 209-220.

Weeks 5-6: Differential Object Marking

5	Feb 3	DOM I	Paper Topic Proposal
	Articles:	Dabir-Moghaddam 1992, Ghomeshi 1997	
6	Feb 10	DOM II	
	Articles:	Karimi 1996, Karimi and Smith 2019	
	Feb 17	Family day - No class	

References:

- Browne, W. 1970. 'More on Definiteness Markers: Interrogatives in Persian'. *Linguistic Inquiry* 1 (3): 359-63.
- Browning, M. A. and E. Karimi 1994. 'Scrambling to Object Position in Persian', in Norbert Corver and Hans van Riemsdijk (eds), *Studies in Scrambling*, 61-100. Berlin: Mouton de Gruyter.
- Dabir-Moghaddam, M. 1992. 'On the (In)dependence of Syntax and Pragmatics: Evidence from the Post Position -rā in Persian', in D. Stein (ed.), *Cooperating with Written Texts: The Pragmatics and Comprehension of Written Texts*, 549-73. Berlin: Mouton.**
- Ganjavi, S. 2007. 'Direct Objects in Persian'. Doctoral dissertation, University of Southern California.
- Ganjavi, S. 2011. 'On Direct Objects in Persian: The Case of the Non-rā Marked Dos', in A. Korn, G. Haig, S. Karimi, and P. Samvelian (eds), *Topics in Iranian Linguistics*, 167-81. Wiesbaden: Reichert.
- Ghomeshi, J. 1997. 'Topics in Persian VPs', *Lingua* 102: 133-67.**
- Ghomeshi, J. 2008. 'Markedness and Bare Nouns in Persian', in S. Karimi, V. Samiiian, and D.

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- Modarresi, F. 2014. ‘Bare Nouns in Persian: Interpretation, Grammar, and Prosody’. Doctoral dissertation, University of Ottawa.
- Karimi, S. 1990. ‘Obliqueness, Specificity, and Discourse Functions’, *Linguistic Analysis* 20: 139–91. Find this resource:
- Karimi, S. 1996. ‘Case and Specificity: Persian *râ* Revisited’, *Linguistic Analysis* 26: 174–94.**
- Karimi, S. and R. Smith. 2019. Another Look at Persian *Râ*: A Single Formal Analysis of a Multi-Functional Morpheme Manuscript, University of Arizona.**

Weeks 7-8: Complex Predicates

7	Feb 24	Complex Predicates I	Abstract
	Articles:	Ghomeshi and Massam 1994, Karimi-Doostan 2005	
8	Mar 2	Complex Predicates II	Abstract Peer Review
	Articles:	Megerdoomian 2012, Folli, Harley and Karimi 2005 (& more)	

References:

- Dabir-Moghaddam, M. 1995. ‘Compound Verbs in Persian’, *Journal of Iranian Linguistics* 12/1: 2–46.
- Dabir-Moghaddam, M. 1997. ‘Compound Verbs in Persian’, *Studies in the Linguistic Sciences* 27 (2): 25–59.
- Ghomeshi, J. and D. Massam. 1994. ‘Lexical/Syntactic Relations Without Projection’, *Linguistics Analysis* 24: 175–212.**
- Folli, R., H. Harley, and S. Karimi. 2005. ‘Determinants of Event Types in Persian Complex Predicates’, *Lingua* 115 (10): 1365–1401.**
- Karimi-Doostan, G. 1997. ‘Light Verb Constructions in Persian’. PhD dissertation, Essex University.
- Karimi-Doostan, G. 2005. ‘Light Verbs and Structural Case’, *Lingua* 11: 1737–56.**
- Karimi-Doostan, G. 2008. ‘Event Structure of Verbal Nouns and Light Verbs’, in S. Karimi, V. Samiian, and D. Stilo (eds), *Aspects of Iranian Linguistics*, 209–26. Newcastle: Cambridge Scholars Publishing.
- Karimi-Doostan, G. 2011 ‘Separability of Light Verb Constructions in Persian’, *Studia Linguistica* 65 (1): 70–95.
- Megerdoomian, K. 2001. ‘Event Structure and Complex Predicates in Persian’, *Canadian Journal of Linguistics* 46 (1/2): 97–125.
- Megerdoomian, K. 2002. ‘Beyond Words and Phrases: A Unified Theory of Predicate Composition’. Doctoral dissertation, University of Southern California.
- Megerdoomian, K. 2012. ‘The Status of the Nominal in Persian Complex Predicates’, *Natural Language and Linguistic Theory* 30 (1): 179–216.**
- Pantcheva, M. 2010. ‘First Phase Syntax of Persian Complex Predicates: Argument Structure and Telicity’, *Journal of South Asian Linguistics* 2 (1): 53–72.
- Samvelian, P. 2006a. ‘Le sujet, l’objet et l’inaccusativité dans les prédicats complexes nom-verbe en persan’, *Cahiers de linguistique de l’INALCO* 6: 155–90. Find this resource:
- Samvelian, P. 2012. *Grammaire des prédicats complexes: les constructions nom-verbe*. Paris: Lavoisier.
- Vahedi-Langrudi, M. M. 1996. *The Syntax, Semantics and the Argument Structure of complex Predicates in Modern Farsi*. Doctoral dissertation, University of Ottawa.

Weeks 9-11: Ergativity and Clitics

- 9 Mar 9 Ergativity and Clitics I
Invited Speaker: Dr. Pollet Samvelian (Université Sorbonne nouvelle - Paris 3)
Articles: TBD
- 10 Mar 16 Ergativity and Clitics II
Articles: Taghipour and Kahnemuyipour 2019, Haig 2017
- 11 Mar 23 Ergativity and Clitics III
Articles: Atlamaz and Baker 2017, Akkuş 2019

References:

- Akkuş, Faruk. 2019. On Iranian case and agreement. *Natural Language & Linguistic Theory*, 1-57.
- Atlamaz, Ümit, & Baker, Mark. 2018. On partial agreement and oblique case. *Syntax*, 21(3), 195-237.
- Bonami, Olivier and Pollet Samvelian. 2008. Sorani Kurdish person markers and the typology of agreement, Paper presented at the 13th International Morphology Meeting, Vienna, February 3rd-6th.
- Dabir-Moghaddam, Mohammad. 2008. On agent clitics in Balochi. In Carina Jahani, Agnes Korn & Paul Titus (eds.), *The Baloch and others. Linguistic, historical and socio-political perspectives on pluralism in Balochistan*, 83–101. Wiesbaden: Reichert.
- Edmonds, Cecil J. 1955. Prepositions and Personal Affixes in Southern Kurdish. *Bulletin of the School of Oriental and African Studies, University of London* 17(3). 490–502.
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- Haig, Geoffrey. 2017. Deconstructing Iranian Ergativity. In *The Oxford handbook of ergativity*.
- Haig, Geoffrey & Fatemeh Nemati. 2013. Clitics at the syntax-pragmatics interface: The case of Delvari pronominal enclitics. *Revised handout, paper presented at the ICIL 5, Bamberg, 24-26th August*.
- Jügel, Thomas. 2017. Enclitic pronouns in middle Persian and the placeholder construction. (Ed.) Mahmoud Jaafari Dehaghi. *Quarterly Journal of Language and Inscription: Dedicated to Professor Mansour Shaki*. 41–63.
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- Jügel, Thomas and Pollet Samvelian. 2019. Topic agreement, experiencer constructions, and the weight of clitics. In Richard Larson, Sophie Moradi and Vida Samiian (eds.), *Selected Current Studies in Iranian Linguistics*. John Benjamins. (in press)
- Kahnemuyipour, Arsalan and Karine Megerdooomian. 2011. Second Position Clitics and the vP Phase: The Case of the Armenian Auxiliary. *Linguistic Inquiry* 42, 152-162.
- Kahnemuyipour, Arsalan and Karine Megerdooomian. 2017. On the positional distribution of an Armenian Auxiliary: Second position clisis, focus and phases. *Syntax*, 20.1, 77-97.
- Korn, Agnes. 2009. Western Iranian Pronominal Clitics. *Orientalia Suecana LVIII*. 159-171.
- Mohammadirad, Masoud. In preparation. Pronominal clitics in western Iranian languages : description, mapping and typological implications, PhD thesis, Sorbonne Nouvelle University.

- Öpengin, Ergin. 2013. *Clitic/affix interactions. A corpus-based study of person marking in the Mukri variety of Central Kurdish*. Université Sorbonne Nouvelle – Paris 3. (Doctoral dissertation).
- Öpengin, Ergin. 2019. Accounting for clitic and affix combinations in Central Kurdish. In Songül Gündoğdu, Ergin Öpengin, Geoffrey Haig & Erik Anonby (eds.), *Current issues in Kurdish linguistics*. Bamberg: Bamberg University Press.
- Öpengin, Ergin & Masoud Mohammadirad. in prep. Formal and functional variation in pronominal clitics across Kurdish: documentation and explanations. In Yaron Matras, Ergin Öpengin & Geoffrey Haig (eds.), *Structural and Typological Variation in the Dialects of Kurdish*. London: Palgrave Macmillan.
- Samvelian, Pollet. 2007a. What Sorani Kurdish Absolute Prepositions Tell us About Cliticization. In *Texas Linguistics Society IX: The Morphosyntaxe of Understudied Languages*, eds. Frederic Hoyt, Nikki Seifert, Alexandra Teodorescu and Jessica White, 263-283. Stanford: CSLI online publications.
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- Samvelian, Pollet & Jesse Tseng. 2010. Persian object clitics and the syntax-morphology interface. In Stefan Müller (ed.), *Proceedings of the 17th International Conference on Head-Driven Phrase Structure Grammar*, 212–232. Stanford: CSLI Publications.
- Stilo, Donald. 2008. Two sets of mobile verbal person agreement markers in the northern Talyshi language. In Simin Karimi, Vida Samiian & Donald Stilo (eds.), *Aspects of Iranian linguistics*, 363–390. Newcastle: Cambridge Scholars Publishing.
- Taghipour, Sahar & Arsalan Kahnemuyipour. 2019. Hybrid Alignment in Laki Agreement. Paper presented at the Annual Meeting of the Canadian Linguistic Association, University of British Columbia, Vancouver, Canada.**
- Yar-Shater, Ehsan. 1969. *A grammar of southern Tati dialects*. The Hague: Mouton.

12 Mar 30 **Presentations**
 Apr 6 **Final Paper Due**